

102nd Fighter Wing Seagull



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Snowbird deployment,
102nd farewell tour

ON THE COVER

Senior Airman Matthew McKenzie in the cockpit, gears up for an incentive ride. Tech. Sgt. Edward Veneto is on the intake ramp and Tech. Sgt. Richard Halstead is the crew chief on the boarding ladder.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt Jackson

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Mr. Jim Carr, 102nd Fighter Wing’s ground safety manager received autographed F-15 photo at going away luncheon.



Col. Paul G. Worcester

From the wing commander's desk

SAFETY - a make or break

No, this isn't another lecture from the boss on safety belt use. You are all too smart for that advice. This is really about some safety reflections, current safety issues, and perhaps a tiny bit of safety observation of the future from someone who has been a part of this unit for nearly 30 years. I think I am qualified – you be the judge.

It was 1987 and we had only 'racked-up' two years of mishap-free flying when, as we knew him then, Col. Don Shepperd became our full-time commander. I was his chief of safety. He was a stickler for following safety rules, compliance with tech orders, and yes, wearing seat belts amongst other safety things. For those that remember him, he could be pretty convincing when describing how we needed to build our safety culture. One thing was clear, you knew what he was saying was right and those of us that failed to appreciate his guidance could expect some fairly harsh discussions. We were coming off a difficult period in our history and he was intent on seeing our safety culture change – permanently. It did.

Colonel Shepperd went on to become the Air National Guard director in Washington, D.C. and saw an eventual promotion to major general. His leadership in turning around a disastrous mishap rate in the ANG stands as one of the most dramatic in our history. He knows safety. He has since retired but he is still actively engaged in Air National Guard business and consults regularly with the ANG senior staff. One thing he would repeatedly say is your unit's reputation is only as good as your safety record.

Our safety record is phenomenal. We are at the 80,000 mishap-free flight hour mark – one of the best in the ANG - and have one of the lowest ground safety injury rates in the Air Force. Not bad for a unit that has the weather problems we do, an air force base-sized installation to take care of (unlike all but one other ANG unit), grossly old facilities, and a 24/7 air sovereignty alert fighter mission. We have much to be proud of with this safety record, but that means we also have much at stake to keep it. We do not want our stellar reputation damaged by a plunging safety record.

With help from our safety office, Maintenance Group Quality Assurance staff, Fire Department inspectors, bioenvironmental health technicians, and others, your group commanders constantly assess our overall safety well-being. We even consider the advice from people in the legal and chaplain offices, inspector general, and medical staff. Altogether, we are

getting some feedback that indicates we MIGHT be headed for trouble. There are small signs in various places that reveal your attentions to your work might not be what it should for the dangerous business we are in. Nervousness over the future mission conversion, loss of traditional F-15 maintenance jobs, or even the 'perceived' threat of base closure is causing distraction and inattention that if not checked soon, can be harmful to our safety record.

Now, this is what we need ALL OF YOU to do for us. We'd like you to follow the lead already set by the 101st Fighter Squadron – show up for work prepared to focus on your assigned duty or voluntarily and willingly step aside to regain your focus. This might be a simple matter of taking a few minutes or a whole day off to put your attentions where they need to be. Another solution might be to ask for help as a companion is a good way to ensure the safety checks and balances are occurring. If your personal distractions require getting professional advice from our staff or perhaps outsiders, please do so. We encourage this. While it is vitally important to support our wartime mission and taskings, none of it is so important that we can afford to hurt someone or seriously damage equipment.

Your group commanders are well-equipped to help you deal with stressful situations. While you might think you have all the responsibilities of the world on your shoulder, your group commanders know better. We have the ability to deflect taskings or slow down our processes while we rebuild attention, confidence, and commitment to doing all of our jobs safely.

By way of reminder, our full-time and part-time staff has the right contacts and resources to ensure your individual well-being is addressed in a timely manner in a confidential way. I would encourage everyone to be familiar with our BRAC intranet website that lists information for you to use in seeking advice, help, or to submit questions for us to answer. We are all in this together and want to see everyone succeed – healthily and safely.

This is no time to wreck a jet or hurt anyone. We have an awesome reputation for mission performance. Similarly, we have an awesome safety culture. It's been building stronger every year since the late 1980s. We want to close down our flying mission with that safety record intact. By doing so, we'll continue to earn the respect of those on the outside that are witnessing our transition and have remarked about it repeatedly since the BRAC decision was made permanent. Every inspection team that has been here since that announcement has said the same thing: "You'd never know this was a unit realigned under BRAC; they are doing this mission like they are going to have it for twenty more years." Let's prove them right!!

Film depicts the history of the 102nd

A documentary film "Legacy," the history of the 102nd Fighter Wing and the 101st Fighter Squadron, is now available for sale.

The film contains actual footage and numerous photographs of personnel and aircraft from the inception of the 101st in the early 1900s through the establishment of the wing after World War II right up to the present day activities involving 9/11 and current deployments.

It is a valuable history that each wing member may want to possess.

You may obtain a copy by making a minimum \$25 (tax deductible) contribution to the Massachusetts Air National Guard Historical Association Museum.

A copy of the film, either DVD or VHS, will be available at Arnold Hall during unit training assemblies.

The UTAs will be the primary means of obtaining a copy of the film.

However, many former members of the Wing and its affiliated units no longer visit Otis or subscribe to the Seagull, therefore, we have no way of contacting them.

You could help the museum if you know the whereabouts of any former members by letting them know about the film's availability. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Contact Tom Maguire at 508-759-3092 for more information.

Retirees should update Seagull subscriptions

If you are a retiree who subscribes to the Seagull, please check the mailing label for the expiration date of your subscription.

The Massachusetts Air National Guard Historical Association offers a program for anyone to receive the Seagull by mail.

Subscriptions to the magazine and annual association dues expire on June 30 of each year.

A subscription cost \$10 per year and covers the cost of postage only. Association dues are \$10 per year.

Make checks for subscription fees, membership dues or donations payable to the MA ANG Historical Association Inc. and mail to Spence Bridgman, 25 Spruce Hill Ave., Florence, MA 01062-3414.

Reports of ticks on base

This is just a reminder to everyone that you need to protect yourself from tick-borne diseases. Getting a tick bite doesn't necessarily mean that you will get a disease, but since you can't tell by looking if a tick is infected, the sooner you remove the tick, the safer you will be. You can't get a disease from a tick that is not attached.

If you are bitten by a tick, carefully remove it. You may bring the tick to the Public Health Office at the Medical Group, Bldg. 149 and we will send it out to be tested. We don't need to test ticks that are found crawling on personnel, only the ones that have been attached to the skin.

Wear the proper clothing (long pants tucked in boots or socks, long sleeves, shirt tucked into pants) Use insect repellent (DEET 33% lasts up to 12 hours) Check yourself routinely for ticks. Remove attached ticks immediately.

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact Master Sgt. Cynthia A. Moody-LaRiviere, Public Health Technician, Otis ANG Base, 508-968-4033.

What's for lunch



Saturday, May 5

Chicken Stir Fry
Hamburgers
Baked Beans
Mixed Vegetables
Spaghetti
Onion Rings

Sunday, May 6

Spaghetti & Veal Parm
Grilled Ham & Cheese
Chips
Corn
Peas

Upcoming drill dates

May 5-6
June 2-3
Aug. 25-26
Sept. 15-16
Oct. 13-14
Nov. 3-4
Dec. 1-2

Drill hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sundays.

Seagull deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the next Seagull is 2 p.m., Sunday, May, 6. No articles can be accepted after this deadline.

The public affairs staff has the right to edit all articles for content and length.

Items should be sent over the LAN to Seagull@maotis.ang.af.mil or prepared on a floppy disk, preferably in Word for Windows.

Articles on disk also should be submitted with a printed copy to the Public Affairs Office, Building 158, room 209. For more information call 508-968-4090.

Intelligence shop garners national Air Force awards

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti,
Public Affairs

Winning an Oscar is the highest award bestowed upon an actor. For an Air Guard intelligence analyst, scoring hardware at the Annual Intelligence Award Program holds a similar albeit less glamorous distinction.

Four nominated members of the 102nd Fighter Wing Operation Support Flight earned accolades at the 2006 U.S. Air Force Intelligence Awards Program held at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.

The four entrants from Otis were selected for excellence among a crowded field during the February ceremony. Sixteen accomplished Guard and Reserve intelligence sections compete for the annual awards. Candidates are judged on leadership, job performance, community contributions, and a myriad of other factors.

Scoring high in this comprehensive evaluation is a testament to the skill and commitment of this tight knit group.

"We nominated four members and they all won," said Maj. David McNulty, commanding officer of the intelligence section. "I am proud of our people; having 1st Air Force recognize them is icing on the cake," lauded Major McNulty. "First and foremost, the reason they won is that they do their job and do it well. The UCI (Unit Compliance Inspection) in October was very successful-our section had 100 percent compliance-that gave us a measurable way to demonstrate our ability to the Air Force," said Major McNulty.

Maj. Michael Cornell, an attorney, won the Field Grade Officer of the Year and Major McNulty credits him with adroitly managing the unit prior to his arrival. "Mike has been a critical help to me since I arrived in August, and is one of the main reasons we won these honors. The unit was running like a top and the transition from him to me was seamless. There were no problems," he said.

The Senior Non Commissioned Officer award went to Master Sgt. Joe Pitta, the full-time NCOIC of the section. "The successes and failures of the shop rest directly on his shoulders," Major McNulty observed. "He keeps the unit together and does a great job. One in three units in the Air Force got through the UCI unscathed and we were one of them. Joe is a big reason for our success," Major McNulty noted.

No stranger to the limelight, Staff Sgt. Shawn O'Leary won Non Commissioned Officer of the Year. Sergeant O'Leary has been recognized for several awards here at the 102nd and is involved in the Airmen's Council. "Sergeant O'Leary continues to take on more of a leadership role. He is expanding his job toward the upcoming mission," said Major McNulty.

