

AIRSCOOP



104TH FIGHTER WING • MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Pride, Professionalism, Patriotism

Barnes Air National Guard Base

October 2008



Laura Bryna performs at the Easter State Exposition during Massachusetts Day, September 18, 2008.
(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)



Commander's Column

By Col. Robert T. Brooks

Barnestormers, I would like to take this time to welcome home many of our deployed

airmen. We are welcoming them home from various places, including the CENTCOM AOR. The 104th leadership is extremely proud of each and every one of you, and the sacrifices made by both you and your family. The greetings at the airport have been very exciting and very humbling. The entire Barnes family welcomes you home and we are very grateful for your service to country. Last Thursday, on the 25th of September, we had the opportunity to march in the parade and perform a flyby at the Big E on Westfield day. As Roz and I approached groups of people in his Air Force refurbished jeep, the crowd would begin to clap. When the Honor Guard

closed the gap with our 104th members behind them, the claps and cheering would grow louder. The claps and cheers are for each and every one of our airmen, whom are placing duty above self, and serving our great nation.

As we move beyond the seven year anniversary of the Sep 11 terrorist's attacks, let us resolve to continue our efforts in becoming mission ready in the F-15. One of our primary missions will be to perform the role of Defensive Counter Air, specifically Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA), in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Groundbreaking has occurred on the site, and we will have a Site Activation Team come in December or January to discuss and help plan our future setup. Additionally as we continue through this conversion with teamwork and trust as our watchwords, realize beginning on Monday, 28 September we have some of our maintainers working a night shift. This is fairly standard in the F-15 community and will aid us in sortie production. This is new to us, and there will most likely be some growing pains. However, we are committed to supporting our airmen on both shifts, so if you need something, bring it up the chain of command.

In mid September, the Organizational Safety Assessment team gave us their outbrief. The team Chief had a lot of positive things to say about the wing, mainly, he could tell there was a lot of pride and professionalism in the unit. He also commented people were not afraid to talk, which was a good sign. I want to thank everyone who participated in the surveys thereby allowing us to develop a better roadmap for the 104th. Specific findings and recommendations are listed below:

Recommendation #1: Re-Address the possibility of getting an active duty augmentee contingent for maintenance.

Solution: Col. Gwosch has identified the most needed AFSC's and our MXG leadership is re-engaging ANG and AF

to attempt to get the augmentees here for no less than 60 days. We have also petitioned ANG for funds to keep the Boeing reps in place at Barnes for a longer period of time. Col. Lambrich is continuing to send pilots out to other units to maintain proficiency.

Recommendation #2: Form a tiger team to accomplish a thorough risk assessment of the timeline for conversion; empower the team to make recommendations for changes in the timeline.

Solution: We have done several things in this area:

- a. We have modified the fly schedule to something more realistic for present conditions.
- b. We have moved night flying from Oct to Nov.
- c. For several reasons, we have cut back from 4 deployments to 2 deployments in FY 09.
- d. We are working with NGB and the AF to potentially slide the Phase 1 ORI back one year. This issue is not yet resolved, but we have received complete support from Maj. Gen. Akey and Brig. Gen. Rice.

Recommendation #3: 104th FW/CC to establish a new conversion timeline and conduct a commanders call ASAP to communicate the new timeline.

Solution: Our FY 09 goals are to be Mission Ready in Oct 2009, and stand up alert in Jan 2010. By canceling 2 deployments, and hopefully sliding the ORI to the right one year, we will keep those projected dates as they are currently set. However, our #1 priority is to be process oriented, and do things right. If we must slide those dates to the right later, then so be it. Becoming Mission Ready is at Command discretion somewhat, so let the Senior Leadership deal with this. I realize we still have construction going on, and people will be moving their shops, and processes will not be pure. This is where the wingman con-

AIRSCOOP

104th Fighter Wing
Barnes Air National
Guard Base

Barnes Air National Guard Base 175
Falcon Drive
Westfield, MA 01085

Wing Commander
Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

Vice Wing Commander
Lt. Col. James J. Keefe

Command
Chief Master Sergeant
Chief Master Sgt. Al Reale

Chief of Staff
Lt. Col. Mike Cousins

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Mary L. Harrington

Wing Executive Staff Officer
Capt. Matthew T. Mutti

Photo and Graphic Support
Senior Master Sgt. Rob Sabonis
Multimedia Support Center

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Commanders Column (cont'd)

cept and doing things right will be key. If you see or sense something wrong, call a Knock It Off and bring it up to your shop supervisor. You will have leadership support.

Recommendation #4: Maintenance Resource Management is the best defense against negative transfer, channelized attention and inexperience.

