



# AIRSCOOP

**104TH FIGHTER WING • MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

*Pride, Professionalism, Patriotism*

*Barnes Air National Guard Base*

**November 2008**



Col. Robert Brooks awards “We Served Too” medals to the children of deployed members during the wing’s Welcome Home Ceremony, October 4, 2008.

**(Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin)**



*Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.*

Barnestormers, I just wanted to take this time to highlight a few items. First and foremost, I want to thank every one of you for what you do. Most people believe, as do I, there is not a more honorable profession than to serve our country in the United States military. Thank

# Commander's Column

## By Col. Robert T. Brooks

you for the sacrifices both you and your families make.



I was extremely proud to be a part of the welcome home ceremony for our sixty plus airmen who returned from AEF's. Your selfless devotion to duty is beyond reproach. The National Guard has now instituted the Yellow Ribbon program, which is a reintegration program designed to support our airmen and their families. We are in the growing of this process, and I ask for everyone's support and feedback so we can make it better for the next time.

As I walk around the base and meet our fellow airmen, I often ask: "What is the biggest improvement we can make as an organization?" The most common feedback is information flow both here at work and to the Drill Status Guardsmen (DSG) at home as they prepare for upcoming UTAs and/or events (AKA inside and outside the fence). For outside the fence, the Air Force portal via Communities of Practice (COPs) is our best avenue. Many shops already have a solid COP (Weapons is one example), and I encourage others to follow suit. Comm has approximately 300 or so CAC readers for anyone needing them at home. Inside the fence, we are migrating to SharePoint. It is nothing more than a collaboration tool that appears as a webpage with calendars and links to important events. You can set this as your internet explorer homepage.

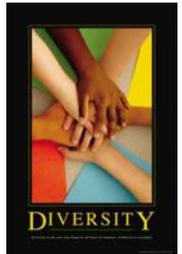
Speaking of information flow and processes, AFSSO 21 (Air Force Smart Ops for the 21<sup>st</sup> century) is a USAF/ANG program designed to smooth flow operations. In a nutshell, it is sharing "best practices" or establishing new "best practices." We just revamped our lodging process and everyone seems to agree things are running smoother. We are working a few things, including ancillary training. This is an AF/ANG wide problem; however we are working wing solutions where we can. If you have a better way to do things, please bring it up the chain.

Our Air Sovereignty Alert Site Activation survey will be occurring 5 thru 9 January Lt. Col. Jay Davis is our Alert Force Commander, and is actively engaged in preparing the wing for this NGB level visit. This event will go a long way in helping to ensure we have the best possible Alert Site. If you have a part, please insure you are doing your part

in the process and supporting Lt. Col. Davis.

Lastly, I would like to touch on diversity. NGB will be teaching a course in the near future to about thirty members in the wing on leadership and diversity. The very motto of our country—E Pluribus Unum—recognizes the diversity of the American people. It means "Out of many, one."

America has been called the great melting pot, and it is continuing in that direction. It is important to remember our history, the good and the bad, but we must also look to our future. As we recruit and assimilate new warriors into our wing, it is important to remember though backgrounds may be different, our mission and team remain as one.



### AIRSCOOP

**104th Fighter Wing  
Barnes Air National  
Guard Base**

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

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## Command Chief's Column By Chief Master Sgt. Al Reale

### The Airman's Creed

When I mention the Airman's Creed I see mixed reactions on

your faces. I can divide the reactions into two categories, the people that get it and the people that don't. I want to help everyone "get it."

A creed is defined as "any system or codification of belief or of opinion." We learn and recite creeds to keep us focused and to re-ignite and infuse purpose into our "membership." The Air Force developed the Airman's Creed to unite and focus our members on our beliefs, our purpose.

Become a believer. Commit to learning the Airman's Creed. Not just the words, but the meaning. Take it line by line and make it personal. For the next several months I will give you my personal views, phrase by phrase, on the Airman's Creed. I will invite members of the unit to do the same. When you "get it," we all benefit. It strengthens us as individuals and as a unit. It reinforces that we are part of the team, that we all count and that we are interdependent on each other.

Airman's Creed, Phrase 1 of 4:

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN,  
I AM A WARRIOR,  
I HAVE ANSWERED  
MY NATIONS CALL.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Slaydon

My view:

If you do not think that we in the Air Force are "warriors," all you need to do is speak with some of the warriors that just returned from Iraq such as Security Forces, Medical and Firefighters. Ask them what they did, what they saw.

To demonstrate the sacrifices that our Airman (people just like you) have made, please come to the dining facility at 1500 on Sunday of this UTA and meet Staff Sgt. Matt Slaydon.

He is an American airman, he is a warrior, he has truly answered his nations call. Staff Sgt. Slaydon is an Explosive Ordnance Technician that was wounded by an IED in Iraq in October of 2007. We have invited him to come and speak to members of the 104<sup>th</sup> to bring home and reinforce the importance of our mission, our purpose...our creed. That we have all volunteered and "answered our nations call" to prepare to perform that mission as warriors and at any cost.

Staff Sgt. Slaydon and his family have epitomized the warrior ethos with their spirit, their service and their sacrifice. Come listen, I think you'll understand.



## First Sgt.'s Column By Master Sgt. Fred Fopiano

I was recently at McGhee Tyson ANGB, TN with some Airmen from different sections across the base, attending the Order of the Sword for Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley (Director of the Air National Guard). The event is actually two days long, consisting of a day-and-a-half of Leadership Skills and Training culminating with a Dining In and the presentation.

"The original Order of the Sword was patterned after two orders of chivalry founded during the Middle Ages in Europe: the (British) Royal Order of the Sword and the Swedish Military Order of the Sword, still

in existence today. In 1522, King Gustavus I of Sweden ordered the noblemen commissioned by him to appoint officers to serve him, and these people became known as the noncommissioned officers."<sup>1</sup>

"The Order of the Sword recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the enlisted corps. The ceremonial presentation was adopted from the Royal Order of the Sword and passed to the United States during the Revolutionary War. However, it lay dormant until it was



reinstated in its current form in 1967."<sup>1</sup>

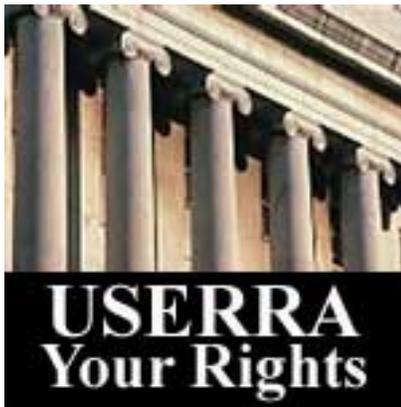
Stay safe, watch your fellow Airmen.



