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104TH FIGHTER WING • MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

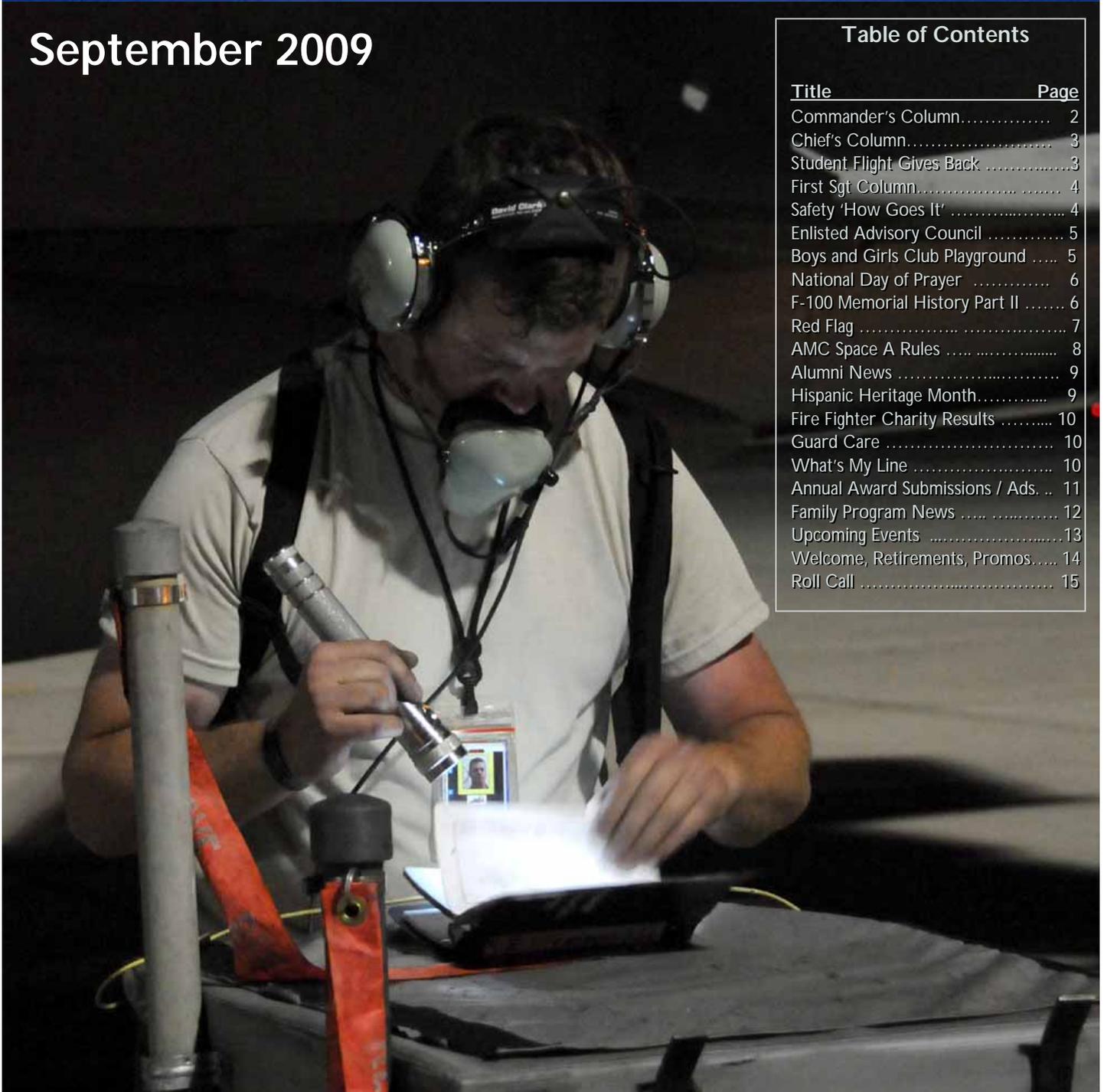
Pride, Professionalism, Patriotism

Barnes Air National Guard Base

September 2009

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Staff Sgt. Mike Kearns runs through the F-15 checklist prior to a night launch from Nellis AFB, Nevada during Operation Red Flag on Tuesday, September 1, 2009.

(Photo by Technical Sgt. Melanie J. Casineau)



Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

AIRSCOOP

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

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

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Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

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Commander's Column

By Col. Robert T. Brooks

For much of this summer we focused on the Health Services Inspection (HSI) and our Red Flag deployment. I would like to thank our 104th Medical Group for passing the Health Services Inspection under the leadership of Colonel Sean Collins. While I know Col Collins and our Med Group warriors were disappointed in the lack of an overall "Outstanding" grade, the inspection was a "Satisfactory" and of note the Area of Force Fitness – getting the Wing ready for war – was rated as an "Outstanding".

