



AIRSCOOP

104TH FIGHTER WING • MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Pride, Professionalism, Patriotism

Barnes Air National Guard Base

February 2009



A snow plow taking up the entire width of Tank Destroyer Blvd after clearing off the ramp and taxiways in January. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)



Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

AIRSCOOP

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

Barnes Air National Guard Base
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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

Wing Executive Staff Officer
Capt. Matthew T. Mutti

Public Affairs Officer
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Multimedia Support Center

Commander's Column

By Col. Robert T. Brooks

As Martin Luther King Jr. day has come and gone, and Black History month is upon us, I would like to share a quote Dr. King made on August 28th, 1963: "I have a dream, that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.' ... I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. ... And if America is to be a great nation this must become true."

During the War Between the States, the first all-black regiment was formed in the Union army which is our own 54th Massachusetts. Some eighty years later during World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen were the first all-black aviators to fly in the Army Air Corps. They, like their predecessors of the 54th Massachusetts, battled for equality. In 1948, President Harry Truman enacted Executive Order Number 9981 which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces. This order, in time, led to the end of racial segregation in the military forces.

On the 22nd of January, Chief Reale, Brigadier General Rice, and I drove to Rockland, then to Hanover Massachusetts for the burial of Army National Guard Specialist Matthew M. Pollini, who died on duty in Iraq. As I looked around during the humbling ceremony, I saw soldiers and civilians from all walks of life. I am pretty sure neither race, creed, nor color were on anyone's mind. In the heat of battle, nobody cares about the race of the wingman beside us charging toward victory; what we do care about is the content of his or her character.

I want to thank all of you for what you do each and every day in service to our country. Thank you for having the content of character to do something bigger than yourself. As we prepare for our first ever F-15 Eagle de-

ployment to Key West, I want everyone to keep in mind this will be a great training deployment. We will have a lot of fun, and Key West is obviously a great place for some rest and relaxation when we are not at work. Remember, we are in a serious business, so we can work hard and play hard, but I ask that you do not mix the two. I am not implying we cannot have fun at work...but be prepared to work. Your teammates are counting on everyone to do the right thing. Be a good wingman, and if you see someone engaged defensively, please help them "separate" from that engagement and live to fight another day .

Major General Carter and Brigadier Rice will be coming down the second week to see us, and Major General Carter will be getting a backseat ride in our D-model. We will have the opportunity to show him a full up ACMI flight debrief, which is a unique opportunity for us all. We will put our best foot forward as we always do, and I know he will want to visit with some of you. Additionally, we plan to give as many D-model rides for our incentive flyers as time and conditions permit.

Character and attitude are truly everything! Samuel Adams of Massachusetts said, "Nothing is more essential to the establishment of manners in a State than that all persons employed in places of power and trust must be men of exceptionable character". General Benjamin Davis, one of the original members of the Tuskegee Airmen said in regards to segregation, "We are all simply American." During the month of February, take time to read about some of the historic people and events which have shaped this county and led to Dr. Kings quote: ".....content of character". Our history holds precious keys for future success.

Col Robert Brooks

Alcoholism is treatable!
Need help? Call 1-800-410-2560



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

The Airman's Creed

Part IV

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN

WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR

I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND

I WILL NEVER FALTER

AND I WILL NOT FAIL

The fourth and final stanza of the Airman's creed brings my last four Airscoop articles to a fitting and understandable point of completion. All of us should aspire to be exactly what this stanza speaks of: a friend, a role model, a person teaming with guts and determination. In my years in the Air National Guard, I have been called a warrior, I have tried to lead when it was my time to do so,

and through it all, I have tried to be a trustworthy and reliable friend. More importantly, within my career, I have been able to look toward my fellow wingmen and know that they too were going to embody those same traits.

When your fellow Airmen are all on the same sheet of music, it allows a level of synergy to occur. This creed, its four short stanzas, sets the stage for greatness while providing all members of the Air Force a road map for their own behavior and place in this larger organization.

I have been a part of many organizations, both in and out of the armed service, and in my experience, the ones that succeeded were the ones in which all members, regardless of rank or position, knew that they belonged. In one subtle but powerful line, the creed makes all Airman equal, "I will never leave an Airman behind". This line does not delineate between officers or enlisted, it does not talk about Air Force Specialties or categories, it puts us all at the same level, in

the greater scheme...we are all Airmen, and we will not falter.

As your Command Chief, as a Chief Master Sergeant and as an Airman, along side all other Airmen within this organization, I hope that we can all embody this creed. I suggest if you do, it will serve as a road map for your service. Allow it to be a reminder of what we stand for and what we all fight for. Keep the idea of being a warrior who answered its nation's call strong in your heart. Recognize the traditions and legacy of valor, and always remember we are guardians of freedom...we can not fail.