# What are USERRA and ESGR?

By Mr. Bill Hebert, Military Outreach Director, MA ESGR Committee

As a member of the National Guard or Reserves you need to understand your basic rights and responsibilities contained in the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA). It serves as "employment insurance" protecting your civilian job while you are performing military duties. Under USERRA, persons with past, current, or future obligations in all branches of the military are protected. It covers military leave of absence, prompt reinstatement, time toward seniority, reinstatement of health insurance and protection against discharge or discrimination. Each of these rights, and more, are detailed in USERRA which is available on line at the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) web site.



From the above list of your rights under USERRA you can see that this law is very beneficial to members of the country's reserve forces. BUT, what about your responsibilities to your civilian employer? First is your responsibility to keep your employer informed about your military commitments. Lack of open communication is the major cause of most difficulties members of the reserve have with their employers. Give as much notice as possible concerning future military duties that will take you away from your civilian job. As soon as you get your drill and annual training schedule, give your employer a copy. When you are advised of upcoming deployments, training classes, or other activities, give as much lead time as possible so your employer can plan for your absence. When on military status, keep in contact with your employer to stay current.

Also, know the time schedule for returning to your civilian job after military service. This is vital to maintaining your rights under USERRA. For military service less than 30 days you must report the next work day after safe travel home and an 8 hour rest

period. For 31- 180 day period you must apply for reemployment within 14 days after release from service and for over 180 days of service within 90 days of release. This does not mean that after a 181 day deployment that you should wait 90 days before informing your employer that you want to return. If you've been maintaining contact during your absence this will greatly aid in your return. Apply as soon as you can. It does not mean you have to actually return to work then, just that you are letting him/her know that you do intend to return at a mutually agreeable time. If you have questions or concerns about your civilian employment there is a group that can help.

**What is ESGR?** ESGR is a Department of Defense organization. It is a staff group within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs (OASD/RA), which is in itself a part of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. ESGR was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. It is the lead DoD organization for this mission under DoD Directive 1250.1. Today, ESGR operates through a network of thousands of volunteers throughout the nation and Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. There are 56 ESGR Field Committees, including the Massachusetts Committee. The ESGR mission and vision statements reflect the organization's purpose.



## Mission

We will gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts through mediation.

## Vision

Develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees.

Have you thanked your employer for supporting your military service? It's very easy to do. Just go to the ESGR (ESGR.org) web site and nominate your employer for the Patriot Award. It only takes a few minutes and the method of presentation is up to you. You can have it sent to yourself and then present it to your employer, or have it sent to the state ESGR Committee for a formal presentation at a location and time you pick. It may sound like an insignificant action for you to take, but the Patriot Award is very well received by employers. It's a nice and easy way to say thanks for your support. Another action you can take is to ask your employer to sign and display a statement of support (SOS). What is a SOS? It is a certificate that proudly shows the employer's support of the National Guard and Reserve. By Signing the SOS, an employer incurs no additional legal obligation beyond what is already incurred under USERRA. Your employer's signature goes on the SOS with the signatures of the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the National Committee for ESGR. After it is signed the SOS is normally displayed in a place where the employer's customers and employees can see it. Also, the employer's name is listed on the ESGR national website for all to see.

What else can you do? Keep your employer's data in the Civilian Employer Information (CEI) database current. It is used to keep employers informed about changes to USERRA and for notifying employers of events involving their employee's military units.

What can you do if you need more details concerning the above information? The ESGR web site is a valuable source. Also, each reserve component has an employer support representative. Do you know who your rep is? The MA ESGR committee is composed of approximately 45 members who can help. You can reach the committee at 508-233-7249. If you have a concern about your employer's actions pertaining to your military service, ESGR has trained ombudsmen who can assist. They can be contacted via the ESGR web site or at 1-800-336-4590.

This short article has focused on your responsibilities to your civilian employer that are critical to protecting the rights you have under USERRA. The sacrifices you and your families make are greatly appreciated and respected by the citizens of our nation. The sacrifices made by the civilian employers of reserve members are often overlooked. Please take the time to thank your employer for supporting your military service.



# AFSO 21 Equals Common Sense

## By Col. EJ Gunning and Command Chief Master Sgt. Al Reale



Have you heard the term AFSO 21? It is short for Air Force Smart Operations for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It sounds like a mouthful, but it just means doing things smarter, using common sense and eliminating any unnecessary steps in a given process. The corporate world has long used similar processes such as “LEAN” and “SIX SIGMA” from which AFSO 21 was spawned. The 104<sup>th</sup> is looking for folks with experience in either of these disciplines – if that’s you, and you’re interested in helping the 104<sup>th</sup> increase efficiency, please contact our AFSO 21 Project Officer, Maj. Coulette Lioce, at ext 1799.

Former Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne explained the AFSO 21 process in his Letter to Airmen, dated 8 Mar 08... "AFSO 21 signifies a shift in our thinking. It is centered on processes (groups of tasks) rather than tasks alone, which allows us to gain insights into the value, or lack of value, in each task we perform. For example, why does an EPR take 21 days at some bases to process, and only 8 at another? We must do better across the entire Air Force, and no process is immune from this critical review. AFSO 21 is built on successful principles from the corporate world, and has already yielded results in the Air Force. AFMC has used the tenets of AFSO 21 to put an extra 100 tankers back on the line each day.

AFSO 21 is about working smarter to deliver warfighting capabilities. We must continue to meet our worldwide requirements even with the continued pressure on our budget. But AFSO 21 is not about cost cutting; it enables our service to take our warfighters of today and grow them into the most effective and efficient thinkers for 2010 and beyond. The continuous process improvements of AFSO 21 will be the new culture of our Air Force. We will look at innovative ways to use our material and personnel more efficiently. For example, we’re already planning on using the Guard and Reserve differently under the concept of Total Force Integration, capitalizing on their inherent strengths. As AFSO 21 training comes to your base, ask yourself, “What have I improved today?” Every idea is worth taking to your supervisor. I have full faith that by implementing AFSO 21 together, we will make our Air Force not only more effective, but will drastically improve our combat capability."

OK, senior leadership is on-board, but why do we, at the 104th, need AFSO 21? We are doing more work with fewer resources. AFSO 21 will help us to “balance” the scales and allow us to produce the same amount of work with less resources being used.

The formal AFSO 21 process involves facilitators that are skilled in analyzing processes. They team up with the subject matter experts (SMEs). The “team” then conducts an AFSO 21 “event” which takes the current process, takes it apart and analyzes it, removes or streamlines wasted resources or steps, then reconstructs it producing improved results.

