

102nd Fighter Wing

Seagull

Vol. XXX, No. 9

December 2005

Security Forces
pull together





Chief Piver

**By Chief Master Sgt. Roy Piver
Command chief master sergeant**

OK, I know that you are all thinking that I am about to “blow sunshine” up your BDUs, but it is not that at all.

I realize that we have been moved out of our comfort zone lately, and this has understandably caused some negative thinking. I admit it has affected me, too.

There are reasons for optimism however, and I have been focusing on several things to keep my mind right.

First and foremost is the proposed size of the new organization.

A wing-size organization will drive the rank structure in the right direction.

A significant number of those positions are in Air Force specialty codes we already possess.

I know the jobs in support of the flying mission are directly affected by the changes we face, and cross-training will be necessary to continue in the new organization.

Remember, you can always retake your ASVAB test to improve scores. To check your current scores, use the virtual MPF; to re-test, coordinate with wing training. The bottom line is that we have intelligent industrious people who can adapt and change if that is what is

From the command chief’s desk

Despite changes, do what is right for you

needed. Staying with what you know and following the flying mission may be the best choice for some, and that is certainly an honorable course of action.

Much of our wing’s success and excellent reputation are due to our full-time force active guard/reserve, air technician and Title 5 employees. I don’t mean to understate the situation that our full-time people face. Some will have to make a life-altering decision, but I am optimistic that the Civil Service rules will do what they were intended to do, and give our people some structured choices.

If we have choices, we should do what is best for our families and ourselves. Our wing and state leadership is focused on this issue, and will ensure that the law is followed. Hopefully, soon we will get some definitive information on how to proceed with our full-time force.

I cannot think of any event in our wing’s history that compares with what we are about to do. Having said that, I know from more than 30 years at the 102nd Fighter Wing that we will take care of our people. It has always been that way, and I expect it to be that way in the future.

So try to relax and enjoy the holidays with your families and friends, reassure them that things will work out, as they always do. We can’t change what we do not control, but we can change the way we think about and approach any situation.



*Happy holidays
from the Seagull staff*



ON THE COVER

This month...

Staff Sgt Nassim Rizvi strains to help a fellow Security Forces member over the wall at the Fort Devens obstacle course. More photos, related story on page 10.

Photos by Master Sgt. Renan Flores

Wing award winners named



Story on Page 5

Seagull

Col. Paul Worcester
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Airman Hobbs gets ride of life



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202nd weathers sting in Iraq



Story on Page 9

What's for lunch?



Saturday, Dec. 3

Christmas meal: Prime rib or baked stuffed shrimp, salad, assorted desserts and beverages.

Sunday, Dec. 4

Pizza or meatball subs, salad, assorted desserts and beverages.

Wing cable television

The 102nd Fighter Wing CATV broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on the following channels:

Channel 3: Fox News

Channel 9: CNN, defaults to training broadcasts

Channel 11: Pentagon Channel, defaults to training broadcasts

For questions about broadcasting please contact Multimedia at extension 4516.

In sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to the family of retired Chief Master Sgt. Arthur L. Kaplan, who died Oct. 11 of Lou Gehrig's disease. He formerly worked in the personnel section of the 102nd Fighter Wing and was the brother of retired Lt. Col. Sydney S. Kaplan, former comptroller for the wing. Both brothers were in the unit when it was activated for the Berlin Crisis and deployed to Phalsbourg, France.

Sympathy also is expressed to the family of retired Lt. Col. Richard A. Sherman on the death of his mother-in-law, Catherine G. Zakoff. Colonel Sherman formerly was the wing public affairs officer.

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

Dec. 3-4

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.

Human resources advisor opening

Applications are being accepted for the position of the wing human resources advisor.

Interested persons should consult Air National Guard Instruction 36-2110, Chapters 1-4, for specific guidelines, roles, and responsibilities.

Application packages should be sent to Col. Paul Worcester, wing commander by Jan. 8.

Applicants will be interviewed during the February unit training assembly.

Personnel opening in wing group

There is a vacancy in the wing group commander's support staff for a personnel craftsman (3S0X1). This is a technical sergeant position.

Interested personnel should contact Lt. Col. Richard Ryan at 508-968-4664 or Senior Master Sergeant Michael J. Poirier at 508-968-4663.

Seagull deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the next Seagull is 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 4. 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 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.

Officer qualifying test to be offered

The Air Force officer qualifying test will be offered from 1 to 6 p.m. on the Friday before the February and September unit training assemblies.

This test takes 4½ hours and is administered by the education office to measure aptitudes used to select candidates for officer commissioning programs and specific commissioned officer training programs.

You can only take this test twice in your career and the test scores do not expire. One hundred and eighty days must have passed since the last test if you have tested before.

Test scores from the second test would supercede the first set of test scores.

If you are interested in taking the officer-qualifying test, send an e-mail to DPMT.102FW@maotis.ang.af.mil or to Senior Master Sgt. Paul Hennessey or Master Sgt. Colleen Archer so you can be scheduled.

The test also can be taken at Hanscom Air Force Base or Quonset Air National Guard Base, R.I. If you are interested in going to either of those other locations, contact Sergeants Hennessey or Archer for information.

Wing yearly, quarterly awards announced

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

A junior member of the 102nd Mission Support Flight took triple honors in October by being selected as the wing's airman of the quarter, airman of the year and outstanding military person of the year.

Senior Airman Yugeny M. Escobar is a personnel apprentice working as a technician in the customer service section of the flight.

Others selected for the yearly awards were Master Sgt. Jarrod J. Cabral, senior noncommissioned officer of the year, and Raymond L. Gendreau, non-commissioned officer of the year. The NCOs selected for honors for the fourth quarter were Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sullivan, senior NCO of the quarter, and Tech. Sgt. Mary Beth Van Damme, named NCO of the quarter.

Airman Escobar is a technician, working as a personnel apprentice in the 102nd Mission Support Flight.

She serves as the airman in charge of personnel relocations. The job involves creating separation and retirement packages and helping personnel in those areas. During the process, she ensures that all information is current and accurate.

In nomination papers, Lt. Col. Virginia Doonan, flight commander, said Airman Escobar's "high level of professionalism, confidentiality and attention to detail has resulted in a substantial reduction in time to process member packages."

A member of the wing Honor Guard, she participates in parades, ceremonies, funerals and events that are both military- and community-related.

She also volunteers to provide child care for deployed members and has helped to coordinate a schedule to assist members with child-care issues.

Sergeant Cabral is the NCO in charge of the life support section. In his nomination papers, he was cited for single-handedly managing and supervising the section while the superintendent attended professional military education and ensuring that some personnel per-



Master Sgt. Robert Sullivan



Senior Airman Yugeny M. Escobar

formed annual training to support the Otis flying schedule while two people were deployed to Iceland.

He was credited with being the driving force behind the development of the pilot unit equipment package for new unit type codes assigned to the 102nd Operations Group. He also manages the section's budget.

As the section's training manager, he ensures that all the ancillary, on-the-job and related training are done correctly and on time.

He also has been an integral part of the base "Pilot for a Day" program that recognizes children with life-threatening diseases and gives them an insight to wing operations.

A resident of South Wellfleet, he has helped raise money for the Dennis-Yarmouth Cancer Walk and aids his local Boy Scout Troop in its can and bottle recycling program.

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 resource funds to ensure quick turnaround of assets, thus saving the wing money.

Selected as the wing equal employ-

ment opportunity counselor, he provides wing members with guidance on their employment rights.

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 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.

Sergeant Sullivan, a member of the 102nd Civil Engineering Squadron, is the utilities section superintendent. A veteran of 35 years Air Force and Air National Guard military service, he is in charge of the plumbing, wastewater, liquid fuels and environmental shops in civil engineering.

He has been very involved in the training and mentoring of the younger members of the unit and is a promoter of the awards and decorations program in the squadron.