Professional Development By Col. James Keefe, Vice Commander

Professional development is key to growing as a leader, whether you're com-

missioned or noncommissioned. One type of professional development is through formal schools; Airman Leadership School and Squadron Officer School are two examples. Another type is through unit led seminars; Chief Reale will begin facilitating one during the Unit's Training Assemblies beginning in March. The third, and maybe the least talked about form of professional development is through participating in Professional Military Associations. Programs like the National Guard Association of the United States, the Enlisted National Guard Association of the United

States are two examples. Once you find an organization that promotes the organization you belong to, you have an endless resource of information.

Belonging to a PMA will allow you to tap the fellow members of the association for information about career paths and how to grow professionally, while also allowing you an opportunity to learn more about the organization you belong.

Unlike the formal schools, required for advancement, the PMAs are helpful without being mandatory. They have less stringent programs that allow those who want to be more active members a chance to participate in meetings and conferences, all while providing professional reading material or interactive websites for more passive members. Membership at any level will offer opportunities and information

that would not otherwise be easily accessible.

Professional Military Associations succeed through membership size and strength. With a strong corps, they have the ability to work as a unified voice to affect their surroundings. NAGUS as an example can lobby for more National Guard spending in congress; where as members of the National Guard may not be as influential as an organization making statements on the member's behalves.

If you are looking for a way to grow within your capacity in the Guard, consider using all three types of professional development tools. The more you expose yourself to, the more opportunity you'll have to grow.



First Sgt.'s Column

By Master Sgt. Timothy Mutti, Medical Group First Sgt.

So where does the slang "First Shirt" come from? Well it is said that this term of endearment began during the 19th century, specifically during the American Indian wars, as the US Cavalries moved westward into the new frontier.

When the supply wagons arrived at the battle sights or deserted outposts, it was the First Sergeant's responsibility to inspect the supplies as they were taken off the supply wagons. After being out on the range for several months, the soldiers would receive new uniforms to replace their tattered ones.

The First Sergeants played a similar role in the 19th Century as they do today, upholding standards and working to improve morale. With this in mind, the First Sergeant would

always want to look his best, thus taking the first shirt out of the replacements that were sent, hence the nickname First Shirt.

So you may ask yourself, what importance does this have to me? In reality, it is very important for us to know and understand our history. Our history is a common foundation for all of us. If we understand where we came from we will have a better understanding of what we need to do to succeed in the future.

As our unit is undergoing a transition, it is more important than ever that we remain aware of our history and what we did in the past to be successful. Organizations that are rooted in their history can learn from their mistakes but can also build on their traditions that have led to success.

In the past we have been recognized as one of the premier Air National Guards units. With our new

mission in full swing and our new Air Sovereignty Alert mission right around the corner, I feel that our history will repeat itself, and we will once again outperform any other F-15 unit and exceed everyone's expectations.

So don't forget the past but continue to look toward the future. All the time and hard work everyone has put in to our success so far is seen and recognized by the public and your fellow co-workers. Lets use our history and positive reputation to propel us into a future filled with success.

Spotlight on Tech. Sgt. Chris Cekovsky

By Ross Larson, Westfield H.S. Intern

On any given day, a Security Forces member is at the gate, identifying members and confirming that they are able to enter the installation. Tech. Sgt. Chris Cekovsky is part of that department which provides the assurance of safety and protection around the clock.

Tech. Sgt. Cekovsky is a day-shift member of Security Forces Squadron where he works at the main gate, on patrols, or in the central security control communications hub. He is also a full-time representative for Combat Arms Training and Maintenance section. He also works as a CATM Instructor, teaching and helping his fellow members to pass their qualifications on weapons.

"After I fired my first real bullet-gun in 1985, I was hooked ever since." said Sgt Cekovsky who actively shoots at the Smith and Wesson Shooting Sports Center for a Western Mass Pistol League. As a Combat Arms Instructor, Sgt Cekovsky teaches base personnel and members how to fire the M16 and M4 assault rifles, and the M9 pistol for qualification. "I like to see the achievement of a struggling member to qualify, it's a nice reward and its good to be thanked for it." mentioned Sgt Cekovsky, "I also get a great sense of accomplishment working with the different types of people throughout the day, to help them get where their going in their Security Forces



Sgt. Cekovsky teaches a CATM Class (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)

provided protection for the ground crews and took part in patrols around the base.

Sgt Cekovsky is also a prior Marine and is proud of the time he has spent serving in the Corps. He was a member of a communications team for an artillery battery and handled weapons ranging from 9mm handguns to .50 caliber sniper rifles. Sgt Cekovsky enjoyed seeing many different parts of the world such as Okinawa, South Korea, and a six month Mediterranean voyage where he visited Spain, Greece, Italy, and France.

