



AIRSCOOP

104TH FIGHTER WING • MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Pride, Professionalism, Patriotism

Barnes Air National Guard Base

January 2013



Col. Robert Brooks Jr. makes an approach to land during his final flight in an F-15 on December 5th, 2012.

Photograph by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis



Col. James J. Keefe

AIRSCOOP

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

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

www.104fw.ang.af.mil
E-mail: 104fw.pa@ang.af.mil

Wing Commander
Col. James J. Keefe

Vice Wing Commander
Col. Kenneth Lambrich

**Command
Chief Master Sergeant**
Chief Master Sgt. Todd Fappiano

Chief of Staff
Lt. Col. Mike Cousins

Wing Executive Staff Officer
Maj. Matthew T. Mutti

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Mary L. Harrington

Managing Editor
Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis

Photo and Graphic Support
Public Affairs - Visual Information

Commander's Column
By Col. James J. Keefe, 104th FW Commander

Barnestormers, this is my first article as your new commander and I want to set the tone immediately.

This unit has been part of my family since I was very young; I have a lot of pride in the 104th Fighter Wing. But it's important to remember that this unit is what we make of it today. It is a product of our work as a Wing and your hard work as a person, within your specialty... our future success depends on you, each one of you.

We have been blessed in the past with some of the hardest working Guardsmen in the country, setting the standard for other units to follow...and that tradition continues today. Our next big task is the Combined Unit Inspection, but to succeed, we will all have to work hard.

As we transitioned into the F-15, the Wing leadership team made a conscious choice to focus our efforts toward the conversion, then the Unit Compliance Inspection. By doing so, we did not practice our war-time mission as much as we had while flying the A-10. I understand the next few months will be difficult, as we regain our war-time proficiency, but our intense preparation for the Combined Unit Inspection is most important, and the right thing to do.

I am not naive to the fact there are a lot of rumors around the base, so let me quell one of them. The Wing is going to proceed with our Combined Unit Exercises, as planned, and on schedule.

There are discussions about a future runway renovation project, but the timing for the project is very flexible. We CANNOT afford to delay preparation for our inspection.

Without question, our focus is to prepare for the Combined Unit Inspection, and remain resilient if change happens. If the runway project comes to fruition, the unit will rely on our friends at Westover, to

maintain our level of readiness; which will require everyone to remain mission and safety focused.

Communication, personal responsibility and dedication will be essential for our future successes. In a challenging defense and fiscal environment, our unit's future is tied directly to how well we compete with peer-units, and our inspection results and abilities to meet our homeland and global defense missions are critical to our longevity.

We cannot lose focus... our preparation is essential for successful execution. Thanks for all your efforts, your focus, and for staying positive.

Table of Contents

- 2 [Commander's column](#)
- 3 [Chief's column](#)
- 3 [First Sergeant column](#)
- 4 [CSAF Letter to Airman](#)
- 5 [New Director of ANG](#)
- 5 [Chaplain Corner](#)
- 6 [New Colonel at JFHQ](#)
- 7 [Recycling for green](#)
- 7 [Safety: How Goes-it](#)
- 8 [Start on Ice / Umass Hockey](#)
- 9 [Award Banquet / Tricare info](#)
- 10 [Unit Vacancies / Scholarships](#)
- 11 [Family Support News](#)
- 12 [Promotions / Retirements / CCTV](#)
- 13 [This month in history](#)

Alcoholism is treatable!
Need help? Call 1-800-410-2560
Sexual Assault S.A.F.E. helpline
1-877-995-5247



Chief Master Sergeant's Column

By Chief Master Sgt. Todd Fappiano, 104th FW Command Chief

When you think about Army, Navy and Marine traditions, you probably think about traditions that are deep-seated in the

culture of the force. But when you think about the Air Force, can you think of traditions that define the force? How about our unit, what traditions do we have?

This is a slightly loaded question because I have a few traditions in mind, that I feel define our force. But my perspective may not be yours, so let me use this article to help you see the traditions from my perspective.

One such tradition is our annual awards program. For as long as we have been a unit, we have taken time

each year to recognize our outstanding members. Each one of you, over the past 365 days has dedicated themselves to excellence, from deployments to homeland defense here at home. In February we will come together as a unit to identify the best of the best.

Now, ask yourself...what really makes a tradition like this stick? The answer is participation; so buy your tickets today for the awards banquet.

In addition to this tradition, you will see a resurgence of traditions within the unit this year. We will be re-introduced and exposed to events and traditions that will help you understand the history of the unit, and the greater Air Force. There is work underfoot for the unit to host a dining-in later this year; which is laden with traditions and culture (not to mention fun).

