



AIRSCOOP

104TH FIGHTER WING • MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD
Pride, Professionalism, Patriotism *Barnes Air National Guard Base*

January 2009



Members of the MA Air National Guard respond to Operation BIG ICE, clearing roads in Becket, Massachusetts. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)



Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

Commander's Column

By Col. Robert T. Brooks

Welcome back from the Holiday Season. My family and I now have a better understanding for the need of snow plows. I want to thank everyone in advance for this upcoming year. We will be faced with many challenges while we are still in conversion. We have Civil Engineering headed to Silver Flag in February, a COMSEC inspection in March, a Security Force Protection Assessment in March, a Key West deployment in March, a June Operational Readiness Exercise, an August Health Service Inspection, and finally a late August a trip to demonstrate our combat capability at Red Flag. In December 2009, we will be putting the finishing touches on our brand new Alert Facility as we prepare to pick up Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA) mission.

These men, as all of you, are pledging to each other "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." The sum of our wing is much greater than our individual parts due to synergy vice compromise. Our bottom line is teamwork...and that will breed success. As General Colin Powell once said: "Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence."

As we look forward to a new year of challenges and excitement I remind you that it was 18 years ago in 1991 when on January 17th, Operation DESERT STORM began with a coordinated attack on Baghdad in order to force the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. No one would know that 18 years later we would still be engaged in that corner of the world. We must always be prepared to defend freedom when ever the call is made. Being conscious that our efforts today will have an impact on us tomorrow, and we do not know what challenges tomorrow may offer that we could have prepared for today. As Col. 'Pappy' Boyington said, "The air battle is not necessarily won at the time of the battle. The winner may have been determined by the amount of time, energy, thought and training an individual has previously accomplished in an effort to increase his ability as a fighter pilot."; replace fighter pilot with any job at Barnes and the message is still the same, we cannot win the air battles without the foundations we are setting today.

Our March COMSEC inspection is critical to our success as a future ASA unit. It is crucial Commanders, COMSEC Responsible Officers (CROs), and pertinent individuals pay attention to detail anytime COMSEC is involved. It is vital we do things right relative to COMSEC. I am asking everyone to do their part for this upcoming inspection.

Our aviation deployments are spaced five and a half months apart. Our first priority will be to effectively deploy 6 jets and 85 personnel to Key West, taking special care to employ soundly, and return safely. This will be a great stepping stone for us in that it gives an opportunity to perfect our processes when deploying our jets. But all this will not work seamlessly unless we simultaneously work to build the solid foundation I have been stressing since my arrival in August; so far, we are on track for success. The foundation is critical, and I ask you all to continue to be vigilant. For now, one step at a time, and let's focus on a successful Key West deployment.

After four and a half months in this job, I want to tell each one of you that in addition to being impressed with the pride, patriotism, and professionalism of each and every one of you, I am also very impressed with the leadership of the Barnestormer Leadership Team. I have never been around a group of individuals who care more about the people within their respective commands than Col. Gwosch, Col. Gunning, Lt. Col. Lambrich, and Lt. Col. Collins. With the Group Commanders, Lt. Col. Keefe and Wing Command Chief Reale focus 100% of their energy on taking care of the team. They develop new approaches to old problems, resolve personnel issues and ensure that the decisions we make are always focused on the people of this unit and its mission FIRST!

AIRSCOOP

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

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

Wing Commander
Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

Vice Wing Commander
Lt. Col. James J. Keefe

**Command
Chief Master Sergeant**
Chief Master Sgt. Al Reale

Chief of Staff
Lt. Col. Mike Cousins

Wing Executive Staff Officer
Capt. Matthew T. Mutti

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Mary L. Harrington

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

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

The Airman's Creed Part III

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN
GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE
MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD
ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER
I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE

As you recite the third verse of the creed, I want you to think of it from the perspective of the

oppressed, the desperate, or the scared. Imagine if you will the perspective of a little boy in Sarajevo in 1999 when his home was being targeted by the Bosnian Army in an effort to ethnically cleanse the region. That child would be desperate for help, looking for a 'super hero' of sorts to right the wrongs and provide safety, stability and justice.

Luckily for that little boy and many like him, the Air Force was called upon in Operation ALLIED FORCE to provide a shield for the oppressed, serving as a sentry against terror. Specifically the 104th Fighter Wing was asked to be that Avenger who fought for and guarded the freedom that we hold true. In 1999 nearly 150 members supported 400 combat sorties, thwarting the ethnic cleansing.

Our calling to support and defend the constitution clearly designates us as its guardians and sentries of what that document represents, not just at home, but abroad. As members of the Air Force were working in the pentagon on that faith-filled day in September, they were defending our country, some with their lives.

Being an American Airmen is more than a job, it's a calling. No matter who you are, or what career field you are in, we are all tied to this identity, heritage, and our effort effects more than just the members of this base, they affect a nation, an ideal, and a virtue worth dying for.

Barnes Family helps Westfield Families By Capt. Matthew T. Mutti, Wing Executive Staff Officer

Members of the 104th Fighter Wing adopted children from the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield for Christmas through the annual "Angel Tree Program."

