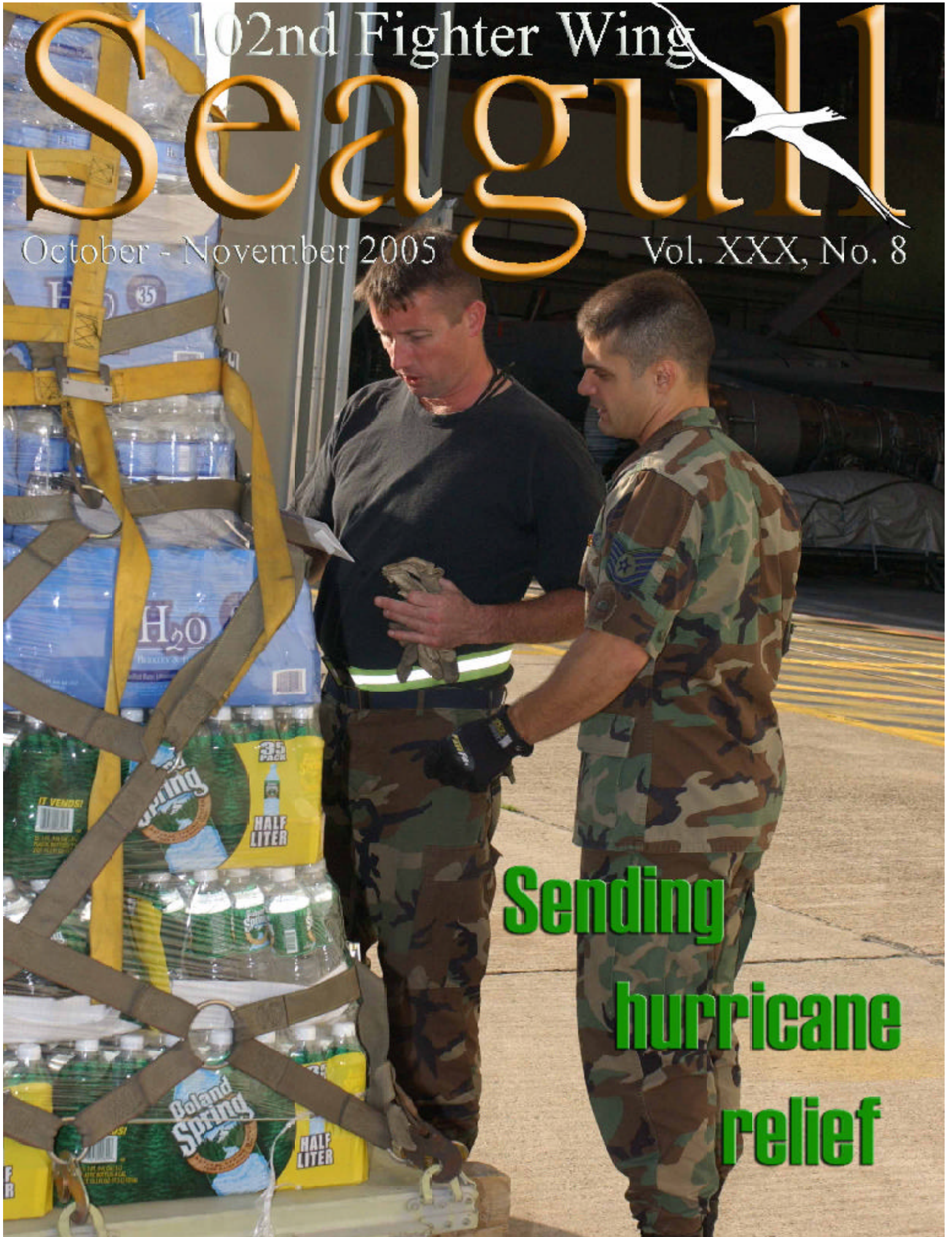


102nd Fighter Wing

# Seagull

October - November 2005

Vol. XXX, No. 8



**Sending  
hurricane  
relief**



*Colonel Paul G. Worcester*

By now most of you will have heard the news on the final BRAC Commission recommendation to “re-align” Otis and the 102nd Fighter Wing versus a complete closure. This is excellent news. The president has approved this change and forwarded the complete list of recommendations to congress for their analysis and review. He made no changes to the product created by the commission. Congress will have 45 days to approve all or reject all as it was given to them. They can make no individual changes to the list.

We will soon be entering the “final solution” stage. This will include how over the next several years we will transition from the F-15 unit we are today to the unit we will be tomorrow. This assumes the F-15s leave Otis for Barnes Airport in western Massachusetts. That move if confirmed will by necessity involve many of our skills because simultaneous to that move, we will begin a very complex aircraft conversion from A-models to C-models. All of our expertise will be required.

Furthermore, we expect a number of jobs at Barnes will be open to our personnel. This is for two reasons. One, they’ll need all the experienced help we can send them and two, the number of assigned aircraft is to grow requiring even more skilled members to maintain them.

For many of us not directly associated with hands-on work of maintaining or flying the F-15, it will re-

From the wing commander’s desk

## **BRAC- and the quality of our people**

quire us to be here at Otis developing into that new “realigned” unit of the future. It will be challenging and yet very rewarding work. We’ll have an opportunity to be on the ground floor of the new Air Force building a mission or set of missions that will extend beyond the time when the Air Force no longer flies aircraft.

Some of us will not want to be part of this new mission. That’s OK. What’s important for everyone to know at this stage of the BRAC process is that every effort will be made by our unit, state, and national leadership to employ any person that wants continued Air National Guard affiliation. As I have repeatedly suggested to all of you, please think carefully about any decision you make. Please speak with your commanders, unit counselors, and recruiting/retention staff. While the times ahead are apt to full of anxiety and uncertainty, our number one job is to take care of you and give you every opportunity to complete a National Guard career.

While the news of losing the F-15 to another location doesn’t please everyone, we are still far better off than we were on May 13. We keep Otis alive for future missions while allowing many of us that choose to remain in this area a chance to contribute in one way or another to our nation’s security.

Speaking of contributions let me pass on my thanks to you from ALL our state’s National Guard leadership. From the governor, TAG, Brig. Gen. Akey, me, and your respective

group or squadron commanders, we thank you all for the outstanding performance on the front-line or behind the scenes to make the Hurricane Katrina response effort work so well. The combination of pushing out over two hundred tons of rolling and palletized stock and more than five hundred personnel to states down south was absolutely remarkable. If an IG team could have scored us, we would have recorded another outstanding rating. And all this effort over another summer holiday weekend to boot. By the way, in doing so not one person was injured or one piece of equipment damaged. The quality of our people is what made this happen. Thanks.

The quality of our people is what is going to carry us into the future. Airplanes will come and go, missions will change, but the people and the legacy they leave behind by doing such awesome work will last forever. I want to thank all of you for remaining focused on our mission over the past several months. That dedication to the job at hand will pay dividends down the road. Please continue to do so as it will take several years to make any transition from what are today to what we’ll be tomorrow.