Solution: Col Gwosch and our MX team currently have a program in place, which was recognized as a very good program by the OSA Team, and we will continue to use it to our best advantage.

I want to thank all of you for what you do. The actions we take today shape the world our children and grandchildren inherit. Our mission is to fly, fight and win in air, space, and cyberspace. In a nutshell, our job is to control the battlespace for freedom of maneuver. The last

time an American soldier was killed by an enemy aircraft was 1953. Kasserine Pass is the only major battle fought by the armed services, either in WW II or since that time, without enjoying air superiority. You all have chosen an honorable path with the profession of arms. It is not the path of least resistance, but one of honor. As we welcome home our airmen, and continue to support the GWOT, I would like to leave you with an excerpt of the President Lincoln's Gettysburg address:

We have come to honor those who here gave their lives that our nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men and women, living and dead, have consecrated it, far above our poor

power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here today, but it can never forget what they did. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have continued freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth

Col. Robert J. Brooks Jr.



Chiefs Column By Chief Master Sgt. Al Reale

Welcome home!

We have had a lot of folks return from long deployments in the past month. These individuals stepped up and volunteered to

support the Global War on Terror.

Some had tours of over 180 days and that's a long time. There is a lot of service, sacrifice and dedication demonstrated by them as individuals and as teams. Their families also made huge sacrifices by keeping things going at home while they deployed. We will be recognizing these individuals and their families during the Saturday Commanders Call. They have represented the Air National Guard and the 104FW in an outstanding fashion and have made us all proud. Please take time to thank them as you see them around the base this weekend.

They are the "hometown heroes", they are the citizen airman. They are what make the Air National Guard the most respected and efficient "force" in the Air Force.

Medical Group

Lt Col Collins

Security Forces Squadron

Lt Col Green
CMSgt Johnson
MSgt Canedy
TSgt Ron Brown
TSgt Andrew Cekovsky
TSgt Shane Cekovsky
TSgt Christofori
TSgt Coonradt
TSgt Thayer
TSgt Walsh
SSgt Ashley Brown
SSgt Joe Brown
SSgt Caron
SSgt Gardner
SSgt Jacques
SSgt Jeffers
SSgt Millett
SSgt Nichols
SSgt Poirier
SSgt Roach
SSgt Robertson
SSgt Scobie
SRA Barrera
SRA Driscoll
SRA Dunn
SRA Jerzyk
SRA Paluses
SRA Santos
A1C Eden

Civil Engineer Squadron

SMSgt Raby
MSgt Mullane
SRA Machado
SRA Matuszczak
SRA Pacinella
SRA Piecuch
SRA Sawyer
A1C Sheehan

Logistic Readiness Squadron

SSgt Madry
SSgt Mimitz

Services Flight

TSgt Margarites
TSgt Nunez
TSgt Rehbein
SSgt Freeman
SRA Bordas
SRA Gibbs

Mission Support Flight

TSgt Bates

Mission Support Group

A1C Hammond



First Sgt.'s Column

By Master Sgt. Dominique Chapman

Have you ever found yourself at a Veterans Day ceremony at a school and everyone seems to be doing something different when the flag is being raised? Or maybe you were at a Memorial Day program that was being held indoors and you noticed the service member next to you is saluting while the National Anthem is being played but he or she is not wearing a cover? Should you be saluting also? More times than not I have found myself in these situations whether I was marching in a parade or at my daughter's school, saying the Pledge of Allegiance while in uniform. Each military service has its own traditions, but when it comes to proper protocol, you will find that the rules usually apply across the board. The Air Force Instruction for protocol is AFI 34-1201, as with most AFI's it is fairly long, but below I have created a list of common protocol procedures that come into question most often:

The playing of the National Anthem:

Outdoors. When the flag is displayed and when it is not displayed individuals in uniform should stand at attention and perform a military salute as the first note is played and maintain that position until the last note is played. Those not in uniform should stand at attention, facing the flag with their right hand over their heart. If you are not in uniform and wearing a hat you

should remove it and hold it over your left shoulder with the hand being over the heart.

Indoors. Military members in formation wearing their covers, should stand at attention and render a salute. When not wearing a headdress indoors during a ceremony you should stand at attention without rendering a salute.

The Pledge of Allegiance:

Outdoors. When not in uniform persons should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand holding it at the left shoulder, with the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should face the flag, and render the proper military salute.

Indoors. When in uniform, in formation and with proper headdress military members should render a salute. When in uniform and not wearing the proper headdress members should stand at attention, facing the flag. ****Military members in uniform do not recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.****

Reveille and Retreat

When in uniform and outside, face the flag or the music if flag is not visible, stand at attention and salute on first note of the music or if no music, when you see the flag first being raised or lowered. Drop your salute after the last note is played or when flag has been fully raised or lowered. If in a vehicle, pull to the

side of the road and stop, sit quietly at attention. When in civilian clothes stand at attention with the right hand over your heart.

