

102nd Fighter Wing Seagull

February-March 2006

Vol. XXI, No. 1



**Family Day
poster contest winner**



Colonel Richard Dupuis

**By Col. Richard Dupuis
102nd Maintenance Group commander**

We all attended the multiple mission briefings on Sunday of the January drill.

Did you come away from this briefing with more questions than you went in with? Are you a 20-something mechanic with a spouse, two kids, mortgage and a sizeable truck loan?

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission, President Bush and Congress have mandated that the mission of Otis Air National Guard Base is to be realigned from flying the F-15 in an air defense role to a more space age and computerized role in our national security. Future wars will be waged utilizing satellites, watching computer screens and maximizing intelligence information.

So what exactly does that mean to you?

Here are the givens: Your current job will change in the year of 2008.

For your planning purposes, you are no doubt trying to decide what is the best career move you could possibly make. Does your experience and expertise on the F-15 aircraft make you a good candidate to join our fleet at Barnes? Do you have any interest in relocating to Western Massachusetts?

Does the Cape and all it has to offer keep you grounded?

Does the technology of fighting a war from half way across the globe interest you? Are you young and adven-

From the group commander's desk

What do I do now?

*Look with optimism
toward your bright,
new future. It will be
what you make of it.*

turous and would like to be on the cutting edge of technology; or perhaps its time to look to the public sector?

These are all questions that need to be pondered on an individual basis.

We all realize that there is much uncertainty and anxiousness toward what lies ahead of each and every one of us. It is up to each member of the 102nd Fighter Wing to chart a course, which will ultimately define his/her military career.

Look with optimism toward your bright, new future. It will be what you make of it.

Having put these thoughts out there, we must all remember that as members of the very much alive 102nd Fighter Wing, we all still have a mission to do. We must continue maintaining and safely flying our fleet of F-15 aircraft, performing our alert mission and post 9/11 patrols until at least the year 2008.

We have proven to be dedicated and hardworking professionals and will see this mission through until the end. The good news is that the future is yours to claim.

Consider yourself empowered!

LDRSHIP

L - Loyalty

D - Duty

R - Respect

S - Selfless Service

H - Honor

I - Integrity

P - Personal Courage

ON THE COVER

David Bodeau submitted the first-place poster in the Family Day Poster Contest. The poster is surrounded by images of Family Day.

This month...

Road renamed for Giammalvo



Story on Page 5

Seagull

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Whelan joins recruiters



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Haehnel gets Flynn award



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What's for lunch?



Saturday, Feb. 11

Fried chicken or tuna casserole, vegetables, salad, assorted desserts and beverages.

Sunday, Feb. 12

Baked stuffed pork or fish, vegetables, salad, assorted desserts and beverages.

Saturday, March 4

New England boiled dinner or grilled ham and cheese sandwich, vegetables, salad, assorted desserts and beverages.

Sunday, March 5

Shepherd/s pie or reuben sandwich, vegetables, salad, assorted desserts and beverages.

Eagles Nest schedule

Valentine's Day is being celebrated Feb. 11 at the Eagles Nest with the game "Battle of the Sexes" being played from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. A spaghetti and meatball dinner is being offered for \$3.

The first 100 people at the door will get a free gift.

In March, the theme is Go Big Green! For Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day, that is. Join in the fun with music March 4 and receive free beads at the door. The menu will be announced later.



*Happy
Valentine's Day*

Upcoming drill dates

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

2006

Feb. 11-12	Aug. 26-27
March 4-5	Sept. 16-17
April 1-2	Oct. 21-22
May 6-7	Nov. 2-3
June 8-9	Nov. 4-5
June 10-11	Dec. 2-3

- * First drill in June replaces July drill.
- * June 8-11 is for Unit Compliance Inspection preparation.
- * First drill in November replaces July 2007 drill.
- * Unit Compliance Inspection Nov. 2-7.

Wing cable television

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

Channel 3: Fox News

Channel 9: CNN, defaults to training broadcasts

Channel 11: Pentagon Channel, defaults to training broadcasts

For questions about broadcasting please contact Multimedia at extension 4516.

UCI prep closings

In order to prepare for this year's Unit Compliance Inspection, several offices in the 102nd Wing Group will close at varying times during unit training assemblies.

They are:

Financial Management Office, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Military Equal Opportunity Office, 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays.

Chaplain's Office, 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays.

Officer qualifying test to be offered

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

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

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

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

If you are interested in taking the officer-qualifying test, send an e-mail to DPMT.102FW@maotis.af.mil or to Senior Master Sgt. Paul Hennessey or Master Sgt. Colleen Archer so you can be scheduled. The test also can be taken at Hanscom Air Force Base or Quonset Air National Guard Base, R.I.