But not all traditions are wrapped in

fun events, some traditions are part of how you do things, not just what you do. Traditions can be defined by how you train, the way you fight and the way you win.

Our unit has an "outstanding" tradition—a tradition of achieving the highest possible grade for its inspections. This is only possible through hard work practice and effective preparation.

That is why we, as a Wing have gone back to the tradition of performing readiness training exercises. As I said earlier, traditions take participation, and regardless of what changes come our way, we all need to be committed to these exercises in order to keep our tradition alive. Keep a positive attitude, and be proud to uphold an "outstanding" tradition!



First Sergeant thoughts

By Master Sgt. Larry Brace, 104th AMXS First Sgt

Given all the changes and stressors we all face in our daily work environment, I thought

this would be a good time to remind people of the Air Force's Four Dimensions of Wellness. I have copied and pasted the following from the Edwards Air Force Base website as it gives a good definition of each aspect and also provides a checklist to help us keep them all in balance.

Spiritual Wellness

Spiritual strength is that force that drives us to make sacrifices for others, our nation, and the greater good. It may come from religious faith, heritage, experience within our community, influence of role models, or other sources of inspiration.

Emotional Wellness

Emotional wellness refers to building an awareness of and accepting one's feelings and moods. It includes finding ways to encourage positive thinking and acceptance of oneself.

Physical Wellness

Physical wellness includes expanding your knowledge about your lifestyle and how food, good nutrition and physical activity can be an integral part of your lifestyle.

Social Wellness

Social wellness entails being cognizant of the impact you and your actions have on your community, the society and nature.

Wellness Checklist

Spiritual Wellness

- * Do you set aside time in your day for prayer, meditation, or personal time?
- * Do you set aside time in your day for relaxation/quiet time?

Emotional Wellness

- * Are you able to make decisions/complete activities with minimum stress/worry?
- * Is there something you are looking forward to?

Physical Wellness

- * Do you participate regularly (min 3X/week) in an aerobic activity?
- * Do you get adequate and satisfying sleep, and wake up refreshed?
- * Do you need to work on issues related to tobacco, alcohol, or nutrition?

Social Wellness

- * Do you set aside and plan time to be with your family and friends?
- * Do you feel that your relationships are positive and rewarding?
- * Are you involved in group activities or hobbies?

I know for myself, I need to do a lot better job at trying to keep all of the above in balance. Hopefully this will be of assistance to some. Trying to keep our work, family and social life in balance is getting harder and harder to do every day but I think the Air Force Wellness plan gives us some good tools to help us do so.



Letter to the Airmen

From Gen. Mark A. Welsh, CSAF

To those of you who spent the holidays deployed, thank you... and I'm sorry you weren't home with your families. I know you understand that what you're doing is important, but I also know that doesn't make the separation any easier. In these days where self-serving agendas seem to be on display everywhere we turn, your willingness to sacrifice for the good of our Nation and its citizens still inspires me.

Despite the budgetary uncertainty, the fiscal cliff, or whatever else time and circumstances throw at us, I believe 2013 will be a great year for our Air Force! We'll still be doing great work for the Nation, we'll still be coming to work with the greatest men and women on Earth, and we'll still be taking care of each other. And I know each of you will continue to look for new, innovative ways to make us an even better fighting force. It's a great time to be an Airman!

One of the greatest things about our Air Force is the remarkable heritage we share. As 2012 closed, one of our greatest living heroes "flew west" and became a treasured memory. Colonel (ret.) Ralph Parr, a Double Ace and combat veteran of three wars, passed away peacefully on December 7th, at age 88. During the Korean War, in one remarkable 11 day/30 mission stretch, he scored ten confirmed kills and re-

ceived the Distinguished Service Cross for actions during a particularly harrowing dogfight with 10 enemy MiGs. In Vietnam, he earned the Air Force Cross for extraordinary valor during the Battle of Khe Sanh. In all, he flew 641 combat missions and is the only American aviator to receive both the Distinguished Service Cross and the Air Force Cross. He also wore the Silver Star, 10 Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star and 41 Air Medals. We should all stand a little prouder because we follow in his footsteps.

