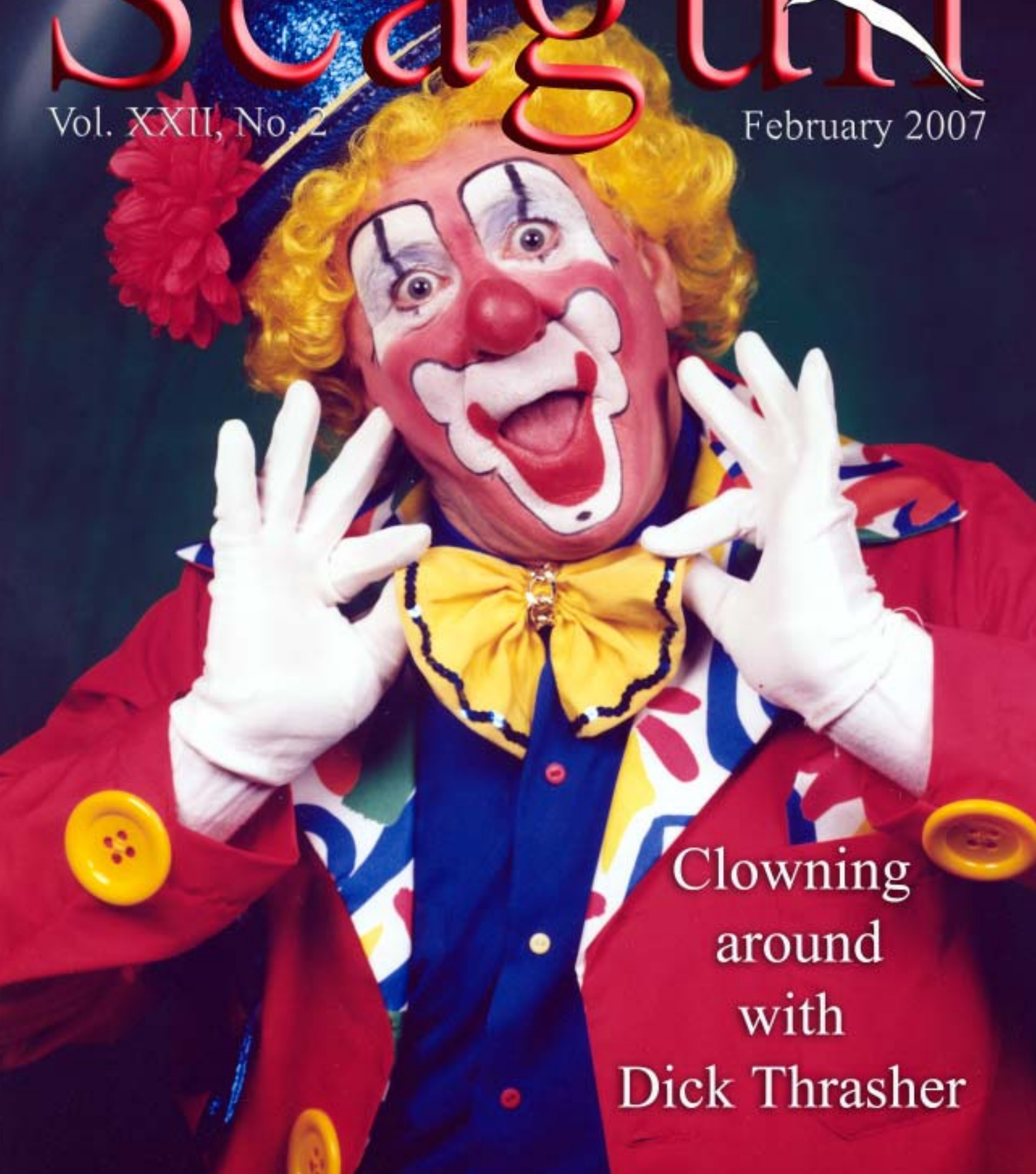


102nd Fighter Wing Seagull

Vol. XXII, No. 2

February 2007



Clowning
around
with
Dick Thrasher

ON THE COVER

Dick Thrasher, "Civilian Employee of the Year" for 2005, not only takes his work very seriously, but also finds time to clown around. See story, Having fun and helping kids on page 13.

Cover designed by Cliff McDonald

Seagull

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This month...

Governor, Coast Guard, National Guard sign MMR agreement

A new and historic chapter in the history of Otis Air National Guard Base and the Massachusetts Military Reservation opened recently.

Story on Page 5

Once a chief, always a chief

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Fred Wadsworth has been selected as the 102nd Fighter Wing's "Civilian of the Year" for 2006.

Story on Page 6

Having fun and helping kids

Working at his day job in Base Operations for the Air Field Manager, he is most often recognized as a serious "by-the-book" kind of guy. Retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Dick "Butch" Thrasher's image is far removed from the type of guy you'd expect to find clowning around on the job.

Story on Page 12

The Next Mission

Since 1940, Otis AFB has been a vital component in the defense structure of the northeastern United States. Although the objective has remained constant - protecting American lives, the tasks undertaken to achieve that end have continuously evolved to meet contemporary challenges.

Story on Page 13



Photo by Master Sgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki

Air National Guard Director, Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley administers oath of enlistment to five 102nd Fighter Wing crew chiefs during the January Unit Training Assembly. See commander's column next page.



Colonel Paul G. Worcester

A New ANG Bureau Vision Breaks Ground

As many of you saw first-hand, we just hosted the largest team of staff members – 34 total - from the Air National Guard Bureau as long as I've been here at Otis....going on 30 years! What made it incredibly impressive to me was that this team was led by the Air National Guard Director himself, Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley. This was the first time an ANG director has visited Otis Air National Guard Base since Maj. Gen. Don Shepperd which was more than 12 years ago!! You could say this visit was long overdue. In fact, General McKinley said exactly that!

Since General McKinley's installation as the ANG's new director last summer, he has embraced a three part plan to improve relations with his Air Guard units, the states, and the Air Force. His three part plan states the following goals: **Regaining the Trust of the TAG's, Reconnecting with the Air Force, and Getting the Organization Right.**

Regaining the Trust of the TAG's – the director has a huge challenge here since he was left with a terrible situation following the very difficult year of BRAC. To make matters worse, he must appeal to the many Army National Guard TAG's out there in addition to those "blue-suiter TAG's" that got scorched under the BRAC decision-making process. Not one to shy away from problems, he has aggressively reached out to the states and begun the complicated dialog to re-gain the trust that was lost over the past several years. This includes visits to the many states and various wings in those states. Knowing how difficult it was for Massachusetts and specifically this wing, he chose to make us the first unit he visited.