Taps

There are no formal protocol procedures for Taps, however, upon hearing Taps at a military ceremony proper protocol dictates members in uniform should stand at attention and render a salute until music has ended. Civilians and military members in civilian clothes should place their right hand over their heart.

To The Colors

Use the same customs and courtesies as used for the National Anthem

Ceremonial Reviews (Parades and Pass and Reviews)

When moving in a column, a salute should be rendered six paces before passing the United States Flag and held six paces past the flag. When attending ceremonial reviews, personnel in uniform should render a salute as the Colors pass their position. Persons not in uniform should stand at attention with their right hand over their heart.

Protocols are unique parts of our military tradition, they remind us of our heritage and keep us grounded in the foundations for which we serve. There are simple rules that pertain to all events and ceremonies, that once you are familiar with, they will come as second nature. If you ever have questions on protocols or rules for ceremonies, you can always ask your First Sergeant, a member of the Honor Guard, or pull out AFI 34-1201 for the proper etiquettes.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Annual Awards

Editorial By Capt. Matthew T. Mutti

What have you done this year? Did it have an impact on the wing or your shop? Do you supervise someone who had a great year, completed their CDC's with a great average, all while volunteering at different Family Readiness Group activities?

Everyone on this base makes a difference, and the wing works to recognize those accomplishments through the annual award program. Yet, the program will not work without unit level participation.

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Awards (cont'd)

Barnes Instruction 36-2805 details the annual award program and establishes criteria for the annual member of the year awards...but there are more awards than just those 6. There are also BI's that outline the criteria for the *Annual Safety Award*, *The Paul E. Myrick Information Assurance Award* and soon, the *Gen. George Keefe Award*.

There are so many award programs that there is no reason the members who excel are not recognized. On September 12, the Federal Executive Association of Western Massachusetts recognized many federal employees, of which, Barnes had 8 nominees. In addition, there are unit specific awards. Every functional area recognizes those who excel.

As well as unit and wing awards, the National Guard recognizes superior performers. Last year, the 104FW had 3 National Guard winners: The Command Post Controller of the Year, Traffic Management Specialist of the Year, and Services Technician of the Year. As the best unit in the Guard, we should have had more. We can't win if we don't nominate.

October is the month to start working packages for these and many other programs. Here is a helpful URL which lists many of the annual awards. It is not the 'be-all, end-all' list, but it points you in the right direction: <http://www.afwriting.com/afaward.htm>

Every supervisor should submit their deserving members for recognition. It is so important, I will repeat the sentence: Every supervisor should submit their deserving members for recognition. You will never know if they are the best until they compete with their peers. In most cases, just the nomination for an award is a shot of encouragement that is often overlooked.

If you are not a supervisor and you feel you have done a good job, tell your boss in the form of being responsible. An Airman who has a list of his or her accomplishments, examples of community involvement and self improvement, stand a much better chance of winning an award than one who does not. Simply because the information is accessible. It's no secret that supervisors often have more things to do, then time to do them all. So, if you can make your boss' life easier by compiling data

points, in the form of bullets, the supervisor will be more likely to present a strong package than if they have to compile the data themselves.

As the Executive Officer, I see most, if not all, of the award packages. I can attest that our unit has some of the best members in the National Guard and the Air Force. I can also attest that in many cases, there are awards that pass without good representation from the entire wing. Lastly, the bullets are often very soft, and the true nuggets (BIG IMPACT) information is buried in the text and not highlighted in the way that wins awards.

Copies of winning awards are typically distributed through the commanders and chiefs. If anyone would like to look at winning packages, just ask and I will get them to you. With the outstanding members in this wing, winning packages practically write themselves, but still need someone to push them through.

I challenge you all to take some time this weekend to re-evaluate your squadron's process and to also take pride and ownership over your own successes. Write them down!

What's My Line?



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Come up with a funny, clean and creative caption for this photo. We will run the winner and a runner-up in next months AirScoop.

Submit your entry to PA.104fw@mabarn.ang.af.mil



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Winner: "Cobra, make sure you get the expression on Capt Mutti's face when we tell him he's fired for using this picture in the AirScoop"

Submitted by Col. Robert Brooks

Runner-up: Col. Keefe saying, "damn, how does this work, the new commander is going to think I'm and idiot!"

Col Brooks saying "damn, how does this work? The vice commander, what's his name? is going to think I'm an idiot!"