I think we all share the responsibility to protect the legacy that Colonel Parr and so many others built. But the demographics of our Air Force have changed. Images, songs, stories, or "traditions" that are obscene, vulgar, or that denigrate some percentage of Airmen are not the things we value in that proud heritage. I'm a bit surprised by comments I've heard about the recent health and welfare inspection, suggesting it was an attack on fighter pilot culture, a 'witch hunt' to target specific organizations or individuals, or a response to a specific event. None of those comments are true. My intent was two-fold. First, if we're going to get serious about preventing sexual assault, we need to get serious about eliminating environments conducive to sexual harassment or unprofessional relationships. Both are leading indicators of sexual assault and other behavior and performance issues. Second, the Air Force succeeds because of the professionalism and discipline of our Airmen. We

have a significant number of Airmen who feel they have to "go along to get along" by ignoring pornographic images, workplace comments, or other material that makes them uncomfortable. That's simply not the Air Force we want to be. EVERY Airman is critically important...and every one of you deserves to be treated with respect. Anything less reflects a lack of discipline and a failure to honor our values. It also marginalizes great Airmen, degrades mission effectiveness and hurts unit morale. We simply can't, and won't, tolerate it. Of course, that's easy for me to say... only you can make it reality. As always, I need your help.

In a couple of weeks, I'll send you a CSAF Vector for 2013. In it, I'll let you know where I think we're headed in some key areas and also lay out a few things I think I owe you over the next year. Things like what the AF values for promotion (hint--the list starts with Job Performance!); my thoughts on performance reports and any required adjustments; etc.

Thank you again for all you do, and for choosing to serve in our great Air Force. Don't let the talk of sequestration distract you from the importance of what you do every day. We'll still need to come to work in 2013 and we'll continue to provide America with one of its greatest asymmetric advantages. It's an honor to serve beside you.

GOT AIRPOWER...?!

ANG gets new director

Contributed by The National Guard Association of the United States



Lt. Gen. Stanley E. "Sid" Clarke III, commander of the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region and 1st Air Force, was confirmed last week by the Senate to be the next director of the Air National Guard. Clarke replaces Lt. Gen. Harry

"Bud" Wyatt, who is retiring this month. Wyatt has led the Air National Guard since February 2009.

Clarke said he is eager to take charge of an organization that comprises 106,000 people.

"I look forward to the opportunity to lead the best Air National Guard in our nation's history," he said. "The Air National Guard, and the 106,000 men and women who make it work, has served our nation and our communities with great distinction in combat and during numerous domestic crises."

Wyatt, who intends to retire to his home in Oklahoma, said Clarke is the right person, at the right time.

"Sid has served here at the Pentagon and has a wealth of command and staff experience," Wyatt said. "He will help shape and guide the Air Guard as we forge ahead to the future."

Clarke is no stranger to key leadership positions. He has served as the deputy director of the Air National Guard and as the assistant adjutant general for the Alabama Air National Guard.

At 1st Air Force, he commanded four direct reporting units, 10 aligned Air National Guard units and a large number of active air defense alert sites, including aircraft, air defense artillery and up to 15,000 active duty, National Guard, Air Force Reserve and civilian personnel.

Clarke is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flight hours, including more than 100 in combat, in the T-38, C-26, A-10 and F-16. Prior to his NORAD assignment, Clarke served as the senior defense official and defense attaché in Turkey.

The general was commissioned in 1981 as a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Georgia.

Clarke has also served in various operational and staff assignments including duty as an A-10 and F-16 instructor pilot. He also has commanded a squadron, fighter wing and air expeditionary wing.



Chaplain's Corner

By Pastor (Lt. Col.) Steve Misarski, 104th Fighter Wing Chaplain

January is the month we make resolutions about our lives. We look back on the previous year and wish we had done better. So we resolve to improve in areas of relationships, spirituality, health, physical training and money. Money especially becomes a reality when we begin to look at how much we spent during Christmas and other holiday events.

So why is the Chaplain talking about money?

Money is about value. A person's check book or credit card bill tells more about a person's values than even his worship attendance. Money or lack of money can be a huge issue contributing to many life problems, to include family break-ups and divorce. Deployments can negatively affect financial stability.

I have counseled situations where the family was left to financial ruin as their service member went off on a deployment. We serve in the military because we are loyal to the flag but let's be honest, there is a financial consideration in

the decision. Money affects our family and our sense of peace as a person.

I remember getting ready to return after a long deployment and getting swept up into perusing brochures for a brand new motorcycle. "I deserve it," I assured myself, with a total disregard for the sacrifice my family suffered. I didn't buy the motorcycle but I can't say I always made the wisest decisions post-deployment.

This is what I learned:

1. Take a hard look at your expenses. Do they reflect your values? Did you use your money to invest in building relationships or just accumulating stuff? Do you have an eye on the future or just the now?

2. Build an adequate emergency fund? Stuff happens. Are you prepared? They suggest \$500 for singles and \$1,000 for married. Spending to the ragged edge leaves you in precarious position. Having that fund gives your family a sense of financial peace.

3. Get out of debt and stay out of debt. Borrowing makes you a slave to the lend-

er (Proverbs 22:7). Employing the same discipline that we acquired in the military can change our family's life.

