



# AIRSCOOP

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

*Pride, Professionalism, Patriotism*

*Barnes Air National Guard Base*

**April 2009**



104th Fighter Wing F-15s sit ready on the flight line during the Snowbird 2009 deployment to Key West Naval Air Station Florida in March 2009.

(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)



*Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.*

**AIRSCOOP**

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

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# Commander's Column

By Col. Robert T. Brooks

Barnestormers, Saturday of March drill was a historic day as we launched our first ever aviation deployment in the F-15 Eagle (which, by the way, is owner of a 104 to 0 kill ratio in air to air combat). Our deployment was a huge success as we flew 94 sorties over a two week period and had an overall Mission Capability Rate of 80.2%. The first week we only lost one scheduled sorties and during week two we did not miss a single sortie. The Saturday deployment was witnessed by The Adjutant General, Major General Joseph Carter. He was impressed with his visit to the 104<sup>th</sup> and everyone on the base. He followed up with a visit and back seat ride in the D-model in Key West and was equally impressed (as was Brigadier General Rice). I want to thank each and every one of you who helped make the deployment a success. A special thanks to Lt. Col. Nash who was the Project Officer.

I also want to recognize and applaud the selfless service of a few of our members during the deployment. One of our members became very ill with a blood infection and was subsequently hospitalized. While we just welcomed him and his family home to Massachusetts Tuesday afternoon, he was in the Intensive Care Units in Key West and Miami for a week. He and his family received first class care from our amazing first shirts by way of Master Sgt. Tony Dultz, Master Sgt. Art Rief and Master Sgt. Don Wright. I would like to thank them for their service and epitomizing the wingman concept. I would also like to thank Ms. Sandy Wakefield, Major Dave Mendoza, Master Sgt. Nathan Mutti, Tech. Sgt. Nadine Bates, Col. Gunning and Lt. Col. Collins for their efforts during this entire process.

Another milestone was reached during March drill as Services won the Kenneth W. Disney Award as the best services flight in the Air National Guard. Congrats to Capt. Ray Diaz and ALL members of services; you all certainly deserve this recognition. In addition, we also recently passed our Communication Security (COMSEC) inspection, one more milestone on our way ahead in continuing the tradition of being the best Fighter

Wing in the Combat Air Force. Thanks to Major Desarro, his team, and all of our COMSEC Responsible Officers who worked so hard to get us through the inspection with flying colors. We have had several other folks recognized as national level award winners:

**Master Sgt. Ernie Smith:** Top Production Recruiter in the country

**Senior Master Sgt. Joe Delaney:** Air National Guard Finance Superintendent of the Year

**Senior Airman Neisha Nixon:** Air National Guard Finance Airman of the Year

state award winners:

**Senior Master Sgt. Joe Delaney:** Mass. National Guard Honor Guard Manager of the Year

**Staff Sgt. Stephanie Nugent:** Mass. National Guard Honor Guard Member of the Year

**Tech. Sgt. Sandra O'Fallon:** Mass. Air National Guard NCO of the Year

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## Commander's Column ( Cont' )

As I write this article, Lt. Col. Pete Green is engaged with the Air Force Vulnerability Assessment team. I have every confidence we are in good hands with Pete, his leadership, and his team. As June approaches you will see us gear up for a phase 1 Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE).

For those of you that do not know what a phase 1 is, it is when we test our ability to deploy into theater with our combat assets (people, cargo, and our F-15s). We will also regenerate the aircraft "in theater" and have them ready to employ in combat prior to ending the exercise. Our Medical Groups Health Services Inspection (HSI) is in August, so we will use the synergy of getting our deployment requirements tight as

we prepare for the HSI.

I just want to stress to all of you how important your roles are in helping us to achieve so many important milestones. Your pride, professionalism and patriotism are clear in all that you do. People at every level see it, from the community of Westfield to our leaders on Beacon Hill, and your efforts are seen and appreciated by leadership at all levels.

Courage, Commitment, Camaraderie, Dedication and Drive were just some of the character traits I witnessed first hand while deployed with 160 of you to Key West. Those are the same characteristics I saw the first time I set foot on this base.

Those are the same characteristics others

see when they come on base. It is all of these characteristics that make the 104<sup>th</sup> the best Fighter Wing in the combat Air Force.

Thank you all for what you do and for the attitude in which you accomplish it. I heard someone once say, "If you believe in yourself (and your wingman), have dedication and pride, and never quit, you'll always be a winner. The price of victory is high, but so are the rewards".



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

Teamwork is so critical to success, truly it is. In the past few months, we have demonstrated that

fact over and over again as we keep making Olympic-style strides toward our goal of being mission ready.

Teamwork can be seen in more ways than just the fact that we are now turning 8 sorties a day. If you look around the wing you will see teamwork in not only what we accomplish as a wing, but what each individual accomplishes each and every day, both at work and even at home.

Consider the following for just a moment; organizations within this base continue to be recognized at the national level for their accomplishments; Disney Award, Recruiting, Finance, Communications, Security. Add to those accomplishments the many individuals that are recognized for being the best of their career fields...not just within the state, but again, nationally.

Would these accolades be possible without teamwork? I suggest not. If an individual succeeds, it is because a lot of people helped him or her to achieve. In every positive story, you can find teamwork.

Each and every one of you, when given a chance to shine, does just that. Sometimes your efforts are translated into group recognition, other times your efforts will help someone else to shine even more brightly than without your help. This is when teamwork is its most powerful. I would like to remind you that "service before self" is indeed the greatest definition of teamwork.

This drill we will be awarding a Bronze Star to Tech. Sgt. Greg Pauli for his team-centered approach to service. I am rather sure that teamwork was not what was running through his mind as he was helping his fellow service members who were injured by an Improvised Explosive Device. Rather, he reacted and used the skills and character that were instilled in him to complete his mission, and part of his strength came from his loyalty to his

team, and the mission at large.

Everyday people do extraordinary things, often without realizing how or why they were able to do them. I look at these accomplishments as a product of their environment.

Here at Barnes, you are in an environment to succeed, a place where people genuinely care, and will allow you the opportunity to shine. Col. Brooks will tell you that your efforts are noticed. I will agree and reinforce that statement with, "your efforts make a difference."

Don't forget to thank and recognize the people in your life who help you to shine, both here and at home.