BRAC - Be Relaxed and Confident. We have much going for us and there are many folks out there working to keep us around for a good long time. Please read the BRAC information we have posted to the wing Intranet web site. It will continue to be the one-stop source for information.

# ON THE COVER

*Master Sgt. Joseph Smith, left, and Tech. Sgt. Raymond Gendreau check the manifest for a pallet of water destined for the relief effort in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. More photos, story on Page 10.*

Cover photo by Tech. Sgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki

## *This month...*

### **Quarterly award winners named**

*Story on Page 5*



## **Seagull**

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### **Murford, Johansen return from Iraq**

*Story on Page 7*



### **Haehnel ends atypical mission**

*Story on Page 8*



## What's for lunch?



### Saturday, Oct. 15

Family Day, hamburgers, hot dogs, steak, and all the fixin's.

### Sunday, Oct. 16

Baked scrod or hot pastrami on rye, salad, assorted desserts and beverages.

### Saturday, Nov. 5

Thanksgiving meal, roast turkey or spiral ham, salad, assorted desserts and beverages.

### Sunday, Nov. 6

Baked ziti with meatballs or open-faced turkey sandwich, salad, assorted desserts and beverages.

## Scholarship recipients are named

The 2005 Chiefs' Council Scholarship Fund recipients are Senior Airman Philip M. Dehnick of the 102nd Maintenance Squadron and Dale Swartz Jr., son of Master Sgt. Dale Swartz, 102nd Logistics Group vehicle maintenance superintendent. Each is to receive a \$500 scholarship.

On behalf the Chiefs' Council good luck and congratulations to the winners.

## In sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to the family of retired Maj. Robert T. Smith. As an enlisted person, he was a member of the 102nd Combat Support Squadron while the unit was at Logan International Airport.

## Upcoming drill dates

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

### 2005

Oct. 15-16      Dec. 3-4

Nov. 5-6

Mandatory annual field training will be Oct. 17-21

### 2006

Jan. 7-8      Aug. 26-27

Feb. 11-12      Sept. 16-17

March 4-5      Oct. 21-22

April 1-2      Nov. 2-3

May 6-7      Nov. 4-5

June 8-9      Dec. 2-3

June 10-11

\* First drill in June replaces July drill.

\* June 8-11 is for Phase II Operational Readiness Exercise.

\* First drill in November replaces July 2007 drill.

\* Unit Compliance Inspection Nov. 2-7.

## Two unit training managers needed

There are two traditional Guard unit training manager positions vacant within the 102nd Fighter Wing.

The technical sergeant positions are in the 102nd Communications Flight and the 102nd Medical Group.

To qualify for cross-training to the 3S2X1 career field, one must already have a five-level in another Air Force specialty code and have a General ASVAB score of 59.

An eight-week technical school is mandatory within one year of reassignment.

Interested people should contact Senior Master Sgt. Paul Hennessey in the Base Education and Training Office at (508) 968-4189.

## Seagull deadline

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

Articles for publication should be no longer than 350 words. The public affairs staff has the right to edit all articles for content and length.

Items should be sent over the LAN to [kenneth.wheeler@maotis.ang.af.mil](mailto:kenneth.wheeler@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.

## Milestones

### Promotions

#### To technical sergeant

David Ballerini  
Kelley R. Coombs  
Eric A. LaFranchise  
John F. Page  
Michael P. Trahant  
Charles P. Weyers

#### To staff sergeant

James P. Richard  
Juan X. Valencia

#### To senior airman

Marsha Gershon  
Gregory A. Gresham

#### Technical schools

Airman 1st Class Brian McKenzie, 102nd Civil Engineering Squadron, honor student, structural apprentice school, Gulfport, Miss.

Airman 1st Class Aramis Tirado, 102nd Communications Flight, third-place certificate, 81st Training Group drill competition, Keesler.

Airman Basic Chris Overy, 102nd Security Forces Squadron, two letters of appreciation from the 37th Training Group drill team, Lackland AFB, Texas, and a letter of appreciation for donating blood.

# Task Force Yankee puts the 102nd to the test

**By Maj. Sal Salvaggio  
102nd Installation Deployment Officer**

As we watched scenes on Fox news showing devastation and human suffering in the Gulf Coast region, many of us felt helpless.

However, as Labor Day weekend descended on Cape Cod, so too did Task Force Yankee.

This Massachusetts National Guard effort, designed to provide hurricane relief to the Louisiana region, included the mobilization of approximately 500 Air and Army National Guards members.

In addition to sending the 102nd Medical Group commander, nine Security Forces troops, and two personnel from 267th Combat Communications Squadron, the 102nd Fighter Wing assumed the awesome responsibility of deploying approximately 500 Army and Air National Guard troops and approximately 200 tons of equipment to help in the rescue.

The Deployment Control Center, the personnel deployment function and the cargo deployment function stood up and withstood the test of this critical real-world deployment. With the deployment machine up and running and the communications flowing, we successfully completed the mission.

The final numbers were eight KC-135, seven C-130 and two C-5 aircraft moving a total number of 485 troops and

*For more on the Task Force Yankee deployment activities, go to the photo essay on Pages 10-11.*

200.9 tons of cargo on two days of airlift through the dedication and hard work of 108 volunteers from the 102nd Fighter Wing. Without the hard work of everyone involved, the governor's and the adjutant general's expectations would not have been met.

As the 102nd installation deployment officer, I am positive the training that led up to this no-notice event paid dividends. The unit deployment managers, deployment control center, PDF, CDF, pallet buildup, and increment monitor training all contributed to the overwhelming success of this four-day operation.

I would like to thank the people who attended this training and I'd also like to thank all involved in Task Force Yankee. You should be very proud of what we as a team accomplished through Task Force Yankee, as well as all the effort contributed over the past few months in preparing our deployment machine for exercise and real-world operations.

Thank you.

## October operational readiness exercise scaled back

**By Lt. Col. Wayne Theroux  
ORE preparedness officer**

The primary goal of the Oct. 15 to 21 annual field training period was to validate the wing's deployment plan, test some new procedures, and show we are capable of supporting a robust deployment if the wing was tasked.

To that end, months of hard work, strategic planning, training, and preparation were focused on the October exercise.

Then Hurricane Katrina knocked on the nation's door.

The Massachusetts National Guard was asked to provide help (see Major Salvaggio's article above), and in true 102nd fashion, no one could have asked for a better performance! The question of the wing's ability to deploy a large contingent was put to rest and the need for a full exercise all but eliminated.

Instead, the October week will be

filled with those aspects of a Phase 1 exercise we did not practice, such as an aircraft generation exercise, 100 percent check of personnel readiness folders, declaration of dangerous goods training, and cargo weapons and munitions courier training.