The conversion to the F-15 Eagle has not been easy, and it is only through the professionalism of each and every 104th member that we have come this far. I know the Medical Group is on the right vector, and the grade did not reflect the amount of work put in. We as a Fighter Wing will maintain our focus on the conversion; as a reminder; our FY2009 goals are listed below:

- **Maintain the Highest Degree of Combat Capability.**
- Meet 100% Global War on Terrorism and Homeland Security tasking.
- **Complete conversion to F-15 in a safe, effective, and efficient manner.**
- Mission Ready by 1 Oct 09.
- **Stand up Alert Force by Jan 2010 supporting Operation Noble Eagle and Homeland Defense.**
- Promote Safe, Secure Working Environment.
- **Zero Human Error induced mishaps.**
- Zero Security Infractions and Incidents.
- **Develop and Take Care of our Airmen and Families.**
- Properly Support Family Programs and Readiness.
- **Mentorship at all levels.**
- Prepare for inspections in a manner which will set us up for success and a grade of Outstanding..
- **Increase Unit Strength Numbers Above 100%**
- Retention > 98%
- **Recruiting Production > 110 recruits.**
- Partner with Local Community.
- **Foster strong community relations.**
- Be environmental friendly.
- **Minimize noise impact to local community.**

I will not go into detail with respect to each goal, but we had an extremely successful year. Our performance at Red Flag validated a lot of hard work put in from everyone. Maintenance provided quality jets and met a 95% sortie production rate despite temperatures exceeding 108 degrees on the flight line. Operations had extremely impressive Offensive and Defensive Counter Air missions in a very tough simulated combat environment. We cannot overlook the gigantic logistic and support train that made it happen. We had everything from cargo being driven over the road, multiple airlift aircraft being coordinated, and personnel support.

Clearly this Red Flag demonstrated tremendous team work and ultimately a grand success. Maj. Gen. Akey visited the unit during the second week of the exercise. While addressing the maintainers after the afternoon launch he was very clear in stating that this exercise tested the ability of the unit, and it is evident at this point that you have all passed.

Without question, the Barnestormers have made their mark in the Eagle and in the Combat Air Force community. Your persistence, professional competence, and pride in the unit has brought the 104th to a point where we are ready to take on Air Sovereignty Alert and deploy to combat to support National Military Objectives.

I am very proud of each and every group and the teamwork that has been displayed by all. I am proud to serve in the 104th Fighter Wing with all of you and extremely humbled to be able to lead this outstanding combat unit. Continue to be good wingmen to one another, watch each other's back, and we will have another successful year in 2010.



photographs by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis

Alcoholism is treatable!
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Command Master Sgt. Column By Command Chief Master Sgt. Al Reale

The characteristics of good followership and good leadership converge at the execution level of a well developed and well executed plan. There is no better example then what just transpired at Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Bases Nevada. When Col Brooks set our goals in clear language, (paraphrased) We are going to prepare for the HSI and Red Flag first, then once those are behind us, we will have laser focus on our exercise and becoming operational in the ASA mission. From a followership perspective, this was an easy assignment, the path was set, and all that was left was execution. This is where the BarneStormer family is known for terrific results.

As a team, the wing worked to bolster its health-program related statistics, filling out paperwork, completing training and making sure the unit's medical readiness was up to

the standard. Simultaneously, the wing (all groups included) mustered around the central direction of taking our newly acquired F-15s to an exercise deployment at Red Flag. This two week encounter was filled with one great training opportunity after another. All of us were part of the huge success in our first Red Flag deployment in the Eagle. Our pilots were able to launch 95 of a possible 100 missions, a terrific mission effective rate, on par with our legacy in the Hog.

These two examples are just two of the most current demonstrations of where great leadership and followership converge. With these two examples, it is clear that we need to continue to follow our leaders with vigor and motivation toward successful outcomes. So what is next on our radar?

As we walk into drill, we will be coming in a day after a very important date for the 104th FW. Sept 11th should always be viewed as a motivator, as well as give the wing a perspective on what is important. The

next objective on the radar is for us to increase our unit readiness while preparing for our upcoming inspections, as well as become mission capable in the Air Sovereignty Alert mission. The ASA mission is tied directly to the events that occurred on September 11th 2001, and this time of year should remind folks of why we are here working so hard to achieve air defense in the North East.

Massachusetts F-15s were the first on site in New York after the terrorist attacks, and per the National Security Strategy, defending the homeland is the highest priority. Let me rephrase this, "the mission here at Barnes is the President's highest priority as it pertains to his national security strategy", if that does not motivate you and demonstrate the need for professionalism, pride and patriotism, I don't know what will. Keep working hard, the fruits of your labors are evident and appreciated at all levels.

Student Flight Gives Back

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

35 members of the 104th Fighter Wing's student flight program participated in a community service project to landscape the



photograph by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis

property at South Middle School on Sunday Aug. 2, 2009

The student flight is comprised of the newest members of the 104th Fighter Wing who complete a six-month rotating curriculum which indoctrinates and familiarizes them with the military while preparing them for basic training.

The Student Flight was looking for a way to get involved in the community and has begun an initiative where they will complete a new community service project every three months.

Master Sgt. Douglas Daponde, the programs coordinator said, "This is a way for the students to give back to the community

and also a way for the community to understand what the 104th Fighter Wing is about. We live and work in this community, and we take pride in it."



Airman Ross Larson weeds around a school middles school (photograph by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)



First Sgt.'s Column ~ "Just an Airman"

By Master Sgt. Fred Fopiano, Mission Support Group First Sgt.

Hearing the comment "I'm just an Airman" is one of my pet peeves. There is no such thing as "just an Airman". Every Airman, regardless of rank, has something of value to offer their organization. Be it knowledge attained in his or her civilian career, their willingness to give up time away from their family to get the mission accomplished, or their heart when it comes to taking care of their fellow Airmen.

We've all heard of Airman First Class Levitow, and Pitsenbarger; but you don't have to be a Medal of Honor recipient to be a true Airman. Let's take a look at a few "just an Airman" closer to home.

From the moment you drive in the Main Gate, you are greeted by "just an Airman". He or she arrived long before you did and will probably leave well after you. Yes our Security Forces are protecting you here and abroad so you can come to work and do "just an Airman" type jobs. They're the first ones to be in harm's way when things go wrong.