Keep pressing forward, we will always have challenges in front of us, but you have all demonstrated you can clearly succeed as a team.





## First Sgt.'s Column By Master Sgt. Art Rief, Maintenance Squadron First Sgt.

Let me introduce you to the SCARECROW PROGRAM.

"Oh NO! Not another program."

Relax, this one is rather fun and you get prizes. The focus of the program is to allow all personnel to approach individuals that are not meeting the guidance in AFI 36-2903, in a non-confrontational way by asking "are you the *scarecrow*?" If the individual is NOT the *scarecrow*, then he or she will know that they are not within the guidance and can correct the deficiency. This method will further improve the overall compliance with dress and appearance on base.

The First Sergeants' Council will pick one, two or a few people to be *scarecrows*. That member will deliberately do something against AFI36-2903 the Dress and Appearance regulation. Those members will intentionally stand out between the hours of 8:00 a.m Saturday to 2:00 p.m Sunday of the UTA.

The *Scarecrow* will prepare their assigned discrepancy, i.e. not wearing a cover, having sunglasses on their head, wearing an unauthorized accessory, etc.. That member will maintain the discrepancy until a base member identifies it. The *Scarecrow* will not identify himself as such until the discrepancy has been identified. If a member cannot or does not identify the discrepancy, then the *Scarecrow* will go-about his or her business until some identifies the uniform error.

When a member identifies the discrepancy, the *Scarecrow* will ask for the member's name and name of their First Sergeant. Once the *Scarecrow* has obtained the information, they will inform the member that they have indeed found the *Scarecrow*. It is important the *Scarecrow* brief the member that they are not to let anyone know they have identified the *Scarecrow* so that the program can continue until 1400 hours on Sunday

The winners, the people who find the *Scarecrows*, will be recognized by the Commander, Command Chief and the First Sergeant Council. The winners will also get prizes. Surprisingly, the Command Chief and First Sergeants have some cool trinkets that a lot of people would like to have.

Next time you say, "Hey Airman, where is your cover", you may have found the Scarecrow.

So play along and enjoy the "program".



## 104th Member Thanks His Employer By Mr. Bill Hebert, Mass. ESGR

The Employer Support of Guard and Reserve Committee (ESGR) works to improve relationships between businesses who employ members of the Guard and Reserve and the reservists. One way they do this is through recognizing businesses who go above and beyond to support their employees who also serve the country through uniformed service.

Early this year, Farm Credit Financial Partners, Inc. of Agawam, Mass. received the prestigious 'Above and Beyond' Award from the Mass. ESGR Committee during a ceremony in front of approximately 50 company management personnel. Mr. Earl Bonett, Mass. ESGR Western Mass. Area Chair and Ombudsman Director, along with Mr. Bill Hebert, Mass. ESGR member, presented the award to Mr. Thomas J.

Moran, the President & CEO of Financial Partners Inc. and Ms. Claude Waterman, Vice President for Human Resources.

Financial Partners, Inc. provides outstanding support to its employees who also are members of the National Guard and Reserve Forces. The company provides a differential pay for mobilized reservists, continuation of



Earl Bonett, MA ESGR Area Chair and Ombudsman Director, Claude Waterman, Vice President of Human Resources, Thomas J. Moran, President & CEO, and SSgt Victor Rolon. (staff photo)

all benefits and numerous other support systems for their military personnel and their families, many of which are not required by law.

Victor Rolon, a Staff Sgt. with the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing in Westfield, MA, nominated his employer for the ESGR award to recognize their outstanding support during a recent deployment.

"I was only married a short time when I received orders to deploy," Staff Sgt. Rolon said. "The solid support my family and I received during that period made it much less of a burden." He received numerous "care packages" while away and company employees consistently offered assistance to his wife to help her accomplish her responsibilities.

## Barnes Practices Alert Scramble

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

The countdown to January 2010 is quickly rolling by, we are less than 9 months away from being operational in our new Air Sovereignty Alert mission.

On 26 March at 2:00 p.m. the wing practiced its first exercise scramble. This exercise is the first of many in order to get the wing ready for its new mission.

With this exercise scenario, the different agencies that are responsible for a piece of the alert puzzle were able to work through some of their initial scramble process. They were able to see through practical application how important timing, communication and pace are when deploying aircraft in 5-7 minutes, versus the standard 20-30 minutes.



Two alert F-15 Cs stand alert (Photo by SMSgt. Sabonis)

As the alarm rang out, Capt. Dan Wittmer and Lt. Col. Tomas Kelly ran to their jets, started the engines and within 6 minutes they were at the end of the runway with afterburners lit.

“As the exercise progressed everyone began to run through the appropriate procedural checklists, getting familiar with their newly assigned tasks while making sure to identify areas for im-

provement,” said Lt. Col. Jay Davis, chief of flight safety and ASA project officer. “We have a few months to improve the process, but were off to a great start.”

Once the ASA complex is completed the scenarios will be less scripted and will provide even better training for both the pilots and the support personnel.



Aircraft 475 takes off during the exercise (Photo by SMgt Sabonis)

## Disney Bound...actually Chicago Bound

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

The votes are tallied, and the winner is...the 104<sup>th</sup> Service Flight. The Hennessey Travelers Association recently named the 104<sup>th</sup> Services Flight as the winner of the 2008 Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth W. Disney award.

This is the second time in 5 years that the team from Barnes was selected as the top Services Flight in the Air National Guard. Under the leadership of Capt. Ramon Diaz Jr., Chief Master Sgt. Richard Bates, Senior Master Sgt. Richard Baker, Senior Master Sgt. Bill Butman and Master Sgt. Jim Tierney, the team was able to demonstrate for the judges what the Barnstormer family has come to expect from the 104<sup>th</sup> Services Flight...pure excellence.



Master Sgt. Jim Tierney (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin)

During the Hennessey Team out-brief many of the outstanding Airmen were highlighted, but two individuals were recognized with an opportunity to attend a one-week culinary arts course in California, sponsored by the Culinary Institute of America. Along with top chefs from throughout the country, Tech. Sgt. Tanya Sweeney and Staff Sgt. Quincy Cope will learn various aspects of advanced food preparation.