His responsibilities on base keep him very busy, yet he spends his spare time with his five-month old son and his wife. Sgt Cekovsky also enjoys traveling with his wife when he has the chance. Whether providing surveillance in the communications hub or providing guidance on the range, Sgt Cekovsky and his fellow members of the Security Forces department give us reassurance that the base is safe, secure, and under control.

careers and to get them to qualify on the weapons used in their Air Force career."

As of 23 September, 2001 Sgt Cekovsky has become a member of the Air Guard, along with his two brothers who are also full time members. He was deployed to Rhein-Main Air Force Base in Germany for three weeks while serving in the Guard. While he was there he

EAC Column

By Tech. Sgt. Sandra O'Fallon, Enlisted Advisory Council President

During the January Unit Training Assembly, the Enlisted Advisory Council held elections for calendar year 2009. The Council came to a unanimous vote and the new officers for CY2009 are: TSgt Sandra O'Fallon, President, TSgt Wade Rivest, Vice President, and SrA Jennifer Krutka, Secretary. TSgt Michael Stula will remain on the Council as the Recorder.

As we begin this New Year I would like to usher in a new era for the Enlisted Advisory Council. My immediate goals for EAC are: 1) Effectively identify the needs and concerns of our enlisted personnel by developing partnerships with the First Sergeant's and Chief's Council, and 2) Redefining our mission statement to better serve those we represent. 3) We will encourage participation with on and off base functions, community service opportunities and charitable events.

EAC will be voting on a new mission statement during the February UTA. Following that vote, the new statement will be published in the March edition of the Air Scoop. We will be soliciting the help of the entire Barnes family to make the EAC a more effective



council. The first way you can help is by completing an EAC Feedback Survey, which you can get from your unit first sergeants or section supervisors. The survey is completely anonymous and we would greatly appreciate your honest and constructive criticism.

I encourage all members of the wing to vocalize any concerns that the EAC may be able to help to resolve. In addition, I'd like to

hear what members like most about being a member of our unit, so that we can focus more activities or events around the themes of the positive feedback.

The EAC is intended to be a voice for the junior enlisted ranks and to serve as a conduit to the senior enlisted and the officer corps. We are eager to hear your thoughts and work towards improving camaraderie, morale, and mission effectiveness.

I encourage all of you to meet with your EAC representative and get to know them. If you are unsure of who your EAC representative is, please ask your first sergeant or your section supervisor and they will point you in the right direction. I look forward to working together to address the needs and concerns of the junior enlisted force as well as rejuvenate the *esprit de corps* that is the centerpiece of our legacy of excellence at the 104th Fighter Wing.

Family Support Readiness Group Elects New Board



The Family Readiness Group, an all volunteer organization who works to build family networks and improve the moral of the unit, had it's annual election meeting in December.

The following members were elected into board director position. Pictured from left to right: - Beth St.Clair (Co-Chairperson); Cindy Patnode (Treasurer); Lyn Richards (Secretary); Pat Connors (Chairperson); Cindy Connors (Outgoing secretary) and Sandy Wakefield (the Wing Family Program Coordinator).

The FRG welcomes new membership and is always looking for help during their events (a calendar can be found on page 13).

The FRG sends out a quarterly newsletter via e-mail. If you are interested please contact Ms. Sandy Wakefield at Sandra.wakefield@mabarn.ang.af.mil or Ms. Pat Connors at patricia.connors@mabarn.ang.af.mil

Kenneth W. Disney Award By Senior Master Sgt. William Butman, PRIME RIBS Manager

After a successful showing during the 2006 Unit Compliance Inspection, the 104th Services Flight is being challenged again. This time they will be competing for the Air National Guard Food Service Excellence Award, titled "The SMSgt Kenneth W. Disney Award".

Your first thought when you hear the name "Disney" may be of Mickey Mouse cooking the UTA meal in the kitchen and Goofy working the serving line. Actually, there is no relation to Walt Disney.

Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Disney lived in Knoxville, Tenn. And was a full-time Guard member at the 134th Air Refueling Wing. He believed in exhibiting excellence in the Food Services Program and challenged other units to meet or exceed his standards of excellence. Tragically, in 1992 he was killed in a car accident outside the base when he was traveling home for the evening.

Following his death, the Kenneth Disney Award Program was established to promote excellence in guest services and meal quality. This spirited competition inspires high morale, motivation, mission support and a professional image. The entire scope of the



104th food service program (which exhibits excellence in management, effectiveness and force readiness support) qualifies us to compete for the prestigious award. During the March Unit Training Assembly the Services Flight will be evaluated on our quality of meals, customer relations and food handling/sanitation practices. Safety awareness will be exercised and observed throughout the kitchen as well as overall unit training readiness.