Sergeant O'Leary recently earned a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Suffolk University in Boston. "I'm really proud of all the work our shop has done as a whole to qualify for the awards. It is an honor to be able to represent the 102nd at a national level, and I feel as though the work that our flight did demonstrates our capability as an organization overall," he said.

Senior Airman Sharon Messina was named Airman of the Year; Major McNulty views her work as essential. "Her

knowledge of computer based applications and graphics is unparalleled. She expertly maintained the automated intelligence system and guided us through the unit compliance inspection," Major McNulty commented. As a college student, she sports a 3.9 GPA and is involved in many outside interests.

"I inherited every one of them from Lt. Colonel Matera and Major Cornell and couldn't be happier," said Major McNulty.

A considerable challenge over the next six to nine months is building up the new competencies while continuing to support the F-15 fighter mission. "Every drill is dedicated to keeping our people proficient in their combat war fighting skills," Major McNulty explained. "At the same time, I will ask people to get smart on the new mission and get troop qualified on Distributive Ground Station positions so they can become instructors. During the transition, they'll need to be experts at both missions, but our people are up to the task," affirmed Major McNulty.

Personnel interested in working in this field should contact Lt. Colonel LeFavor, but are invited to speak with Major McNulty to become more familiar with the positions.

"Everyone has different situations, timelines, and questions. The easiest thing to do is to see us and we can explain the jobs in more detail," advised Major McNulty. "We want to put the right people in place prior to tech school. We are excited about the new mission and would like to be as helpful as possible to the new members," Major McNulty said.

2007 Master Sgt. Thomas Flynn Award nominations due

Nominations for this year's Master Sgt. Thomas Flynn Award are due no later than the end of the June 2007 UTA. Please take a few minutes to recognize and nominate a member you know who deserves recognition for doing so much for others.

Nominations should consist of a one-page narrative containing a description of the nominee's contribution to patriotism, morale, and concerns for their organization and community. Contact Master Sgt. Joseph O'Brien, 102nd Maintenance Squadron First Sergeant, for more information at extension 4859 or at joseph.obrien@maotis.ang.af.mil

NORAD, USNORTHCOM welcome new commander

By Sgt. 1st Class Gail Braymen

NORAD and USNORTHCOM Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFNEWS) -- Air Force Gen. Victor E. Renuart Jr. became the 20th commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command and the third commander of U.S. Northern Command in a change-of-command ceremony at Peterson Air Force Base March 23.

Defending the homeland and providing defense support of civil authorities are top priorities for NORAD and USNORTHCOM, the new commander said.

"We're engaged in a long struggle against violent extremists that seek to exploit any seams in our armor," General Renuart said. "Our job - (the NORAD and USNORTHCOM) team's job - is to mend those seams, to strengthen the shield."

General Renuart assumed command of NORAD and USNORTHCOM from Adm. Timothy J. Keating, who is scheduled to assume command of U.S. Pacific Command March 26 in Hawaii.

"(NORAD and USNORTHCOM) have quietly and professionally conducted a mission that, by its nature, cannot fail," Renuart said. "It also has to be something that is invisible and transparent to our nation."

General Renuart credited the close partnership of the United States and Canada with making NORAD effective.

"We consider our shared and peaceful border a perfect metaphor for the relationship of two distinct yet joined partners," he said, adding that NORAD and USNORTHCOM share an "ever-progressive" and "continually evolving" relationship with Mexico.

"The collaboration ... with both these nations really does reinforce the security of our homeland," General Renuart said. Before presiding over the NORAD change of command, Canadian Chief of Defense Staff Gen. Rick Hillier awarded Keating the Canadian Meritorious Service Cross.

"No two sovereign nations in the world, except for Canada and the United States, have such a unique command structure," Hillier said. NORAD's and USNORTHCOM's partnership with and assistance in standing up Canada Command "has enhanced the security of both our countries."

During Admiral Keating's tenure, NORAD and USNORTHCOM began the process of integrating into a single command center "to serve two nations better," General Hillier said. "We fully support that ... and our shoulder is behind anything that gives us efficacy and efficiency whilst continuing to give us a powerful and positive effect."

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates awarded Keating the Defense Distinguished Service Medal before presiding over the USNORTHCOM change of command.

"NORTHCOM has come a long way in just a few years," Secretary Gates said. Fewer than 15 years ago, he said, the command didn't even exist and "few people were thinking seriously about the types of threats we face today."

Admiral Keating took charge of the commands two and a half years ago.

"I thought I had a reasonable idea what it would be like at NORAD and at USNORTHCOM," Admiral Keating said. "I missed the mark by a wide margin."

"The complexity of the mission, the challenge for each and every one of the men and women who come to work here every day is massive."

NORAD is a bi-national command, including both American and Canadian forces, and is charged with aerospace and maritime warning for North America.

USNORTHCOM is responsible for homeland defense and defense support of civil authorities.

"This is a sacred mission," General Renuart said, "and it's one that ... (my wife) Jill and I look forward to continuing to carry."



Deployment display

Have you been deployed over the past few years and managed to take back with you a memento or souvenir? Well then, you're the person the 102nd Fighter Wing Diversity Council is looking for. Located in the main foyer of the Building 158 there is a small empty display case that is craving to be filled with deployment souvenirs, mementos, knickknacks, and other keepsakes that wing members would like to donate so they can share what they experienced with other wing personnel. It can be anything like a photograph, a t-shirt, coin, or anything else that provides a snapshot of that deployment. All donated souvenirs will be inventoried and returned upon request of the individual. Anyone interested can contact Senior Master Sergeant Michael J. Poirier at ext. 4661 or at Michael.poirier@maotis.ang.af.mil.

Quotable quotes

"Airmen provide America with air, space and cyberspace dominance - the first and essential enduring requirement of a successful military operation. But such dominance is not a national right. It is the consequence of generations of innovative Knowledge-Enabled Airmen who have continued to learn throughout their careers, and have applied their increasing knowledge to develop and exploit new technologies and tactics."

-- Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne, from his Letter to Airmen: Knowledge-Enabled Airmen. To read the entire Letter to Airmen, go to <http://www.af.mil/library/view-points/secaf.asp?id=311>.

Dental patients filling in

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti
Public Affairs Staff

Dental appointments are often met with a sense of trepidation. However, the 102nd Medical Group has made the dental screening process for Airmen swift, comprehensive and convenient with the help of the Federal Strategic Health Alliance (FedsHeal).

As we are all aware, problems with our dental health can adversely affect our long term fitness. Chronic or serious dental related problems can prevent Airmen from getting promoted or transferred. As well, lingering issues may force medical command to put individuals on a profile, disqualify personnel from deploying. If left untreated, these matters could alter the force structure and diminish the effectiveness of the unit.

Fortunately, through the FedsHeal program, exam services are offered on site here at Otis Air National Guard Base. Fed-sHeal provides a dentist, technicians and X-Ray equipment in order to conduct the exams expeditiously.

Maj. Richard Frank, Dental Officer of the 102nd Medical Group, was instrumental in introducing the program to Otis. "We decided that after 80 percent of the base was compliant,

we needed to catch the remaining 20 percent in one shot. FedsHeal came and we saw about 62 people and it has eased the burden on the whole staff," said Major Frank.

"Hopefully, all these airmen will seek care from their dentist. The goal of this initiative is to get them educated that National Guard Dental insurance is available through Tricare with a private dentist," said Major Frank. "Bring down a form DD-2813 that is filled out by your private dentist and submit it to us. The completed form will count towards your annual dental exam and you never need to take the time out of your civilian job to see us," explained Major Frank.

An unwaiverable D-14 profile will be issued to personnel who fail to report 90 days after the due date. "National Guard Bureau is treating the annual exam very seriously and we are doing our best to compel people to comply," said Major Frank. "Most of the folks have made it, but we had to put five people on a profile."

"Research indicates that 50 percent of people do not go to the dentist unless they have an emergency. The military is no different, We need to educate Airmen that problems need to be addressed before they become an emergency," Major Frank noted.

Air Guard retirement process goes online

3/19/2007 - DENVER (AFNEWS) -- Eligible members of the Air National Guard can now submit retirement applications electronically via the virtual Personnel Center -- Guard and Reserve.

This is the second Guard-specific capability added to the 24-hour customer service Web portal operated by the Air Reserve Personnel Center here.

"Our ultimate goal is to improve and streamline how we deliver services to our Total Force Airmen," said Col. Ann Shippy, ARPC commander. "We're leveraging technology and Web applications to efficiently deliver service to our customers."

Previously, Guard Airmen had to visit their local military personnel flight, complete the required retirement application

package, submit it to their supervisor or commander, and send it to ARPC.

This Web-enabled service is available at any time from anywhere in the world and will give Airmen the ability to monitor the status of their application from start to finish. Guard Airmen can log on to the vPC-GR at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/default.asp?cat=2> to begin the process and see other Guard-specific options.

When the application is submitted, the customer is e-mailed a tracking number. After the Airman's commander has electronically endorsed the application, the Reserve Personnel Contact Center at ARPC will verify eligibility and finalize the application.

Once approved, the vPC-GR will send e-mail notifications.

Honor Guard position open

This is to announce one 139/179-day (renewable) Title 10 MPA Honor Guard position. This is a temporary active duty tour starting on or about 15 June 2007.

Title: Ceremonial Guardsman, 102nd Fighter Wing Base Honor Guard

To Apply: Please read below. Submit a one page Resume to: 102FW/FM, Attn: Captain Nunley

Must Apply not later than: 15 May 2007

Selecting Official: Board

Applicant must meet basic qualifications in the following:

Maintain the highest standards in Dress & Appearance, Military Bearing and Professionalism.

Provide and assist in the rendering of military funeral

honors. Possess the ability to perform any aspect of the MFH ceremony.

Conduct and assist in the training of fellow guardsmen.

Assist with the management of the BHG program; to include the maintenance of the administrative portion of the program, educating the local funeral directors, veteran service organizations on the importance of the military funeral honors program.

Represent the wing, ANG, and the United States Air Force at installation events, community and civic functions deemed appropriate by the installation commander.

Hours sometimes will include evenings and weekends.

UTAs will be performed with unit

Tour will not exceed 350 days – member is required to perform 15 days of annual training.