This year the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield provided names and Christmas wish lists for 34 children ("Angels") who may have gone without during the holidays if it weren't for the generosity of the members of the 104th Fighter Wing.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Members adopted an angel and ensured each child had a Merry Christmas. In some cases, entire shops or sections adopted a family and provided for a group of children.

In addition to the Angels from the Boys and Girls Club, the unit sponsored 16 additional children from within the organization, helping our internal family as some of our traditional Airmen have been struggling with recent civilian-job lay-offs.

"The members of the 104th Fighter Wing take a personal interest in the well-being of the members of this community," stated Ms. Sandy Wakefield, 104th Fighter Wing Family Readiness Coordinator. "Our members are always willing to help members of our community who may need our help."

This is the fourth year the unit has participated in this program. The program has grown from 25 children in 2004 to 50 this year.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

The following thank you was sent to the 104th Fighter Wing for their generosity:

"Dear Barnes Personnel,

I want to send all of you a heart-felt thank you for your generous donations of gifts to the members of the Boys and Girls Club. As usual you all came through again for the kids. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our children.

Thank you,

Kellie Brown // Program Director"



First Sgt.'s Column

By Master Sgt. Fred Fopianno, MSG First Sgt.

On 31 October, several Airmen and I attended the Air National Guard Command Chief

Master Sergeant's Enlisted Call at McGhee Tyson in Knoxville, Tenn.

Over a two day period, the symposium featured more than a dozen different speakers; a few of these speakers were Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley, the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force and Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, the Director of the Air National Guard.

Also in attendance were six of the prior eight Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force. Some of our more senior unit members may recall the names, Chief Master Sgts Alexander, Carbon, Green, Brown, Broadbent, and Benton. Even though they spanned decades of service, each spoke about the same issues, mainly taking care of our Airmen.

Dozens of topics were discussed, some were the changing out of our existing PT clothing as well as the changing of our ABU's. It seems that they are not as comfortable, or holding up as well as expected. It was nice to see

that the leadership at the top hears our concerns and is addressing them.

The convention concluded on the second day with the Order of the Sword Banquet and Ceremony. With nearly 600 guests in attendance, Lt. Gen McKinley was presented the Order of the Sword in an hour long ceremony.

We had the opportunity to sit with both Lt. Gen McKinley and Chief Master Sgt. McKinley, and found both very down to earth and genuinely concerned about the issues we are all facing. Their departing comments emphasized people taking care of people.

Drugs Have No Place on Base

By Maj. Robin Petterson, Judge Advocate General



Do you want to ruin and end your military career? Do you want to make it very difficult to find civilian employment? Try using drugs and that's just what will happen. The Air National Guard has a random drug testing policy that could catch anyone anytime who uses drugs. If you do drugs, you will get caught.

The Air National Guard must maintain the health and fitness of its unit to meet its duties and responsibilities should our nation call upon us in a time of need. Drug use is strictly incompatible with this goal.

The drug testing procedure is random. This means at any time you could be notified to participate in our drug testing program. In fact, your name could randomly come up for testing a few months in a row. This has happened. If you are notified, you would have to provide a urine sample that would then be tested in the Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory. The first test administered on a portion of the urine is called a screening test. If the screening test is negative, no further testing is conducted. If that test is positive a second test is performed. The second test is called a re-screen test. If the second test is negative, no further testing is done. If it is positive, a third portion of urine is tested using a third test. The third

test is called the confirmation test. It is a highly sensitive, state-of-the-art test and looks for evidence of a specific drug. If the confirmation test is negative, the entire urine sample is considered negative. If it is positive, the base where the sample came from is notified of a positive drug test.

Do not think that if you are to be tested you can creatively get out of giving a sample? This will not be allowed. All members called for testing will give a sample, period. There is nothing a member can do to hide the presence of drugs in their body if they have used them. Testing is too thorough and complex to not detect drugs when used.

Drug testing is for both the traditional guardsman and the full time civilian employees of the ANG. In both cases, if a positive drug test results, the process for discharge will begin. Once a full time civilian employee loses military status, they will be terminated from their full time employment within 30 days.

This next part may surprise you. Commanders have the authority to order a drug test of an entire unit or part of a unit at anytime. This type of inspection is done for the health and welfare of the unit. Likewise, a Commander can require a specific individual to test. This

is based upon the Commander's authority to order a search and seizure of the member's urine. If the unit wants to test you, it will.

If you test positive for drugs you will be administratively discharged. If you receive a General discharge your eligibility for reentry into the military may be affected. Other rights and benefits will be adversely affected as well. If you receive an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions discharge you will be ineligible for reentry into the military and certain benefits can be lost as determined by the Veteran's Administration.

Clearly, it doesn't pay to use drugs, ever! A single misjudgment could seriously and adversely affect you for the rest of your life, especially your employment. Every unit member of the 104 FW is highly valued; we don't want to lose a single member because of drug use. Just don't do it.



Operation BIG ICE is a BIG DEAL for Barnes By Capt. Matthew T. Mutti, Wing Executive Staff Officer

Members of the Mass. Air National Guard deployed 15 December to provide aid to neighboring communities battling from the devastation caused by the December 11th ice storm, which left much of Central and Western Massachusetts without power.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

29 Airmen from the 104th Fighter Wing in Westfield, and 28 Airmen from the 102nd Intelligence Wing on Cape Cod, converged in Warwick, Massachusetts to ease the workload of town employees who have been working around the clock to clear roads since the evening of 11 December.