4. Make goals to build wealth for you and your generations. Dave Ramsey, a financial teacher, says, "Live like nobody else so that you can live like nobody else." Even small goals are better than no goals. Start now, while you are young so you can take advantage of the power of compounding.

There are things more important than money but we can use our wealth to build on those values or let money negatively affect those values. Military OneSource is a resource. MilitarySaves.org is another. Personally, I am a big fan of Dave Ramsey and Financial Peace University. He understands the motivational piece of finances. And as always, the Chapel Team is available to listen, talk, brainstorm and pray about these issues.

Don't forget to sign up for the Family Wellness Retreat, 22-24 March. It will be a nice and informative time for the whole family.

New Colonel in MA Headquarters

By Maj. Matthew Mutti, 104th Fighter Wing, Executive Officer



If you think traditional members can't reach the top, you should talk to Col. Eric Pauer, the newest Colonel in the Massachusetts National Guard Joint Staff.

As the Massachusetts Air National Guard A4 (Director of the Logistics and Engineering), Col. Pauer is responsible for enacting Guard policies and ensuring that the Mass. Air and Army National Guard is strategically and operationally positioned for future success in both the overseas Federal and stateside support missions.

Formulating the strategic plan and objectives along with other leaders and then helping the units across the state put it into action is part of the job, said Pauer. "I have helped the Mass. Guard and our National Guard across the 54 states and territories by serving as the chair of the Joint Logistics Functional Advisory Council (J4 FAC) since 2008. With experienced O-5 and O-6 council members from all ten FEMA regions, the J4 FAC provides important field input to our senior leaders in the Guard to help identify national objectives and priorities for joint logistics and engineering." Through this role Col. Pauer is able to advise the NGB J4 Director as well as the Chief and Vice Chief of the National Guard on the logistic and engineering challenges and needs of the Army and Air units throughout the entire National Guard.

In addition, Col. Pauer sits on the Joint Domestic Operations Essential Requirements (JDOERs) panel, where he works with other Guardsmen nationwide to identify equipment and non-material shortfalls in the Guard's Domestic Operations mission—defense support to civilian authorities. He chairs the JDOERs Public Works and Engineering Panel, which identifies the Guard's engineering equipment and issue priorities, driving annual funding for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA). Congress provides the Guard with NGREA funds to help procure critical equipment, filling shortfalls in equipment provided by the Air Force and Army.

"I am advocating that the Air Guard take on a larger role in Domestic Operations, by helping to develop training, exercises, and capabilities that can best utilize the unique talents of the Air Guard," he said. Domestic Operations training and readiness is one of his focuses for the Mass. Guard. He wants to ensure that the National Guard and state and federal partners are prepared for inevitable future domestic emergencies in the Commonwealth. Col. Pauer has helped coordinate domestic operation responses during many contingencies including Operation Broken Pipe, Operation Tornado, as well as during Hurricanes Irene, Earl, and Sandy.

Serving his country and making an impact has always been one of Pauer's goals. As an engineering student and Air Force ROTC cadet at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, he always wanted to serve in the Guard. Following graduation with a degree in Electrical Engineering, he received a direct commission as a traditional guardsman, where he has served the past 24 years as a member in Massachusetts. He was a leader in the 102nd Fighter Wing, serving as the commander of the 102nd Civil Engineer Squadron, until he moved to Joint Force Headquarters in 2007.

After completing Air War College, he continued his PME by completing the 40-week Advanced Joint Professional Military Education (AJPME) seminar program in 2009. With students coming from all seven of the military's reserve components, AJPME prepared him to better understand and work cooperatively with the Army National Guard and other reserve components as well as state and federal agency partners.

He has embodied the citizen-airman concept throughout his career, balancing a full-time job as a Senior Principal System Engineer for Impact Science and Technology in Nashua, NH, where he helps design counter-IED jammers; his civilian life, with his wife and two children; and his military role. In 2011, Pauer was recognized with the Air Force Association President George W. Bush Award, distinguishing him as one of the top traditional members within the Air National Guard nationwide.

When asked what his goals are for the next few years, Pauer said he wanted to improve the Mass. Air Guards domestic response capability, leveraging the unique capabilities that make us effective including our technical skills, our great leaders and airmen, and our abilities to react quickly and precisely, regardless of the threat. "The Air Guard has talented airmen, who possess unique skills (...Intelligence, Medical, Security, Engineering, and a multitude of operational and support functions) that can mobilize rapidly and achieve a desired objective very quickly and professionally. We as a National Guard need to understand there is an optimal combination of manpower and skillsets that the Army and Air Guard together bring to our domestic response capabilities. It is my goal to ensure that Mass. National Guard is prepared for the future challenges—ready to embrace and fully utilize the unique capabilities of our Air Guard."