Submitted by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Beaulieu

Spotlight on Tech. Sgt. Elvis Martinez

By Staff Sgt. Jerome White

13 years ago a Springfield Central High School graduate joined the military because he didn't have enough money for college. After trying both the active duty Air Force and the Air National Guard as a traditional guardsman, Tech. Sgt. Elvis Martinez feels that he has now found the perfect balance as a full time NDT technician here at Barnes.

Although the Springfield native was originally an electrician in the Active Duty Air Force, he almost immediately made a career change to NDT (Non-Destructive Testing) and has enjoyed every minute of it since. NDT is similar to quality assurance,

using various scientific methods and instruments to check the structural integrity of planes and inspect parts and components both on the planes and in the shops.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jerome White

Tech. Sgt. Martinez loves the flexibility and family orientation offered by the Air Guard, especially the tightly knit group here at Barnes, which he says feels like a big family. That flexibility allows him to indulge in his one hobby, spending time with his 9-year old daughter and 5-year old son.

"The Guard is a great place to work. It gives you a lot of opportunities, you can move around, and there are a lot of jobs in the military that you can do as a civilian. The guard opens doors."



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Chamber of Commerce Breakfast

By Capt. Matthew T. Mutti

coordinated a breakfast for these business leaders and continued a great tradition started more than 15 years ago by Senior Master Sgt. William Butman, the Services NCOIC.

This breakfast culminated with three key note speakers, Col. Robert Brooks Jr., 104th Fighter Wing Commander, Lt. Col. (ret) James Wiggs, Westfield Emergency Manager, and Tom Tremblay, Nobel Hospital Emergency Management Preparation Team. These individuals spoke on the importance of Emergency management and disaster preparedness.

Col. Brooks spoke about Emergency Management at a national level, citing examples from his experience

with Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Wiggs, spoke about integrated command and control at the city level, while Mr. Tremblay spoke about business level emergency preparedness.

"The hospital conducted an internal exercise to simulate the loss of water, not 3-weeks later, there was a problem with the water line," said Mr. Tremblay.

The members who supported this event did a fantastic job setting up, serving, cooking, cleaning and serving as greeters. The team effort was notice by all who attended and the wing continues to shine as the premiere business in Westfield.

"The hospital conducted an internal exercise to simulate the loss of water, not 3-weeks later, there was a problem with the water line"

Barnes Air National Guard Base is currently the 3rd largest employer in Westfield, and its payroll annually exceeds that of 95% of the business within a 30 mile radius, it is a strong contributor to the Western Massachusetts tax base, and a long-time member of the Westfield Chamber of Commerce.

Annually the base hosts a quarterly chamber breakfast during which more than 190 local business leaders come to Barnes to learn more about what the chamber does for them, and how better they can serve the chamber.

On 26 September, Airman 1st Class Kayla Bartlett, Services Apprentice,

Blast Deflector

By Staff Sgt. Jerome White

The September drill marked the end of the beautiful views I used to enjoy from the ground floor of the Wing Headquarters building. This is due to the newest addition to our base, a jet blast deflector in front of Building 1, and although I lament the loss of my views of the flight line, I feel a lot safer now that I know why they went away.

A blast deflector takes the exhaust coming out of the back end of a fighter plane, commonly known as jet blast, and deflects it harmlessly up into the air in order to protect things such as buildings, people, and equipment. According to Maj. Brian Murphy, the Deputy Base Engineer, even low power operations can cause dangerous blasts because the wind and heat are focused on a small area. At 35% thrust an F-15 Eagle's blast can produce winds strong enough to knock over people and gives off an incredible amount of heat. At higher levels, such as 85% thrust, these winds can rival a low power tornadoes and even roll over small vehicles.

I asked Major Murphy if anything went wrong during the construction process and after he stopped laughing his reply was: "Of course...you always have something that goes wrong." In this case the problem involved the design of the deflector's base, which involved both concrete and asphalt. Where these two materials met the installer was having trouble adequately compressing the asphalt enough to keep it from breaking apart without cracking the concrete. The debris from either the asphalt or the concrete had the potential to cause a very serious problem called FOD (foreign object damage). FOD happens when a foreign object, such as a rock, gets sucked up by a jets intake and then rattles around in the engine causing thousands, if not millions, of dollars in damage.

The deflector, which was installed by Blast Deflectors Incorporated, is the culmination of several months of con-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melanie Casineau

struction and is actually only one of four that will eventually be in place. These deflectors are just one of many projects that Civil Engineering has in the works right now. Others include the new fire department building, an Air Superiority Alert complex, an Explosives Ordinance building, aircraft shelters, and upgrades to the Avionics, munitions, and engine shop buildings, in all more than \$40 million of construction will occur between now and 2010.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Laura Bryna visits Barnes, soldiers home

By Capt. Matthew T. Mutti

September 18th, Laura Bryna, country music recording artist and Air National Guard spokesperson, performed at the Big E, but not before visiting the members of the 104th Fighter Wing and the Holyoke Soldiers' Home prior to her performance.