While it has been a long time since we were visited by an ANG Director, the fact that he chose to bring representatives from all his major directorates speaks volumes about his intent on fixing the lost connections with the field. The General wasted no time addressing these concerns on Saturday morning of the January Drill. After our wing information briefing to the General and his staff, he directed those staff members to gather the specific issues of concern in all areas of this organization. He promised to take back those concerns to Washington D.C. to be worked

by his staff. However, you can be sure that even though we are the first unit visited, other unit visits will take place and their concerns will get added to the pile. Our job as your local commanders will be to keep the heat on the ANG staff to solve our issues.

Reconnecting with the Air Force – we know that "regaining trust of the TAG's" (and units) has been our biggest concern with the ANG staff, but his second goal of reconnecting with the USAF is also critical to our future. Why? Because it is imperative that the active duty-oriented Air Force staff understand the unique capabilities that we Air Guardsmen possess and in turn, embrace us as an equally supported function and owner of a critical mission they need. What this really means is we need to be able to compete for USAF money on an equal basis. Securing our new mission will demand lots of it and it is very scarce these days. Our job locally will be to help the ANG staff find cost effective ways of doing new missions more economically than the active duty Air Force.

Getting the Organization Right – General McKinley's last goal is also critical to us here at Otis. We have not had the right advocates fighting for us in Washington D.C. for quite some time now. In order for us to survive another 85 years as an ANG wing, we'll need to have staff members sensitive to our requirements and capable of clear communications in a two-way forum. This particular goal of his puts the onus on himself to properly structure his ANG Air Staff with the best possible people acting with the best interests of the ANG as a whole and the wings specifically.

The General wasted no time after his inauguration last summer to restructure the ANG staff in a manner that reflects his vision to improve relations with the states and units. His chosen staff is certainly the finest I have known in all my years in the ANG. We may not always like the message the staff members send, but it will be coordinated and communicated clearly, and it will be something we can "take to the bank." The future looks bright for us thanks to this restructure.

We have every reason to be hopeful, excited, and motivated to excel and prove our abilities as an owner of a new Air Force mission. I am confident we have the right leadership in Washington D.C. to help us get there. Now it's up to us to show them we are still worthy, capable, and willing to accept the challenge that comes with necessary change. We can do this!!

Film depicts the history of the 102nd

A documentary film "Legacy," the history of the 102nd Fighter Wing and the 101st Fighter Squadron, is now available for sale.

The film contains actual footage and numerous photographs of personnel and aircraft from the inception of the 101st in the early 1900s through the establishment of the wing after World War II right up to the present day activities involving 9/11 and current deployments.

It is a valuable history that each wing member may want to possess.

You may obtain a copy by making a minimum \$25 (tax deductible) contribution to the Massachusetts Air National Guard Historical Association Museum.

A copy of the film, either DVD or VHS, will be available at Arnold Hall during unit training assemblies.

The UTAs will be the primary means of obtaining a copy of the film.

However, many former members of the Wing and its affiliated units no longer visit Otis or subscribe to the Seagull, therefore, we have no way of contacting them.

You could help the museum if you know the whereabouts of any former members by letting them know about the film's availability. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Contact Tom Maguire at 508-759-3092 for more information.

During adverse weather, call 508-968-4433

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

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

The Information Line will have one of three messages: Work hours normal: all personnel report to their normal duty sections at the normal time. Work hours delayed: all personnel report to their normal duty sections at a specific time as stated on the Information Line work hours

delayed message. Work hours restricted: only personnel essential to mission accomplishment are to report. Personnel essential to mission accomplishment will be required to report to work regardless of weather conditions.

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

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

What's for lunch?



Saturday, Feb. 10

Chicken Cordon Bleu
or Steak Bombs

Sunday, Feb. 11

Roast Pork or
Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers

Upcoming Drill dates

2007

Feb. 10-11
March 3-4
March 31-April 1
May 5-6
June 2-3
Aug. 25-26
Sept. 15-16
Oct. 13-14
Nov. 3-4
Dec. 1-2

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

Seagull deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the next Seagull is 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 11. No articles can be accepted after this deadline.

The public affairs staff has the right to edit all articles for content and length.

Items should be sent over the LAN to james.regan@maotis.ang.af.mil or prepared on a floppy disk, preferably in Word for Windows.

Articles on disk also should be submitted with a printed copy to the Public Affairs Office, Building 158, room 209. For more information call 508-968-4090.

Governor, Coast Guard, National Guard sign MMR agreement

By **Cliff McDonald**
Public Affairs

A new and historic chapter in the history of Otis Air National Guard Base and the Massachusetts Military Reservation opened recently. Before a formal gathering of military personnel, and base supporters on Dec. 22, 2007, outgoing Governor Mitt Romney joined with U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Timothy Sullivan, commander of the First Coast Guard District and Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau where they jointly signed a Memorandum of Agreement.

The MOA is a transition plan which will assure a rewarding future for generations of Soldiers, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen on the base. The agreement helps assure that many positions for both military and civilian employees will remain on the base.

The need for such an agreement was necessary due to the recent recommendation the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's (BRAC) decision to trans-

fer the 102nd Fighter wing aircraft from the base.

For the 102nd Fighter Wing, the agreement allows the symbiotic relationship between the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard on the Massachusetts Military Reservation to continue as Otis Air National Guard Base assumes new missions once the F-15s are transferred in 2008.

The 102nd has been and is currently the primary host unit on the reservation, maintaining the airfield and supplying many infrastructure needs for several tenant units. The MOA assures that more infrastructure responsibilities are shared with the Coast Guard and Army National Guard making is possible for the reservation to remain a significant presence in New England.

Following the relocation of the wing's F-15s, the Coast Guard, National Guard Bureau and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will jointly assume responsibility for base operations and management of the MMR

(See MOA, Page 17)



Photo by Master Sgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki

Rear Adm. Timothy Sullivan (left) shakes hands with Lt. Gen H Steven Blum (right), Gov. Mitt Romney (center) at signing of MOA on future operations on MMR. Sen. Edward Kennedy (far right) and Col. Paul Worcester (far left) look on.