In addition, squadrons and flights will concentrate on unit compliance inspection preparation and familiarization, core task training, training records, and other ancillary training.



*Happy Thanksgiving  
from the staff  
of the Seagull*



# Holland, Gendreau, Weyers earn awards

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

Aircraft maintenance personnel recently swept the competition for the 102nd Fighter Wing Quarterly Awards.

The Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the quarter was Master Sgt. Gerard E. Holland, while the Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter was Tech. Sgt. Raymond L. Gendreau. Then-Senior Airman Charles P. Weyers was named Airman of the Quarter.

Sergeant Holland is the 102nd Maintenance Group's education and training manager and is responsible for managing and scheduling training for the more than 200 people in the group.

In helping to ensure that all required training — including ancillary, Air Force specialty code, upgrade and professional military education — is available throughout the group, he implemented a group training page on the Otis intranet. He tried to make the page efficient and easily accessible by including courses, training videos and school dates.

According to his nomination papers, he aggressively involves "shop supervisors in their subordinates' training, fostering a culture change in balancing training with day-to-day operations."

Sergeant Holland also has worked closely with other training managers nationwide and at the Guard Bureau concerning F-15-specific Air National Guard training issues. He spent two weeks earlier this year at the Guard Bureau, working on issues ranging from revising the training management guidelines to standardizing and aligning outside military experience to Air Force specialties.

He also spearheaded the use of the Core Automated Maintenance System by non-maintenance units in the wing as a tool to standardize tracking of training.

He consolidated and renumbered all course codes to align them with Air Force codes. Since completing that task, Sergeant Holland has been contacted by the 131st Fighter Wing in St. Louis, Mo., and the 142nd Fighter Wing



*Master Sgt. Gerard E. Holland*

in Portland, Ore., for help in their course alignment.

A resident of Plymouth, he is a graduate of the Noncommissioned Officers Academy at McGhee-Tyson ANGB, Tenn., and completed the Senior Noncommissioned Officers Academy course through correspondence. He also has been a propulsion systems craftsman.

In his off-duty time, he volunteers with the Plymouth Girls Softball League and in several activities at the Plymouth South Elementary School. Sergeant Holland also helps with fundraising for Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1012.

Sergeant Gendreau is a resident of Fall River and an avionics systems craftsman. His job involves maintaining and repairing the avionics test stations and line replaceable units for the wing's F-15 Eagles. He also is responsible for keeping track of defense logistics resources funds to ensure quick turnaround of assets, thus saving the wing money.

He also has completed training on the shop's newest equipment, the electronic systems test set.

Selected as the wing equal employment opportunity counselor, he provides wing members with guidance on their employment rights.



*Staff Sgt. Charles P. Weyers*

As an additional duty, Sergeant Gendreau is the maintenance group's fitness monitor, scheduling personnel for the annual fitness assessments, training assessment monitors, maintaining records and giving monthly status reports to the group commander.

He is a 1999 graduate of the Keesler AFB, Miss., NCO Academy and holds associate's degrees in electronic systems technology from the Community College of the Air Force and in liberal arts from Cape Cod Community College.

He is an American Council on Exercise personal trainer and has volunteered with the Junior Achievement Program, teaching personal economics to students at the Barnstable Middle School and the Tansey Middle School in Fall River.

Since his selection, Airman Weyers has been promoted to staff sergeant. A resident of Buzzards Bay, he is a munitions maintenance journeyman.

In that job, he assembles, disassembles, stores, inspects and transports explosives. In his nomination papers, he was cited for the safe handling of more than 1,500 pounds of explosives.

He also was cited for willingly taking on the task of refurbishing CAP-9  
(See AWARDS, Page 13)

# Sergeants Mulford, Johansen help make Airmen more comfortable in Iraq

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

After contending with searing heat during the day, chilling temperatures during the night and the occasional mortar round bouncing around their compound, two 102nd Civil Engineers are home from Iraq.

Master Sgt. Stephen Mulford of Canton and Paul Johansen of Brighton spent five months recently at Balad Air Base, Iraq, making sure that Airmen there had some of the comforts of home: water, toilets and power.

Sergeant Mulford, a utilities craftsman at Otis where he does plumbing and water purification among other duties, and Sergeant Johansen, a power-production technician, who maintains generators for power distribution, did similar work in Balad, but under much different conditions.

In Iraq, Sergeant Mulford worked with other Air Guard and Air Force personnel to provide water supplies to the various structures on base, which included tents and trailers used to house Airmen.

"There was no water in the mains," Sergeant Mulford said, since they were either destroyed during the first Gulf War or had deteriorated to where they could not hold water. Balad had been used by Saddam Hussein as a MiG training base, Sergeant Johansen said.

"We set up 10,000-liter water tanks and pumps to get water into 10 to 12 buildings," Sergeant Mulford said.

His work also involved lots of interior work to refurbish bathrooms.

"We had to rip out 'floor-level' toilets and rough in plumbing for (American-style) sitdown toilets, replaced pedestal sinks and urinals," he said. He also was involved in replacing galvanized pipes in the buildings.

The buildings also had no hot water. "Previously, the hot water was pumped underground from a steam plant. We had to find the underground steam pipes from the steam plant and run pipes to install above-ground hot water



*Staff Sgt. Paul Johansen poses on top of one of the abandoned MiGs that were left at Balad Air Base, Iraq, which formerly was a MiG training base under Saddam Hussein.*

heaters outside the buildings."

The amount of work required working 6½ days a week for about three months, with a half-day off on Sunday, he said.

Sergeant Johansen's days ran from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. seven days a week, ensuring that the base never ran out of power.

Five-kilowatt to 200-kilowatt military and civilian diesel generators were used to provide primary and standby power to individual buildings. The base also had two power plants, one with eight 750-kilowatt generators at one plant and four 750-kilowatt generators at the other, providing power for air conditioning and/or electricity to such areas as the tent city, command post, gymnasium, maintenance buildings, the special operations contingent, perimeter sentry posts for security forces, F-16 hangars and other locations.

The Army has its own base adjacent to Balad, called LSA Anaconda, where they ran a 22-megawatt power station.

Sergeant Johansen said there were frequent mortar attacks on the base, including one on the latrine area. He said the latrines were called "Cadillacs" because they cost as much as a Cadillac.

Often, mortars would just "rattle around" the compound till they exploded, Sergeant Mulford said. One such mortar attack was in the civil engineering area where the buildings were constructed of cement blocks and had small windows for protection. No one was hurt in that attack.

During the Muslim holy festival of Ramadan, when attacks were expected to be more prevalent, the Airmen had to work in body armor in searing heat.

Both Airmen arrived during the mid-summer when the temperatures ranged from 120-125 degrees during the day, but plunged during the night. "We'd have to stand near the generators to keep warm," Sergeant Johansen said.

