

The **JET** GAZETTE



141st Air Refueling Wing

Volume 47 Issue 5 - December 2009

**The Newsletter of the 141st Air Refueling Wing • WA ANG • Fairchild AFB
Serving Air Guard Members and their families in Eastern Washington**





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The *Jet Gazette* welcomes articles and ideas that will enhance the paper. If you have suggestions for features or specific articles, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 247-7041/7042 on UTA weekends.

MISSION

The mission of the *Jet Gazette* is to effectively communicate events and information of the 141st Air Refueling Wing to unit members, their families and retirees and to recognize personal and unit achievements within the wing.

Notes from the Top

I guess I'll call this installment of my notes "A Whole Lotta Movin' Going On"! The BIG move in progress is the Maintenance Group into Hangar 2050. We completed Implementation and Impact bargaining with the Association of Civilian Technicians (the union representing Technicians) and we're moving in at a rapid pace. Vehicle Ops is in their new location and we've prepped the space for Finance to move into the White House when their furniture arrives. Right now CE is remodeling a large portion of the upstairs in the White House to bring even more of a 141st presence into the Joint Headquarters building. To give you an idea what these guys have been up to, take a look at these numbers: 14,120 hours of labor (state and Blue Team), 85,370 square feet of space renovated for new missions, 940 square yards of carpet, 1,365 feet of wood trim, 150 sheets of sheetrock, 180 gallons of paint, and 35 tons of demolition debris! These numbers grow every day! Comm is also extremely busy making sure we have connectivity in all the new spaces. When you see these guys, give them a huge pat on the back and a Thank You. They've accomplished remarkable results in a very short time. If you're by building 447 (the old HQ), stop in and say "Hi" to the folks from the 256th CBCS. Yep, they've come down from the hill and are operating out of Fairchild, another step in satisfying all the requirements of BRAC 2005.

As if that isn't enough, the SFS deployers continue their great work in the AOR and OPS and MX just returned from their AEF rotation. Here are the results of their hard work down range: 211 Sorties—over 1,346 hours flown, 7,735,600 pounds of fuel offloaded to 1,682 receivers, and that doesn't include their deployment in support of SOUTHCOM – remarkable! We also sent senior leaders to the AMC change of command where Gen. Lichte retired and Gen. Johns took over, and hosted a visit by the 18th Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Allardice and his new ANG advisor Brig. Gen. Reed from Wyoming. By all accounts, these visits went extremely well. We were also well represented at the first ever National Guard Joint Senior Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. Speakers at this conference included the SecDef and the CJCS.

With all that in motion or behind us, it's time to focus on our processes in our new facilities. Now is when we really start to make this association come to life and leverage the best of both organizations. In the meantime, however, let's not forget it's the holiday season. Yes, we've been extremely busy, but now is the time to focus on family. Please take some time to decompress, spend time with loved ones and take great pride in all you've accomplished during the year. I'm working hard to tell your story because I truly believe your accomplishments are remarkable. To see what you have delivered to America while creating an entirely new model of integration is absolutely incredible! It is with the utmost pride and sincere thanks that Paula and I wish you and your families Happy Holidays. We'll see you in 2010!

Thanks for coming out,

Col. B



McKinley opens first joint leadership conference

by Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau

“Adding Value to America” was the theme for more than 2,000 of the National Guard’s senior Army and Air Force leaders from across the nation, who gathered here at the National Harbor outside the nation’s capital this morning to kick off their first Joint Senior Leadership Conference.

“We are here to celebrate a year’s worth of activity that your Army and Air National Guard have accomplished,” said Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, in his opening remarks. “I could not be more proud than to be here today and say ‘thanks’ ... not only to you, but to your families for sacrificing so much and for your employers, who make all of this happen.”

McKinley commented on the conference’s theme, and he said that “there has never been a more appropriate time in the Guard’s history in looking at its relevance, effectiveness and efficiencies.”

He told the joint group of conferees they would discuss issues collectively that they may have never before addressed.

McKinley told the group that the strong relationships formed here are necessary to carry the Guard through its future challenges in the war fight and in current fiscal constraints for the nation.

“I am convinced that we have the right leadership in this room for this time [and] for this nation,” he said.

McKinley noted the mix of unit, command and states represented in the audience, and he described their gathering and networking



(Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith, National Guard Bureau)

throughout the week as “one of the primary reasons for the conference.”

