



AIRSCOOP

104TH FIGHTER WING • MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Pride, Professionalism, Patriotism

Barnes Air National Guard Base

February 2012



Recipient of the Air Force
Outstanding Unit Award
2009-2011



An F-15 Eagle takes off from Barnes Air National Guard Base as it heads out to perform daily training routines.
(Photograph by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)



Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

AIRSCOOP

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Barnes Air National
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Commander's column

By Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

The Red Flag deployment was a huge success as the Barnstormers' exceeded expectations, both on the ground and in the air. I know – tell you something that you don't already know. The key here is that there is still room to improve, and improve we must. We are only as good as our last event, and there is always another event. I recently heard someone talk about discipline, and they use the term "fanatical discipline;" which means "you display extreme consistency of action- consistency with values, goals, performance standards, and methods. They are utterly relentless, monomaniacal, unbending in their focus on their quests." This is the every day process we need to think in terms of while here at work. We need to continue to combine this type of discipline with that positive mental attitude where we focus on what we can control – and that is ourselves. Improve as an individual, and the team improves as a whole.

On Friday we were greeted by a visit from Lt. Gov. Tim Murray, where he held a press conference discussing the strategic importance of the Massachusetts Military Units, specifically Barnes and the F-15s stationed here. His visit and message of our units' importance was punctuated with statements on our around the clock coverage of the Northeast, our support of domestic operations, the outstanding results from our recent inspections, our incredible efforts at Tyn-dall, Elmendorf, and Nellis Air Force Bases, and our stalwart preparation for our AEF tasking later this year. His visit came days after a document from our elected leadership was released; reemphasizing the importance of our Air Force, to include the Guard and Reserve Components, to remain strategically relevant and prepared to succeed in our current and future missions.

There were recent news releases discussing the upcoming 487 billion dollar defense cuts over the next ten years. Some news agencies speculated these cuts may include another Base Realignment and Closure Commission, they also speculated that any BRAC actions would impact certain airframes, to include A-10s, F-15s, F-16s as well as some tactical airlift aircraft. As I have said before, I

believe we are in good shape as we continue to press forward in the future. If our recent history is a predictor of the future, we will continue to succeed, and in many ways, outperform any of our peers. This could not be more clearly articulated than in the fact the 104th Fighter Wing was again named an Air Force Outstanding Unit, for the eight time since 1947, clearly recognizing you as being what we've said we are, the best. Accolades like this do not come easy, and they are a product of the hard work of many individuals...those of which we will be recognizing this Drill at the Annual Awards banquet where we will celebrate our collected efforts and those who have shined above others.

As with our other accomplishments, take a moment to reflect on your achievements, but don't allow yourself to become complacent. We are still a nation at war, and we are preparing to support the efforts to defend democracy. As the Patriots prepare to go to battle with the NY Giants this weekend, we too must prepare, because "winning isn't everything, it is the only thing."

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Chief Master Sergeant's column

By Chief Master Sgt. Todd Fappiano, Command Chief Master Sgt.

Normally, at this time of the year you will hear from your Command Chief about how great the past year was (which it was)

and how great our 2011 award winners are (which they are). While these are important accomplishments to remember, instead of looking back, I would like to take this opportunity to look ahead.

I recently deployed to Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, NV, at RED FLAG, 20 Jan through 31 Jan. RED FLAG is an exercise to tests our pilots, flight support and our aircraft maintainers in as real to life combat sorties as possible. This trip was my first as the CCM, so I was afforded the opportunity to spend my days trying to be "one of the guys," in the words of one of the crew chiefs, "a day in the life of another."

I shadowed a crew chief while he launched a jet. I spent time with the specialists who repair the jets for the next sortie. I followed life support while they outfitted Brig. Gen. Gary Keefe for a back seat ride, and watched our pilots during their pre-mission planning and post-mission brief. I was able to see how these different areas operate and integrate together and how professional all of our Airmen are.

As always, I was thoroughly im-

pressed. My back ground is in Civil Engineering and Metals Technology. Now, as the Command Chief, it was quit an eye-opener to see what others do.

I spent a day in the life of another. I believe everyone should be able to experience that. I would love to see some of our Mission Support Group personnel have an opportunity to shadow a crew chief, and vice versa. I believe if we can accomplish this, to let everyone see **another's portion of the mission, and the rules and regulations they must abide by while doing their jobs, we would all have a greater understanding and greater respect for other jobs and challenges.**

Wouldn't it be nice to have an aircraft maintainer spend some time in finance or sit in a snow plow? In the mission support and medical side of the house, it's all about preparing our airman, ensuring they are ready to deploy. It's about ensuring parts are in on time for the next sortie. It's all about ensuring your communications are running properly and securely, and our runways and facilities are in shape. These jobs directly affect the implementation of the mission for our operators and maintainers.

On the operations and aircraft maintenance side of the house, it is all about **sorties. After all, that's what the Air Force does—fly, fight and win.** Without them, there would be no mission to support. The illusion that there are two

sides of the street is just that, an illusion.

I propose that all of us take some time to "spend a day, or an hour in the life of another." Get out of each of your specialties, your own little worlds and go visit another area of the base and see the challenges that other members face. If we could do that perhaps some of the misconceptions we have of others would be changed, perhaps we could realize simple things—like that DTS is not a finance forced problem, but one that was forced upon them to force upon us.

While not everyone likes to abide by the Information Assurance rules, they are downward directed to protect the network and your personal data. Perhaps if each of us understood the challenges of other sections, we could understand why they occurred and how we can work collectively together to eliminate them or at least minimize them.

Going forward, with some time and empathy for the other specialties on base, we can work together better, embrace and help overcome Wing-wide challenges, and better understand the **big picture...because we're all in this together.**



First Sergeant's column

By Master Sgt. Marnie Wallace, FW/MDG First Sgt.

For thousands of years, people have been making and probably breaking New Years resolutions. Self-assessment is a difficult task and change can be overwhelming. Every new year, millions of people resolve to better themselves by promising to change unhealthy behaviors. How do you turn good intentions into reality? Can New Years resolutions be successful?

I believe success relies heavily

on planning and persistence. While researching ideas on how to create a new Years resolution with a chance of survival, I came across a process I thought might be helpful to others. On the University of Maryland Medical Center Website the article [Where to Begin: Expert Advise on Maintaining Resolutions](#) offers the following "advise":

- ~ Avoid perfectionist thinking
- ~ View set backs as a lesson for growth

- ~ **Don't make absolute resolutions**
- ~ **Don't keep your resolutions to yourself**

- ~ Give them some meaning
- ~ Take baby steps
- ~ Fine-tune your spirituality

For more information, please visit (<http://www.umm.edu/>.) As military members, I know you have the skills and the perseverance required to implement the changes you choose. Happy New Years resolution!



New budget cuts affecting MA ANG

By Maj. Gen. L. Scott Rice, MA Air National Guard Command

The President's release of the DoD budget for the next fiscal year

is hitting the streets as I write. For many of us in the ANG, this will be another dramatic change, and may have a significant impact for us, similar to the BRAC announcement of 2005. We do know that the budget will affect the ANG in every state. What we don't know is how much the budget will affect the Massachu-

setts Air Guard. I want all to know the MA ANG leadership is actively engaged with the ANG, NGB, and USAF in Washington to ensure the MA ANG's professionalism, recruiting and retention efforts, mission accomplishments, and positive community interaction is well understood and accordingly, any future changes planned for the MA ANG takes these facts into consideration for any proposed changes. We are effectively accomplishing our state goals daily by: 1. Taking care of people, 2. Achieving exceptional results on current missions and inspections, 3. Preparing for future mission sets and 4. Engaging in the community activities.

Our exceptional efforts during operations, inspections and deployments have received national recognition. Well done!

