

AIRLIFTER

SOONER

December 2011



Photo by Master Sgt. Kendra Owenby

Chief Master Sgt. Christopher E. Muncy, Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard, addresses the attendees of the 2011 Enlisted Leadership Symposium held in Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 30 to Nov. 3.

Leadership symposium inspires many

**By Staff Sgt. Caroline Hayworth,
137 ARW Public Affairs**

More than 900 enlisted members of the Air National Guard, including 18 members of Will Rogers Air National Guard Base, attended the 2011 Leadership Symposium in Nashville, Tenn.

The theme of the conference was "Tell Your Story." Approximately 20 speakers, ranging from current Airmen to former chiefs, shared their inspirational stories. Some notable learning points included:

- You must serve first in order to be

a good leader.

- Give your troops a reason to be proud of themselves, their jobs and the mission.

- You will know a good leader by the attitude of their followers.

Members in attendance gained exceptional, applicable guidance.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS WINGMEN



**By Col. Glen Baker
137 ARW Commander**

Make time this holiday season to take care of your Wingmen. Managing stress is a concern for all of us; we are all extremely busy with family, work, Air Guard obligations and education. The holidays can be an added stressor that makes it even more important that we check on our Wingmen.

Hopefully we are all supporting the Wingman concept, Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt III, director of the Air Guard, said, "In order to accomplish our mission effectively, each of us has to be a Wingman, leader and a warrior. We all have personal stories illustrating the Wingman concept, when either we have helped someone overcome a problem or they have helped us in a time of need."

What we need to make sure we're doing at the 137th ARW is truly embracing the Wingman concept. Find something that works for you that reminds you to budget the time to check on your Wingman. Whether

it's a day of the week, a shared favorite television program, sporting event, a song on the radio, (whatever). Have some trigger that reminds you to check on your Wingman. It is way too easy to get busy with the additional holiday commitments and have your loyalty as a Wingman fall by the wayside.

When you do talk to your Wingman, be an active listener; search for signs and signals that everything might not be OK. If something doesn't seem right, it is probably not right, if you are concerned at all get them assistance. It would be far better to "overreact" than do nothing and have your Wingman continue to struggle. Your Wingman will understand even more that you care about them and their well being.

When you get that call or visit from your Wingman, make the conversation mutual. It doesn't matter who initiates the contact. You might be doing well at managing the extra stressors the holidays bring. Share those tips and techniques of your own that are helping you manage.

Lastly, use your holiday Wingman check to perform a self assessment. Don't be shy about talking about something that is causing concern in your personal or professional life. Don't suffer in silence, your Wingman might be able to assist, and sometimes just talking about a concern helps. And, don't forget to check on the most important Wingman, you.

Connect to the **137th Air Refueling Wing** on Facebook or visit us on the web at www.137arw.ang.af.mil

WRANGB Chili Cook-Off Dec. 15

The annual Will Rogers Air National Guard Base Chili Cook-Off is Dec. 15 at the base dining facility. Cost is \$6 per person and proceeds go to benefit the Oklahoma City Rescue Mission in Oklahoma City, which provides various resources to homeless men, women and children. Please contact Master Sgt. Elaine LaNou at 686-5221 for more details.

137th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Staff

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Shirts do much more than you may think



By Master Sgt. Lawrence Desalle, First Sergeant, 137th Maintenance Squadron

Every drill or deployment you see a first sergeant. Who are they? What is their job?

The Air Force first sergeant is not a rank like their counterparts in the Army or Marines, but a special duty held by the senior enlisted advisor who reports directly to the unit commander. The first sergeant is often referred to as the “First Shirt” or “Shirt.” This special duty is held for a minimum of three years not to exceed six years. The position is held by individuals with the rank of master sergeant, senior master sergeant or Chief Master Sergeant and is denoted on the rank insignia by a lozenge (known as a diamond.) rank is determined by the size of the squadron.

The first shirt position is strictly voluntary and has a great deal of personal demands; it entails removal from your primary career field and requires availability

around-the-clock. The person holding this job is the first one to which a troubled airman turns when he or she needs help.

The first shirt is responsible for the morale, welfare and conduct of all the enlisted members in a squadron. Specifically, the first shirt helps provide a commander with a mission-ready enlisted force. They do this by advising the commander on a wide range of topics including the health of the airmen and their morale, discipline, well-being, career progression and professional development. The first shirt works with fellow senior non commissioned officers and supervisory personnel to ensure equitable discipline. They ensure that supervisors set an appropriate example for subordinates and provide guidance. They oversee training in leadership, customs and courtesies, dress and personal appearance, self-discipline, adherence to standards, drill and ceremony, and safety. The first sergeant helps enlisted members adapt to the military environment and adjust to the organization.

If you have a problem, no matter how insignificant you think it is, go talk to the first sergeant, they will listen. If they cannot help you directly, they will guide you to someone that can. So, in short, shirts help everyone because “People Are Our Business!”

Don't be left behind as the Air Force moves forward

**By 1st Lt. Paul Blankenship
137 ARW Force Support
Squadron**

As the Air Force continues to do more with less, the way we operate continues to change. For example, many services once provided by CBPO or Customer Service are now self-service or online.

Did you know that you now apply for your own retirement online? When you are ready to retire you apply for your retirement through

vPC-GR online.

When logged into vPC-GR you can also complete the following transactions:

- View/Print official military personnel records
- View current retirement points
- Request a 20-year letter
- Request a VA Home Loan Letter
- Request your DD214
- Request a copy of your federal award or decoration
- Request updates and corrections

to your official records

- Nominate a member for a decoration

I would encourage you to browse around in vPC-GR using the link on the Air Force Portal Home page. You can always visit Force Support Squadron Customer Care office in building 1009 for your personnel questions and they will point you in the right direction. Don't be left behind as the Air Force moves forward!



Photo by Senior Airman Patricia Baker

Airmen from various units participate in “warrior training,” at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base designed to prepare participants for the operational readiness exercise and operational readiness inspection. The ORE is scheduled for March 4-11, 2012 and the ORI is scheduled for June 9-16, 2012.

Air Force Core Values

Integrity First
Service Before Self
Excellence In All We Do

WILL ROGERS MISSION STATEMENT

“To enhance global reach by serving our nation, state and community through the unique capabilities of the 137th Air Refueling Wing, the 205th Engineering Installation Squadron, and the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron.”

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