Bryna was signed as the Air National Guard's spokesperson in late 2007 after her latest single 'Hometown Heroes' was adopted as the Air National Guards new theme song.

This visit to Massachusetts is not her first, on September 12th, she sang the national anthem at a Red Sox home game at Fenway Park, taking every opportunity to sing for large audiences and speak about the Air National Guard.

"We were excited to work with Miss Bryna." said Senior Master Sgt. Peter Johnson, the Massachusetts Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention Superintendent. "The Air National Guard has given her an opportunity to spread the guard story through her music and she, along with our continuous local advertising in other music genres, gives us a true media mix to reach any and all applicants."

Bryna visit to the New England was well received by both the members at the base as well as the residents of the Soldier's Home.

"Every chance I get, I want to say thank you to the people who have sacrificed for our nation", said Miss Bryna. "This trip gave me a great opportunity to do that, as well as talk about the Air Guard."



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Dave Moore: National Driving Champion

By Capt. Matthew T. Mutti

Outside of his traditional guard status, Senior Master Sgt. Dave Moore is a bit of a national celebrity; competing and finishing in the top spots of the American Truck Driving State and National Competitions since 1993.

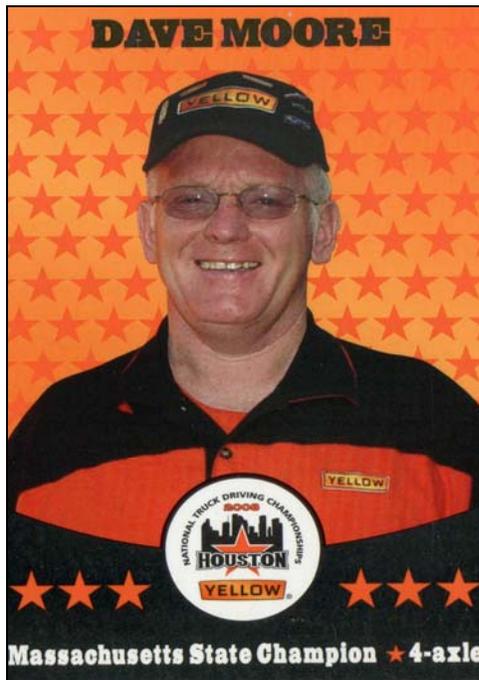
In all, Sgt. Moore has competed eight times in the 4-axle division, this year winning the top honors in Massachusetts and placing fourth among all drivers in the nation during the annual completion 18-24 August in Huston Texas.

The following excerpt came from Yellow Freights monthly newsletter:

Heavy rain, strong winds and stifling humidity were no match for Yellow driver David Moore as he took the course in the 4-axle van class at the Mass Truck Driving Championships on 6/22/08 in Chicopee.

Dave kept his composure on the driving skills course and used that momentum when he took the written test and the pre-trip vehicle inspection to win the 4-axle van class.

He will advance to the 2008 National Truck Driving Championships on August 18th-24th in Houston Texas. This will be Dave's second trip to Nationals.



Dave was the recipient of this year's Bradford W. Rayworth Memorial Award. This award is given annu-

ally for professionalism in the industry; to the driver that best represents the industry both professionally and personally and conducts himself in such a manner.

Dave is a 22 year employee with Yellow Transportation, a member of the Mass. Air National Guard and the Charter Representative for his local Boy Scout Pack, Troop and Venture Post.

When asked why he participates in the annual competition, Sgt Moore responded; "I enjoy the challenge and the competition, and making friends with other drivers and their families while promoting driver safety and having fun."

During the national competition this year, Sgt. Moore place 4th of 47 drivers. His score was a compilation of a written test, pre-trip inspection, and road test. This is Sgt. Moore's best showing in the national competition since his rookie year when he placed 36th in 1993.

Incident Commander Course

By Master Sgt. David Frates

In the event of a disaster, how would civilian and military authorities organize their resources under one structure to respond effectively? During a weeklong course hosted by the 104th Emergency Management office, senior leadership from the 104th and other Air National Guard (ANG) units from the region sat with their Emergency Managers, Fire Chiefs, and Security Forces to learn the answers to that important question.