During our last Unit Compliance Inspection, the 104th Services Flight was recognized as "Best Seen to Date" by Air Combat Command Inspector General assessment team. Following that recognition, the Services Flight wants to move up another notch, and try to be recognized as being one of the best throughout the Air National Guard. Achieving success in the SMSgt Kenneth

Disney competition is a reflection of pride, commitment, and motivation; to be the best one out of 88 other Air National Guard Wings. The key to our success to date has been superior guest service, astute management, and command support of our food services operation, attitude, willingness to excel and most of all, training.

The lunch meal theme for the March UTA will be "Proud to be an American in New England" on Saturday and for Sunday we will cater our menu around "St. Patrick's Day". Saturday's entrée will include Yankee Pot Roast and Baked Chicken, New England Chowder, Boston Cream Pie and Apple Pie. In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, Sunday's entrée will be a traditional corn beef and cabbage meal. The meal themes will be also visible in the decorations throughout the Dining Facility.

If the 104th Services Flight wins this distinguished award, the entire flight will receive the SMSgt Disney Award trophy at the National Restaurant Show in Chicago, Ill. The "Show" features four days of viewing exhibits featuring 2,000 exhibitors, representing more than 800 product categories. For any cook to attend the National Restaurant Show is like a child visiting Disney World.

Recruiting in Central Mass. By Tech. Sgt. Jay Salus, Production Recruiter



Do you know where the recruiting office is off base? Do you know who to ask for if you have a friend who is interested in the Air National Guard and you also want to take advantage of the \$2,000

GRAP referral? Some of you can answer these questions pretty quickly, you may have enlisted with TSgt Gabe Kushin or MSgt Ernie Smith yourself and you may have visited our West Springfield office located at 51 Park Ave.

What if you know someone who is interested in joining but lives in say Framingham or

Worcester or as North as Lowell or even Boston? Did you know we have a recruiting office at the Salomon Pond Mall in Marlboro?

I am TSgt Jay Salus and I have been a recruiter for the 104th Fighter Wing now since August 2008. My territory is all of Middlesex County and Northern Worcester County, basically the Central and Eastern parts of the state. I have met with several applicants over the past few months right at the mall office but I am also willing to meet people at a location that is convenient for them. The mall office in Marlboro is shared with the Army Guard.

Many of you are signed up for the GRAP program where you can earn \$2,000 for referring someone to the Air National Guard. If this person enlists you get \$1000 and then receive the second installment when they return from training. The people that you refer do not necessarily have to be a close friend or a relative. You can randomly meet someone who was expressing interest in the Air Guard to you

such as a fellow student, co-worker, someone at your gym or when you were in line at Dunkin Donuts. It's simple, easy and well worth it for you if they do enlist. Plus, with all the great school benefits and sign on bonuses it is definitely worth it for them!

Please feel free to give me a call if you think you may have a potential candidate or someone who has expressed interest. Remember not everyone qualifies and a lot of times by asking just a few questions we can pre-qualify or disqualify someone over the phone. My direct cell phone number is **413-237-6735** or as always you can call our West Springfield office at **413-733-0864**

TSgt Jay Salus

Cell 413-237-6735

Office located at Salomon Pond Mall

601 Donald Lynch Blvd

Marlboro, MA 01752

Beware of Internet Scams

By Tech. Sgt. Chris Curtis, Paralegal

Thieves lurk in many places. The internet is certainly no exception. Scores of scams abound on the internet and some are more common than others. With the advances in technology and the creativity of the scam artist increasing at a pace that is sometimes quicker than that of stereotypical criminals, some scams may be easy to fall into. Awareness of common scams can be an effective defense to being swindled or caught with your identity in jeopardy. Some of the more common are as follows:

“Phisher” scams are usually email based and are designed to have you furnish the thieves with personal information such as social security numbers, checking account and routing numbers, and other similar information. Identity or monetary thefts then follow.

“Nigerian” scams include the “419” scam that asks for a small sum of money in

order to access a much larger (but non-existent) sum that you can have a portion of as reward for your initial payment. The oil freighter scam promises a cut of the profits from a Nigerian oil tanker that is caught up in political red tape, and would like a payment from you to rescue them so they can get to port.

“Lottery” scams inform you that you have won a large cash drawing (usually in a foreign country) but a small processing fee is required to release the funds. Of course there are no funds and you haven’t won anything.

These are the more blatant scams but there are many and some more insidious. What can you do to protect yourself? First and foremost, use common sense. If something seems too good to be true it is. Additionally, be wary of unsolicited emails that:

- Promise you money, jobs or prizes
- Ask for donations
- Propose lucrative business deals
- Ask you to provide sensitive personal information
- Ask you to follow a link to a website and log on to an account.