During the squadron's winter deployment to Coast Guard Station Borinquen, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, (See AWARDS, Page 21)

Senior Airman Hobbs gets ride of his life

By Senior Airman James Regan

Master Sgt. Kevin Eccleston calls it a "terrific chance for unit members to earn a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Senior Airman David Hobbs said it was "awesome ... the best ride on anything that moves ... ever."

Both men are excited and both have good reason to be.

On Oct. 21, Airman Hobbs became the first wing member to qualify for a ride in the F-15 Eagle through the AIR Program - An Incentive Ride. With this program, unit members who refer three individuals, who enlist with the 102nd, qualify for an hour-long incentive flight. A preflight briefing, presentation in life support, use of the virtual reality parachute simulator, and a debriefing also are included.

Individuals who enlisted after September 2003 can count themselves toward the three needed for a flight. The same goes for anyone who reenlisted after that date.

"We pulled 9 Gs! It was awesome!" said Airman Hobbs, out of breath. When asked if he would do it again, he didn't hesitate, "in a heartbeat."

Sergeant Eccleston, a production recruiter, shares that enthusiasm. "This program works because the commander supports it. If people just put a little effort in, they could end up



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki

Senior Airman David Hobbs gives a thumbs-up before his F-15 incentive ride with Capt. Sean Halbook last month.

flying high. This is better than any bonus I could offer. People need to realize millionaires couldn't buy this experience".

Adopted in September 2003, the AIR Program provides unit members with the chance to a take flight. Before this, incentive flights were reserved for award winners.

"They're helping out their unit, not just the recruiters," added Sergeant Eccleston. "Who cares about pencils and Frisbees compared to this ride? No one does."

For more about the program, contact the 102nd Recruiting Office at (508) 968-4994.

Floating checks will soon be thing of the past

By Senior Airman Christian Michael

Air Force Print News

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — "Check floaters" beware.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will start to electronically process checks in January.

Now, instead of taking up to three days, check may process instantly or in one day. The move is so the exchange service complies with "Check 21" legislation.

"Checks will be processed electronically before being mailed to their respective banks," said Melanie

Boshaw, Langley exchange store manager. "That means any amount on a check will be taken from a customer's account the very next day."

A person floats a check when he or she writes one for a purchase without having the actual amount in their accounts — and using the typical three-day processing time to get paid or move funds to cover it. Now, check writers must have the funds in their account or their check will bounce.

Electronic processing is cost-efficient since there is an automatic payment for each purchase.



Stork has landed

The stork has landed with a new addition to the 102nd Fighter Wing family.

Zachery Jeffery Zastawny was born Oct. 6 to Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Zastawny and his wife, Holly. Zach measured in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces and 20 inches.

The family also includes big sisters, Jessica, 13, and Kasey, 11.

Face in the crowd

Career advisor at first wasn't sure about job

By Senior Airman James Regan

Tech. Sgt. Ellie Brosseau gets a distinct gleam on her face when she talks about being unit career advisor for the 102nd Communications Flight.

Smiling, her hands adding motion to the already animated explanation of her position, she said, "The program, I think, is a really good one, when used properly. When people get actual, real attention from their supervisors that doesn't have to do with discipline, it's amazing what it will do for people."

Because of her fine work, in October, Sergeant Brosseau was presented the Unit Career Advisor of the Year Award by Col. Paul Worcester, wing commander.

Her enthusiasm for the job is somewhat of a contrast for someone who had reservations about taking on the additional duty.

"When (Senior Master Sgt.) Andy (Heckler) approached me, he said the person needed to be outgoing and talkative. I said to myself: 'You gotta be kidding me!' Half of this flight doesn't know who I am! I work in telephone closets and climb on roofs. When they see me, it's usually to fix something."

Sergeant Heckler thought otherwise.

"She has high moral standards. You can see it in her son. I thought she'd be the perfect person to hand out advice."



Tech. Sgt. Ellie Brosseau

As a 28-year veteran of the armed services, Sergeant Brosseau certainly has enough experience to give advice.

After joining the Air Force, she worked as a crew chief for the 509th Bomb Wing at Pease Air Force Base, N.H. After using the Palace Chase program to transfer into the 157th Air Refueling Wing, also at Pease, as a traditional guard member, she joined the 102nd in 1982. While working as an information assurance specialist on the weekends, she was a mainframe help desk technician for Putnam Investments in Boston.

"I couldn't make tech sergeant because they didn't have a slot. So, I went to the retention office and said 'I'd like to stay in this place, but not if I'm going to spend the next 10 years as a staff sergeant.'"

That experience has helped her when she has talked to others in her job as a career advisor. "That's one of the things that's interesting about being a unit career advisor, it's not always about not liking your job. Sometimes it's about wanting to make master sergeant ... I get to help people maneuver their way around."

"Mid-career Airmen start having questions about family support and family readiness. These types of things encourage enlisted people and their supervisors to work together and resolve issues. It can encourage supervisors to be a mentor and provide information."

Sergeant Brosseau works full-time in the Communications Flight as an information technology specialist.

She lives in Wareham with her son, Barry, who is a freshman at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

As a single parent, she's familiar with some of the issues military personnel have. "I prefer the term 'unmarried' rather than divorced" she said, laughing.

Equal Opportunity NCO position available

The 102nd Fighter Wing Military Equal Opportunity Office has an opening for an equal opportunity noncommissioned officer. This is a master sergeant's position.

Qualified applicants must possess at least a five-skill level in any Air Force specialty code.

Upon selection, the successful applicant must complete all phases of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute Equal Opportunity Adviser Reserve Course within 18 months of assignment. The course consists of

both in-residence and correspondence components. A 20-day program must be completed at DEOMI, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

Responsibilities include advising commanders on equal opportunity issues, providing education and training in equal opportunity, providing assistance to members who feel they have been the victims of discrimination, serving as a central point to receive military complaints of unlawful discrimination, participation on an organization of committees designed to assess the equal opportunity climate

on the base, and organization and preparation of annual reports. The NCO also works with medical squadron personnel in the administration of the wing urinalysis drug testing program. Responsibilities include generation of random lists of members to test using an Air Force computer program and maintenance and tracking of members tested in order to ensure the wing reaches its annual quota.

Resumes should be sent to Maj. Mark Stallings. For more information, contact him at 508-968-4510. Interviews will be conducted in January.

Kelley is company grade officer of year

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

Second Lt. Michael C. Kelley, commander of the 102nd Maintenance Operations Flight, has been named the wing's company grade officer of the year.

In his nomination papers, Lieutenant Kelley was cited for his advance planning for the wing's Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployment to Keflavik, Iceland, late last year and earlier this year, which resulted in no problems during the 65-day mission.

He also was praised for his efforts in planning and coordinating the maintenance portion of the recently canceled operational readiness exercise, including his visits to other units to gather data to increase the wing's understanding of the inspection process. He also developed an operations and maintenance "playbook" that is to be used as a manual for future inspections.

As a key member of the team developing the wing's annual flying schedule, he performed an analysis of historical data, developing mathematical



Second Lt. Michael C. Kelley

factors that can be used to project future flying needs, and constructed a spreadsheet to reduce calculation errors.

While serving as the officer in charge of the 102nd Aircraft Generation Squadron for 90 days, he ensured that the daily sortie count remained high,

which resulted in the fully mission capable rate exceeding the National Guard standard.

Lieutenant Kelley also was cited for developing a user-friendly Maintenance Operations Flight intranet web site and led the effort to update the information technology in the maintenance operations center.

On his own time, he attended the base contemporary issues course to further his understanding of issues facing the National Guard.

He also attended the defense resource managers course, expanding his knowledge of the defense logistics resources funding, tracking and reporting program.

Lieutenant Kelley also volunteered as chairman for resolutions of the National Guard Association of Massachusetts, establishing a more streamlined approach to the documentation and reporting of the association's resolutions.