Master Sgt. Roger Chouinard Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter

Master Sgt. Rodger Chouinard is a member of the 102nd Civil Engineering Flight; he resides in Fairhaven. He is a skilled and experienced structural craftsman in his traditional guardsman position, and works full-time as a maintenance mechanic technician in the Civil Engineering Squadron. His work skills are constantly admired and praised. He has a can-do, will-do attitude, and has tackled many difficult challenges. He has designed and installed over 300 signs for the Services Squadron. The sergeant volunteered to deploy last summer with the Civil Engineers Squadron to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in Iraq he constructed an expeditionary navigational aid for the airfield to guide aircraft safely. He also directs the fitness program for the squadron here at Otis, and works closely with Airmen on efforts to improve results. Sergeant Chouinard completed 12 Senior NCO Academy correspondence courses while deployed in Iraq.



Master Sgt. Roger Chouinard

Tech. Sgt. Curtis B. Pierson Noncommissioned officer of the Quarter

Tech. Sgt. Curtis B. Pierson is a member of the 102nd Maintenance Group where he serves as a quality assurance specialist as both a traditional Guardsman and a full-time technician; he resides in Hyannis. His work ethic and attention to detail are an integral part of his daily performance as he utilizes his knowledge and experience to handle numerous aircraft engine technical problems. He is assigned as the product Deficiency Reporting Program manager for over 26 maintenance work centers. His management of this program resulted in \$2 million being credited back to the Wing Maintenance Group for reported aircraft component deficiencies this quarter with 2006 yearly total credit exceeding \$6 million. Sergeant Pierson developed and implemented a new quality assurance training plan for 10 quality assurance personnel for their use during Unit Training Assemblies. This streamlined approach ensured that these personnel were able to hit the ground running, minimizing down time during the UTA.



Tech. Sgt. Curtis B. Pierson

Senior Airman Kevin M. Sprissler Airman of the Quarter

Senior Airman Kevin M. Sprissler is a member of the 102nd Security Forces Squadron, he resides in Buzzards Bay. He is an extremely reliable and knowledgeable response force leader, responsible for over the security of \$600 million worth of aircraft, buildings and equipment, and over 850 military and civilian personnel. He was selected to be a security controller and alarm monitor, and he received scores of 90 percent and above on all tests.

He is enrolled in the Airman Leadership Career Development Course, and is on his way to becoming an Air Force Noncommissioned Officer. He is also a member of the Security Forces Enlisted Advisory Council. He attend all meeting and is a proactive speaker, ensuring that information is passed up and down the chain of command. He is the current vice Commander of American Legion Post number 89 in Stoughton. As an active member, he initiates fund raisers to raise money for the organization and the community at large.



Senior Airman Kevin M. Sprissler

NCO Academy, path to advancement

By Cliff McDonald
Public Affairs Staff

“Our warriors are no longer limited to the people who fly airplanes... Our entire force is a warrior force. Being a warrior is not an AFSC...it’s a condition of the heart,” said General John Jumper, chief of staff of the Air Force from 2001-2005. Enlisted Airmen are being taught that they must take this message to heart if they expect to progress to the level of leader in today’s Air Force.

Shaping these future leaders is achieved through a process of development involving education, training, guidance, and mentoring from more experienced leaders in classrooms at the satellite Noncommissioned Officers Academy, at Joint Force Headquarters in Milford.

While doing his best not to show how exhausted he must be, Tech. Sgt. Curtis Pierson took time from his busy aircraft quality assurance work to talk about why he and several other 102nd Fighter Wing members stay up late at night to attend the satellite NCOA course.

Two nights a week, every Tuesday and Thursday, for 14 weeks they get together at 4 p.m. They carpool in a 15-passenger van from the base motor pool traveling some 75 miles up I-495 to Milford, and then return home to Cape Cod arriving as late as midnight. The following morning they are up and at work at 6 a.m. The remainder of the week you can bet they are busy hitting the books doing homework to prepare

for the next class and return trip to Milford.

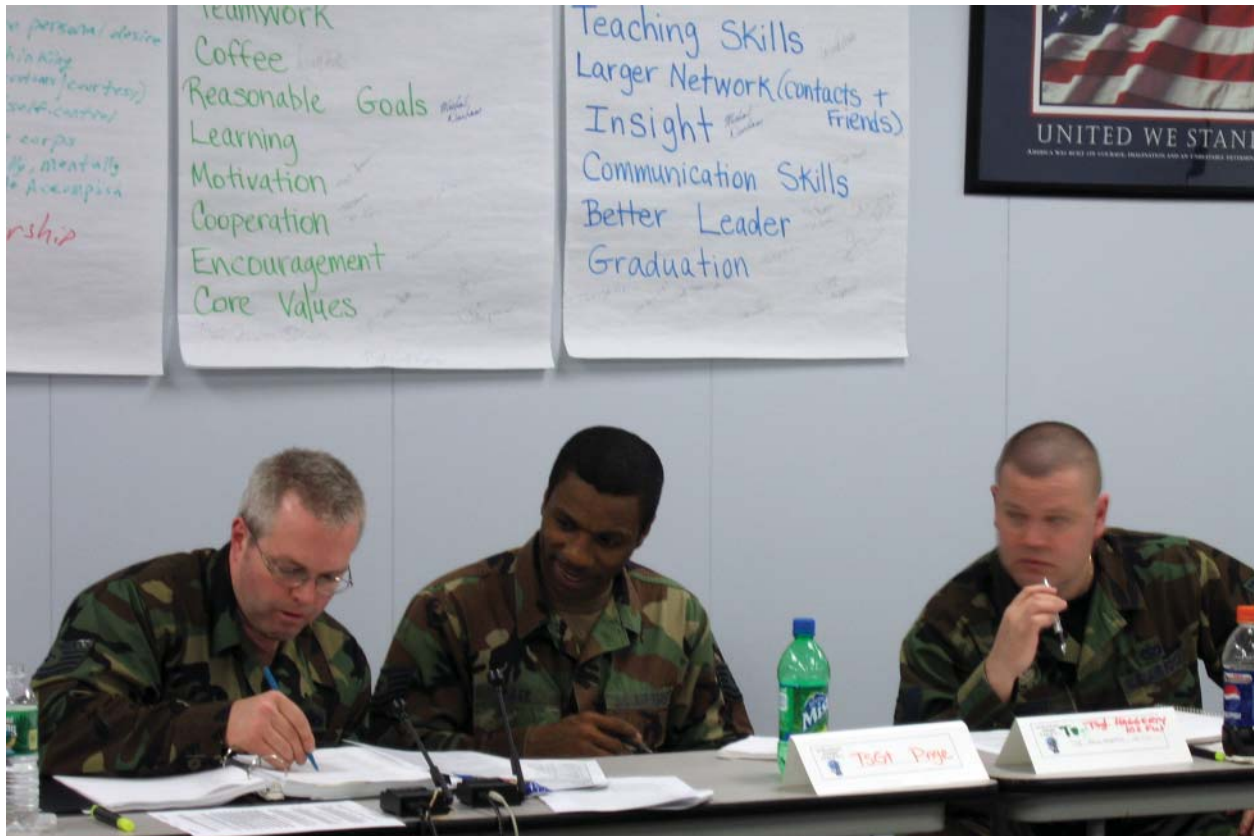
The 31 year old sergeant, his wife Maria, and their “lovely” golden retriever, Gracie, sacrifice much, but he believes that it’s all worth the long hours of hard work to succeed and advance in his job and as a noncommissioned officer in the Air National Guard.

Sergeant Pierson described the difference between attending a satellite course like the one in Milford and a full time in-residence course. He said, “I can see how the in-residence course might be easier; you are able to shutout most things and concentrate on the task and materials at hand. You are in the environment, living it, breathing it, and eating it. Whereby, in the satellite course, you have to deal with work, home, and then find time for the PME (professional military education). Juggling the three can be quite a task.”

Sergeant Pierson said that the course teaches him how to improve his managerial skills, and should allow him to take on positions of increased responsibility where he can be a leader. He is excited about the possibility of rising to a management position in the Guard.

He says that he has acquired a better understanding of the military way of how we do business. He explained, “Not only are we an aviation unit that maintains F-15s, we’re also an Air National Guard unit that is part of the total Air Force. It is very important that we maintain standards of appearance

(See NCOA, Page 10)



List on wall tells the agenda, as NCOA students, left to right, Tech. Sgt. Brian O’Neil, Tech. Sgt. John Page, and Tech. Sgt. Patrick Haggerty work together to become future leaders.

and fitness; we need to be both professionally and physically sound in our jobs and appearance. All of these important concepts are taught at the NCO academy.”

At the academy, Sergeant Pierson is also learning new communication skills. Prior to attending the academy, he took classes on writing and oral communication at Cape Cod Community College. He says, “The difference between how the college and academy teach these skills is like the difference between night and day. It’s good not to bring in too much of what you learned in the past because what the academy teaches is definitely a different style of writing and speaking. We are learning to write and speak in a much more concise way than the way I was taught in college. You need to stay focused on what is being taught in the academy; if you confuse the two style types, you could find yourself in trouble.”

Drill and ceremony is another challenge that the sergeant hit upon. He said most Guardmembers find this skill somewhat difficult because it is not one that they are confronted with on the same daily basis as many of their active duty counterparts. He explained how marching skills develop overtime, and how Guardmembers at the academy do not have enough time to master this skill in the classroom. “This is something I see as a challenge; I will just have to buckle down and find time to practice,” he said.

He added, “We have two rolls to learn. We must learn to be good followers before we can be good leaders. When we

started out we were all playing the roll of follower in our flight, and later we find opportunities to become leaders and instruct the flight on drill and marching commands.”

Sergeant Pierson also talked about teamwork. “We learn that teamwork skills are among the most important skills that you can develop. We are encouraged to learn through forming study groups to get together and work out answers to course materials. Because we all have different learning styles and abilities, we all want to pool our skills, find a balance and learn how to get through situations together as a team. Teamwork is very much promoted throughout the academy curriculum, which is definitely a good thing,” said Sergeant Pierson.

