

The **JET** GAZETTE

141st Air Refueling Wing

Volume 49 Issue 2 • Summer 2011

CERTIFIED!

Homeland Response Force Shines



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FINAL FLIGHT

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RETURNS HOME



Notes from the Top



The Choices We Make...

I grew up as a big fan of John Wayne. I dreamed of one day being a real hero and tough guy like the characters he played in so many classic films. I especially admired him in the film “The Sands of Iwo Jima,” where he played the role of Marine Sergeant John Stryker. In that movie, he had one of my all-time favorite quotes: “Life is tough, but it’s tougher when you’re stupid.”

Surviving from birth through the college years, and then raising my own two sons, I can testify to the validity of that quote.

Another man I admired and still speak of today is retired Lieutenant General Dan “Fig” Leaf. He was the Operations Officer of the 426th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron at Luke AFB when I attended the F-15 Initial Qualification Course. Much like Sergeant Stryker, then Lieutenant Colonel Leaf could be a very scary man to the young officers training to become combat mission ready pilots. His famous quote was: “Hope is not a plan.”

Throughout my life I have occasionally made a decision that was less than brilliant, generally relying on the “hope” things would turn out just fine. Jumping large obstacles on bicycles in the pre-helmet wearing days, jumping with snowmobiles and dirt bikes, climbing trees and cliffs, and driving too fast for the trail or road conditions are just a few of the events that required but yet consumed very little of my thought and began with no plan other than “we will see what happens.” Like most parents, the knowledge of what harm I frequently and narrowly escaped served as the basis of my fears raising my own two boys.

At work, we have training, technical orders, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep us safe. We are supervised, watched by our coworkers and wingmen, and may have Quality Assurance, Safety, or Stan Eval personnel closely scrutinizing our actions.

At home, we do not always have someone watching. PPE can be expensive. We have limited time to meet our domestic responsibilities and still squeeze in some recreation. If we are not careful, we can easily set ourselves up for failure by trying to do too much and cutting corners. When in doubt, slow down and take a look in the mirror. The man or woman in the mirror knows what is right.

PPE is expensive. Every time I turned around, I was buying helmets. Four helmets for snowmobiling, four for skiing, four for biking, four more for dirt bikes and ATVs. It was costly and I caught myself occasionally wondering if I could afford the expensive. I decided I would never forgive myself if one of my kids received an injury that was preventable by helmet wear. My decision was confirmed when my youngest son swerved to miss a skier who fell in front of him. He was caught by a tree branch, knocked down, and needed to be tobogganed off the mountain by the ski patrol. Although the day of skiing was prematurely ended, he walked away unharmed, wiser, and with a dinged helmet. I am sure glad I spent that \$100.

Before you get in a car and drive to a bar or a party, have a plan that results in you getting home safely and legally. Before you partake in an adventure or recreational activity, acquire and don the appropriate PPE. If your activity should have a safety observer, take the time to find one. Know and follow the rules. Have a well thought out plan. Have a contingency plan in the event all does not go as you intended. Always have a way out.

With the 101 critical days of summer behind us the finish line for safety is nowhere in sight. Dangers and tragedies do not take a vacation. They are awaiting us 365 days of the year. So please stay vigilant for yourself, your friends and family, and anyone in need.

People are the number one asset of the Air Force and Air National Guard. Your years of training, experience, and professionalism cannot be replaced easily in the unfortunate event of an injury. So remember the quotes from Sergeant Stryker and Lieutenant General Leaf. Don’t be stupid, have a plan, and use your PPE. Your nation needs you! Be safe.



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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 247-7345/7003 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.

The latest issue of the Jet Gazette can be found at: <http://www.141arw.ang.af.mil>



*by Tech. Sgt. Wes Walton
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs*

Making a visit to Felts Field, Spokane in October of 1932 is Wiley Post and his airplane a specially modified Lockheed 5C Vega, nicknamed “Minnie Wae”.

Mr. Post and his navigator Harold Gatty, flew the Winnie Mae around the world and entered the record books as the first plane to do so on 1 July 1931, an 8-day 15-hour and 51-minute trip. The two men were rewarded with a lunch with President Herbert Hoover at the White House and a hero's ticker-tape parade in New York City the next day.

Nine months after this photograph was taken, Wiley Post again entered the record books as the first pilot to solo around the world

1932

on 22 July 1933, beating his original time by 21 hours, again in his trusty Winnie Mae.