“The teamwork and pride demonstrated by this flight was incredible,” said Mr. Jim Krueger, Hennessey Travelers Association Secretary/Treasurer. “We typically do not recognize two members for the culinary art scholarship, but these two shined so brightly.”

In recognition for winning this competition, the Services Flight will take part in the National Restaurant Association convention in Chicago Ill. and be awarded the Disney award amidst thousands of restaurateurs and professionals in the realm of restaurant and travel administration.

“I am so proud of the hard work this flight puts in every drill,” said Col. E.J. Gunning, 104<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group Commander. “Their dedication and commitment to excellence is visible in everything they do, from meal preparation, to their work on developing a readiness response team. They are the best in the ANG and now they have the hardware to back it up.”



Staff Sgt. Quincy Cope (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melanie Casineau)



## Enhanced Student Flight Training

### By 2d Lt. Elizabeth Mesecher, Mission Support Flight

It is still dark out on a Saturday morning in March. Student Flight members and a few staff members from the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing prepare to embark upon a rather non-traditional training weekend. It is not an Air Force bus pulling through the gates of Lackland Air Force Base, but rather a caravan of vehicles that trek from Westfield to Otis Air National Guard Base on the Cape. The student flight members from the 104<sup>th</sup> will be joined by student flight members from the 102<sup>nd</sup>, 212<sup>th</sup> and Joint Forces Headquarters.

Once we arrive at Otis the students are instructed to wait until they are greeted by an instructor. Once they are all inside the building they wait in a large conference room. Here they are instructed to listen and follow all directions that the instructors will be giving them. They are then herded out in small groups to be

weighed-in and undergo a shakedown inspection by their drill instructor, Tech. Sgt. Someone. Then the games begin.

Here is where most of them received their first taste of what they might be able to expect at BASIC training.

Once they have been in-processed, and been issued their first MRE, the students are ready to commence their training. The students receive training both in and out of the classroom. They are instructed on giving a reporting statement, proper wear of the uniform, and customs and courtesies. The students undergo their first Air Force Fitness Assessment. Then it is back to the dorms for another hasty uniform change. Then fall out for dinner with the Army National Guard. Dinner is followed by more classroom training on suicide prevention and sexual assault awareness with the Army National Guard. The day wraps up with a team building exercise hosted by the 102<sup>nd</sup> instructors.

The next day the students are woken up abruptly for another round of physical fitness assessment with the Army. After breakfast, dorm clean up and out processing, the day culminates with a graduation ceremony conducted by the Army National Guard. Then it is back to Westfield.

The training the student flight members received this weekend is intended to prepare them for the next step in their Air Force careers, BASIC training. They were exposed to a number of mental and physical challenges in a structured training environment in order to help them assess their individual level

of preparation for Basic Training. Therefore, if they aren't as prepared as they need to be then they will know it. The objectives of the



program are actually quite simple. By creating a controlled level of stress, while assessing their weight and level of physical conditioning, the training is organized to help each individual to understand and experience the benefits of teamwork and develop increased self confidence. Throughout their training, concepts of personal accountability and responsibility are continually reinforced, as is following instructions, meeting and exceeding standards, and pushing themselves to excel.



As this program progresses students will have the opportunity to experience more non-service specific training with the Army National Guard which will include Army combat skills training. Without a doubt another intense and rewarding weekend can be expected. The next Enhanced Student Flight Training Program will be held the weekend of 17-19 July at Otis ANGB.



## Snow Bird 2009 ~ 'Keys' to Success By Capt. Matthew T. Mutti, Wing Executive Staff Officer

After the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing was directed to convert from A-10 aircraft to F-15 aircraft in 2005, a series of changes began to unfold; changes in the base infrastructure, manning and now the way it trains. On 7 March the wing participated in its



An F-15 D Eagle races by the tower at NAS Key West (photo by SMSgt. Sabonis)

While flying the A-10s the unit would regularly deploy to engage in combat search and rescue and close air support training along with the US Army and Army National Guard units, this time it was different on many levels. The most evident difference is that all the training was in the realm of air to air combat, a skill set that the pilots of the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing gladly accept an opportunity to practice.

With snow still on the ground in New England, 160 wing members packed-up, and transported the flying operation to Naval Air Station Key West. This undertaking marks a historic first step for the wing to become operational in its new mission slated for January of 2010 as they assume responsibly for providing air sovereignty alert from Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield, Mass. With Exercise Red Flag a few months away, this opportunity allowed Airmen from throughout the base the chance to spread their wings and practice what they will be graded on in Nevada during Red Flag.

With 7 aircraft on the ground at Key West, the first step was



Members conduct a FOD walk while at NAS Key West. (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)

first F-15 deployment exercise. 160 members and 7 F-15s traveled to Key West to engage in dissimilar aircraft intercept training at Naval Air Station Key West.

completed...get there. Two days later the exercises began, with a pace of 4 aircraft launching at a time, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. The 131<sup>st</sup> Fighter Squadron, attached to the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, flew against both Canadian CF-18 Super Hornets and the US Navy F-18 Hornets in both Red-Air and Blue-Air engagements. While engaging in Red-Air, the pilots would fly the role of an aggressor, mimicking the behaviors and tactics of potential adversaries. While in Blue-Air scenarios, the aviators would practice both offensive counter air and defensive counter air tactics.

"The value of working in these conditions is nearly unmatched," said Capt. Daniel Wittmer, 131 Fighter Squadron Weapons Officer. "Within minutes we were able to engage multiple targets in the local airspace, allowing ample time to run multiple scenarios and capitalize on every training opportunity."

The maintenance and support functions played a key role to making this training opportunity a reality. Throughout the two-week long engagement, the aircraft maintainers generated 43 sorties when only 41 were originally scheduled. They maintained an 80% mission capable rate with a 30 year-old airframe.

"This type of training is critical to our success providing air sovereignty to the north east, specifically when we could be engaged with different types of aircraft crossing into our airspace," said Col Robert T. Brooks Jr., 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Commander. "The wing demonstrated that it was still proficient in its expeditionary foundations, generating 7 jets for deployment all while making sure all the support functions were properly equipped and trained was no simple feat."

While conducting this training in Key West, the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard, Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter and the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Brig. Gen. L. Scott Rice traveled down to view the operation first hand. While at Key West Maj. Gen. Carter addressed the Airmen who participated in the exercise.