Locally, we recently used AFSO 21 principles to streamline our UTA lodging process. Previously, we had an inefficient method to validate and reimburse unit members for UTA lodging expenses. A member authorized to stay at the contract hotel during UTAs had to pay the costs of lodging up-front, and then submit for reimbursement through the FM office. This method involved gathering receipts, filling-out an SF-1164, chasing signatures and reporting to the Finance office to submit the paperwork. Additionally, if the Government Travel Card (GTC) was used to settle with the hotel, you needed to make sure the correct amount was selected for "split disbursement" (paid directly against the charges on the GTC). Unpaid GTC charges were, in large part, responsible for our increasing GTC delinquency rate - something the ANG is tracking. In graphic form, the old process looked something like this:

<b>Make Reservation Coordinate with Orderly Room</b>	<b>Pay Charges with GTC or Personal Credit Card</b>	<b>Gather Receipts</b>	<b>Fill-in SF-1164</b>	<b>Get Signatures 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant/CC</b>	<b>Report to FM Submit SF-1164</b>	<b>Ensure Proper Amt Split Disbursed</b>	<b>Check GTC Bill... Did it Get Paid?</b>
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Notice the difference when compared to the revised process:

<b>Member Calls Hotel – Secures Reservation with Credit Card</b>	<b>Sign-in on Roster Provided at Front Desk (updated monthly)</b>	<b>Invoice Sent by Hotel to 104FW</b>	<b>Charges Paid by 104FW</b>
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1. Involvement by the Orderly Room in making reservations
2. Use of the GTC for actual lodging expenses
3. SF-1164s to claim reimbursement
4. Coordination by the First Sergeant and commander to approve lodging reimbursement claims
5. Finance to process and pay the UTA lodging claims
6. Members tracking their GTC expenses to avoid late payments

AFSO 21 principles can be used everyday by everyone at all levels and does not always require a full scale “event” to review and overhaul a process. Look at things you do repetitively and you will find that there are steps that are not really necessary in the process or that can be done better. In the “spirit” of AFSO 21, we have eliminated the rest of this article. After reading it, we realized that it would not substantially add to the readers understanding of the process. The result of that analysis? Savings of paper, space, and your time.

To learn more about the AFSO 21 program, visit the AFSO 21 website at <http://www.afso21.hq.af.mil/>

# Family First and Included

## By Capt Matthew T. Mutti, Wing Executive Staff Officer



The Bureau of Labor and Statistics reports the proportion of married-couple families in which both the husband and wife are employed is over 53 percent, which necessitates employers to explore more creative ways to ease the stresses of childcare in the work place.

Just like civilian employers, the Guard is faced with working around this new trend. We are specifically working to provide a healthy and productive situation for the children of guard members during the Unit Training Assemblies (UTAs).

During the November UTA, the base is offering free childcare at the Westfield Boys and Girls Club, thanks to the hard work of Tech. Sgt. Tina Dimino-Frazer and Ms. Sandy Wakefield.

These two and a few others have met with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield for the past two years to reach their goal of providing free or low-fee based childcare at the facility during the UTA weekends. Early in September, the Boys and Girls Club was extended a trial grant to see if there was a demonstrated need by the unit to provide daycare services during the UTAs.

During one day in November and one day in December, the Boys and Girls club will gauge whether or not childcare on a weekend will be beneficial. In order to demonstrate that and apply for future grants, the service must be utilized.

“The catch to the program is that it has to be used in order for us (the wing and the Boys and Girls Club) to apply for future funding,” said Tech. Sgt. Tina Dimino-Frazer, program planner. “If the base does not take advantage of these trial sessions, the Boys and Girls club will not apply for future funding to staff the club during what is normally a down-day for their employees.”

On Sunday, 2 November, the club will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. There will be transportation for the children from the Barnes to the club—meeting at the dining facility and departing at 7:45 a.m. Currently the existing grants only provide for childcare for unit member dependents between the ages of 5 and 12, although if the wing continues this program through a positive response, then it may open the doors for extended ages for care.

The children can take advantage of the club’s

pool, gymnasium, computer room and game room, and receive two snacks and a nutritious lunch meal while under the clubs supervision.

“Throughout my tenure, I have heard many families express the need for childcare during UTAs,” said Ms. Sandy Wakefield, Family Program Coordinator. “It is after a lot of hard work and cooperation with the Boys and Girls Club that we are able to offer this program. I hope parents take advantage of this Sunday’s event, and the one in December, even if for a few hours, demonstrating that this program is needed; thus setting it up for future success.”

If you would like more information on the program, contact Ms. Sandy Wakefield at x1183 or take a look at the flyer that has been distributed through e-mail last week.

## What’s My Line?



Photo by Technical Sgt. Melanie Casineau

Come up with a funny, clean and creative caption for this photo.

We will run the winner and a runner-up in next months Air-Scoop.

Submit your entry to [PA.104fw@mabarn.ang.af.mil](mailto:PA.104fw@mabarn.ang.af.mil)



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Oct Winner: "Oh, man! I gotta hurry to get this out to the yard sale! This should put us over the top for payroll!" - Chief Master Sgt. Anita M. Keenan, State HRA

Runners Up: “Don’t laugh! It sounds better than Bag Pipes!!!” - Beth St.Clair, 2nd Lt. Dan’s Mom

"Quick catch this Saturday's UTA lunch before it runs back into the wall" - Airman 1st Class Ryan Early

“The doctors can’t explain why Col. Gunning stops every so often to pose for the talent scouts who aren’t really there...but what harm can it do?” - Master Sgt. David “Frado” Frates

## Spotlight on Tech. Sgt. James F. O'Brien

### By Capt. Mary Harrington

While celebrating Oktoberfest in the NCO Club on Saturday night of the October UTA, Senior Master Sgt. James Keddy yelled across the room: "Hey PA! We need a spotlight on Jim O'Brien."

This seemed like a pretty easy and straight forward request. However, it turned out to be somewhat tricky the next morning. I thought I had double vision, perhaps the after effect of tasting delicious beer...but knowing I had NOT overdone, this didn't make sense.

Finally, I confirmed the confusion...the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing isn't blessed with one Tech. Sgt. James O'Brien – but two. Holy St. Patrick!

Admittedly, it was a challenge to find the right Tech. Sgt. O'Brien, but I'm pleased to report that I passed the test – and found James F. O'Brien. We'll have to set-up a future Spotlight on his alter ego – James T. O'Brien.

Our focus this month is Tech. Sgt. James F. O'Brien, a 28-year military veteran, with 12 years active duty experience, two years Army National Guard experience, and about 14 years with the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (104FW).

O'Brien is a traditional Guardsman, who lives about 90 minutes away in Troy, New York, with his wife Linda, of 28 years. Their 20-year old daughter Shannon is a junior study-

ing sociology at Appalachian State University in North Carolina.