"The town has been without power since Thursday," said Chief Brian Peters,



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Warwick Chief of Police. "The effort by the Mass. Air National Guard is critical to us clearing the roads so National Grid can come in to restore power."

Warwick's four highway department personnel, police, and volunteer fire department had been working to clear the roads, but their efforts have been limited by both equipment and manpower shortages.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Chief Peters added that most of the workers have been helping clear the road while also helping their families as they struggle through the damage to their own homes and properties. The efforts by the 57 members of the Mass. Air National Guard made an instant impact by clearing many road ways and removing tree limbs off of most power lines.

On 16 December the teams were reassembled for recovery efforts in Beckett



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Mass. where again their efforts made an immediate impact. Teams of Air Guard members cleared trees off roads and allowed utility and emergency vehicles clear access to the communities' residence.

The effort to provide support is part of a larger effort directed by the Mass. National Guard in an operation called Operation BIG ICE. During this operation 1,300 Airmen and Soldiers worked with civilian authorities throughout the Commonwealth to clear roadways, help preserve peace and provide relief to families who have been relocated to emergency shelters. Members of the Mass. National Guard provided aid through 160 independent missions affecting much of of Western and Central Mass.

"The Mass. National Guard is the Commonwealth's first military responders to natural and manmade emergencies," said Col. Robert T. Brooks, 104th Fighter Wing Commander. "We stand ready to support either with manpower support or equipment when ever the call for help is made."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melanie Casineau

2009 ESGR Freedom Award Nominations

Nominate your employer for the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award at www.FreedomAward.mil. The 2009 nomination season is November 3, 2008 to January 19, 2009.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

If your employer does not meet the strict criteria to be considered for the Freedom Award, nominate him/her for the Patriot Award. It is the easiest way to reward your employer. Just go online at www.esgr.mil and complete the form. It only takes about 5 minutes.

This is a great opportunity to show your civilian employer how much you appreciate the support given during your military career.

The 2009 recipients will be announced in the spring and honored in Washington, D.C. at the 14th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony September 17, 2009. Recipients of the 2008 Freedom Awards met with President George W. Bush and Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England.

Please take the time to go online and nominate your employer for the award you feel he/she has earned.

Thank you,
Bill Hebert,
Military Outreach Director
Mass ESGR Committee



What's My Line Winner!

"I don't even know this guy or what he's talking about but I'll try to look friendly for this picture". ~ Submitted by Don Rainwater

"Milk. It does a body good!"
~ Submitted by Staff. Sgt Vondee Martin

"This guy doesn't know I turned off my hearing aid an hour ago ~Submitted by the guy in the Hawaiian Shirt



Photo by Mrs. Donna Gwosch

What's My Line?

Submit your funny, creative and appropriate caption for this photo..

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

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



Photo by Cindy Connors

Spotlight on Senior Airman Leo Piecuch

By Ross Larson, Westfield H.S. Intern

Senior Airman Leo Piecuch works with one of the 104th Fighter Wings most crucial divisions - the Fire Department. Airman Piecuch is a two-year veteran in the Air Guard, and recently returned home from a deployment to Iraq.

He spent close to four-and-a-half months, deployed to the Baghdad International Airport. He spent his time protecting the airport against the threat of fires or other similar hazards. Returning home on 21 September, Airman Piecuch is very proud that he had such a chance to serve with the fellow airmen that were deployed there with him.

“The most challenging part of being a firefighter is all of the training, and that’s where I get my drive from,” says Airman Piecuch. He takes pride in the fact he made it through all of the firefighter schooling and other demanding courses he has taken. “I joined the Guard because of the great opportunities that it offers, and the fact of giving back to your country and your community. You also find out a lot about yourself and who you are.”



Airman Piecuch climbs on the back of the fire truck at Barnes ANGB in November (Photo by Capt. Matthew Mutti)

Piecuch is a motivated individual who is as dedicated to his unit as he is keeping the mood upbeat and positive. “I enjoy having my own opinion and like to make it noticeable,” he said. Aside from keeping everyone in high spirits, he enjoys using his free time to

partake in various personal fitness activities such as weightlifting, football, and volleyball. He also spends time video gaming and watching sports.

Some long term goals that Airman Piecuch aspires to achieve include staying in the service for at least 20 years. In that time, he would like to become a Lieutenant and then a Captain or Chief. As a well-driven individual, his goals should be attained with ease and success.

As a side note, while spending time with Airman Piecuch and the members of the fire department I learned that the Fire Department has traditions, similar to those found in a fraternity. One tradition or “firehouse rule” that I found very interesting is that if a members image is found in a media publication they are required to purchase a meal: breakfast, lunch or dinner for their fellow firefighters on duty. For the sake of a friendship and in order to not be responsible for him buying Chinese food for a hungry firehouse we concealed his face in the photo within this article.

Children’s Christmas Party Again a Success

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

The 2008 Children’s Christmas party, organized by Ms. Pat Connors and the Family Readiness Group at Barnes, was once again a great event.