Sadly, Mr. Post and the famed American humorist, Will Rogers, Oklahoma's favorite son, both passed away on 15 August 1935, when the float plane Post was piloting lost power and crashed soon after take-off from a lagoon near Point Barrow, Alaska.

The Winnie Mae is currently on display with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum at the Boeing Aviation Hangar in the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center.

New Beginning

by Senior Airman Johanna Brooks
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

July ushered in a new era for the 242 Combat Communications Squadron. The unit closed their facility at Geiger Field during a ceremony held there July 9. The closing was precipitated by their move onto Fairchild AFB to comply with the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendation. The move marks a new future for the 242.

Originally called the 242nd Airways and Air Communications Service Operations Flight, the 242 Combat Comm activated in 1952 at Geiger Field on land purchased for a WWII B-17 and C-47 training facility.

The 106 member unit is comprised of 20 full-time technicians and 86 traditional Guardsmen, many of whom have been with the unit for more than twenty years. The geographically separated unit operated largely independent from the other Air Guard units.

The recent changes will facilitate increased communication and coordination between the 242 and other Air Guard units as well as the 92 ARW.

"This is a very positive move for the 242. We look forward to the advantages of being

(continued on next page)



(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato)

closer to the 141st as our Host Wing, as they support us in a number of areas,” said Capt. Christine Wright. One chapter has ended and a new one is beginning for the 242 here at Fairchild. As Lt. Col. Casey McGinn, commander of the 242 Combat Communications Squadron, has said, “It’s not where you plant your flag, but the people you have supporting it.”

The adaptive nature of the world of Combat Comm contributed to a positive attitude regarding the relocation. Senior Master Sgt. Stanley McLean has been with the 242 since 1984 and said they are used to taking change in stride.

“We build from the ground up, literally getting down in the dirt at an austere location, and build a base up from nothing.” Said McLean. “We aren’t afraid to dig in the dirt. We know how to adapt to changes because that is the very nature of our work.”

Many 242 members will now be physically moved from the 242, working alongside other units while still maintaining their position with the 242.

“Some of our members joined the total force integration with the 141 and 92 moving into joint facilities, such as vehicle maintenance and supply,” said Captain Wright.

Master Sgt. Renee Teston began her Guard career with the 242 in the mid-80s and reminisced of the “home-town feeling” at Geiger but remains optimistic.

“Relocating to Fairchild is kind of like moving from a small town to the big city,” said Teston, also First Sergeant of the 242. “Both have advantages and disadvantages, but overall, I’m sure the move will be a positive one and full of opportunities.”

The 242 Combat Comm’s mission is to provide base information infrastructure and connectivity in a deployed environment. Its members develop communications so that their successors can seamlessly transition to their new positions downrange. They must be adaptable, completely self-sustainable and ready to establish a base of operations.

“We are the last remaining ANG deployable communications squadron in the state,” said Wright. “Due to our dual status, we support both a Homeland Defense mission with our Joint Incident Site Communications Capability equipment and the federal mission when called upon.”

Currently, five 242 Combat Comm members-Tech. Sgt. Joshua Oliver, Tech. Sgt. Rachel Golden, Senior Airman Caleb Johnson, Senior Airman Marcus Kimm,



Lt. Col. Casey McGinn, commander of the 242 Combat Communications Squadron, receives the lowered flag from Staff Sgt. Johnny Enis of the 141st Air refueling Wing Honor Guard.



Members of the 242 Combat Communications Squadron write their names on the squadron sign at the conclusion of the ceremony.



Capt. James Barnet, Cyber Operations Commander, stands tall during the lowering of the American flag.

(U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato)

and Airman First Class Robert Schoeff- are deployed to the AOR and two members- Staff Sgt. Eric Marrazzo and Senior Airman John Omodt have just recently returned.

The 242 is located in temporary facilities on Fairchild AFB while they await the completion of their new facilities, previously the home of the 141st ARW Headquarters.

The Army National Guard will fill the vacancies at Geiger.



Lt. Col. Dale Storr (left) and Lt. Col. Michael Spencer prepare to take off in a KC-135 Stratotanker at the Spokane International Airport. This was Lt. Col. Storr's final military flight before retiring from the 141st Air Refueling Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato)

33 Days

by Master Sgt. Mindy Gagne
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Richard “Dale” Storr, the Director of Operations for the 116th Air Refueling Squadron and a former prisoner of war, retired June 2011, after 28 years of military service.

