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U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Shataia Bolden, 110th Airlift Wing, Security Forces Squadron, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, qualifies with the M4 service rifle at Fort Custer Training Center, Augusta, Mich., June 1, 2011. Bolden qualified to meet the requirements of Security Forces. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. David Eichaker/released)

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

110TH AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER
Colonel Rodger Seidel

110th Members and Families,

Let me start this month's "comments" with a brief summary of the ORE we ran during June UTA. In a nutshell, we have some work ahead of us. Now I have been through more OREs and ORIs than I care to remember, but without a doubt, the one thing they all have in common is that the first ORE is usually something one would rather forget. Don't get me wrong, those of you that deployed to Volk and those of you that helped these individuals get out of town worked hard and in some areas performed in an admirable fashion, but suffice it to say, there were more items identified as needing work than items noted as being "ready to go." With that being said, Col. Wilson and the 110th deployment team are scrubbing all phases of the deployment and re-deployment processes to incorporate improvements recommended by the EET as well as lessons they learned via the last two exercises. In the mean time, all of you deploying to Volk need to keep reviewing the Airman's Guide and keep your CBTs up to speed. For those of you not deploying, expect to be tasked either indirectly or directly to support the upcoming 110th ORI. This is a 110th event. More to follow.

With the storms of the 29th of May, Mother Nature impacted the Family Day plans for July UTA. Notke's Bowling Lanes received significant damage forcing their closure for the next couple of months. As such, Robin and her Family Support burned the midnight oil developing an alternate game plan. After some deliberation, we have decided to press on with most of the original plan, ie...bowling with some parking lot events but the location has been moved from Notke's to M-66 Lanes. Robin will have maps and directions to the new location. If you have any questions, please give her a call.

Speaking of Mother Nature and the severe storms that rolled through Michigan over the past several weeks, I would like to extend my thanks to those of you that have stepped forward and helped out in your local communities. I have received several comments from citizens of the local community reflecting their appreciation for those of you that volunteered your own time to help out. Thanks! On the same note, I

FROM THE RETENTION OFFICE

110TH AIRLIFT WING RETENTION OFFICE
Master Sgt. Gerri Ladd

University of Phoenix

Tony Bell, a representative from the University of Phoenix will be here during the August UTA in the Dining Facility- Sunday, August 7th. Utilize your GI BILL benefits!

Reenlistment/Enlistment Awards Program

A survey is sent monthly to those who have enlisted or reenlisted for 3 years or more. Upon completion of this survey, a kit is shipped to your home. (Duffle bag, backpack, MP3 players and more...)

The process takes approximately 30-60 days! The survey will be sent to your e-mail. If a response is not returned in 30 days, they will automatically send out a postcard to your home directing you to the survey.

IF you do not receive a survey within 60 days-call 1-800-TO GO ANG and a representative will verify your enlistment/re-enlistment.

have heard that several members of the 110th were asking why the Guard was not called out to support the recovery effort. Simply put, use of the Guard is the call of the Governor and is dependent upon many key factors. The use of the 110th and Ft Custer was discussed between the TAG and the Governor but the decision was made to use other State assets clearly marked/equipped for this type of recovery operation. There are exceptions to the rules, but in most cases, use of the Guard is driven by the scale of damage, loss of life or potential loss of life, and availability of other assets.

A quick word on our new missions before I wrap up. I am sure many of you have noticed the progress on construction of our new AOG campus. I had an opportunity to tour the new facilities last week and was very impressed with the layout as well as progress the construction company is making. If all goes well, the AOG should be in their new facilities and conducting daily ops by this time next year. On the C-27 front; we have received several iterations of our new manning documents and hope to gain final clarity within the next several months. In the meantime, the first C-27 unit at Mansfield is putting on the "final touches" before deploying this summer. No final words on new facilities that we have requested to support the new C-27 mission but we are looking at several courses of action to make this happen.

As we race into the summer, there is no slowing down. In order to come out of this new mission stand up and inspection season with positive results we will need a lean-forward team effort from ever member. Like in the past, when this unit addresses a challenge with total focus, there is nothing we can't achieve. As always, thanks to you and your families for you continued support of the 110th and the MI ANG. Look forward to seeing you at July drill and at Family Day.

V/r,

Col. Seidel

If verified correctly, they will give you a pass code and the link to the survey.

Please contact the Retention Office if you are not verified by a representative or if it has been more than 60 days and you have not received a survey.

Post 9-11 GI BILL Update

STILL awaiting guidance from NGB for Retirees and AGR time in order to apply for the transfer GI BILL benefits to dependents. Thank you for your patience.

TEB-transfer of benefits...IF YOU HAVE UNUSED GI BILL BENEFITS, you may be able to pass them on to your dependents. (Spouse and/or children)

Transfer of Benefits to children:

Can transfer to unmarried child under the age of 21, OR if in college, under the age of 23 (in DEERS)

Under the age of 21 and unmarried

If between ages of 21-23, must be a full time student and unmarried
May continue to use benefits after marriage (must not be married at the time of transfer)

May use the benefits until the age of 26

Can only transfer benefits to new dependent while serving in the armed forces

Once transferred-can revoke or modify a transfer request of unused benefits anytime within 15 years eligibility period. (Retirees or separated members cannot transfer benefits-only revoke or modify)

Please see Retention for details

CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS

110TH AIR OPERATIONS GROUP
Major Kurt Taylor

If Swedes were asked, "what's the greatest nation on earth?", do you suppose they'd say Sweden? What about Brazilians? Do they think Brazil is the best? Russians? Nigerians? Because we kind of know how we'd answer the question, don't we? A while ago I was listening to a fairly popular comedian being interviewed. He had just written a book in which he contended that we Americans are arrogant for proclaiming that the U.S. is the greatest nation on earth. He suggested that if one would ask the Swedes or South Africans or Chinese if their country was the best in the world, they wouldn't be as presumptuous as Americans are to suggest that their homeland is better than anyone else's. I would respond, that's too bad if it's true. Wouldn't one wish for pride in their nation...perhaps even bordering on the arrogant? To me anyway, to presume one's nation is the greatest on earth sets a standard to which one may aspire. In other words, if I think America is the best, I'm probably going to do something to make sure it stays that way.