A resident of Pocasset, he actively participates in his church's activities.

Remembering a Christmas Truce

By Chief Master Sgt. Don Nelson
Wing human resources adviser

More than a few years ago, I heard the unbelievable story of when British and German soldiers celebrated Christmas together during the early days of World War I.

At first, I thought little about its significance but then I visited the Ypres battlefield where the event took place.

On Christmas Eve 1914 along the Western Front, the mud froze, shell-stunted trees were covered with frost, and the terrible smell of rotting flesh faded. The night was cold yet quiet.

German troops erected a few candle-lit trees and Chinese lanterns. They softly began to sing "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" In a gesture of retaliation, the British sang "The First Noel" followed by the Germans singing "O Tannenbaum." While the British sang "O Come All Ye Faithful," the Germans sang "Adeste Fideles." Imagine in the middle of a war two warring nations both singing the same carol!

A German soldier invited a British soldier to cross over and one man ventured over the top and they shook hands in no man's land. Soon thereafter, troops from both sides greeted each other in an area that just hours before was a killing field.

Small groups formed, giving way to larger ones. In some

places, hundreds mixed, shaking hands and offering each other drinks and cigarettes.

A Scottish soldier produced a football and used hats as goalposts with the Germans doing the same things with their helmets. The game lasted an hour before a German commanding officer ordered his men back.

The unofficial truce lasted nearly a week. By then, the rain returned, the frozen mud softened and the guns opened up again. Men at the front remembered that they and their enemies had, in a time of inhuman horror, reasserted their basic humanity.

Christmas Eve 1914 was so long ago. Since then other wars have been waged, countless lives were lost, and hardship endured by soldier and civilian alike. The cost in all accounts has been incalculable.

What has not changed is the meaning of this season. The way people greet one other, the respect given to friends and strangers, and the accommodation extended to those in need all show the human side of this season.

It is comforting to know that people genuinely care for their fellow human beings regardless of their circumstances, religion, political affiliation, race or religion.

Let us try to keep this thought throughout the year!

202nd weathers stint in Iraq

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

Predicting the weather can be a challenging task at best, but throw in some of the world's most extreme temperatures and a blast of wind kicking up an errant three-day sandstorm and you get an inkling of what nine members of the 202nd Weather Flight had to contend with when they deployed to Iraq earlier this year.

Broken up into two groups, the nine men and women were attached to elements of the 42nd Infantry Division. The weather troops provided data for briefings for Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty, and his staff for both ground and air operations.

The first group, consisting of Lt. Col. John Hanavan II, Senior Master Sgt. Susan Smith, Master Sgt. Shawn Peno, Staff Sgt. Paul Morey and Staff Sergeant Jennifer Fischer, was assigned to Headquarters Company at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Danger in Tikrit, Iraq. They were in Iraq from mid-January to mid-July.

The second group consisted of Capt.



Senior Master Sgt. Susan Smith sitting on her 200 pounds of gear as she awaits transportation home.

John Cullen, Master Sgt. Robert Chapman, Staff Sgt. Kevin Phipps and Senior Airman Christa Osgood. They were assigned to the division's aviation brigade at FOB Speicher, also in Tikrit. They overlapped the

first group a bit, arriving in mid-May and leaving in late September.

The 202nd personnel worked with the 28th Operational Weather Squadron from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., gathering data from a variety of sources and locations. The weather briefings also included weather histories of high and low temperatures, rainfall, etc., Sergeant Smith said. The historical data, such as snow melt that could affect flooding of the Tigris River, was used by such units as combat engineers.

If engineers wanted to build a bridge, they would look at the historical data to decide how high to plan the structure, Sergeant Morey said. In dry mountainous areas, sudden rainfall could cause flooding that would wash out roads, said Sergeant Fischer. In some instances, canal walls collapsed, causing rollovers.

But the biggest impact to operations came from dust and sandstorms, Sergeant Smith said. "Using satellite images and weather models, we could see storms coming."

The storms often caused mission cancellations, but not for everyone. (See 202ND, Page 22)



SSgt Fischer performs a preventative maintenance check and service inspection on a humvee at FOB Danger, Tikrit, Iraq.

Security forces teams up for extra training

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

Because Otis security forces wanted to get some extra training “as a team at a bare-base location,” 30 members earlier this year trekked by convoy to Fort Devens where they participated in five days of “explosive” scenarios.

According to Senior Master Sgt. James LeBlanc, 102nd Security Forces Squadron superintendent, the training originally was planned as preparation for phase one of an operational readiness exercise, “where we would pack up and deploy as a team.”

The 30 men and women got exactly that as they packed up all their needed gear into two 10-by-10-foot Connex storage boxes. What they needed included two all-terrain vehicles, night-vision goggles, some 20-by-30-foot tents, hundreds of meals ready-to-eat, entrenching tools, plus much more.

The move allowed the Airmen to “get off base and operate as a team at a bare-base location and to be self-sufficient,” Sergeant LeBlanc said.

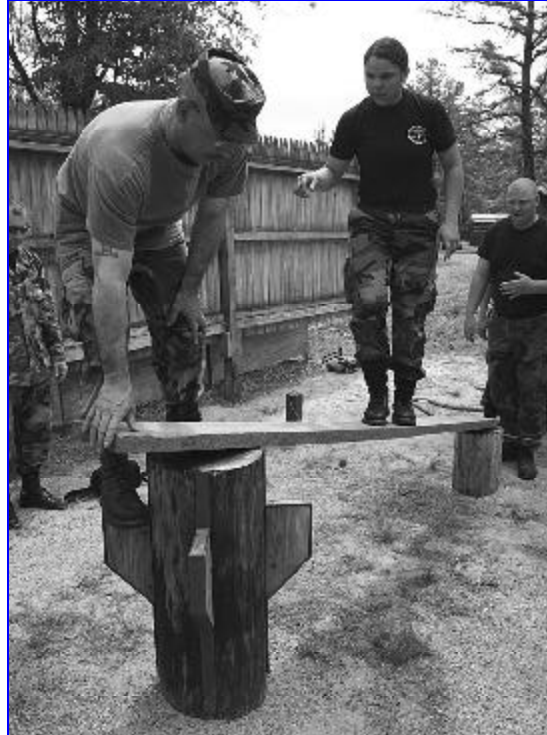
The group convoyed to Fort Devens in three Humvees, two “deuce and a half” trucks, a bus and the command staff car. Maj. Christopher Hamilton was the officer in charge of the training exercise.

The two Connex boxes were trucked up to Devens on a flat-bed trailer.

Sergeant LeBlanc said the first two days of the training involved the security forces personnel qualifying with a variety of weapons, including the M-16 rifle, M-9 handgun, and M-203



Maj. Christopher Hamilton, left, and Staff Sgt. Shawn Puleo ride a blanket carrier as it is pulled by, from left, Staff Sgt. Joseph Hannan, Senior Airman Michael Anderson and Senior Airman Gregory Gresham.



Photos by Master Sgt. Renan Flores

Staff Sgt. David Patistea, left, watches as Tech. Sgt. Charles Thomas steadies a board for Senior Airman Katharine Demoraes. SrA Dustin Hurley, right, waits for his turn.

grenade launcher.

The next two days involved an exercise in which the Airmen were deployed to the field and had to secure an area of operations. To add to the realism, they pretended they had been sent to Ganci Air Base, Kyrgyzstan.

The daily scenario ran about 18 hours a day, with the security forces training section acting as an enemy force attempting to infiltrate the air base.

The objective of the training was to “get to the base, secure it, set up a defensive fighting position, establish communications using field radios, deploy our heavy weapons systems and protect and defend the area of operations,” Sergeant LeBlanc said.

The attacks were made more realistic with a few booms. “They attacked the base with pyrotechnics that were very loud. ... Powerful stuff,” said Sergeant LeBlanc.