Attending the NCO Academy is a career goal which Sergeant Pierson has set for himself, and will soon achieve when his class graduates in April. He hopes it will help him attain the rank of master sergeant; becoming a chief someday is a long range goal of the sergeant. Knowing it was 102nd Fighter Wing policy to attend an in-residence course, (the satellite course is considered in-residence because the final two weeks are completed at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base in Tennessee) he realized that he had no other options if he wanted to get promoted.

Sergeant Pierson empathizes with and understands the pain that many other wing members feel about making a commitment to go away for six weeks, or by doing it four hours a night, twice a week for 14 weeks as he has chosen to do. He strongly feels that those who have decided against attending should reconsider; “once you get into it, things start to flow, it’s not so bad,” he says.

He’s concerned about unit morale, and he’s noticed a drop in morale since the base realignment decision. He explained,

(See NCOA, Page 23)

It happened in the month of April

April 1, 1954 -- President Eisenhower signed into law a bill creating the Air Force Academy.

April 1, 1972 -- Air Training Command activated the Community College of the Air Force at Randolph AFB, Texas.

April 3, 1967 -- Chief Master Sgt. Paul W. Airey became the first chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

April 6, 1924 -- Four specially built Douglas World Cruisers -- each with a crew of two men -- set off for the first flight around the world.

April 6, 1949 -- The X-1 rocket plane flew at 1,000 mph, an unofficial world-record speed for piloted planes.

April 6, 1959 -- NASA announced that seven pilots from the U.S. armed services are chosen for the Mercury astronaut program. Those Airmen selected are Capt. L. Gordon Cooper Jr., Virgil I. Grissom and Donald K. Slayton.

April 10, 1959 -- The Northrop T-38 Talon flew for the first time.

April 12, 1966 -- Strategic Air Command B-52 bombers struck targets in North Vietnam for the first time. They hit a supply route in the Mu Gia Pass about 85 miles north of the border.

April 14, 1986 -- U.S. forces launched Operation Eldorado

Canyon, a retaliatory bombing raid in response to terrorist activities supported by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

April 18, 1942 -- Lt. Col. James Doolittle led 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers on a Tokyo bombing raid.

April 18, 1975 -- The Strategic Air Command began transferring air refueling wings to the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. AFRES and ANG tanker units will support SAC alert operations.

April 19, 1967 -- Maj. Leo K. Thorsness was awarded the Medal of Honor for protecting the rescue of downed airmen in North Vietnam. Flying an F-105 Thunderchief critically low on fuel, Major Thorsness shoots down one MiG-17, damages another, and drives off three more.

April 19, 1995 -- A bomb exploded at a federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 169 people and injuring more than 400 others. The Air Force provided airlift of firefighters, search and rescue teams, investigators and medical personnel.

April 26, 1948 -- The U.S. Air Force became the first service to plan for racial integration, anticipating President Truman’s executive order to be issued in July 1948.

April 29, 1918 -- Lt. Edward V. Rickenbacker downed his first enemy aircraft.

Tech. Sgt. Curtis Pierson, not just any “Guard baby”

By Cliff McDonald
Public Affairs Staff

As he speaks, Tech. Sgt. Curtis Pierson’s carbonated enthusiasm bubbles over with a sense of purpose, and pride in the 102nd Fighter Wing.

He describes himself as just another “Guard baby,” as he talks about how he came to join the Air National Guard. It was 1995, Curtis Pierson was a year out of high school and taking some college courses, but this did not feel like what he wanted to be doing at that moment and time.

He also wasn’t sure just what he wanted to be doing, so when a buddy who was in his second year at Boston University said he had seen an ROTC class at school, and asked Pierson to come along with him to see an Air Force recruiter, Pierson said, “sure lets go.”

Soon, they both found themselves in the office of Tech. Sgt. Beverly Lashley, a former recruiter with the 102nd Fighter Wing at Otis Air National Guard Base. They quickly figure out that this wasn’t an Air Force recruiting office, and thought, “what do we do now, do we walk out or entertain the recruiter by sitting through the recruiting pitch.” They chose to sit it out and politely listen.

As it turned out, Pierson’s friend was not interested, but they had taken the first step by coming down to Otis, they got the tour and saw the jets – that is what his friend liked most the jets. Pierson was more interested in the maintenance side of the mission.

The buddy went on to see an Air Force recruiter at school, and today he is a captain, flying F-16s at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina. Meanwhile Pierson talked more with Sergeant Lashley, and eventually joined the Guard.

Sergeant Pierson said, “It was an interesting turn of events, our vocations, apart from his flying, took a similar path, he’s now the safety officer at Shaw, and I’m a Technical Sergeant working in the Quality Assurance Office at Otis.” They both fulfill critical rolls in the Air Force safety program, and remain good friends.

The sergeant started out in the 102nd fuel shop working for Master Sgt. Daryl Kaeka; he stayed in this shop for three years working as a traditional Guardsman on unit training assembly weekends, and as a temporary technician working man-days when he could. He explained, “I was looking to do something more than just weekend drills; wanting to maintain F-15s, I

(See Pierson, Page 20)



Tech. Sgt. Curtis Pierson gives Staff Sergeants Jason Loring and John Cabeceiras a brief on the Performance Evaluation that is about to be conduct on their installation of an Augmentor Module on to the Jet Engine.

Milestones

Promotions

To senior master sergeant

Monica Parks
Gregory Harriman
Steven Brown

To master sergeant

Paul Tucker
Steven Meshwitz
Sandra Devaney

To technical sergeant

Joel Milliken
Nicholas Giammarco
Richard Connors

To Staff Sergeant

Alan Bare
Carlos Ayuso-Rivera
Benjamin McCabe
Edward Rene

Retirements

Tech. Sgt. Douglas Thackeray
Staff Sgt. Elias Korolis
Chief Master Sgt. Thomas McGuire
Staff Sgt. Shawn Fitzpatrick
Tech. Sgt. Dana Dupuis
Master Sgt. Paul Knight
Mr. Jim Carr



By Senior Airman Alexis Colonna

“I’ve been on this aircraft for 15 years.” “I’ve been working in this specialty for 17 years.” Look around anywhere in our unit and you’ll find folks saying it, and yet most of us didn’t start in this unit and in this specialty. Most of us started somewhere else, often in some other specialty or on some other model or technology. Most of us wear multiple hats whether we realize it or not. Now that change is pending, we often forget that while we’ve been doing one thing in general for a long time, there are many skills we’ve gained from the different hats we’ve worn along the way. Maybe you’ve worked your specialty for years, but you’ve probably also trained people along the way. Now you have a second hat you wear, mentor, instructor and mechanic. This experience becomes extremely important when change happens.

As we begin to feel the results of change, I’m proud to see how well we manage. More than we have in a long time, people are taking on new challenges, new positions, and new responsibilities to cope with personnel changes, career transitions, increased workloads, and training. People are rising to the occasion, and they should be keeping track because these experiences are things that can help you stand out when the time comes to face your own individual changes such as job applications and training. Start writing down what kinds of skills you’ve gained along the way over the years, and how

you’ve risen to the level of responsibility you have. When the time comes to draw up a resume or job application, talk to a career counselor, or meet a board, your thoughts will be better organized and they will be easier to pick and choose the best qualifications for each application.

In addition to thinking over your own qualifications, start looking into the programs that are available to you. If you’re interested in the new missions, start checking to see that you meet or exceed minimum standards for entry wherever possible, especially in core areas such as physical, academic, and financial responsibility. If you’re considering leaving the military, look into Career Transition Assistance Programs, individual company websites, or career posting websites such as www.monster.com, www.careerbuilder.com, www.usajobs.gov, www.hotjobs.com, state sites like Mass.gov, or local sites like www.boston.com. Simply typing “BRAC Transition” into search engines like Google, or Yahoo, provide numerous useful links, such as the DoD BRAC Transition homepage: http://www.cpms.osd.mil/brac/brac_index.aspx. The personnel office can direct you to further resources to assist you. Also check the Airman’s Council website for these and other links which might prove useful. Remember, the more initiative you take, the more prepared you’ll be.

Chapel Call

Swallowed up!



By Chaplain (Capt.) Mary Scheer

Periodically, whales wash up on the beach near my house in Brewster on Cape Cod, and in the summer, one of the things my family enjoys doing is whale watching, so I was intrigued when I read the following Cape Cod whale tale.

On August 8, 1896, Captain Peleg Nye was captured by a whale in the waters off Cape Cod. The register gave the following report: "Captain Nye was out in a boat in pursuit of a sperm whale which had just been wounded and was athwart the bow, when the boat gave a lurch and Captain Nye, who was standing on the bow, was plunged head first into the whale's mouth. The whale closed its mouth and dived under the water. He soon found he had too large a mouthful and was glad to release his unbidden guest." Captain Nye lived to be more than 80 years old.

The bible tells the story of another man swallowed by a great fish. Jonah is the story of a man who had been told to do something he did not want to do and he went in the opposite direction of where he was supposed to go. In the process of running from his problems he finds himself in deep water...swallowed by a whale (or great fish).

The movement of the story is downward until Jonah's prayer. Five times we hear of Jonah going down. Down to Joppa, down into the hold, he lays down, down in the fish, down to the roots of the mountain at the bottom of the sea. Down where the shifting sands would bury him forever - Jonah is as down as one can get.

Finally, when Jonah hits bottom, he looked up and called out to God for help.

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: "In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the sea, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, I have been banished from your sight;

yet I will look again towards the holy temple. The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O Lord my God. When my life was ebbing away, I remember you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the Lord." And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. Jonah 2:1-10

Jonah got a second chance. He went on to complete his mission and the people he went to got a second chance and were saved. Like Jonah, we are people who sometimes need a second chance. We can be people who run away in the opposite direction from where we should be, sometimes refusing to listen. We can mess up and find ourselves in places we don't know how to get out of. There are people living all around us hoping for a second chance or a fresh start, folks struggling with addiction, some searching for a new job; marriages and relationships needing a new beginning, children who've strayed from home and values and need a second chance; spouses who've been hanging on to hope longer than they ever imagined; hearts broken by betrayal, folks who feel like they're at the bottom, pressed down, overpowered and swallowed up, drowning in grief, frustration, anger, loneliness or fear.

