

# 380th commemorates fallen 9/11 responders

HONORING THE 343 NYC  
FIREFIGHTERS

WHO MADE THE  
ULTIMATE SACRIFICE ON  
SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 2001





photo by Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson

## On the cover

Senior Airman Timothy Lazarus read the fireman's prayer as the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing commemorated Patriot Day at the Circle of Honor here Sept. 11. Brig. Gen. H.D. Pumbo, Jr., 380th AEW commander, reminded attendees to reaffirm their commitment and remain steadfast in honor of America's fallen.

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*Submit stories and photos to 380aew.pa@adab.afcent.af.mil. The SAND SCRIPT staff reserves the right to edit all submissions for content, policy and style.*



Courtesy photo

## Cycle 3/4 leaves Fire Station 1 a little better ...

Staff Sgt. James Hickman, 380th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services journeyman, painted the mural on the wall at Fire Station 1 here. The mural was one way the Cycle 3/4 firefighters managed their transition, by making the fire station a little better than the way they found it.

## Action Line

► If you have a question or comment you would like to direct to the wing commander, send an e-mail with subject line "Commander's Forum" to: [380aew.pa@adab.afcent.af.mil](mailto:380aew.pa@adab.afcent.af.mil). The commander will provide a response by e-mail for most issues; however, Public Affairs may consolidate duplicate questions and print the responses in a future issue of the Sand Script. People are encouraged to work issues through their chain of command prior to using the forum.

## The Airman's Creed

*I am an American Airman.*

*I am a Warrior.*

*I have answered my Nation's call.*

*I am an American Airman.*

*My mission is to Fly, Fight, and Win.*

*I am faithful to a Proud Heritage,  
A Tradition of Honor,  
And a Legacy of Valor.*

*I am an American Airman.*

*Guardian of Freedom and Justice,  
My Nation's Sword and Shield,  
Its Sentry and Avenger.  
I defend my Country with my Life.*

*I am an American Airman.*

*Wingman, Leader, Warrior.  
I will never leave an Airman behind,  
I will never falter,  
And I will not fail.*

## Perspective

### Ready to hang up your uniform?

Maj. Christopher Bromen

380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Commander

Are you thinking about separating from the Air Force? Have you had one of those frustrating days and wished you were someplace else? After all, you're thousands of miles away from your family – most Americans don't have to sacrifice like that, why should you?

I've asked myself those questions at one time or another. About a year ago I was one of hundreds facing a reduction in force (RIF) board. I, and every other RIF-eligible officer, had to decide whether to voluntarily separate with an attractive sum of money, or to take our chances with the RIF board. If we left our fate to the board they would either retain us, or involuntarily separate us with a fraction of the separation pay. In the end, my choice to take my chances with the board became obvious, but it had little to do with money.

As a member of the Air Force I receive a robust compensation package that has nothing to do with money or other material benefits. These intangible benefits are the reason why I did not voluntarily leave the Air Force; they are things I don't believe are readily available in other institutions. The compensation package I'm talking about consists of opportunity, support, camaraderie and pride.

**Opportunity** – A person's race, color, religion, gender, ethnic background or socioeconomic status doesn't matter in the Air Force. If a person is willing to work hard, always do the right thing and sacrifice when needed, there is no limit to the amount of responsibility they will be entrusted with.

**Support** – I've seen dozens of times where Air Force people, including commanders, first sergeants and chiefs go to great lengths to help individuals through tough times. I've witnessed wing commanders energizing entire wings to help an individual. Twice during my thirteen years of service I've personally experienced life changing events. In each instance Air Force people, supervisors and peers, rallied around and helped me through tough times. Other institutions do not provide that type of support.

**Camaraderie** – We've all shared common experiences under trying and stressful conditions. I've been through some situations I would never want to relive, but also value those life experiences because of the perspective they lend and the camaraderie developed with others as a result of them. These types of experiences and camaraderie cannot be developed in offices or retail stores, but are prevalent in the Air Force.

**Pride** – Being part of the Air Force is being part of something bigger than you. If you need a reminder of this, take a trip down to the flightline and watch our airplanes launch into the sky on any given day or night. Regardless of your AFSC, if you're at the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing you have somehow contributed to that airplane flying. If you're the person flying that airplane you are not just operating a machine, you are carrying out the Combined Force Air Component Commander's orders, delivering effects to support campaign and national objectives. Being a part of – and so close to – something so powerful is an honor.