Once a chief, always a chief



*Story and photos by Cliff McDonald
Public Affairs*

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Fred Wadsworth has been selected as the 102nd Fighter Wing's "Civilian of the Year" for 2006. "Mr. Wadsworth's attentions are known across the region, from New Hampshire to the National Guard Bureau. Once a chief, always a chief," said Col. Paul Worcester as he announced the award.

Wadsworth's attentions are always attuned to what could go wrong in any given situation. No detail is unimportant, nor left unattended. When working with others, whether instructing or consulting, he attends to everyone's need like the veteran professional he is; it's easy to notice that Wadsworth enjoys helping out.

Imagine a terrorist attack on Otis Air National Guard Base, a disgruntled civilian fuel truck driver parks his 5,000 gallon tanker and then purposely blows the truck up as fuel is being downloaded into giant base storage tanks containing hundred of thousands of gallons or more of jet fuel. Soon the entire southern portion of the base is on fire and awash with fuel flowing into the storm drain system and making its way into the fragile Cape Cod environment.

While all this is happening, a smallpox outbreak is discovered in the military barracks, fear and pandemonium among off base residents could rule the day.

What do you do now?

Or, how about finding out on a moment's notice that the space shuttle is inbound for an emergency landing on the Otis runway, what would you do?

Sound exciting? These are simulations of situations that Wadsworth prepares for on a daily basis.

Walk into his office and you immediately know that Wadsworth gives new meaning to the term "table top exercise." In the center of the room is a very large table measuring, 12 feet by 16 feet surrounded by chairs. On this Plexiglas covered table is a detailed map depicting Otis Air National Guard Base, and placed on this map are miniature airplanes, cars, trucks and numerous emergency vehicles that Wadsworth and his teams of emergency responders use to plot their strategies.

The chief retired in 2004 as the wing's readiness program superintendent; however, he has remained employed with the wing as a Title 5 civilian employee assisting in the Readiness Shop. He is the wing's go-to guy for fitting your gasmask and making sure you know how to survive under chemical and biological attack conditions.

He recently trained 54 members of the 260th Air Traffic Control Squadron at Pease Air National Guard Base, and has been responsible for creating and managing a table top exercise involving emergency responders made up of local, county and state officials.

The exercise allowed participants to practice their emergency response protocols and to interface with agencies they may not have had much contact with except under the exercise circumstances.

A key objective of the exercise was to practice military-civilian interoperability when dealing with

a biological weapon of mass destruction incident, and a major fuel spill.

Wadsworth thinks of his position as a great opportunity, he said, "the thing I appreciate most about being part of the Otis team is I really like talking to people, I really like training people."

In his position he has been the military liaison to the civilian community since 1994 when his name was submitted to the state Emergency Response Committee as the base liaison officer for emergency preparedness. He was instrumental in setting up the Falmouth Emergency Planning Committee, and eventually became involved in the establishment of the Barnstable County Emergency Planning Committee of which he is the chairper-

son of the Incident Planning and Response subcommittee.

The Incident Planning and Response Subcommittee writes the Cape Cod Regional Hazmat Plan and addresses emergency preparedness on Cape Cod. A Regional Incident Management Team (RIMT), an integral component of the Cape's regional emergency preparedness, has been established to assist any community on the Cape when they find themselves overwhelmed by emergency events.

The RIMT managed the medical emergency response for Provincetown's 2006 Fourth of July celebration. This team will assist by writing the Incident Action Plan for this years Cape Cod Air Show on the base.



Fred Wadsworth reaches out to students while instructing a class on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats; lessons that if learned well can save your life.

Aviation artist visits Otis

Dear Colonel Worcester ("PW"):

I wanted to send to you a thank you note for my recent visit to the 102nd. This thank you is not only addressed to you for your generous and gracious invitation, but to the entire wing.

I have had the great privilege and fortune, over almost twenty years to work with the men and women of our Armed Forces, the majority of those being Air Force. I have traveled all over the world, both on peacetime training missions and into the combat AOR. I've recorded flight experiences in almost every airplane in the Air Force inventory from trainers to transports, fighters to bombers. I have been shown incredible respect from officers and NCO's alike, and that has truly been a humbling experience. For a not too bright "farm kid" from Michigan who, luckily, had been given some artistic talent, I have been blessed to live a dream.

When I look back at all of the memories and think about the experiences, the one thing that rises to the top and is heads and tails above all else is the people I've met and worked with along the way. These same people, many who have become good friends, have enriched my life through their friendship far beyond any accolade or financial reward.

I was first introduced to the 102nd Fighter Wing as a result of the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington D.C. on Sept. 11, 2001. As many of you know I had been asked to recreate the aerial scenes through art, of that day for the Air Force. Though none of us would have wished that day, nevertheless that day changed the direction of all of our lives. For me and my family part of that direction included becoming friends with many of you and that is something I am very fond of.

My recent visit and flight could not have been better. It was great seeing many old friends, being introduced to new faces and of course flying in the world's finest air superiority fighter. (who needs the Raptor)

Each time I am around people like you I come away awed and inspired.



Photo by Master Sgt. Wes Smith

Aviation Artist, Rick Herter received an F-15 orientation flight in December. Herter painted a 102nd Eagle in action on Sept. 11, 2001 over the World Trade Center in New York City.

From the most junior airman to the most senior officer or NCO I'm inspired by the military professionalism, dedication to duty and mission and devotion to country that is clearly displayed by all of you. I only wish more civilians like me, had an opportunity to be exposed to this world. If this were so, I believe we would take much less for granted as a nation.

There are some people I would like to say a special thank you to as they played key roles in my visit.

Col. Worcester for his generous invitation to visit again and fly with the wing.

Col. Schiavi for his follow up prior to and support during my stay.

Col. "Doc" Turnquist and his medical staff for their coordination regarding my "Fit to Fly" status.

Cliff McDonald and the Wing Public Affairs staff. I apologize for the paper work hassle I'm sure my visit and flight generated.

Senior Master Sgt. Sharon Rich and her Life Support staff for their great

training and reminding me of the many things to "do" and "don't do" while flying.

Lt. Tim Portluck and Chief Master Sgt. Ed "Chopper" Lynds of the 102nd Services Flight for their terrific support in hosting my art display at the dining facility and for a great meal shared with their staff on Sunday.