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin

This year’s party saw a record number of children, smashing last year’s record year of 230 by nearly 55 names.

The party was graciously hosted for the second year at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2. As the 104th Fighter Wing continues its conversion to the F-15 aircraft, the unit’s main base hangar was crowded with aircraft that are underway with significant

maintenance, upgrades, or acceptance inspections. It was operationally impossible to move the aircraft out of the hangar to host the event this year. With the cooperation of the AASF #2, the tradition of the a Children’s Christmas Party continued.

Chief Warrant Officer Jeffery Harrington commented that the support facility staff is always ready to help out the fighter wing, the relationship is mutually beneficial and appreciated. The Army Aviation members and their families enjoyed the party along with the fighter wing’s family.

The gifts given to the children during the party are purchased or collected by the Family Support Readiness Group annually, said Ms. Pat Connors,

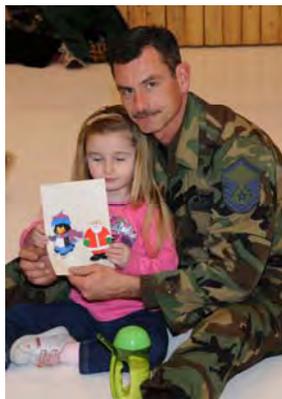


Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin

the group chairperson. “It is through fundraisers and donations that we are able to continue this and the other events sponsored by the group.”

This month the Family Readiness Group put on a Pierogi sale to help raise money for the gifts for this years party. Additionally the FRG will be selling raffle tickets at the Dining Facility during the January Unit Training Assembly as another way to increase revenue for the future 2009 events.

The FRG is looking forward to hosting more events for the Barnes families to enjoy. The purpose of these events is to provide an environment for social network and to increase the social fabric of the unit.

Here are some of the 2009 events and dates. All 104th Fighter Wing Families and their immediate families are welcome to participate:

- Children Bowling Trip ~ Feb 19 // 10 –2 pm
- Pasta Dinner ~ March 27 // 5 –9 pm
- Easter Egg Hunt ~ March 29 // 1– 3 pm

Please RSVP with Ms. Wakefield at x 1183



Have you conducted your RAM today?

By Lt. Col. Pete Green, Wing Anti-Terrorism Officer

It's first thing in the morning and you are having your coffee and preparing for the day. Your supervisor comes to you and asks you to go outside and check the building's exterior for anything "suspicious" like boxes or items up against the building and report back to her. You grab your coat and hat and head for the door. Here are a few possible thoughts going through your mind while you are accomplishing the task...

1. "This new camouflage is clearly not working!"
2. "Aw...man its cold out there!"
3. "No problem, I was just asked to help out our anti-terrorism-force protection program!"

The correct answer is number 3. Your supervisor is most likely a Unit Anti-Terrorism Officer (UATO) and has just asked you to execute a unit Random Anti-Terrorism Measure or RAM. Your active involvement in accomplishing this RAM is critical to your unit and to the Wing.

As part of our overall anti-terrorism plan, Operations Plan (OPLAN 10-245), we are required by directive to conduct RAM's every day IAW the applicable Force Protection Condition (FPCON). We do this to assist in being as unpredictable as possible and to disrupt the possible planning, surveillance or operational phase of a potential terrorist or criminal act against our facilities or our people. This is very easy to say, but difficult to do in the modern world. We are all creatures

of habit and have all types planning tools and schedules to keep to each day that force us into standard, visible routines. Do we need to change everything? No, we just need to keep our overall situational awareness at the right level based on the current threat and our location. Remember, in the potential terrorist's mind...predictability = vulnerability and they look for routines to help them establish a less risky target both at home and overseas.

The phrase "the best defense is a good offense" applies well to the focus of our anti-terrorism/force protection programs. We have numerous force protection initiatives in the areas of intrusion detection, physical security emplacements and increased vigilance though our Eagle Eyes and our Wing Random Anti-Terrorism Measures program help our unit project the hardest possible target without significantly impeding our ability to achieve our federal and state missions.

Security Forces Squadrons are directed by Air Force Instruction's 10-245 and 31-101, along with General McNabb, The Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force's 2007 memo on Baseline Standards for Controlling Access to AF Installations to search all commercial vehicles and randomly search private vehicles as directed by the installation commander.

Starting this weekend, we are improving our existing vehicle search program by collaborating with the Massachusetts State Police's K-9 unit. Colonel Brooks has

approved this addition to our AT/FP program after reviewing the program with our Staff Judge Advocate and Security Forces to ensure we are operating within the purview of federal, state and military laws. He has further directed Security Forces to minimize the overall impact to personnel entering the installation.

How will the enhanced program work and how does it affect you? A random number is selected by Colonel Brooks in coordination with our Staff Judge Advocate for each day and time selected throughout the year. The K-9 teams will work with our Security Forces to conduct the random searches of vehicles entering our base. For example, this may be every "tenth or twelve" car for one hour on a certain day or UTA weekend.

The vehicle search team will ensure that all aspects of the operation are completed professionally. It will only take a few minutes of your time. If your vehicle is randomly selected for the search process, please follow the instructions of the Security Forces officer and you will be on your way in no time.