Military service can require tremendous sacrifice at times. But even though I'm far away from the family and friends I love, I'm grateful for the privilege to serve and be part of something so meaningful. No other profession offers the opportunity, support, camaraderie and pride. There's no other place I'd rather be!



photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell



photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell

# 380th reaffirms commitment at Sept. 11 commemoration

By Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson  
380th AEW Public Affairs

More than 200 people gathered at the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's Circle of Honor memorial for the Sept. 11 commemoration ceremony here Thursday.

The ceremony began at 9:43 a.m. Eastern Standard Time – 5:43 p.m. Local – a poignant reminder of the moment a Boeing 757 crashed into the Pentagon seven years ago to the minute.

The landscape and temperature here may provide a drastic contrast to what Americans saw and felt on that fateful day, but the faces bare the same resolve.

“The Airmen of the 380th epitomize American spirit and resolve,” Brig. Gen. H.D. Polumbo, Jr., said. “They represent Americans from every walk of life and they do that with dedication and a commitment to excellence.”

Col. Paul Murphy, vice commander for the 380th AEW, commanded the formation to “Present arms,” at the first note of the National Anthem to begin the ceremony. Chaplain (Maj.) Thomas Elbert, from the chapel, followed with the invocation.

Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Walsh, incoming 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Fire and Emergency Services chief, was the guest speaker. He is among many incoming personnel as the wing transitions into a new rotation of deployed members.

The fire chief, like so many others, has a personal connection with the events of Sept. 11. When Sergeant Walsh was a child, his father – then a New York City firefighter – suffered a broken back due to a building collapse in the line of duty.

“As a child I enjoyed going with my dad to his fire company, Ladder 48, in the south Bronx – aka Fort Apache the Bronx,” Sergeant Walsh said. “I remember listening to the stories of their last fire, turnouts still filled with the smell of smoke; going down the fire pole was allowed, but the coke machine was off limits.”

The new member of the 380th AEW shared childhood memories of fire-department family events, “... those son and daughter moments will never be forgotten.”

As the speech continued, the audience seemed to collectively lean inward toward Fire Chief Walsh, as if

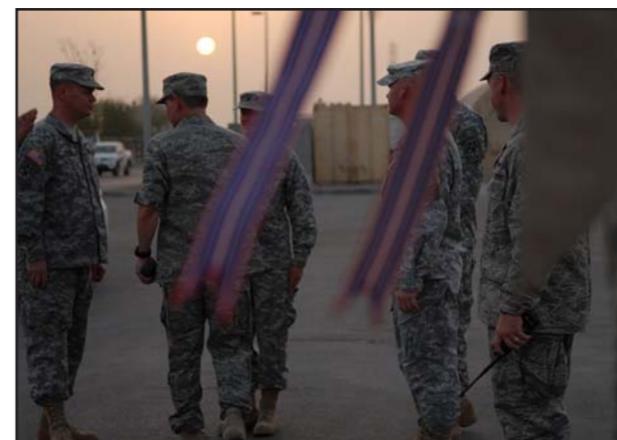


photo by Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson



photo by Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson

**Top left: Senior Master Sgt. Joe Walsh, 380th AEW's newest fire chief, takes the podium as the guest speaker.**  
**Top right: The 380th AEW Honor Guard posts the colors at the Circle of honor here.**  
**Bottom left: Attendees linger to share thoughts after the 9/11 commemoration ceremony.**  
**Bottom Right: Formation members render salute during the National Anthem.**

they were lending support to their fellow Airman. The desert wind carried his words to the listeners, the sentiment traversing bridges, as the wing enveloped the new arrivals into their fold.

The new fire chief explained how his father, who's firefighting career was cut short by the structural collapse, had pinned his hopes on his son carrying on the firefighting legacy. The young Joe Walsh passed his firefighting exams and was slated for an academy class. Much to his father's disappointment, he turned away

from that path to join the Air Force.

“(My father) called me (Sept. 11) and told me how glad he was I didn't take the NYC firefighting job,” Sergeant Walsh said. “He got a call from two of his friends who lost contact with their sons in the towers and they feared the worst.”

Those friends lost their sons at ground zero. They were from the same academy class the young Joe Walsh walked away from so many years before.