Col. Tim "Tiny" Lynch and the 102nd Operations Group for their work and support in getting me up into the air with "Cape" flight.

Lt. Col. Mike "Magoo" McGee for a great flight. This is the first time I've flown with a fellow artist which is usually a dangerous thing due to the a.d.d that most artist's have. I especially appreciated flying with a former Hawg guy which comes in handy when your at 500 feet above ground level at 470 kts. Thanks again MaGoo.

Once again thank you to all of you and if I, or my art, may ever be of service to any of you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Happy Tailwinds! - Rick Herter

Chapel Call

Chaplain (Maj.) David G. Berube



I've been thinking about prayer lately. I actually think about it often, but it has been in the front of my thinking lately. I've been confronted with a number of situations that needed more than simple fixes on behalf of human actors. They needed prayer.

Prayer, for those of us who express religious belief, is about connecting with God. It's about a relationship between us and Someone bigger than us. It is the call for Divine Intervention and the reminder of Divine care, especially when we feel off-balance, hurt, or scared.

Over the years, I've gathered some prayers that I turn to when I can't find the words within myself and can't sit quietly with God. I come back to the one below in those times when life, my work, my relationships, or the world don't make sense. It comes from Thoughts in Solitude, by Thomas Merton, and I offer it to you for your use in similar times:

*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will
does not mean I am actually doing so.
But I believe the desire to please You does, in fact, please You.
And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this
You will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust You always
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
for You are ever with me,
and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

Loyalty and Leadership

**By Senior Airman Alexis Colonna
Vice President, Airmen's Council**

General Colin Powell once said, "When we are debating an issue, loyalty means giving me your honest opinion, whether you think I'll like it or not. Disagreement, at this stage, stimulates me. But once a decision has been made, the debate ends. From that point on, loyalty means executing the decision as if it were your own." Good leadership requires direction and loyalty, and loyalty requires trust. BRAC has tested all aspects of these qualities in our unit.

Most personal major life changes require a plan which everyone involved maintains to the best of their ability. A wedding, a relatively brief and common event still usually requires at least a year of planning and negotiating to accomplish. Deployment requires significantly more planning to accomplish, if you consider the total time and resources and training required to get to that point. Here, a year and a half after the BRAC decision, we find ourselves in the early stages

of conversion, a major life change for a few hundred people, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The choices made here affect our income, our schedule, our leave and vacation plans, our households, our finances, and our family, and the changes we face are significant: different work schedules, stricter security procedures, months away from families for initial training, changes in rank structure and work environment, etc.

Looking back, I am proud to see the loyalty with which our leadership worked, and more so at the loyalty shown by our troops who followed them into this life changing process with little to no clear plan and no promises beyond the promise to keep doing their best. Despite the forthcoming changes, our troops have placed their trust in their leadership and allowed them to lead. Likewise, our leadership has done their best to earn and maintain our trust by working hard to secure a new mission and the recognition we need to earn the support of those that can help ease the transition. As we move deeper into the transition, I hope to see this loyalty and leadership pay off as success in the new mission.

101st



Chief Master Sgt. John D. Silva

Fighter Squadron

Some Like It Hot, Hot, Hot!

CHILI COOK-OFF

By Cliff McDonald
Public Affairs

A chili cook-off can be as much fun as one person can stand, just how much fun depends on who is throwing the shindig. Like, for instance, a cook-off sponsored by a Baptist church probably won't be as exciting as, say, one thrown by a fighter squadron.

You can bet that when 101st Fighter Squadron Chili-heads gathered at the January UTA for a chili cook-off, it was a good one. Now, chili is a hotly debated subject, everyone thinks their chili is the best, but there can only be one winner. It comes as no surprise that last year's winner Chief Master Sgt. John Silva took first place again this year.

Chief Silva refuses to divulge his secret recipe for his "Quilters Chili," but he did say, "The chili recipe was given to me by an Old Order Amish family from the foothills of Pennsylvania Dutch Country; I stumbled on to it about 15 years ago."

To divulge the exact recipe would be detrimental to Chief Silva's chances of winning a third year, but these are the basic ingredients:

- Ground beef/sirloin
- Onions
- Tomatoes
- Chili powder (Amish made)
- Flour

You will have to guess the rest.

1st Lt. Glen "Chugs" Miliken took second place with his entry named "Skoal Bandit." It's alleged that his recipe's secret ingredient could be an eagle egg.

Maj. Andreas "Mutha" Jucker, green with envy, placed third with his entry he calls "Shakira's Surprise." He said of Chief Silva's recipe, "Hey, that's the same ingredients on the side of my Hormel Chili can."

Do you want to best Chief Silva next year, and

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Ruben Hernandez-Gandia

need a little help with your chili recipe?

When you get ready to cook your next pot of chili try out one of the recipes provided by past Chili Appreciation Society International Champions. The recipes can be found on the Internet at <http://www.chili.org/recipes.html>.



Having fun and helping kids

By Cliff McDonald
Public Affairs

Working at his day job in Base Operations for the Air Field Manager, he is most often recognized as a serious “by-the-book” kind of guy. Retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Dick “Butch” Thrasher’s image is far removed from the type of guy you’d expect to find clowning around on the job. However, off the job, those who know him well, are acquainted with his more cheerful side, that of being a clown.

But first and foremost you want to know about his serious side. You won’t find him with a bicycle horn and seltzer water bottle stumbling into forced buttocks landings on the flight line. Mr. Thrasher was recently belatedly selected as the 102nd Fighter Wing’s “Civilian of the Year” for 2005.

Whether it be looking out at you from behind the Operations Desk answering a question about filing a flight plan, or driving around the Otis air field taxiways and runways checking for potential flight hazards and checking on navigational aids, Thrasher is not one who takes his responsibilities lightly; he is truly a no joking around kind of professional who knows everything about anything that is happening on his airfield. Just take one step in the wrong direction - as this writer has on

several occasions - and the wrath of Dick Thrasher will be instantly upon you.

Thrasher has served in a civilian Title 5 capacity at Otis since 1982 after retiring from the active duty Air Force. While in the Air Force, he was twice stationed at Otis Air Force Base. His first tour was with the 551st Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing from 1962 thru 1966; he served a second time at Otis from 1969 thru 1971 with the 60th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. Sergeant Thrasher retired from Air Force Systems Command in 1981 at Andrews Air Force Base as a command and control superintendent with 24 years of service.