Maj Gen. Carter prepares for an orientation ride while at NAS Key West (photo by SMSgt. Sabonis)

"The Massachusetts National Guard has met its objectives, you (the deployed Airmen) made it happen, and without question this training opportunity was a complete success at every level," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Cater.

Maj. Gen. Carter took advantage of the opportunity to fly with the 131<sup>st</sup> Fighter Squadron, learning first hand the stressors supersonic flight can put on ones body and the importance of the training. During his flight he traveled at speeds in excess of 760 miles an hour, traveling faster then the speed of sound.

## EAC Column

### By Tech. Sgt. Wade Rivest, Enlisted Advisory Council Vice President

With Key West 2009 behind us, we all have a lot to be proud of here at the 104th Fighter Wing, as it was our first deployment with the F-15. Our unit successfully deployed seven jets and 160 airman, while turning out an amazing number of sorties. I had the honor of working with Maj. Gen. Carter in fitting and training him on his flight equipment. I saw first hand how proud he was of everyone in our unit. As I returned home, I noticed more and more each day the excellence and pride we have here at Barnes. As a member of the Enlisted Advisory Council, I want you to realize and consider the importance of workplace dynamics and remember to keep open lines of communication.

EAC recently voted on a new mission statement. *“Our mission is to be the voice for the junior enlisted ranks and to serve as a conduit to the senior enlisted and the officer corps. We will work to-*



*gether to address the needs and concerns of our enlisted force as well as rejuvenate the esprit de corps that is the centerpiece of our legacy of excellence at the 104th Fighter Wing.”* As stated in our mission statement, the Council wants to strongly represent the junior enlisted core and urge you to let us know how we can help you better. Take time to reflect on your workplace dynamics and how we can continue to improve. As I

am part of the Air Force’s merger of Aircrew Life Support and Survival Equipment, I know firsthand the importance of patience, determination and striving for excellence. At times, we all experience frustration, lack of communication and feelings of stress. However, we must work these things through and remember why we are here, and why we do what we do in the uniform that we wear.

Furthermore, just as it is important for you to communicate within your individual shops, you should keep in contact with your EAC representative. It is the goal of EAC to take your concerns and work with the First Sergeants, the Chiefs Council and our Commanders. You, the junior enlisted member of our unit, are the future of our success here at Barnes. Always remember your integrity, strive for excellence, and take pride in being part of such a great unit, the 104th Fighter Wing.

## Airman Spotlight :Tech. Sgt. Sandra O’Fallon

### By Ms. Cresse Parenteau, Southwick Tolland Regional High School Intern

There are many different jobs here in the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, and one person I had the opportunity to talk with was Technical Sergeant Sandra L. O’Fallon. She has many responsibilities in Operations. She utilizes ARMS, Aviation Resource Management System, to track the unit’s pilots training history. The pilots have to stay up to date with safety equipment and training. Her other responsibilities include: operation control, radio/telephone communication, tracking training hours, standards and evaluations. She also prepares for unit deployments by making sure the records are up to date and the shop has supplies.

Sgt. O’Fallon has spent 8 years in the Air Force, 2 and a 1/2 years of active duty, and the remaining time in the guard. She has been full time for a year and loves her job. She enjoyed the deployments she’d been on because it gave her a chance to meet new people and see old friends. She has been deployed to Iraq twice, once as part of a volunteer rotation. Her original moti-

vation to join the military was the educational benefits and the opportunity to get away from her hometown in Florida. She graduated from UMass-Amherst in May 2007 with a major in Hospitality Tourism Management and a minor in psychology.

Sgt. O’Fallon enjoys spending time with her husband, who is a doctoral student at UMass-Amherst. She is also very proud of her Korean heritage.

During my time with Tech. Sergeant Sandra O’Fallon, I learned many new things about what goes on behind the desk in Operations. Nuances such as cataloging events that occur with the aircraft, such as take offs and landing, which are documented in Zulu time so that everyone uses the same time, regardless of their location. Zulu time is about 5 hours ahead of our local time and is based on the time in Greenwich UK. Also, call signs are used for the

pilots instead of their real names; a two-syllable name is used to help with security and clarity of communications.

Recently, Sgt. O’Fallon was appointed the new President of the Enlisted Advisory Council. She enjoys the opportunity to make a difference on base. In addition, she was selected as the Base and State Non-commissioned Officer of the Year. When I asked her about her award she said, “I’m just doing my job.”



TSgt. Sandra O’Fallon. (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Rob Sabonis)

## Paraguay Support By Capt. Steve Burgess, Physician Assistant

On February 24, 2009 three members of the 104<sup>th</sup> Medical Group teamed up with three Mass. Army National Guard Medical Command members and a Flight Surgeon from the 102<sup>nd</sup> Intelligence Wing for a brief but highly successful medical mission to Paraguay.



Lt. Col. Theodore Rockwell a dentist, Capt Steve Burgess, a Physician Assistant and SSgt Meredith Munroe a Dental Assistant from 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing worked alongside Paraguayan mili-

tary doctors and dentists during a two-day medical capability mission in the rural community of Capitan Mesa.

The event planning and logistical support was provided primarily by an Active Duty Army Civil Affairs Team in conjunction with the U.S. Consulate. The Mass. National Guard

was tasked for the mission as Massachusetts and Paraguay have established a State Partnership Program. A day after the 18 hour flight, the group traveled 10 hours via a convoy to a needy rural community and set up a temporary

clinic in a local high school. Throughout the two day event, free care was provided to approximately 2,500 patients in multiple specialties including dentistry, primary care, gynecological care, ophthalmology and pediatrics. An impromptu pharmacy dispensed thousands of free medications and thousands of vaccinations/antiparacitics were administered.