If you are interested in going to either of those other locations, contact Sergeants Hennessey or Archer for information.

Seagull deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the next Seagull is 2 p.m., Sunday, March 5. No articles can be accepted after this deadline.

Articles for publication should be no longer than 350 words. The public affairs staff has the right to edit all articles for content and length.

Items should be sent over the LAN to kenneth.wheeler@maotis.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.

Road renamed for late wing member

Master Sgt. Jim Giammalvo is remembered

By Senior Airman James Regan

The 102nd Communications Flight recently named the road leading to Building 104 as James A. Giammalvo Road, after the late Master Sgt. Jimmy Giammalvo who passed away June 10 after a hard-fought battle with cancer.

After enlisting in July of 1966, Sergeant Giammalvo spent four years in the active duty Air Force, working as a teletype operations specialist at bases in Texas, Montana, and Germany.

Sergeant Giammalvo married his wife, Sandy, in October of 1970 and enlisted in the Air National Guard soon after. While serving in the Guard, his accomplishments included being named senior non-commissioned officer of the half year for the Communications Flight and senior NCO of the quarter for the 102nd Fighter Wing. Sergeant Giammalvo also received the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

He took part in several field training missions on both the East and West Coasts.

As a civilian, Sergeant Giammalvo was a full-time police officer for the city of New Bedford. His first 15 years were spent working patrol and his last 12 in administration.

After spending 30 years at Otis, with the 102nd Communications Flight, Sergeant Giammalvo retired in September 2003.

As a proud member of the Nautical Whalers Parrot Head Club, Sergeant Giammalvo participated in community beach clean-ups, as well as walks to fund research to find a cure for cancer and Alzheimer's disease. In 2002, he was selected to be the Cancer Relay for Life Leader, which allowed him to open the ceremonies at the American Cancer Relay for Life as the lead walker of cancer survivors.

At the recent dedication ceremony, Sergeant Giammalvo's family gathered



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Reuben Hernandez-Gandia

From left, Lt. Col. John Aylward, commander of the 102nd Communications Flight; Sandy Giammalvo; Tom Giammalvo; and Chief Master Sgt. Richard Haddon stand together in front of the sign designating James A. Giammalvo Road.

to honor his memory. Clenching his father's cover, Tom Giammalvo remarked; "This is what my dad loved. You guys were his family, every one of you."

Fighting back tears, Mrs. Giammalvo addressed her husband's co-workers; "There are no words to express our

deepest regards."

Lt. Col. John Aylward, Communications Flight commander, said, "Jimmy was a unique individual. He always had a positive attitude and was always one to motivate people, especially the younger troops. His family's loss was our loss, too."

Sergeant Whelan joins recruiting staff

By Senior Airman James Regan

During the November unit training assembly, Staff Sgt. Marianne Whelan was awarded her certification in National Guard recruiting.

After accepting the job in December 2004, Sergeant Whelan left for her technical school in January of 2005 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

She said the four-week school proved both enjoyable and rewarding.

"We had to do actual sales labs with skits and role playing. The instructors were focused on our personalities and how we handled different situations. We could not break character when we had a very creative individual walking in our door."

For a position as multifaceted as recruiting, Sergeant Whelan is confident she'll do just fine. With a well-defined background in sales that began when she was 16, she's up to the task of selling the Air National Guard.

"My favorite part of the job is definitely being around the people at events. There's also a ton of paperwork involved, so much to learn and know, which has been a great experience. It's teaching me a lot and there are things I'd never learn anywhere else on the base."

Sergeant Whelan enlisted in January 1995 and spent the following 10 years as a traditional Guardsman, working as an administrative assistant in the Operations Building.

In the fall of 2000, she graduated from Framingham State College with a bachelor's degree in clothing and textiles, with a concentration in merchandising. Her goal was to become a fashion merchandiser or a buyer.

Following Sept. 11, 2001, she was activated for one year, which proved to be a blessing in disguise.

"I am a firm believer that things happen for a reason. After September 11th, the economy wasn't doing that great. There was no need for companies to hire buyers."

For her efforts during the activation, she was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal and Air Force Achievement Medal and was selected noncom-



Staff Sgt. Marianne Whelan

"I am a firm believer that things happen for a reason. After September 11th, the economy wasn't doing that great. There was no need for companies to hire buyers."

missioned officer of the quarter.

While working with the Recruiting Street Team at College Fest 2004, Sergeant Whelan got her first exposure to the hectic job she's now fully engaged in.

"While Kevin and Tom were working the sumo wrestling mat, I was organizing the lines of people and their waivers. Girls kept approaching me, asking questions they may not have felt comfortable enough to ask guys. Prizes also needed to be passed out. It was very busy, but well worth it."