He said the training exercise did accomplish its objective. “The opposition force was not able to penetrate the AO due to the outstanding team work of the security forces.”

The last day was devoted to more teamwork, with the Airmen running the Army obstacle course, which included a variety of barriers. One that stood out for Sergeant LeBlanc was called a POW escape station. It started out with a horizontal cargo net that simulated a water crossing. That led to a “9-to-10-foot wall, topped with barbed wire with openings you had to squeeze through.”

Similar training is coming up for the security forces in June when they deploy to the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center. There they will do military operations urban terrain training in a simulated town.

“There we will go in and clear buildings,” a more likely scenario in the war on terrorism, Sergeant LeBlanc said.

'Pilot for a Day' gets close look at 102nd

By Cliff McDonald

Eight-year-old Christian O'Grady of Sandwich was honored as the 102nd Fighter Wing's sixth "Pilot for a Day" during an event on Sept. 28.

Christian has leukemia, but it is in remission. He has one more year of treatment.

Christian was promoted to the rank of captain and given the call sign "Knuckles," which referred to the several finger rings he wore that bore a resemblance to brass knuckles.

His host, Maj. Vaughn Littlejohn, treated him to a full day of mission briefings and other pilot activities. Other activities included sitting in an F-15 and watching aircraft launches from the runway. Christian also visited base firefighters and security forces. Christian's immediate family, and two best friends also participated to the day's activities.

Pilot for a Day is a U.S. Air Force program that focuses on young people who are either handicapped or have been stricken with a life-threatening illness. The program invites the youngsters to be special guests of an operational Air Force flying unit and experience a realistic day in the life of a pilot.



Christian "Knuckles" O'Grady, the wing's most recent "Pilot for a Day" climbs into the cockpit of an F-15 Eagle while his host, Maj. Vaughn Littlejohn watches.

Courtesy of Cape Cod Times

Anyone that knows of such a young person can submit a nomination to 1st Lt. Nicole Ivers, wing public affairs officer.

Film depicts the history of the 102nd

A just completed 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) contri-

bution 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 or by mailing in the accompanying order form below.

The UTAs and Seagull 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.

Mass. ANG Historical Association	
Mail To: Mr. Robert C. Bridgeman 25 Spruce Hill Avenue, Florence, MA 01062-3414	Amount of Donation \$ _____ Number of Copies _____
Name: _____	Circle One
Address: _____	DVD / VHS
City: _____ State: _____	Zip: _____
Send Gift Copy (s) To:	
Name: _____	Circle One
Address: _____	DVD / VHS
City: _____ State: _____	Zip: _____

Memories of Family Day



*Master Sgt.
George
Burr gives a
stirring
rendition of
the
"National
Anthem."*

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Reuben
Hernandez-Gandia
*Patriotism was on proud
display during the
Family Day ceremonies.*





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Reuben Hernandez Gandia
Staff Sgt. Tom Landon and his daughters and a friend, from left, Hannah Ellis, Tom's stepdaughter, Tess Landon, Tom's daughter, Tom, and Soleil Cole-Olson, a friend, pose for a portrait.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Reuben Hernandez-Gandia

Photos in the cockpit of an F-15 Eagle were a big draw.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Reuben Hernandez-Gandia
Tech. Sgt. Ray Gendreau and his daughter, Samantha, enjoy themselves.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Reuben Hernandez-Gandia
Big smiles were bountiful all day despite the rainy weather.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki
Second Lt. Timothy M. Portlock leads the Family Day Ceremony.

Chapel Call

Chaplain (Maj.) David Berube



Look toward future with feeling of hope

This time of year, several faith groups celebrate holidays. We also celebrate the dawning of a new year. Some common themes are light shining in darkness, reflection upon ourselves and our world, and resolutions for improvement. In the midst of all these celebrations is a great sense of hope.

Norman Vincent Peale, author of *The Power of Positive Thinking*, spoke for many years about hope. He recognized that we all have at least one basic choice in life, regardless of life's situations — we can choose to be positive or negative as we engage each day.

A friend of his once said that Peale's message was that positive thinkers find positive results in life partly because they see problems as reasons for hope. Problems are, actually, signs of life. I came across a story Peale used to tell to illustrate what he meant:

Peale once met a friend named George while walking down the street. George looked bad. Peale asked, "How are you?"

George didn't give the obligatory, "Fine," but spent about 15 minutes outlining how bad he really felt.

When George finished, Peale asked how he got to feeling so badly.

George responded that it was his problems. Problems in every aspect of his life, George contended, were overwhelming and depressing him. He told Peale that if he could remove these problems, George would give \$5,000 to Peale's favorite charity.

Peale said he could take George to a place where thousands of people live problem free.

When George's basic response was, "Sign me up," Peale

offered to take him to Woodlawn Cemetery the following day.

Peale's point was that life has problems. If we have problems, it is a reminder that we're alive and an opportunity for hope. If we engage our problems in a hopeful, positive way we can impact them for a more positive outcome. And, even when we don't control the final resolutions, we can impact our own attitudes and remain positive in spite of the outcomes.

As members of the Guard, we're entering this season facing some significant challenges and "darkness." We only see basic outlines of what's over the next horizon in our journey together. This is an opportunity to move forward like Norman Vincent Peale or his friend George. We have to decide if we'll see our "problems" as a sign of life and hope.

Whether you'll be reflecting in religious ways this season or establishing purely non-religious resolutions, I invite you to reflect on more than diets and exercise routines. Reflect with me on what attitudinal posture you'll take as we continue to face the challenges of change in our military life.

My prayerful desire is we'll each choose and resolve to move forward with positive engagement and hope. Our latest challenges, although extremely large and unsettling, are still signs of life. I know, from my experience with all of you, that a choice to positively impact them will produce something incredible when we reach "the other side" of all this change.

I look forward to sharing this journey with you. I wish you peace, hope, and joy in this season of celebration.

During adverse weather, call 508-968-4433

The 102nd Fighter Wing is never closed, but in the event adverse weather conditions require restricting access to Otis due to safety or mission concerns, a message regarding reporting procedures will be placed on the 102nd Fighter Wing Information Line, telephone, (508) 968-4433.

As circumstances permit, during actual adverse weather conditions, the Information Line will be updated at 5:30 a.m. and periodically throughout the day with current information.

The Information Line will have

one of three messages: Work hours normal: all personnel report to their normal duty sections at the normal time. Work hours delayed: all personnel report to their normal duty sections at a specific time as stated on the Information Line work hours delayed message. Work hours restricted: only personnel essential to mission accomplishment are to report. Personnel essential to mission accomplishment will be required to report to work regardless of weather conditions.

Essential personnel include fire fighters, snow removal crews, security personnel, alert crews, command post controllers and any others specifically designated by their section chiefs.

Radio stations are no longer used to notify personnel of base closings during adverse weather conditions. For more information all members should review the policy statement on Adverse Weather Conditions on the Otis intranet under Policy/Planning.

Wing flag football team wins MMR championship

For the second year in a row, the 102nd Fighter Wing flag football team completed the season with a perfect 10-0 record and the Massachusetts Military Reservation League Championship.

In the Oct. 6 championship game, decided by a score of 32-25, the 102nd was pitted against the determined team from Pave Paws, which had defeated Air Station Cape Cod in a semi-final match-up the previous night.

Going into the post-season, the veteran team from the 102nd found itself as the top seed with an 8-0 record while Pave Paws was seeded second with a regular-season mark of 5-3.

In the championship contest, the 102nd won the coin toss and sent the offense onto the field. After leading his team down the field with his patented "West Cape Offense," quarterback Vic Knill, the league's season most valuable player, found speedy receiver Joe Pitta in the end zone for the game's first score.