Your part, in all this turmoil, is to remain focused on doing a safe and professional job, while taking care of each other. Continue to do the outstanding job you have over the last few years, and we will continue to excel at our missions. Continue to keep an eye on each other and ensure the stress of yet more change in our missions is not overcoming anyone. Our units in Massachusetts are among the best in the country, because each and every person in the MA ANG is an active part of excelling in all we do.



Stay focused during PB13 announcement

By Lt. Gen. Wyatt

Secretary Panetta today released the opening salvo of

the upcoming Presidential Budget 2013 (PB13).

In the next few days, more detailed information will be released from the OSD and Service levels. Rest assured that General McKinley, Lt. Gen. Ingram and I will release what we can as early as we can, so I ask for your understanding and patience.

In the meantime, I ask for your help in two very important areas and they both involve taking care of our Airmen.

First, please make sure that your Airmen remain focused on their jobs. There could be a tendency for Airmen to become discouraged, frustrated or angry at the initial public releases and lose focus on doing their jobs safely.

Some may even contemplate taking unnecessary risks or doing something prohibited by rule, regulation, instruction or law. This would only serve to validate the opinion of those who have a biased opinion of the worth of our Airmen.

We know the true value of our people and we cannot afford to lose even one precious life.

Please stress safety and professionalism in the force. We will make it through this turbulent time and we need every one of them with us.

Second, please consider that these announcements may add additional stress to some of our people already stressed by the rigors of life in these times. I would ask that our commanders, supervisors, enlisted and officer leaders continue to vigilantly watch for the signs of turmoil and to take all steps necessary to provide the help that our people need to resiliently persevere through this time in our history.

We continue to be America's greatest treasure. We will weather this "hurricane" and come out of the other side of the storm an even better and stronger Air National Guard.

Awards & Decs: Realizing the relevance of recognition

By Senior Airman Bonnie Harper, 104FW Public Affairs Journalist

Awarding military members for their service and performance has been a long tradition throughout the history of the U.S. Armed Forces. When the Air Force was established in 1947, Airmen were still permitted to receive most U.S. Army decorations. By 1962, after the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Air Force began to create its own system for member recognition.

All military personnel on active duty and members of Guard/Reserve components participating in authorized periods of training are eligible for consideration for a U.S. military decoration. For all members, the act, achievement, or service must be done as part of an Air Force mission, and members must meet specific criteria for each award.

Most personnel are familiar with the three traditional ribbons that every Guardsmen receive at the beginning of their careers after initial training: the Air Force Training Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, awarded to all military members serving in a period of national emergency, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal, awarded to all military members performing service in the War on Terror. The Air Force Training Ribbon and the National Defense Service Medal are awarded after the completion of initial training and the GWOT Medal is awarded after the completion of technical school training.

Aside from these ribbons, those that attend basic military training also have the chance to earn the BMT Honor Graduate Ribbon, awarded to the top ten percent of BMT graduates, and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. **Those who qualify as “expert” on small arms weapons including the M-16 rifle or issue handgun can still receive this award outside of BMT.**

“There are a lot of different ribbons out there,” said Master Sgt. Daphne Janes, the base NCOIC of career enhancements and employment. “It’s just a matter of [members] really going through them and seeing whether or not they’re eligible for them.”

Receiving additional awards throughout one’s career takes time and understanding of the process, on top of meeting the award requirements. All decorations are submitted for one of four reasons, outstanding achievement, meritorious service, heroism, or act of courage.

Other common awards that fit into

these categories are the Air Force Achievement Medal, the AF Commendation Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Active duty members typically receive one of these awards every three years, Janes said. This is partially due to their constant change in duty stations. As members of the guard, we do not necessarily change locations that frequently, but we do often switch career fields or specific job duties within the same work center, which still deserves recognition, Janes said.

Once eligibility is determined, anyone can go into vPCGR and nominate a member for an award. It is a user-friendly program that has instructions on the web page of how to submit the needed information and what to do with it, Janes said.

This applies to everyone, whether they are in a leadership position or just a unit member. Anyone who witnesses or has knowledge of someone performing an act that deserves recognition can request an award.

It is really important that the actual supervisors and the members go into the system and ensure that the proper recognition is happening. If someone does a job for three to four years and then switches career fields, whether they did an outstanding job or even just their job, they should be recognized for it, Janes said.

There are also several state awards that members may be eligible for including the Massachusetts Service Medal, Emergency Service Ribbon, Defense Expeditionary Ribbon, Defense Service Ribbon, and Desert Storm Service Ribbon.

Many people from our base have been asking about the Air Force outstanding unit award after the results of our June 2011 Unit Compliance Inspection. State headquarters and the National Guard Bureau are responsible for this type of an award, but the necessary paperwork should be underway for us to be recognized for our efforts, Janes said.

The Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal is another great award available to all members of the Armed Forces. Eligibility requirements include service to the civilian community, including the military family community, significant in nature and produce tangible results, reflecting favorably on the Military Service and the Department of Defense, and of a sustained and direct na-

ture. The MOVSM is intended to recognize exceptional community support over time and not a single act or achievement. Further, it is intended to honor direct support of community activities.

More than 60 members of our base have been awarded this medal.

“That number should be much higher and can be easily raised,” said Lt. Col. Wilson, the commander of the Logistics Readiness Squadron here. “We need to educate people about the medal and the supervisors how to put people in for it. It very easy to push through vMPF.”

Community service is one of the 2012 goals that we can track by how many of these are awarded. As an example of past service from wing members, a group cleaned houses in Springfield that were hit by the Tornado. The recruiting team formed the group and helped the organization Rebuilding Together Springfield this past October, Wilson said.

Unit members and their supervisors should be responsible for promoting awards and encouraging recognition amongst their shops, Wilson said.

It’s easy to get busy with other work tasks and put recognition on the back burner until it’s time for war, a big exercise, or someone to retire. Even just doing your day-to-day business for four years before moving on to something else should be recognized, Janes said.

The goal is to educate the base so that people know awards are not difficult to put into the system and that they have help if they need it, Janes said.

Members are encouraged to login to vMPF and check on their ribbons and to **let someone know if they’re missing anything or eligible for an award,** Janes said.

If you think you are eligible for an award, fill out the AF Form 104 and submit it to your orderly room with proper documentation. They verify the info and it goes to personnel, who verify it again prior to updating the records, Janes said.

Master Sgt. Janes will be holding an awards and decorations class on Saturday, February 4, during UTA, from 10:30 to 11:30 in Building 1 on the second floor. She will be going over the links that can be found on sharepoint, walking everyone through the system, and showing them how to put into an actual award.

Additional information on how to write awards can also be found at www.airforcewriting.com, ePublishing, and through the AF Tongue and Quill.



Chaplain's Corner

By Capt. (Father) Ken DeVoie, 104FW/HC

Worship

The dictionary defines worship as - 1: *reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power;*

also: *an act of expressing such reverence, 2: a form of religious practice with its creed and ritual, 3: extravagant respect or admiration for or devotion to an object of esteem <worship of the dollar>.*

In general, statistics point to the fact that approximately 85+ percent of the world's population believes in God or "Higher Power," with the remaining 15 percent professing agnosticism or atheism. There have even been articles written discussing something called the "God or Worship Gene" – referring to that universal proclivity of human beings, world-wide, toward belief in a God or gods.

No matter where one falls on the scale of belief or non-belief, we as human beings tend toward wor-

ship. The question is: What are we worshipping or where is our propensity to worship directed? Are we worshipping ourselves, a relationship, an addiction, work, **money, a hobby or sport's team,** etc..?

In the absence of God or a higher power, this human propensity toward worship will drive individuals to fill this need (or drive) with something (see list above). If **this "something," that is being worshipped,** is temporary (i.e. a job, money, material possessions, addictive behaviors, relationships, hobbies, **health, etc...), material, can change and be lost, or is not truly beyond ourselves,** then we are vulnerable to great disappointment and loss, which can leave a person open to coping problems and even depression.