During a recent commander’s call, Storr recalled the ejection from his A-10 Thunderbolt that led up to his 33-day ordeal during the Gulf War.

On Feb. 2, 1991, during his 17th SORTIE of the air campaign, Storr’s aircraft was struck below the cockpit, while targeting a truck park over Kuwait. The blow damaged the control cables of the jet and disabled all outgoing radio transmissions. “Something hit the airplane. I don’t know what it was. My wingman never saw it. I never saw it, but it felt like a 50,000 lb sledgehammer had just come up and hit the bottom of the jet.” Storr described. “I made a radio call to my wingman Bolt, and I said ‘hey Bolt I’m hit and I’m hit bad!’”

Storr ejected three miles from the Saudi Arabia border.

“As I was coming down the chute before I hit the ground, after I realized I made it through the fireball, I remember seeing a truck coming from the truck park

that I had just shot and was still burning,” Storr said.

He was quickly captured by the Iraqi soldiers.

Storr was beaten and taken on a rough and harrowing ride in the back of the truck to a Quonset hut in the middle of nowhere. There Storr describes his first interrogation.

“The guy behind the desk, who hasn’t said a word the whole time we were there, grabs the Colt (.45) walks over to me, cocks it, hits me over the side of the head, jams it up against my temple and starts screaming and yelling at me. The interrogator just looks me square in the eye and says tell me your home address before he kills you,” Storr said.

Storr was moved to Baghdad where he was repeatedly beaten, interrogated and held prisoner.

“It was the Regional Intelligence Headquarters for the Ba’ath Party. That’s why Qusay (Hussein) had moved us there because he knew we (the allied forces) were going to bomb it,” Storr said.

Four allied bombs struck the building on Feb. 23. Amazingly the wing that housed the American and British

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POWs did not collapse and all survived.

The damage to the building allowed the POWs to communicate with each other. During these hurried conversations, Storr learned that the Air Force reported him KIA and that a fellow prisoner was Bob Simon from CBS news.

After being held for 33 days, the Iraqis released Storr and his fellow POWs to the Red Cross.

"I was shot down weighing 225 and I got back out weighing about 178. First stop was Taco Time. I had to have Mexi-fries," Storr said.

"Twenty-eight years," Storr said! "I can't believe how fast it's gone but it's really been something. It's been an honor to serve my country and my country has served me so well getting me home.

"We are very, very fortunate to have within our unit a fantastic American, a true hero in my mind," said Col. Richard W. Kelly, commander of the 141st Air Refueling Wing.

"Dale's story will hopefully help you define why you come to work and why you should be proud of being part of this organization and being in the military," Kelly said.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Travis Metheny)

National Guard Security member calls in a perimeter status check with Command and Control during the Homeland Response Force (HRF) evaluation from 8–12 August, 2011 in Spokane, Wash.



Getting It Done

Story by Master Sgt. Mindy Gagne and Tech. Sgt. Travis Metheny
Photos by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The week of Aug. 8 to 12, members from 141st Air Refueling Wing and 194th Regional Support Wing teamed up with Army Guard units of the 96th Troop Command from across Washington state.

They converged on the Spokane Fairgrounds and the Spokane Fire Training Center, to be the second Homeland Response Force (HRF) in the nation to be evaluated.

Washington State provides the HRF for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 10, consisting of Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

The HRF provides command and control for Washington's CBRNE (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear or High-Yield Explosive) Enhanced Response


Force Package (CERFP).

Oregon's CERFP, which will validate next spring, could join Washington's or other states' CERFPs, which would respond within 6 to 12 hours to a CBRNE event, said Chief Master Sgt. Wendi Mclean, 141st Medical Group.

The HRF consists of approximately 566 citizen-soldiers and airmen from across the state that make up the command and control, search and rescue, decontamination, medical triage and security elements.

The HRF responds to the call from the governor, president or other state and national command authorities to augment local jurisdictions and other emergency responders during state, regional and

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A group of soldiers in camouflage uniforms are working together to set up a large white tent. One soldier in the foreground is kneeling, while others are standing and adjusting the tent's structure. The scene is outdoors under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The tent's interior is visible, showing blue support poles and a white fabric wall. The soldiers are wearing various pieces of equipment, including helmets, sunglasses, and gloves.