You perform your training or your job

then head off to lunch. You're being served by "just an Airman" who came in late Friday night to prepare your meals, and arrived early on Saturday and Sunday to make sure you got fed.

You sit at your desk and hey, your computer and phone both work. Yes, those are all maintained by "just an Airman".

Those noisy things on the ramp protecting this country are maintained by "just an Airman". They don't fly without all of the aircraft maintenance teams, be it Weapons, Avionics, Age, etc...

You're getting paid because of the actions of "just an Airman".

You enlisted due to the efforts put forth by "just an Airman".

Your uniform, head to toe, is ordered sized to fit by "just an Airman".

When you put on that uniform, be it daily, or for the UTA, you need to know that what you do and how you act while in that uniform means something.

If you think you're "just an Airman" with nothing positive to contribute to

this country, then why do you wear the uniform? Do you wear it because of free college, extra money? Do you do it to make a difference in this world?

If you truly feel you are "just an Airman", I ask you to put on your blues and attend a military funeral with our Honor Guard and look into the eyes of the family members. Do they think you are "just an Airman"?

That ache you will feel in your chest is your heart telling you that you are more than that; you are a member of the United States Air Force, and you are not "just an Airman", you are a True Airman.

Should you ever hear someone claim to be "just an Airman", take a moment and let them know how important they are to the Air Force, the Air National Guard, and to you. We cannot do this job alone; we need all Airmen to support the team effort to make the mission successful, regardless of rank or job.



Safety, 'How Goes-It?'

By Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Dumais, Ground Safety NCO

Here is a snapshot of the safety related incidents that occurred in the month of August. The Safety office reports and publishes the safety related incidents to identify trends and to look for new ways to prevent mishaps or injuries.

August

Injuries

1. Civilian injured/distress; trouble breathing; fall from motorcycle; no lost time
2. Worker injured; knee swelling; ascending ladder; lost time
3. TDY Worker distress; dehydration;

heat stress; no lost time

Mishaps

1. Bird strike; impacted flap; landing roll; no damage
2. GMV damage; scratched paint; impacted fence; cost TBD
3. Bird strike; impacted #1 engine; landing roll; no damage
4. GMV struck bollard w/pallet; destroyed A/C pallet; operator error; \$1226.00 damage
5. Bird Strike; ingested in #2 engine; on landing roll; no damage

As you can see, two of the five mishaps were government motor vehicle mishaps that took place on base and at slow speeds.

The lessons to be learned from both of these are to be aware of your surroundings at all times and when you think what you are doing is safe, check again to make sure.



Enlisted Advisory Council

By Senior Airman Jennifer Krutka, 104FW/HQ EAC Rep

During the August UTA EAC meeting there were many topics discussed, to include the outcome of the scarecrow program during the UTA, base participation in volunteer opportunities, and ancillary training.

The scarecrow program had a disappointing turnout this past UTA, unfortunately not one person caught any of the three designated scarecrows. The First Sergeants would like to stress that this program's primary purpose is to improve our situational awareness and help the unit raise its dress and appearance standard. In an effort to make this program more successful, we encourage you to take a few minutes and look over AFI 36-2903 and make sure not only you are within Air Force regulations, but so you can successfully correct others who may not be in Air Force regulations. With this said, a couple FYIs; walking and talking on a cell phone in uniform is now authorized, however the displaying of the ball cap off the cargo pocket of the BDU/ABU is no longer authorized.

Another topic of discussion was base participation. There are many volunteer opportunities throughout the fiscal year that are in constant need of help. The latest volunteer opportunity

is the Big E's Westfield day parade on Thursday October 1st. The deadline to volunteer for this event is September 25th. Submit your name to Chief Master Sgt. Morse if you are interested. This is a great opportunity to give



back to the community. Keep in mind, if you are looking for a future promotion, a certain award, or even for a once in a lifetime chance of an incentive flight on an F-15, these type of events are fantastic bullet statements for your 1206s!

The last topic discussed was the idea of creating a 'cyber' library to help Airmen be able to conduct ancillary training during the week and UTA weekends. It was brought to our at-

tention that not every shop has a computer for everyone in that shop; therefore completing ancillary training can be extremely frustrating due to time constraints and lack of resources during the drills. With this possibility of a 'cyber' library, it would even be possible for personnel to come out on AT days (with supervisor's permission) to accomplish all their CBT training in one day, without having to worry about a computer to accomplish them on. This has been an on-going issue, and the amount of ancillary training that is required is not going anywhere anytime soon. With that said, we are going to work this issue to try and make this mission easier and more convenient to meet for everyone. We will keep you posted on this possible solution.

We continue to encourage all to find your EAC representative and get to know them, so when something comes up that you would like to be addressed on a higher level, it can be brought to the EAC meeting. If you would like to be involved with EAC, please let your representative know so that it can be arranged, it is a great opportunity to lend a hand in supporting base morale, also a good bullet for your 1206! Have an outstanding September drill!

Boys and Girls Club Have a New Playground

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

When it comes to taking care of the military, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield is always in the front of the line waiting to help. At the beginning of August, 20 Airmen from the 104th Fighter Wing pitched in and helped create a new playground for the children.