So what is my point? My point is to get you to think beyond yourself in the "bigger picture" of life; to consider the divine side, the wor-

shipping nature of what seems to be universal in humanity, and that which is greater and beyond ourselves and the temporary life we live. **The Air Force's Wellness Model** incorporates the Physical, Mental, Emotional & Spiritual dimensions of the individual. Neglect in any one of these areas can lead to an imbalance in life, which **leads to stress and so on...**

As a Chaplain, I serve to represent and remind people of the Divine, of that which is greater than all of us; of that which should be the object of our devotion and worship, the eternal. In short, and whether we like it or not, we all worship something. I want to encourage you, for true balance in life, to consider the eternal, the divine life of God and where you fit in the Big Picture, the Big Story if you will. Please know that you and your loved ones are being prayed for. Be safe and be strong!

Many blessings, *Fr. Ken DeVoie+*

H&R Block at Home Free Tax Filing Services

Military OneSource is once again offering a free, electronic tax filing service. If you are eligible under the Military OneSource program, you can complete, save, and file your 2011 federal and up to three state returns online free with the H&R Block At Home® tool.

To access this free version of H&R Block At Home®, you must start your return from the Military OneSource H&R Block At Home® link. Once you click the link you will be required to log in to Military OneSource. From the

login page you will be directed to a site containing additional information on tax preparation, including the link to the Military OneSource free H&R Block At Home® service.

If you have questions please call 1-800-342-9647 and ask to speak with a Military OneSource tax consultant. Trained tax consultants are available 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., EST. For information about deductions, exemptions, and filing deadlines visit the Military OneSource Tax Program page.



Airfield Management News

Runway Incursion Prevention

A runway incursion is an airfield infraction caused when aircraft, vehicles or pedestrians enters the runway without specific air traffic control tower approval.

Runway incursions are a serious threat to the Air Force mission and statistics show the Air Force has a runway incursion once every two days.

Almost 90 percent of infractions were committed by airfield drivers who had completed their base airfield driving certification program. In fact, many individuals who committed runway incursions in the past stated it was their first time driving on the airfield or crossing a runway.

This is alarming because all airfield drivers are required to perform a driving check ride as part of their familiarization training and test. This is where trainees get behind the wheel and are evaluated on their driving performance and familiarity with airfield signs, markings, safe speed limits, obstacle clearance criteria and proper radio phraseology in order to effectively communicate with the control tower.

The three main contributing factors to runway incursions are 1) poor training, 2) poor communication, and 3) lack of situational awareness.

Not fully comprehending airfield driving training concepts and accomplishing annual refresher training directly contribute to communication problems, to include misunderstanding ATC instructions, mixing up vehicle call signs and assuming authorization to enter runways in response to aircraft emergencies is automatic.

All this leads to the lack of situational awareness, which encompasses inexperienced drivers and unfamiliarity with complex layouts, to not paying attention and anticipating the control tower's re-

sponse.

When you think about it, we at Barnes have approximately 1000 members. Of that number, 625 of you have an AF IMT 483 flightline drivers competency card and of that number 375 of you have Controlled Movement Area/No Restrictions on your cards. That is a lot of opportunity to be involved in a Runway Incursion. So please pay attention out there, slow down, ask questions.

5. Use service roads whenever possible to minimize time spent on taxiways and runways.
6. During radio transmissions, use correct terminology and proper voice cadence.
7. Copy your clearance and review the assigned route. Read back all clearances.
8. Eliminate distractions while driving in the operational area. Do not use cell phones while driving in the operational area.

9. Focus attention and have your "eyes out" of the vehicle.
10. Maintain appropriate speed.
11. Be alert to similar aircraft and vehicle call signs operating on the field.
12. STOP the vehicle on the taxiway and request ATC clarification if there is confusion regarding your position or your clearance.
13. When cleared to cross any runway or taxiway, first visually check to ensure there is no conflicting traffic. If there is any doubt

that the runway is clear, reconfirm crossing clearance with ATC

14. Note that if you see an aircraft in take-off position on a runway with take-off/landing lights ON, that aircraft has most likely received its take-off clearance and will be departing immediately.

15. **If your radio fails while you're in the operational area and the tower is open,** alert the controllers by flashing your high/low beams towards the tower. They will respond using the light gun: solid red means stop where you are; solid green means cleared to cross, proceed or go. If the tower is closed, visually clear your route and exit the operational area as quickly as possible.

16. If the tower is closed, broadcast your location and intent on the CTAF.

If you have any questions, please stop by the Ops Desk, we're here to support.

Say What...? Common Radio Calls
Clearing up common Communication conundrums

What is said	What it means
Acknowledge	You received and understand this message
Affirmative	Yes
Hold	Stay where you are
Immediately	Right now
Negative	No, or that is not correct
Read Back	Repeat my message to me
Roger	I have received your last message
Standby	Wait a moment, I will call you back
Wilco	Received your message and will comply
Expedite	Quickly

Here are some helpful tips to avoid incursions:

1. Review and understand airfield signage and markings.
2. Review the airport diagram prior to moving the vehicle. Have the airport diagram out and available for immediate reference while driving in the operational area.
3. Review current airfield information for any taxiway closures, runway closures, construction activity, or other surface risks.
4. Ensure appropriate vehicle lights (high beams, flashers, beacons, and strobes) are operational prior to driving in the operational area. Flashers and beacons help ATC, aircrew and other vehicle operators see vehicles in the operational area, especially during periods of reduced visibility and at night.

AFI 51-902; Political activities prohibited while in uniform

By Senior Airman Bonnie Harper, 104FW Public Affairs Journalist

As we make our way through a presidential election year, it is important to keep in mind what we as military members can and cannot do in uniform in regards to political issues.

This issue, which is often addressed by the DoD during election times, was brought to attention in January during the Iowa Caucus when an Army Reservist appeared endorsing a political candidate while in uniform.

28-year-old Army Corporal Jesse Thorsen of the 416th Theater Engineer Command in Darien, Ill., took the stage with Republican candidate Ron Paul while wearing his Army combat uniform and publically announced his approval and support of Paul's foreign policies.

Although he was not technically in an active-duty status, as stated by Army Maj. Angela Wallace of the Army Reserves, he still went against DoD policy by voicing his political opinions while in uniform.

"It is important for us to understand permissible activities and prohibited activities, as there could be legal consequences for participating in political settings as a member of the military," said Lt. Col. Robin Peterson, the Staff Judge Advocate at Barnes.

It is Air Force policy to encourage active duty members to carry out their rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship. Especially as members of the Air National Guard, we are familiar with the term "citizen soldier" that is directed at all Guardsmen. Members of the military are still entitled to the citizen freedoms documented in the Constitution, which we took an oath to support and defend. However, we need to understand when and how to express these rights while upholding the highest of military conduct and following military laws and policies.

"Air National Guard members should not engage in any political activities while in uniform to avoid associating the military or the Department of Defense with a partisan political cause or candidate," advised Lt. Col. Peterson.

This statement stems from AF and DoD policies, which can be applied to all service-members.

The bottom line: All political activity while in uniform is prohibited.

Whether a member is in uniform or not, they should never act in a manner that could reasonably give other citizens a reason to assume or suspect official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement by the military. Service members should not take ac-

tions that could be viewed as directly or indirectly associating the Armed Forces or DoD with a partisan political activity.

Title 32 Guardsmen are not restricted in their involvement in political activities to the same extent as Title 10 active duty members. Those in AGR status typically fall more closely under the restrictions to those on Title 10 status.

ANG personnel retain the right to register and vote; express personal opinions as individual citizens on candidates and issues, but not as military representatives; make contributions to campaigns; and participate in partisan and nonpartisan political events when not in uniform.

Members of the ANG are also allowed for to campaign for and hold elective partisan and non-partisan civil offices, as long as they are held in a private manner which does not interfere with their performance of military duties as a Guardsmen. Members must also not promote themselves by using their military status as a political selling point.