In Jonah's story, we see a God of second chances and new beginnings. They don't always happen the way we imagine. Jonah's second chance came when he was at one of the lowest, most uncomfortable, "stinky" moments of his life. We also learn from this story that it's not just about getting second chances for ourselves, but giving them to others.

Snowbird

By Cliff McDonald
Public Affairs Staff

What is a snowbird? Migratory birds (in other words birds with common sense) flee the cold, harsh winters of the north for the warm weather of the south.

Like these smart birds, snowbirds are also defined as retired people from northern climates who carry their homes with them, as campers (mounted on bus or truck frames) in search of warmer locales in the Sun belt region of the Southern United States.

And who can blame F-15 fighter pilots who each year migrate to places much warmer than frigid Massachusetts in the month of February? You can bet that their mode of transportation, the "Eagle," gets them to their destination much quicker than the typical snowbird.

This year, the soon to be intelligence wing deployed with eight aircraft and landed in Savannah, Ga. The migration will most likely mark the 102nd Fighter Wing's last major aircraft deployment before becoming a non-flying Air National Guard unit.

Savannah is home to the Air National Guard's, Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) located at Savannah International Airport, where the 102nd based its operations from Feb. 1 through 16. The CRTC is one of four such training

(See Snowbird, Page 16)



Maj. Andreas "Mutha" Jucker, in no hurry to close the canopy, doesn't seem to miss Cape Cod in February.



Who'll stop the rain; these snowbirds don't seem to notice the heavy rainstorm.

bound

102nd farewell tour

Photos by Master Sgt. Matt Jackson



Tech. Sgt. Don Kochka inspects the top side of an "Eagle."



Ready to take to the sky over Georgia.

Snowbird

(Continued from Page 14)

facilities in the nation. The CRCT provides aircraft parking, maintenance areas, training facilities, dormitories and other support functions for Air Force, Marine, and Navy units.

While deployed, wing pilots found many challenging opportunities for dissimilar aircraft training while flying over more temperate waters than the Vineyard Sound off Cape Cod.

Maj. Alexander “Snip” Haldopoulos was the project officer for the first week of the exercise. He explained that the deployment originally was scheduled for Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. However, Nellis fell out in early December because on base billeting was not available and it became too expensive to quarter members off base in the Las Vegas area. Other locations considered were Savannah, Ga. and San Diego, Calif. Savannah was picked because of its proximity to great over water air space training areas and an air combat maneuvering instrumentation range.

About 125 wing personnel were deployed in support of this year’s Snowbird exercise. The fighter squadron typically flew six sorties in the morning and another six in afternoon while operations specialists, maintainers, crew chiefs, and back shop personnel keep operations and maintenance flowing without a hitch. Security forces were also critical to this deployment, they basically moved into the CRCT and took over 24 hour, seven day a week responsibility for securing the facilities and aircraft.

Another situation that made Savannah ideal was that during the deployment time-frame there was a large force exercise being built and headquartered out of Shaw Air Force Base named Operation Iron Thunder. This exercise consisted of over a hundred participating Air Force, Navy, Marine, and Royal Air Force aircraft.

Maj. Haldopoulos said, “This was a great deployment. On most days we flew in support of Iron Thunder on the morning goes of the first week, and in the afternoon we flew against ourselves which was more the exception than the rule. Most often we were flying against F-16s based at McEntire Air National Guard Base, or F-18s from Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station, both in South Carolina.”

Capt. Kevin Pugh, the 79th Fighter Squadron weapons and tactics large force exercise officer explained, “Iron Thunder had suppression of enemy air defense and air-to-air combat



scenarios. There were two phases in the exercise. One phase had blue air protecting a target area from red air, the aggressors. The other had blue air attacking an enemy target. Who flew blue or red air during the exercise, which was off the North Carolina coastline, was determined each day.”

On a typical day during Iron Thunder, the E-3 Sentry airborne warning and control system and about six or seven tankers took off, then the fighters rolled out to the coastlines between Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Charleston, S.C. They flew north toward the North Carolina coastline and received fuel from tankers.

The fighters were approximately 120 miles off the coast of North Carolina when the first phase of exercise play began, Captain Pugh said. There were approximately 85 blue air aircraft, which includes escorts, versus about 15 red air aircraft. Blue air, which targets were along the coastline, headed west and red air headed east. Blue air performed simulated attacks toward red air until the threat was destroyed.

Something not originally planned for was an exercise that 102nd pilots quickly planned after high winds and waves on the North Carolina coast cancelled Exercise Iron Thunder on Thursday of week one. Not wanting to lose an opportunity for training, Otis pilots rushed to put together a large force scenario calling on Iron Thunder assets to exercise in the Savannah area where the weather was better.

This created a great training opportunity for us,” said Maj. Haldopoulos. “We flew through a long vulnerability window performing defensive counter-air operations. Normally, we train to secure a target area for 15 to 20 minutes; however, in this scenario, we had to secure the target area for a much longer time. The scenario required us to utilize a tanker where by our F-15s were able to siphon on and off the tanker during the fight, and defend the target area for 55 minutes.”

The squadron also found time to do several incentive flights while in Savannah. Wing members who received a flight were: Master Sgt. Pat Ryan, Senior Airman Matt MacKenzie, Tech Sgt. Jessica Wahlburg, Staff Sgt. Jerry Perdomo, Tech. Sgt. Jim Krizanski, Staff Sgt. John Kostka, and Master Sgt. Kim Brown.

Apart from work, there appeared to be plenty of time over the weekends for sightseeing in the Savannah area, and even a few rounds of golf were played on Hilton Head Island. And, of course almost no one missed an opportunity to get together in an undisclosed downtown Savannah location to party while watching Superbowl XLI.



SUNDAY INTERVIEW with Senior Airman Matt Benedetti

Featuring Senior Master Sgt. Pete Johnson, the superintendent of recruiting and retention

It could be a word of advice, recognition of a job well done or a demonstration of support. Regardless of the circumstance, Senior Master Sgt. Pete Johnson always makes time for an Airman. Despite a hectic schedule as superintendent of recruiting and retention for the Massachusetts Air National Guard, this 15 year veteran is always accessible. His professional demeanor, conscientious approach and commitment to the mission reflect the Air Force Core Values. Sergeant Johnson does not take himself too seriously but assumes the responsibility of his position with a sense of duty. He lives in Mashpee with his wife, Renee, and two children, Breanna, 18 and D'khari, 14. I recently had the opportunity to sit down with the sergeant and ask him about his approach to recruiting.

The Massachusetts Air Guard recently experienced an increase in accessions over the last period. In such a challenging recruiting climate, to what do you attribute the success of Air Guard recruiters?

"I think it is the most successful recruiting phase in about a decade for the 102nd Fighter Wing as well as the state. The command staff has mentioned it. The motivation of the folks going out there to do the job and enlist people in the Air Guard is the key. This period is probably the most tumultuous time in Massachusetts Air Guard history. The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission decision too shift the mission of the 102nd from a flying to a non-flying entity and the adjustments associated with these changes are a challenge for everyone, particularly recruiters. There has not been a more chaotic time for these folks. To be able to bring in people to the old mission and new mission is attributed to a determined attitude. I couldn't be happier with Sergeants Barlow, Eccleston, Whiddon, Whelan, Torres and Gendreau."

What advice do you give recruiters as they begin their careers?

"I can provide guidance, motivation and advice with specific problems. My conversations with recruiters are intended to help them along the right way.

Having recruiters tell their personal stories and testimony goes a long way with a young person.

"The recruiting school is going to teach them the ABCs of recruiting in the Air National Guard. I recommend that new recruiters make it their own individual style. Master Sergeant Kevin Eccleston is one of the most successful production recruiters not only in Massachusetts, but in the Northeast, its because he made it 'Kevin Eccleston.' He uses his knowledge base and natural interpersonal skills to approach his role in a distinct manner. He did not settle for doing his job in a cookie cutter way, he made it his own. He has a natural rapport with parents and young people. He is very knowledgeable and keeps apprised of the latest information. He understands that



Master Sgt. Pete Johnson, the superintendent of recruiting and retention for the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

an Airman who is treated right during the recruiting process will tell their friends about the Guard."

Were you surprised by the positive numbers?

"We knew that with BRAC developments, the state and the unit would take a huge hit. I think the positive numbers reflected in recruiting and retention has surprised some people. Folks are thinking about staying and transitioning to the new mission and that's good. I was pleasantly surprised but not totally surprised because I knew our recruiters would find a way.

"It is always good to go to a command staff meeting knowing that you are going to discuss an increase in accessions and not a decrease. In general, it is more the people doing their jobs well that is a critical component of our success."

You served as a recruiter for several years. How does your present role differ from your previous one?

"I am the principal administrator of all programs and policies relative to recruiting and retention in the Mass Air Guard. I take my recommendations and analysis to Brig. Gen. Michael Akey and his staff to make decisions that relate to this subject. I have been through a lot of the problems that recruiters face

(See Pete Johnson, Page 18)

Pete Johnson

(Continued from Page 16)

during the course of their duties. Recruiters can approach me about a situation and I have a base knowledge and hopefully I can use my experience to guide them in the right direction.”

How can joining the Air Guard benefit a young person?

“Serving in the Air Guard allows one to utilize the tools that can make you grow as a person. Whether it is your personal or financial life- everything comes into focus while serving a greater cause. When a kid is looking to join the guard, he or she is looking to identify with someone in the group, whether it is attitude or approach. You want him to see himself working there. Getting a full picture of what the Air National Guard has to offer can only help an individual make a decision.”

What are some of the recent benefits to serving in the Massachusetts Air Guard?

“Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Guard offers 100 percent tuition for all state colleges. It is hard to beat but now fees are included, a significant expense. Fifteen-thousand dollar bonuses, student loan repayment program as well as a host of other benefits one can use to further your education. Whether its learning technical training required to transfer to a civilian job or traditional college coursework, a benefit will be available to suit your needs. If you take advantage of these opportunities, it gives you a great head

start on what you are trying to accomplish while saving you money and time as well. My daughter is a senior and is looking into colleges now and I have an idea how expensive higher education can cost.”