In total, more than 200 community members came out to swing hammers, rake mulch, assemble swings, and build picnic tables.



photograph by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis

National Days of Prayer and Remembrance Presidential Proclamation



They were daughters and sons, sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, spouses and partners, family and friends, colleagues and strangers. They hailed from cities and towns across our Nation and world. On September 11, 2001, thousands of innocent women and men were taken from us, and their loss leaves an emptiness in our hearts. Hundreds perished as planes truck the skyline of New York City, the structure of the Pentagon, and the grass of Pennsylvania. In the immediate aftermath of these tragedies, many victims died as they sought safety. Selflessly placing themselves in danger, first responders, members of the Armed Forces, and private citizens made the ultimate sacrifice working to assist others.

During the National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, Americans across the country cherish the memory of all those who passed and honor and pray for their families and friends.

Americans also remember and pray for the safety and success of the members of the United States Armed Forces,

who work every day to keep our Nation safe from terrorism and other threats to our security. Military members assisted those in need on September 11, 2001, and serve now in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. They have left the safety of home so that our Nation might be more secure. They have endured great sacrifice so that we might enjoy the blessings of liberty.

Our servicemembers represent the best of America, and they deserve our deepest respect and gratitude.

The threat of terrorism has denied too many men, women, and children their right to live in peace and security. As the United States works to defeat terrorists and build a more hopeful future for our children and young people across the world, we seek humility and strength.

We reflect upon the lessons drawn from our national tragedy, seek God's guidance and wisdom, and, never forgetting the lost, commit to working in common cause with our friends and allies to create a safer and

brighter world for current and future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 4, through Sunday,

September 6, as National Days of Prayer and Remembrance. I ask that the people of the United States, each in their own way, honor the victims of September 11, 2001, and their families through prayer, memorial services, the ringing of bells, and evening candlelight remembrance vigils. I invite the people of the world to share in this solemn commemoration.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

History of the F-100 Memorial ~ Part II By Army Spc. Lisa Pauli

Major Robert Anderstrom of West Springfield lost his life while returning from a cross-country flight when his F-51 crashed into a wooded hillside near Granby (Newgate), Connecticut, on May 7th, 1954.

He was returning from Mitchel AFB, where he attended a briefing on the participation of the unit in a national Armed Forces Day event. He was the Commanding Officer of the 8131st Replacement Training Squadron and flying training officer for the Air Technical Detachment. He graduated from Technical High school, Springfield in 1928, and after training as a draftsman in Pittsfield

General Electric plant, he worked there until 1942. He then served 4 ½ yrs in the Air Force in the Pacific theatre as a fighter pilot, rejoining Pittsfield GE plant after the war. In 1952 he went back on active duty with the 131st fighter interceptor squadron, Mass ANG at Barnes airport. A veteran of over twelve years of service, including action with the 20th Air Force against Japan, he had well over 2000 flying hours, including jet fighter time.

He was employed as flying training supervisor for the squadron's Air Technical Detachment. He received full military honors when he was buried on May 10th, 1954. At his funeral, a formation of over

150 officers and airmen represented the squadron. Maj Anderstrom was married and left behind 3 young daughters.



One of Maj Anderstrom's achievements, was that he was the first president of the AFL Draftsmen's Union Local 140 at the Pittsfield General Electric plant. During the 31st annual convention of the AFL American Federation of Technical Engineers in San Francisco, the 100 delegates adopted a motion naming the convention after Major Anderstrom.

Exercise Red Flag

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

The 104th Fighter Wing was part of something very special during the weeks of August 21st through September 4th. Despite the wing being in conversion status until its Initial Operations Capability (IOC), it deployed 150 Airmen and eight F-15s to test its capabilities against some of the best Air Force fighters in the world during Exercise RED FLAG. An event that typically hosts combat ready wings, the Barnestormers realized the only way to see if they were ready to take on its operational mission was to go head to head with the best. The wing is scheduled



photograph by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis

to achieve IOC in the winter of 2009. The unit departed for Exercise RED FLAG at Nellis AFB, Nevada, where it would be the sole Air to Air aircraft working within an exercise Joint Task Force of more than 40 aircraft representing different combat capabilities and forces. U.S. Air Force F-16s, B-52s, A-10s, E-3s, KC-10s, KC-135s and F-15s worked with Navy EA-6Bs, Marine F-18s, along with UAE F-16s and Italian AMX's and flew exercise combat missions against targets in the deserts of Nevada, simulating the conflicts overseas. Our F-15s served as the single point of air sovereignty throughout these missions, and were responsible for sanitizing an airspace guarded by up to 30 aggressor aircraft. In the given scenarios, our aircraft were responsible to clear the air or defend a location from hostile forces, allowing bombers and other air assets to have unrestricted access to targets on the ground. The aggressor squadron was comprised of F-15s and F-16s from Nellis where the pilots train to fight other units and simulate aircraft we

would potentially encounter if we engaged in an air war.

In the same process as an air campaign is executed within the CENTCOM theater, every day's operation began the day prior with careful and tedious preparation. The 'blue air' would have to orchestrate every action, calculating the timing and patterns for the airflow as they led the push toward specified targets. The value in this exercise was the training that took place throughout the process of planning, then executing a mission, and upon return, receiving real-time feedback. From the experience gained through collaborating with multinational and interservice groups, to reviewing the mission as it unfolded once everyone had landed, the pilots were able to simulate the same processes they would encounter during a real conflict. Some missions were more successful than others, but often the greatest lessons learned often occurred after a flight came without achieving all the objectives. Everyone would review what went wrong, develop lessons-learned, and pass those on to the future flight leads. Throughout the exercise, the "red air" aggressors adapted their strategies to counter the trends and performance the 104th fighters and the other members of the 'blue air'. This air and space chess match continued to challenge and develop the pilots to employ new and more efficient tactics.