Despite the high temperatures, Ser-  
(See IRAQ, Page 12)

# Sergeant Haehnel finishes atypical Iraq mission

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

After working with Air and Army National Guard personnel for six months in Southern Iraq, Senior Master Sgt. Jim Haehnel recently returned from a deployment where he helped ensure that the civil engineering function at the combined Ali Air Base and LSA Adder ran smoothly.

“Actually, I was the lowest-ranking guy there” among the Air Guard people, quipped Sergeant Haehnel, who worked with “a colonel, two majors, a captain and a chief master sergeant.” Many of the Army National Guard personnel he worked with were from New Hampshire. “It was nice to be with a bunch of New Englanders.”

He was responsible for supporting a variety of design and construction projects at the base.

“It was a civil engineering mission, but not your typical one.” He was assigned to the 732<sup>nd</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron.

His jobs included getting drinking water from the Euphrates River, building roads, and renovating buildings, all while doing a bit of civil affairs work. “We erected tents for the Bedouins and also distributed school supplies that were sent by the (102<sup>nd</sup> Civil Engineering) squadron.” Items as simple as shoes were also appreciated by the Iraqis. “They were grateful for anything we could get for them.”

“Our work day was supposed to be from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.,” Sergeant Haehnel said, but “most days we came in earlier and left a lot later. ... We never had a day off.”

Asked if the Guard personnel had all the equipment they needed to do the job, Sergeant Haehnel smiled, leaned back in his chair and said, “We were known as the ‘secret squirrel operation.’ We had to beg, borrow or steal a lot of what we needed. ... We didn’t have a CE Prime Beef team, so we had to do a lot of improvising.”

“We also worked with a lot of Iraqi contractors who used very primitive construction methods ... and didn’t



*Senior Master Sgt. James Haehnel poses with a paving machine on one of the many civil engineering jobs he was involved with in Iraq.*



*Sergeant Haehnel and an Iraqi co-worker struggle to put an intake hose into the Euphrates River, which supplies water for Ali Air Base in southern Iraq.*

(See HAEHNEL, Page 16)



# Maintenance squadron unveils new T-shirt

Looking for something to cement your tie to the 102nd?

The 102nd Maintenance Group is the first to get the newly authorized 102nd T-shirt that was designed by Master Sgt. Dennis Mills of the 102nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The front of the black shirt includes an aircraft maintainer's 9-level specialty badge with the squadron's name beneath, so that it can be individualized to the member's squadron and Air Force speciality.

On the back is a drawing of an F-15 Eagle in flight over Cape Cod. The T-shirts are \$12 a piece and are authorized for wear with the battle dress uniform.

According to Master Sgt. Tom Rudzik, first sergeant of the 102nd Aircraft Generation Squadron, other squadron first sergeants are making plans to get similar T-shirts for their respective squadrons, with their squadron's name on the front and the Eagle on the back.

The maintenance group T-shirts are available now. Members of other squadrons should contact their first



*Pictured is the back of the new Maintenance Group T-shirt.*

sergeants to find out when those shirts will be available.

Sergeant Rudzik also said that 102nd Fighter Wing baseball-style hats also

are available from the first sergeants for newly assigned personnel who don't have them. Contact your first sergeant for more information.



## Helping the Falmouth Road Race

*Volunteers from the 102nd Medical Group who helped Falmouth Hospital volunteers at the medical tent at the finish line of the Falmouth Road Race were, back row, Cynthia Moody-LaRiviere, Daniel LaRiviere, and Dennis Swift; front row, Amy McNeil, Ashley LaRiviere, and Christina Sampsonis.*

## *Sending help to disaster area*

### *Otis helps to deploy troops for Katrina relief*

During the Labor Day weekend, 108 members of the 102nd Fighter Wing were called to duty in support of a deployment of Massachusetts National Guard Soldiers and Airmen deploying to Gulf Coast areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The Airmen worked through the Labor Day weekend, swiftly packing more than 200 tons of cargo and loading it aboard 17 military cargo aircraft along with approximately 500 airmen and soldiers headed to the Gulf Coast. The shipment included 23 vehicles and 18 pallets of support equipment.

The task force consisted of military policemen from the 51st Troop Command, and infantrymen from the 26th Infantry Brigade of the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

The task force also included 102nd Security Forces Squadron members from Otis and the 104th Fighter Wing based at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield.

“The devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina are being felt by our fellow Americans. The Massachusetts National Guard is eager to deploy and will perform to perfection. They are the most highly trained and informed soldiers and Airmen in the world and the best Massachusetts has to offer,” said Brig. Gen. Oliver J. Mason, Massachusetts adjutant general.

The deployed National Guard members include medical, logistics, security, aviation, engineer, and communications specialists. Some have since returned to Massachusetts. Some have already returned.



*Senior Airman Sheena Green weighs a Soldier's backpack before it is loaded on an aircraft.*



*From left, Tech. Sgt. Sandra Devaney, Master Sgt. Joe Smith and Tech. Sgt. William Brymer tighten the netting on a pallet of water bottles destined for Louisiana.*



*Military ambulances roll through hangar doors of Building 158 to be weighed before being put onto cargo aircraft.*



*Tech. Sgt. Kyle Lightbown helps a soldier carry a duffel bag.*

*Senior Master Sgt. Archie Eddleston and Maj. Tim Gordon inventory pallets.*



*Army National Guard Soldiers load their gear on a truck.*

*Army National Guard soldiers gather their gear and head for cargo aircraft.*



## Iraq

(Continued from Page 7)

geant Mulford said proudly, "Civil Engineering was the only unit that did PT (physical training) a half hour each day. We'd run 1½ to 2 miles a day. Everybody did it."

"It would get so cold at night," Sergeant Johansen said, "that diesel fuel that didn't have the right additives would thicken and shut the generators down. We would strap auxiliary fuel tanks onto the generators to keep the fuel warm."

The civil engineers also would stand near the warm radiators of generators while repairing others by flashlight. "If you had a broken generator in the field, you'd have to use your flashlight," Sergeant Johansen said. "With a broken generator, you couldn't use light stands."

Eventually, the civil engineers built up a supply of working backup generators and often would just swap out a generator in the field to get power back to people in a hurry, especially in the housing area where approximately 6,800 Airmen lived in huge trailers with five people to a room.

Sergeant Mulford expressed pride in the work done by the Airmen, saying the Army had gotten away from doing utility work, contracting most of it out to the Halliburton company. "Air Force was doing all our own CE work, maintaining our own facilities."