This article is being written less than a week after Memorial Day and being read less than a week after Independence Day. On both occasions, flags are flown, parades are held, and pride is evident. When marching in the Memorial Day parade with men still carrying shrapnel in their bodies from World War 2 or disease in their bodies from Vietnam, their limping, shaking pride in country was evident in that nothing was going to prevent them from marching that day or lifting their quivering hands in salute. When thousands of people turn out for small-town 4th of July celebrations or hundreds of thousands make pilgrimages to Washington D.C. that week, would they do so without a sense that this nation may be about the best that planet earth has to offer? "God bless America" we sing in church on these weekends, and by the end of the song, nobody in my congregation anyway is sitting down anymore. Maybe the Swedes do that to their song, I don't know. But I do know that Americans, many of us at least, love this country to an extent which some perhaps find distasteful. I doubt you and I find it distasteful. We more likely view it as healthy. Because one of the reasons that you and I do what we do is because we feel the same way. And one of the reasons we receive the handshakes from civilians, discounts at stores, care packages on deployments, and paychecks after drill is that we represent and defend something very important to Americans. We represent and defend America.

This nation has its flaws, to be sure. But isn't it wonderful when, for a time, together we overlook them? We have our divisions, our differences, our internal battles, but one nation, under God is what we remain in the end. Is this logical? Is it arrogant? I would suggest it's better than that. It's American.

FAMILY UPDATES

110TH AIRLIFT WING FAMILY PROGRAMS
Ms. Robin Berry

****THE FAMILY DAY 2011 LOCATION HAS CHANGED****
but the party is still on! Family Day will be held at M-66 Bowl located at 19794 NE Capital Ave in Battle Creek on Saturday, July 9 from 4-8 pm. Bowling, carnival-type games and food provided! Still a lot of fun activities for people of all ages! (Cash bar available in Lounge). Everyone who already ordered tickets will still receive tickets (to be distributed July UTA). ****If you are unable to use the tickets or need to cancel, please contact Family Support ASAP to receive your refund or donate your tickets to those on the wait list**** (Due to acts of nature, Nottke's is no longer available. There will not be a raffle for a Trip to Vegas, as that was originally offered by Nottke's). Please contact Family Support with any questions! See you there!

TRIBUTE TO THE ARMED FORCES Sunday, July 3 & Monday, July 4 Free admission for Military personnel and Veterans. Michigan's Adventure will be celebrating Tribute to the Armed Forces on and July 3-4, 2011 by offering military personnel of the Armed Forces, National Guard and Reserve a free admission. In addition, Military personnel may purchase up to six additional tickets for family members at \$20 each. Guests will be required to show one active military ID, DD-214, or Veteran's Administration Hospital ID to qualify for the discount. Tickets purchased for this event are non-refundable and are valid for admission on one of the listed dates only. Tickets must be purchased at the park on the day of your visit. Visit www.miadventure.com for more info.

CENTERLINE GUN CLUB is hosting two Project Appleseed events to have some fun, learn marksmanship and shooting skills, and hear some history of the Revolutionary War. Families welcome! FREE admission for military members (a \$70.00 value!). \$10 for women, \$5 for youth under 21. There is a \$5.00 range fee each day, per participant. Participants should bring their own rifle however, loaners may be available if needed. Events will be held on July 30 & 31 and Aug 27 & 28 at Centerline Club, 23100 13 Mile Rd, Bellevue, MI. To register go to <http://appleseedinfo.org/search-states.html> or contact centerlinemanager@comcast.net or call 269-968-0028.

THE FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICE HAS A LIMITED NUMBER OF FREE TICKETS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS. First-come first-serve until they are gone! Call Family Support at 969-3493 if you are interested!

BC BOMBER BASEBALL TICKETS for the Friday, July 8 game. (Thunderstix giveaway)

JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY in concert Saturday, July 2 at

DTE MUSIC CENTER

2011 AMA PRO MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP July 2 in Buchanan, MI

Tuesday, July 5, 2011 Full Blast in Battle Creek will offer Buy 1-Get 1 Free general admissions for all members who show a military ID. Visit www.fullblast.org for more info and schedules.

110TH DINING FACILITY MENU

COST

—Enlisted Traditional Guard in UTA status—*FREE*

—Officers & AGRs—*\$4.25*

Menu Subject to Change

DINING FACILITY HOURS OF OPERATION

Saturday & Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Saturday

Mexical Lasagna
Chicken Fajita
Chicken/Turkey Gravy
Mexican Rice
Mashed Potatoes
Mexican Beans
Mexican Sweet Corn
Corn Bread
Burgers/Cheese Burgers
Hot Dogs
Fries

Sunday

Tuna Noodle
Baked Chicken
O'brien Potatoes
Rice Steamed
Brown Gravy
Corn
Green Peas
Burgers/Cheese Burgers
Hot Dogs
Fries

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