WISCONSIN AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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Leadership Education And Development

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Wisconsin American Indian Medal of Honor Recipient

Mitchell Red Cloud Jr.
Corporal, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division

"The son of a Winnebago Chief and warriors who believe that when a man goes into battle, he expects to kill or be killed and if he dies he will live forever." These are the words inscribed on the monument erected in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, and dedicated to the memory of Korean War hero Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud Jr., the first Winnebago to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Near Chonghyon, South Korea, on Nov. 5, 1950. According to an eyewitness account, Company E was alerted to the surprise enemy attack by a shouted warning from Corporal Red Cloud, who was on a ridge guarding his company's command post. He immediately opened fire with his automatic rifle on the advancing enemy troops. Despite being severely wounded, Red Cloud held his ground, using a tree to give himself the support needed to continue firing. He refused help and continued to fire until he was fatally wounded. His valiant actions checked the enemy assault and allowed his company to consolidate its position and evacuate the wounded.

Corporal Red Cloud received the Medal of Honor posthumously on July 2, 1951; the medal was presented to his mother, Nellie Red Cloud, by U.S. Army General Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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In This Issue of the LEAD

- Wisconsin American Indian Medal of Honor Recipient
- Wisconsin Air Guard Human Resource Advisors
- Mentoring and My Enlisted Development Plan
- National American Indian Heritage Month
- Leadership Focus: How to Get Lucky
- November Observance Awareness Items

Mentoring and My Enlisted Development Plan

SMSgt Chad Gibson
128th ARW Human Resource Advisor

Each of us can look at our lives and recall people who touched it in meaningful and powerful ways. They offered us guidance, support, wisdom and a safe haven where we could expose our uncertainties and grow without being judged. They were our mentors, whether we realized it or not.

Mentoring is a personal enhancement strategy through which one person facilitates the development of another by sharing known resources, expertise, values, skills, perspectives, attitudes and proficiencies. It allows us to build skills and knowledge while attaining goals for career development. Conversely, it provides the opportunity for the mentor to further enhance his/her skill and knowledge areas by continuously reassessing and building upon those areas.

Mentoring brings value to everyone involved in its practice: associates, mentors and the organization for which they work. Associates have an opportunity to gain wisdom from someone who has traveled the path before them. Mentors have an opportunity to invest themselves in someone who seeks what they can offer. The organization has the opportunity to share and spread its acquired learning and know-how.

For more information on Mentoring and Force Development visit the Wisconsin ANG Enlisted Development Communities of Practice (COP) through the AF Portal at:
https://wwwd.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/EntryCoP.asp?Filter=AN-DP-02-25

or through AF Knowledge Now at:
https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/EntryCoP.asp?Filter=AN-DP-02-25

Diversity
National American Indian Heritage Month

A Brief History
Source: Dept of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs

What began at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the First Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States has resulted in the month of November being designated for that purpose.

Early Proponents
One of the early proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian who was the Director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, New York. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans," and for three years the Scouts adopted such a day. In 1915, at the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, a plan celebrating American Indian Day was formally approved. The Association directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to set aside a day of recognition. Rev. Coolidge issued a proclamation on September 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of May as American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of American Indians as citizens.
The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfeet Indian, rode horseback from state to state, seeking approval for a day to honor American Indians. On December 14, 1915, Red Fox James presented the endorsements of 24 state governments to the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

State Celebrations
The first American Indian Day to be celebrated in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any legal recognition as a national holiday.

Heritage Months
In 1990 President George Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994. National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month is celebrated to recognize the intertribal cultures and to educate the public about the heritage, history, art, and traditions of the American Indian and Alaska Native people.

There was a camaraderie [in the Air Force] that transcends ethnicity when you serve your country overseas in wartime. — Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Cheyenne, U.S. Air Force Korean Veteran

Leadership Focus
How to Get Lucky

SMSgt Alice Sischo
115th FW Human Resource Advisor

Have you ever thought about those people who always seem to get what they want; land the promotion, get the plush assignments, or just seem to make it big? When thinking about them, do you think, wow, they are the luckiest people? Why can't that ever happen to me?

So, what is luck? Is it a chance circumstance? Or can you really make your own luck?

According to Malcolm Gladwell, author of the book Outliers, it is a little of both. In his book, Gladwell looks at how many years of performing it took for the Beatles to become an "overnight" success and the initiative and time Bill Gates worked on computers before building that one in the garage. He also examines why some of the smartest people never reach their full potential. The formula for success is being in the right place at the right time, but also doing the right thing. The right place and the right time may depend on some luck, but the right thing comes immediately back to training, practicing, and perfecting. Gladwell claims it takes about ten thousand hours of practice to achieve excellence.

Think about this the next time you are in a training environment. Are you doing it to just fill a square, or do you seize any opportunity you can to practice? Just going to a leadership school doesn't make you a leader. Just reading a CDC doesn't make you a professional. It's the hours, days, months, and years of working with the things you learned that help achieve excellence. The course or the book are only the tools, it's what you do with the tools that makes you successful.

There is no guarantee that putting ten thousand hours of work into something will make it a success. However if you do, when the opportunity presents itself, you would be able to land a commuter plane on the Hudson River. Check out Capt Sullivan's flying history and see if he learned how to do that out of a book, or a 6 week course. Was there luck involved? Oh yes, but luck alone would not have meant a successful water landing.

November 2009 Awareness Items

National American Indian Heritage Month
http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/nativeamerican01/inner.html

Nov 11th Veterans Day
http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday

Military Family Appreciation Month
http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp

Wounded Warrior Month

Nov 26th Thanksgiving Day