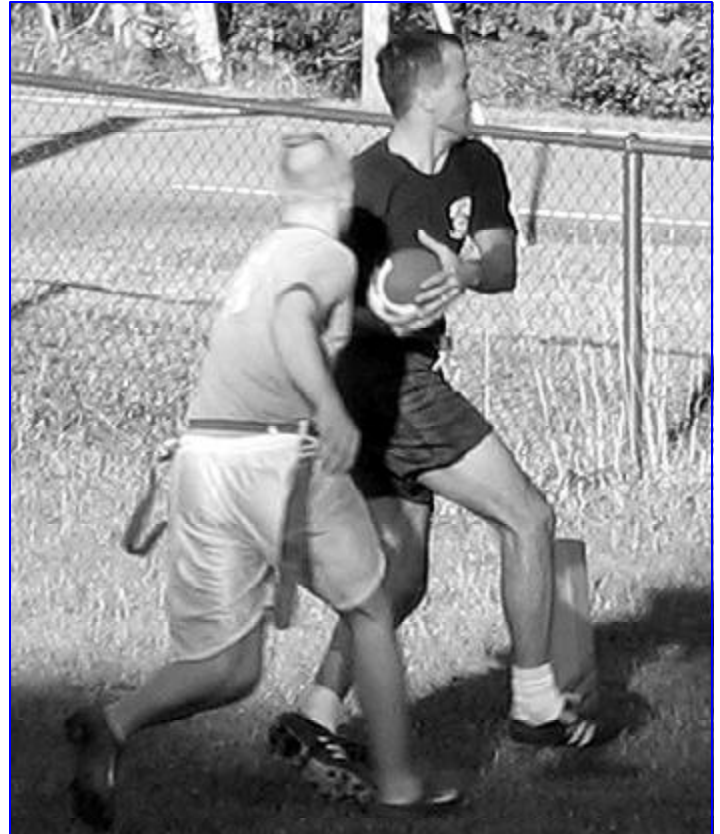
For the remainder of the first half and most of the second, the crowd watched a see-saw battle with multiple lead changes and a number of clutch plays on both sides of the ball. For the 102nd, Knill connected on additional touch-down passes to Pitta as well as to Chad Pimental and Alex Haldopoulos.

The turning point in the game came midway through the second half when 102nd defensive back Jay McGarrahan picked off a Pave Paws pass and returned it for a touch-down, ending the score-for-score stalemate.

Down but not out, the gritty Pave Paws team answered with a long scoring drive bringing the score to 32-25.

On the subsequent possession, the 102nd turned the ball over on downs giving Pave Paws one final chance to pull off the upset. With the game on the line, the tough 102nd defense held tight and kept the Pave Paws team out of the end zone, securing the victory.

After the game, 102nd quarterback and co-captain Knill



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Wes Smith
102nd receiver Alex Haldopoulos pulls in a pass with tight coverage from Pave Paws' Shane Upton.

said, "My hat's off to the Pave Paws squad. They're a strong team and they certainly have given us our toughest games over the past two years."

102nd co-captain Tim Estep noted, "It was great to see our guys hang tough through all the ups and downs of this game. Pave Paws definitely came to play." Estep later added his thanks to Tiffany Kelly and her Air Station Cape morale, welfare and recreation staff for hosting the season and to John Page for volunteering to take on full-time referee duties.

The league uses a 4-on-4 game format and featured the two championship competitors as well as teams from Air Station Cape Cod, Woods Hole and the Coast Guard Clinic.

Three training manager positions open

There are three traditional unit training manager (3S2X1) positions vacant throughout the wing.

They are located in the 102nd Communications Flight, the 102nd Logistics Readiness Squadron and the 102nd Medical Group. They are technical sergeant positions.

To qualify for cross-training to the 3S2X1 career field, one already must possess a 5-level in another Air Force

specialty code and have a general Armed Services Vocational Battery score of 59. An eight-week technical school at Keesler AFB, Miss., is mandatory within one year of reassignment.

If you are interested in one of these opportunities, contact Senior Master Sgt. Paul Hennessey in the Base Education and Training Office at 508-968-4189.

Supporting the home teams

The 102nd Fighter Wing was busy in the early fall, presenting the colors during opening ceremonies for the region's professional sports teams. On Sept. 6, an Honor Guard contingent was at the Red Sox game against the Los Angeles Angels. Participants that day were, from left, Tech. Sgt. Richard Brousseau, the Red Sox Green Monster, Senior Airman David Harris, Tech. Sgt. Jessika Wahlberg, Tech. Sgt. Gary Gray and Senior Airman Bryan Vanus.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Wes Smith



Honor Guard members who presented the colors at the Oct. 1 Red Sox game against the New York Yankees were, from left, Tech. Sgt. Christie Ashcraft, Master Sgts. John Mallard, Kimberly Brown, and Steven Hunt, and Senior Airman Yugeny "Maria" Escobar.

On Oct. 2, Honor Guard members participated in the opening ceremony of the Patriots game against the San Diego Chargers. Wing F-15s also did a flyover during the National Anthem while our Honor Guard presented the colors. The members involved were Master Sgt. Kenneth Boyd, Tech. Sgts. Richard Brousseau and Andrea Burgo, and Senior Airmen Carl Machado, and David Harris.



New lieutenant serves up chow as commander

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

Several years after having kept Airmen “fed and happy” in the wilds of Alaska, 2nd Lt. Timothy M. Portlock has returned to the services career field as commander of the 102nd Services Flight.

The wing’s newest second lieutenant took over earlier this year after spending 11 years with the 102nd Medical Group, most recently as superintendent of medical logistics.

The former master sergeant began his military career with a 9½ year stint in the Air Force where he trained as a security policeman but shortly thereafter moved into the services career field at Loring Air Force Base, Maine. Continuing his career with a special-duty transfer to Lajes Field, Azores, then Airman 1st Class Portlock worked in the military post office on the base.

When “Buck” Sergeant Portlock was transferred to Hanscom AFB, he returned to the services field, a job he continued to do when he was moved to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. There, his working conditions changed a bit as he became noncommissioned officer in charge of services for the Alaska Norad Region “ACE-ALCOP,” a mobile command post that was positioned on a three rail-car train.

The train, which consisted of a command post car, sleeping/dining car and storage/generator car, was part of the Alaskan Air Defense Sector and was kept at the base until needed to support a deployment in the hinterlands of the state.

“Then we would contract with the Alaska Railroad for a locomotive” to be taken to a remote deployed location where the command post would operate from the train. Staff Sergeant Portlock’s job was to provide meals, sleeping quarters and recreational activities - “keeping everyone fed and happy. We would also contract with local hotels if it was not a fully remote site.”

The train, which was the only one of its type in the Air Force, carried 30 to 40 people.

When the Titan missile program was shut down, “we acquired the rail cars from Colorado, contracting with the various railroads along the way to get the cars to Alaska.”

After being retrofitted for the Alaska mission, the cars were used until the Alaska program ended.

Then, Staff Sergeant Portlock became a services inspector for the various radar sites around Alaska.

When he left active duty 11 1/2 years ago, he joined the 102nd, working about two months in services before joining the then-102nd Medical Squadron, working in nursing services. After approximately 12 months of trying to go to



Second Lt. Timothy M. Portlock poses his daughter, Haley, son, Cameron, and wife, Christine, after he received his lieutenant bars.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki

technical school. Portlock finally cross-trained again, this time to medical logistics. That job involves not only ensuring the squadron, now group, had all the medical supplies it needed, but also making sure that sections throughout Otis had first aid kits.

Born in New Bedford, he grew up in Dartmouth and is a graduate of Dartmouth High School. He holds an associate’s degree in logistics management from the Community College of the Air Force and a bachelor of science degree with a teaching certificate in physical education (Pre-kindergarten to eighth grade) from Bridgewater State College. Lieutenant Portlock has taught physical education in the Waltham School system for five years.