Washington National Guard members set up a tent during the Homeland Response Force (HRF) evaluation from 8–12 August, 2011 in Spokane, Wash.

national emergencies.

The certification required Guard members to respond to a simulated CBRNE event and deploy the decontamination and medical tents, begin processing the injured and ready the search and extraction teams for entry into the contaminated area, within 90 minutes.

The 141 MDG provided the majority of the medical team, the 141st Civil Engineering Squadron conducted search and extraction while members from the 141st Security Forces Squadron provided security at the HRF command and control location.

The first day, Monday, of the external evaluation was spent conducting training and practice drills and the tempo increased throughout the week, culminating in the graded evaluation that started for the HRF command and control element on Thursday around 3 p.m. and continued with 24-hour

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operations, bringing in the CERFP element early Friday morning.

In this scenario three events occurred: The first at 8 a.m. at the Memorial Arena, the second at 8:15 a.m. at the Convention Center in Spokane and the third at 8:20 a.m. in a clandestine laboratory near Gonzaga University. The first two were mass casualty events simulating about 50,000 people that were killed, wounded or contaminated.

"The HRF also brings with it a security element in case there's need for additional people to do search and extraction or if there're unruly citizens that we need to guide to the decontamination lines," said Army Lt. Col. Dave Patsiga, J3 Operations Officer for the Washington HRF.

"If there is an area in a collapsed structure that needs to be removed so we can find victims we'll go in and use cutting torches, saws, jackhammers and other tools to remove the obstacle," said Staff Sgt. Craig

Minnihan, a breaching and breaking team leader with the 141st CES. "We're evaluated on safety with the chemical contamination and the way we perform our breach operation."

The HRF is another example of the reputation the 141st has for getting things done, according to McLean. The 141st and 194th have provided a substantial portion of the CERFP for many years. The future goal is to have 27 CERFPs, ten of which will be attached to the HRF in each FEMA region.

"The American public needs to know that if there is a terrorist or nuclear event the National Guard has the ability to respond, save lives and mitigate property loss," said Col. Michael C. Hirst, vice commander of the 141st ARW and HRF Deputy Commander. "The significance of the August EXEVAL can't be overstated. It validates our ability to conduct that mission and demonstrates (that ability) to the nation."

1 Lt. William Crandell (left) and Senior Airman Anthony Ahn from the 141st Medical Squadron prepare stretchers for patient transport during the HRF evaluation.

Major Jim Phillips, Air National Guard Band of the Northwest Commander, and the combined bands of the ANG Band of the Central States and the Band of the Northwest stand with the audience and perform John Phillip Sousa's, "The Stars and Stripes Forever."



That's a Wrap!

*photos and story by Tech. Sgt. Wes Walton
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs*

The Air National Guard Band of the Northwest concluded their summer tour on 28 July. Twenty-eight Airmen from the 560th band joined 20 others from the Air National Guard Band of the Central States and performed eight concerts throughout Montana.

The band left Fairchild Air Force Base on 19 July following a performance at the base chapel. The tour took the ensemble to Missoula, Virginia City, West Yellowstone, Helena, Great Falls and Kalispell.

"The band was spectacular," said Jennifer Young, the Recreation Superintendent for the city of Kalispell. In 20 years of concert coordinating, it was the best I've seen, she said.

The musicians performed to hundreds of spectators such as songs as Casey at the Bat and The Armed Forces Medley.

The Band of the Northwest's 2012 summer tour will be at locations throughout Eastern Washington.



Skillful trumpeter Senior Master Sgt. Mike Baker plays for a forward seated youngster on the wooden boardwalks of the historic old west town of Virginia City, Montana.

OPERATION **Boss Lift**

by Tech. Sgt. Travis Metheny
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The 141st Air Refueling Wing performed a Boss Lift on June 4 at the Spokane International Airport. Dozens of employers joined pilot Lt. Col (retired) Richard “Dale” Storr on his KC-135 Stratotanker for a 3-hour refueling mission. The ESGR program was established in 1972 by the Department of Defense to promote both public and private understanding of the National Guard and Reserve missions and to help gain their support.



(U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato)



EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

[top] Participants in the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve “Boss Lift” observe Tech. Sgt. Marty Martin, boom operator from the 116th Air Refueling Squadron, as he refuels an F-15 Strike Eagle.