What is your proudest moment in the Guard?

“We had a unit compliance inspection and I was the recruiting supervisor and we won superior team. I have garnered my share of individual achievements, but to have my team recognized as one of the top Air National Guard teams in the nation was my proudest moment. We can all grasp upon it as a motivating factor and it paves the way for the direction we want to go in the future.”

In August 2007, Air Force Week will be sponsored by the Massachusetts Air National Guard. Are you involved in the planning of the event?

“We are starting to generate a schedule for Air Force Week and developing a name. The project officer is Major Lisa Ahaesy. It starts in New Hampshire with Wings of Cobair show. There will be several events in New England during the week, culminating at the Cape Cod Air Show on August 25-26. It promises to be a good time and is the only Air Guard sponsored Air Force Week in the country. The others have been sponsored by active duty components. We are starting to work real hard on it and will be asking individuals help to come out to locations and talk to folks. Air Force Week will give the Air Guard in Massachusetts an opportunity to showcase our abilities. It will culminate with the 60th anniversary of the Air Force and will be an event to remember.”

Join Our Team !

Interested in a career in Communications or Information Technology? There are Drill Status Guardsman job opportunities in the following career fields for the 267 Combat Communications Squadron and 253 Combat Communications Group. If you are interested in any of these drill weekend positions or would like a job tour, please contact 2nd Lt. Rick Haddon at (508) 968-7233. Additional information about these positions is available on the Combat Communications web page located on the Wing Intranet.

- 1S0X1 - Safety Specialist
- 2E1X3 - Ground Radio Communications Specialist
- 2E1X1 - Satellite, Wideband and Telemetry Systems Specialist
- 2E2X1 - Computer, Network, Switching & Cryptographic Systems Specialist
- 2E6X2 - Communications Cable and Antenna Systems Specialist
- 2E6X3 - Voice Network Systems Specialist
- 2G0X1 - Logistics Plans Specialist
- 2S0X1 - Materiel Management Specialist
- 3A0X1 - Information Management Specialist
- 3C0X1 - Communications - Computer Systems Specialist
- 3C1X2 - Electromagnetic Spectrum Management Specialist
- 3C2X1 - Communications - Computer Systems Control Specialist
- 3E0X2 - Electrical Power Production Specialist
- 3E1X1 - Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Specialist
- 3E9X1 - Readiness Specialist
- 3S0X1 - Personnel Specialist
- 3S2X1 - Education and Training Specialist
- 2T3X1 - Vehicle and Vehicular Equipment Maintenance Specialist

Turk "102"

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti
Public Affairs Staff

According to his colleagues, Babe Ruth was a rookie when Staff Sgt. Richard Turcotte of the 102nd Civil Engineering Fire Squadron began serving as a firefighter.

Sergeant Turcotte's lengthy career inspires good natured ribbing from his fellow "jakes," some at least half his age, but always with a measure of deference. He shrugs off remarks suggesting he began his career working with steam engines and horse drawn carriages with a hearty laugh.

He enjoys the banter. Sergeant Turcotte is in his element at the firehouse, displaying an offhand demeanor similar to comedian and fellow Cambridge native, Lenny Clarke.

The sergeant was 52 years old when he reported to the Air Force Fire Academy at Goodfellow Air Force Base in Texas after enlisting in the Massachusetts Air National Guard. As he entered the classroom on his first day, his fellow students stood at attention, mistaking him for the instructor. The group of twentysomethings could not believe that Turcotte was a student. "It felt like an episode from the Twilight Zone and I said to those guys that I expected Rod Serling to appear," he recalled. After offering him a quizzical look, one of the students said, "Who is Rod Serling," he laughed. "That afternoon I was moved to the advanced course," said Sergeant Turcotte.

A military and municipal firefighter for 40 years, Sergeant Turcotte, 59, has served in the 102nd since 2000. "The camaraderie here is great. When I arrived, I knew no one but we are all firefighters and assimilated pretty quickly. The guys are all consummate professionals and have a wealth of experience from their civilian departments," said Turk, a lieutenant with the Cambridge Fire Department. Boston, Attleboro, Stoughton and Somerville are only a few of the municipal fire departments represented within the ranks of the 102nd.

Sergeant Turcotte began his career in the active duty Air Force in 1966. Trained as a firefighter, he has been working in this capacity for several organizations, including the Cambridge Fire Department since 1971.

During active duty, he served at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas and Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany. Turcotte joined the Army Reserve in 1973 and served as a firefighter in the Danvers based unit through 1978. As well, he served in the Coast Guard Reserve for 22 years before enlisting in the Air Guard seven years ago.

He credits recruiter Master Sergeant Kevin Eccleston with facilitating his induction and service in the 102nd. "I asked Kevin if they had any room for me at Otis and he said that with my experience, that I would be an asset," he recalled. "You have seven good years and we want them," he remembers Eccleston telling him. "Kevin was just great and I really appreciated his help," said Sergeant Turcotte.

As the senior member in the firehouse here at Otis, he plays the role of instructor, mentor and recruiter. Tech. Sgt. Paul Jacques has served with Sergeant Turcotte for several years. "Everything he brings to the job is important. His experience, background and actions are unparalleled, we always learn



Staff Sgt. Turcotte and Tech. Sgt. Fred Ikles on the job.

from him. He may not realize how much we pay attention to what he does while training or during an incident," said Sergeant Jacques. "He keeps everyone loose and motivated. Whenever one of us gets down, he is always there to help and he gets us back on track. Because of his time in service, he has the credibility to say and do a lot more," he said. "At certain times, he says something that we were all thinking," observed Sergeant Jacques.

Sergeant Turcotte is grateful to the individuals who helped him early in his career and seeks to advise younger firefighters. "I try to help the younger guys when I can," he said. "Someone mentored me when I was coming up and I try to pass it on-its' not about just taking care of yourself. Part of my job is to get the guys up to speed so they can take over one day," said Sergeant Turcotte.

He is proud of every member of the unit, but is particularly impressed with Sergeant Jacques, "Paul going to Iraq and taking care of his people speaks to his character," said Sergeant Turcotte. "He is proactive and made every effort to make life better for the people on base through Operation Helmet and other initiatives," Sergeant Turcotte said.

Urging Airmen to stay in the Guard is a common refrain from Sergeant Turcotte. "When you are young, time goes by slowly and 20 years seems like forever, but I am up to 39 and it goes fast," he said.

"You have got to remind the young guy who is thinking of getting out to stick with it," said Sergeant Turcotte. "I never thought I would get there, but it has been great and I am glad that I stayed in the Guard." For a kid looking for experience, the Guard is a great way to get started. Who else is going to

(See Turcotte, Page 20)

Turcotte

(Continued from Page 19)

give a 19 year old kid that kind of opportunity? You can serve your country and get valuable experience. I have been serving my country since I was 19 years old and have no regrets,” said Sergeant Turcotte.

Turk has recruited about six individuals to the active duty Air Force or Air Guard over the years. One of those service members is Staff Sgt. Frederick Ikles, also a lieutenant with the Cambridge Fire Department, as well as a firefighter here at Otis. Turk guided Ikles through the process of becoming an airman and a firefighter.

“Freddy’s father was on the job with me and he lived one block from the firehouse on Massachusetts Ave. in Cambridge. When Freddy was little, he began to come around the firehouse with his grandfather and I showed him the trucks,” recalled Sergeant Turcotte.

“I remember when he was riding a tricycle around the station and now time has caught up and Freddy is a Lt. in the fire department with me,” marveled Sergeant Turcotte. “His mother was wary about him joining the military and I told her that I would go to the recruiter with him and make sure he gets the firefighter position,” he remembered. “It all worked out, he served in the active component and went to the same base in Germany where I was stationed 25 years earlier. Today, he serves with me at the 102nd and the Cambridge Fire Department,” said Sergeant Turcotte. “He is like a son to me and

I am glad that he is serving in the Otis department as well,” expressed Sergeant Turcotte.

It is clear that Sergeant Turcotte is proud to serve at Otis and believes that the squadron’s unit readiness is unrivaled. “During the operational readiness inspection (ORI), we received an outstanding rating for both of the drills we performed. I don’t think the Air Force evaluator expected a Guard unit to be as proficient as we are and indicated that he had never seen the drills performed to such a high standard,” recalled Turk. “We have a talented group and could probably go to an active duty base and show them a thing or two,” declared Sergeant Turcotte.

The sergeant attributes his longevity and success to attitude. “I am fortunate to stay on job for this long. The job beats you up and is physically challenging. I don’t want to stop working. I will know when I am ready and I am not ready yet,” he said. “You have to have a reason to get up and go. If you are not mentally ready to challenge the day every day, you are in trouble. If a person loses his focus psychologically, his physical health will fall apart. Right now, I want to continue to get up and go,” stated Sergeant Turcotte.

Tech. Sgt. Patrick Haggerty has been a Cambridge Firefighter for 13 years and a member of the Guard for 16 years. “Turk is very inspirational and has a tremendous wealth of knowledge,” Sergeant Haggerty noted. “He keeps everyone young,” he cracked.

Sergeant Turcotte lives in Burlington with his wife, Rosemary.

Pierson

(Continued from Page 11)

began to look for a full-time position with the wing. I was hoping to land a position in the fuel shop – it didn’t work out that way, and I ended up in the propulsion shop in 1998.

He remained in the propulsion shop from 1998 through 2005, working in the Jet Engine Intermediate Maintenance backshop section and the test cell Hush House facility testing engines; this is where he states that the bulk of his experience and career knowledge came from, and where he got his five level journeyman, and seven level craftsman experience.

There came a point, as he says, that he started looking for more. He wanted to be more involved with making the 102nd Maintenance Group a better place for individuals to work. “I really wanted to help enforce regulations and policy while doing the correct thing - doing it by the book, not taking shortcuts. Shortcuts were always a pet peeve of mine because I found that when shortcuts were used, they often ended up causing more maintenance, personnel safety hazards, and lowered our mission capable rate,” he said.