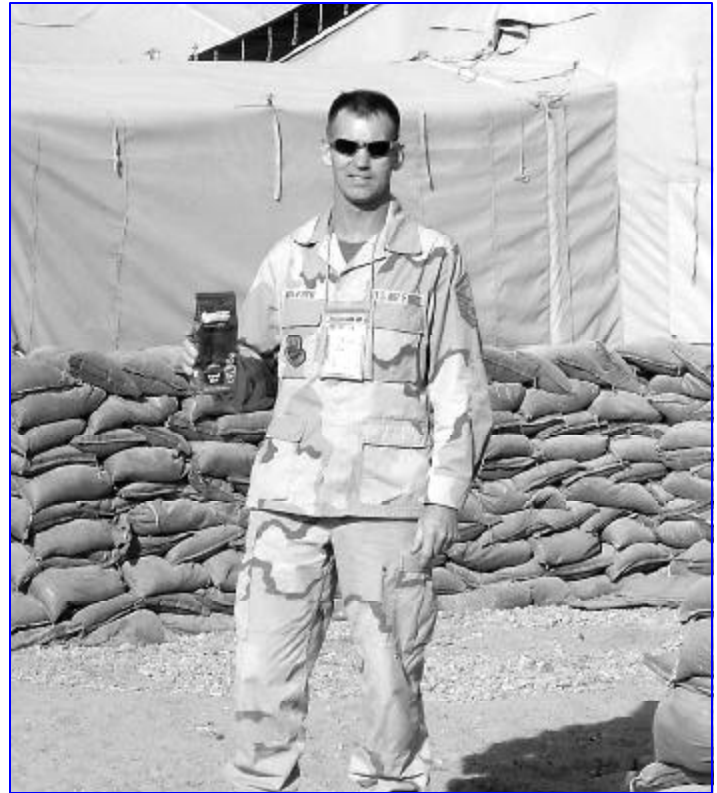
These facilities also focused on recreational activities, Sergeant Johansen said, including a movie theater, swimming pool, Pizza Hut, etc. "We couldn't go off base, but we had everything there."

In the morale area, Airmen could watch movies on personal computers. "The E-mail system was pretty good," Sergeant Johansen said. Airman also were allowed to make 15-minute phone calls home using the military Defense Switched Network, saving them a lot of money. "Comm and Services did an outstanding job," Sergeant Mulford said. "The food was great, including salads and fresh fruit."

He also was impressed by the professionalism of the younger Airmen "who would call me, Sir!"

The two sergeants also had high praise for the support they received from their civil engineering buddies back at Otis.

"We got plenty of care packages," Sergeant Johansen said.



*Master Sgt. Steve Mulford shows off an important part of the care package he received from friends in the 102nd Civil Engineering Squadron: a pound of Dunkin Donuts coffee.*

He also cited one particular case when Senior Master Sergeant Bob Sullivan went to his home to clear up a sink problem as one of the many instances when civil engineering personnel went out of their way to help.

Families also would get together for support, Sergeant Mulford said, including going on a Duck Tour in Boston. "People would just drop by to check on the family; it was great."

Sergeant Johansen also wanted to thank his wife, Mary, and son, Ben, for their support. "Without them, things would have been different for me over there."

## ORE meal schedule

Costs for officers and those who must pay: breakfast, \$1.90; lunch and dinner, \$3.50.

Breakfast and dinner will be provided at the dining facility. Boxed lunches are to be picked up by unit first sergeants. Hours are: breakfast 5:30 to 7 a.m.; lunch: 11 to 11:45 a.m. and dinner, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Breakfast each day will be eggs to order, omelets, breakfast meats, pancakes, oatmeal, cereal, fresh fruit, toast, coffee, tea, juice and milk.

### Monday, Oct. 17

Dinner: baked chicken or meatloaf with mashed potatoes, choice of vegetable, soup and salad bar and beverages.

### Tuesday Oct. 18

Dinner: Spaghetti with meatballs or baked fish with rice pilaf, choice of vegetable, soup and salad bar and beverages.

### Wednesday Oct. 19

Dinner: Baked pizza or steak bombs

with french fries or onion rings, choice of vegetable, soup and salad bar and beverages.

### Thursday Oct. 20

Dinner: Roast turkey, sweet potatoes and gravy or shepherd's pie, choice of vegetable, soup and salad bar and beverages.

### Friday Oct. 21

Lunch and dinner meals are to be decided.

# Calling All Sports

By Master Sgt. Bruce Vittner



## Sportswriter says goodbye

This is my last sports column in the Seagull.

I'm going to miss it because I have really enjoyed the ride.

It doesn't seem like 18 years ago that Lt. Col. Richard Sherman, public affairs officer, asked me if I liked sports and did I have any writing ability.

I love sports, but looking through some of my old stories in the Seagull, I'm not quite sure of the writing ability.

Some of the best things about the job were writing about members of the 102nd and their athletic accomplishments and awards. Remember the bus trips to Fenway Park, the racquetball and tennis tournaments and all the other group activities. The annual softball game between the officers and enlisted always was one of my favorite events. The competition, but more importantly the camaraderie, will always be one of my fondest memories of the 102nd.

There are so many people to thank for my time with the 102nd. Colonel Sherman and Ken Wheeler in public

affairs always made my stories better than when I submitted them. Capt. Lisa Ahaesy started in public affairs as a wet-behind-the-ears 17-year-old and became the public affairs officer. Her maturation is one of my fondest memories.

It seemed that I wrote many stories about some of the same people in the unit. I'm sorry that I never found out about more accomplishments in the sports field from some of our members.

In my 18 years in the unit, I saw many changes.

Having been a 20-year member of the Rhode Island Army National Guard, the first impressions of the 102nd were amazing. Officers and enlisted actually interacted with each other. The Eagles Nest was a melting pot of a great many wonderful people. The pool, sports talk, and good-natured ribbing were something I looked forward to each drill and during annual training.

As we got into the mid-1990's the role of the 102nd seemed to get more

military-oriented (not a bad thing) and less a family-oriented situation. It seemed that members worked harder during the drills and did not hang around after the duty day was finished.

Because of so many deployments and AEF requirements, the entire unit was not together very often during annual training.

Things change, sometimes for the better. The 102nd is the best unit that I have ever seen in my 38 years of military service. Good luck to all members of the unit.

Have fun playing and watching sports. It is a great distraction from some of the stresses and of life.

We live in a region of the country that is fanatical about our sports teams, and it was fun to fan some flames and offer some insight.

One of my favorite responses to my sports column was from retired Lt. Col. Maggie Quenneville. "You seem to have fun writing your columns," she said.

She was right.

Go Sox, Patriots, Celtics, Bruins etc.

## Awards

(Continued from Page 6)

Dutch Tubes, ensuring that the wing had serviceable training models. During his off-duty time, he also has volunteered to return to the base to respond to alarm activations to ensure that munitions were ready for use.

During deployments to Key West, Fla., and Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, he was cited for "flawlessly" helping with "short-notice air taskings ... directly contributing to a successful

deployment."

As senior munitions inspector for the munitions storage area, Sergeant Weyers led an effort to devise and implement a new inspection program and is planning to develop and implement a training program for other personnel. His additional duties include being the alternate tactical munitions reporting system monitor and controller of flightline munitions physical inventory.