He is a member of the Military Officers Association of America and two professional Physical Education organizations.

Lieutenant Portlock lives in Bedford with his wife, Christine. They are the parents of three children: a daughter Haley, 4, and two sons, Cameron, 2 and Tyler, who was born in March of this year and passed away in April of this year due to ebstein’s anomaly, a serious congenital heart disease.

Logistics and plans position available

The wing logistics and plans section has an immediate opening for a traditional technical sergeant in Air Force specialty code 2G0X1. Job responsibilities can be found in Air Force Manual 36-2108.

Interested persons should e-mail Maj. William Salvaggio at william.salvaggio@maotis.ang.af.mil or call (508) 968-4320

Colonel Rice is given an Eagle test ride

By Cliff McDonald

After taking a walk around, doing a visual inspection, and kicking tires, it was time to take the "Tub" out for a drive around town.

It was a routine training mission for combat veteran F-15 pilot, Col. Anthony "Kimo" Schiavi, but what about his rear seat passenger - Col. Leon "Catfish" Rice, the director of operations for the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

Colonel Rice is a fighter pilot who has over 4,000 hours of a different kind of aircraft experience described his F-15 experience with an air of excitement. "What a wonderful airplane, absolutely spectacular, it flies nice, it feels nice, and it's great. It's so different from the A-10 that I normally fly; it's on a different spectrum of flying than the A-10, or even the F-111 that I flew on active duty. The F-15 is a very agile and smooth flying aircraft that kind of reminds me of my F-111 flying days," but he added lightheartedly, "certainly at a different speed, different "G," and different altitude."

For Colonel Rice, the flight was his first experience in the F-15 and one he looks forward to doing many times as he works with the 102nd Fighter Wing to help transition jets to the 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield over the next few years.

He said, "that while the transition from Otis to Barnes will be hard on some, it could also be exciting for others, a new mission, a new task, and challenges; it's the wave of the future. It gives you a



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Reuben Hernandez-Gandia

Col. Leon "Catfish" Rice smiles before his F-15 orientation flight.

new opportunity to excel. I think that combining the units in the state, taking the expertise and knowledge base at Otis and merging these skills with all those capabilities that Barnes has, seems initially to be a win-win situation for the state. It keeps a fighter aircraft in the state, and possibly keeps the F-15 flying here for another 20 years, this is really good news."

As state director of operations, Colonel Rice works out of the Joint Force Headquarters in Milford in a traditional, part-time Guard position.

Colonel Rice said the F-15 orientation flight gave him "an understanding of what people go through, and what they're thinking and talking about, not only just the pilots and operations group, but also

other people and how they interact with the plane."

According to Colonel Rice, "Right now the tentative plan for transitioning Guardsmen at Barnes into the F-15 is unknown, but it has been talked about as starting in the fiscal year 2007-2008 time frame as when the transition will start for both bases."

The colonel said he looks forward to someday taking the Eagle's front seat, but that's still a couple of years away. His plan for the future now that he's seen how it works is to get down to Otis once a month to fly with the 102nd and get more and more familiar.

His full-time job is flying a Boeing 777 for United Airlines from New York City to Tokyo.

Complaint Resolution; using your chain of command

Submitted by the 102nd Fighter Wing Inspector General Office

The recently updated Air Force Instruction 90-301, "Inspector General Complaints Resolution," reminds us of the foundation that makes the Air Force inspector general system function and perform.

This publication contains detailed instructions on filing IG complaints and the complaints' resolution process, but

the most important thing to keep in mind regarding the complaints resolution process is this: The healthiest way to resolve a complaint is through the chain of command.

The IG complaint system is invariably fair and thorough. However, it is generally not the fastest method, nor ultimately any more effective than actions taken by commanders and supervisors.

A crucial element of the Air Force IG system is that the IG works for commander, not for other IGs. Consequently, AFI 90-301 charges commanders with the ultimate authority on both ends of the IG process: directing IG investigations, and afterwards taking corrective action or implementing change.

While commanders cannot take com-
(See COMPLAINT, Page 19)

Recruiting 101

Master Sgt. Galon "Chip" Barlow



We normally use this article to inform you of coming events or initiatives, and ask for your help.

This month however, we would also like to say, "Thanks!"

The following individuals directly supported our events and initiatives this past year and on behalf of the recruiting staff, I want each of you to know that your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Chief Master Sgt. Susan Faux*.

Senior Master Sgt. Paula Cronin.

MasterSgts. Lori Alix, Kimberly Banks*, Douglas Campbell, Steven Hunt, and Robert Mitchell*.

Tech. Sgts. Allen Bachand, Andrea Burgo, Sandra Devaney*, Sean Dias, Scott England*, Gary Gray, Eric Lafranchise, Hyle Lightbown*, TSgt John Page, Michael Trahant*, and Mary Van Damme.

Staff Sgts. Kristine Balchunas, Christian Fiore*, Julie Headley, Adrienne McGlone, Carly Monteiro, Eric Smith*, Kevin Soucie*, Celeste Trepanier*, and John Wilson*.

Senior Airmen Zachary Berry, Timothy Caron, Yugeny Escobar, David Hobbs*, Kelly Jette, Sharon Messina, Sarah Perry, James Regan, Jean Riordan, Kevin Sprissler*, and Anthony Zollo.

Airman 1st Class William Peterson.

*Provided referrals that resulted in enlistments.

Also, I apologize if you worked with us and I did not list your name. Please let me know and I will be sure to recognize your contribution in my next article.

Full-time unit support

I was going to list the various unit members who support our day-to-day efforts, but as I started making the list I realized Public Affairs would not appreciate me listing every member of the full-time staff. So, for all of you that help us to do our job each and every day, "Thank You!" We will think of a way to thank you individually.

I also need to pass on one last, very special "Thanks" to our recruiting support specialist, Tech. Sgt. "Wes" Smith. Sergeant Smith has been "on-loan" to us from the 102nd Communications Flight (Thank You Lt. Col. John Aylward, Chief Master Sgt. Rick Haddon, and Senior Master Sgt. Sherri Correia) this past year and has worked diligently to assist.

Thank You Wes!

Coming events

It's that time of year again!!! School visits, career days, college and job fairs are upon us.

Please e-mail me at galon.barlow@maotis.ang.af.mil for a copy of our event schedule if you are interested in helping.

Next month: The "new" initiatives for fiscal 2006 and how you can help.

Complaint

(Continued from Page 18)

plaints out of the IG system, if given the opportunity, they can frequently solve complainants' concerns without having to resort to an IG investigation.

We've found in the IG business that most of what an IG does is not conduct investigations but rather assist complainants with getting their issues into the proper command channels and getting their problems resolved.

AFI 90-301 states it well, "The lowest-level supervisor can often resolve complaints more quickly and effectively than a higher-level not familiar with the situation."

Generally, commanders and supervisors who are closest to an issue can zero in on the root cause of a problem and find

Along with the right to file an IG complaint, a complainant also has the responsibility to facilitate the investigative process.

the best solution-quickly.

Of course, there are times when an IG investigation is the most appropriate avenue to resolve a complaint. Situations that involve allegations of reprisal or improper mental health referrals will always be handled within IG channels.

Furthermore, AFI 90-301 is clear that a complainant should avail himself or herself of the IG system when he or she feels that referring a complaint through supervisory channels would be futile.

Along with the right to file an IG complaint, a complainant also has the

responsibility to facilitate the investigative process.

First and foremost, a complainant can help by providing contact information and as much evidence as possible to investigators.

For example, anonymous complaints sometimes provide little information to act upon. The resulting inability to identify the real problem makes complaint resolution difficult.

There's a well-defined set of rules in AFI 90-301 governing how to file and conduct IG investigations; however, the most efficient way to solve problems remains with the chain of command. The job of commanders, supervisors and IGs is to help people with their problems.