Thrasher’s combined service to the Department of Defense stretches nearly a half century.

He’s now 67 years old, past the age when most others choose to retreat into full retirement, just ask him about collecting his Social Security benefits while on the job at Otis; Thrasher also gives expert counsel on Medicare and Tricare benefits.

You can bet that Thrasher will someday be near the runway waving to the last departing F-15 from Otis, and then scheming a way to become a member of the new 102nd Distributed

(See Dick Thrasher page 18)



Photo by Cliff McDonald

The Next Mission

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti
Public Affairs

Since 1940, Otis Air National Guard Base has been a vital component in the defense structure of the north-eastern United States. Although the objective has remained constant—protecting American lives—the tasks undertaken to achieve that end have continuously evolved to meet contemporary challenges.

The current federal mission of the 102nd Fighter Wing is to provide a ready, fully capable fighter force prepared to deploy to any location in the world. Since 1972, the 102nd has manned a 24/7, 365 day-a-year Air Sovereignty Alert mission at Otis ANG base—35 years without a day off. This proud wing mission, however, is coming to an end.

The new mission, the establishment of the Distributed Ground Station (DGS) here at Otis, will continue that proud tradition while reflecting the current wartime environment. The DGS will allow analysts to immediately respond to attacks on military personnel overseas and counter threats in real-time.

A Distributed Ground Station is a stationary site staffed with analysts linked remotely to battlefields. Airmen receive digital images collected by reconnaissance planes and unmanned flying vehicles anywhere in the world. Personnel decipher real-time images to identify enemy forces and other pertinent information. Data is analyzed and is disseminated to commanders or troops in the field. This information allows forward deployed personnel to base their battlefield decisions on the most current data.

The DGS will represent the next step in the transformation and evolution of the Air Guard. These changes will allow the Air Force to better combat the growing menace of global terrorism. Although the transition is difficult for personnel accustomed to the traditional function of a fighter wing, it is essential to the future of the Massachusetts Air Guard.

Certainly, Distributed Ground Stations are becoming a critical element in the 21st century Air Force. Maj. David McNulty, 102nd Operations Support Flight (OSF) Senior Intelligence Officer, is looking forward to the new mission. “The DGS is absolutely critical in support of the ‘kill chain’ of combat ops—the images and signals that DGS intelligence analysts exploit, captured by Predators and Global Hawks a world away, directly support the mission of putting bombs on target and protecting troops in harms way,” McNulty explained.

Massachusetts is one of many states undergoing this transformation. Active DGS units are currently operating in Virginia, California and Hawaii. Air Guard units

in Kansas, Arkansas, Indiana and Alabama are working on missions with their active duty counterparts.

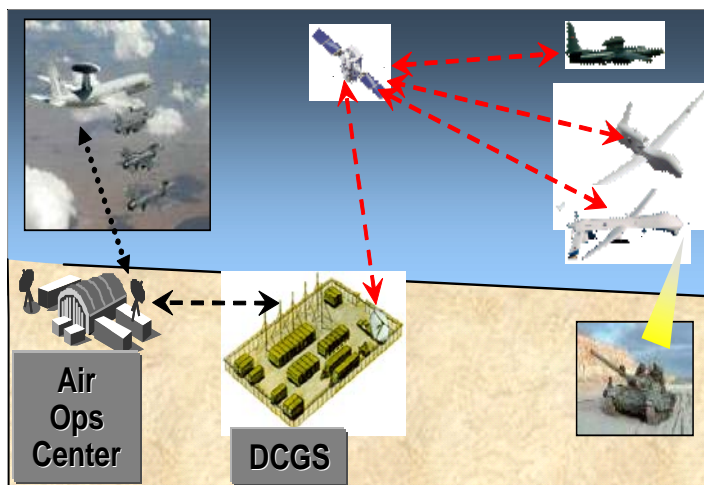
The Base Realignment Committee (BRAC), a two year study designed to streamline the country’s military infrastructure, recommended in May 2005 that the 102nd be closed. After a restless summer of legislative lobbying by our state, federal and military leaders, the BRAC Commission reconsidered their previous decision.

As part of the realignment recommendation, F-15 aircraft would be transferred to the 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield. Personnel from the 102nd here at Otis would be retrained as intelligence experts, processing top secret information and becoming a critical component in worldwide counterterrorism operations. “Most aircraft maintainers are excited about going to school,” said Lt. Col. Jim LeFavor, unit conversion manager at the 102nd. “The interest level and motivation of the personnel set to retrain is extremely high,” he added.

The DGS seminar and job fair conducted during the December drill allowed airmen to learn more about the mission and ask questions. The DGS should be operational by June 2008 and promises to be an exciting time for Otis. Massachusetts will be tasked with 374 jobs as part of the realignment.

These changes are only the latest in the proud heritage of the 102nd. Whether it was participating in the

(See Next Mission, page 16)



A Distributed Ground Station is a stationary site staffed with analysts linked electronically to satellites.

Military health care making advances

By Army Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The military has made tremendous advances in health care in the last decade and specifically since the start of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the top Defense Department official for health care said here yesterday.

Body armor, eyewear, new surgical techniques and improved medical data collection in this conflict have all contributed to the lowest “killed-in-action” rate in history, Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said in a roundtable discussion with retired military analysts.

The KIA rate for operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom is 12.5 percent, vs. 18.6 percent for the first Gulf War and Vietnam, and 25.3 percent for World War II, he said. The KIA percentage measures the number of servicemembers killed out of the number wounded.

“Basic stuff is making a difference. Obviously, it doesn’t save every injury, but it mitigates a lot of the injuries,” Winkenwerder said.

As of Dec. 2, 23,119 servicemembers had been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, he said. Of those, 55 percent returned to duty

within 72 hours, he pointed out. “People miss that, and I think it’s an important thing,” he said.

Winkenwerder pointed out some other surprising statistics: of the 37,058 servicemembers medically evacuated from the U.S. Central Command area of operations as of Dec. 4, 59 percent have been for disease and 21 percent for non-battle injuries; also, as of Nov. 1, the war on terrorism has produced 760 amputees, of which 500 lost a limb, hand or foot, and 260 lost fingers or toes only.