*Cont'd on page 4*



photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell



photo by Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson

**Top left:** More than two-hundred deployed members gathered at the 380th AEW Circle of Honor to commemorate Patriot Day. **Top Right:** (left to right) Maj. Gen. Del Eulberg, Air Force Civil Engineer commander; Brig. Gen. H.D. Pumbo, Jr., 380th AEW commander; and Brig. Gen. Tim Byers, XXX; salute during the National Anthem. **Bottom left:** Staff Sgt. Mitchell Robinson, 380th CEF, bows his head during a moment of silence. **Middle:** Senior Airman Robert Lysholm, 380th CEF, rings the “four fives” in memory of nearly 3,000 Americans who lost their lives on Sept. 11. **Bottom right:** U.S. Army Sgt. Karen Curinton, Bravo Battery 5-52nd detachment, stands among fellow Soldiers and Airmen in the formation.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson



photo by Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson

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“The brotherhood of firefighters is endless,” Sergeant Walsh said. “Unfortunately, for a large number of kids who lost their dads and moms on September 11th, 2001, those childhood memories will never be made. Rest assured, the brotherhood of firefighters will stand-in proudly in the absence of those loved ones to make a different sort of memory.”

Sergeant Walsh brought his speech to close and made way for the unveiling of a new display for the Circle of Honor. The display matches the other two cases in size and shape, the only difference is the content.

Members from the 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Structures and Fire and Emergency Services flights built the case and coordinated the display items. The display includes both a firefighter and a N.Y.C. police uniform.

“Although we’re thousands of miles from American soil, the American spirit is evident in this ceremony, in the people who made it happen, the donations of the uniforms, the new addition to the Circle of Honor and in

the faces and hearts of the audience,” General Pumbo said. “I am proud to stand here today with all our Airmen and Soldiers reaffirming our commitment to carry the torch – and never forget the events of September 11th, 2001.”

As the shadows from the scaled replica of the Twin Towers lengthened, the ceremony drew to a close. The “four fives” began to toll.

Four sets of five rings was the original signal for firehouses to lower their flags to half-staff due to the death of a president or for Memorial Day. Over the years, the “four fives” came to symbolize the death of a firefighter.

“We must never forget the tragedy and loss of seven years ago, nor the commitments we made to those who died and the families they left behind: that we will never again allow such a vicious act to be carried out against our nation, or her people,” General Pumbo concluded, as the four fives were rung in a tribute to the 2,974 people who lost their lives Sept. 11, 2001.

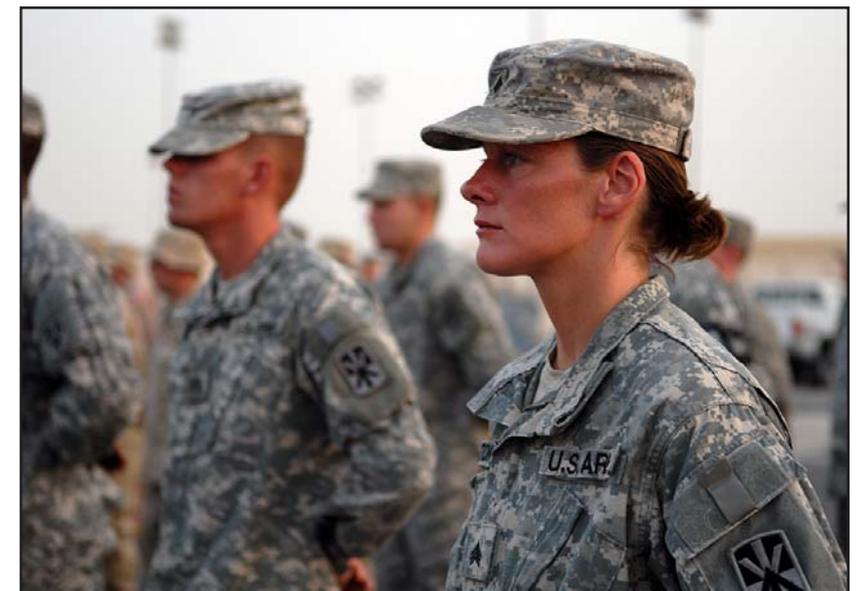


photo by Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson

# 380th N.Y.P.D. officer dedicates uniform for 9/11 display



photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Campbell

**Master Sgt. Rose Condello, a New York City police officer and deployed Air National Guard member, arranges her badge on a N.Y.P.D. uniform she donated on behalf of her union and home precinct. The uniform was donated for a display at the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing where she is currently deployed. The badge is adorned with the traditional mourning band. Above the badge she has placed the breast band worn by N.Y.C. police officers with the letters “WTC” as a reminder of the day the World Trade Center fell. The display will be unveiled at the Patriot Day ceremony to commemorate the fallen responders from the 2001 terrorist attacks.**

By Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson  
380th AEW Public Affairs

A New York City police officer who is currently deployed with the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing added an authentic touch to the wing's Patriot Day ceremony here Thursday.

New Jersey Air National Guard's Master Sgt. Rose Condello, deployed here as the marketing director for the 380th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron.