People get the mission done. Together, we can ensure all those who serve our great nation are mission-focused and combat-ready.

Milestones

Promotions

To colonel
Paul E. Turnquist
To captain
Randy A. Manchester

Awards and decorations

The following medals were acknowledged during Family Day:

Retirements

Lt. Col. Anthony L. Mattera
Maj. Jill Thomas
Senior Master Sgt. Robert P. Cannistraro Jr.
Senior Master Sgt. Joseph F. Geary
Master Sgt. Ronald M. Densmore
Master Sgt. Mark W. McNally
Master Sgt. Eugene A. Percival
Master Sgt. Bruce S. Vitner
Tech. Sgt. Timothy N. Berby
Tech. Sgt. Richard T. Eldridge
Tech. Sgt. William H. Harrison
Tech. Sgt. Richard Hubert
Tech. Sgt. William M. Satkevich III
Staff Sgt. John J. Ormond III

Welcome aboard

102nd Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sgt. Kenneth W. Rose Jr., aerospace propulsion specialist, Middletown, Conn.
Staff Sgt. Daniel J. Sullivan, jet engine

mechanic, Randolph.

Airman 1st Class Meagan M. Cuthbert, F-15 ATS specialist, East Falmouth.

Airman 1st Class Mark J. Gregory, tactical aircraft maintenance specialist, Forestdale.

102nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class Matthew J. Boyce, tactical aircraft maintenance specialist, East Bridgewater.

Senior Airman Jason A. Churches, avionics systems specialist, Merrimack.

Senior Airman Joshua A. Engle, aircraft maintenance specialist, Wrentham.

Senior Airman Jason S. McKinlay, tactical aircraft maintenance specialist, Wareham.

Airman 1st Class Adam C. Powis, aircraft maintenance specialist, Braintree.

Airman 1st Class Brandon S. Thompson, aircraft maintenance specialist, Bainbridge Island, Wash.

102nd Logistics

Readiness Squadron

Staff Sgt. Stephen P. Capone Jr., special purpose vehicle mechanic, Revere.

Senior Airman Darjanikk L. Smith, traffic management specialist,

Middleboro.

102nd Mission Support Group

Staff Sgt. Julie A. Headley, information management specialist, Roslindale.

102nd Operations Support flight

Airman 1st Class Kyle A. Kent, intelligence applications specialist, Marshfield.

Airman 1st Class Nicole A. Trepanier, intelligence applications specialist, North Falmouth.

102nd Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Alexander S. Novak, security forces specialist, Lexington.

Airman 1st Class John D. McLaughlin Jr., security forces specialist, Brockton.

102nd Fighter Wing

Master Sgt. Teresa Smith, paralegal, Enid, Okla.

Airman 1st Class Ryan P. Golden, paralegal, Middleboro.

102nd Medical Group

Senior Airman Sarah Perry, medical administration specialist, Berkley.

102nd Civil Engineering Squadron

Senior Airman Shaun D. Colby, fire protection specialist, Plymouth.

102nd Services Flight

Senior Airman Nancy A. Kelly, food services specialist, Shrewsbury.

Quarterly safety award

Col. Paul Worcester, center, presents the wing quarterly safety award to Maj. Tim Gordon, left, officer in charge of the cargo deployment function, and Master Sgt. Dale Swartz, noncommissioned officer of the CDF. The CDF was activated in support of Task Force Yankee and prepared, inspected and loaded more than 200 tons of vehicles, equipment and supplies onto military aircraft without a single injury. The equipment was sent to Louisiana to aid in the relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Wes Smith

Awards

(Continued from Page 5)

Sergeant Sullivan was the noncommissioned officer in charge.

While there, the Airmen were involved in refurbishing the base Community Center and adjacent pool-bathhouse, including complete renovation of a restroom and changing and shower room. Another big project was a playground, which included excavation, the pouring of footings, and erection of the playground equipment and a nearby picnic pavilion.

They also did a lot of painting on La Plaza, which serves as the focal point for the base and is home to the commissary, theater, morale, welfare and recreation section and base exchange. Additional projects involved periodic maintenance on air-conditioning units in base housing, as well as electrical upgrades including the installation of two 40-kilowatt generators in the base civil engineering area.

In addition to a letter of thanks from the base commander, several Otis civil engineering troops were treated to incentive rides on Coast Guard helicopters and the base's Falcon jet during training missions.

Sergeant Sullivan said that during

the recent summer of uncertainty awaiting the decision by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, he was deeply involved in working with younger members of the unit, emphasizing to them the importance of keeping focused on the mission and the need to keep a positive attitude.

He and his wife, Marjorie, live in East Sandwich and have four children: Allison, who was a former information management specialist in the 102nd Security Forces Squadron; Joe, a former Marine Corps sniper; Melissa, a veteran of 51/2 years as an Air Force security forces specialist, and Billy.

He and Marjorie are closing in on a goal of climbing all 48 of the 4,000-foot peaks in New Hampshire. "This past summer, we did 11, so we only have eight to go," Sergeant Sullivan said, laughing.

After retirement, the gift they plan for each other is hiking the entire Appalachian Trail, a 2,160-mile footpath that starts on Springer Mountain, Ga., and ends at 5,268 feet on Baxter Peak, Katahdin, Maine.

Sergeant Van Damme, program security manager in the 102nd Operations Support Flight, was cited in her nomination papers for single-handedly developing a new training program and tracking procedure for annual security refresher training. She taught 74 personnel on mandatory training topics and customized additional special interest

items. She also created a new database to track training completion and streamlined the process for sending the information to higher headquarters.

She was the author of an innovative slide show on proper procedures for marking classified material.

After receiving information from other base offices, she wrote the 2005 Combat Archer and Key West security plans, which ensured there were no security incidents on either deployment.

Sergeant Van Damme also coordinated the purchase of \$120,000 in state-of-the-art flight debriefing equipment, transforming the wing's weapons and tactics vault into what is considered a benchmark for F-15 flight training debriefing facilities. Because of her efforts, during the section's last annual self-inspection, which included literally thousands of classified documents and media, there were no security discrepancies.

She also is coauthor of a new training syllabus for program managers and program security managers, an effort that has been lauded by Air Combat Command Headquarters and is to be developed into a multi-day training course for the command.

On her off-duty time, she has volunteered at the Family Support center, babysitting, mowing lawns, cooking meals or giving rides to family of unit members who have been deployed.

Children's holiday party is Dec. 10

The Annual Wing children's holiday party will be from noon to 3 pm. Dec. 10 at Arnold Hall, the aerospace dining facility.

The event will include refreshments, Santa pictures, goody bags, and a free gift basket drawing. The cost is a gift of less than \$10 value per child with the child's name on it.

Gifts should be dropped off in Building 158, room 291 by Dec. 7.

For more information contact Kim Brown or Dawn Deacon at (508) 968-4576.

ASVAB testing planned at Otis

In light of the news of our changing mission, the requirement for changing jobs may need higher Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery scores in order to qualify for a new Air Force specialty code.

When the new AFSCs are announced, the requirements can be found in the back of Air Force Manual 36-2108 and your current scores can be found on your personnel RIP on the Virtual Military Personnel Flight internet site.

ASVAB tests have been scheduled in the wing training plan, beginning in January. Upcoming ASVAB are

scheduled from 7 to 11 a.m. on the Friday before the unit training assemblies in January, March, May, August, October, and December.

If you are interested in taking the ASVAB, send an e-mail to DPMT.102FW@maotis.ang.af.mil or to Senior Master Sgt. Paul Hennessey or Master Sgt. Colleen Archer so you can be scheduled.

The ASVAB can also be taken at Hanscom Air Force Base or Quonset Air National Guard Base, RI. If you are interested in taking them in either of those other two locations, contact Sergeants Hennessey or Archer for information.