Blue bins for green initiative

By Maj. Matthew Mutti, 104th Fighter Wing, Executive Officer

Look around the base and you may notice more blue recycling containers than trash receptacles; it even takes a little work to search out a standard large dumpster—and that is all in an effort to both improve our environmental program (encouraging recycling) and to improve our bottom line.

According to Mrs. Jennifer Baker, the State Environmental Manger, the wing’s trash removal budget was growing and the only way to curb this trend was to introduce a more aggressive recycling program.

“The wing always had a good paper-recycling program, but with the new single-stream initiative, the wing will now be able to consolidate their recyclable materials into a single bin, which will make it easier to eliminate much of our trash requirements,” said Baker.

In fact, the programs goal is to cut the trash removal requirement by a third.

With the new program, paper, recyclable plastics, cardboard, glass, aluminum can all go in the same container, which will reduce our need for trash

receptacles.

It cannot be stressed enough that the recycling program will only be successful with individuals doing their part.

“We have to ensure we don’t contaminate the recycling containers with trash,” emphasized Baker. “The contractor will do inspections and quality control tests to ensure we are keeping the trash out of the recycling. If we don’t keep them separate, the wing will inure costs that is it trying to save...the more the recycling program saves, the more resources are available for other programs.”

To date, the items most frequently not recycled and should be are: yogurt containers, microwavable plastic meal trays, soup cans, coffee cans, and milk/creamer containers.



Safety: How goes it?

By Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Dumais, 104th FW Safety

The unit has experienced six injuries since the last How-Goes-It. **GOT ICE?**

- Worker struck head on vehicle lift; compressed neck/spine; 14-days restricted duty
- Worker experienced severe abdominal pain; unexplained pain; medical event
- Off duty back/shoulder injury; carrying child; 1 lost workday
- Slip/fall on ice at LOX farm; injured side; no medical treatment
- Slip/fall on ice outside Alert6, injured back and side; no medical treatment
- Slip fall on ice between Bldg1 and 25, injured side; no medical treatment

The unit has experienced two mishaps since the last How-Goes-It

- GOV Plow impact gate; Unaware of impact; 1K damage
- GOV Impact fence pole; bent pole; 1K damage

As we can see above, three of the injuries and both of the property damage mishaps can be directly attributed to the weather. Snow and ice are unforgiving and can hurt you! Don’t believe me? Imagine someone throwing a bucket of water on your steps at home at night. Of course, it froze overnight. Do you think this would be hazardous, as you step out to go to work? Do you think it would demand some additional attention as you exit your door? If you answered yes to one or both of these you are correct! The same holds true here on base as well.

Every day in the sun, and in the warmth of the day, the snow melts. When the sun goes down, it refreezes. Then we interject you trying to get from your vehicle to your shop door or from your shop door to your first appointment or assignment on the UTA. Wham! You take a step and all of a sudden you experience a sense of euphoria or helplessness as you—in a fraction of a second—go from vertical to horizontal! Bang! You hit your elbow, twist your back, lose your glasses, and whack your

head on the surface that a fraction of a second ago was under your feet. WoW! What the heck just happened? — You fell!

I think you get my point. Ice and snow are nothing to take lightly and we need everyone’s help to make sure we are doing all we can to make our time here and that of our wingman’s as safe as possible. When we are speaking about ice and snow it comes down to a simple statement. “If it is slippery; make it NOT slippery,” or tell someone who can! As far as you personally, you too can help by using extreme caution as you walk around to do your business. If it was not slippery before does not mean it is going to stay that way!

Always walk with caution and if your choice is an icy walkway or a clean road to walk, we hope you use good risk management (judgment) and take the road. Oh yea! Don’t forget to call CE to tell them about the icy sidewalk.

We hope everyone has a safe UTA and winter and with everyone’s help we can get through this—vertically!

For Your Information

UMASS Minuteman Military Appreciation Hockey Night



Saturday, February 2, 2013

at 8:00 pm

UMASS Minutemen vs. The UMaine Black Bears

The Mullins Center Community Arena (200 Commonwealth Avenue, Amherst, MA)

ADMISSION : FREE to Military and Retirees



Honor and support wounded American service members returning from conflict during the Ice Stars for Wounded Warriors; April 26 and 27th at the Mullen Center at UMASS-Amherst.

Join fellow Wounded Warrior supports for a parade at 3:30 on the 27th, and Figure Skating Exhibition at 7:00 p.m. For more information visit <http://icestarsforwoundedwarriors.weebly.com>

104th Medical Group Health Promotions

Health Promotions- The 104th Medical Group is now offering a health promotion class on Sunday of the UTA. 104th Medical Group will be starting Health Promotion classes for all Wing members to attend. No appointment necessary, just walk-in and join the group. The class will meet on Sunday morning from 1000- 1100 at the 104th Medical Group - back training lab (RM18).