“As I visit the states ... I see in every state command meeting an integrated group of Soldiers and Airmen,” said McKinley. “I see the adjutants general developing joint force

headquarters that are capable, that are strong, [and] that will meet the needs of the 21st century in both our domestic operations and operations overseas.”

The 141st Medical Group receives Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

[Click to Play Video](#)

The 141st Medical Group, Washington Air National Guard, was recognized on Nov. 7, 2009, for exceptionally meritorious service from Nov. 1, 2006 to Oct. 1, 2008. During this period, the outstanding professional skills, exemplary ability, and devotion to duty of the members of the unit were crucial to the success of the United States Air Force and the Washington Air National Guard. Medical Group patriot volunteers dedicated extraordinary efforts to meeting the demands

of the Global War on Terror through ongoing deployments in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM. Unit personnel deployed and served a total of 2,495 days in support of the War on Terror, while at the same time medically prepared over 650 wing members for wartime deployments. Unit members also played a critical role in providing humanitarian support, deploying in conjunction with Navy personnel aboard the USS Comfort to provide vital training and

medical care in 14 countries. The group also assisted the Army’s 81st Brigade Combat team by swiftly processing 410 soldiers in preparation for duty in Iraq. The unit was handpicked by United States Northern Command to provide Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Explosive Response Force Medical Support for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia.

256 CBCS moves to Fairchild

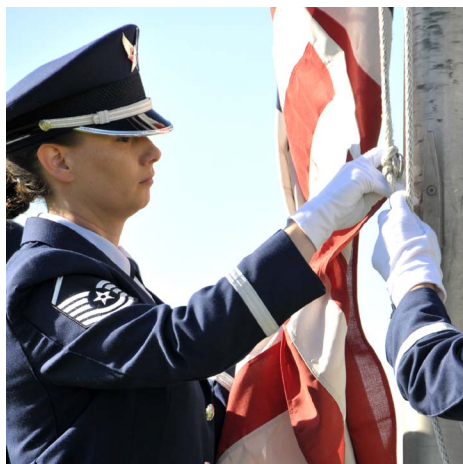
by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Fairchild has experienced the results of the 2005 Department of Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission directives requiring the consolidation of select National Guard and other Reserve Component units into multifunctional training and readiness centers and strategically located bases across the state.

BRAC identified the 242nd Combat Communications Squadron, located at Geiger Field, and the 256th Combat Communications Squadron, located at Four Lakes near Cheney, for relocation onto Fairchild.

The 242nd CBCS will complete their moves later in 2010. However, for cost savings, the relocation of the 256th CBCS was pushed up from 2011 to 2009. After further cost analysis and factors of the Total Force Integration with the association between the 141st Air Refueling Wing and the 92nd Air Refueling Wing, building 447 former 141st Headquarters, is the final destination for the majority of 256th CBCS members. A limited amount of personnel will be located with 92nd ARW and 141st ARW buildings. Total full-time 256th CBCS manning consist of 19 and the traditional force is 108 strong.

With challenges of reduction of manning,



Master Sgt. Christine Coulston, 141st Honor Guard, participates in closing ceremony. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato, 141st ARW Public Affairs)

change of command, career field changes and pushed up deadlines for a major move, 256th CBCS personnel have made each day count



256th CBCS members stand in front of a satellite communications dish at former location near Four Lakes Cheney. (Courtesy photo)

by staying focused on requirements and using every available resource to ensure a successful move.

"We are adaptive and everybody has a great attitude. It has been a seamless move and both the 92nd and 141st have been so supportive," said Lt. Col. Candace Smallfoot, 256th CBCS Detachment commander.

The unit is 95 percent moved from their prior location with only a few pieces of equipment left in storage. Two key players in making the move successful were Senior Master Sgt. Rob Croyle, Information Flight superintendent, and Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Anderson, Squadron superintendent.

"The key has been to maximize utilization of space. We have moved to a smaller area so we are trying to put like functions together," said Anderson.

The 256th CBCS provides communications and maintains combat readiness for the mobilization, deployment, and employment of theater communications in support of national security objectives. They also provide personnel and equipment to support state mobilizations for fires, floods, civil emergencies, and emergency communications.