202nd

(From Page 9)

Part of Airman Osgood's job was to forecast weather for medical evacuation pilots who flew out of FOB Speicher. "They were pretty tough, sometimes actually flying despite less than optimum weather conditions," making sure the wounded quickly got the care they needed.

On occasion, the weathermen were flown by Blackhawk helicopter to set up remote weather stations. On a mission to Forward Operating Base McKenzie in East Samarra, about 60 miles away, some of the Airmen set up a tactical meteorological observation system consisting of a variety of equipment, including a temperature gauge, rain gauge, lightning detector, anemometer and ceilometer, which measured the height of clouds. The rugged package, set up in remote locations, transmits data that Army troops download on laptop computers.

Despite being housed in one of Saddam Hussein's former palace compounds, the men and women of the 202nd came under attack several times from indirect small arms fire, mortars, rockets and suicide bombers. Because of that, the Airmen were required to carry weapons and wear body armor and their Kevlar helmets. "We weren't required to leave the base," Airman Osgood said. "We were better utilized where we were," chimed in Sergeant Fischer.

The nine kept track of the variable Iraqi weather 24 hours a day to pro-

vide the general and his staff with a weather effects matrix that showed how the weather elements affected different types of operations, such as how the limited visibility of a sandstorm affected flying. That was especially valuable to missions involving unmanned aerial vehicles, which are very sensitive to weather.

"They are very light and sensitive to winds," said Sergeant Smith. "They also are surveillance aircraft, so they are very sensitive to cloud cover."

At FOB Speicher, one of Airman Osgood's tasks was to monitor surface weather conditions and put the data into an online tactical forecasting system. Those observations were then viewed in Iraq and the U.S. for hourly updates of the current weather. Her forecasts supported missions by HU-60 Blackhawk, AH-64 Apache and OH-58D Kiowa helicopters.

Sergeant Fischer said the weather in Iraq ranged from snow flurries in January, along with hail and thunderstorms in the winter, "but spring was beautiful." By June, the temperatures had risen to 120 degrees, the clouds disappeared "and every five days a sandstorm would roll in and last for three days. There was continuous dust in the air."

The nine men and women were grateful for the support they received from back home, and specifically pointed to the DaSilva family of Cape Cod. Mom Michelle and her children — Dylan, J.D., Jamie and Torri — sought donations from area businesses and put together care packages con-

sisting of t-shirts, comfort foods, books and many other items. "The hardest part of being in Iraq was being so far from home," said Airman Osgood.

The base's morale, welfare and recreation section tried to make up for some of that distance by providing some first-rate communications and recreational facilities. Airman Osgood said she once made a hour-long call home to her husband. "It was expensive but worth it."

Sergeant Fischer said the gymnasium was state of the art with free weights and a wide variety of exercise equipment. "And it always had staff to help."

The compound also had a small base exchange, Subway sandwich shop, laundry and Green Beans coffee shop. The MWR section included the gym, a theater, library, game room and internet café.

"We were in a place that was so rich in history that we attended Easter services in a church that dated back to the 5th century," said Sergeant Smith. Saddam had created a lush oasis in the desert palace compound, Sergeant Fischer said, using irrigation.

"We also were extremely well-treated by the Army," she said. They were a very good host."

"We were impressed that everyone we worked with did whatever it took to get the job done every single day," Sergeant Smith said. "It didn't matter your rank or specialty - didn't matter if you were a senior airman, a private or a general. It was a privilege to work with such a dedicated group."

Base firefighters learn rescue techniques

Twenty members of the Otis Fire Department recently completed a three-week rescue specialist training course brought to the base from the Bucks County (Pa.) Community College.

The program was offered to both military and civilian members of the department. The firefighters received certification from the International Fire Service Training Association, which will

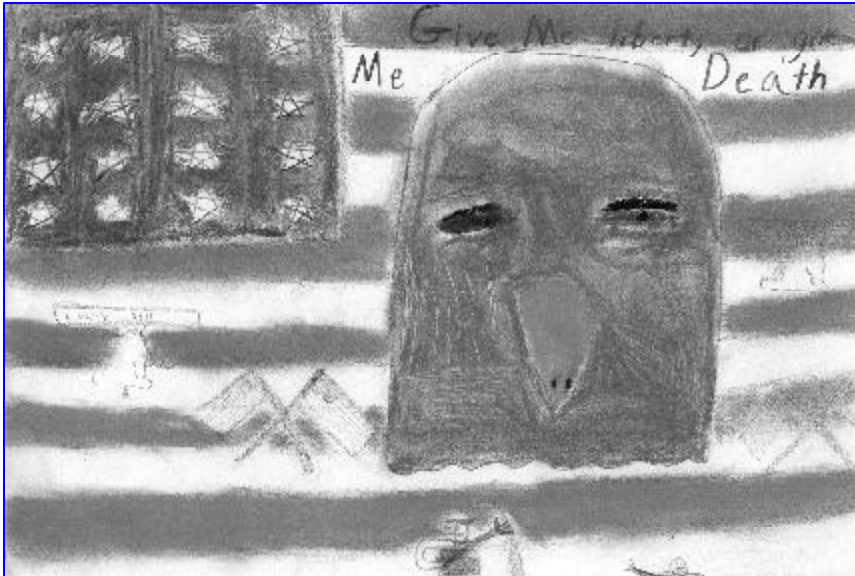
also be honored by the Department of Defense Firefighter Certification Program.

Generally, there are few slots available for Air National Guard personnel in a similar course taught at the DoD Fire Academy at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, so base Fire Chief Tim Stephenson decided to bring the course to Otis. Bucks County Community Col-

lege was chosen as the provider because it has a very active DoD outreach training program.

The course is designed to present rescuers with training and practical experience in a number of scenarios, including vehicle extrication, rappelling, confined space entry and removing victims from otherwise inaccessible locations.

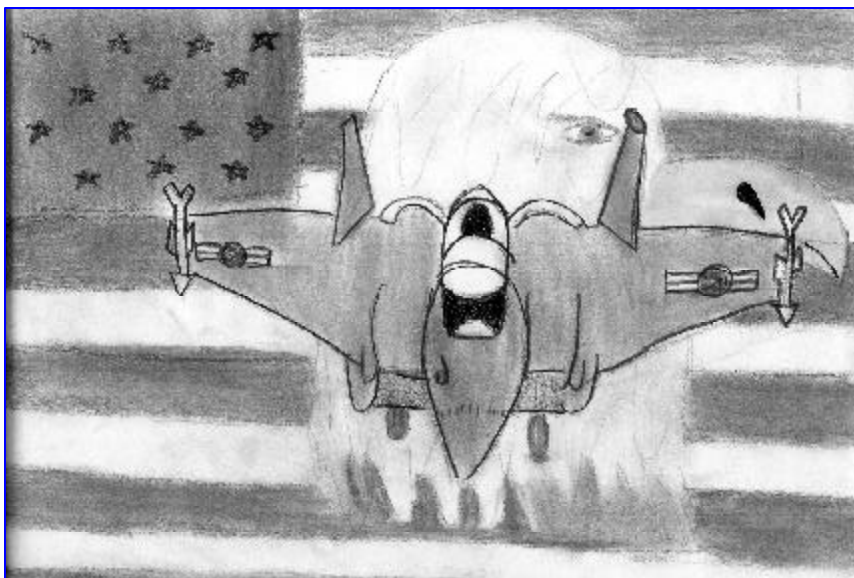
Family Day poster contest winners



*First place
David Bodeau*



*Second place
Jonathan Bodeau*



*Third place
Jonathan Bodeau*



Rescue training

Otis civilian firefighter Thomas Stark and Senior Airman Christien Savard are suspended by ropes in an exercise designed to simulate picking a victim off an elevated structure, packaging them safely in a rescue basket and lowering them to the ground along with the two rescuers. Related story on page 23.

Photo by
Tech. Sgt. Sandra Niedzweicki

Seagull

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