From 16 September to 19 September, 45 Disaster Response Force (DRF) members learned about the Air Force

Incident Management System (AFIMS) and what capabilities we have in our toolbox to mitigate incidents, from minor to catastrophic. Following events such as the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, the President of the United States mandated all responding agencies utilize a universal system to ensure inter-agency communication and continuity of command. The Incident Command System (ICS), which was created in the 1970's as a result of devastating forest fires, was selected and directed under HSPD-5 (Homeland Security

Presidential Directive). The Air Force became the Department of Defense's (DoD's) tip of the spear by being first to adapt ICS into AFIMS.

The Incident Command System breaks down command, control and communication functions into a flexible and expandable structure. The DoD is making sure it's components are integrating their processes to meet this structure, as many other federal agencies have done in the last few years. Under AFIMS, the

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EAC Column

By Senior Airman Jennifer Krutka

The Enlisted Advisory Council solicits ideas, comments, problems and suggestions from the different sections through out the base and provides a venue for Airman to speak directly with the commanders in order to share the feedback collected. This venue gives the commander and command chief an inside look into the sentiment of the younger enlisted members and looks for ways to improve morale, productivity and comrade. The committee met on Sunday, 14 September and brought up three concerns; 1) the lines at the dining facility (DFAC) , 2) lodging for two night eligibility on drill weekends, and 3) base wide incentives for a physical fitness test (PFT) scored 90 or above.

It was brought to the commander's attention that lines at the DFAC were very long which made it difficult for Airman to eat and return back to work in the allotted time. The solutions that were discussed included assigning shops certain meal times and the use of the already in-place comment cards. The comment cards are not only there to

comment on how bad/good the food was, but also to solve problems like these so the DFAC leadership can solve it at the lowest possible level. The DFAC staff has been opening an alternate serving area to elevate some of the back-log, but their may



still be way to improve the efficiency of serving, so suggestions are still being solicited.

The second topic was a disagreement on the distance one has to be from the base in order to qualify for two nights in billeting. The new Barnes Instruction, BI 34-246, identifies locations that qualify for 2

nights of billeting; the new instruction uses a member's zip codes to determine if they qualify. In the event they do not reside in a specified Zip code, or the distance to travel could pose a safety risk, waivers can be submitted through the member's chain of command.

The last item discussed revolved around the PFT. With the push for members to become more physically fit, the EAC suggested that the wing adopt a new Physical Fitness Assessment incentive for members receiving 90 or greater. Some ideas proposed were time-off, or a recognition award. This item is to be brought up with commanders and we are awaiting their feedback.

This is a summary of the issues discussed from last drill. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all that if there are issues or things that can be made better that you believe should be brought up, we are your link. Each shop has a designated EAC member whose purpose is to serve you in this way. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this.

Course (cont'd)

first person on scene is the Incident Commander and could remain an enlisted position throughout the incident. Reconciling our rank structure with AFIMS is one of the first hurdles most have to overcome.

"The key to successfully mitigating an incident is knowing your resources beforehand, being able to get your hands on them in time, and putting them where they can do the most good," said Lt. Col William Kelly, the Deputy Mission Support Group Commander. "With all the players on the same sheet of music regardless of what agency they work for, you just moved a pretty large

roadblock out of the way."

Potential Incident Commanders from many different functions in the Air Force participated in stressful exercises throughout the week to explore the true adaptability of the system. "We exercised on and off-base emergencies, mishaps, and natural disasters." The program's strength is in its versatility of use, stated Mr. Willie Rogers, one of the course instructors.

With the new system in place, commanders across the Air Force are being trained to speak the same lingo, utilize the same structure, and be

able to integrate their planning with civilian agencies. With a standard system, the Incident Commander can ensure the only chaos is produced by the disaster itself and not our attempts to respond to it.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Family Support News



From the Commander:

I personally invite you to attend The Westfield Boys and Girls Club Open House on

Sat. 4 Oct. from 0900-1100.

Tour the facility and learn what the Club can offer you for UTA Childcare. Childcare begins November UTA for children 5-12 and includes full use of the club, lunch & snacks—FREE!

I am happy to endorse this program!!

-Colonel Robert "L.A." Brooks



**UTA
CHILDCARE
OPEN
HOUSE**

**Saturday 4 Oct
0900-1100
Boys & Girls Club**

Highlights

- Gymnasium
- Swimming Pool
- Games Room
- Computer Room
- Kitchen & Dining Area



**FREE SHUTTLE TRANSPORTATION
PICK-UP AT DINING FACILITY PARKING LOT at 0845**

Contact person: Sandy Wakefield

Angel Tree Program

The annual Angel tree program kicks-off Nov 15th.

Come by Family Support and sponsor a child for Christmas.



Be an angel, and make help some children in need.