Airmen from the wing wanted to donate a uniform display box to their 9/11 memorial during the seventh anniversary commemoration ceremony. They approached Sergeant Condello after hearing she is a police officer with the 62nd Precinct in Brooklyn

The Airmen, from the 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's structures and fire and emergency services flights, built a display case to house a firefighter and N.Y.P.D. uniform.

“Our fire chief, (Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Mohr), asked if we wanted to add a piece to the circle of honor,” said Staff Sgt. Mitchell Robinson, 380th CEF battalion chief. “About 10 of us got together from the two different CE flights and came up with this idea.”

The display will be added to the 380th AEW Circle of Honor, the wing's Sept. 11 memorial, as a dedication to the fallen firefighters and police who died in response to the Sept. 11 attacks.

“I wanted to get involved to show appreciation and respect for the sacrifices made not only by the military, but also by civilian firefighters and police,” said Senior Airman Timothy Lazarus, 380th CEF driver operator.

Once the group was formed some members of the team went to work on the display case while others began to make contact for the contents.

“We relied heavily on Staff Sergeant Matthew Pak and the structures flight for the actual design and construction of the case,” Sergeant Robinson said.

The volunteers put their fair share of time and effort into getting just the right

items to represent the fallen emergency responders.

“We wanted people to be able to do more than just read the names off the current memorial,” Airman Lazarus said. “We wanted them to have more of a visual, like the boots and M-16 we have on display for the military.”

The dedication is meant to provide a legacy of solace and respect for those who will deploy here on this and subsequent rotations.

“Since the circle of honor is right outside our fire station, I see all the people who come to pay their respects,” Sergeant Robinson said. “There are a lot of people, like Sergeant Condello, who are from (New York). If they get some satisfaction from seeing it, then it's worth it to me.”

When the commemoration organizers asked Sergeant Condello if she would like to say a few words at the ceremony, she humbly declined. “My story is not that important,” she said. “I'm honored I was asked to contribute.”

Sergeant Condello hopes to share photos of the unveiling and the ceremony with her union and precinct when she returns home just days after the event. “My union, the Patrolman's Benevolent Association, will let all the cops know this is out here for them, which is pretty cool.”

Between the union and the 62nd Precinct, Sergeant Condello got all the support she needed to fulfill the request from the 380th ECES Airmen.

The complete uniform includes a cap device bearing the badge number “3100.” This number was the original telephone exchange for the New York Police Headquarters before it moved to One Police Plaza. It was since used as part of the name for the N.Y.P.D. magazine and has come to symbolize the department.

The badge on the uniform displays Sergeant Condello's badge number along with a traditional mourning band. “It means a lot to me to have my badge number in that display,” She said. “To me, it says I had a part in this, I am leaving a part here ... the circle of honor will be changed forever.”

As the marketing director for the wing,

Sergeant Condello occasionally brings tours to the memorial, “It was nice this last tour because the fire department guys who brief that portion of the tour told the group about the display we've been working on. They tell folks that it's my badge number there. I know the story will keep going ...”

To balance the police officer's uniform, Staff Sgt. Brian Tonnancour took the extra steps to ensure the other uniform in the display reflected the proper gear firefighters wore at ground zero.

The donated firefighter uniform is authentic structural gear donated from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, per a request from Sergeant Tonnancour, 380th CEF assistant chief of fire prevention.

“It's a part of the firefighter heritage to help others; if our small part helps out, then I'm happy,” Sergeant Robinson said.

Between the deployed Airmen here, the Airmen at Mountain Home AFB, the police officers at the 62nd Precinct and the PBA representatives, efforts spanned oceans and continents to ensure members of the 380th AEW can pay their respects to the many firefighters and police officers who perished on Sept. 11.

Sergeant Condello's deployment is coming to a close. She will return to her home in Staten Island, N.Y. and her guard unit, the 108th Air Refueling Wing, at McGuire AFB, N.J. She will drive the Verrazano Bridge to work every day as she makes her way into Brooklyn with the city's skyline to her left. Perhaps her efforts here will help mend the view.

*“I went over the Verrazano Bridge all by myself that day. They shut the whole city down and every cop had to go to work. You had to go through security to cross the bridge; only one person could go at a time in case terrorists would attack the bridges. I was the only one on that bridge – the only vehicle. That's when I lost it, actually. When you're coming over the bridge the city is off to your left. I'd look at it every day on my way to work, but now I can't even look at it because the Twin Towers aren't there – but that's when I lost it, when I saw everything engulfed in flames and just ... terrible ...”*

Master Sgt. Rose Condello,  
380th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron

# Senior leaders meet to discuss, decide way ahead for force

8/27/2008 - WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Senior Air Force leaders gathered for a strategic summit Aug. 27 at Bolling Air Force Base to discuss the way ahead for the Air Force as a part of the August emphasis on strategic planning.