"You have to know when to keep it separate," said Staff Sgt. Rosanne Frieri, a 104FW public affairs specialist, and the director of veterans' services for the city of Pittsfield, MA.

Frieri also recently ran for state representative for the 2nd Berkshire District. **"You can't bring the campaign to the office. You can't campaign while in uniform. I didn't allow one to interfere with the other.** When I was in uniform working as a guard member, I was not out soliciting for political votes as a candidate for state representative," Frieri said.

When running for a political office, one can list the organizations that they are affiliated with, including the Guard, in their bio, but they can't encourage others to vote for them or endorse them because they are a member of the military, Frieri said.

There are several other members of our base who currently hold elected positions in the community, including Maj. Ramon Diaz, the Force Support Squadron operations officer here. He is currently a Westfield School Committee member and works on approving budgets, negotiating and approving labor union contacts, and setting and approving various school policies, Diaz said.

Another concern during the election season is having political discussions while working on base. **It's really easy for a casual conversation to turn into a heated debate.**

"We should be wary about having politi-

cal discussions in uniform. Be wary of what you're talking about at work. Be wary of who's around you. Be wary of the debates you get into," said Master Sgt. Lynne Bolduc, the First Sergeant for Fighter Wing here.

It's important for us as members of the Armed Forces to be involved and to form our own opinions about topics that affect our country. Discussing such topics on base could potentially stir emotions, offend other members, and affect work productivity, which affects our overall mission.

"If we didn't care about our country, we wouldn't have opinions. We have to take those opinions and that care and concern and table it to when we don't have the uniform on," Bolduc said.

We need to remember that when we're in uniform, we're representing the Air Force. As such representatives, we took an oath and swore to follow legal orders, including our allegiance to the Commander in Chief, which for us could be the governor or the president, regardless of who they are or what political party they are affiliated with, Bolduc said.

One of the best ways to gain more knowledge on this subject is to become familiar with AFI 51-902. This document implements regulations from Air Force Policy Directive 51-9, Civil Law for Individuals, and Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces.

It provides specific prohibitions and guidance regarding political activities of Air Force military personnel. It can be difficult to comprehend this instruction as it pertains to primarily to active-duty Air Force and members of Reserve components, including the Air National guard, who are on active duty for training or performing full-time duties. Certain sections also apply to Reserve component members while in an inactive status, as indicated within those sections of the AFI. For more specifics on limitations within a section of AFI 51-902, please contact the legal office.

"In political times such as this, we have to remember that people look to us as experts. They look at us and think 'Oh, you're in uniform, you must have special knowledge of what's going on' or 'you must know something more about the candidates than we do,' which we don't, but people look at us and put us on a higher regard than just normal citizens, so we must be careful on what we say and what we do," Bolduc said.

Are you a volunteer?

Firemen, aux police, EMT, shelter and rescue work, community action, Boy/Girl Scouts or other youth groups, coaching or tutoring... However you volunteer your valuable time to worthwhile causes.

Share your stories of good deeds and tell your supervisor!

The Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, subsequent to 31 December 1992, performed outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature. To be eligible, an individual's service must: (1) be to the civilian community, to include the military family community; (2) be significant in nature and produce tangible results; (3) reflect favorably on the Military Service and the Department of Defense; and (4)



be of a sustained and direct nature.

While there is no specific time threshold to qualify for the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM), approval authorities shall ensure the service to be honored merits the special recognition afforded by this medal. The MOVSM is intended to recognize exceptional community support over time and not a single act or achieve-



MOVSM
Established by Executive Order 12830
Signed by President George Herbert Walker Bush, 9 January 1993
Awarded for Outstanding Voluntary Community Service of a sustained direct and consequential nature. Reflecting favorably on the Military Service and the Department of Defense

ment. Further, it is intended to honor direct support of community activities.

Equal Opportunity on point at the 104th

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Benedetti, 104FW Public Affairs Journalist

How would you feel if this were a member of my family?

This question is what unit members should ask themselves when dealing with matters of equal opportunity.

The mission of the Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) office at the 104th is to prevent discrimination of any kind based on race, gender or religion. They are the first line of defense relative to diversity matters here at Barnes. Creating and sustaining an environment free of sexual harassment and discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion or gender is the objective of their mission.

The 104FW conducts unit climate assessments that are designed to gauge morale among members of the wing. Based on their confidential interviews, MEO will report directly to the commander on issues pertaining to their mission. They will also



offer advice and counsel on how to approach matters of this nature. Practices like this one allow unit members to anonymously communicate to the commander on issues pertaining to equal opportunity.

By improving morale and awareness through pro active programs, MEO is instrumental in enhancing overall unit effectiveness.

“We promote awareness and un-

derstanding. The EO environment is better than it has ever been,” said Master Sgt. Fran Fredericks, NCOIC of the unit. “We reflect our community much more than in the past. We have an open door policy and people are more comfortable being here,” she said.

The MEO staff encourages members to contact their office for guidance regarding equal opportunity issues at the 104th.

Capt. Elizabeth Mesecher, (413) 568-9151, x698-1328

1st Lt. James Stebbins, x698-1117

Master Sgt. Fran Fredericks, x698-1118.



To honor with dignity

By Maj. Matthew T. Mutti, 104 FW Wing Executive Staff Officer

There are few things in life that are more meaningful than to represent your country,

your military and your unit.

Every day, members of the Base Honor Guard have that opportunity, as they participate in ceremonies and military burials throughout the region.

Their mission is simple: represent Airmen, to the American public. This mission is conducted around the world by Base Honor Guards at home station locations and deployed bases.

The Base Honor Guard is an all volunteer team of 12 members, that support a wide variety of events from presenting the colors during parades and ceremonies to performing the most sacred detail, providing military honors at a veterans burial.

Members from the Base Honor Guard have recently had the opportunity to stand field-side at a New England Patri-



ots game and courtside with the Celtics.

Annually the Base Honor Guard performs approximately 30 civic details and

25 burials, but the number of military burials has been increasing over the years. The latest statics would indicate that the number of veteran deaths has nearly doubled since 2001, adding a greater demand on the Base Honor Guards.

Recently the base was asked to support the active duty, by bringing two members on orders to provide military honors at more veteran burials throughout the region, and in the past 3 months the Base Honor Guard has doubled its yearly average of honors performed.

The Bases Honor Guard is always looking for new members, and is looking for dedicated Airman and NCOs who would like to participate with the team. If you would like to learn more about the Base honor Guard, please send an e-mail to 104fw.honorguard2@ang.af.mil

Family Medical Leave Act

<http://www.fvap.gov>

Deploying members may be eligible for FMLA benefits, but the employee must meet certain requirements. For more information, please visit www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28a.pdf

Here is a short list of some of the requirements:

1. Have worked for the employer for a total of 12 months;

2. Have worked at least 1,250 hours over the previous 12 months;

3. Work at a location where at least 50 employees are employed by the employer within 75 miles.

The FMLA summary on the link provided also discusses coverage for Military Family Leave Entitlements, applicable to military members and their Families. The FMLA allows members

to : care for a service member with a serious injury or illness. The summary also covers Qualifying Exigency Leave for Family members to attend military related events (Yellow Ribbon events, official ceremonies, financial and legal arrangements, post deployment activities, certain childcare activities, etc.)

Federal voting assistance program

<http://www.fvap.gov>

Voters should visit the FVAP.gov web portal to register and request their absentee ballots for the 2012 Presidential Preference Primaries (P) and State Primaries (S).

Massachusetts Schedule important dates- Other states listed on FVAP.gov

(Important Voting Dates // * Dates are subject to change pursuant to State legislative changes.)

Presidential Primary: 3/06/2012

Register by: Not Required

Request ballot by: 3/05/2012

Return ballot by: 3/06/2012

State Primary: 9/06/2012

Register by: Not Required

Request ballot by: 9/05/2012

Return ballot by: 9/06/2012



General Election: 11/06/2012

Register by: Not Required

Request ballot by: 11/05/2012

Return ballot by: 11/06/2012

Westfield High School Ambassadors support 104th FW

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

With the Air National Guard shifting from a Strategic Reserve force to an Operational Reserve force, the deployment demands on the Guard have increased steadily over the past decade.