[bottom] Spokane Police Chief Anne Kirkpatrick photographs an F-15 Strike Eagle through the window of a KC-135 Stratotanker.



(U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato)





To Stay In or To Separate

For some, whether to continue military service or separate is a tough decision. The challenge of juggling a military and civilian career at the same time can be difficult, but with the sacrifice comes many benefits.

One great resource that covers many of the benefits is www.militaryonesource.com. Here is some information and resources to help inform Air Guard members of some of the benefits available.

Low-cost Medical and Dental

While deployed, Tricare Prime health insurance is covered, with a very small

by Senior Airman Johanna Brooks
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

monthly co-pay, but traditional guardsmen are eligible for Tricare Reserve Select and United Concordia Dental plans that are comparatively inexpensive health insurance options. The cost is unmatched in the civilian world.

There are also VA medical benefits available to members who have deployed. Contact the VA for more information at 509-462-2500.

Medical

An individual can be covered for \$54 a month and an entire family can be covered for approximately \$200. More

information can be found at <http://www.tricare supplement.us/reserve-rates.php>.

Dental

Dental is an additional benefit costing under \$13 for an individual and under \$92 for an entire family. More information can be found at:

<http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Dental/DentalProgram/CoverageAndCosts?>



Educational Benefits

Not only do airmen receive training at various technical schools, but Airmen also have access to many programs, including the GI bill and Washington Guard scholarships to help fund education.

The educational benefits depend on when a Guard member enters service and what their contract entails. Most members can take advantage of tuition assistance in some form, and if they will not be using it, in some cases can transfer their benefit to family members. Call Senior Master Sgt. Stacy Rude at the education office, 247-7072 or Master Sgt. Mike Wirth at 247-7073 with questions.



Free Childcare on UTA's

Free childcare is available on UTAs through the Extended Duty Child Care program. Paperwork and reservations are required, and the point of contact for Fairchild is Daisy Sanders who can be reached at 474-0501.



Personal Enrichment

Besides career enhancement, there are also a variety of other personal growth and enrichment opportunities, for members and their families. From marriage seminars to children's summer camps, the Air National Guard offers tools to help its members achieve both personal and professional goals. For more information or to register for a seminar contact SPC Martin (253) 512-7755 or SPC Toney (253) 512-1357 Fax 253.512.7623 Camp Murray Building 3 Tacoma, WA 98430.



Camp WANGY

Camp WANGY (Washington Army/Air National Guard Youth) is a yearly, week-long summer camp for Air and Army Guard children. It is a great time and run by Air Guard volunteers. Contact Mary Thomas at 247-7009 or visit www.wangy.net.

Free Lessons for Deployed Members' Children

Our Military Kids is a program that provides up to six months of future instruction, lessons or tutoring for one activity/program with a maximum grant award of \$500 per child, for children of deployed airman age three through 12th grade. The deployed member must have been deployed overseas for 120 days or have had one of two missions totaling 180 days in a one-year period, still have 30 days remaining on their orders and the child will begin lessons before deployed member's return. Visit www.ourmilitarykids.org for more information.



Counseling

It is imperative that military members remain in good health, both physically and mentally. The Health and Wellness Center (HAWC) offers nutritional education and healthy cooking information as well as tobacco cessation classes. There is also a variety of ways to obtain no-cost private counseling sessions available to military members. One great resource www.militaryonesource.com.



Space Available Travel

Space available travel is a way to get heavily discounted flights for service members, retirees and their families. Take advantage of this privilege and fill unused seats on DOD aircraft. More information can be found at the AMC travel website at <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp>.



Travel and Other Discounts

Places like Bellows Air Force Station, Hawaii is one of many beautiful and inexpensive places to take the family. With camping on white sandy beaches at \$12 per night and nice, updated cabins at \$65 a night, a Hawaiian vacation doesn't seem impossible. Visit their website at <http://bellowsafs.com/Default.asp> for more information. A great resource to see what merchants, corporations and other businesses who offer military discounts can be found at <http://www.todaysmilitary.com/benefits>, and click on the "discounts" tab at the bottom. Another great resource for vacation deals is the base Information, Tickets and Travel office, which can be reached at 509-244-3353.



Retirement

Retirement is another great benefit to military service and is the last of this 3-part series. Look for it in the Fall edition of the Jet Gazette.