His military schooling includes the Air Force Combat Ammunition Center, Beale AFB, Calif., and the tactical

munitions reporting school at Warner Robins AFB, Ga.

He also is working toward his private pilot's license.

During his off-duty time, Sergeant Weyers helps maintain the riding area used by the Cape Cod Off-Road Association on the Massachusetts Military Reservation, ensuring that it is safe.

He also is a member of the wing's flag football and softball teams.

Sergeant Weyers also is a member of the Edwin Adams Post, American Legion, in Maryland.

# Chapel Call

Chaplain (Capt.) Mary Scheer



## A future with promise, hope, new beginnings

I'm writing this article on the evening of Sept. 11, reflecting on the tragedy that marked this day four years ago when some 3,000 people died. As a result, 1,600 people lost a spouse, more than 3,000 children lost a parent and some 422,000 New Yorkers are reported to be suffering from post traumatic stress disorder.

Six months after the Dec. 26 Indian Ocean tsunami, the U.S. Geological Survey reports 283,000 dead, more than 14,000 remain missing and 1.7 million people displaced.

We also continue to experience human loss in conflicts overseas. Then a little more than a week ago, Hurricane Katrina left hundreds dead and thousands homeless.

Closer to home, many folks are struggling with grief and loss on multiple levels, from the death of a loved one, divorce, unemployment, financial problems, family issues, children in crisis, health concerns, anxiety, uncertainty, stress and exhaustion. Adding to these issues are those that the families of the 102nd Fighter Wing and other bases affected by base closure and realignment are dealing with.

As a people, we have witnessed a series of sudden, unexpected disasters, traumatic losses and suffering that can rock the steadiest foundations. We may know on an intellectual level that the world is not always safe and stable, that accidents happen, that acts of nature can be devastating, that cruelty and catastrophes are not always avoidable or preventable, yet this knowledge is not always comforting.

We have seen again that the world is not always certain, safe, stable, predictable, and controllable, that structures sometimes crumble, waters sometimes disobey their boundaries, and wind that should be gentle and refreshing can cause utter destruction.

And yet we reach. We reach beyond our ourselves and our natural limitations. As a nation, as a global community, we pull together to help.

We may fight about how we do it, but we still do it. We know that today we have today, and hope for tomorrows that hold the promise hope and new beginnings.

So, before the sun sets, I will make one more call to encourage a friend and I will pray for tomorrow.

### Chaplain's Prayer

God, who hears our cries, and sees our tears, care for us in times of suffering, hold us with tender mercy. Every tragedy reminds us how little power and control we possess and how dependent we are upon you and each other. Just thinking about the magnitude of human loss and suffering in the last four years can be overwhelming.

I pray for those whose lives were forever changed by sudden, unexpected destruction, for those who walked through the fires of 9/11 and the floodwaters of the tsunami and Katrina. In the wake of each unfolding crisis, some may feel forgotten by the world and left behind, wondering if anybody cares.

I pray they will experience compassion, mercy and love through the faces, the hands and feet, through the giving and serving of those reaching out to help.

I pray strength, energy and patience for all who are helping, whether those ways are through agency, military, churches, schools, business, personal or community efforts.

I pray for families who have been separated and haven't been reunited yet that it would happen quickly. In the midst of trauma, shock and grief, may those suffering be comforted by compassion and care.

I pray for those who had to leave their homes, finding shelter in other states, that in the midst of all they are dealing with, you would continue to surround them with folks who care, with families that will be to them as their own, with support that will tell them that they matter and with a future with promise and hope.

In our humanity we are fragile, we can walk through different kinds of trials and fires. We may sometimes feel like we've been hit unexpectedly by tsunami size waves, that we are being dragged down, sinking under a flood of problems or been blown over by hurricane force winds that make it hard for us to stand.

I pray for us as a people, for us as a nation, for our wing members and their families, for those who have experienced great tragedy, and for those who are hurting, grieving the loss of someone, something or someplace they loved, for all who are tired, feeling weary by the weight of sadness, for those who may feel worried because of uncertainty and impending change.

I pray for all of us, that we will be strengthened each day, that when we do walk through the fires we would not be burned and when we pass through the waters, we will not be overwhelmed, that we will run and not grow weary, walk and not faint, that we will mount up with wings of eagles, (Isaiah. 40:31) rebuild what was ruined, have faith that overcomes, and look to each new tomorrow with promise and hope for new beginnings.

Amen.

# Looking back in the history of the 102nd

**By Master Sgt. Bruce Vittner**

In the last issue, we chronicled some of the major accomplishments of the 101st and 102nd since their inceptions in 1921 and 1946, respectively. This issue will focus on the years since.

The 102nd Fighter Interceptor Wing received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period from July 1974 to July 1975. This was the first of four outstanding unit awards that the unit earned through 2003.

The others were August 1989 to August 1991, July 1997 to July 1999, and Sept. 12, 2001, to August 2003.

In September 1978, the 102nd competed in its first William Tell Competition, finishing fourth. The wing made it back to William Tell in October 1980 and finished second. It also competed in 1984 and 1992.

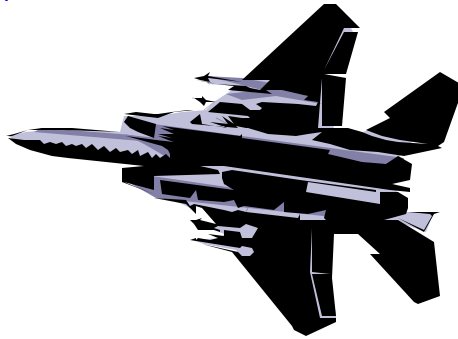
Oct. 1, 1979, saw the 102nd Security Forces and many volunteers in the unit activated for two days to provide traffic and crowd control for Pope John Paul II's visit to Boston.

On Dec. 6, 1986, Brig. Gen. John Haack was named wing commander, replacing Brig. Gen. John Olson who had replaced Brig. Gen. Charles Campbell Jr. in 1976. General Haack held the position until Brig. Gen. Kenneth Peterson replaced him in March 1993.

Brig. Gen. Samuel Shiver replaced General Peterson in September 1996. On April 8, 2000, Brig. Gen. Donald Quenneville was named commander and the current commander, Col. Paul Worcester replaced him on Nov. 3, 2002.

In April 1988, the wing became the first National Guard unit to receive F-15 Eagles. The unit had been flying the F-106 since 1972.

During 1990, 104 members of the 102nd were activated to support Operation Desert Shield/Storm mostly as backfill, but seven members were deployed to the combat theater. On Nov. 1, 1990, President George W. Bush



visited the 102nd and the following January, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy came to Otis to talk to the military families about Operation Desert Storm.

On March 16, 1992, the 102nd Fighter Interceptor Wing was redesignated to its current name of the 102nd Fighter Wing and became part of the Air Combat Command when the Tactical Air Command was deactivated in June 1992.