From 2010-2011, the wing approximately deployed 140 members both for state-side and overseas contingency operations. The wing anticipates deploying the same, if not more members within the next year.

When members deploy, the **Wing's Airman and Family Readiness office (AFRO)** works to ensure the members are well taken care of through their transition from home-life to deployed-life.

The AFRO often works with outside agencies to help provide better support to the members deploying. The Westfield High School Ambassador club has volunteered to collect personal hygiene items to send with the members as they deploy.

Two members of the Ambassador club, Christina and Andrea Onyski worked with Westfield bank and collected a donation for \$200, which will go toward purchasing personal hygiene items for the **Wing's deploying Airmen.**



Christina & Andrea Onyski hold a check donated by Westfield Savings Bank to support members of Barnes ANGB (Photograph by Ms. Angela Nunez, WHS School and Career Councilor)

The wing greatly appreciates the support from Westfield Bank and the Westfield High School Ambassador club.

Financial common sense from 'Dad'

February is Military Saves Month, visit www.militarysaves.org

1 - Pay yourself first. If you wait to save what's left over after the bills are paid, you'll never save. Put money in savings as your first 'bill' you pay each month, or better yet do payroll deduction so you never see the money.

2 - Everyone needs emergency savings of at least a couple of months take home pay in case you lose your job or have a major car or house repair. This should be in a money market fund or bank or credit union. Credit unions are best if you have one near you

3 - Keep your debt down. You'll need a mortgage or a car loan, but don't do silly things like borrow for a vacation or a TV. Save for that and buy it when you can afford it.

4 - Diversify your investments (after your emergency fund). For most of us, this means index funds, which match the S&P 500 (large

company stocks) or Russell 5000 (total stock market, both large and small companies) or total bond market.

5 - Keep investment costs down - This also means index funds. In any given year the low-fee index funds outperform most of the actively managed funds which charge huge fees. So why pay fees for an actively managed fund when a low-fee index fund will likely outperform it? And never, never, never pay a sales commission or 'load' fee for a mutual fund.

6 - Buy your mutual funds in good markets and bad. The pros call this 'dollar cost averaging,' but it just means that the same money buys more of your index funds in a down market which averages with the fewer shares the same dollar buys in a strong market.

7 - Choose an asset allocation and stick with it. You want to be diversi-

fied between stocks and bonds because they move in opposite directions as the economy changes, so this is part of the diversification in #1 above. For most of us a good rule of thumb is to have the percentage in stock index funds = 100 - your age, so when you're 20 you should have 80% of your assets in stock and 20% in bonds, when you're 30 you should have 70% of your assets in stock and 30% in bonds, etc.

If you do these every paycheck starting in your 20's you are guaranteed to be a millionaire before you **retire....guaranteed.**





Safety: How goes it

By Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Dumais, Ground Safety

Our unit has experienced two injuries since the last newsletter.

- Worker injured during fall; back strain; slip on ice; no medical treatment.

- Worker injured on aircraft; head laceration; lost situational awareness; nine staples.

- The unit experienced three mishaps since the last newsletter.

- Water feed pipe broke; pipe burst; frozen; cost TBD.

- GMV damaged fence; bent fence pole; backed into pole; pole straightened by CE.

- GMV rental damaged (TDY); impact fixed object; operator error, TBD.

As you can see above some things seem to never change. People hit their heads on airplanes and people back into immobile objects on a fairly predictable pace. Some may call it lost situational awareness, but in the safety arena it is too easy to write it off that way. What are those items that make these folks lose their situational awareness in the first place? If we can figure this out then we can find the real solutions to help reduce our mishaps and injuries.

No one means to hit their head or to drive into something, yet time and time again it continues to happen. If we may, we would like to take a minute to explore some ideas on just what is going on when these things happen. The questions we need to be asking are: Were these folks rushed? Did they have something else on their mind, such as the next step in whatever it was they were doing? Is there something else that may be taking some of their critical thought process away from them such as a finance problem, a **family member's illness, a car problem,** or maybe a home repair that can no longer wait?

If any of us knowingly or unknowingly allows these things to creep into our daily activities, we guess the severity of the mishap depends on what you are doing at the time. The questions to ask when we try to find a cause need to

continue a bit further than simply the member lost situational awareness. If we keep asking why and how, who knows, maybe we will find out that there is a cause to losing situational awareness in the first place. If we can help fix or control this, we think you can agree our outcomes will be better for everyone.

The next item we would like to discuss with everyone is the discussion of our well being and how well each of us takes care of ourselves and each other? We recently held a Wingman Day that discussed this very subject and pretty much everyone was in agreement that the better job we take care of ourselves both physically and mentally, the better off we are at helping ourselves and our fellow workers.

This takes a commitment to eating better, sleeping better, and exercising more. Not an easy task, but certainly one we should all look to do better at.

The other item that was common was the fact that no matter who you are, what you do, or what you have done, we all need help every now and then. It could be you, it could be your shop Chief, or maybe your best friend who may need some help to control **whatever it is that's affecting their** lives and well being.

At the Wing level, we have the **Chaplain's office on a part time and semi full time basis** and our new office of Psychological Health which is a full time office charged with assisting in the overall psychological well being of the unit and its members. We also have the Family Programs Office, also a full time resource available to help with whatever it is you may think you, a coworker, or family member needs help with.

We ask that you explore these resources and take advantage of them as you see fit. One of the bad parts about someone needing help is not asking for it and for someone else who thinks they do to not speak up and at least offer it to them.

The last item we would like to address with everyone is Suicide Prevention. The driving reason for our recent

Wingman Day was the Air Education and Training Command's spike in the recent number of suicides. With this comes responsibility of all of us to help our fellow members and friends. Do you know someone in your shop or personal life that is having financial, personal life, or legal troubles? Do you think they are okay? Have you asked them? If you really think someone is beginning to become overwhelmed, we ask that you use the ACE process to help them obtain help for whatever it is they need help with. Ask! Ask them if they are thinking of hurting themselves. Care! Be a caring person and take the time to listen to them. Escort! If they need help, escort them to obtain it and do not leave them alone. Each of these steps is tough to execute, but at the same time is crucial to helping our friends and coworkers.

For additional information you can take the ADLS course Suicide Awareness Training under Total Force Awareness Training (TFAT) or contact **either the Chaplain's Office at extension 698-1082 or the Wing Director of Physiological Health at extension 698-1536.**

With every one's help, hopefully we can all work together to reduce these posted CY2011 numbers!

Wing Safety Posts Annual Injury and Illness Logs for CY2011

Each year the Wing Safety Office is charged with creating a summary of all occupational injuries and illnesses that meet recording rules set forth by both OSHA and Air Force regulations. After creating this summary it must be certified by the senior executive prominently posted from 1 February through 30 April. This year just as in previous years, the safety office has posted both the military and civilian summaries on their Share Point site. The key points these logs show everyone is how many 104th and supported GSU injuries and illnesses met OSHA and AF recording requirements. It additionally shows you how many lost or restricted duty days were the result of these events. Looking at these numbers will tell the story of just how safe a place this is to work. The safety office asks that if anyone has any questions, feel free to look at OSHA 29 CFR 1904.32, stop in to see them, or give them a call.

Looking for a few good men and women!

By Sandra Wakefield, Family Readiness Group



HUSBANDS, WIVES,
FATHERS, MOTHERS,
BROTHERS, SISTERS,
FIANCE'S, GRAND-
PARENTS, RETIREES

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE
104TH FAMILY READINESS
GROUP

We are expanding the Board and need your help!

VOLUNTEER to be active in your Service Members FRG

VOLUNTEER as much or as little time as you can but volunteer!