Tech Sgt. O'Brien is very proud to be a member of the 104FW. "There couldn't be a greater bunch of people to call my family."

O'Brien spent his first six years in the Air Force on active duty, during which he was stationed in Guam, Myrtle Beach and Loring, Maine. "Those were great years... because I didn't have to worry about having a full-time job," he said.

O'Brien was initially assigned to the alert facility in Guam. "We supported four planes on standby," he said. "I truly enjoyed the job and I'd love to work in our new alert facility," he added. "Then I moved to munitions...back in the day, I worked with nukes. I was originally assigned to the ground crew and shortly thereafter moved to the loading standardization crew (LSC)." O'Brien made a name as a quick-time trainer, optimizing the training process with trained airmen ready-to-rock.

Once off of active duty, O'Brien spent two years with the Army National Guard and then came to the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. "The culture (at the 104FW) is not much different than the culture on Air Force active duty (AD). Not at all," said O'Brien. "The major adjustment between AD and Guard is having

do your job but on a part-time basis. Getting used to working only one weekend a month is a challenge."

"I joined the 104FW in 1994. At the time, we were in the process of converting to the F-16...but that was brought to a screeching halt...and we obviously stayed with the A-10...and now the F-15."

O'Brien feels he has more to give to the Wing, and hopes to continue his career here for many years. "My advice to young people is: If you don't know what you want to do, join the military. Let them train you. If you don't like it once you've tried it, leave with an education and skills."

"One of the best pieces of management advice I've heard is: Don't tell people what to do...let them show what they can do. If they need guidance, that's what you're here for."

Thanks, Jim, for your past and future contributions. We appreciate your dedication!



## Combined Federal Campaign

### By Ross Larson, Westfield H.S. Intern

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the only authorized solicitation of Federal employees in their workplaces on behalf of approved charitable organizations. Federal employees themselves are responsible for making the CFC the largest and most successful charitable workplace fundraiser in the world.

The CFC is devoted to supporting and promoting an opportunity to improve the life of other people and get the message out that it is easier than you think to give back. In 2006, Federal employees raised over \$273 million dollars for various charitable causes and organizations around the world. With over 2000 active charities in Western Mass alone, it provides a great tool to help Federal employees to easily donate to the charities of their choice, with the ease of a pay-roll deduction.

"People helping people, helping people," is how the CFC is described by Senior Master Sergeant William Butman, who participates actively in the program. Sgt Butman and fellow member Master Sergeant Ron Perry, who are both assigned to the 104<sup>th</sup> Services Flight, fully support the CFC in its effort to help others. The two have put together their own program to raise money to the CFC; a baked potato bar with toppings, a beverage, and a dessert, for around \$5. Their goal is to raise around \$500, minus the cost of the food and supplies, to donate to a general charity with the help of the CFC.

The easiest way to donate is to obtain a pledge form from your units' CFC coordinator and fill it out with the correct information and the amount you wish to donate. Choosing which charity/charities out of the thousands available may be a difficult deci-

sion, but it doesn't have to be. You can select a charitable organization depending on personal reasons, location, or any cause that you would just like to see benefit from your donation.

The CFC program is completely voluntary, but carries a strong endorsement from the Wing leadership.



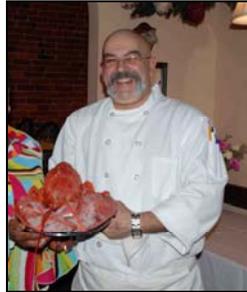
## Oktoberfest a Tasty, Frothy Success By Capt. Mary Harrington

Oktoberfest at the NCO Club during the October UTA turned out to be a greater success than anticipated. The smell of German fare and sounds of happy, rock-loving folk filled the air.

Notable guests in the crowd of 250-plus consisted of 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing members, friends and family, including Mistress Carrie and her assistant Lindsey from WAAF (107.3). Carrie, earlier in the evening, attended a special naming ceremony at the O'Club (her call sign: Narko). Entertainment was provided "Rob the Leprechaun" from Lazer 99.3, who DJ'd the event, backed by the rockin' band "Pallet."

The NCO Club needed to sell about 90 tasting mugs to break even. "We sold 250 mugs, and we could have sold more," said Tech. Sgt. Kristin Martin. Beyond the many varieties of tasty beer, attendees enjoyed delicious food from the Munich Haus in Chicopee (<http://www.munichhaus.com/>). The menu featured Pfalzer Rostbratwurst, homemade by Chef Hubert Gottschlicht and Executive Chef George Boudreau.

Other culinary delights included Jaegar Schnitzel, red cabbage sauerkraut, over roasted potatoes and German-style meatballs. The food was truly outstanding.



The NCO Club "Morale, Wellness and Recreation Committee (MWR)," coordinated the event. "We put this whole thing together in three weeks," said Tech. Sgt. Wade Rivest, Crew Chief. "To make it happen, Michael Kerns and I just got a list of local brewers, called and invited them. We told them the Oktoberfest event was in conjunction with the Welcome Home, and they were all very supportive. The event went absolutely great and I can't wait to do it again next year to make it even bigger and better," said Rivest.

Attending brewers included Cape Ann Brewing, Gloucester (who sent TJ the Brewer), MA; Mercury Brewing, Ipswich, MA; Mayflower Brewing, Plymouth, MA; Peoples Pint, Greenfield, MA; Berkshire Brewing Company, South Deerfield; Cambridge House, Granby, CT; Opa Opa, Southampton, MA (who sent a pourer); and Sam Adams, Boston, MA.

Thanks to the MWR, the Munich Haus, the many brewers and the supporters of the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing for making this event so successful.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melanie Casineau

## Wounded Warrior By Capt. Matthew T. Mutti, Wing Executive Staff Officer

When members of the Air National Guard have deployed in the last few years, they are often working closer to the tip of the spear than ever before. In the traditional force package, the Air Force aviators, and few other specialties were directly engaged with the actual conflict. But as demands on the Air Force and members of the Guard and Reserve to support, what would be considered traditional Army and Marine roles increase, more Airmen are intertwined in physical conflict.

The Air Force and reserve components have identified that fact, and realizes its Airmen may be subjected to a greater chance of being wounded. In 2005, the Air Force established the wounded warrior program (AFW2) to provide personalized care to Airmen who are separated or retired as result of illness

or injury received in support of our ongoing conflicts.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Slaydon and his wife Annette travel around to different organizations sharing his story of when he served as an explosive ordnance disposal technician in Iraq where he was severely injured by an improvised explosive device.

Sergeant Slaydon lost his eyesight and his arm in the IED blast. He travels to different military organizations to share his personal account of his accident and, more importantly, his recovery. He wants to make sure people realize the importance of the Wounded Warrior program and its impact on him and other Airmen whom are in similar situations.