A major issue in this conflict has been post traumatic stress disorder, Winkenwerder noted. The best statistics on PTSD come from an Army study done on soldiers and Marines returning from their first or second rotations in Iraq or Afghanistan, in which the rate of servicemembers who screened positive for PTSD on a questionnaire was 12 percent, he said. He noted, however, that the pre-deployment rate of PTSD was about 7 or 8 percent.

To provide better mental health care for servicemembers, the military now does a pre-deployment screening, a post-deployment screening, and a follow-up screening three to six months after troops return, Winkenwerder said. This follow-up assessment is

important, because many troops don’t report problems right after a deployment, but these problems surface later, he said.

These extra assessments give military officials more data to work with when analyzing mental health trends and developing new programs to help servicemembers, Winkenwerder said.

“It’s a real profile of what’s going on with our people that we did not used to have, and it’s allowed us to develop new programs to reach out where the need is,” he said. “I think they’re making a difference; we’ve gotten very good feedback.”

Another area that has seen notable progress is amputee rehabilitation, Winkenwerder said. Of the total number of amputees, 25 percent have been returned to duty. “The spirit there is unbelievable,” he said.

More improvements are on the way for military health care, as the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is built in Bethesda, Md., Winkenwerder said. The building will be next to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and across the street from the National Institute of Health, creating a collaborative environment that will lead to new and better health care for troops, he said.

Retirees should update Seagull subscriptions

If you are a retiree who subscribes to the Seagull, please check the mailing label for the expiration date of your subscription.

The Massachusetts Air National Guard Historical Association offers a program for anyone to receive the Seagull by mail.

Subscriptions to the magazine and annual association dues expire on

June 30 of each year.

A subscription cost \$10 per year and covers the cost of postage only. Association dues are \$10 per year.

Make checks for subscription fees, membership dues or donations payable to the MA ANG Historical Association Inc. and mail to Spence Bridgman, 25 Spruce Hill Ave., Florence, MA 01062-3414.



*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

Web site commemorates National Guard birthday

By Army Sgt. Sara Wood

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The National Guard turned 370 years old Dec. 13, and the National Guard Bureau is celebrating with a Web site dedicated to the organization and its history.

The site, www.ngb.army.mil/features/birthday/index.html, chronicles the Guard's history, starting in 1636 when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which functioned as the colony's legislature, ordered existing militia companies from the towns surrounding Boston to form into three regiments: North, South and East.

"These first Minutemen answered the call, banding together for the common defense, an effort which grew nationwide to protect towns, states, and ultimately the nation from all enemies, civil, natural and foreign," Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, wrote in a letter on the site.

The American colonies adopted the English militia system, which obligated

all males to possess arms and participate in the defense of the community, according to the site. The need for a colonial militia was ratified in the Constitution, and since then, Congress has enacted several militia and defense acts to strengthen the National Guard.

"Today, more than 50,000 citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are serving overseas as part of the global war on terror," General Blum wrote in his letter. "Over 9,000 are serving here at home in domestic missions such as supporting our nation's efforts to secure our borders, guarding critical infrastructure, and providing emergency response to our governors.

"Not unlike those Minutemen 370 years ago, today's Guard members are citizens who believe that an organized militia is essential to the common defense. With centuries of courage, commitment and tradition behind them, the National Guard proudly remains always ready, always there."

In a letter commemorating the birthday, Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, thanked

the members of the National Guard for serving valiantly in times of war and peace.

"We simply could not sustain current operations without the National Guard," General Pace wrote. "The courage and sacrifice of every Guard member are truly inspiring. Your outstanding service as citizen-soldiers comforts those in need and protects our homeland."

The National Guard has made up a significant portion of the forces deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. At one point in 2005, half of the combat brigades in Iraq were Army National Guard, according to information on the Web site. The Guard is playing a more active role than ever before, integrating with active forces in combat, humanitarian and peacekeeping missions, information on the site states.

The Web site lists information from each period in the National Guard's history and details on some state-sponsored events commemorating the 370th birthday.

National Guard Museum opens new exhibit

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — A new interactive exhibit that showcases the National Guard's participation in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom is on display as the National Guard observes its 370th birthday Dec. 13.

The National Guard Museum's OEF/OIF exhibit displays Guard members' equipment, uniforms and photographs from the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Officials at the National Guard Association of the United States, where the museum and exhibit are located, hope the exhibit will further the story of the National Guard and its service to the states and nation by catering to the tourists who visit Washington each year.

The NGAUS museum and library

already offer a large collection of Guard artifacts and reference materials for visitors. The items are managed and funded by the National Guard Educational Foundation, or NGEF, through the Guard association.

"As a museum, we tell the story of the Guard from 1636 to now," said Jason Hall, director of the NGEF. "Until today, we were lacking a major part of that history: Guardsman in Iraq and Afghanistan."

But the best part of the opening, Mr. Hall said, was to watch the veterans appreciating it. "It's for them," he said.

Four Army Guard Soldiers and one Air Guard member donated the items on display. They include a flight suit, flight gloves, G-suit, a flight tunic, a battle dress uniform and boots, and an interactive collection of photographs from Guard units around the country.

"I think it's very important that we offer a bigger story because the National Guard has such a large role in OEF/OIF," said Major Kenneth Stice.

Maj. Stice's uniform and boots are displayed in a glass case along with a photo from Iraq where he served with the Arizona Army Guard's 2220th Transportation Company during its deployment from 2003 to 2004.

"I was proud that they accepted my uniform. It's a beautiful display," Maj. Stice said. "It gives a better understanding of what we've done."

The granite and glass NGAUS Memorial Building is located on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Capitol Street. Visiting hours are Mondays to Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment. People can contact Jason Hall at jhall@ngaus.org or (888)-226-4287 to book special group tours.

Air Guard leaders explore ways to reset force

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau

BALTIMORE (AFPN) — The challenges for resetting the Air National Guard became more apparent to its senior leaders here Dec. 11 to 13 when Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, director of the Air National Guard, hosted the senior leadership conference, Minuteman Heritage — Preparing for New Horizons.

More than 1,000 leaders from all 50 states and U.S. territories, including adjutants general, wing and unit commanders, command chief master sergeants and others, listened to a detailed explanation about the Air Guard's future force.

Resetting the force includes reorganizing missions, manpower, equipment and training to meet the needs of the 21st century. General McKinley provided several examples of how Airmen are already resetting the force, including flying MQ-1 Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. He also expressed his confidence in the leadership's ability to move forward.