To make this deployment possible, a legion of Airmen put forth a herculean effort preparing for and supporting the deployment. Two tractor-trailers left the base a week before the exercise to get the needed equipment to Nevada. Airlift and personnel movements were coordinated months in advance. Once on the ground, teams of maintainers worked around the clock to launch 95 of a possible 100 missions. The 131st Fighter Squadron flew both at 3:00 p.m. and again at 10:00 p.m. simulating the fight pattern in a true conflict. With 24 hour operations, our members truly practiced as they would fight.



photograph by Technical Sgt. Melanie J. Casineau

During the final days of the exercise Maj. Gen. Mike Akey, the Massachusetts Air National Guard Commander, traveled to Red Flag to see first-hand how the 'war' was going. "I am so impressed with the work and determination demonstrated by this unit." He was able to walk through the missions, from the pilots initial concept brief, watch the mission unfold in real-time through the information recorded with the aircraft's on-board sensors, and concluded with the post mission debriefing where the shots were validated and the lessons were learned. Gen Akey also walked the line during the aircraft recovery, after the launch, and during the generation for the next mission. "This Exercise provided a very valuable test for the 104th, and they passed this test."



photograph by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis

New Space-A Web Site

By Mark Diamond, Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFRNS) -- Air Mobility Command here recently unveiled its first official, command-level AMC Travel Web site.

People planning to travel the AMC military travel system can now point their Web browsers to www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp <<http://lyris.dmasa.dma.mil/t/2246039/5018673/5885/0/>> for the latest in AMC travel information.

The site, which officially went live July 24, offers prospective space-available travelers a wealth of information, including an updated AMC passenger terminal contact list (complete with phone, e-mail and Web links), and more than a dozen travel documents, example letters and brochures.

Every day around the world, hundreds of military and military-contracted commercial aircraft travel the world delivering troops and cargo. And each year, hundreds of thousands of military personnel, retirees, and their family members go along for the ride, courtesy of the AMC space-available travel program.

Space-available flights, also known as "military hops," are a unique benefit to U.S. service members, retirees and their families. Under the AMC travel program, unused seats on U.S. military and military-contracted aircraft are made available to non-duty passengers on a space-available basis (once space-required or official-duty passengers and cargo have been accommodated).

According to one AMC travel expert, the AMC Travel Web site was created simply because "AMC customers deserve it."

"(The AMC Travel) site was created to provide our customers a wealth of AMC travel information, which can be counted on to contain the most accurate and up-to-date travel information available," said Tech. Sgt. Steve Katsonis of the AMC

passenger policy branch. "Our customers deserved a Web site where they can obtain travel information that is correct, up to date and validated by AMC. This Web site will give them that."

Sergeant Katsonis said AMC officials understand the massive amount of anxiety and stress felt by space-required and space-available travelers.

"Our goal is that this site will answer any questions the passengers will have, there-



KC-135 Stratotanker, an Air Mobility Command aircraft that can seat up to 50 passengers, flies into Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas Nevada (photo by SMSgt. Rob Sabonis)

fore minimizing their stress before they leave their homes," he said.

In the past, prospective space-available passengers frequently turned to one of several AMC headquarters offices in search of travel information. Sergeant Katsonis said although headquarters personnel are trained to respond to these public queries, he hopes the new Web site will provide all their information and more. Additionally, he said trained passenger service agents at AMC terminals worldwide are standing by to assist. People searching for up-to-the-minute AMC travel information are encouraged to contact their nearest AMC passenger terminal. A current listing is available on the new AMC Travel site.

Another benefit of the new AMC Travel site is that it will be updated with the latest breaking news and updates. For instance, Sergeant Katsonis said active-duty dependent travel policies have gone through a few significant changes during the past few years.

He said Department of Defense officials now allow unaccompanied travel by dependents when the military spouse is deployed on contingency/exercise/deployment orders, also known as CED orders.

According to Sergeant Katsonis, when the deployment is for 120 days or more, unaccompanied travel is authorized in category IV; and for deployments of 366 days or more, unaccompanied travel is authorized in the bottom of category III.

Sergeant Katsonis said he wants people to know that space-available travel is a great benefit, but it can be a stressful experience without the proper planning.

"AMC never guarantees travel, and passengers need to be prepared for their (space-available) trip to take more time than it would were they traveling commercial," the sergeant said.

He added that not every base is equipped with facilities or lodging capable of handling passengers stranded by a broken or rerouted aircraft.

"The most important thing to remember when traveling Space-A is be prepared to fly commercial if problems are encountered" Sergeant Katsonis said. "The key to a stress-free trip is to have a plan. Have enough money for all contingencies, and be mentally prepared for disappointment when plans don't come together." (Courtesy of AMC News Service)

Alumni News

Hope that you have enjoyed the summer...wonder where it went. It sure seems to have blown by and here we are now facing Fall and Winter and the cold weather. Oh well, next year is another year to look forward to. Our July reunion attendance was great. We achieved an attendance of 129, exceeding July 2008 attendance of 120. Great job! Keep up the reunion promotion among your ANG friends. In September, 2008, attendance was a low 76. We should be able to beat that number this year. Let's give it our best shot!

The September Alumni Meeting and Reunion:

WHEN: 16 September, 2009

WHERE: NCO Club

TIME: 6:00 pm // Attitude Adjustment Hour with Appetizers,

DINNER: 7:00 pm // Roast pork with gravy, oven roasted potatoes, zucchini & summer squash medley, rolls and butter, garden salad, dessert & coffee

COST: \$13.00

PLEASE NOTE: PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR. Walk-ins may attend, BUT will be unable to obtain a dinner...NO EXCEPTIONS. The CUT-OFF DATE for our September reunion is MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 2009.