Downsizing the military became a buzzword in 1996 and 1997 and the selective retention board released a large number of personnel. The unit went from more than 1,200 members to less than 1,000 and currently has about 820.

The unit was assigned alert force duties in Iceland for two years beginning in 1997 and then again in October to December 2004.

1999 saw the 102nd deploy to Incirlik, Turkey, with six aircraft and 348 personnel in three rotations as part of Operation Northern Watch. The mission was to enforce the No-Fly Zone in Northern Iraq. The planning for the deployment had begun in February 1998.

In January 2000, the wing was named part of the Air Force's Aerospace Expeditionary Force. The first deployment was in October to December 2000 when more than 350 personnel were deployed to Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Southern Watch.

Sept. 11, 2001, was a tragic day in

American history, but it was also a day that the 102nd Fighter Wing showed its capabilities.

Two F-15s from Otis were scrambled and flew to New York City when word of the hijackings of the aircraft from Boston was announced. The planes arrived six minutes after the second aircraft hit the World Trade Center.

For the next four hours, the two pilots flew combat air patrols around New York City diverting more than 100 aircraft from the area and identifying other aircraft that were flown to provide relief and aid.

The wing received a single-day Outstanding Unit Award for its work.

During the next six months, more than 570 members of the unit were activated and the wing's F-15 aircraft flew 24-hour-a-day combat patrol missions over major cities in the Northeast as part of Operation Noble Eagle. The unit continues to fly Operation Noble Eagle sorties.

On May 14, 2002, the wing received the Gen. Winston Wilson Trophy as the 2001 Most Outstanding ANG Fighter Unit and the 101st Fighter Squadron was named ANG Fighter Squadron of the Year for 2002.

During 2003, 254 wing personnel were deployed to various locations in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, and other joint force operations.

On May 13, 2005, the Department of Defense announced its plan to close Otis and move the 102nd's F-15s to Jacksonville, Fla., and Atlantic City, N.J. On July 6, key members of the 102nd went to Boston to make a presentation to the Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC) Commission about why the unit should stay open.

On Sept. 12, the commission voted to move the F-15s from Otis but keep the base open for security of the Commonwealth and Future Total Force missions.

## Haehnel

(Continued from Page 8)

have modern tools. Something as simple as a carpenter's plumb bob wasn't available. They would tie a string to a rock. ... Lots of work was done by eye and it actually was very accurate."

Demolition was done with sledge hammers because not only didn't the contractors have the heavy equipment, but it was more cost-effective.

"They were paying people maybe \$7 a day. ... It was cheaper to bring in 20 guys."

Sergeant Haehnel said even though the contractors were being paid well by Iraqi standards, they would often bid very low to get a job. The American civil engineers would encourage them to bid higher but the Iraqis said it was more important to have the friendship of the Americans than it was to make big money.

Although the Americans in southern Iraq were always under the threat of attack, Sergeant Haehnel said it wasn't as bad as bases farther north. He said he was shot at while on convoy duty, "it wasn't bad, but bad enough."

Among the projects he was involved in was developing a mobile self-contained, palletized platform with two pumps, a generator and fuel tank that could pump up to 12,000 gallons of water per minute from the Euphrates River. Then, a system of canals and other pumps moved the water to a purification plant that provided potable water to the base.

He also helped identify and supervise electrical repairs to some of the string of radio-relay stations along MSR Tampa, the main supply route from the Kuwaiti border to interior Iraq. These were manned by small Army units of five or six people.

Although Sergeant Haehnel was a half a world away from Southeastern Massachusetts, he was able to keep in touch with family and friends by satellite phone, email, the Otis morale line and regular mail, which only took about six days. "Packages took up to three weeks," he said.

Living conditions included living in air-conditioned and heated tents that



*In full combat gear and carrying an M-16, Senior Master Sgt. James Haehnel heads off for pump repair with an Iraqi co-worker.*

provided a needed respite from the heat, which went up to 137 degrees while he was there.

During his six months in Iraq, which was his second tour to the country, he became good friends with the unit's interpreter, Adnan Zuchier, an English teacher at a girls' school. "I acted as his escort and bodyguard of sorts" (during working hours).

"Adnan was a high-profile target because of his work with us. He and his family were always being threatened" and his family had to be spread out somewhat in Iraq for their protection, Sergeant Haehnel said.

After work each day, Mr. Zuchier was met at the base gates by personal bodyguards whom he had to pay for.

He had been jailed in the 1990s for urging Iraqis to cooperate with the coalition forces during the first Gulf War.

Mr. Zuchier's dream is to come to the United States to earn his master's

degree in English grammar in California. Sergeant Haehnel has stayed in touch with him and is trying to persuade him to study in the Boston area and to live with the Haehnels during his studies.

Sergeant Haehnel said he also became close friends with several of the Iraqi contractors "who seemed to be genuinely happy for us to be there. ... They actually hated Saddam (Hussein) and anything to do with him. (The Iraqis) are a very generous people."

He said though he was far away, he still had touches of home in the form of care packages from the 102<sup>nd</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron. He said he also wanted to thank Erin Creighton of the Family Readiness Office for the calling cards she provided.

Sergeant Haehnel said he also appreciated squadron members checking in with his wife by phone to see whether she had things that needed to be done.



# CCAF degree can boost your future

Future success in any endeavor requires forethought, planning, and action. Are you doing all you can to progress in your career, as well as to broaden your experience for future endeavors?

Obtaining an associate's degree from the Community College of the Air Force is a benefit of our service affiliation that can help you do both. CCAF is fully accredited, and is equivalent to obtaining an associate's degree from any of the state's community colleges.

If you are interested in obtaining your CCAF degree, you'll first need to know what specific requirements you still have remaining towards the 64 credits required for the degree.

## Accessing your CCAF progress report

To access your CCAF progress report, you must first log on to the AF Portal.

You can access the AF Portal from the Otis "home page". Simply click on the "Career" Tab, click on "AF Virtual Education Center" (center column), click on "My CCAF Actions" (right side), and click on "Degree Progress Report" (center column).

This will bring up a matrix showing the major credit areas required, how many credits you have received, and how many credits you still need to earn. Typically, the technical credits are satisfied through tech school and on-the-job training to the 5-level. Some Air Force specialty codes or degree programs require attaining your 7-level to earn enough technical credits.

Management credits are usually satisfied through professional military education. Airman leadership school by correspondence completed after December 2000, or any in-resident ALS or noncommissioned officer's academy will satisfy the management credits. Physical education credits are normally satisfied through basic military training school.

The lower portion of the progress report shows all course information that CCAF has on file for you, including any transcripts you have sent from outside institutions and how they have been applied to your degree program.