For the first time, the leaders were told of the proposed reset of the Air National Guard on a national perspective.

Officials said all states and territories will be affected by the reset. It addresses the combined effects of the Base Realignment and Closure Act, Total Force Initiatives and the Quadrennial Defense Review. Future mission changes will affect full-time and traditional positions across

the nation, a main concern of the leadership here.

"This has not been an easy process. Because of what BRAC and QDR have done, we need to get through it," General McKinley said.

Guest speakers provided congressional and active duty perspectives on the force and updated leaders on safety and cultural and enlisted views. McKinley delivered the keynote address.

Maj. Gen. George F. Scoggins Jr., Air Guard assistant to Headquarters Air Force Plans and Programs, spoke about "Preparing for New Horizons." His presentation highlighted the Air Guard's future from 2008 to 2013.

Most senior leaders agreed the reset is essential to the future of the Air Guard. And the timeliness, General McKinley said, was mostly due to the desire to move to the next step.

General Scoggins is commander of the Washington Air National Guard and served as a senior advocate for the adjutants general during the reset development process.

"General Scoggins is a closer," General McKinley said. "He is the most impartial and professional Airman I know, and this was not pleasant work, but if we did not do it we could not move on."

Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, also addressed the Air Guard leaders. He began by unveiling the newest National Guard Heritage Painting: "In Katrina's Wake." The painting by Gil Cohen portrays the Na-

tional Guard's relief operations Sept. 1, 2005, at New Orleans Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse, La., following Hurricane Katrina.

"I think that painting captures my feeling of what may be the Air National Guard's finest hour in domestic response in the history of this nation," General Blum said. "I thought it would be a good starting point to focus the discussion."

Blum said he hoped leaders would return to their homes with a greater appreciation about the necessity for the Air National Guard to be an essential part of the Guard's joint capability for defending the homeland and supporting homeland security operations and other military support operations.

"The team that Maj. Gen. Roger P. Lempke and the adjutants general assembled with the help of the NGB staff has made lemonade from the lemons they were left with from the BRAC," General Blum said. General Lempke is the president of the Adjutants General Association of the United States and adjutant general of the Nebraska National Guard.

"They have done an outstanding job of ensuring that every state kept their essential capabilities," General Blum added. "And we mitigated or minimized the ill effects on our Airmen, and we provided opportunities for interesting and exciting future missions in the Air National Guard."

Next Mission

(Continued from page 13)

Berlin Crisis in 1961 or becoming a 24 hour tactical fighter wing on NORAD alert in 1972 during the Cold War, Otis airmen continue to adapt and respond to threats facing our country.

The first eight airmen from Otis are leaving for intelligence and communication school this month, including Airman 1st Class Joseph Sklut of East Bridgewater. "I am excited to be one of the first to go to training and take part in the new mission," he said. Sklut will attend training for approximately four

months at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas. He will receive extensive training to become a network intelligence analyst. "It is such an important mission for the Massachusetts Air Guard and I am so happy to be a part of it," said Sklut.

Senior Airman Meghan Gehl will also be among the group headed to intelligence school. "I am very happy to be involved in what I think is a great team to stand up the new mission," she said. "I understand that Otis is going through some growing pains right now but I think for those who want to take part in the new mission there are endless possibilities," observed Gehl.

MOA

(Continued from page 5)

as follows:

Within three months of the departure of the last F-15, the Air Force will transfer the Otis airfield to the Coast Guard by means of a permit for its use and use by others. The Coast Guard will provide airfield management services at a level necessary to support Coast Guard operations. Other tenants and state agencies would have access to the airfield on as-needed basis.

The Air National guard will continue to operate and maintain electricity, water and sewer, and telecommunications.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will facilitate and ensure the maintenance, operation and support of a fully functional fire department at the MMR to provide fire and emergency services to local, state and federal users of the reservation.

The complete text of the MOA can be found on the 102nd intranet.

The Massachusetts Military Reservation is critical to the readiness of the Massachusetts National Guard; no other place of duty in New England offers its unique combination of training areas and facilities. The high-quality training available at the Massachusetts Military Reservation enhances the ability of National Guard from Massachusetts and across New England to respond to emergencies at home and abroad.

“This really is a win for everyone,” said Brig. Gen.

Oliver J. Mason Jr., adjutant general of the Massachusetts National Guard, “The agreement will ensure continued high-quality training for the commonwealth’s next generation of soldiers, airmen and coast guardsmen.”

Also in attendance were Senator Edward Kennedy and Representative William Delahunt.

Rep. Delahunt spoke to the gathering and said, “the 102nd Fighter Wing, has served this country so well. I want to give a very special thanks to the men and women of the 102nd. I know that this has been a difficult period and we are deeply in your debt. Yours is a history that all can be proud of; when we say the 102nd Fighter Wing, it resonates all across America.

“My colleagues came to me on the floor of the House in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001 and mention how proud I must be that it was the 102nd Fighter Wing that first responded to the attack on our homeland. And I explained to them, that that’s not unusual for the 102nd.

“I’d like to acknowledge Col. Paul Worcester, wing commander he embodies the very best of the 102nd. He has taken on the full brunt of the frustrations and anxiety that we all experienced during the past year. I know that it hasn’t been easy on him, or the men and women he leads. Throughout this whole BRAC process he has responded with dignity and complete professionalism. I know I speak for the thousands of people who live here in southeastern Massachusetts, we salute you and the men and women you lead for everything you have done for us and our country.

NGAMA Scholarships

The National Guard Association of Massachusetts and Brigadier General Oliver J. Mason, The Adjutant General, announce that five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to Massachusetts National Guard personnel and their sons, daughters, or spouses. (Additional scholarships may be available as funds allow.)

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: MARCH 31, 2007

CATEGORIES:

- A. Current members of the Massachusetts National Guard.
- B. Sons, daughters or spouses of a current member of the National Guard Association of Massachusetts
- C. Sons, daughters or spouses of a current member of the Massachusetts National Guard.

For more information please visit the
NGAMA website www.ngama.org

Roll Call to help supervisors keep Airmen in the know

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — A new weekly publication titled “Roll Call” is designed to help shop- and office-level supervisors explain complex, yet important Air Force issues to their Airmen during daily or weekly meetings.