We host many fun events each year and are looking for new ideas and new energy!

Attend our annual all expense paid weekend training at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center. Offers excellent workshops and an opportunity to network with

other Guard families across the state.

A very informative and fun time.

We have a busy upcoming year.

You never know when our members will be called. Help us to be there for them and all base families.

Being involved with your FRG is a great way to meet new friends and feel good about making a difference.

Elections for FRG Board

Positions:

Chairperson

Treasurer

Secretary

Youth Co-ordinator

Board Member

Board Member

Board member

WANTED

We are also looking for a Newsletter Editor an individual who would be interested in contributing an article of FRG events and news quarterly to the Air Scoop.

Nominations submitted via email by Thursday 8 March 2012

To FRG Secretary

lyn@valleymarketing.net



Elections to be held Thursday 15 March 2012

Time: 4-6 pm

Place: NCO Club

Votes to be counted day of elections

Please get involved... help us make this the best year ever!!

Annual awards banquet information

Hotel Info:

Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel

One Monarch Place

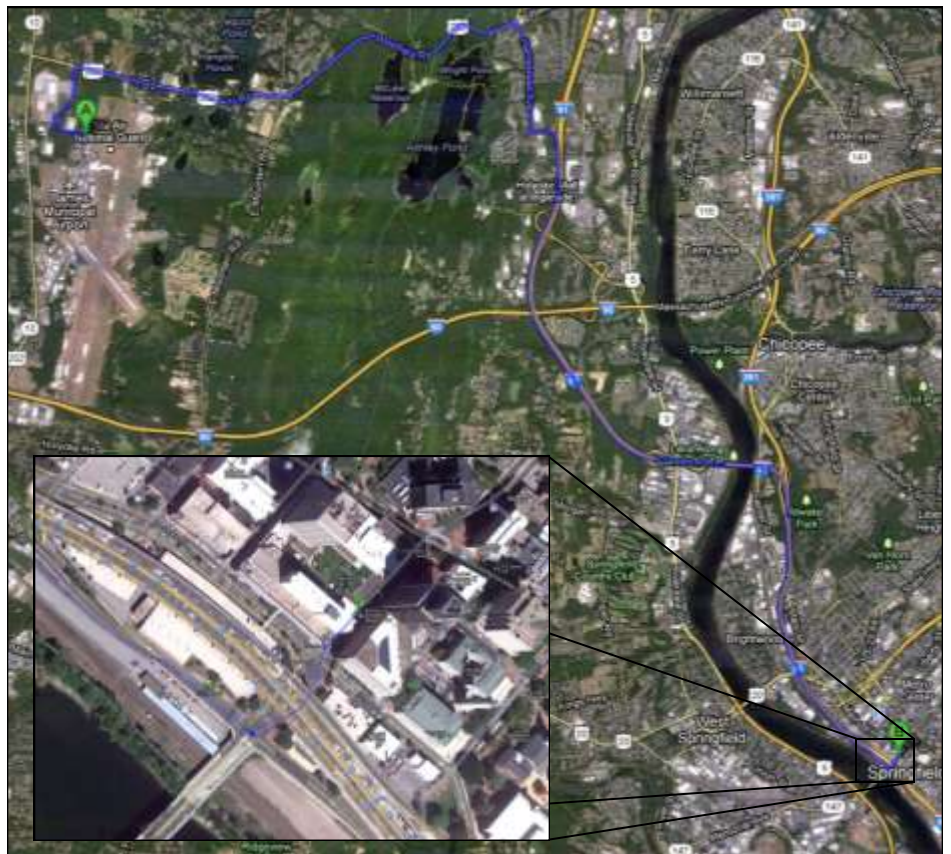
Springfield, MA

413-781-1010

Driving Directions from Barnes:

1. Head west on Falcon Dr
2. Take the 1st right toward US-202 N/N Rd
3. Turn right onto US-202 N/N Rd
4. Turn right onto Homestead Ave
5. Turn left onto Lower Westfield Rd
6. Take the ramp onto I-91 S
7. Take exit 7 to merge onto W Columbus Ave toward Downtown/Springfield
8. Turn left onto Boland Way Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel will be on the right.

Upon arrival, park in the garage across the street from the Sheraton and take the glass walkway to the hotel. Be sure to bring your parking ticket to the coat room and have it validated for only \$5. When entering the hotel from the glass walkway, proceed to the Grand Ballroom on the 3rd floor. Remember, cocktails start at 17:00. Look forward to seeing you there!!



For Your Information

Free UTA childcare & mentorship in 2012

The Westfield Boys and Girls Club has received a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Program to run military childcare and a mentorship program for the UTA weekends.

The program will begin on the February drill weekend and will run through Sept 2012.

The purpose of the grant is to provide childcare and a mentoring opportunity for military children in a supportive environment.

The new program is encouraging young adults to become mentors to the military children, spending time with the military youth for one to

two hours during the drill, ideally from 10 am and noon.

All military children are encouraged to attend the Club from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm each Saturday and Sunday of the UTA; the mentors will only have to commit to one to two hours per weekend.

The Club is anticipating upwards of 20 children to be mentored, but the children participating in the free childcare do not necessarily need to be mentored.

The childcare program will include a number of activities to include: Board games, outdoor play (weather permitting) gym time, as well as computer lab time.

For those interested in becoming mentors, please contact Maribel Marrero at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield at (413) 562-2301 or maribelwbgc@yahoo.com or Ms. Sandy Wakefield in the Airman and Family Readiness office at ext. 6981183, or via e-mail at Sandra.wakefield@ang.af.mil

Those wishing to participate in the FREE UTA childcare, please coordinate in advance with the Family Readiness Office to coordinate transportation and other requirements. The UTA childcare will continue to include lunch and snacks throughout the day.

Classic Teen Leadership Summit

17-22 June 2012 Wahsega 4-H Center: Dahlonega, Georgia

Nestled in a valley of the Chattahoochee National Forest, Wahsega 4-H Center plays host to the Classic Teen Leadership Summit. During this week long adventure, teens will participate in high adventure activities such as high ropes, zip line canopy tour, white-water rafting, hik-

ing, fishing, archery, survival classes, and more!

Leadership classes taught throughout the week include True Colors and the General Hugh H. Shelton Leadership Challenge. Attendees will be introduced to community partners such as 4-H,

BGCA, American Legion, YMCA and others who provide support to military families in communities across America. This summit also includes military traditions and community service projects. Visit this site for more info:

www.afrc.af.mil/library/4rfamilies

Adventure Teen Leadership Summit

7-12 Aug 2012 Cheley Colorado Camps: Estes Park, Colorado

Bordering Rocky Mountain National Park, Cheley Colorado Camps, a family owned and operated summer camp for over 90 years, will host the Adventure Teen Leadership Summit. During this Summit, teens will participate in daily adventure activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, horse colt training, arts & crafts, woodworking, technical climbing, and archery. Leadership

classes taught throughout the week include True Colors and the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. Each evening, teens will gather for programs including campfires and songs, musical performances, and environmental education classes. This summit also includes military traditions and community service projects. Visit this link for more info

www.afrc.af.mil/library/4rfamilies



For Your Information

TRICARE Retiree Dental Program

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is available to all military retirees (including gray area retirees) and their eligible family members, unremarried surviving spouses and their eligible children, as well as MOH recipients and their eligible immediate family members. The program covers cleanings, exams, fillings, root canals, gum surgery, oral surgery and dental accidents on the first day that coverage becomes effective; after 12 months of being in the program, it then covers crowns, bridges, partials, braces and dental implants. (New retirees who enroll within four months after retirement from the Uniformed Services or transfer to Retired Reserve status are eligible to waive the 12-month waiting period for major services; supporting documentation is required)

The Enhanced TRDP provides every enrollee an annual maximum of \$1,200 per person (\$1,000 for Basic Program enrollees), a \$1000 annual maximum for dental accidents and a \$1500 lifetime maximum for orthodontics. It is important to note that the money that the TRDP pays out for preventive and diagnostic services **doesn't count against the annual maximum** – those benefits are in addition to the \$1200. Retirees can find more information on the program, as well as enroll 24/7/365, online at trdp.org.