Sergeant Pierson discovered that he was interested in quality assurance; and when a position opened up, he was fortunate enough to be selected. “And, now I help make things better, at least that’s what I like to think I’m doing,” he said.

“In a nutshell, in the quality assurance section, through inspections and monitoring, we insure a high quality of maintenance operations within the wing,” affirmed Sergeant

Pierson. He describes his position as being a sort of, “right-hand man,” to the Maintenance Group commander, “his eyes and ears on the maintenance floor upholding regulations and policy, and also validating maintenance being performed through evaluations, inspections and through MSEP (maintenance standardization evaluation program). This basically insures that we are doing business the way it needs to be done by Air Force policy.”

He explained how he and his fellow quality assurance inspectors help educate aircraft maintainers on situations where they may not understand something clearly. The inspectors are also there for the supervisors, to help them get an idea of what is going on in their work center, what the inspectors see that the supervisor may not see inside the shop. We help maintainers improve in areas where there may be flaws in work procedures; they can also help maintainers with technical assistance matters. Quality assurance is the primary source for seeking an outside source for technical assistance.

The sergeant also added, “We help support the wing safety program on the aircraft maintenance side of the wing’s mission by enforcing safety rules that deal with maintenance; for example, using PPE (personal protective equipment), and using new technical data that helps keep maintainers working safely.

“We deal with situations that come up with aircraft that require impoundments or isolation from individuals, so that they don’t start working in a situation that is unknown and in need of more research prior to releasing the aircraft to the

(See Pierson Page 23)

From Maine to Mindanao to the Mideast

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti
Public Affairs Staff

“Thankfully, we had snake to eat,” recalls Senior Airman Tom Ard, as he describes a jungle operations training exercise in the Philippines while he was an active duty Marine in 1999.

With the unaffected approach of a seasoned Marine and Airmen, Airman Ard casually conveys his military experiences in an unpretentious manner, typical of most service members. Airman Ard’s resume reads like an outline of an Indiana Jones movie, without the gold bouillon or priceless artifacts. The Maine native and Wales resident, has dotted his rucksack with patches from nearly every scorching region near the equator during his eight year military career.

He enlisted in the Marines in 1999 and the Massachusetts Air National Guard in 2003. He has served in the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Iraq, and Kuwait, among other perilous locales.

As a Marine infantryman, he was stationed in Hawaii, operating and training throughout the Pacific. On one occasion, his unit left Bali, Indonesia two days prior to the terrorist attack that killed over two hundred people. On another, his platoon was bivouacked on a beach on a Philippine island that experienced a torrential hurricane. “It was awful. I have never been so uncomfortable,” he remembered.

Undoubtedly, his rigorous training and international experience prepared him for his 2006 deployment to Iraq with the Massachusetts Air Guard. As an engineering assistant with the 102nd fighter Wing, Civil Engineering Squadron, Airman Ard served a four-month tour at Ali, Air Base, Iraq. He volunteered for a subsequent four-month tour in Kuwait and returned to Massachusetts in January 2007.

Despite the hazards of sporadic rocket attacks, Airman Ard relished his role serving with the accomplished Airmen of the 102nd. Unit members returned from a deployment from Ali Air Base in Iraq last fall. “We really take care of each other,” said Airman Ard.

The austere living conditions in Iraq presented a challenge for unit personnel. However, the innovative nature of the ‘dirt-boys’ or engineers, allowed the 102nd Airmen to improvise

methods to live in the arid environment. “We went to work fortifying our room with sandbags to ensure better protection against attack, said Airman Ard. “We also put walls in place around high traffic areas.”

Airman Ard discovered that the protection was not uniform in every area. “In Qatar, Kuwait and southern Iraq, the bunkers were generally reinforced. The farther north we traveled in Iraq, we discovered the fortifications were not quite as elaborate. When we arrived, we were attacked often enough, but the rockets usually did not detonate, towards the end of our tour, the rounds were more accurate and would go off. They would set up with a makeshift stand with a timer, leave and the rocket would shoot off remotely,” said Airman Ard.

“Sometimes the explosive would fall randomly in the middle of nowhere. Other times they would hit closer to home. Right before we left Iraq, another one hit tent city and opened a lot of peoples’ eyes. You could see the crater and all the objects around the crater were damaged,” recalled Airman Ard. “Luckily, the tent that was hit the worst was only a transitional tent. Inside the tent during the day, if lights were off, the top of it resembled a starry night.

“The alarm goes off, everybody knows that we are under attack and seeks shelter. When they realize the attack is over and set off another alarm. We are regrouping while seeking shelter. When we know the attack is clear, we get accountability, and go out and run sweeps. Our priority is the runway. We will head out with EOD to ensure that the runway is still operational. After everything is cleared, including any unexploded ordinance, we will send the word to headquarters and the day will go on,” said Airman Ard.

The Airman was tasked with overseeing foreign contractors while serving in Iraq. 1st Lt. Christian Leighton served with Airman Ard at Ali Air Base and was his supervisor during the tour.

“Senior Airman Ard kept a close eye on the workmanship of these contractors and made sound decisions when any problem did occur. He is not afraid to jump in to complete the job,” said Lieutenant Leighton.

Airman Ard plans to attend school for engineering and will remain in the Guard for the foreseeable future. He added, “I am proud of my service and enjoy the job that I do.”

Students to walk in foot steps of U.S. leaders

Morgan Rich, age 11, the daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Sharon Rich has been selected along with over 250 outstanding middle school students from across the United States and Canada to take part in an extraordinary leadership conference in Washington, D.C. themed *The Legacy of American Leadership*, the Junior National Young Leaders Conference introduces young people to the rich tradition of leadership throughout American history, while helping them develop their own leadership skills.

During the six-day program, scholars take part in educational activities and presentations, as well as meet with elected officials and key Congressional staff members on Capitol Hill.

Students also visit historical sites, such as Harpers Ferry, the National Museum of American History and Washington, D.C.’s monuments and memorials.

In addition to examining notable U.S. leaders and historic figures, students study the impact of leadership throughout critical periods of American history including the Civil War and Reconstruction, World War II, the Great Depression and the Civil Rights Movement. Upon completion, students gain a greater sense of understanding of the role of individuals in American democracy, as well as the responsibilities of being a leader.

Diversity: What's in it for me?

By Senior Master Sgt. Michael J. Poirier
Human resources advisor

For over four years, I served as a first sergeant with this wing, and starting in January of 2007, I took over as the 102nd Fighter Wing's human resource advisor. Many of you may ask yourself what my job is, or exactly what diversity is. My job is to inform the commander on a multitude of diversity issues affecting the wing, ensure the wing meets and/or exceeds training its personnel on diversity, and do what I can to help this wing reach its diversity potential. Diversity, contrary to popular opinion, is NOT about affirmative action, compliance EEO training, or the recognition of just minorities; it is about recognizing the differences and qualities of each and every person who is a member of this wing, and using those differences and qualities to create a cohesive, unified, and interconnected unit where all can share in each other's wisdom and knowledge.

Talented people go where they feel welcome and businesses around the world have already attracted some of the most talented people in the world because of their commitment to diversity. There is a clear connection between effective diversity training and an inclusive military culture where each person's values and inputs are understood and truly appreciated. The goal of this wing should be to nurture people's diverse values, recognize their strengths and weaknesses, communicate effectively, and most importantly build relationships. This is where I come in as the wing's human resource advisor.

Over the course of the next few years, I plan on providing numerous training sessions about diversity and what it can do for us. Whether it is a briefing on mentoring, or a video

displaying how diversity benefits all, my hope is to be able to teach each and every person in the wing about how they can learn about each other's talents and recognize the ideas, values and innovations each person brings each and every day to this wing.

People may ask themselves, "What's the payoff" or "Why should I care?" The real payoff comes in retention of all employees, regardless of race/ethnicity or gender. As this wing makes its way into its new mission, the goal will be to retain those talented people who have been working diligently over past few years and allow them to share their experiences and knowledge with those who are just walking in the door.

My hope is to better inform everyone here at the 102nd Fighter Wing that no matter the rank, the gender, the race, the age, or the education, each person has a voice and each person "brings something to the table." How can you, as members of this wing, help me? Be on the lookout for diversity training announcements, and be prepared to attend at least four hours of training over a three-year period, join the 102nd Diversity Council and make your voice heard as to how this wing can do a better job in displaying its diversity. Most importantly understand that whether a person turns a wrench on an aircraft, types an awards decoration, or secures a gate at 2:30 in the morning, their diverse voices and messages not only contribute to the their own successes, but also to the success of this wing.

For more information on diversity, or the 102nd Fighter Wing Diversity Council, please contact Senior Master Sgt. Michael J. Poirier at either extension 4661, or via e-mail at Michael.Poirier@maotis.ang.af.mil.

Popular candy runs hot on drug test

Submitted by the Judge Advocate Office

There is a new candy that is spreading across the U.S. that is very popular with the 21-year-old and older crowd. It's called Chronic Candy and it contains essential hemp oil that is illegal for Air Force members to ingest. This is not the first product containing hemp that is marketed toward young adults. Jones Soda offers "Dave", which also contains hemp. Airmen need to be aware of what they are eating and drinking. The restrictions are outlined in AFI 44-121: 3.5.5. Studies have shown that products made with hemp seed and hemp seed oil may contain varying levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), an active ingredient of marijuana which is detectable under the Air Force drug testing program. In order to ensure military readiness, the ingestion of products containing or products derived from hemp seed or hemp seed oil is prohibited. Failure to comply with the prohibition on the ingestion of products containing or products derived from hemp seed or hemp seed oil is a violation of Article 92 of the UCMJ.

NCOA

(Continued from Page 10)

“I could see a lot of guys who were definitely wearing their emotions on their sleeve after that, they were very disheartened and discouraged about the decision. These guys have worked F-15s their entire careers, it’s not that they can’t do anything else; it’s just that this is what they like to do. It’s what they are good at, they know they can do it, and they do it well. Based on their job knowledge and attitudes, a lot of these guys are well deserving of making master sergeant. Unfortunately, they didn’t make the decision to advance through advance PME training.”