Sandy Wakefield

413-568-9151
x1183



Family Support Halloween Party

The Annual Halloween Party/Haunted Hayride sponsored by the Barnes Family Readiness Group will be held at the Dining Facility on October 24, 2008 beginning at 6:15PM. All children ages 0-12 are invited to attend and encouraged to wear Halloween costumes. The entertainment this year will be Marmalade Productions who will be performing a Puppet Show "Michael's Surprise Show". At the conclusion of the show the Haunted Hay Ride will begin. Registration is required for this event.



Week of Oct. 1 – Oct. 7, 2008

Signs of domestic violence

Last year, more than 3,300 Airmen were either victims or offenders of domestic violence. Supervisors and coworkers are in a good position to notice signs of domestic violence in fellow Airmen. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and serves to remind all of us to be alert for the signs.

Here are a few signs that can help you save a fellow Airman's life:

- Frequent unexplained "accidents" or injuries
- Frequent and sudden absences from work or school; frequent tardiness
- Personality changes such as depression, withdrawal or crying
- Isolation from family and friends
- Insufficient resources like money or a vehicle
- Excessive fear of conflict
- References to partner's anger or fear of the partner
- Frequent harassing phone calls or unexpected visits to the person at work

Don't ignore possible signs of domestic violence. If you, or someone you know, are in an abusive relationship, contact your local Family Advocacy office. The Air Force has several resources for Airmen and their families involved in cases of domestic violence. Treatment and prevention are the keys to ending domestic violence in the Air Force.

Find Airman's Roll Call Online Here: <http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/>

Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.

Naturalization through the Military

By Mr. Ross Larson (Public Affairs Intern, Westfield HS)

United States citizenship is granted in two specific ways. Birth is the most common way one becomes a citizen, whether through birth by parents, who are U.S. citizens, on U.S. soil, or within a U.S. territory. The other way to gain citizenship is granted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, or USCIS. Naturalization is the process used by the USCIS to bestow citizenship on immigrants.

From the start of the War on Terror, more than 39,825 members of the U.S. Armed Forces have honorably gained their United States citizenship by naturalization through their service in the military. With the proper qualifications to become a citizen, service members of the armed forces can apply for a special naturalization process.

Any immigrant who has served in

the military for at least one year and has a permanent resident status is a viable candidate for citizenship. With these qualifications there are also a list of initial basic requirements needed for naturalization. Fluent understandings on how to read,



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Naturalization (cont'd)

write, and speak the English language and knowledge of

U.S. history, government, and the Constitution are crucial. Good moral character towards others and respect towards the United States is also required.

The wait for this process is much shorter than if an immigrant with no military service was applying. The point-of-contact of the service member handles the application and necessary forms needed for naturalization and sends it to the service center. The service center then sends the information to the nearest district office, which reviews and performs security checks on the applicant. The district office sets an interview date and test of knowledge of English and Civics, and if granted, the USCIS will pro-

vide a date the applicant can take their Oath of Allegiance.

"It's a good thing, it's free of charge and the wait for your Citizenship is much shorter than the wait if applying in the real world," says Senior Airman Neisha Nixon (104th Fighter Wing, Finance), who gives her perspective on the subject. "Also, it will benefit you and it is well worth it in the long run." Airman Nixon is a Jamaican citizen who is going to apply for a dual citizenship for the United States and her home country.

She has a few negative thoughts as well. "It will take longer for the dual

citizenship and you can't deploy because you have no access to secret information." With that aside, Airman Nixon and a fellow member of her section are still going to apply for their citizenship through their service in the Guard.

"It's a good thing, it's free of charge and the wait for your Citizenship is much shorter than the wait if applying in the real world," says Senior Airman Neisha Nixon

All in all, with the adequate qualifications and requirements met to become a United States citizen, service members of the armed forces can apply for natu-

ralization by the USCIS. Therefore, naturalization enables them the opportunity to honorably become a citizen of the United States of America, fulfilling a duty for the country and themselves.

America's People, America's Strength Complied by Master Sgt. Patrick Scanlon

U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao announced that "America's People, America's Talent... America's Strength!" will be the official 2008 theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which is observed in October nationwide by congressional designation.

Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) leads the nation's activities and produces materials to increase the public's awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities. Typically, advocacy organizations, the private sector, and federal, state, and local government agencies piggyback on the same theme to plan events and programs that showcase the abilities of employees and job candidates with disabilities.

"It is important to note that having people with disabilities in the workplace is valuable to the individual and to businesses," said Neil Romano, assistant secretary for the Labor Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy. "People

with disabilities are the next great wave of diversity, and diversity fosters innovation to drive our economy and our nation into the future."

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/odep20080993.htm>

A Proclamation:

Across America, individuals with disabilities are making important contributions in the workplace. This month, we celebrate their accomplishments and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that the opportunities of America are available and accessible to every citizen.