Health Promotion Calendar

Jan- Hazards of smoking

Feb - Alcohol awareness

March - Taking care: cold and flu prevention

April - no class d/t ORI/ORE

May- summer safety

June - no class / Ore / ORI

JULY- no class

Aug - Balancing Calories

Sep - no class

OCT- no class ORI

NOV- dental health

DEC -Healthy Holiday eating

Strong Bonds military FAMILY weekend retreat



All families are invited to participate in a Strong Bonds military family retreat weekend. Following the model of the successful Strong Bonds marriage retreats, the 104th Fighter Wing Chaplains office will offer a new curriculum for families—strengthening military families through fun and communication.

When: 22—24 March 2013

Where: Sturbridge Mass. (projected)

Who: 15 slots for 104FW families (all ages invited)

RSVP : Contact the Wing Chaplain at 413-568-9151 x 6981311 or stephen.misarski@ang.af.mil

What you can expect: A dynamic set of presentations, activities and opportunities for families to grow as a team. Individual classes will be offered for children over 8, but all are welcome to attend.

For Your Information

**The 104th Fighter Wing Proudly
Presents**

[CLICK HERE FOR THE E-INVITE](#)

The 39th Annual Awards Banquet

**The Sheraton Springfield
Saturday
February Ninth
Two Thousand and Thirteen**

Cocktail Hour Begins at 1730

**Dinner,
Awards Presentations,
And dancing
Will follow**

**Tickets: Airman-Master Sgt \$35.00
Senior Master Sgt- Chief \$50.00
All Officers \$50.00**

**Join us as we celebrate
Another year of
EXCELLENCE**



Important Tricare Update

Electronic payments required for TRICARE Reserve Select and Retired Reserve monthly premiums

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123320656>

To avoid losing coverage, beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) or TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) who pay monthly premiums by check need to switch to an electronic form of payment before Jan. 1, 2013.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2013, TRICARE will only accept monthly premium payments using recurring automatic payments by credit or debit card, or by recurring electronic funds transfer (EFT) from a linked bank account. To avoid confusion, beneficiaries should verify that their bank sends EFT payments.

The Defense Manpower Data Center is notifying current TRR and TRS beneficiaries directly by email, and new beneficiaries will be informed in their welcome package information when enrolling.

Electronic payments streamline account management and ensure continuous coverage for beneficiaries. Failure to pay premiums by the due date results in termination of coverage. Beneficiaries can contact their regional contractor to set up automatic payments and get more information. Contact information for each region is available online at www.TRICARE.mil/contacts.

For Your Information

FEAWM Scholarship

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEAA) today announced that the 2013 application period is now open through March 27, 2013.

FEAA sponsors the only merit-based scholarship competition program open exclusively to federal employees, their spouses, and their children--rewarding hard workers through our merit-based program.

Awards: More than 400 students from across 27 regions will win scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. From this pool of 400, the top students in each region have the chance to win two additional awards:

Six students will win an additional \$5,000 through the FEAA-NTEU Scholarship. Read more <<http://www.feea.org/programs/scholarships/feea-nteu>>

Additional money is awarded through the Cooke Memorial Scholarship. Read more <<http://www.feea.org/programs/scholarships/doc-cooke-scholarship>>

Who is Eligible?

- Current civilian federal and postal employees with at least three
- years of federal service, their children and spouses
- Dependent applicants may first apply as high school seniors
- Dependents must be full-time students; employees may be part-time
- Enrolled (or plan to enroll) in an accredited post-secondary school
- Course of study that leads to a two-year, four-year or graduate
- degree
- 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale

CHECK IT OUT AT:

<http://www.feea.org/programs/scholarships/497-2013-14apps>

Satellite NCOA Class 13-2

Base Training is now accepting Formal Training School Request (FTSRs) forms for the next Satellite NCOA Class. Interested Tech Sgts, please see your Unit Training Managers to determine your eligibility to attend, and to fill out the FTSR forms. We must have two name signed up by end of January UTA. Phase I (Home Station) is March, and Phase II (Resident Phase) is Aug-Sept. Each Satellite NCOA class can host two Staff Sergeants, interest SSGts, please see your UTM to determine eligibility, and fill out the FTSR forms.