Senior Master Sgt. Croyle has spent 19 years of his career with the 256th CBCS in the same building. A benefit of co-location

at Fairchild will be no more long trips to get required business accomplished. However, with a move from such a remote area many changes are inevitable.

"We will miss our autonomy. We have been doing business our way for so long. It is so important for us to keep our Guard identity while joining other teams," said Croyle.

As change becomes the norm and the 256th CBCS members make Fairchild their new home new relationships will form and old relationships will remain vital. Missions will continue to be successfully executed while Guard members continue to embrace the diverse culture of total integration and their new location.



Lt. Col. Candace Smallfoot, 256th CBCS Detachment commander, participates in closing ceremony. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato, 141st ARW Public Affairs)

Military Spouse of the Year

by Tech. Sgt. Michael Stewart
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers presented Lt. Col. (ret) Ken Isaak with a “Military Spouse of the Year” award for 2009.

Ken is a veteran of the Vietnam and Desert Storm Wars; his honorable service in the United States Air Force and Washington Air National Guard have made a positive impact, preserving freedom, and standing the nation’s defense. Ken continues to serve after his military retirement. He currently works in a volunteer position as Eastern Washington Area Chairman of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). Ken’s wife, Lt. Col. Nancy Reid Isaak, 141st ARW Wing Executive Staff Officer, stated in the nomination letter, “Ken stands above because he is willing to go to any length to help military members.



Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers presents Lt. Col. (ret) Ken Isaak with a “Military Spouse of the Year” award for 2009, husband of Lt. Col. Reid-Isaak. (photo by Lt Col (ret) Wilma Engstrom)

He supports me in my duties and he enjoys attending events and activities that help to make the military better. I am very blessed

to have him as my husband and the nation is lucky that he continues to serve.”

Diversity Council holds luncheon

by Capt. Larry Kohlman
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

In July 2009 a new council was established by the request of the 141st Air Refueling Wing Commander, Col. Greg Bulkley, to embrace the talents and abilities of the diverse population of the 141st ARW.

The council consists of both civilian and Guard members from the 141st ARW who participate for an hour meeting during the drill weekend. Tech. Sgt. Joe Vela, 141st ARW personnel specialist, has been selected as the President of the organization and starting in January, Staff Sgt. Brain Leyh, Force Support Squadron, will become the new vice-president.



Additional participation is encouraged to help fulfill the commander’s charge to increase and enhance awareness of diversity throughout the 141st ARW. The Diversity Champions Team is an advisory board to the commander that intends to help analyze policies, plans, programs, and practices; to recommend chang-

es to increase mission readiness by focusing on workforce diversity and assuring fair and equitable participation of all.

The final draft of the Diversity Champions Team’s charter was approved and accepted Nov. 8, 2009. The vision of the charter is to foster an environment that values the contribution of every Airman and create a workplace in which individuals are unencumbered by traditional barriers, stereotypes, expectations and restrictions allowing all Airmen the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

The January meeting is scheduled for Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Honor Guard training room building 399.

More information can be found on the 141st ARW Sharepoint. You may also contact Tech. Sgt. Joe Vela at 370-7700, or Senior Master Sgt. Dave Thornburg at 370-7075.



Airman 1st Class Jhangmi Mitschke, 141st Medical Group, partakes in the Diversity Council’s ethnic luncheon. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato)

How associated are you with the WANG?

by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

It is that time of year again for renewals and even initial commitments to the National Guard Association of Washington. If you are a member of the Washington Guard this is an opportunity to be a part of an organization which works hard to promote and protect the interest of the National Guard of Washington State.

Washington National Guard (WANG) members are professionals serving their communities, state, and nation. In our profession of citizen-soldiery it is essential all members stay informed of changes affecting the military and the ongoing transformation of mission, equipment, and personnel. Membership in professional organizations that have the information needed to keep us informed and abreast of current initiatives as well as the many political, social, and economic interfaces and environments are key to our success.

These organizations also help the Guard/Military educate and inform Congress about funding, staffing, equipping benefits and other needs to sustain and improve the Guard as an operational reserve of the Army and Air Force and as community emergency responders.

The National Guard Association of Washington (NGAW) is your local professional organization working directly with both NGAUS and EANGUS. The power of each professional organization is measured by its membership!