TRDP enrollees realize the maximum program savings (an average of 22%) when seeing a network provider. To find a network provider, as well as utilize the Consumer Toolkit to print ID cards, view annual maximum information, see if claims have been paid and sign up for e-mail updates, please visit trdp.org.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please call Doug Schobel at 401-732-0297 or e-mail him at Dschobel@delta.org.



Website: trdp.org toll-free

Telephone: 888-838-8737

Video link:

<http://www.trdp.org/dwnld/420x236.wmv>

Mr. Doug Schobel, regional representative
for the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program
DSchobel@delta.org

Participating TRICARE Retiree Dental Program network dentists provide a trifecta of maximum savings, quality care and added value

Enrollees in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) have both the advantage of broad access to quality dental care and the benefit of having much of the cost of that care offset by Delta Dental—helping them protect their oral health and their wallet at the same time.

Although Delta Dental pays a large part of TRDP enrollees' dental costs, **there is a third way enrollees can save money on their dental care: by seeing a participating TRDP network dentist.** The network offered by Delta Dental is made up of dentists in over 170,000 locations nationwide who have agreed to accept significantly lower fees for treating patients who are enrolled in the TRDP. By seeing a TRDP network dentist, **an enrollee's copayments can decrease by 22 percent.** Lower network dentist fees means TRDP enrollees not only have smaller copayments, but also that less money is deducted from their annual maximum, which translates into more money being left in their pockets—all without having to compromise on the quality of their dental care.

Besides agreeing to accept lower fees for TRDP covered services, network dentists have



agreed to provide these additional value-added services to save enrollees time, paperwork, and even more money:

- **Adhere to Delta Dental's quality-of-care standards**
 - **Submit predeterminations of cost for more extensive treatment, at no charge**
 - **Bill enrollees only for their applicable deductible and copayment at the time of service**
 - **Prepare and submit all TRDP claims paperwork and related documentation**
 - **Accept the lower, agreed-upon network fees as payment in full**
 - **Accept payment directly from Delta Dental**
- Enrollees can find a TRDP network dentist in their area, as well as view more information on the program, by visiting trdp.org. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to call Doug Schobel at 401-732-0297 or e-mail him at dschobel@delta.org.

For Your Information

First Sergeant Positions Available
104th Security Force Squadron
Board date: February UTA

NOTE: Selectees may be moved to any valid First Sergeant Position within the wing at the request of the Wing Command Chief and with the concurrence of the unit Commander.

Position Title/Grade: First Sergeant / E-7

Eligible applicants: Must be an E-7 or an E-6 who is immediately promotable to E-7. Position is a MINIMUM three year tour with a maximum of 6 years. Members must carefully review ANGI 36-2113 to ensure they meet minimum standards and qualifications for position requirements and responsibilities before applying.

Applicants must possess excellent communication and administrative skills, exceed fitness standards and exemplify Air Force Core values.

Applicant selected for this position must agree to serve tenure of no less than three years from date of graduating from First Sergeant Academy (FSA). If the member was a prior First Sergeant, the tenure starts the day of assignment. Applicant must have three years retainability prior to being placed in the UMD 8F000 position. Applicant must agree to complete the SNCO Academy Course in residence or by correspondence within one year from date of assignment. If a First Sergeant does not complete the SNCO Academy within 1 year from date of assignment, he/she must be removed from the position.

Training: Applicants (if selected) should be able to attend the First Sergeant Academy at Gunter Annex, AL at the earliest available school date and must complete the SNCOA in residence or by correspondence within 12 months of selection.

Application package must include:

- *Cover sheet*
- *Letter of application (what you can bring to the position)*
- *Resume*
- *Current passing fitness assessment*
- *RIP (record of individual personnel)*
- *Commander concurrence (email to 104FW/CCC)*
- *Letter of recommendation (optional)*

Any package that is late or incomplete WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Unit: 104th Security Force Squadron
Supervisor: 104th Security Forces Commander

Submit Applications via electronic format (word, pdf, etc) via email to: Maj. Dave Mendoza, david.mendoza@ang.af.mil
104FW/DP, NLT 1200, 20 January 2012

For more information contact: CMSgt Todd Fappiano at todd.fappiano@ang.af.mil or 413-568-9151 x1344

Paralegal Positions Available
104th Fighter Wing

Position/Title/Grade: Paralegal/E-6

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

Unit: 104th FW // Staff Judge Advocate

Supervisor: Lt. Col. Robin Peterson

Application Deadline: Open until filled

POC for more information: Lt. Col. Peterson, cell (479) 430-3223, email: robinpeterson@cox.net

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

Duties and Responsibilities: Prepare documents such as wills, powers of attorney, promissory notes, bills of sale, etc. Process correspondence and maintain suspense files. Performs legal research. Process special and general court-martial proceedings. Process Article 15 and UCMJ actions. Assist with investigations. Examine and process legal actions.

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

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

Application package must include:

- *Cover sheet*
- *Letter of application (what you can bring to the position)*
- *Resume*
- *Current passing fitness assessment*
- *RIP (record of individual personnel)*
- *Commander concurrence (email to 104FW/CCC)*
- *Letter of recommendation (optional)*

Application Procedures: Mail/e-mail to Lt Col Robin Peterson, Staff Judge Advocate, 104th FW/JA, Barnes ANGB, 175 Falcon Drive, Westfield, MA 01085.

You may also email your resume to robinpeterson@cox.net.

For Your Information



2012 MASSACHUSETTS MILITARY ASSET BUILDING & FREE TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DURING THE 2012 TAX SEASON, THE MA JOINT SUPPORT FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL BE OFFERING ALL SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES OF ALL COMPONENTS IN THE MILITARY FREE TAX PREPARATION AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND MASSACHUSETTS. THESE SITES WILL PROVIDE TAX PREPARATION & ASSET BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES.

LOCATIONS:

Wellesley, Cape Cod, Milford, Reading, Westover AFB, Worcester. Sites will be open Mon-Sat and hours will vary by location.

DATES:

The tax sites will open starting the week of January 30th and run until the last day of the tax season, April 16th. Appointments can be made starting January 23rd.

ELIGIBILITY:

Service members and their dependents who served in any component of the Armed Services in 2011, Military Retirees and OEF/OIF Veterans are eligible for this free service.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO USING THIS SERVICE?

SAVING \$\$\$ (The average tax return costs \$200). Don't pay \$ for something that you can get it done for free. Our volunteers are certified and some are tax professionals. You will not get a bigger refund going to a paid preparer.

WHAT ASSET BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES WILL I BE MADE AWARE OF AT THE SITES?

After you determine what your refund will be, you will be given opportunities to put that refund to use by being made aware of information on: paying off debt; contributing to the Thrift Savings Program, 529 Plans, IRAs, 401(k)s and other savings vehicles; using part of the refund to purchase Savings Bonds; joining the Military Saves campaign; and working with a financial counselor in addition to other great asset building opportunities.


WHAT SHOULD I BRING WITH ME TO THE SITE?

Proof of identification. Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents. Completed Intake Sheet. Wage and earnings statements from W-2, W-2G and 1099-Rs. Interest and dividend statements from Form 1099. A copy of last year's federal and state return (if available). Form 1098 from your mortgage. Bank routing #'s and account numbers for Direct Deposit. Total paid for daycare provider and pro-

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, EMAIL: ma-taxes@ng.army.mil

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM CALL 781-431-0197

For Your Information



Date:
February Fourth
Two Thousand Twelve

Place:
Sheraton Springfield
One Monarch Place
Springfield, MA

Time:
1700

Attire:
Suit & Tie
Eveningwear

Event Pricing
E-1 thru E-7, \$35
E-8 and Above, \$50
Respond to E-invitation

**104th Fighter Wing
38th Annual
Awards Banquet**

Please join us for a fun-filled evening as we recognize our peers for their outstanding performance!