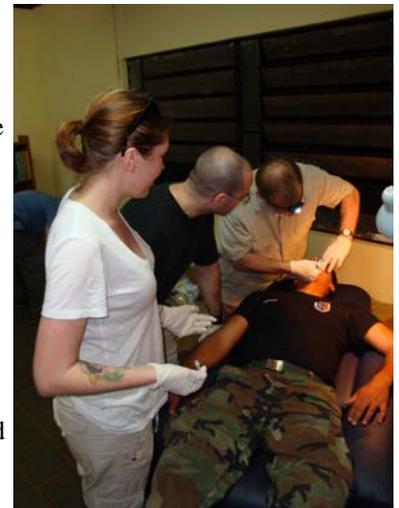
parts and their citizens during a peacetime mission that was a prime example of our military's potential to not only support, but also supplement allies and developing nations. The mission was successful in utilizing U.S. resources to assist the Paraguayan military to demonstrate their capabilities to their citizens. The entire U.S. team overcame challenges as they arose to include providing care through language barriers both in Spanish, but also the indigent language of Guarani.

Lt. Col. Rockwell brought along personal dental equipment and supplies that were quickly adopted by his Paraguayan counterparts for the remainder of the mission. Lt. Col. Rockwell and Staff Sgt. Munroe didn't seem to miss the equipment as they had plenty of work performing hundreds of tooth extractions. Capt. Burgess worked alongside a Paraguayan Pediatrician and together they saw or screened over 700 patients during the weekend.

To all of us the trip was a success, both personally and professionally. Positive feedback was immediately received by the U.S. consulate and future missions including support from the 104<sup>th</sup> Medical Group are already tentatively planned. Aside from the political ties that were strengthened during the mission, the three of us were privileged enough to give something to a needy community and receive appreciation which needed no translation.



104th Medical Group members prepare equipment prior to starting any exams. (Staff photo)



Lt. Col. Rockwell demonstrates the exam for onlookers (staff photo)

## 'Move-Over Law'

By Chief Master Sgt. Laurence Heller, 104th Medical Group

The new Move Over Law went into effect on March 22 and it aims to protect police, firefighters, paramedics, tow truck drivers, and all roadside emergency and maintenance workers.

Chapter 89-7C states:

(b) Upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle, highway maintenance vehicle or recovery vehicle with flashing lights an operator shall:

(1) proceed with due caution, reduce the speed of the vehicle to that of a reasonable and safe speed for road conditions, and, if practicable and on a highway having at least 4 lanes with not less than 2 lanes proceeding in the same direction as the operator's vehicle, yield



troopers have been injured on the job. Please make every effort

the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the emergency response vehicle, highway maintenance vehicle or recovery vehicle; or

(2) if changing lanes is impracticable, proceed with due caution and reduce the speed of the vehicle to that of a reasonable and safe speed for road conditions.

(c) Violation of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100."

Every year, first responders across the country are injured or killed while providing emergency roadside help. In recent months, several Massachusetts state troopers have been injured on the job. Please make every effort

## Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection

By Lt. Col. Pete Green, Security Forces Squadron Commander

ARE YOU ABLE TO IDENTIFY A SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE?

Delivering an explosive or incendiary device through the mail is an anonymous and relatively risk-free way for a terrorist or others to hit a target. We are not immune to this type of threat here at Barnes. Not too long ago, we were one of the government sites that received a "suspicious package" that the Department of Homeland Defense and local and federal law enforcement alerted us on.

Our Communications Flight personnel identified the package and we notified the proper authorities. Now this particular package did not contain anything other than anti-US propaganda...this time, but it met a number of the items discussed below.

We must all be alert to this easy terrorist tactic both at work and at home. Fortunately, we can counteract this threat by identifying suspicious packages or envelopes and then safely dealing with them. What makes a package suspicious? Here are some of the typical indicators:

- An unusual or unknown point of origin.
- No return address.
- Return address doesn't match postmark.
- Incorrect spelling on package label.
- An excessive amount of postage.
- An abnormal or unusual size.
- An uneven balance or shape.
- Oily stains on the package.
- Wires or strings protruding from the package.
- Peculiar odor.



Of course any of these indicators could just mean a relative, friend, or fellow Air Force member didn't do a good job of packaging a gift or part, but just the same you should be a little extra cautious. Usually after further investigation and examination of the exterior of the package or envelope there is enough evidence to indicate a package is safe to open. However, if you are still not certain of a package's safety after an examination of it, don't open it. Notify the Security Forces Desk at 1426 or your local police department if at home. They will advise you on what to do and notify the personnel who need to deal with the situation.

**If you think something is suspicious, then it is suspicious!**

**REMEMBER: Antiterrorism and Force Protection is EVERYONE'S job.**

For more information, please contact the 104FW Antiterrorism Officer at 413.568.9151 ext 1422 or DSN 698-1422.

## Gold Badge Wearers

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

The 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing has changed colors in respect to recruiting. First, in relation to force strength, the unit is over 100 percent manned for the first time in a few decades, changing a red unit to green. Along with that color change came national recognition and the recruiters' badges changed colors too; from silver to gold.

Annually recruiters who surpass their annual goal of accessions are recognized by being named 'Gold-Badge' recruiters. The criteria to wear a gold badge is strict, a recruiter must exceed their annual goal by 125 percent. Typically an office considers itself lucky to have one winner of that level recognition, but in 2008, 3 of 4; 104<sup>th</sup> recruiters were recognized, moreover, one was recognized as the top production recruiter for the nation.

Master Sgt. Deborah Shilakis, Master Sgt. Ernest Smith and Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Kushin were all nationally recognized for their efforts in the realm of recruiting and are proudly wearing their gold-badges.

In 2006, Tech. Sgt. Kushin was recognized as the Air National Guard rookie recruiter of the year, and two years later he is continuing his track-record of outstanding performance by exceeding this year's goal by 7 enlistments. Sgt. Kushin is responsible for recruiting in Hampden County.

Master Sgt. Smith likewise smashed his

goal of 42 by bringing 53 new members into the wing. After meeting the criteria for a gold-badge, he was nominated for the production recruiter of the year, where he competed against his peers to determine who the top production recruiter in the nation would be. Sgt. Smith was judged on his community presence, self-improvement, and even on the region in which he works. Sgt. Smith is responsible for Franklin, Hampshire, and Berkshire County. In February, Sgt. Smith was announced as the National Production Recruiter of the year at the recruiting and retention conference in Denver, Colorado.

Finally, the office supervisor, Master Sgt. Shilakis was recognized for her efforts leading the entire office exceeding 125 percent. She has been recruiting for more than 10 years and shows that experience in her leadership and strategic vision for her team.