Any questions regarding this program should be directed to SMSgt Puccio, Security Forces Operations Superintendent or to me. Thank you in advance for supporting our AT/FP program and for any slight inconvenience you may experience during the random vehicle searches while entering the base.



Fraud and Cars

By Tech. Sgt. Chris Curtis, Paralegal



Unfortunately, honest people are victimized in a variety of ways. One lucrative scam is auto insurance fraud. The type of auto insurance fraud you should be familiar with is when another driver intentionally causes an accident in order to collect on your benefits. If you are not aware of these scams, they are very easy to be trapped all while driving both carefully and courteously.

The two common types of fraud you should be aware of are the "swoop and squat" and the "run down."

The "swoop and squat" is when a driver merges in front of you then hits the

brakes quickly and unexpectedly causing a rear end collision. In most cases there is no reason for the driver in front to step on his or her brakes, but that fact would be nearly impossible for you to prove in any court.

The "run down" is when you are waiting to make a left hand turn and the person driving the opposite direction with right of way "nicely" slows or stops to let you turn in front of them. When you have committed to the turn, they accelerate sharply and ram you, causing a collision.

In both of these instances, the collisions are difficult to defend against because they appear to be your fault. It is

important to be aware of these common scams and use extra caution when driving.

Two ways to reduce your risk of these frauds is to adhere to 'right-of-way' rules and follow behind other vehicles at safe distances.

Additionally review your auto insurance so you have the amount and type of coverage that is right for you. It is often prudent to maintain the highest level of coverage you can comfortably afford. The typical \$20,000 per person / \$40,000 per accident coverage might not be enough in many instances. Review your plan with your agent and drive cautiously!

Site Activation Task Force in Town By Capt. Matthew T. Mutti, Wing Executive Staff Officer



For the second time in 12 months a site activation task force team has arrived at Barnes to work projects related to the unit's conversion to the F-15 aircraft, specifically the challenges of standing-up the Air Sovereignty Alert detachment which is scheduled to be operational in 2010.

This SATAF is not part II to the previously completed SATAF stated the project offer Maj. Mark Wimmer repre-

senting the Air National Guard Bureau. This SATAF is specifically designed to develop an action plan and provide activation guidance on the ASA function.

The SATAF team members represented one of nine functional groups which have a direct effect on the ASA mission: Communications, Facilities, Maintenance, Training, Command Post, Manpower, Opera-

tions, Planning and Resources, and Support Equipment.

The team concluded their visit on 8 January and provided the commanders an 'outbrief' that identifies areas that will need attention, as well as solutions to some of the hurdles expected through the stand-up. The information provided brings the unit one step closer to being operational in the ASA mission.

Annual Award Program and CCAF Graduation By Staff Sgt. Jerome White, Public Affairs

On December 6th the 104th Fighter Wing held its 35th annual awards ceremony to honor members of the unit who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. While recognizing members who did their military jobs superbly, it also honored many individuals who stood out in other ways; such as those who opened up their hearts through volunteer activities, exemplified the Wingman attitude by looking out for their peers, or took a step towards self improvement by finishing their Community College of the Air Force degrees.



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin

After a phenomenal drill performance by the base honor guard the ceremony began by honoring the following people who finished their Associates of Applied Sciences degrees this year through the CCAF: Master Sergeants Defranco, Martinath, and Wallace; Technical Sergeants Acker, Kushin, Linton, O'Fallon, and Turnberg; and Staff Sergeants Bigelow, Harbachuck, Melvin, and Rivera.

The ceremony was then blessed with a speech by the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard, Major General Joseph Carter, and the unit's members were reminded of the vital role that every member plays in supporting the

mission of air superiority. The unit commander, Col. Brooks, also pointed out that it is units such as the 104th that have ensured our military members have not had to worry about unfriendly skies since World War II.



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin

After the Adjutant General's speech the unit was entertained by a video highlighting many memorable moments throughout the year and then each section of the Wing got to recognize their outstanding members. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of the overall wing awards and on behalf of the entire Fighter Wing I would like to offer hearty congratulations to the winners of the following awards:

Volunteer Appreciation – Alannah Santucci, Kara Smith, Sean Connors, Harlow Pomeroy, and Don Prior;

Paul E. Myrick Information Assurance Professionals of the Year – Tech. Sergeants Scobie and Lucas;

Honor Guard Airman and NCO of the Year – Staff Sergeant Nugent and Master Sergeant Oleksak;

Crew Chief of the Year – Master Sergeant Baillargeon;

Assistant Crew Chief of the Year – Staff Sergeant Harbachuck;

Safety Award of the Year – Technical Sergeant Vayda;

Major General George W. Keefe Award – Senior Master Sergeant Delaney;

First Sergeant of the Year – Master Sergeant Canedy;

Airmen of the Year – Airman 1st Class Hammond;

NCO and Senior NCO of the Year – Tech Sergeant O'Fallon and Senior Master Sergeant Delaney;

AGR/Technician of the Year – Master Sergeant Huard;

Civilian of the Year – Mr. John Richardson;

Junior Officer of the Year – Captain Mutti;

The Massachusetts Air National Guard Recruiting Supervisor of the Year – Master Sergeant Shilaikis;

The Massachusetts Air National Guard Production Recruiter of the Year – Master Sergeant Smith.