Keep your money safe and away from the internet thieves



EOD = Safety and Precision

By Senior Airman Jamie Green, EOD

It’s not just about blowing stuff up; it’s about safety and precision as well.

This past drill weekend the 104th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight had their first on-base demonstration of some of their capabilities. Maj. Steve Dougherty, the 104th Civil Engineer Squadron Commander, witnessed three explosively actuated tools that EOD uses to defeat improvised explosive devices in action.

The EOD Flight is often called upon to disarm IEDs in theater as well as to work with municipal bomb squads during domestic missions. The flight’s sole mission is to safely ensure that an explosive device can not harm our service members or members of our community. In order to safely mitigate an explosive threat, the team has a variety of tools it can employ.

Each of the three tools demonstrated during the training operation demonstrated varying degrees of precision and disruption that EOD can bring against devices. These work on the same principle as a precision cannon or firearm. The EOD technician pinpoints a specific object or area within the IED, and then with the help of remote detonation equipment, they then fire a projectile into the IED, rendering it disarmed. The projectile can be



Maj. Steve Dougherty utilizes an EOD to disarm a mock-IED during a demonstration. (Photo by Senior Airman Jamie Green)

as simple as a small amount of water or a metal slug.

The tools utilized disrupt the explosive device while reducing the risk of fire and detonation. These tools and the techniques practiced are what keep EOD technicians safe, by allowing them to use the precision of the tools with the safety of remote execution ... disarming the hazardous explosive devices.

Maj. Dougherty participated in this demonstration by remotely functioning two of the tools in the demonstration. At a safe distance he effectively defeated a mock IED under the guidance and supervision of trained EOD techs. In all, the JROD- Jet Remote Ordnance Disruptor, the PAN- Percussion Actuated Neutralizer, and the Duce- MK 2 were demonstrated.

Demonstrations and practical exercises keep the EOD techs sharp. In an environment where the least bit of hesitation or lack of experience could be life threatening, the flight engages mock IEDs, conventional ordnance and other types of explosive devices monthly. By practicing the way we fight, we can ensure we are ready to take on any obstacle because in our line of work we live by “Initial Success or Total Failure.”

Presidential Service Detail By Capt. Matthew T. Mutti, Wing Executive Staff Officer

State support deployments do not always come in the form of disaster response forces. Sometimes state support missions revolve around historic celebrations. The later was the case for a team of 9 members from the 104th Services Squadron, who deployed to support the 56th Presidential Inauguration event for the country's 44th president on 20 January, as part of TASK FORCE BLUE.



Services members serve breakfast during TASK FORCE BLUE (photo by Master Sgt. Dargis)

This team of services professionals hit the road five days prior to the ceremony to provide meals for the Army National Guard members who were prepared to protect the public in the event of a riot or a public disturbance during the Inauguration. Throughout the proceeding seven days the team served 6,500 meals. The largest single meal service was 927 people in a two hour period.

As the team arrived at Andrews Air Force Base on the Thursday before the event, they received detailed instructions and were then responsible for palletizing the food they would need for the next 7 days. Master Sgt. Neil Dargis led the team of traditional services members through their tasking. "We had a great team of folks, and our mission was clear, support the Army so that in turn they could provide riot control in the event of an emergency." He added the most difficult part of the job was setting up a schedule. The team elected to serve the



The kitchen utilized to serve 6,500 breakfast meals (photo by Master Sgt. Neil Dargis)

breakfast meal which required them to be up at 2:30 a.m. every morning.

The services team worked out of a condemned elementary school three miles from the White House. The team, and 950 Army National Guard personnel, slept in the Brookland Elementary school's classrooms and served meals in the schools abandoned kitchen. The kitchen only had running hot and cold water and was empty of any cooking equipment so the team used its Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen (SPEK) to prepare and serve the meals. Before they could begin to prepare meals they had to clean and sanitize a workspace that had not been occupied for over a year.



The Team lived in a Kindergartens Class (photo by Master Sgt. Neil Dargis)

The team was joined by 9 additional Airmen from the 134th Services Squadron out of Tennessee. Between the two teams and their 2 SPEKs they served the third largest contingent of army personnel for 7 days.



Staff Sgt. Gibbs works on a Babington Burner (photo by Master Sgt. Neil Dargis)

Airman First Class Katrina Clayton was one of the team members who deployed. This was her first opportunity to use the SPEK in a real-world environment since returning from the Services technical training school the previous May. "I was glad to use the skills I learned at school; this operation gave me a chance to see how a single kitchen with 3 burners and 3 sinks could support so

many soldiers."

While on site, the team was visited by Mr. Robert Babington, the inventor the Babington burner used in the SPEK. He guided the team through the disassembly of two burners to ensure they were ready to use in the operation. Staff Sgt. Matthew Gibbs received hands-on training that he may have never received if he had not been part of the trip. "It is not everyday that you can learn about a system from the inventor, it's like learning how to fix an airplane from the Wright Brothers."