"The entire base--from the commanders to the airmen--provided exceptional support to the recruiting staff," said Sgt. Kushin. "We know that when we bring an applicant to look at a job on base, he or she is welcomed with open arms. Base personnel are willing to take the time to meet the applicants, answer their questions, give them a tour, intro-

duce them to others, and more. Immediately, they feel like they're part of the team."

The fourth production recruiter is finishing up his first year on the job, Tech. Sgt. Jay Salus, and he is well on his way to following in the foot-steps of the veterans in the office. "I am constantly learning from Master Sgt. Shilakis, Master Sgt. Smith and Tech. Sgt. Kushin. Situations come up all the time that I haven't seen before and they are always available to answer questions and steer me in the right direction."

The team is already looking forward to a great 2009, there strategy is shifting to precision-recruiting and work to bring-up the state's manning numbers. "The wing currently has less than 20 openings in the enlisted career fields and the office is working hard to fill each of these positions with the right person in the right position," said Master Sgt. Shilakis.



104th Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard Recruiting staff; Master Sgt. Deborah Shilakis, Technical Sgt. Jay Salus, Technical Sgt. Gabriel Kushin, and Master Sgt. Ernest Smith. (photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin)

## Family Support Group Events a Hit

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

If you were around base on March 27 & 29 you would have seen a lot of activity around the dining facility. In addition to the hustle and bustle of some very dedicated volunteers, you would have seen nearly 200 families taking part in two of the Family Readiness Group's staple activities, the biannual spaghetti dinner and the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

The Family Readiness Group, chaired by Ms. Pat Connors, works to bring

families together through numerous events.



(photo by SMSgt. Rob Sabonis)

The Spaghetti supper is held annually in the spring and fall. Through support from Big E's Supermarket in Easthampton, the non-profit organization is able to bring families together to enjoy some fellowship and networking.



The Easter Bunny in the egg mobile. (photo by SMSgt. Rob Sabonis)

On Sunday, the Easter egg hunt was a complete success with a visit from Peter Cotton Tail in his 'egg mobile' with ears and a fluffy pink nose.

# The Importance of Being On-time

By Airman 1st Class Lesley Collier, Seymore Johnson AFB

First, this article addresses the importance of being on-time and leading by example. These are two very important keys to being a successful leader in the world's greatest Air Force. Some people may see these points as being very small or irrelevant in our everyday life or career. To others it's a standard that they have kept hold of to show their peers that they are on top of their game. No matter who this pertains to, we as Airman, need to engrain into our daily lives to be on-time and to lead by example.

From the beginning of an Airman's life, the Training Instructor stresses 'time' or 'sense of urgency' to all of his trainees. The trainee gets this pressed and instilled into his head at every move or task that is at hand. After awhile, the trainee unknowingly starts trying to be ahead of the game by starting things earlier or taking shortcuts. He knows that if he is late at getting dressed or making his bed, it delays the later events of that day. And he also gets a good ear full of some not so pretty words from his irate T.I.! This Airman is getting the first step in leading towards leadership. The leadership that every Airman needs.

Being on-time is essential to our careers. From getting out supplies in time for an emergency surgery, fixing a jet that is flying over enemy skies at times of war, or gathering all that is needed to have a retirement party. No matter the issue, timeliness is key. That patient's family wouldn't want to know that the emergency staff could have saved their loved one, if it wouldn't have been for some tests that didn't get back on time. In times of war, if a jet has some mechanical issues, that pilot needs the mechanic to be on time in getting that issue dealt with in that sense of urgency manner. When having a retirement party for a General, and the decorations are not placed before the General arrives, that is one disappointed General!

When in any career, the employee should show to his supervisor and fellow coworkers that he can be counted on and ready for the day's work before the actual time of business starts. When doing

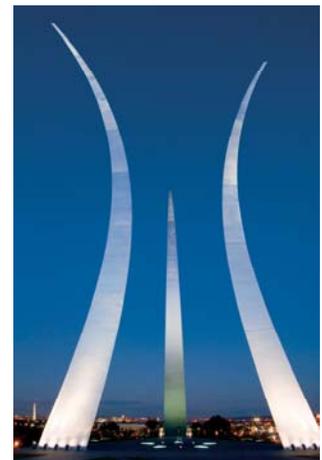
so, that takes us to leading by example. Would you want your supervisor to come into work 15 minutes late every other day, and then expect you to hold that rule true, and if not, suffer the consequences. That employee should expect for his supervisor to obey all the rules set for the organization. When in a leadership position, one main principle they should demonstrate everyday is leading by example.

People repeat what they see their leaders doing. When leading, you should show others around you what the standard is. When a leader fails, no matter the reason, it can give the people around them the notion that it may be okay for mishaps or incidents to happen. The leader needs to be at his best, keeping up with what is expected to everyone around him. When a person comes into a new setting and sees the well tenured people there failing or disobeying the rules, that person won't expect high results out of that business. It is sort of like the snowball effect. Once one thing goes wrong, it can lead to another and another, then the crash happens. Little incidents, i.e. being late, will lead to workers not coming in and then the standard becomes set so low, there will be no consequences for anyone's bad actions. That is why leaders need to make sure that they keep the standard set high and hold people accountable for keeping with the rules. Please don't be mistaken by thinking leaders are just officers, you and I, no matter what are rank, are leaders to someone.

The Air Force standard, which began back in 1947, is given by way of our Core Values. It tells us that through Integrity, I can lead by example by upholding all laws and regulations. I can lead truthfully by holding all Airman accountable and show them what is expected of, not only them, but also me. Without Integrity, all leadership would fall and America would be without the greatest air power to defend them. Then comes Service Before Self. If I am asked to do a project that I know if I

volunteer for it I will miss out on some good rest and relaxation time for myself, and I don't do it. This is not leading by example. Lending an extra hand for my coworkers will help me demonstrate a quality called selflessness. All Airman know that when they signed on the line of their enlistment papers, that someday you may be asked to sacrifice for someone else, this is what teamwork is made of. Being a leader, you will be called to do things you really don't want to do, but should do them to keep the standard high. Excellence in all We Do, means that with every task, with every rule that is asked of me, I need to uphold it and respect authority. To be that leader that strives for excellence, he is showing others that everyone should be doing the same. That Airman knows that since back when the Air Force was established, he knows that its history has high values that lead to success.