Mrs. Annette Slaydon also shares from her experience as a wife of a wounded warrior and how she has worked with the family liaison officer who was assigned their case. The Slaydon's presentation put perspective on how vital this program is to them and to other Airmen and their families who have endured a tragic event in their lives.

During the November UTA, Sgt. and Mrs. Slaydon will be at Barnes, speaking to members about this program. On Sunday, 2 November, he will be the key-note speaker at the Chief Master Sgt. induction ceremony. His goal will be to help raise awareness of this program, and to reemphasize that the Air Force, even after a tragedy, works together as a family...supporting each other, always.

# Congratulations and Welcome Home

During the Oct UTA's Commander's Call, the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing recognized about 65 members who recently returned from deployed locations throughout the world. Again, we want to recognize those individuals and thank them for their dedication and hard work.

	Rank	Name	Returned	Location	Section
<b>T</b>	SSgt	McIsaac, William	14 May 08	Al Dhafra	CS
	SMSgt	Newton, Shayne	5 May 08	Al Dhafra	MDG
	Lt Col	Carlson, John	3 Mar 08	Al Udeid AB	MDG
	SSgt	Fox, Angus	5 May 08	Al Udeid AB	CS
	Capt	Russell, Angelia	24 May 08	Al Udeid AB	MDG
	SSgt	Skjerjli, Leif	24 May 08	Al Udeid AB	MDG
	SrA	Kham Khev	5 Mar 08	Ali Al Salem AB	LRS
	MSgt	Lemoine, Jeffrey	5 Mar 08	Ali Al Salem AB	LRS
	SSgt	Silva, Thomas	22 May 08	Ali Al Salem AB	SVS
	SSgt	Sleeper, Joseph	5 Mar 08	Ali Al Salem AB	LRS
<b>h</b>	MSgt	Torres, Daniel	1 Mar 08	Ali Al Salem AB	LRS
	SrA	Barrera, Juan	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SSgt	Brown, Ashley	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SSgt	Brown, Joseph	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	TSgt	Brown, Ronald Jr	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	MSgt	Canedy, Todd	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SSgt	Caron, Andrew	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	TSgt	Cekovsky, Andrew	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	TSgt	Cekovsky, Shane	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	TSgt	Christofori, Joel	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
<b>a</b>	Lt Col	Collins, Sean	6 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	TSgt	Coonradt, Douglas	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SrA	Driscoll, Timothy	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SrA	Dunn, Justin	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	AIC	Eden, John	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SSgt	Gardner, Michael	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	Lt Col	Green, Peter III	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SSgt	Jacques, Christopher	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SSgt	Jeffers, Stephen	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SrA	Jerzyk, Jeffery	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
<b>n</b>	CMSgt	Johnson, Jeffery	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	AIC	Machado, Richard II	21 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SrA	Matuszcak, Frank	21 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	CES
	SSgt	Millett, Jody	7 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	MSgt	Mullane, Todd	21 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	CES
	SSgt	Nichols, Kevin	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	AIC	Pacinella, Matthew	21 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SrA	Paluses, Brandon	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	AIC	Piecuch, Leontino	21 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SSgt	Poirier, Sean	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
<b>k</b>	SMSgt	Raby, Travis	13 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	CES
	SSgt	Rivera, Neftali	21 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	CES
	SSgt	Roach, John	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SSgt	Robertson, Asalyn	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SrA	Santos, Glendaennis	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	AIC	Sawyer, Matthew	21 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	SSgt	Scobie, John	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	AIC	Sheehan, Kevin	21 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	CES
	TSgt	Thayer, Dana	6 Sep 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
	TSgt	Walsh, Casey	23 Aug 08	Baghdad Intl	SFS
<b>o</b>	TSgt	Bates, Nadine	10 Sep 08	Balad AB	MSF
	AIC	Hammond, Chadd	10 Sep 08	Balad AB	MSG
	TSgt	Hickox, Jason	6 Aug 08	Balad AB	AMS
	ILt	Lapinsky, Julie	8 Jan 08	Balad AB	OSF
	SSgt	Mimitz, Brandy	20 Aug 08	Balad AB	LRS
	TSgt	O'Fallon, Sandra	24 Jan 08	Balad AB	131FS
	SrA	Krutka, Thaddeus	17 Jan 08	Camp Bondsteel	OSF
	SrA	Bordas, Kurt	15 Sep 08	Moron AB	SVS
	SSgt	Freeman, Michele	15 Sep 08	Moron AB	SVS
	SrA	Gibbs, Matthew	15 Sep 08	Moron AB	SVS
<b>u</b>	TSgt	Margarites, Christopher	15 Sep 08	Moron AB	SVS
	TSgt	Nunez, Carlos	15 Sep 08	Moron AB	SVS
	TSgt	Rehbein, Karl	15 Sep 08	Moron AB	SVS
	Maj	Cunningham, Douglas	24 Aug 08	Ramstein AB	FW
	SSgt	Madry, David	18 Sep 08	Ramstein AB	LRS

# EAC Column

## By Senior Airman Jennifer Krutka

Last drill the Enlisted Advisory Council talked about some successes we have had working on different wing issues. As discussed in the last article, the EAC mission is to provide the wing's senior leaders insight into the perceptions, concerns and compliments of the junior Airmen. Providing insight into what we see, feel, and think, helps them to make informed decisions that effect us all.

The council provided positive feedback to the commanders on the new billeting arrangement. It is evident through the new process that our concerns were addressed all while making the process more efficient for all of us. The member has more control and also decreases the work load



on services and finance; a win:win.

We also discussed the main gate in the morning, where as having both gates open has been a great success. The one area that concerned the Airmen is the

fact there is a blind spot, as intersection merges. Safety is looking at the issue, and security forces will be working to decrease the risk this UTA.

Lastly; we want to continue to work with the community and get involved. More importantly, we want to encourage the units we represent to get involved. For example, organizations like the Boys and girls club can always utilize volunteers, and those types of activities help the unit and help us gain insight and experience.

Remember, you can be part of a problem, or part of a solution. If you see something that needs to be addressed, the EAC is a vehicle for your ideas to be communicated to the leaders to take into consideration.

## 131st Fighter Squadron F-15 T-Shirts for sale

Black shirts with 131st patch, Gray shirts with 131st patch and the BarneStormers F-15 logo, and Red shirts with the F-15 Silhouette are on sale for \$15 each. Shirts are available in sizes Medium—Extra Large



Please contact of the individuals listed below:

- 1) Lt. Nate "Sniper" Oswald at Nathaniel.oswalt@mabarn.ang.af.mil
- 2) Capt. Neal "Rug" Byrne at Neal.byrne@mabarn.ang.af.mil
- 3) Lt. Corey "Tin'em" Mackey at Corey.mackey@mabarn.ang.af.mil

## Welcome EOD!



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

We have a new functional area on base beginning in November, Explosive Ordnance Disposal...EOD.