Many of these individuals are in the later stages of their careers serving as technical sergeants, and Sergeant Pierson would like to see them be able to, “walk out the door as master

sergeants, feeling that the 102nd had done right by them.” He thought that they should be given the opportunity to take correspondence courses for NCO Academy credit.

This idea sparked a conversation with Chief Master Sergeant Roy Piver. Sergeant Pierson, explained that through his chat with the chief, “I learned why NCO Academy in residence attendance is so important. He opened my eyes and educated me on things that I had not thought about, or wasn’t knowledgeable of. I now definitely believe now that in-residence PME is something people should look at very seriously.”

However, he stressed that attendees need both family and unit support because the commitment to attend can be a demanding experience. “My supervisor, Chief Master Sergeant Karen Piginatro is very understanding, I couldn’t do it without her support. She allows me to take the time I need, and make up time lost from the job at a later date. She definitely promotes PME and understands what we are going through.

Pierson

(Continued from Page 20)

technicians to work on.”

When asked about his plans for the future, and how he will be affected by the mission change at Otis when the F-15s leave, Sergeant Pierson answered.

“I’m not making plans to move elsewhere. For me, I made my choice shortly after we were informed of the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) decision to remove aircraft from Otis, and figured out that our futures were going to change in a big way.

“I’m well settled here on Cape Cod in Hyannis, and don’t see myself uprooting my family to head out west. We have so much here locally with family and friends that moving would be too much of a disruption as opposed to choosing a new career, and going into the new mission.

“Sometimes change can be a good thing – change is good! I’m going to miss being a quality assurance inspector, it’s something I wanted to do, and I’m just glad that I got the

chance to do it. I’ve learned a lot, and I’d like to stay with it, but sometimes you must set new goals. Change is the vehicle that drives you onwards.

“With that said, I find this new intelligence mission to be very interesting. I think that we will have an opportunity to be more involved in what we as a nation, the Air Guard, and the Air Force are trying to achieve with the current situation going on in the world. I’m real excited about it.”

Sergeant Pierson hasn’t always been so rooted on Cape Cod; he is the product of a military family. His father served in the Army Reserves and was stationed in Hawaii where Curtis was born. They remained in the island paradise for eight years before his father, a Massachusetts native asked for a transfer back to his home state. His path to Hyannis on the Cape took many more years and passed through Quincy, Middleboro, Carver, and Plymouth where he attended junior high and high school.

Even though he realizes that the F-15 Fighter Jets he loves working with will not be on the Cape much longer. He says that he is excited about the new intelligence mission, and opportunity to learn another skill.

Trained Crisis Responder (TRC) Course *Terrorism & Disaster Response*

Friday, June 1, 2007, 7:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 3, 2007, 7 - 11:00 a.m.

Otis Air National Guard Base

Building 158, 3rd Floor

This two-day training program is designed to prepare participants to provide selected and specific crisis intervention services subsequent to disasters and/or weapons of mass destruction terrorism. Participants will learn how to perform acute crisis intervention, as well as other forms of emergency mental health interventions to address the earliest psychological needs subsequent to disasters and acts of terrorism.

To register by May 6, or for more information, please contact Master Sgt. Rose Gould in the Chaplain’s office via e-mail at RGould02@northshore.edu

Southie's St. Patrick's Day Parade

Members of the Base Honor Guard braved frigid temperatures, and intoxicated Bostonians, as they marched in the 106th Annual South Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade. Featured in the photographs from left to right are Master Sgt. John Mallard, Master Sgt. Wes Smith, Senior Airman Danny Morgado, Master Sgt. Joseph Pitta, Senior Airman Alexis Colonna, and Tech. Sgt. Donald Kochka.

Photos by Senior Airman James Regan





Personnel update

ID cards

Otis ANG Base does ID cards during the week and drill weekends. The Air Guard side is open every Tuesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and open again from 1 to 3 p.m. You can contact Senior Airman Nicole Arena at (508) 968-4180 or DSN: 557-4180 to make an appointment. The Air Guard side takes customers by appointment only. If you need a common access card (CAC) you will need your old ID card. If you lost your ID card you will need a valid driver's license with photo. You will need to fill out an AF Form 1168, which allows you to tell us where, when, how, etc. you lost your ID card. If you need a dependent ID card, you will need to have your sponsor with you to sign the DD Form 1172. If your sponsor is unavailable, we will print a form and fax it to your sponsor if they have access to a fax machine. If we are still unable to get a signature from the sponsor, we will have to reschedule the appointment to a time and date both the member and sponsor can come in together. If our hours of operation do not meet your needs, the Coast Guard is another section of the base that does ID cards. Their hours of operation are Tuesday through Thursday from 8 to 11 a.m., and reopen from 1 to 3 p.m. If you need to schedule an appointment with them you can call (508) 968-6318. The Coast Guard is located in building 5215 (behind the Base Exchange).

Deers enrollment

DEERS updates are done on the same schedule as the ID card room is open. If you are in need to update a marriage in DEERS, adding a dependent, you will need to bring in a copy of your marriage certificate and any documentation showing your spouse's name change; ie, driver's license or social security card. If you are adding a new child, you will need to bring in a copy of the birth certificate and social security card if you have it. We will need you to bring in your child's social security number once you receive it so we can update them to be covered under the military member's medical benefits. Please make sure you have all the proper documentation before setting up an appointment to make updates to ensure the update is done properly. Again, to make an appointment contact Senior Airman Nicole Arena.

Personnel Services Delivery transformation

Personnel Services Delivery (PSD) transformation represents a new way of doing business that will transform the Air Forces' personnel processes, organizations, and technology to provide a new personnel service delivery model that replaces many labor-intensive processes today. The goal of PSD is to provide better customer service with 24 hour-a-day, 7 day-a-week accessibility for Airmen to conduct more personnel transactions via improved web-based applications and an enhanced contact center. PSD is ultimately about supporting the warfighters with world-class personnel service.

In the past few years, Military Personnel Flights (MPFs) have been downsized in anticipation of this transformation. The Air Force has begun its centralization of services using technology to give flexibility to people wherever they may be stationed starting this year.

One of the new processes includes the execution of a Board for Correction of Military Records (BCMR). The MPF will retain only an advisory role in the redesigned BCMR process and will make administrative corrections when necessary. The MPF will also continue to update BCMR actions when direction by NGB/A1 or SAF/MRBR until the Total Force Service Center in Denver completely takes over.

How this works for the member:

1. Prior to the submission of a BCMR, each member should discuss their concerns with their commander's support staff (CSS) or orderly room, who in turn can work with your local MPF, finance office, or other appropriate officials to see if the error can be corrected administratively without resorting to the board.

2. If a board submission is deemed necessary, member will complete the DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record, attach applicable supporting documentation, and mail the package to the address on the reverse side of the DD Form 149.

3. All requests must be received in hardcopy with the original applicant signature.

Throughout the past two years, additional transactions have been made available online or through the Air Force Contact Center, although some parts of these processes may still require action outside of the online application. The web will become the first step in initiating these transactions. Additional capability will be added to the web applications over time. Some of the new transaction available online include promotion information and applications, retirements, and separations.

More information regarding PSD transformation and how it affects you can be found online at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/psd/>. Pamphlets are also available in the MPF in Bldg. 158, Rm. 232.

Career enhancements

Individuals who wish to retake the ASVAB may do so by signing up on the MSF web site under the career enhancements, testing link. For more information please contact Senior Airman Maria Escobar at extension 4184.



Photo by Master Sgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki

Members of the 102nd Aircraft Structural Repair Shop were selected as the winners of the most recent Quarterly Safety Award. Pictured from left to right are Col. Rick Dupuis, Senior Master Sgt. Roger Witten, Master Sgt. Joseph O'Brien, Staff Sgt. Daniel Hyland, Master Sgt. Timothy Schilling, and Col Paul Worcester. Not pictured is Master Sgt. Nicholas Colagiovanni.

Structural Repair Shop wins Quarterly Safety Award

Members of the 102nd Aircraft Structural Repair Shop were selected as the winners of the most recent Quarterly Safety Award. Shop personnel were cited for demonstrating outstanding safety awareness by eliminating the need for some safety equipment when applying tail markings to unit aircraft.

The award citation reads: "With the purchase of a new Gerber stenciling machine, shop personnel were able to apply all new lettering, applicable tail markings and insignias to nine newly assigned and repainted aircraft with minimal use of hazardous materials. Prior to using the Gerber machine the section used the silk-screen method for applying aircraft markings. This required the use of excessive amounts of Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) used to clean materials. Using MEK required the use of respirators, safety goggles, chemical gloves and protective aprons.

"The use of new vinyl materials eliminates the cost of using hazardous chemicals and the extra cost associated with purchasing safety equipment. Furthermore, when using the

new system, one less person is required to apply markings. This eliminates the need for three persons to be on a B-7 stand which borders the safety limits of the stands weight capacity.

"Removal of markings is also made safer by eliminating the need for more safety equipment and hazardous chemicals. The new markings are easily removed manually with a heat gun and phenolic scrapers.

"Overall, less time is required to apply markings, increasing aircraft turn-around time. Most importantly the total task is accomplished in a much safer and cleaned environment.

"The Structural repair Shop took a 'lean-forward' approach when deciding to purchase this system. Although silk screening is still the standard method to properly mark aircraft, these maintainers found an approved method that is safer for the user and the environment, as well as producing a higher quality product."

Cape Cod Airshow

August 25 and 26, 2007



The United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, "Thunderbirds" has been inspiring the young, instilling confidence in the old and making Americans proud of their Air Force since the first demonstration more than 47 years ago. Watching a "Thunderbirds" performance provides a small glimpse into how more than 360,000 Air Force professionals perform everyday. This year, the Thunderbirds will again bring the U.S. Air Force to audiences in around the world, displaying the pride, precision and professionalism of the men and women serving in today's Air Force. The team will perform at the Cape Cod Air Show on Otis Air National Guard Base, Aug. 25 and 26.

Seagull

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