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) is a nonpartisan organization representing nearly 45,000 current



and former Army and Air National Guard officers. Formed in 1878, NGAUS is focused on procuring better equipment, standardized training and a more combat-ready force by petitioning Congress for resources.

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is dedicated to promoting the status, welfare and professionalism of the Enlisted members of

the National Guard by supporting legislation that provides adequate staffing, pay, benefits, entitlements, equipment, and installations for the National Guard.

Benefits, equipment, and units have changed dramatically over the past 30 years! It took the influence and power of professional organizations to form and gain advocacy for enabling legislation. For example, organizations like NGAUS have been instrumental in getting better equipment and EANGUS has been instrumental in getting money & better benefits. NGAUS & EANGUS worked methodically for the past eight years to gain passage of new Tri-Care benefits that will make medical insurance available to all Guard members.

Membership and participation in a professional organization is important. Consider joining and becoming involved to help shape our future.

For more information on how to join check out the following websites www.ngaus and www.ngaw.org

Citizen Airman recognized for heroism

by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Robert Jones, 141st ARW member, was named a Red Cross Hometown Hero for Fairchild and was recognized in a local ceremony on Nov. 12.

During what started out as a normal day on gate-guard duty, a retiree pulled into Sergeant Jones' lane and informed him he had just been stung by a bee and was very allergic.

The man's epi pen had expired and he yelled for help. Sergeant Jones rushed over to him as the man started going into shock and lost consciousness. Jones radioed the desk and they called for the emergency responders. After about two minutes, he stopped breathing. Jones started CPR until the rescue vehicles arrived. They took over from there.

Sergeant Jones' quick thinking and response resulted in probably saving the man's life.



Staff Sgt. Robert Jones, 141st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, accepts words of praise from Col. Mark Bahosh, 141st Operations Group commander, and Maj. Curt Puckett, 141st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, after the American Red Cross Hometown Heroes Luncheon. (Photo by Senior Airman Jocelyn A. Guthrie, 92d ARW Public Affairs)

...a Commitment to Excellence in 2009



Wing volunteers played a key role during the 29th National Veterans Wheelchair Games held in Spokane in July ensuring the safety of over 500 athletes.



Spokane County Commissioners proclaim the month of August as Air National Guard month.



Volunteer CERF members participated in exercises while preparing for support of the 2010 Winter Olympics.



During a Washington State emergency, Air National Guard members cleared more than 80 miles of roadways in less than two weeks.



Over 1,500 pounds of clothing was collected and delivered to wounded soldiers and airmen at Landstuhl Air Base in Germany over the summer. 141st volunteers were able to visit military members from Washington State.



More than 70 volunteers worked with 111 military children during a five day/four night camp to help children cope with the challenges of parent deployment.

...a Commitment to Excellence in 2009



The Band of the Northwest performed 21 concerts in Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Afghanistan. Audiences consisted from 50-350 military members. Over 6,000 troops were entertained.



Two RC-26 pilots flew more than 100 combat sorties providing critical reconnaissance for OIF warfighters.



Security Forces spent the holidays in Iraq while deployed for six months.



141st members took the lead for the client management process across Fairchild Air Force Base during Total Force Integration moves.



The 141st Honor Guard represented the Wing and National Guard at 59 ceremonies.



Performed Control Column Actuated Brake modifications on 49 aircraft with 87 percent finishing on time or ahead of schedule.

The 141st ARW welcomes it's new Inspector General

by Staff Sgt. Travis Metheny
141st ARW Public Affairs

A new 141st Air Refueling Wing Inspector General, Lt. Col. Jason Durfee, has been selected. IGs are the “eyes and ears” of the commander. They keep the commander informed of potential areas of concern as reflected by trends; they function as the factfinder and honest broker in the resolution of complaints; they educate and train commanders and members of the base population on their rights and responsibilities in regard to the Air Force IG system; and they help commanders prevent, detect, and correct FWA and mismanagement. Lt. Col. Durfee comes from the 116th Air Refueling Squadron where he served as an flight instructor and assistant flight commander. He started his military career as an active duty Air Force copilot on the KC-135 under the Strategic Air Command. He is also a veteran of Operation Desert Storm. He joined the Washington Air National Guard as

a traditional Guardsman in 2000. When not in uniform, Lt. Col. Durfee is a professor of Engineering at Eastern Washington University where he has taught for the past five years.