Leading by Example and Being On-time are important values all Airman should keep true. The tradition keeps being passed throughout the decades, and even though times change, the Air Force stays the same with these Core Values. I know what is expected of me, and know that when I do not stay within the guidelines that were given to me, I will expect there to be a consequence, worse yet, I will set a bad example. I know that these traits will lead me to being a great Airman in this great Air Force. I will keep true to my Core Values and uphold this tradition.





# Safety, 'How Goes-It?'

By Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Dumais, Ground Safety

In January we started a new forum in which we began to inform personnel of our latest mishaps and injuries. Below is the summary for the months of February and March. The intent of this forum is to inform personnel of how we are hurting ourselves and damaging things in the hope that we can use these to help prevent future occurrences. In most cases, these mishaps could have been prevented.

### February—Injuries

Worker injured; sprained shoulder; slipped on ice; no lost time

### February—Mishaps

Aircraft engine flameout; no damage; defective throttle quadrant; safety report filed

### March--Injuries

Worker injured; injured ankle; rolled ankle; lost time

### March — Mishaps

1. Sm. Hangar access door damaged; left open during hangar door operation; \$400.00

2. Bird strike; impacted #4 engine; in-flight; no damage

Spring has finally sprung. The birds are chirping, the sun is shining, and motorcycles are coming out of winter storage. With the warm weather approaching, more and more people are dusting off their bikes and taking them out on rides. For those of you who operate motorcycles or plan to operate motorcycles on base, make sure you are properly trained to do so. Even the most experienced riders become rusty after not being able to ride during the cold winter

months. The 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing has an agreement with Pioneer Valley Rider Training for unit members to pay half price for Basic Rider training which, upon completion, is reimbursable by the Wing. If you have questions and want to know what you need to do in order to operate a motorcycle on this installation, ask your Squadron Safety Representative, or check out BI 91-207.



## What's My Line Winner!



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

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

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

Submit your entry to:

[PA.104fw@mabarn.ang.af.mil](mailto:PA.104fw@mabarn.ang.af.mil)

### Last month's winners are:

" Cats aren't the only ones that can get stuck in tree, pilots can too."

- Airman 1st Class Kevin Sheehan, 104 CEF

" How many support personnel does it take to get a pilot out of the air? 3, 1 to coax him on to the ladder, and 2 to shake them down."

- Anonymous retired pilot

"I know it's bad luck to walk under a ladder...but what happens when you're STUUUUUCK"

- Anonymous Fire Dept member

## What's My Line?

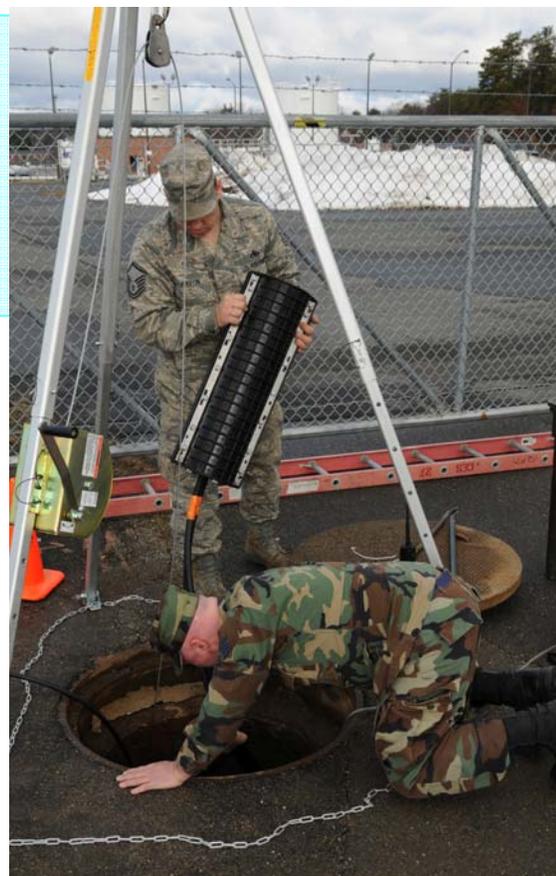


Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin



## April Is Sexual Assault Prevention Awareness Month

If you need help, contact the **Wing SARC** at **572-1800**. Support, Information and Guidance is here for you!

## Civilian Employment Info Needed

There is a requirement in the Air National Guard for all personnel (except AGR's) to supply their Civilian Employment Information.

This program makes it possible for Defense officials, including those responsible for mobilizing our traditional Guard and Reserve members, to know who can be called up for active military duty without jeopardizing the civilian forces responsible for safeguarding our country. It will ensure that more members with critical civilian jobs and skills are not retained in the reserve components than are necessary to respond to emergency situations. This program will also facilitate communication between the Defense Department and civilian employers regarding the reservist's rights and responsibilities under the

1994 Unformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

Airmen will use a self-service application to provide civilian employment information. Name, Social Security Number and Birth date are required to log in to the application at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>.

All Airmen (except AGRs) are required to validate or update their CEI information at least once a year.

Not providing the information or providing false information can be punishable under administrative means or the UCMJ for dereliction of duty.

## Student Flight Update

By Maj. Dave Mendoza, Mission Support Flight Commander

For years the Student Flight Program here at the Wing took place a couple of hours on drill weekends and was run by recruiting, when they had time to do it.

This has evolved into a full weekend program. As the Student Flight Commander, I have the ultimate responsibility of ensuring that these members are ready to attend BMT and Tech school. This is accomplished by the efforts of many of you (recruiting, retention, personnel and training) and I thank you for all you do for our newest Airman. This was only the beginning. We have now completed our merger with the 102nd and the GSU's, and our student flight training program is currently statewide. At a follow-up meeting with The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter and the Mass Air Commander, Maj. Gen. Michael Akey, it was directed that we will join one with the Army National Guard and participate in

their recruit training weekends.

This means that during one weekend a quarter (not on a UTA) all the Air Guard Student flight members in the state will report to the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) near Cape Cod and take part in a "joint" ANG and ARNG training opportunity.

With actual Military Training Instructors present, these weekends give the new trainees a snapshot into what BMT (Basic Military Training) is going to be like. Additionally, it takes days of planning and participation by a dedicated group of individuals from the Wing to ensure a successful program.