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RESERVATION and it MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 pm on the cut-off date to make your dinner reservation and for access to the base. Checks received AFTER the cut-off date WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU and a dinner will not be available. RESERVATION CANCELLATIONS MADE PRIOR TO 5PM on the cut-off date will entitle you to a full refund. No-shows are NOT entitled to a refund.

Guests are always welcome at our reunions. We strongly encourage each of you to send your reservation check as early as possible. IMPORTANT!!!! Please INCLUDE your guests full name on the check (no nic names).

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to all who donated items for our raffle. There were many winners and a great time was had by all.

All communications related to reservations and payment must be MADE DIRECTLY to Len Frigon at 589-9157.

If you have any questions related to our reunion, please call Pam Spear at 569-2422 or Len Frigon at 589-9157.

Hispanic Heritage Month ~ September By 2Lt James Stebbins, 104 Equal Opportunity Office

President Lyndon Johnson began the recognition of Hispanic Heritage in 1968 as a Hispanic Heritage Week. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded the observation to a month. Hispanic American recognition was enacted into law in August 1988 upon the approval of Public Law 100-402.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16 and Chile on September 18.

The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race. On the 2000 Census form, people of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino." More than 35 million people identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino on the 2000 Census. Here is a short Hispanic Heritage Quiz:

1. Who was the first Hispanic American Flying Ace?

- A. Bob Marley
- B. Col. Manuel J. Fernandez Jr.
- C. Gen. Jose Gonzalez
- D. Gen. David Petraeus

2. Who became the first Hispanic American Medal of Honor recipient in 1865?

- A. Philip Bazaar
- B. Henry Cisneros
- C. Alberto Gonzalez
- D. Abraham Lincoln

3. Who was the first Hispanic American to become a four star Admiral?

- A. David G. Farragut
- B. David Ortiz
- C. Horacio Rivero
- D. Romana Acosta Banuelos

4. In what year did Edward Hidalgo become the first Hispanic American Secretary of the Navy?

- A. 1887
- B. 1991
- C. 1775
- D. 1979



5. In what year did General Richard E. Cavazos become the Army's first Hispanic American four star General?

- A. 1976
- B. 1982
- C. 1986
- D. 1492

6. In what year did Joseph Marion Hernandez become the first Hispanic American member of the U.S. Congress?

- A. 1956
- B. 1981
- C. 1956
- D. 1822

Answers: 1) Col. Manuel J. Fernandez Jr., who flew 125 combat missions in the Korean War 2) Philip Bazaar, for bravery during the Civil War. He was a Chilean member of the US Navy 3) Horacio Rivero of Puerto Rico in 1964 4) 1979 5) 1982 6) 1822, he was a Florida delegate

104th Fire Department Golf Tournament

This year the 104th Fighter Wing Fire Department was again able to make a sizable donation to the Holyoke Solders Home to help improve the quality of life at the hospital. Through the multiple fund-raising events to include the boot drive, raffles and the annual golf tournament, the fire department was able to donate \$9,400.



(L to R) Mr. Jim Black, Mike Pasterczyk, Larry Buell, Tom Zuffelato. (photo by SMSgt Sabonis)

104th Medical Group Guard Care

It has now been more the 13 years since the first Guard Care occurred. The 104th Medical Group has teamed up with the Westfield HeadStart to provide free back-to-school health screenings for underprivileged pre-school students. This years event was no different then previous events and the medical team catered to more then 200 children on September 10, 2009.



(photos by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)

What's My Line Winner!



Photo by Technical Sgt. Melanie Casineau

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:

104fw.pa@ang.af.mil

Last month's winners are:

Q: "Sir? What are you doing?" A: "I found this big orange thing over there. What do you think its for? HelooooooooOOOOOOOO! I wonder if I can hear the ocean in here."

~ Submitted by SrA Wesley J Sobczyk

"Caution my arm pit stinks."

~ Submitted by MSgt Eric Lemoine

What's My Line?



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis



Annual Award Submissions and General G. Keefe Award By The Chiefs Council

It is time to start working on those annual award packages for your outstanding troops. The Chiefs Council would like to remind you that while you compile the Wing's Annual Award

packages according to Barnes Instruction 36-2805, you should also start considering nominations for The General Keefe Award. The instructions, information and Air Force form 1206 process can be found in the Y drive in the folder marked General Keefe Award.

The deadline for submission to the Chief's Council is 18 September 2009.

Last year the Chiefs Council selected Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Delaney for this award after considering more than 10 applications. This award is designed to recognize members who embody the Airman's Creed and demonstrate leadership and dedication.

General Keefe Enlisted Award:

Presented from the Enlisted Voice

Award Criteria: Leadership-taking care of people, setting a positive example and still being grounded, discipline, responsible, integrity & a strong family connection.

Use standard AF Form 1206 to submit candidate choices to Chief council for board. Submissions start in August and end in October of the UTA.

Prepare and post a draft 1206 template with sample bullets for use.

The Chief's Council will have a board to select the honoree in November.

The award will be from the Chief's Council & purchased by the Chief's council.

Barnestormer & 131st Fighter Squadron 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

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



104th Legal Office

Walk in legal assistance hours:

Every Saturday of the UTA

0900 – 1100 hours**

Bldg 1, Room 119

[Services provided by the 104th Legal Office:](#)

Wills/Powers of Attorney, Reemployment Rights, Service-members' Civil Relief Act, Deployment related legal assistance

**If you are unable to visit the legal office during this time, please call us at ext. 1244 to make an appointment. We will accommodate your schedule.