SUMMER PICNIC

by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Executive

It wasn't a typical UTA for the 141st Air Refueling Wing on Saturday, June 9. With guard members still working challenges from the runway closure, preparing for Air and Space Expeditionary Force (AEF) deployments and continuing completion of all the required Homeland Response Force (HRF) training for an upcoming exercise, members took some time to participate in the annual wing picnic held at Clear Lake Resort.

The wing picnic included many of the same sights and sounds as from the past, but this year included an additional event which created excitement caused from unexpected results that led to weeks of conversation. This event was the first annual cardboard boat race.

The boat race was a highly anticipated event which involved the construction of cardboard boats. Two representatives from each squadron would need to take a chance in the cool waters of Clear Lake and float from point A to point B. It was a true test of creativity and skill but not so much based on engineering education, time spent on construction or rank for some.

With high hopes for certain boats that just looked spectacular in design and strength, anticipation for predicting the winner was conta-



gious among members and their families. This especially became evident as more boats entering appeared to be “concerning in design and strength”.

The race began and speed and endurance were the determining factors for most in getting to the finish line. The goal was to remain in one piece (hopefully still resemble a boat) and to stay afloat until crossing the finish line. The crowd cheered on as boats covered in hundreds of feet of duct tape surged toward the finish. Unfortunately, for the 141st Air Refueling Wing Commander, Col. Richard Kelly and his trusted safety officer, Lt. Col. Craig Gural, the chance to enter the water, move with speed and finish as the example of a success story was terminated...quickly.

As the crowd cheered for their fearless leader in what seemed by all accounts to be “an impressive boat,” the cheers turned to silence then silence turned to shock. The boat did enter the water successfully however it was the boarding of the crew which seemed to be the downfall. Hopes and dreams of a historical, record breaking finish were sunk before they even started. As they entered the boat one of those laws of physics took over and buoyancy became the lesson-learned at the race.

As the boat was flipping and legs were flying with still no movement forward by the boat, it then became evident that our fearless leader and his dedicated co-pilot were doomed. Wet and still in a bit of shock the crew began to realize their fate was sealed. The boat flipped... and...flipped...and flipped again. Their experience would be like no other. Yes, they were not



Capt. Michael Hart and Maj. Laura Schultz from the 141st Financial Management team show their team spirit during the first annual cardboard boat races.

declared the 141st ARW's first boat race winners based on speed but the crowd went wild as Col. Kelly rose to the dock, wet and defeated by buoyancy as the true entertainment of the day for the wing.

It isn't everyday that a wing gets to see their leader in such a situation, but it was rewarding to all to know their leader was still a leader in the way that he handled it.

Thank you! to everyone who helped with the Summer picnic, it was definitely a total wing effort! See you next year!

Fastest ▷

Senior Master Sgt. Rob Cunningham & Master Sgt. Jon Anderson from the 141st Civil Engineer Squadron



▷ Peoples Choice

Senior Airman Tyler Lust and Airman First Class Derek Reese. Leading the build team was Tech. Sgt. Don McGraw, Staff Sgt. Craig Minnihan, and Senior Airman John Buzzard.

"The Ugly Duckling" ▷

Senior Airman Frank Grasso & Airman First Class Mathias Payne from the 141st Force Support Squadron.



▷ "The Titanic"

Col. Richard Kelly & Lt. Col. Craig Gural from the 141st Air Refueling Wing



New Program Offers Support to 141st Members and Their Families

by Marcia Richard
141st Air Refueling Wing Director of Psychosocial Health

The Psychological Health program was born out of the awareness that the Air National Guard (ANG) faces unique challenges in providing mental health support to its members. As the only service component without military members in mental health profession, ANG leaders announced last year the creation of new, wing-level positions at each of the 89 ANG Wings. These positions were created to address the steady increase in post traumatic stress disorder, divorce and suicide.

Marcia Richard, the new director of psychosocial health for the 141st Air Refueling Wing, is a licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years of experience working in mental health and substance abuse. Her credentials entitle her to identify and manage a variety of conditions that may interfere with an individual's ability to be resilient and operationally ready. She does not prescribe medication, but she can refer members to a physician for that need if necessary. With the member's permission, she can work as a team with their primary doctor and other providers.