In October they participated in an EOD exercise, in which they had to blow-up a vehicle.

There are jobs available in this career field, they work within the Civil Engineer Squadron See your unit career advisor, or a recruiter for more information.



# Family Support News



## Angel Tree Program

The annual Angel tree program kicks-off Nov 15<sup>th</sup>.

Come by Family Support and sponsor a child for Christmas.



Be an angel, and help children in need.

Sandy Wakefield

413-568-9151  
x1183

## Kids Halloween Party

By Sandra Wakefield

The Halloween Party/Haunted Hayride was held at the Dining Facility Friday, October 24, 2008 at 6:15 PM. The children arrived in their costumes and were able to decorate a pumpkin to take home and also presented with a "Goodie Bag" filled with treats and treasures. All of the children participated in a Halloween Parade and then were entertained with a Puppet Show Michaels' Surprise presented by Marmalade productions. Following the Puppet Show the children then were treated to a very Spooky Haunted Hayride. Children and adults alike enjoyed the ride. Approximately 22 volunteers dressed up to scare the people participating in the Hayride. Volunteers also help to decorate the area around the Dining Facility for the event and Todd Frazer, husband of TSgt Tina Dimino-Frazer once again did a wonderful job setting up the displays for the hayride. He and a couple of volunteers worked all day Friday to ensure a great event in the evening.



## Family Support Kids Holiday Party

The Annual Kids Holiday Party sponsored by the Barnes Family Readiness Group will be held on December 6, 2008 beginning at 1200.

All children ages 0-12 are invited to attend, registration is required for this event.



# Planning for the Cold!

By Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Dumais, Ground Safety Manager

Well here we are approaching yet another New England winter and this one just as all of those before it, is a mystery. Will this be a bad one or will we luck out by having most of the bad weather miss us? The story is yet to be told however I think you can agree no matter how good or how bad it is going to be there is nothing like being prepared for the worse. After all New England is famous for its unpredictability and the time to make sure you are ready is now and not while the snow is a foot deep. So with that I offer you some items to consider before the storms arrive.

Your vehicles- Enough cannot be said about performing minor maintenance on your vehicle before the snow flies. Items such as good tires which are properly inflated, a serviceable battery, proper antifreeze levels, good belts,



hoses, and wiper blades will go a long way in keeping you and your family safe. It will also help prevent you from being one of those people we periodically drive by as they wait by the side of the road for a tow truck.

Your home- Getting your home ready for winter takes very little effort for the potential rewards. Items such as making sure your furnace is ready for the long haul will not only save you money but can also save your lives from a potential fire and poisonous fumes. Don't wait until you wake up with frost on your bedposts to call for your annual furnace tune up. While you are checking on that this is a good time to check your (CO) Carbon Monoxide and smoke detectors. If you don't have a CO detector I ask you to consider what is worth more, \$20.00 or you? They can be bought fairly cheap so if you don't have one I recommend you skip a dinner or movie to buy one. This is also the time to review your fire plan with your family. Where you are all going to meet so you know everyone is out should there be a fire? You should also review your plan for those times where you could be stuck at home without heat or electricity. Flashlights, food bars, medi-

cines, and water become important items when you can't get out to buy them.

Winter Travel- With the winter and the holidays come additional travels. It may be to visit friends and family or to just get away for a weekend ski trip. The travel may be close or it could be far away but once again being prepared is key to success. After you make sure the auto mechanical items are tended to you need to think about those times in which you could get stranded because of unforeseen problems. If you had to stay in your car for hours before help arrived how would you do it? All of a sudden items such as food, blankets, and water are worth their weight in gold. Several years back the Mass Pike was closed due to an extreme winter storm and on my way home I saw several cars which had slid off the road into the gully. It was impossible for me to stop to render assistance and all I could do is call the police to let them of what they already knew. These people would have to wait for help. I found out the next day that many of these people had to ride out the storm for hours until help could get to them.

Winter Recreation and snow removal- With the cold weather comes many fun and exciting activities. Each of them has their own inherent hazards however once again being prepared if the key to success. Knowing how thick the ice is before you walk on it and how too safely hunt before you do it can save your life. If we are talking about snow removal each of us needs to know our limits. Snow blowers are unforgiving to



fingers and feet of people who don't know how to safely operate them. For many this means their children. On the other hand a snow shovel can really do havoc to a weak back. Even worse is how unforgiving shoveling is to a weak heart muscle. Proper win-



ter clothing will also go a long way in preventing slips/falls and keeping you warm and dry.

Winter is a great time of year and with great times and holidays come additional risks. They come in many forms such as the potential for fires from indoor trees, lights, or from a blocked furnace vent pipe the fact is the risks are there. How we manage them can keep the season one to remember. With your help and planning, it can be remembered for the right reasons. I know it goes without saying but for those of you who might want to indulge in some holiday cheer we ask you to be responsible and not get behind the wheel. Alcohol related mishap numbers go up around the holidays. The causes are many but the one thing that remains the same is that someone had too much and made a bad decision. Please keep yourself, your family, and the families of others safe. Don't drink and drive! If the party is at your house or somewhere else be a good wingman and take care of each other. The only time to prevent a mishap or tragedy is before it happens. Even if you get a second chance someone else might not be so lucky. So there you have it, its time to get busy before the snow flies. By my calculations there is still plenty of time to get it done but at the same time it is also quickly disappearing. Safe Days and winter planning to all, Your Safety Staff.



# Congratulations on your promotions

CMS	WILSON, G	MXG	01 OCT 08
SMS	PLOTNIAK, C	131FS	01 OCT 08
SMS	SCANLON, P	FW	17 OCT 08
MSG	MUTTI, N	LRS	17 OCT 08
TSG	LYNCH, R	MXS	01 OCT 08
TSG	BOUCHER, J	MXS	17 OCT 08
SSG	SULLIVAN, D	MXS	21 OCT 08
SRA	LAFOREST, J	MXS	01 OCT 08
SRA	SIM, P	MXS	15 OCT 08
A1C	TACY, A	MOF	06 OCT 08

# Congratulations to the following retirees

Reed, Craig (MSgt)	SFS	5 Dec 08
Johnson, Scott (MSgt)	SFS	31 Dec 08
Bassett, David (SMSgt)	CF	31 Dec 08
Kerdavid, Marcel (Col)	FW	31 Dec 08
Bassett, Christine (SMSgt)	OSF	31 Dec 08
Thompson, Joel (SMSgt)	MXS	15 Jan 09
Lavigne, Mark (MSgt)	CES	2 Feb 09
Bates, Dennis (SMSgt)	MXS	23 Feb 09
Kronoff, Charles (MSgt)	MOF	27 Feb 09