Family Support Says Thank You

By Ms. Pat Connors, Family Readiness Group

A "Thank You" plaque was presented to Michael Superson of Big E's in Easthampton in September 2008. Big E's has continually supplied all the ingredients for the 104th Family Readiness Group's Bi-Annual Pasta nights for many years. The store donates all the ingredients to make the spaghetti sauce, salad, meat sauce and the garlic bread. Mr. Superson's generous donations made it possible to enjoy pasta nights free of charge to all unit members and their families.

If you are in Easthampton stop in and thank "Mike" for his support to the 104th Fighter Wing.

From right to left, Ms. Sandra Wakefield, Family Program Coordinator, Col. E.J. Gunning, Support Group Commander, Lt. Col. James Keefe, Vice Wing Commander, Mr. Superson, Big E owner, Col. Robert Brooks, Wing Commander, and Ms. Pat Connors, Family Readiness Group Coordinator. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)



Climate Assessment

By Tech. Sgt. Frances Fredrick, Equal Opportunity Office

The wing has initiated a Wing Climate Assessment to help the wing leadership understand what the unit members may be thinking about their jobs, working conditions, or their office environment.

Regulations require that a Wing Climate Assessment be completed every four years or within six months of a change of command. The purpose of the survey, and subsequent report, is to provide the Wing Commander and senior leadership with specific information about the morale, communication, attitudes and perceptions of unit personnel.

The Wing Climate Assessment for the 104th

Fighter Wing began on 19 January and will end 5 April. The survey will ask you to provide demographic information such as your rank, race, and sex, in order to ensure that we have a proper representation of the participants. To further protect your anonymity, when there are less than six respondents within a demographic area, individual responses will not be visible in the report. To begin the survey, connect to the Internet from any computer with internet access. The survey can be found at the following URL and will take about 10 – 15 minutes to complete:

<https://www.famnetuca.net/UCANG/user/login/login02.cfm>

An ACCESS CODE is required to gain access to the survey. This case-sensitive code has been randomly generated for our unit only and is not associated with individual names or other personal identifying source. The survey access code is: [autoMAS090023Ba=N](#)

The information gained from the survey and report will be used to improve the human relations climate and working environment within the unit. If you have additional questions concerning this assessment, or the survey you are being asked to complete, please contact the EEO at extension 1118.

Defense Travel 101

By Tech. Sgt. Lynn Brandt, Finance Office

The Defense Travel System, commonly referred to as DTS, is an important tool used for the traveler to do orders and vouchers. Currently, DTS is used for coordinating and paying for AGR and Technician travel. In the near future this system will be used by all traditional guardsmen as well.

It is the TRAVELER'S responsibility to make sure orders and vouchers are complete in DTS. The most important thing is we cannot have orders or vouchers sitting outstanding. It hurts you as the member and us as a wing.

When a member is scheduled to go TDY, they should start their orders and sign them, which submits it to the next level of coordination. When orders have gone through the process, they will be APPROVED, and in turn providing a written order for the member to travel.

Please ensure you bring the approved order with you while traveling. When a member comes back from a TDY, they will need to start the voucher process, which is very similar to the TDY order request process. The member will have to compile and scan their receipts or fax them with the appropri-

ate fax cover sheet so they can be uploaded into the pay system. Ensuring you sign your voucher in the system will help the system along.

A good suggestion is to check in DTS to verify status if after 3 working days you have not received an approved response to orders or vouchers. Too often we start the process and never check to see if an order or voucher is finished. The finance office will always be there to help in that the transition from the old system to the new one may lead to some confusion.

Pow Wow Celebrated at Barnes By Capt. Matthew Mutti, Wing Executive Staff Officer

The American Indian Society of New England will host a Winter Pow Wow and Gourd Dance on 14 February at the Dining Facility here at Barnes.

A Pow Wow is a gathering of North American Natives, derived from the Narragansett word 'Pawwaw' meaning spiritual leader. The event is designed to bring tribes together to celebrate the accomplishments of the members as well as to share the American Indian culture with those in attendance.

This will be the fourth year the winter Pow Wow has been hosted here at the base. This years event will feature many different Native rituals and dances to include a Gourd Dance, Hoop Dancers and authentic Native music.

The Gourd Dance is a separate event from the Pow Wow and will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 and the Pow Wow, will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00. The Gourd Dance is a more specific tradition originating from the Kiowa tribe and later adopted by the Comanche and Cheyenne tribes. The Gourd Dance is a more solemn and individual dance which is usually performed by a few male members to a single drummer.