INSTRUCTORS NEEDED: If your interested in teaching NCOA please contact the Command Chief

CE First Sgt. Vacancy

Position Title/Grade: First Sergeant / E-7

Eligible applicants: Must be an E-7 or an E-6 who is immediately promotable to E-7. Position is a MINIMUM three year tour with a maximum of 6 years. Members must carefully review ANGI 36-2113 to ensure they meet minimum standards and qualifications for position requirements and responsibilities before applying. Applicants must possess excellent communication and administrative skills, exceed fitness standards and exemplify Air Force Core values. Applicant must receive concurrence form current commander for consideration.

Applicant selected for this position must agree to serve tenure of no less than 3 years from date of graduating from First Sergeant Academy (FSA). If the member was a prior First Sergeant, the tenure starts the day of assignment. Applicant must have 3 years retain-ability prior to being placed in the UMD 8F000 position. Applicant must agree to complete the SNCO Academy Course in residence or by correspondence within 1 year from date of assignment. If a First Sergeant does not complete the SNCO Academy within 1 year from date of assignment, he/she must be removed from the position.

Training: Applicants (if selected) should be able to attend the First Sergeant Academy at Gunter Annex, AL at the earliest available school date and must complete the SNCOA in residence or by correspondence within 12 months of selection.

Application package must include:

1. Cover sheet
2. Letter of application (Describe what you can bring to the position)
3. Resume
4. Current passing fitness assessment
5. RIP (record of individual personnel)
6. Commander concurrence (letter or copy of email to 104FW/CCC)
7. Letter of recommendation (optional)

Any package that is late or incomplete WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Supervisor: 104th Civil Engineer Commander, Lt Col Denise Boyer

Submit Applications via electronic format (word, pdf, etc) via email to: Maj. Dave Mendoza, david.mendoza@ang.af.mil 104FW/DP, NLT 10 Feb 2013

Board date: March UTA, schedule TBD

For more information contact: CMSgt Todd Fappiano at todd.fappiano@ang.af.mil or 413-568-9151 x1344

For Your Information

OPERATION MILITARY KID CLUB SPONSORED APRIL VACATION HORSE CAMP



What: Horse Camp for children
Where: Camp Marshall
When : April 15—19th
Cost: Free for Military children age 7 & up
How to register and for more details:
 Contact Kim Pond, OMK Coordinator by email at Kima@umext.umass.edu or call 508-831-1223 x245

BASE HONOR GUARD LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

- Be part of the tradition of excellence
- Represent the ANG & AF at military burials
- Display the flag at military & sporting events
- All ranks/specialties can apply

Contact Senior Airman Colon at 698-1311 or email the honor guard at :
104FW.HonorGuard@ang.af.mil



ARMED SERVICE YMCA ESSAY CONTEST

What: Essay Contest // Win an IPAD
Deadline: March 5th
Age Groups: Grade 1-8 and 9-12
Theme: My Military Hero / 300-500 words
For more details & to enter: www.asymca.org



FAMILY READINESS GROUP EASTER EGG HUNT

What: Easter Party
Where: NCO Club
When : March 24 at 1300—1600
 For more details, and to **RSVP** email the Family Readiness Group at 104fwfrg@gmail.com



ARMED SERVICE YMCA ART CONTEST

What: Art Contest // Win an IPAD
Deadline: February 15th
Age Groups: Grade 1-8 and 9-12
Theme: My Military Family
For more details & to enter: www.asymca.org



January 2013 Menu — MREs

Distribution schedule (pick-up at Bldg 003):
 Thursday, January 10th from 1600-1700
 Friday, January 11th from 0600-0800
 Saturday, January 12th from 1100-1300
 COST: \$4.60 each

FREE ENTRY TO BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

What: Home Base Adventure Series
Date: Saturday January 19 // 9am-12
Who: All Veterans and families
For more details : www.hoophall.com



BLANDFORD MILITARY DAY

What: Free Ski at Blandford Ski Are
Date: Saturday January 12
Who: All Veterans and families
For more details : www.skiblandford.org



Upcoming ASVAB & AFOQT Dates

Air Force Classification Test (ASVAB) FY13
 Listed are the dates when the AFCT will be offered
 March 22, 2013 at 0900, bldg 1
 May 24, 2013 at 0900, bldg 1
 August 23, 2013 at 0900, bldg 1

Air Force Officer Qualification Test FY13
 Listed are the dates when the AFOQT will be offered
 February 15, 2013 at 0900, bldg 1
 May 10, 2013 at 0900, bldg 1
 August 16, 2013 at 0900, bldg 1

Religions notes:

Orthodox Catholic Mass: Saturday of the UTA at 1530 hrs, in the HQ Conference Room , Bldg 001. Chaplain Devoie presiding.



General Christian Service: Saturday of the UTA, 1615 hrs, in the HQ Conference Room , Bldg 001. Chaplain Stephen Misarski presiding.