# Welcome to our newest members

04 SEP 08	DISCO, HEATHER	SFS
05 SEP 08	LAWTON, THOMAS	AMXS
08 SEP 08	WYNN, JOSEPH	OSF
11 SEP 08	PAULI, GREG	CES
11 SEP 08	CURRY, MELISSA	MDG
11 SEP 08	SHIPPEE, EVAN	AMXS
13 SEP 08	SMITH, ANDREW	CES
18 SEP 08	ST. CLAIR, DANIEL	OG
18 SEP 08	STEBBINS, JAMES	FW
19 SEP 08	LIVINGSTON, DALE	AMXS
22 SEP 08	JYZ, JAMES	OSF
23 SEP 08	DUBOIS, DANIELLE	SVF
23 SEP 08	HORNE, BRYAN	MXS
24-SEP 08	LARCHEVEQUE, JEREMY	SVF
25-SEP-08	HUTCHINSON, RICH	SVF
29-SEP-08	WEST, KYLE	SFS
29-SEP-08	CURLEY, DUSTIN	AMXS
30-SEP-08	POULIN, ERIC	AMXS
30-SEP-08	ARDIZONI, BRIAN	AMXS
30-SEP-08	RODRIGUEZ, AMARILIS	MXS
3 OCT 08	BIENIA, KYLE J.	AMXS
3 OCT 08	BIENIA, CHARLES J. II	CF
8 OCT 08	CHAPMAN, JENNA M.	OSF
17 OCT 08	MELIUS, ANTHONY J. JR	AMXS

## SMSgt. Joel B. Thompson Retirement Party

... after 37 legendary Years of service



Friday, 9 January 2009  
at the Westover ARB, NCO club

Time: 6:00 pm for Hors d'oeuvres... 8:30pm dinner  
Choice's are Sliced London Broil Au Jus w/ Roasted potatoes and veggies or Roasted Stuffed Chicken Breastw/ Mushroom gravy, rice and veggies  
Price per ticket is \$30.00 Call CMSgt Al Reale at ext 1778 or Munitions Flight personnel at ext. 1779 for ticket purchase

## Chief Master Sgt. Induction Ceremony



A Chief Induction Ceremony for newly promoted Chief Master Sgt. Galen Wilson will take place on Sunday, 2 Nov @ 1430 at Bldg 3, Dining Facility. All are invited to attend.

Special guest speaker will be SSgt Matthew Slaydon and his wife Annette.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Slaydon lost his eyesight and left arm in Oct 2007, during his third tour to Iraq. Formerly an Air Force EOD technician, he is now part of the Wounded Warrior program, touring the country with his wife to tell his story of perseverance and gratefulness, despite his loss and challenges.



US Air Force Photo  
Tech. Sgt. Matthew Hannen

# Traditional Job Positions

## Band Officer

**Position Title/Maximum Grade:** Band Officer/O4

**Minimum Grade eligible to apply:** O1 or eligible for commissioning

**Unit:** 567<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 subunits. 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.

## New AirScoop Format

### Feedback from YOU!

*Thanks for your feedback on the new format of the AirScoop (below). We are glad that you like it! Please read comments, below. Have more to say? We welcome your feedback and suggestions! Please send e-mail to [pa.104fw@mabarn.ang.af.mil](mailto:pa.104fw@mabarn.ang.af.mil)*

**Jim Langan, Master Sgt. (Ret.):** "Proud to say that the new AirScoop format is outstanding. Covers more info and is much easier to download!"

**Joel Godston:** "WOW! am I impressed. This is the first issue of the AirScoop I have received. As a member of the Mass. Air Guard in the 1960's, and involved in aviation for over 50 years, the AirScoop provides a 'super' amount of information is easy to understand and very complete.....a very tough thing to do! For your information and use I provide three photos taken from my days in the Mass Air Guard in the 1960's; and a reference of the book, "Dependable Engines-THE STORY OF PRATT & WHITNEY", just published....BETTER YET, a more complete book about the History of P&W will be authored by Jack Connors in the very near future. Cheers!" -

**James Bain:** "Like the new AIRSCOOP layout, easier to read, and the graphics are excellent! I retired in 1997, as the supervisor for visual information, with 37 years as a graphic artist, both at Mass Mutual, and my last two years in the Air Guard. My best wishes to you all.....I really miss it!"

## Paralegal

**Position/Title/Grade:** Paralegal/E-6

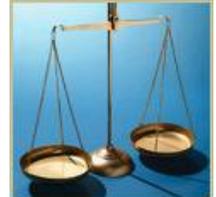
**Minimum Grade eligible to apply:** None—see below for Special Qualifications

**Unit:** 104<sup>th</sup> FW Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

**Supervisor:** Major Robin Peterson

**Application Deadline:** Until filled

**POC for more information:** Major Peterson, (413) 568-9151, ext 1244, email: [robinpeterson@cox.net](mailto:robinpeterson@cox.net)



**Technical/Educational background desirable:** Prior experience in legal or paralegal work desirable but not mandatory. Ability to multi-task and excellent attention to detail is mandatory. Outstanding interpersonal communications skills, untouchable personal ethics and integrity. Individual must be a self-starter, with exceptional organizational skills and the ability to manage large client loads in high tempo situations.

**Duties and Responsibilities:** Prepare documents such as wills, powers of attorney, promissory notes, bills of sale, etc. Process correspondence and maintain suspense files. Performs legal research. Process special and general courts-martial proceedings. Process Article 15 and UCMJ actions. Assist with investigations. Examine and process legal actions. Examine, adjudicate, process, and settle claims filed for and against the US government pursuant to Air Force publications, including agreements with foreign governments.

**Special Qualifications:** Individual must possess a minimum 5-level in any AFSC. Must have a minimum General ASVAB score of 50 (60 preferred) and be able to type 25 WPM.

**Training:** Completion of the Paralegal Apprentices course in residence is mandatory. The course six weeks at Maxwell, AFB, AL.

**Application Procedures:** Please submit a resume that includes all experience relevant to this position, both civilian and military, as well as a statement as to why you are applying for this position NLT the application deadline to Major Robin Peterson, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, 104<sup>th</sup> FW/JA, Barnes ANGB, 175 Falcon Drive, Westfield, MA 01085. You may also email your resume to [robinpeterson@cox.net](mailto:robinpeterson@cox.net)

# Chaplain's Corner

## Confidential

Kristin Henderson

Can you trust a military chaplain to keep your secrets?

You should be able to, and here's why: Keeping a problem to yourself can undermine military readiness. Take the case of the corporal who abused and threatened his men until one young member of that squad felt so hopeless he told his buddies he was going to end it all.