Note: If you pull up this report and the "credit applied" column is completely blank, don't be alarmed! It only means that your degree program has been switched to a new catalog. In this case, you will need to call (508) 968-4202 or visit the Education Office in Building 158, Room 260 to have your record refreshed through Maxwell Air Force Base.

Please allow 30-60 days for all CCAF transactions to post

due to the volume of personnel they support at CCAF.

## Choosing courses

To see if a course you want to take will satisfy CCAF requirements, click on "CCAF Civilian Course Conversion Application" on the "My CCAF Actions" page of the AF Portal.

Select the state using the pull-down menu, then the specific college. A listing of all courses available will appear, with a column indicating whether each course satisfies the CCAF requirements for three specific catalog years (the catalog you are enrolled under will be reflected in the heading of your Progress Report).

NOTE: If you select "NJ" for State and select "College Level Testing", you will get a listing of CLEP tests that will satisfy CCAF degree requirements. CLEP testing is offered at the Coast Guard Education Office.

You can set up an appointment to test by calling (508) 968-6440. They stock many tests on-site, but please be aware that they may need to order the exam you want to take.

Also, the education officer is a search and rescue pilot who does education services on a part-time basis only, so when you call, please be prepared to leave a detailed voicemail message with your contact information and what exam you desire to take.

## Sending transcripts to CCAF

If you have any civilian college credits that can be applied to your CCAF, you will need to contact your college and have them send official transcripts to:

CCAF/DFRS  
130 West Maxwell Blvd  
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6613

## Obtaining CCAF Transcripts

To get a transcript from CCAF for personal or official use, simply click on the "Request a CCAF transcript link from "My CCAF actions" on the AF Portal. The CCAF transcript itemizes all credit you've been awarded for the program you are enrolled in. You can have it sent to another civilian institution, an employer, or to your home address - free of charge.

If you have any questions on any of the above, please contact Maj. Sterling Scott at the 102nd Mission Support Flight Education Office on unit training assembly weekends at (508) 968-4202, or visit the Education Office.

## Brittany Lambert memorial road race is Oct. 23

The seventh Annual Brittany Lambert Memorial Black Cat Classic 5K is scheduled for 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct 23, at the Chandler Elementary School in Duxbury.

The annual event is in memory of Brittany Lambert, the daughter of Senior Master Sgt. James Haehnel of the 102nd Civil Engineering Squadron. Brittany lost her battle to cancer seven years

ago, but her family continues to pay tribute to her by hosting what continues to be a fun-family event. Before her death, Brittany was made an honorary member of the 102nd.

Proceeds from the event benefit families whose children have been diagnosed with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

To date, the Brittany Lambert Foundation has been able to assist more than 75 families in and around the Boston, South Shore and Cape areas with costs that fall outside the parameters of the families' medical coverage.

To register online or download a registration, visit [www.brittanylambertfoundation.org](http://www.brittanylambertfoundation.org)

# Painter helps test monitoring equipment

By Master Sgt. Keith Delgado  
102nd Medical Squadron

During late spring, Staff Sgt. Daniel Hyland of the structural repair shop did some painting while his safety was being monitored closely.

In addition to his normal personal protective equipment, Sergeant Hyland was wearing two air samplers attached to his hips outside the protective clothing as he completed a two-part protective painting process in his shop. The activity consisted of priming and applying topcoat painting to an F-15 flap assembly.

The monitors were used to measure the amount of airborne contaminants to see whether his respirator adequately protected him while he worked.

Sergeant Hyland was an outstanding sport in allowing several air-sampling technicians to attach the extra devices to him as he performed his duties.

The air samples were taken to ensure that the PPE he was wearing was adequate for his protection.

The structural repair shop designs, repairs, modifies and fabricates aircraft metal, plastic, composite, and bonded structural components and is supervised by Master Sgt. Timothy Schilling.

Sergeant Hyland formerly was at Westover Air Reserve Base and has been doing structural work for five years. He lives in Fall River.



*Staff Sgt. Daniel Hyland of the structural repair shop shows off the two monitoring devices he wore on his hips to check out his personal protective equipment.*

## Officer-Enlisted game to be Oct. 15

The 54rd Annual Officer vs. Enlisted softball game will take place at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Coast Guard field in the area across from the Eagles Nest.

This is Family Day, and it is hoped that all interested personnel will stay after the unit training assembly to take part in one of the best traditions of the 102nd.

Last year, the officers won and pushed their record to seven wins

in the 53 games. The enlisted team is looking for revenge.

Interested enlisted players should call Tech. Sgt. Joesph Pitta at 508-968-4389 and officers should call 1st Lt. Ken Nunley at 508-968-4230

Cheerleaders are welcome and encouraged and the price of admission continues to be a smile and good-natured ribbing.

See you there.

## Unit training assembly worship opportunities

Roman Catholic Mass at the Coast Guard Chapel, 4 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday.

General Protestant worship at the Coast Guard Chapel, 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Interdenominational Christian worship in the 102nd Fighter Wing Chapel worship area, third floor of Building 158, 11:30 a.m. Sunday.



*Evacuees who arrived at the Massachusetts Military Reservation from New Orleans move from station to station in the 26th Aviation Battalion hanger as volunteers help them get settled in the Bay State.*

**Photos by  
Tech. Sgt.  
Sandra  
Niedzwiecki**



*Gov. Mitt Romney talks to the news media.*

## *Safe haven from hurricane's wrath*



*New Orleans evacuees leave their aircraft after arrival at Camp Edwards.*



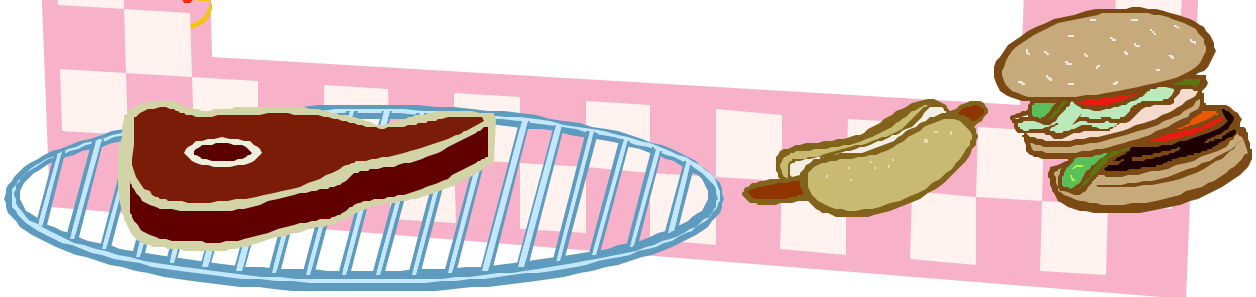
*Volunteers decontaminate one of the four-legged evacuees.*



Family Day 2005  
rescheduled to  
**Saturday, Oct. 15**

Barbecue Rides  
Games Entertainment

Fun for the whole family!



**Seagull**

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