Ms. Richard provides services for guard members and their families. Services include solution-focused interventions to address marital stress, parenting struggles, grief and loss, adjustment to change, substance abuse, financial problems, etc; assessments; critical incident services and debriefing; care planning; referrals to community resources; educational training for members, units, and leaders; and case management to ensure individuals are accessing community resources in an optimal way. Additionally, the guard has appointed Ms. Richard as the subject matter expert on psychosocial issues, to be a consultant to the Wing Commander regarding trends and concerns of the Wing, and to be actively involved in suicide prevention programs.

Ms. Richard states that a crucial way to promote resiliency is by approaching life's challenges in a positive and optimistic way. When a life challenge is avoided, mental fitness is undermined. The problem escalates to the point that it begins to interfere with work, relationships, sleep, among other things. Asking for assistance early is the key for members to become more emotionally, psychologically and professionally resilient.

Many servicemen share a misperception that receiving mental health services could cause a loss in



Marcia Richard

confidence in their abilities among fellow members and/or negatively influence their military career. It is important that all members understand that the Air National Guard supports and promotes service members in receiving the assistance they need. The Air National Guard realizes that mental and emotional fitness are important and crucial pillars to overall health and resiliency. Additionally, clinical records are kept confidential unless the ANG member provides information that he/she is a danger to him/herself or others; that abuse of a child or elderly person has taken place; that he/she intends to cause significant destruction to government property; or that his/her condition poses a detriment to operational readiness.

Ms. Richard is located in Building 399 and is available on base Monday through Friday, 0730 —1600, and on drill weekends. She is also available to commanders and leaders by cell phone after hours to ensure 24 hour coverage. The best phone number to get a hold of Ms. Richard is 509-979-0051.

WE MUSTN'T SETTLE BACK INTO OLD HABITS

*Story by Christine Gregoire, governor of Washington state and
Maj. General Timothy Lowenberg, adjutant general, Washington National Guard*

America stood still on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. In many ways we're still catching our breath. Something changed that day — not just the skyline of one of the world's most vibrant cities, not just the grieving family members of the nearly 3,000 victims, but we changed as Americans. Our sense of responsibility and duty, of commitment and pride grew.

We awakened Sept. 12 somber and scared. Yet we also awakened to a new calling. We rose to a greater good, we vowed to rebuild New York, we pledged to travel again. We stuck together and felt closer than perhaps any other time in recent history.

Countries around the globe rushed to our side as the world shared in our loss. For some that newfound feeling of commitment and purpose changed over time. We settled back into our old habits, our old prejudices. The cloud of two wars, the ever-changing presentation of facts to the American public, the use of 9-11 for political gain changed what that day meant, and what it should mean.

Today, 10 years later, we can change it back. First, realize that the world is a much different



place than it was. The nature of global threats, both natural and human caused, has intensified. Our best response lies in preparation. In the event of a large-scale emergency, it's important to prepare yourself and your family to survive unassisted for 72 hours.

While governments work hard to mobilize in advance of and during disasters, the events of 9-11, the Japanese tsunami,

*“the stronger
your resolve,
the stronger our
communities
become.”*

Hurricane Katrina and recently Hurricane Irene have proven that the more prepared you and your family are, the more quickly recovery will take hold.

Second, know the neighbors in your area who may need help or special assistance during and after a disaster. An elderly person or the family with small kids may require checking in on or a little extra help. Learn who those neighbors are be prepared to help them.

Third, become involved in your community. Give back to local organizations, read at a local school, organize a neighborhood event. Explore another culture, introduce yourself to a stranger. Realize that our strength lies in our diversity. Remember that feeling of civic responsibility you had 10 years ago — wondering what you could do to help your fellow Americans 3,000 miles away — and act on that now.

The stronger your resolve, the stronger our communities become.

Our nation's biggest weakness lies not in what the terrorists can do to us or what the economic markets may bear, but in our increasing divisiveness, lack of civics and general isolation. Today, take a moment to remember those who perished 10 years ago. Be proud of our country, and be just as proud of your neighborhood and your community. Don't just rely on others to protect your freedoms—remember that every citizen has to be part of the process. It's our collective responsibility.

The greatest lesson we can teach those who want to inflict harm is to show them our vibrant, strong and safe communities. It's to show them that democracy comes with the caveat that it works only when we're all involved. And it's to let them know while our spirit was temporarily crushed that day, our resolve wasn't. Remind the world that justice can be fought on many fronts and the simple step of taking action is the greatest justice there is.