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 Programs News

eKnowledge Corporation Donates \$25 Million of FREE SAT/ACT Test Prep Software to Military

eKnowledge Corporation, the leading supplier of interactive learning software for college test preparations donating \$200 Test Prep Programs FREE to military families worldwide.

As we approach our nation's 233rd birthday, eKnowledge would like to honor America's military families. "We're very proud of our men and women in uniform and deeply appreciate their sacrifice for our country," commented Charlie Beall, Chairman and CEO of eKnowledge Corporation. Mr. Beall, a former Marine, stated, "We want to ensure that our military families have the support they deserve with their continuing education requirements."

Over the past three years, eKnowledge has donated over \$25 million of FREE SAT/ACT software to America's military families and received tens of thousands of thank you letters and testimonials from grateful recipients of the donation.

eKnowledge Corporation has extended the FREE SAT/ACT donation program through 2010. Eligible recipients* may order the software by visiting: www.eKnowledge.com/military

For further information, please contact Lori Caputo, Vice President, Military Donation Programs, 770-992-0900

LoriCaputo@eKnowledge.com

HOME MADE POLISH GOLUMPKI (CABBAGE ROLL) SALE

Proceeds Benefit the Family Readiness Group (FRG) Activities
 Pre-paid orders only, send payment to Pat Connors (FRG) or Sandy Wakefield (Family Support Coordinator) by 13 October.

1/2 Dozen (6 each) @ \$8.00 = _____

1 Dozen @ \$15.00 = _____

Calling All Military Brides - USO to Host a Designer Gown Give-Away in December 2009!

Exciting news on the "Wedding Front" for members of the Armed Forces who are planning their nuptials.

A local bridal retailer is looking to give back to the brave men and women who serve our country.

Through a partnership with USO New England, women who are currently serving in the military, or those who are to be wed to a serving military member, will be able to attend a holiday Gown Give-Away event this December, where hundreds of brides-to-be will be able to each choose a designer wedding gown as a gift from our generous donor.

In an effort to organize a successful event, we are looking to determine the number of brides in New England who may be interested in participating.

If you are a bride-to-be or know someone who is interested in this offer, please take a moment and send your/their name, military status, state of residency and wedding date to amanda@uso-newengland.org. Details on where and how to participate in this event will be emailed back to you on October 1, 2009.

Please no phone calls at this time, as we are still in the planning stages and do not have specific details to offer.

New Website Designed to help Children Prepare for Emergencies

FEMA launched a new website <http://www.ready.gov> to help families and businesses prepare for unexpected emergencies.

One fun and creative approach to family preparedness is the introduction of 'Ready Kids' found at <http://www.ready.gov/kids/index.html>

You should ask your children, Are you ready to put your planning skills to good use? Are you ready to help your family get prepared for the unexpected? Your family can use this Web site to create a plan that will help you be ready for many different kinds of unexpected situations!

Let them know that they're already good planners! Every day you get your homework done, get to music or sports practice on time, and plan where and when you'll meet up with friends. But how do you get prepared for emergencies?

It's simple! It just takes planning and practice, and these fun activities from Ready Kids can help!

Click on these easy steps, talk to your family, and make a plan and put it in a safe place. When you're all through, you'll be ready to graduate from Readiness U!

Halloween Party & Haunted Hayride

October 23, 2009 – 1800 hrs
 Dining Facility
 Children ages 1-10



Reservations are required. Please call Sandy Wakefield x1183 or Pat Connors x1717

Children are encouraged to wear costumes to the event. There will be pumpkin decorating, Halloween parade, Storyteller and hayride. Goodie bags will be given to all children under 10.

Family members and Airmen who would like to volunteer to spook the children during the hay ride, contact Capt Mutti at x1800

Join us for
**VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY
IN THE PARK!**



Dunn State Park
Rt. 101
Gardner, MA

Saturday, Sep. 26, 2009
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

FREE!

Come out and have fun with your family, enjoy the natural beauty that awaits you at Dunn State Park. With specialized accessible equipment, everyone can enjoy the activities offered, such as kayaking, hiking, fly fishing, golfing, and Geocaching. Also, learn what other benefits and services are available to you. Refreshments will be provided.

[Click here to Register](#)
or, visit: www.mass.gov/veterans

DRIVING DIRECTIONS
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: MBTA



For more information, contact: SAVE Team (617) 210 5761 or SAVE@massmail.state.ma.us
Department of Veterans Services 600 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111



University of Massachusetts - Amherst
Men's Club Hockey

2009 Military Appreciation Night

Date: December 4th
Time: 9:00pm
Location: **FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL**
Mullins Center Community Arena
University of Massachusetts - Amherst, Campus
(www.mullinscenter.com)

Versus



Activities will include:

- National Anthem (Colors by Westover Air Reserve Base Honor Guard)
- Ceremonial Puck Drop
- 50/50 Raffle with a donation made to the "Angel Tree Foundation @ Westover Air Reserve Base"
- Autographed UMass Game Jersey Raffle
- Autographed Team Picture Presented to Visiting Dignitaries
- Autographed Game Program for Each Attendee

Email: clubhockey@umass@yahoo.com
Website: <http://umassclubhockey.com>



Hispanic Diversity Dinner

Hispanic Emphasis Program invites you to their
Second Annual Dinner Celebration
Please join us in celebrating our Hispanic Heritage within the
Massachusetts National Guard

Where: Mechanics Hall
321 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
When: Friday, September 25, 2009
Time: 1800-0000 (6 p.m.- 12 a.m.)
Ticket: \$35

The event is to provide awareness and education about the Hispanic culture within the Massachusetts National Guard while creating alliances with outside organizations.