“The summit allows us to identify issues that need senior leader review and decide on matters affecting the entire Air Force,” Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley said.

The group – including Mr. Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, assistant secretaries, majcom commanders and headquarters Air Force staff – discussed near-term issues facing the Air Force.

Decisions coming out of the summit include a new mission statement for the Air Force.

The new mission statement returns the Air Force to familiar ground. “The mission of the United States Air Force is to fly, fight and win ... in air, space and cyberspace.”

While it borrows from the previous statement, this one is shorter, “simple and

easy to understand,” General Schwartz said. “This is who we are. It’s what motivates us and drives us to serve.”

The group also decided to halt the initiative to reorganize maintenance functions into operations groups.

Previous global wing reorganization plans included aligning fighter and combat search and rescue maintenance units with their flying squadrons, and forming materiel groups that would encompass maintenance, logistics and aerial port squadrons. Today’s decision means maintenance groups will remain as is.

“This will reduce organizational turmoil as we focus on winning today’s fight,” General Schwartz said. He went on to say the goal is mission effective combat support and Airmen are accomplishing just that.

“Independent maintenance groups produce professionals with the highest levels of maintenance and logistics competency,” he said, “and that translates to mission effectiveness.”

Leaders reached consensus that the focus should be on fixing problems Airmen are having with the current uniforms before moving on to new uniforms. The staff

will field near-term solutions to correct issues with the Airman Battle Uniform, All Purpose Environmental Clothing System jacket, and physical training gear.

“We will consider all other uniform initiatives after we fix the issues we have now with the uniforms we work in every day,” General Schwartz said.

While the strategic summit yielded these decisions, senior leaders focused their discussion on winning today’s fight and addressing the priorities laid out by the acting secretary and the chief in past weeks.

“The priorities – reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise, prevailing in the Global War on Terror, strengthening joint warfighting capabilities, focusing on people and achieving acquisition excellence – are advanced by the decisions reached today,” Mr. Donley said.

Senior leaders received an update on nuclear enterprise matters at the event. An additional nuclear summit will be held in mid-September to discuss the nuclear enterprise roadmap.

That discussion will include more

dialogue on the Air Force’s cyber mission.

“Cyber operations remain a critical and growing mission area,” Mr. Donley said. “We will continue to develop our cyber capabilities while examining various organizational options.”

Leaders also heard progress reports on other mid-term agenda items including Unmanned Aircraft Systems manning initiatives, personnel end strength and Common Battlefield Airman Training.

By the end of the year, the service expects to complete an unmanned aircraft system roadmap and a review of the acquisition enterprise. Senior leaders will meet for Corona Fall in October, where they expect to make more decisions on key subjects.

Underlying all of these issues, said Mr. Donley, is how to ensure the right mix of Airmen remain in uniform. Previous force-shaping initiatives planned for the active-duty force to decrease to 316,000, but in June Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said the service had been cut too deeply and called for the decrease in Air Force end-strength to stop at 330,000 people.

*“This is who we are. It’s what motivates us and drives us to serve,”*

Air Force Chief of Staff  
Gen. Norton Schwartz

## Ramadan Awareness

- Fast from dawn to sunset:
  - No food or gum to be eaten.
  - No water or juice to drink.
  - No tobacco products consumed.
  - No sexual relations.
- Fasting during Ramadan “is for Allah and Him alone.”
  - Spend time in prayer.
  - Read all of the Qur’an.
  - The fast is broken with prayer and a meal (iftar) after sunset. Following the iftar, it is customary to visit family and friends.

## Base Policy

- All off base travel before 1800 is limited to Official Business Travel only
- Within the U.S. Compound during fasting hours
- Drinking (water, Gatorade, etc...) is not restricted, but use good judgment as to time & place outdoors
- Food will be consumed indoors only
- Outside the U.S. Compound, no food or drink will be consumed in public during fasting hours (0330-1900)
- Advise AEW/CC or CV of planned Host Nation Visits

Fast from dawn to sunset  
when off base during Ramadan



## ATTENTION ALL RUNNERS

Runners have recently been running next to, and even through, the alarm fields on the perimeter of Phantom East and Phantom West. This causes a security forces unit to respond every time an alarm is activated. All base personnel must familiarize themselves with — and follow — the approved running paths