DOWN RANGE

My deployment to Afghanistan

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

For more than 87 years through changing missions and airframes the 141st Air Refueling Wing has supported many state and world wide missions.

As a captain in the Washington Air National Guard, my job is the Chief of Public Affairs with the 141st Air Refueling Wing, Fairchild AFB. I returned in early May 2011 from a six month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at the International Security Assistance Force, Head Quarters, Kabul.

The Public Affairs career field is one of many Air Force specialties that airmen can be individually mobilized. In today's military many missions are completed by a group of professionals from different military services that deploy into theater to work together.

ISAF HQ was the most diverse environment that I have ever worked in. For example, the office that I worked in was made up of military professionals from the Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force. While some of us were from the guard, others were from the reserves and active duty. The diversity didn't stop there. My direct supervisor was a Major in the Canadian Army. During my tenure our office consisted of civilian and military public affairs professionals from the United States, Germany, Canada and Australia.

I surely never imagined that I would find myself working in this type of environment. My public affairs training was invaluable along with the pre-deployment training.

Traditional guard professionals bring unique skill sets to the fight. In my case, I own and operate a construction company in Spokane Washington that specializes in outdoor living spaces. I know the value of communicating the small successes that can ultimately turn into much larger marketing opportunities. This is an over-simplification of my duties in Kabul, as I worked as more of a liaison with four Afghan government ministries helping them to promote progress toward independence.

These government ministries are structured





A U.S. Soldier and Romanian soldier talk with Afghan men during a meeting at the village of Sarasp, Afghanistan, March 27, 2011. The U.S. Soldier, assigned to the Zabul Provincial Reconstruction Team, and the Romanian soldier with Task Force Red Scorpions, are meeting with the village elders to determine ownership of a section of land in dispute between Coalition Forces and the Afghan government. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson)

like the departments within the United States, for instance the United States Department of Agriculture is comparable to Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture.

Each one of the 26 ministries have an important role to play as they support the Afghan government to develop the capacity to provide security, development and other vital needs for its people while they become less dependent on the international community.

An additional aspect of my job was to connect the international media to the subject matter experts from the 48 contributing nations concerning current operations of more than 140,000 coalition forces.

The ISAF mission: Support the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, by conducting operations to reduce the capability and will of the insurgency, support the growth in capacity and capability of the Afghan National Security Forces, and facilitate improvements in governance and socio-economic development in order to provide a secure environment for sustainable stability that is observable to the population.

At times I was called upon to coordinate free flow of information to the international media on delicate issues, ranging from personal property disputes to narcotic field eradication. My public affairs training definitely paid off. This was an environment that I couldn't be completely prepared for, but my training allowed me to adapt to any situation.

I encourage all of my fellow National Guardsmen to look forward to any deployment and embrace the opportunity to expand your sphere of influence. Not only was I able to fulfill a national priority to fight the war on terrorism but I was also able to professionally grow in my military career.

Sgt. Angie Smith, from the 210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Charlotte, N.C., climbs over the high wall with the help of Air Force Capt. Larry Kohlman during the Combat Lifesaver course at Fort Dix, N.J.



(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez, 210th MPAD)

WANGY

by Mary Thomas
141st Air Refueling Wing Family Support

From August 13-19 a 6 day/4 night youth camp was held at Camp Reed on beautiful Fan Lake, WA. WANGY, as it is fondly called, began in 2004 with 30 kids. This year there were 134 campers and 19 Junior Counselors.

WANGY Camp is a collaborative effort by The Washington Air/Army National Guard Youth Program and 4H. Camp was created to give guard youth an opportunity to build lasting relationships with each other, learn about the guard, and develop leadership skills.

In the past, there was one camp held for all Washington National Guard kids. It has become so popular that this year two camps were held; WANGY East at Camp Reed and WANGY West at Camp Seymour Gig Harbor, WA.



“Boom
Go Back
was my
favorite
game.”

Rachel Purdue

“
It was so
much fun, I
can't wait to
go next year!

”

Wyatt Thauer



“We loved it!”

Alexis and
AshlynnTrana

CAMP



“
My favorite activities were skits and singing.
”
Zack Mader



“
Everything tastes better when you are camping!
”
Sam Kamp

“
I loved everything, it was a great experience.
”
Taylor Crisp
Camp Counselor