Lt. Col. Durfee is responsible for the Complaint Resolution Program and the Fraud, Waste, and Abuse program. The Complaint Resolution Program allows any member of the unit to file complaints or grievances without fear of reprisal. It is important for Guard members to understand that their right to communicate with the Inspector General is protected by federal law. The IG ensures the concerns of Air Force active-duty, Reserve, and Guard members, civilian employees, family members, retirees, and the best interests of the Air Force are addressed through objective factfinding. Lt. Col. Durfee can be reached at 247-7064 on drill weekends or anytime through the wing command post.



Lt. Col. Jason Durfee

Employer Support Freedom Award

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, today announced the opening of the nomination season for the 2010 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. National Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have provided exceptional support of military employees above the federal law requirements. Nominations will be accepted at www.FreedomAward.mil from November 2, 2009 to January 18, 2010. The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

The 2010 recipients will be announced in the spring and honored in Washington, D.C. at the 15th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony on September 23, 2010. Recipients of the 2009 Freedom Award met privately with President Barack Obama and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. Dr. Jill Biden, Deputy

Secretary of Defense William Lynn and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Dennis McCarthy presented the awards at a ceremony attended by members of Congress and senior government and military officials.

Almost one-half of the U.S. military is comprised of the National Guard and Reserve. The Department of Defense shares these citizen warriors with their civilian employers, many of whom provide significant support to their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. 2009 honorees ranged from AeroDyn Wind Tunnel, LLC, a small automotive racing wind tunnel testing company in North Carolina to large businesses including Microsoft and AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals to Santa Ana, California Police Department, a public sector employer. Past recipients of the Freedom Award have provided significant support including full salary, continuation of benefits, care packages and family assistance to employees fulfilling their military obligation.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer

community. “There is much excitement surrounding the 15th anniversary of the Freedom Award,” noted acting ESGR Executive Director Ms. Polli Brunelli, “and we’re enthusiastic to begin selection of the 2010 recipients from amongst all of the heartfelt nominations that will be submitted by thousands of proud Citizen Warriors.”

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation.

For questions regarding the Freedom Award nomination process, please visit www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Maj. Melissa Phillips, ESGR Public Affairs, at 703-380-9262.





THINKING OF YOU

Across the Miles



141ST SECURITY FORCES

UPAR

Yellow Ribbon supports families

by Mary Thomas
141st ARW Family Programs Manager

Families of the 141st ARW Security Forces met on Thursday, Nov. 19 at the Deel Community Center for an evening of networking, learning about resources, and putting together care packages for their deployed loved ones.

This event was part of the Department of Defense's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP). The YRRP is a program that provides information and support before, during and after deployment for Guard and Reserve members and their families.

The event began with an introduction of representatives from local agencies, and a brief overview of the services they offered. They learned that Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs (SNAP) can offer assistance in many areas from financial wellness, business development to energy assistance and weatherization. The American Legion Auxiliary representative discussed programs available and an invitation to join. The Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC) explained how the program can be used by service members and their families at no cost.

The highlight of the evening was provided



Family members of deployed security forces meet together to receive helpful information from local community organizers. (photo by Maj. Sandy Smock 141st ARW public Affairs)

by the Red Cross. Families had the opportunity to put together care packages with donated cookies, lotions, and much more. These packages will be mailed to the 141 Security Forces by the Red Cross. Included in the package is a CD of the evening videotaped by a Red

Cross volunteer and each family was given the opportunity to tape a Christmas message.

The families are looking forward to the next YRRP event, scheduled to take place in January.



Col. and Mrs. Bulkley and Santa and Mrs. Claus

[Click to Play Video](#)

**FREE
Red
Cross
Classes!**

**Babysitter's Training!
Jan 9th or March 6th**



**8am - 3pm
Ages 11-15**

**Adult/Child/Infant
CPR/AED/1stAid**



**February 6th
8am - 5pm**

**Courtesy of the
American Red Cross
Service to Armed
Forces Program**

All classes will be held at the Deel Community Center on Fairchild and are free of charge to Active Duty, Dependents, and Veterans!

Pre-registration is required. Please call (509) 326-3330 x221 or email hessk@spokaneredcross.org



**American
Red Cross**
Inland Northwest Chapter