Recently elected to the Board of Directors for the Eagles Nest, Sergeant Whelan is planning several events including a trivia night and a "Battle of the Sexes."

She's also active with the Rebekah Lodge, which does charity work ben-

efiting arthritis foundations, and the DARE program, among others.

Sergeant Whelan's stint as a recruiter is a temporary four-year tour. The position was added due to the responsibility of manning the 102nd Fighter Wing and the 253rd Combat Communications Group.

She said the biggest challenge she and her co-workers face is the highly publicized Base Realignment and Closure Commission decision and the much less publicized BRAC amendment.

"High school kids hear whatever's on the news. The downfall is that there was so much talk about BRAC that when they finally took us off the list and re-directed us, they only announced it a couple times. That end of it wasn't pushed in the media. Now we need to convince the public that we're not closing."

It's clear that Sergeant Whelan brings another layer of enthusiasm to an office that always requires 110 percent.

"I couldn't ask for a better team. We bounce off each other and it works really well. Kevin (Eccleston) and I think way out of the box, sometimes to the point where Chip (Barlow) and Tom (Whiddon) have to reel us back in! It's good because it keeps us realistic."

In addition to representing the minority gender in the military, a history with sales and marketing and the viewpoint of a 10-year traditional Guardsman, Sergeant Whelan has something else to offer.

"My crazy, funky spirit is what I bring to the table! Just like in the commercial."

What commercial you ask?

You may have seen Sergeant Whelan appear with Kiss 108's Matty in the Morning back in 2001 on a televised commercial.

She proudly sported her high school majorette uniform as she cartwheeled across the screen ... which was followed by the sound of breaking glass. Interested unit members may contact Sergeant Whelan about viewing the very comical, yet commendable clip.

"For a fee," she added with a laugh.

Master Sgt. Long helps Guard Katrina victims

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

Getting people paid in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, after many of them had lost everything, is a task that Master Sgt. Mary Long discusses proudly.

She was deployed last fall for 29 days to Belle Chasse Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, on the west bank of the Mississippi River, where she and other Air Guard volunteers worked with Louisiana Guard personnel in the finance office.

Living in the home of the base comptroller and sleeping on a cot, she worked to ensure that Guard members who were put on orders after the storm got paid.

"Entire units were put on Hurricane Katrina orders even though units didn't know where their people were after the storm," Sergeant Long said, smiling. "People were told to evacuate and their first priority was to get their family members safe and out of harm's way."

Once that was accomplished, the Guard members had a "window of time" to return to their units to help in the cleanup and recovery efforts.

"Lots of families are still not back because they have no place to come back to," Sergeant Long said. And for many of the Guard members, the Guard mission replaced their regular, full-time employment which was blown away by Katrina's Category 4 winds.

It was part of her responsibility to ensure the Guard members received the appropriate per diem payments to pay for their families' food and shelter, since some were sent as far away as Florida and Houston.

Shortages of food, fuel and shelter were abundant, she said.

Sergeant Long said she once went to the on-base gas station to fill up at the regular pump. After pumping for several minutes, she noticed she had only put 18 cents of gas in her tank. The attendant told her she would have to go to another pump to use mid-grade gas because the station had run out of regular. "I was concerned that I'd be reimbursed" for using the higher grade, she said half-joking.

Louisiana Guard co-workers also opened up not only their hearts but also their homes to the Air Guard volunteers who came down to help.

Sergeant Long said she and Guard volunteers from San Antonio, Texas; Kentucky; Vermont; and Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, were taken in by Maj. Whitney Broussard,

the base controller.

"We slept on cots and air mattresses. Sleeping under a military blanket, I was afraid to turn over for fear of falling onto the floor," she said.

Beyond the long hours and stress from his job and the losses around him, Major Broussard was undergoing another burden: chemotherapy for cancer. Despite being ill after his weekly treatments, he had a bright outlook and could always come up with an entertaining story. "Give him a subject and he'd have a story on it," Sergeant Long said.

His resiliency and those of other New Orleans residents deeply impressed Sergeant Long. "I really believe New Orleans will come back better than ever. ... The people there have no intention of leaving. ... People want to make it come alive again."

Sergeant Long said Major Broussard already has bought his retirement home there and intends to stay.

Another Louisiana Guard member in the finance office - Master Sgt. Brigitte Bouette, the lead accountant — had taken in family members who lost their homes to Katrina, creating a multi-generational "family of 12" that included a couple of her Louisiana co-workers. Sergeant Long said everyone had pooled their assets to try to make the living situation better.

Sergeant Long also said she was impressed with the hospitality and respect shown while she was there. "Everyone seems more respectful of personnel - I was always addressed as ma'am or Miss Mary. ... It's just the culture down there. ... And even though they lost a lot, they are appreciative of what they still have."

