

AIRLIFTER

SOONER

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Photo by Army Spec. Leslie Goble, Combined Joint Task Force 1, Afghanistan

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Lake, a joint terminal attack controller with the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron and fellow troops navigate mountainous terrain in Afghanistan Sept. 16. JTACs are on the ground with soldiers during operations and advise ground commanders on how to incorporate close-air support and provide release authority of the munitions dropped by Air Force aircraft.

Airmen come home from Afghanistan

**By Capt. Jessica Chapa,
137 ARW Public Affairs**

Seven members of the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron returned to WRANGB December 19th after deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom last July.

“Thanks to the hard work and

professionalism of these outstanding Airmen, more than 60,000 pounds of ordnance was dropped on the enemy, killing scores of insurgents and saving the lives of countless American Soldiers,” said Maj. Gen. Myles L. Deering, the Adjutant General of Oklahoma. “Each and every one of these Air-

men is a hero and exemplifies the finest qualities found in the Oklahoma Air National Guard. I am extremely proud of them.”

Lt. Col. Bruce Hamilton, 146th ASOS commander, said “I don’t think the Army Guard really realized what we bring to the battlefield. I think they really do now.”

Perception places us under the microscope



**By Col. Jon Scott
137th Operations
Group Commander**

As we approach elections, I want to remind everyone of the unique position we hold as citizen-soldiers. Our conduct and actions are linked to both our military and civilian lives. Everyone who knows you, or knows of you, may perceive your actions as the view point of the armed forces. I hate for this to be a generalization, but most people view perception as reality.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of perception while wearing civilian clothes as a military member. On one hand, while wearing your uniform, you're expected to act as professional military members. On the other, you're fully encouraged to participate in your rights as a citizen. This being said, as we

are entering a year of political elections and activity, I wholeheartedly support and encourage you to vote and exercise your rights as an American Citizen and ask you to remember a few limitations.

While in uniform you may not campaign, speak to, or support any candidate. Your government work space and uniform must be free of politically persuasive material. However, this does not mean you cannot have a yard sign or a bumper sticker on your vehicle. While in a civilian status you may campaign, speak, or support any candidate but not offer any relation to your military status.

The fine line here is reminding all citizen-soldiers that you have the right to participate in politics and the DOD encourages members to carry out the obligations of citizenship. Military members can even sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues, as long as they don't act as – or aren't perceived as – representing the military while carrying out these activities. Just remember that your opinions are "your" opinions and that you don't want them to be misconstrued as the view of the Oklahoma Air National Guard.

Operation Holiday Spirit success in 2011

Over \$10,000 was raised during Operation Holiday Spirit Dec. 2, 2011. The donations came from WRANGB members attending a steak dinner and donating to the cause. Many WRANGB Airmen benefitted from this blessing during the holiday season. Col. Baker, 137th Air Refueling Wing commander said, "Everyone talks about how the guard is a family. With this event, you can see the guard family in action." The event has been put on for 13 years and is expected to continue during the coming years.

137th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Staff

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You hold the greatest offering of all



**By Ch. Danny Baker,
137th Air Refueling Wing**

What is the greatest offering you can ever give? The question reminds me of a great preacher, Billy Sunday, who as young boy attended church one Sunday and took the offering plate as it was passed around. Instead of offering money as so many did, Billy set the plate on the floor. He then stepped onto it, offering himself to the Lord. Billy Sunday later became a preacher and was considered one of the greatest in church history.

The Lord teaches us that it's easy to make a commitment, but difficult to finalize it. Jesus said, "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Jesus also says to "count the cost." A rich young leader asked Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" The challenge was to give himself up and become a follower.

We have to "imitate God." No, not that we can be like God, that's impossible. But we are to please him. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul mentions mimicking. We are to mimic the life of Christ. Paul continued by writing that we should be imitators, walk in love, and give yourself as an offering (Ephesians 5:1, 2).

I'm not saying that you'll be a great preacher. But Paul does challenge Christians to be a "fragrant offering." Today, my prayer is that you will offer yourself to the Lord. It will be the greatest offering ever. God wants us more than any other creation.

Post 9/11 GI Bill

- Chapter 33 (Post 9/11) is the only transferable GI Bill and can't be transferred once a member leaves the service.
- Members may want give all eligible family members at least one month and keep one month for themselves
- No transfer is allowed after member leaves service
- Members must leave military service under honorable conditions
- Number of months assigned to family or self can be readjusted later
- Requires a minimum of 90 days Title 10 or Title 32 service since 9/11/01 who served at least 90 aggregate days or at least 30 days and received a disability discharge.
- An extra service obligation may be incurred. Effective August 2013, an additional four years of service will be required.
- You can use your Post 9/11 GI Bill for on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and non-college degree programs.
- Members can contact the VA with questions directly at 1-888-GIBILL1 or check out the FAQs link or submit questions through link on gibill.va.gov
- For additional questions or an informational appointment, contact MSgt Don Davis at 686-5328





Photo by Master Sgt. Jun Kim

Staff Sgt. Joseph Vincent and Senior Airman Brian Olsen, both with the 205th Engineering Installation Squadron, inspect equipment during a training class on pallet build-up procedures at WRANGB, Jan. 7. Training classes are designed to prepare members for unit exercises and inspections.

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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