****There will be a limited amount of rooms available at the Sheraton if you'd like to stay overnight, offering a special rate of \$92.**

***Cocktail Hour 5-6 O'clock**
***Dinner & Slideshow**
****Awards Presentations**
*****Stephan DJ, Party Zone**



2012 Pioneer Valley Club
CHALLENGE COINS

New coins have been ordered and will be available for the March UTA!

Celebrate 50 years of 131st / 104th deployments



A tribute to the Phalsbourg, France deployment during the Berlin Crisis ~ Coins are priced at \$10

Charity Game for Fisher House Foundation
At the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA
Two games, One ticket


Mercier vs. Gateway @ 4pm & Falcons vs. Syracuse Crunch @ 7

Saturday, March 10, 2012! Tickets \$12.00
<http://www.fisherhouse.org/about/>

For tickets, contact TSgt Nicole Picard at nicolepicard@ymail.com

Blandford Ski Area
Military Appreciation Day
February 18th, 2012
Military members, and guest ski free
Visit <http://skiblandford.org/>
For more information and directions



St Patrick's Day at the Club
Come join your Irish-for-a-Day Friends
at the NC-O'club on Saturday **March 3**

DJ & Karaoke ...
'Darts... & O'Pool,
Shuffle board too.





Welcome to new members

Bennett, Timothy	MXS	15 Dec 2011
Sabourin, Matthew	LRS	23 Dec 2011
Labonte, Christian	AMXS	29 Dec 2011
Barnes, Desiree	LRS	30 Dec 2011
William, Randy	SFS	4 Jan 2012
Edgar, David	CES	4 Jan 2012

Congratulations on your Retirements

Bigos, Thomas	LRS	29 Feb 2012
Puopolo, Stephen	MXS	10 Mar 2012
Lamour, Armand	CES	31 Mar 2012

Religions notes:

Ecumenical time of Prayer & Reflection

Saturday 0650 – 0720 hrs. in Chaplain’s Office

Protestant Services:

Saturday, 1600 in Bldg 001 Conference Room

Catholic Services:

Saturday, 1600 in Bldg Base Chapel (** BLDG 12)



CCTV broadcast line up

Channel 7 - Training videos & Base Info

Channel 9 - Warrior Network

Channel 10 - Pentagon Channel



Ancillary training schedule - channel 7

<u>Morning</u>	<u>Training Video</u>
0900-0940	Forklift Fundamentals and Ops
0940-1013	Confined Space Awareness
1013-1023	Basic Ladder Safety
1023-1053	Lockout/Tagout
1053-1101	FOD Prevention
1101-1108	Copyright Infringement

<u>Afternoon</u>	<u>Training Video</u>
1300-1340	Forklift Fundamentals and Ops
1340-1413	Confined Space Awareness
1413-1423	Basic Ladder Safety
1423-1453	Lockout/Tagout
1453-1501	FOD Prevention
1501-1508	Copyright Infringement

Congratulations on your Promotions

To Staff Sgt. (E-5)

Jesse Edwards, 104FW MXS

John Yates, 104FW AMXS



To Technical Sgt. (E-6)

Sean Morrell, 104FW AMXS

Jennifer Tretheway, 104FW FW



To Master Sgt. (E-7)

Corey Carpenter, 104FW FSS



Operation: “Slip NOT” 2011/2012



The First STEP in SAFETY is the One You Take!
Step SAFELY!

Additional JAG/Paralegal support

In addition to the drill weekends, the Legal office will have a JAG/paralegal team on base 16-17 Feb and 1-2 March to provide Wills and Powers of Attorney/legal advice for deploying troops. If we are needed for any additional days, please coordinate through your UDMs, and we will arrange for our office to be staffed.



This Month in History

February Historical Events

Feb 17, 1913 - The Army tested Lawrence Sperry's Gyrostabilizer, or automatic pilot, for the first time.

Feb 28, 1917 - For the first time in U.S. history, a human voice was transmitted by radiotelephone from an airplane to the ground.

Feb 3, 1943 - The North American P-51A Mustang first flew.

Feb 7, 1944 - The "Luftwaffe Stomp" became a popular combat maneuver for U.S. fighter pilots to evade the enemy. It involved stalling the aircraft and turning it at the same time to come out on the tail of a German fighter, and thus gain an advantage.

Feb 10, 1952 - Maj. George A. Davis Jr, while leading a flight of three F-86 Sabre jets, engaged 12 enemy MiG-15s. After shooting down two enemy fighters and completely disrupting the enemy formation, a MiG-15 shot him down and killed him. For engaging superior forces and shooting down enemy aircraft, he received the Medal of Honor. Major Davis also became the first Air Force ace in two wars, World War II and Korea.

Feb 12, 1965 - U.S. Air Force scientists at Hanscom AFB, Mass., hit Explorer XXII with a ground-based laser, photographed the spot of reflected light and recorded it photo-electrically in relation to the surrounding stars.

Feb 27, 1970 - The Department of Defense selected Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Company in West Palm Beach, Fla. and East Hartford, Conn., to produce the F-100 engine for U.S. Air Force's F-15 and the Navy's F-14B.

Feb 26, 1974 - The A-10A prototype fired its GAU-8/A gun for the first time during an inflight test at Edwards AFB, Calif.

Feb 15, 1975 - The first pre-production A-10 completed its initial flight at Edwards AFB, Calif.

Feb 14, 1991 - An unusual air-to-air incident occurred when Capts. Tim Bennett and Dan Bakke of the Fourth Tactical Fighter Wing from Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C., shot down an Iraqi helicopter with a GBU-10 laser-guided bomb dropped from their F-15E Strike Eagle.

Feb 28, 1991 - During Desert Storm, the Air Force deployed F-15C, D and E aircraft to the Persian Gulf. The F-15s accounted for 36 of 39 air-to-air victories.



Air Scoop

Commander's Hotline: Ext. 525

104th Fighter Group, MA ANG

January 1995

Group receives Outstanding Unit Award

By TSgt. Glenn D. LaChapelle
Air Scoop Editor

For the fourth time in the 47-year history of the 104th Fighter Group, the unit has been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The coveted award was presented to the unit for what the official citation calls, "exceptionally meritorious service," for the period of Jan. 1, 1993 to July 31, 1994.

The presentation follows closely on the heels of the unit's achieving an outstanding rating for the Ninth Air Force Operational Readiness Inspection held at Volk Field, Wis., in July. The rating was the highest ever awarded to a fighter unit in either the Air National Guard or active duty Air Force.

The award is the culmination of an 18-month odyssey that saw the 104th's conversion to the F-16 aircraft canceled after many preparations were in the pipeline to facilitate the change. Following the official cancellation in September 1993, the unit



was scheduled for the ORI just ten months later.

Many aircraft that had foregone scheduled maintenance in anticipation of being retired had to be brought up to standard in order to continue flying.

In addition, major gun inspections had to be conducted, a brutal winter faced, and 24 deployments conducted over that period.

Individual squadrons such as civil engineering, security police, medical, fire, supply, maintenance, weapons,

and communications participated in deployments and/or gained recognition for their achievements.

The unit also continued an extensive community relations program that furthered the 104th's value to the community.

The 104th was previously awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the periods of January 1979 to May 1980, May 1981 to December 1982, and January 1983 to December 1984.



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Trust, Teamwork, Constant Improvement

MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Barnes Air National Guard Base
175 Falcon Drive
Westfield, MA 01805

www.104fw.ang.af.mil

Social Media Sites:

www.facebook.com/barnesang
www.twitter.com/104fighterwing
www.flickr.com/photos/barnesangb



PRIDE,
PROFESSIONALISM,
PATRIOTISM

We're on the Web

WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL

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