Fifteen years ago, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), reducing barriers for millions of Americans with disabilities and providing a mandate for the elimination of discrimination in the workplace and in the community. Since the ADA was enacted, people with disabilities have been able

to participate more fully in the workforce, and our Nation has become stronger and more just. Yet more work remains, and we continue our efforts to enable Americans with disabilities to live and work with greater freedom. In the spirit of the ADA, my Administration's New Freedom Initiative has expanded access to assistive technologies, education, and opportunities for people with disabilities to integrate into the workforce. I signed into law legislation that improves the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to ensure that our young people with disabilities are prepared for the many opportunities ahead. Through these and other efforts, we are working to ensure that Americans with disabilities can realize the promise of America.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 2005 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Traditional Officer Position Available

Position Title/Maximum Grade: Band Officer/O4

Minimum Grade eligible to apply: O1 or eligible for commissioning

Unit: 567th Air Force Band, JFHQ, Milford, MA

Supervisor: Col Gary W. Keefe, Director of Staff, MA ANG

Application Deadline: Close of Business - 25 November 2008

Board Date and Location: 6 December 2008, JFHQ, Milford, MA

POC for more information: Col Gary W. Keefe, DSN: 256-6538; Commercial: (508) 233-6538, or Email: gary.keefe@mabarn.ang.af.mil

Duties and Responsibilities: Administers, manages, and directs Air Force Band programs, including procurement and training of band directors and band personnel. Monitors use of bands, including scheduling and performances of band units and sub-units. Ensures necessary funding, facilities, transportation, administrative support, and effective use of band personnel.

Technical Background Required/Desired: An undergraduate degree specializing in music, music education, business administration/management, or related field is desirable.

Special Qualifications: Appointment is contingent upon completion of the Academy of Military Science (AMS) for commissioning and technical school training for award of the Band Officer AFSC 35B1.

Note: Verification of AFOQT scores is required upon interview.

Application Procedures: Please submit a resume that includes all experience relevant to this position, both military and civilian, no later than the application deadline to: Col Gary W. Keefe, Director of Staff, MA ANG, JFHQ-MA-ANG, 50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757. You may submit copies of any certifications that are required or that apply to the position. Please make note of any special qualifications listed above. Non-members of the MA ANG must submit references from their previous three military supervisors. On board officers must submit last three Officer Performance Reports (OPRs).

Additional Instructions: The board will make a selection based on the demonstration of the core competencies most valued by the MA ANG Senior Leadership. You will be notified by letter of the time and place of your interview and of any other instructions. If you are not eligible to meet the board, you will be notified by letter.



Welcome to our newest members!

RANK	NAME	UNIT
AB	DISCO, HEATHER M.	SFS
SSGT	LAWTON, THOMAS M.	AMXS
A1C	WYNN, JOSEPH	OSF
SSGT	PAULI, GREG	CES
A1C	CURRY, MELISSA M.	MDG
A1C	SHIPPEE, EVAN	MXS
A1C	NOLL, MATHEW J.	212

Congratulations to the following retirees!

Moore, Bruce (Lt. Col.) MDG 27 Sep 08

Sallie, Edward H. (Master Sgt.) MXS 30 Sep 08

Mulholland, Sean T. (Master Sgt.) OSF 5 Oct 08

O'Driscoll, Daniel (Master Sgt.) FW 7 Oct 08

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Congratulations on your promotions

To Senior Airman

Airman 1st Class Jason Laforest, MXS

Airman 1st Class Emily Marteness, 104 LRS

Airman 1st Class Fabricio Ochoa, 104 LRS



To Staff Sgt.

Senior Airman Gerald Cahalan, 104 AMXS

Senior Airman Rhomas Tedone, 104 OSF

Senior Airman Ryan Flannery



To Tech. Sgt.

Staff Sgt. Robert Lynch, 104 MXS

Staff Sgt. Michael A. Land, 104 MXG

Staff Sgt Christopher Levigne, 104 AMXS



To Chief Master Sgt.

Senior Master Sgt. Galen Wilson, 104 MXG



To 2nd Lt.

Daniel St. Clair, 104 OG

James Stebbins, 104 FW



Photos from recent graduations



Chief Master Sgt. Reale, Col. Gunning, Senior Airman Lynch, Master Sgt. White and Maj. Desarro at the Airman Leadership Graduation dinner. (Staff Photo)



Chief Master Sgt. Reale, Lt. Col. Collins and Master Sgt. Tim Mutti at the First Sergeant Graduation (Staff Photo)



Master Sgt. Lynne Bolduc at the First Sergeant Academy (Staff Photo)