The Pow Wow will feature drum music and singing from multiple tribes from throughout the North East. Singers and dancers from different Native cultures will demonstrate and share their regional music and dances with the other tribal members and guests.

Any unit members interested in attending this event are welcome. The Massachusetts Federal Diversity Group hosts events like this to share the heritage and cultures of the members of the Mass. National Guard. Special emphasis programs will occur throughout the year, focusing on educating members on the importance of diversity and cultural acceptance.



A Native American Dancer from the 2008 Pow Wow (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)

What's My Line Winner!



Photo by Cindy Connors

- “ Capt Mutti will do anything to get his picture in the paper” ~ by Senior Master Sgt. Sabonis
- “ I'm Sick and tired of playing Col Brooks' reindeer games” ~ by Staff Sgt. Ryan Joyce
- “Col Gwosch, which Moose would you shoot...the middle one, me too” ~ by Col. Brooks
- “SANTA, SANTA, can I be the Lead Reindeer next year” ~ by Ms. Beth St. Clair
- “This guy will do anything to get a new call sign!” ~ by Lt. Col. Keeffe
- “ The Moose made me do it” ~ by Ms. Pat Connors

What's My Line?

Submit your funny, creative and appropriate 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 Staff Sgt. Greg Pauli

Military Events, Promotions and Deals

Children Bowling Trip with Family Support

February 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the Family Readiness Group will host a Bowling party at Westover Bowling Alley in conjunction with the winter break.

Transportation is provided from the Dining Facility at 10:30 a.m.

Reservations are required for attendance and a small fee of \$5.00 will cover the child's lunch

Call Sandy Wakefield x1183 or Pat Connors x1717

Free Ski Weekend at Blandford Mountain

All Military Personnel and their immediate family are welcome to a complimentary lift ticket on Feb 28 to March 1...all weekend long!

Ski/snowboard rentals and lessons are available at our regular guest rates.

It's just our way of saying THANK YOU to those that serve our country and the families that support them.

This includes retirees with a military retiree identification card

For more information visit

Free 5-day Disney pass

Walt Disney World has just introduced a special Armed Forces Salute Ticket

for 2009. Each qualifying Military Service member* will receive a

complimentary 5-Day "Disney's Armed Forces Salute Ticket" with Park Hopper

and Water Park Fun & More Options included. To receive the FREE ticket,

visit any theme park Guest Relations window and show proper ID.

*This offer is available to anyone on active duty or activated members of the National Guard and Reservists with orders in addition to valid military ID.

Free Tax-Cut Through Military One Source

Military Personnel can access a free version of H&R Tax cut through www.militaryonesource.com. After members log into Military One Source they can link directly to the Tax Cut program and file both their state and federal returns for free.



Barnestormer & 131st Fighter Squadron T-shirt 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

Supplies are limited



Please contact of the individuals listed below:

- 1) Lt. Nate "Sniper" Oswald at Nathaniel.oswald@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

New Wing Coins in Stock



The new 104th Fighter Wing coins are on sale for \$5.00

To purchase, please contact your first sergeant.

Family Support Raffle Winners

The following members won the prizes below:

- Signed DC United Jersey ~ Joe Goldman
- Signed Baseball ~ Dave Halasi-Kun
- The RC Silverado ~ Raymon Diaz
- Air Force Bear ~ Charles Wilson
- Scented Candle Bear ~ Todd McCarthy
- Scented Candle Bear ~ Todd Wilson
- Scented Candle Bear ~ Keith Buckhout

Welcome to our newest members

Alicia Dimino	131 Fighter Squadron
Sharon Messina	Operations Support Flight
Antonio Martinez	Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Christopher Sperlin	Maintenance Squadron
Mark Costa	Operations Support Flight
Timothy Bellile	Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Congratulations to our retirees

Mark Lavigne, CES	2 Feb 09	Dennis Bates, MXS	23 Feb 09
Charles Kronoff, MOF	27 Feb 09	Peter Lupien, MXS	1 Mar 09
Michael Vassi, CES	16 Mar 09	Curtis Pichette, CES	16 Mar 09
Tina Meyer, MSF	30 Apr 09	Ruth Maio, SVF	7 May 09
Rolland Guyette	23 Jun 09		

Retirement Party for Master Sgt. Lupien

When: February 20th
 Time 11:00
 Location: Westwood Restaurant
 Tickets are \$18
 Tickets available from: Mike Styckiewicz, Robert Olelksak, Elvis Martinez or Timothy Dorman



Retirement Party for Master Sgt. Kronoff

When: February 27th
 Time 12:00
 Location: Westwood Restaurant
 Tickets are \$20
 Buffet with Roast Pork and Citrus Scrod
 Tickets available from: Capt Mike Dibrindisi, Master Sgt. Lisa Robbins, or Tech. Sgt. Kristin Martin



Retirement Party for Chief Master Sgt. Theroux

When: February 27th
 Time 5:30
 Location: Westwood Restaurant
 Tickets are \$35
 Dinner Buffet
 Tickets available from: Maj Desarro & Senior Master Sgt. Waltz



Congratulations on your promotions

To Airman First Class

Amanda Janisieski



To Senior Airman

Jason Grimaldi



Michael Trainor

Shane Morin



Michael Kennedy

Nathaniel Poudrier



To Staff Sgt.