Music, live entertainment, dancing and Hispanic buffet included.

-Make checks payable to MFDG
-Mail checks to JFHQ, 50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757
-Attention: Mr. Thomas Desmond, 508-233-7347

Civilian Semi-Formal Attire
Class A/Dress Blues (optional)

Sponsored by: Massachusetts Federal Diversity Group



EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION
MILITARY AND VETERANS' APPRECIATION DAY

DATE: FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2009

TIME: 8:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.

PLACE: EASTERN STATES FAIRGROUNDS

1305 MEMORIAL AVE.
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA.

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL VETERANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL WITH PROOF OF MILITARY OR VETERANS' I.D AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES. THERE WILL BE A PARKING FEE OF \$5.00



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now
September 15 - October 15

Welcome to our Newest Members

Dominic Scapin	MXS
Randy Hoffman	MXS
Andrew Laporte	LRS
Barry Headlee	FSS
Karl Nawskon	LRS
Matthew Benedetti	PA
Bonnie Harper	PA

Congratulations to our Retirees

Rhodes, Charles	SFS	30 Aug 09
Jankowsky, Gregory	MXS	29 Sep 09
Reuter, Daniel	SFS	14 Nov 09
Harnet, James	CE	8 Feb 10

Massachusetts National Guard Veterans Day Ball

When: Saturday, November 7th

Where: Victoria Station, Worcester Mass.

Time: 6:00 to 11:00 p.m

Cost per ticket:

E1—E-5 ~ \$25.00

E-6—E-7 / O-1 / Retired ~ \$ 42.00

E-8—E-9 / O-2 —O-3 ~ \$50.00

O-4 and above ~ \$60.00

Please contact Capt Mutti at x1800 if you would like more information.

Band Officer/Conductor Opening

The Air National Guard Band of the Northeast is a component of the Massachusetts Air National Guard. The band consists of 40 highly skilled musicians who perform for thousands of people throughout the six Northeast states, New York, and New Jersey.



For an application package guide and more information contact:

Captain John D. Keeler /Commander, ANG Band of the Northeast
50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757 / (508) 233-6675

john.keeler@us.army.mil <http://www.bandofthenortheast.ang.af.mil>

Congratulations on your Promotions

To Airman First Class (E-3)

Amn Karrasch, 104 MXS
Amn Serrano, 104 LRS



To Senior Airman (E-4)

A1C McGrath, 104 FSS
A1C Reinholz, 104 CES
A1C Becker, 104 AMXS
A1C Dowd, 104 AMXS



To Staff Sgt. (E-5)

SrA Anderson, AMXS
SrA Quigley, AMXS
SrA Dalessio, SFS



To Tech. Sgt. (E-6)

SSgt Mitchell, CES
SSgt Savard, CES



To Master Sgt. (E-7)

TSgt Burbee III, 104 MXS



To Second Lieutenant (O-1)

Staff Sgt. Rice, 131 FS
Staff Sgt. Costa, 131 FS



To Major (O-4)

Capt Wittmer, 131 FS



To Lieutenant Colonel (O-5)

Maj Plonka, 104 OSF





Army and Air National Guard members are encouraged to provide their civilian employment information to the Department of Defense through a mandatory program that has been around since the early 1990s.

The Civilian Employment Information program makes it possible for defense officials to know who can be called up for active duty without jeopardizing the civilian forces responsible for safeguarding our country, said Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt, the director of the Air National Guard in a memorandum to the states.

Reporting by the 450,000-member National Guard has been very good in the past with more than 90 percent providing information in the last five years, said James Lamback, the chief of Employer Support for the National Guard Bureau. But information is required to be updated every year, and reporting for this year is less than 20 percent for both services.

The goal for the Army Guard is to reach 75 percent by Sept. 30, the end of this fiscal year, according to a memorandum from Army Col. Marianne Watson, the head of the Army Guard's personnel office.

Guardmembers must fill in 10 specific data fields concerning their civilian employer, including employment status, employer's name and mailing address, their job title and their total number of years in their current civilian occupation.

Technicians must also register as government employees.

As part of this program, the DOD must: give consideration to civilian workers, including emergency responders such as police officers, firefighters and medical personnel; ensure more members with critical civilian jobs and skills are not retained in the Guard longer than necessary to respond to emergencies; and inform civilian employers of their rights and responsibilities under the 1994 Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act.

The information could also be used to determine which units or unit members should be mobilized, defense officials said. Information about full-time employers would also make it possible for DoD officials to enhance employer support for the Guard and Reserve.

Employees are considered full time for Civilian Employment Information purposes if their employer considers them to be employed full time. Self-employed personnel are considered full time if they work for themselves for an average of at least 30 hours per week.

Guardmembers who fail or refuse to provide this information, or who knowingly provide false employment-related information, may be subject to administrative action or punishment, officials said.

Employment data can be entered on the Defense Manpower Data Center Web site. <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/>

MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Barnes Air National Guard Base
175 Falcon Drive
Westfield, MA 01805

Phone: (413) 568-9151
Fax: (413) 525-1515
E-mail: 104fw.PA@ang.af.mil
Official Web: www.104fw.ang.af.mil

Social Media Sites:
www.facebook.com/barnesang
www.twitter.com/104fighterwing
www.flickr.com/photos/barnesangb



PRIDE,
PROFESSIONALISM,
PATRIOTISM

We're on the Web

WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL

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