Roll Call is a one-page print product, posted online every Friday. It covers one or two topics, in full sentences, and is written so supervisors can read it to their Airmen during morning roll calls or weekly gatherings.

“Our Air Force is going through tremendous changes now, all while we continue to fight the war on terror,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley. “Making sure our Airmen understand why these changes are happening and what it will mean to them on a unit and an individual level is vital. The added advantage of Roll Call is getting work sections to take a few minutes out of their fast-paced operations tempo and actually look each other in the eye while they discuss issues facing our force.”

Roll Call will fill information voids by tackling complex, Air Force-level issues such as “transformation,” “recapitalization,” “force shaping,” and “Smart Operations 21,” and explaining them in common, everyday language.

“This new weekly Air Force ‘Roll Call’ product provides supervisors with information and straight answers,” said



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley speaks to Airmen from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. Chief McKinley announced a new weekly publication titled “Roll Call,” designed to help office supervisors explain complex Air Force issues to their Airmen during daily or weekly meetings.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley. “To be most effective, we need every commander and supervisor to print it out and discuss it with your Airmen.”

While there are currently many avenues for information to get from Headquarters Air Force in Washington to the field, feedback suggests that much of that information is either not reaching junior Airmen and officers, or it is not

translating in ways that make the information meaningful to them.

“The goals of Roll Call are three fold: to keep our Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion and dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams,” General Moseley said.

Roll Call will be distributed online weekly at <http://www.af.mil>.

Dick Thrasher

(Continued from page 12)

Ground Station. He plans to keep on working until, as he says, “they pull the plug on my position;” that is, if he hasn’t decided that devoting additional time to clowning is a lot more fun.

It has been said that being a clown takes lots of knowledge, practice and make-up skills. But most important, you have to have a clown in your heart. Sounds strange, not everyone that is funny can be a clown, it takes a special talent. As Dick Thrasher begins to chat about being a clown, the inflection of his voice warms, the corners of his mouth curl up, his cheeks begin to blush red, and his eyes twinkle, instantly letting others know that he possesses that special talent.

Also known by “Butch,” his clown name, Thrasher explains how he was given this nickname at birth, “I was blessed with the name the day I was born. The doctor told my grandfather, ‘you

have a grandson and he’s quite a butch,’ meaning fat and chubby. That name hung with me, so when I got into clowning, I began using it as my clown name.”

Butch the clown began his work in 1973; while stationed in Europe he joined the Shriners. Almost immediately, he was drawn to the clown unit. “I wanted to have more fun than just being a fez wearing Shriner,” he said. He eventually became the organization’s president and later the clown unit’s Boss Clown of European clowns.

After many years of perfecting his skills, judged on his makeup and costume Thrasher won first place in the “Auguste” category at the Clown-Rama held in Montreal.

Thrasher is one of thousands of Shriner clowns who each do their own little thing that turns out to be a lot of good things for a lot of kids. He is a senior clown and active member of the Shriners of North America and belongs to the regional Aleppo Temple in Wilmington.

Recruiting 101

Master Sgt. Galon “Chip” Barlow



Hey Everyone! I realize we took a bit of a hiatus, but “Recruiting 101” is back! This month we are looking at Recruiting Team introductions.

Recruiting Office Supervisor: Master Sgt. Galon “Chip” Barlow

I was born and raised in Wareham. I am married with three children and I just moved to Plymouth. I enlisted with the Massachusetts Air National Guard in 1994 and became a Production Recruiter in 2000. I have been the recruiting office supervisor (ROS) for just over two years. My career plan is to become a commissioned officer or if I am extremely fortunate, a chief master sergeant! My educational background comprises two associate degrees, NCO Academy in-residence (Distinguished Graduate), and I am currently working towards a bachelor of arts in business management.

Master Production Recruiter: Master Sgt. Kevin Eccleston

Kevin is a native of Sandwich; he currently resides in Plymouth. He is married with four children and beautiful seven month old granddaughter. He enlisted with the Massachusetts Air National Guard in 1985 and became a production recruiter in 1997. His career goal is to become a chief master sergeant. He graduated the NCO Academy in-residence in 2000. He hopes to leave his mark as the single greatest production recruiter the Air National Guard has ever known.

Senior Production Recruiter: Master Sgt. “Tom” Whiddon

Tom was born in Boston, lived in Plymouth, and currently resides in Sandwich. He is married with two children. He enlisted with the Massachusetts Air National Guard in 1991 and became a production recruiter in 2003. His career goal is to be elected to public office. His educational background comprises two associate degrees and NCO Academy in-residence.

Production Recruiter: Tech. Sgt. Marianne Whelan

Marianne grew up in Franklin, MA and attended Bishop Feehan High School. After graduating in 1994, she enlisted in the Massachusetts Air National Guard while enrolled in Framingham State College. She earned a bachelor’s degree in clothing and textile in 2000. Marianne became a recruiter in 2005. In her spare time - which is hard to find - she sits on the Eagles Nest board of directors. Due to her expertise is socializing and galavanting, her primary duties with the entertainment committee.

Production Recruiter: Staff. Sgt. Christine Torres

Christine is a native of Albuquerque, N.M., currently residing in Medford. She is married with two “children”, rat-terriers Sky and Travis. She has 12 years of prior active duty Air Force experience and enlisted with the Massachusetts Air National Guard in 2006 and became a production recruiter, graduating from the ANG Basic Recruiter Course in November 2006. Her career goal is to become a chief master sergeant. Her educational background comprises a bachelor’s degree and an associate degree. She and her husband Luis enjoy exploring Boston and other cities.



The demonstration pilots, flying as a single unit, demonstrate the skills and techniques demanded of every Air Force fighter pilot. This ranges from basic loops, rolls and formation flying taught in initial flight training, to the more advanced air combat tactics.

Cape Cod Airshow August 25 and 26, 2007

The United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, "Thunderbirds" has been inspiring the young, instilling confidence in the old and making Americans proud of their Air Force since the first demonstration more than 47 years ago. Watching a "Thunderbirds" performance provides a small glimpse into how more than 360,000 Air Force professionals perform everyday. This year, the Thunderbirds will again bring the U.S. Air Force to audiences in around the world, displaying the pride, precision and professionalism of the men and women serving in today's Air Force. The team will perform at the Cape Cod Air Show on Otis Air National Guard Base, Aug 25 and 26.

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