Kenneth Liberty



To Tech. Sgt.

Lars Owren
 David Pittari



To Master Sgt.

Barbra Anthony



To Senior Master Sgt.

Dennis StJean
 Robert Roy

To First Lieutenat

Robert Cross



To Captain

Kimberly Files

Family Support Calendar

Pasta Night on March 27, 2009

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Dining Facility

Easter Egg Hunt on March 29, 2009

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Dining Facility

*Reservations Required

Pasta Night on September 18, 2008

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Dining Facility

Halloween Party on October 23, 2009

Time 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Dining Facility

*Reservations Required

Children's Christmas Party on December 6, 2009

Location & Time To be determined

Traditional Job Positions



Weapons Safety Manager Position

Location- 104FW/HQ

Minimum Grade- E-5 **Maximum Grade-** E-8/SMSGt

Position- Traditional Guardsman/women position (No Technicians or AGRs)

Mandatory AFSC Requirements- Member must possess a 2W071, 2W171 or 2MXXX AFSC

Duties- Basic duties are to manage the Commander's Wing Explosive Safety Program. Basic details can be found in AFI 91-202 paragraph 10.4.

Training Requirements- Selected individual is required to take the Introduction to Weapons Safety CD Rom and attend either the Air Force Weapons Safety Course at Lackland AFB for 6 weeks (preferred) or a two week Air National Guard Explosive Safety Course. In addition to weapons Safety School the applicant will be required to attend the 1-week Lightning Protection for Air Force Facilities Course (AMMO 47). Training must be completed within 1 year of assignment based on school availability.

Application Process and deadline- Interested applicants can apply by submitting a resume or other application method via E-mail or office mail to both Lt Col Jay Davis, 104FW Chief of Safety jay.davis@mabarn.ang.af.mil and Major Jeffery Beckel, 104FW/SE

Paralegal

Position/Title/Grade: Paralegal/E-6

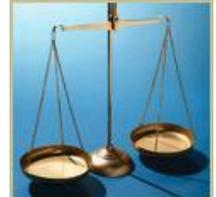
Minimum Grade eligible to apply: None—see below for Special Qualifications

Unit: 104th 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



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 Apprentice 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, 104th FW/JA, Barnes ANGB, 175 Falcon Drive, Westfield, MA 01085. You may also email your resume to robinpeterson@cox.net

Public Affairs Journalist

Position/Title/Grade: PA Journalist / Traditional / E-6 TSgt

Minimum Grade eligible to apply: None

Supervisor: Capt. Mary Harrington

Application Deadline: February 8

POC for more information: Capt. Harrington, ext 1263

Duties- Document the units activities through media stories, releases and advisories. Provide material for local, regional, national media outlets and maintain content on the unit's web page.



Week of Jan. 21 – Jan. 27, 2009

Joint Expeditionary Taskings

The Air Force provides vital capabilities to the Joint team in support of the Global War on Terror. Part of the missions and capabilities we deliver have until recently fallen into a broad category of tasks designated as "In-Lieu-Of" (ILO). The Department of Defense enacted several changes to Joint terminology in October 2008, replacing most ILO designations with other terms that more accurately describe the nature of the tasks.

With the introduction of these new DoD terms, the Air Force is launching the term "Joint Expeditionary Tasking" (JET) to describe the critical nature of the work Airmen are performing within the Joint team. Currently, there are a little more than 4,000 Airmen supporting JET.

The following are some facts about JET:

- In nearly all cases Airmen are filling jobs very similar to their Air Force jobs, duties which are within their core competencies. In 80 percent of the cases, Airmen are doing the same job they would be doing in the Air Force
- Nearly all force sourcing requirements being filled by our Airmen fall into Air Force core capabilities or competencies or involve us doing something for which no service has listed as a capability or competency
- Examples of JET include security forces cops guarding detainees, enlisted transportation personnel driving convoy trucks across the desert and civil engineers rebuilding infrastructure in Afghanistan

Airmen working JET are excited and motivated to perform their mission. Many of them are volunteers and many more wait impatiently for the opportunity to fill these critical roles. They are doing an incredible job and we should celebrate their accomplishments and recognize that working JET gives them invaluable joint war-fighting experience.

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

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Pride, Professionalism,
Patriotism.*

Were on the Web

WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL

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