Air National Guard Finance Airman of the Year—Airman Neisha Nixon

Air National Guard Finance Superintendent of the Year—Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Delaney

Military Events, Promotions and Deals

Children Bowling Trip with Family Support

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

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

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

Call Sandy Wakefield x1183 or Pat Connors x1717

Free Ski Weekend at Blandford Mountain

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

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

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

This includes retirees with a military retiree identification card

For more information visit <http://www.skiblandford.org/specialevents>

Free 5-day Disney pass

Walt Disney World has just introduced a special Armed Forces Salute Ticket for 2009. Each qualifying Military Service member* will receive a complimentary 5-Day "Disney's Armed Forces Salute Ticket" with Park Hopper and Water Park Fun & More Options included. To receive the FREE ticket, visit any theme park Guest Relations window and show proper ID.

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

Free Tickets to Springfield Falcon Game Against the Hartford Wolfpack

Saturday, February 7th, the team will host a Military Appreciation Night called "Break Out the Blue". Free tickets are available to members and immediate families. Tickets must be requested through the team's community relations office at 413-348-6372 or via e-mail at cappleton@falconsahl.com. Fans are asked to wear blue for the game to show their support of the troops.



Barnestormer & 131st Fighter Squadron T-shirt for sale

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

Supplies are limited



Please contact of the individuals listed below:

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

New Wing Coins in Stock

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

To purchase, please contact your first sergeant.



Family Support Raffle

Family Support Readiness Group is raffling the following prizes at the Dining Facility in January

Signed DC United Freddie Adu Jersey

Signed Chris Capuano Baseball

A Radio Controlled Silver-ado

An Air Force Bear

Scented Candle Bears



Tickets are \$1 each or 7 for \$5.

Jingle Bell Run, 70 Go the Distance By Capt. Matthew Mutti, Wing Executive Staff Officer



When Senior Master Sgt. Tomas Orifice from the aircraft fuels section heard the story of retired Chief Master Sgt. Vinnie Spanillo of the Conn. Air National Guard receiving a kidney donation from retired Col. Jack Swift also of the guard, he was so moved that he wanted to make sure others new about how one life could literally save another.

He collaborated with co-worker Staff Sgt. Jay Kinney and decided that a health-focused activity like a fun run would be the perfect venue to use for raising awareness for two very worthwhile programs, Bone marrow donation and organ donation.

Within a few months of the idea, the Jingle Bell run was born. On a blustery morning, December 7th, 70 members of the wing took part in the first of what they hope are many Jingle Bell Runs.

In attendance for this years event was Chief Spanillo and Col Swift as well as Mr. Chris Coonard represents the bone marrow registration program.

According to Staff Sgt. Kinney the objective will be to hold a road race every December and focus on a different organization or program that deserves extra attention.

This year's focus was on gaining awareness on organ donation and bone marrow registrations. Through this effort more than 50 members registered as potential candidates for bone marrow donations.

Senior Master Sgt. Orifice and Sgt. Kinney were both very excited by the support and turn out and are both looking forward to next years event.

Anyone who is interested in more information on Bone Marrow registration or organ transplant information can visit www.bonemarrow.gov or www.organdonor.gov.

Next year the runner to beat will be Sgt. Jay Salus who ran the 5K road race in a under 20 minutes.



Mission Support Flight Donates Wii to Vets By Maj. David Mendoza, Mission Support Flight Commander

On the morning of December 12th, several members of the Mission Support Flight and one member from Fighter Wing Headquarters delivered a Nintendo Wii and assorted games to the Holyoke Soldiers Home, as a way of saying Merry Christmas and thank-you to the veterans for their military service.

The members that live at the home permanently will utilize this in the common area of their dormitory. The Wii allows them to be entertained all while staying physically active.

TSgt Nadine Bates, came up with the idea and was behind the collection of the funds required to purchase the



gifts. While stationed at West-over ARB, Sgt Bates had organized a similar fundraiser in which a large screen television was purchased and donated to the Home.

Major Dave Mendoza, Mission Support Flight Commander, made the formalized presentation to Mr. Paul Morin, Superintendent, and Ms. Margaret Feyre, Director of Support Services at the Holyoke Soldiers Home. Following the presentation, Mr. Morin and Ms. Feyre gave the members of the 104th a tour of the facilities and gave them an opportunity to visit with the patients, thank them personally for their service, and wish them a Merry Christmas.

Members of the MSF and Finance donate the Wii to Mr. Feyre (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)

Safety: How Goes It?

By Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Dumais, Ground Safety Manager

As a young airman, a worker, and eventually a supervisor I often wondered how we were doing overall in regards to safety. Everyone hears about safety but how are we actually doing in regards to reducing our mishaps and injuries? Beginning this month I would like to start a new forum in which we list a summary of each of our mishaps and injuries. There will be no privileged information contained in it so we are not in violation of regulations. The intent of this new forum is to use the information mishaps provide us, to prevent future occurrences. With that said below is a snapshot of our mishaps and injuries from 1Oct08- 31Dec08.