The current staff from the 104th consists of myself, (Student Flight Commander) 2d Lt Elizabeth Mesecher (OPS officer), Master Sgt. Doug

Daponde (NCOIC) Master Sgt. Fred Fopiano (1st Sgt), Master Sgt. Mark Gaskalka (Instructor) Tech. Sgt. Justin Rackliffe (Instructor) and Senior Airman Jennifer Krutka (Instructor).

Without their tireless dedication and commitment to the program, we would have failed before we even started.

Please see Lt Mesecher's article on page six in this month's Airscoop to learn more about the first "joint" training weekend we participated in at the MMR in March.



## 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](mailto:Nathaniel.oswald@mabarn.ang.af.mil)
- 2) Capt. Neal "Rug" Byrne at [Neal.byrne@mabarn.ang.af.mil](mailto:Neal.byrne@mabarn.ang.af.mil)
- 3) Lt. Corey "Tin'em" Mackey at [Corey.mackey@mabarn.ang.af.mil](mailto:Corey.mackey@mabarn.ang.af.mil)

## Free Tax-Cut Through Military One Source



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



## New Wing Coins in Stock

The new 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing coins are on sale for \$5.00



To purchase, please contact your first sergeant.

## Welcome to our Newest Members

17 FEB 09	BLAISDELL, TIMOTHY	FS
17 FEB 09	COLON, LUIS JR	AMXS
18 FEB 09	ECKMAN, STEVEN	AMXS
20 FEB 09	WARREN, GREGORY	SFS
20 FEB 09	MONROE, JOSHUA	AMXS
20 FEB 09	DRUBIN, STEPHEN	AMXS
25 FEB 09	TORRES, JOHNATHAN	SFS
26 FEB 09	LUDWIG, ROBERT	SFS
27 FEB 09	VANBEEK, AMBER	SFS
27 FEB 09	LEMIEUX, ANDREW	SFS
27 FEB 09	LAUDATO, DEVAN	AMXS
4 MAR 09	BAHLKE, GEORGE	AMXS
5 MAR 09	EDWARDS, ALAN	AMXS
12 MAR 09	WATKINS, JAMES	AMXS
12 MAR 09	CHANDONNET, DEREK	AMXS
17 MAR 09	KARRASCH, ANDREW	MXS
18 MAR 09	VELKY, MATHEW	AMXS
26 MAR 09	LARSON, ROSS	AMXS
31 MAR 09	MORALES, FELICIA	AMXS

## Public Affairs Traditional Opening

**Positions:** Videographer

**Titles/Grades:** Traditional / E-6 TSgt

**Minimum Grade eligible to apply:** None

**Supervisor:** Capt. Mary Harrington / pa.104fw@mabarn.ang.af.mil

**Application Deadline:** April 8

**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.

## 567th ANG Band First Sgt. Opening

**Maximum/Minimum Grade:** MSgt/TSgt

**Unit:** JFHQ, Milford, MA

**Application Deadline:** 19 April '09 / **Board:** 2 May '09

**POC for more information:** Capt John D. Keeler,

DSN: 256- 6675; Commercial: (508) 233-6675

Email: [john.keeler@us.army.mil](mailto:john.keeler@us.army.mil)

## Chaplain Assistant

**Maximum/Minimum Grade:** E-5 / SSgt

**Unit:** 104th Fighter Wing

**POC for more information:** Master Sgt. Petee at  
petee.thomson@manbarn.ang.af.mil

DSN 698-1311; Commercial (413) 568-9151 x 1311

## Congratulations on your Promotions

### To Senior Airman (E-4)

Airman 1st Class Voorhees, LRS

Airman 1st Class N. Brown, MXS

Airman 1st Class Goonan, SFS

Airman 1st Class Jaikissoon, SFS



### To Tech. Sgt. (E-6)

Staff Sgt. Pauli, CES

Staff Sgt. Cruz, SFS



### To Master Sgt. (E-7)

Tech. Sgt. Wilson, MXG



## Congratulations to our Retirees

Couture, Richard	CES	30 Mar 09
Fiske, Scott	LRS	30 Mar 09
Meyer, Tina	MSF	30 Apr 09
Maio, Ruth	SVF	7 May 09
Guyette, Rolland	MOF	23 Jun 09
Moore, David	FW	3 July 09
Rhodes, Charles	SFS	30 Aug 09

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Week of March 4 – March 10, 2009

### Cyber Threat Training

This week, units across the Air Force are taking the time to discuss network security and how failure to secure our cyberspace resources impact our Joint and AF missions. Just as we have Safety Days to reinforce taking care of our wingmen, so too must we understand how to take care of the cyber domain.

Undisciplined use of our networks needlessly exposes critical information to those with malicious intent. Below are a few points to better prepare you to recognize the threat and protect yourself and your mission.

#### Cyber Threats:

- Social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook can contain malicious content and where personal information is easily gathered
- Phishing emails are legitimate-looking emails used to gain personal information like financial information (i.e., bank accounts, credit cards) or install malicious software on your computer. This code can steal information and/or give others 'remote control' of your computer and all of its data

#### How to Protect the Mission and Yourself:

- Don't open email attachments or embedded links from people you do not know. Recognize "spoofed" e-mail: designed to look like it's from people you know but is actually malicious. When in doubt, do not open or click
- NEVER post sensitive information or provide it to strangers; safeguard personal, unit, and mission information at all times
- Don't use flash memory devices (USB thumb drives, MP3 players) on DoD computers and follow strict procedures for moving data from one computer to another. USB thumb drives can contain malicious code and install it on other computers without your knowledge
- Keep your home anti-virus up-to-date

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## Iron Chef Barnes is Back

Due to popular demand, Iron Chef Barnes is back. During the April UTA two chefs will be serving up their favorite entress. All patrons will be asked to vote for their favorites.

Here are the two competitors: Tech. Sgt. Chris Margarites is making Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo over Ziti and Senior Airman Tiffany Sudyka is making Stuffed Pork Chops.

Come by the Dining Hall on Saturday to try the two dishes.

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### 104TH FIGHTER WING

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Westfield MA 011085

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E-mail: [PA.104fw@mabarn.ang.af.mil](mailto:PA.104fw@mabarn.ang.af.mil)



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**Were on the Web**

**[WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL](http://WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL)**

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