In our military world, even the things you say on a psychiatrist's couch can be reported to a commanding officer. So some people bottle things up because they're afraid if they admit what's really on their minds they'll get in trouble or ruin their careers. That can be dangerous.

Chaplains are the safety valve. A chaplain is the one person in the military that regulations say you can talk to about anything without fear that it will go any farther. So one of the squad-mates of that suicidal servicemember went to the chaplain. In the privacy of the chaplain's office, not only did the buddy find help for his suicidal friend, but he also found the courage to finally speak up and report the real source of the problem -- the corporal who was threatening them all. The corporal was removed in time to prevent a tragedy.

Service members need a safe place to let off steam and figure out how to solve problems without fear of getting in trouble or ruining their careers. Family members do, too. When their loved one is deployed, better for them to cry out their troubles and fears to their chaplain, not their loved one. That way those on the frontlines can focus on their mission instead of being distracted with worry about homefront problems they can't do anything about.

But it only works if chaplains can be trusted to keep it all confidential.

For years, there was some confusion about the definition of "confidential." What if someone confesses to the chaplain that they're abusing a child or about to kill someone? Shouldn't the chaplain report that? What if the chaplain's faith community requires the chaplain to report it? More than one chaplain has told me that they make everyone who comes in for counseling sign a waiver before they start talking. The waiver, they said, gives them permission to report all cases of abuse or threats of suicide.

This may seem like a good thing. But a waiver shuts down the conversation before it even starts. As for chaplains who spill the beans, with or without a waiver, many people will never trust that chaplain again, and the safety valve is shut off.

The fact is, chaplains don't need a waiver to help solve even morally horrifying problems like child abuse. As a senior Air Force chaplain points out, "They wouldn't be coming to talk to you if they didn't want help." Once they open up, the chaplain can guide them toward a solution.

**Counseling** is provide Friday, Saturday, and Sunday on UTA weekends.

**Catholic Mass:** 1600 on Sat UTA in the Dining facility.

**Protestant Service:** 1600 on Sun UTA in the Dining facility.

These days the Army, Air Force, and Navy all have the same rules about confidentiality. (In case you're wondering about the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard, they use Navy chaplains.) The rules are very simple really. Everything is confidential. The legal term for that is "privileged communication." That means it's your privilege to decide whether or not your chaplain can reveal what you talked about. Without your permission, the chaplain must stay mum. Your conversation with a chaplain or chaplain's assistant is considered "privileged" so long as you're doing it as a formal act of

religion or an act of conscience and you intend it to be confidential.

But chaplains are human, imperfect like the rest of us. Human nature being what it is, there will always be at least a few chaplains with loose lips. To avoid confusion, a representative of the Naval Chaplain School suggests that at the start of every counseling session, "Each chaplain should say, 'Of course this is confidential, this is how we do business.'"

If every chaplain started every counseling session with a statement about confidentiality and privileged communication, it would serve as a reminder to the chaplain while at the same time helping the counselee to open up. Experienced chaplains have said they also mention it again at the end.

But if the chaplain doesn't bring it up and you're the one seeking help, my advice is that you be very clear about what you expect. Go ahead and say, "I'm claiming privileged communication." At the very least, ask about it. Make sure you and your chaplain are on the same page when it comes to confidentiality. If not, find another chaplain. You have a right to work through whatever's troubling you with a chaplain who will keep it confidential. That's your privilege.

There's more on this issue, including examples of how things can go wrong as well as how they can go right, at: <http://www.kristinhenderson.com/chaplains.htm>.



## 104TH FIGHTER WING

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Westfield MA 011085

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## Tricare Update for Reservists

NEW  
TRICARE  
RESERVE  
SELECT  
MONTHLY



PREMIUM RATES FOR 2009 (ANG, AFRC)

– The TRICARE Management Activity announced new monthly rates effective January 1, 2009 decreasing the current amounts for both member and family coverage. The new rates will decrease from \$81 to \$47.51 for member only coverage and from \$253 to \$180.17 for member and family coverage. Individuals may visit [www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/index.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/index.cfm) to obtain further information on the Tricare Reserve Select program.

## Alumni Reunion

### Wednesday, 19 November, 2008

Autumn has arrived! The Fall colors are past peak and the leaves are falling with a fury. Soon we will be bracing for the cold weather and the white stuff. Of course, we can always opt to bring on the snow shovels or to become a SNOWBIRD and migrate south for the winter. YOUR CHOICE. How fast this year has passed!! Our November reunion is here and it is our last for 2008. The next reunion is scheduled for March as usual. We had a very successful year and a lot of fun. Attendance records were set all year with the exception of our September reunion at which 76 members were present. In September, 2007, attendance was 79, so we came up 3 short. We had 132 present at our November reunion last year which is quite a challenge to beat. Let's give it our best shot to top that one!!



Photo from Joel Godston

Here is the information on our November reunion:

WHEN: 19 November, 2008      WHERE: NCO CLUB      TIME: 1800  
Attitude adjustment hour with dinner at 1900

DINNER: OUR TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING FEAST complete with coffee and dessert.

COST: PLEASE READ ON-----

We had a very successful year, thanks to all of you. Your participation in the raffles, your donations of items for our big July raffle along with your attendance throughout the year has contributed to a significant increase in our treasury. Thus, it is time for us to give back to our members as a means of expressing our thanks and appreciation for your support. That said, your Board of Directors voted unanimously to reduce the cost of the thanksgiving dinner to \$5.00 per person, guests included. However, we MUST RECEIVE YOUR RESERVATION CHECK BY FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER, 2008. If your payment is received after the 14th, the price will increase to \$15.00 which is the cost to pay at the door. In addition, all members who pay at the door will be required to provide their complete mailing address and telephone number, and make a firm commitment to attend. They will be held responsible for payment if they fail to show up and will be billed for the \$15.00! cost. We need this commitment as we have to pay the caterer for ALL meals.

We sincerely hope that everyone will promptly mail their reservation check by 14 November to take advantage of the \$5.00 cost. Please make your check in the amount of \$5.00 PER PERSON payable to: 104th Alumni Association and mail it promptly to Len Frigon, 778 West Street, Ludlow, MA 01056.

REMEMBER: THE CUT-OFF DATE IS 14 NOVEMBER FOR THE \$5.00 PRICE AND \$15.00 THEREAFTER OR AT THE DOOR. WE MUST BE IN RECEIPT OF YOUR CHECK BY THE 14TH WITHOUT EXCEPTION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL PAM SPEAR AT 413-569-2422, LEN FRIGON AT 413-589-9157, OR STU SALVATORE AT 413-739-0055. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON THE 19TH!