October

- Injuries

1. Worker injured; twisted ankle; stepped in depression in ground; lost time
2. Worker injured; lacerated knuckle; impacted metal edge; greater than 1st aid

3. Worker injured; lacerated finger; impacted heater fan; greater than 1st aid

- Mishaps

1. Ladder impacted aircraft canopy tearing metal edge, cost \$1000.00

November

- Injuries

1. Worker distress; chest pains; arming operations; no lost time
2. Worker injured; lacerated forehead; struck with wrench; greater than 1st aid

Participant injured; back strain; gym equipment jammed; lost time

- Mishaps

1. GSA van impacted rear of vehicle; cost \$2000.00+

December

- Injuries

1. Worker distress; shortness of breath; in break room; no lost time
2. Worker injured; bruised knee; struck with slide hammer; no lost time

- Mishaps

1. Plow caught runway barrier cable north; no damage
2. Bird strike on aircraft; no damage
3. Plow caught and broke runway barrier cable south; cost \$3,928.90+labor

The take away from each of these is most were preventable. I am sure no one means to damage stuff or to get hurt, but if this is true, the question is how can we reduce the risk? The next time you are getting ready to do a job ask yourself these questions. Can I get hurt or damage anything? If yes how? How or what can I do BEFORE I do it to lessen the chance?

How To: Update Your Address in the Virtual Military Personnel System (vMPF)

Everyone has the ability to update their address in the vMPF. The following outlines the steps needed to perform this function. It is important that if you move or change your address that you update this system. The information in the vMPF ties directly to your record. If data is inaccurate or out of date you could be putting yourself at risk for an error that could effect your pay and or benefits.

1. Log into the Air Force Portal and use the link to the [vMPF](#)
2. Once in the vMPF click the link for [Self Service Actions](#)
3. Click the link for [Personal Data](#)
4. Click the link for [Record/Review/Update](#)
5. Click the link for [Individual](#)

The information screen will come up, click on the link for the **Address** section. The system requires you to update the address in all **capital letters and include the zip + 4**. If you do not know your zip +4 you can go to www.usps.com, United States Postal Service Website, and that will allow you to look your +4 up.



Westfield Joins ESGR Mission By Capt. Matthew T. Mutti, WESO

8 December Mayor Michael Boulanger signed a Statement of Support, declaring the city would do everything in its power to support its employees who are also members of the National Guard or Reserves.

The 'Statement of Support' is a symbolic gesture reassuring that the Mayor will continue support the member of the National Guard and Reserves that are employed by the city, buy ensuring their rights are upheld during a time of deployment or training. The city of Westfield employees several members of the National Guard and Reserves, 31 members of Barnes Air National Guard work for the City of Westfield as Firefighters, Police officer, Teachers and other professions.



"We have always received the support we needed from the City of Westfield, this signing is a symbolic gesture that raises awareness within the city that the support of Guard and Reserve employers is crucial to us being able to accomplish our mission," said Col Brooks.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

Traditional Job Positions

Weapons Safety Manager Position



Location- 104FW/HQ

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

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

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

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

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

Application Process and deadline- Interested applicants can apply by submitting a resume or other application method via E-mail or office mail to both Lt Col Jay Davis, 104FW Chief of Safety jay.davis@mabarn.ang.af.mil and Major Jeffery Beckel, 104FW/SE Jeffery.beckel@mabarn.ang.af.mil. Applications will be accepted until 1200L on 10 January 2009.

State Human Resources Advisor (HRA)

Location- JFHQ ~ Milford Mass

Minimum Grade- E-8 Promotable **Maximum Grade-** E-9/CMSGt

Position- Traditional Guardsman assigned to Milford Mass.

Duties- Develop and maintain liaison with The Adjutant General (TAG), Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Chief of Staff, Director of Staff, State and Wing Command Chief Master Sergeants, Recruiting and Retention Superintendent, State Equal Employment Manager, Commanders, Community Managers, Chaplain, Military Equal Opportunity Officers, Director of Personnel, Wing HRAs, First Sergeants, Recruiters, Retention Office Managers, Army National Guard State Diversity Coordinator, and Community Leaders.

Application Process and deadline- Candidates will submit a cover letter (through chain-of-command) with resume (two-page limit) and a copy of their Records Review List (RIP) to the JFHQ, ATTN: COL Gary Keefe, 50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757-3604. Applications and RIPS must arrive at JFHQ NLT (1700 HOURS) 19 Jan 09. Any applications that arrive at JFHQ after 1700 hours will be returned without action. The JFHQ will notify non-qualified applicants as soon as possible after receipt. All other applicants will be notified of the date/time/place of the selection board. Personal interviews will be required.

Paralegal

Position/Title/Grade: Paralegal/E-6

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

Unit: 104th FW Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Supervisor: Major Robin Peterson

Application Deadline: Until filled

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



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

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

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

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

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

Public Affairs Journalist

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

Minimum Grade eligible to apply: None

Supervisor: Capt. Mary Harrington

Application Deadline: February 8

POC for more information: Capt. Harrington, ext 1263

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



MyEDP sets stage for success

"MyEDP," which stands for My Enlisted Development Plan, is a valuable online tool available through the Air Force Portal Website. It is designed to guide Airmen through their own careers and allow them to track the careers of those they supervise or mentor. You can find information on everything from education and training to informal discussion forums with other Airmen.