Congratulations on your Retirements

Erica Teles	MDG	15 Jan 2013
Samantha Dews	MXS	23 Jan 2013
Robert Henry	MSG	25 Jan 2013
Patrick Scanlon	FSS	18 Feb 2013
Steven Torres	CE	28 Feb 2013
Paul Barrows	LRS	6 Mar 2013

CCTV broadcast line up

Channel 7 - Training videos & Base Info

Channel 9 - Warrior Network

Channel 10 - Pentagon Channel - inop



Ancillary training schedule - channel 7

<u>Morning</u>	<u>Training Video</u>
0900-0940	Forklift Fundamentals and Ops
0940-1013	Confined Space Awareness
1013-1023	Basic Ladder Safety
1023-1053	Lockout/Tagout
1053-1101	FOD Prevention
1101-1108	Copyright Infringement

<u>Afternoon</u>	<u>Training Video</u>
1300-1340	Forklift Fundamentals and Ops
1340-1413	Confined Space Awareness
1413-1423	Basic Ladder Safety
1423-1453	Lockout/Tagout
1453-1501	FOD Prevention
1501-1508	Copyright Infringement

Congratulations on your Promotions

To Senior Airman (E-4)



Christopher James	104FW MDG
Ian Mackenzie	104FW OSF
Eva Morin	104FW 131FS

To Staff Sgt (E-5)

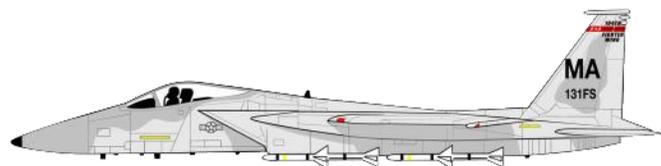


Derek Jendrysik	104 FW MXS
Michael McKenzie	104FW MXS

To Tech. Sgt (E-6)



Juan Barrera	104FW SFS
Randolph Bonin	104FW AMXS
Andrew Cekovsky	104FW SFS
David Gould	104FW AMXS
Christopher Torres	104FW SFS



Welcome to new members

1 Dec 2012	Kelley McLean	MDG
1 Dec 2012	Donald Odell	AMXS
20 Dec 2012	Jessica Waldron	LRS
21 Dec 2012	Jabes Rosado	LRS
21 Dec 2012	Garrett Greene	OG
8 Jan 2013	Kevin Welch	FS

This Month in History

January 1941

The U.S. Army Air Corps tested radio-controlled robot planes from the ground and from another plane.

January 1944

Maj. Gen. James Doolittle assumed command of the 8th Air Force

January 1952

The Air Force announces plans to increase its effective combat strength by 50 percent and personnel by 20 percent. The result will be a full 143-wing, 1,273,200-person Air Force.

January 1959

A 1959 U.S. Air Force study of UFOs reveals fewer than one percent could be classified as unknown.

January 1965

The General Dynamics F-111A demonstrated the ability to fly with its wings swept back in its first flight.

January 1979

The 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, Hill AFB, Utah, accepted Tactical Air Command's first F-16 Fighting Falcon.

January 1988

The Air Force let a \$4.9 million contract to develop a new close air support and interdiction plane to replace the A-10.

January 1990

Military Air Command announced that it would allow female aircrew members to participate in C-130 and C-141 airdrop missions.



Volume 11

April 1960

Number 5

Operational Readiness Tests Planned for all 104th Activities

ANG Marchers in Holyoke



STEPPING SMARTLY, one of the three formations of Airguardsmen passes the reviewing stand in Holyoke's second annual Saint Patrick's Day parade. The event was held on Sunday, March 20, the date of the full-day training assembly of the 104th Tactical Fighter Group here. The Airguard paraders received much praise for their appearances and marching from the parade viewers.

A practice Operational Readiness Inspection is to be the governing activity of the two-day weekend training assembly of all three groups of the 102d Tactical Fighter Wing today and tomorrow.

All units of the 102d Tac Fighter Group at Logan Airport, Boston; the 103d Tac Fighter Group at Bradley Field, Windsor Locks, Conn.; and the 104th Tac Fighter Group here have similar programs scheduled.

The Air Advisers' staffs at the three locations have set up problems to test the effectiveness of the operational and support activities, with the accent on the latter.

Operational Readiness Inspections are normally centered so heavily on the flying activities, according to Col Robert C Brown, Wing Air Force Adviser, that supporting activities get little or no chance to be properly appraised.

The schedule for this weekend brings both operational and support activities into equal prominence.

The flying end of the test will in-

Continued on Page Ten

MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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

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

Copyright (c) 2012 104th Fighter Wing Air National Guard. All rights reserved. This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Military services. Contents of the AIRSCOOP are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the Air National Guard.