Here are some things available to you on MyEDP:

- **Library** - This section includes documents and information pertaining specifically to your career field. You may find anything from briefings you can share with your shop to policy letters, and advice for writing enlisted performance reports, awards and decorations.
- **Discuss Air Force issues in an open forum** – The forums allow you to receive input from Airmen across the globe about issues that concern you from assignments and deployments to uniforms and physical training. The forum is monitored for content, but entries are not deleted so Airmen don't get the "party line" answers to their questions.
- **News** - Here you'll find news about your career field as well as Air Force news headlines.
- **Mentoring** - You can upload documents, certificates, transcripts, packages or any other items you would like to make accessible to your supervisors and mentors anywhere in the world, and the Airmen you supervise or mentor can share their information with you.
- **Outline educational and career goals** - Under "Enlisted Development Tools," you can view the enlisted career path that can guide your career from Airman basic to chief master sergeant. The enlisted career path outlines promotion requirements, education and training requirements, professional development, career broadening and key leadership roles that can help Airmen achieve their personal and professional goals.
- **View career and educational summaries** - MyEDP gives you access to your Air Force Personnel Center record information, Community College of the Air Force credits and much more. You can view your past duty history, requirements for upgrade and ancillary training, as well as information about professional military education opportunities.

MyEDP is located on the Air Force Portal featured links under "Top Viewed: Career."

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

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

Welcome to our newest members

Kristopher West,	SFS
Kelly Willing	MSG
Ashley Rodriguez	SFS
Ashley Sheffield	AMXS
Josh Daniels	AMXS
Juan Rodriguez	MXS
Peter Chlastawa	MXS
James Shepard	MXS
Alicia Dimino	OG
Shane Koakley	SFS
Ross Meyers	AMXS

Congratulations to the following retirees

Joel Thompson, MXS	15 Jan 09
Greg Henderson, FS	30 Jan 09
Mark Lavigne, CES	2 Feb 09
Dennis Bates, MXS	23 Feb 09
Charles Kronoff, MOF	27 Feb 09
Peter Lupien, MXS	1 Mar 09
Michael Vassi, CES	16 Mar 09
Curtis Pichette, CES	16 Mar 09
Tina Meyer, MSF	30 Apr 09
Ruth Maio, SVF	7 May 09

Retirement Party Master Sgt. Lupien

When: February 20th

Time 11:00

Location: Westwood Restaurant

Tickets are \$18

Tickets available from:

Mike Styckiewicz,

Robert Olelksak,

Elvis Martinez

Timothy Dorman



Congratulations on your promotions

To Senior Airman

Benro Fernandes, MXS

Leon Rice, FWHQ

Jonathan Pumarol, OSF



To Staff Sgt.

Stephen Belford



To Tech. Sgt.

Michael Michaud, MXS



To Master Sgt.

Neil Dargis, SVF

Marriage Enrichment (Strong Bonds) Seminar

The Massachusetts National Guard Family Program and the Chaplain's Office have teamed up to offer you a truly outstanding program known as **PREP** (Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program) for deployed members and their spouse.

This program is designed to provide an opportunity for the couple to reconnect as well as to work through some of the difficulties inherit with deployment.

The FREE program consists of the following:

A weekend retreat at Cape Cod, accommodations, food, per diem, the class, the PREP materials.

The next retreat is scheduled for Feb 27—March 1

Any member who is preparing to deploy or has returned from deployment is encouraged to attend a retreat with their spouse.

Contact Ms. Sandy Wakefield at extension 1183 for more information.

"Family Readiness is key to Operational Readiness"

Congratulations to our Annual Award Winners

Volunteer Appreciation – Alannah Santucci, Kara Smith, Sean Conners, Harlow Pomeroy, and Don Prior

Paul E. Myrick Information Assurance Professionals of the Year – Tech. Sergeants Scobie and Lucas

Honor Guard Airman and NCO of the Year – Staff Sergeant Nugent and Master Sergeant Oleksak

Crew Chief of the Year – Master Sergeant Baillargeon

Assistant Crew Chief of the Year – Staff Sergeant Harbachuck

Safety Award of the Year – Technical Sergeant Vayda

Major General George W. Keefe Award – Senior Master Sergeant Delaney

First Sergeant of the Year – Master Sergeant Canedy

Airmen of the Year – Airman 1st Class Hammond

NCO and Senior NCO of the Year – Tech Sergeant O’Fallon and Senior Master Sergeant Delaney

AGR/Technician of the Year – Master Sergeant Huard

Civilian of the Year – Mr. John Richardson

Junior Officer of the Year – Captain Mutti

The Massachusetts Air National Guard Recruiting Supervisor of the Year – Master Sergeant Shilaikis

The Massachusetts Air National Guard Production Recruiter of the Year – Master Sergeant Smith

Air National Guard Finance Airman of the Year—Airman Neisha Nixon

Air National Guard Finance Superintendent of the Year—Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Delaney



104TH FIGHTER WING

175 Falcon Drive
Westfield MA 011085

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



*BarneStormers
Pride, Professionalism,
Patriotism.*

Were on the Web

WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL

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