"Even my kids were appreciative of me going. ... They said, 'If I couldn't go, at least mom is helping out.'"

On her sole venture into downtown New Orleans, Sergeant Long said she got to Bourbon Street, the center of nightlife in the city. "And that area is open and running," but many others were decimated. She also saw piles of trash and debris where homes and businesses once stood.

During another trip outside the city, she said she got lost, went in the wrong direction and ended up in Slidell.

"It wasn't a matter of poor directions so much as so many roads being blocked by debris. ... They probably were good directions before the storm, but after landmarks didn't exist any more."

Stork has landed

The stork has added a new member to the 102nd Fighter Wing with the birth of a daughter, Alexiss Lindsay, to Staff Sgt. Adrienne McGlone, information management specialist 102nd Maintenance Squadron Orderly Room.

Alexiss was born Oct. 9 and weighed in at 6 pounds, 13 ounces. She was 18 inches in length.



In sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to Joanne McCarron, who works in the 102nd Fighter Wing Civilian Human Resources Office, on the death of her father Joseph Timothy Wallace.

Chapel Call

Chaplain (Capt.) Mary Scheer



Dogs don't eat Doritos!

"Dog's don't eat Doritos," I said to my dog (Fred), who was frantically panting trying to get a treat. Reaching in the bag for another Dorito, I shook my head no. He persisted, dancing at my feet, turning circles, tail-a-waggin', eyes sparkling, big smile (you have to trust me on the smile).

He was doing all his "cute" tricks, which usually win him a reward. More than a little overweight, the vet warned us and urged, "no more McDonald's Happy Meals or chips for him."

When he realized I wasn't sharing this time, he sat resolutely in front of me, sober face. "Don't look so sad, you're supposed to be on a diet." These are bad for you I said, munching on another chip. "They will clog your arteries, there's too much salt...it's a poor choice Fred."

Then it dawned on me...he's a dog! He doesn't use the same foresight and reason that people do in making choices. He does what seems good and right to him at the time.

Ours is to gather data - educate ourselves, weigh the consequences of varying actions and choices, reflect on the past, examine our motives, project into the future, plan our course and make informed decisions.

New Year's Day is a time when many people make changes. With a New Year's resolution, they may quit doing

things they enjoy but think are bad for them, (like smoking), or begin doing things they don't enjoy, but believe will be helpful, (such as exercising).

A new year brings new opportunities and potential for change. Who knows what this year will bring, or what we will face? There will certainly be choices and decisions to make. There may be times when we are tempted to take the easy way or a short cut, to do what feels the best even when we know it's not.

Sometimes what "seems right" seems that way because it's what satisfies a desire, makes life easier, or feels the best, but in the end the consequences are painful, can make us sick (such as too many Doritos), can destroy relationships, careers, and life. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Prov. 12:14 (NIV)

Life is not simple and decisions are not always easy. As Airmen, our commitment to integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do, provides guidance for making decisions. Through the consideration of integrity, service and excellence, understanding and direction are gained.

"Discretion will protect you and understanding will guard you" Prov 2:11

Military Equal Opportunity seeks Equal Opportunity NCO

The 102nd Fighter Wing Military Equal Opportunity Office has an opening for an equal opportunity noncommissioned officer. Qualified applicants must possess at least a five-skill level in any Air Force specialty code.

Upon selection, the successful applicant must complete all phases of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute Equal Opportunity Adviser Reserve Course within 18 months of assignment. The course consists of both in-residence and correspondence components. The in-residence portion of the course requires completion of a 20-day program at DEOMI, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

Responsibilities include advising commanders on equal opportunity, providing education and training in equal opportunity, providing assistance to members who feel

they have been the victims of discrimination, serving as a central point to receive military complaints of unlawful discrimination, participation on, and organization of, committees designed to assess the equal opportunity climate on the base, and organization and preparation of annual reports.

The equal opportunity NCO also works with medical squadron personnel in the administration of the wing urinalysis drug testing program. Responsibilities include

generation of random lists of members to test using an Air Force computer program and maintenance and tracking of members tested in order to ensure the wing reaches its annual quota.

Currently, the position allows advancement to the rank of master sergeant.

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

Security forces hours listed

The 102nd Fighter Wing security forces office located in Building 753, just outside the I-Gate, is open for vehicle registration, day passes, restricted area badges, contractor identification badge issue and contract co-

ordination from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The office is closed Wednesday mornings, but open in the afternoon from 12:30 to 2:30.

SMSgt Haehnel receives 2005 Flynn Award

By Senior Master Sgt.
Michael J. Poirier
102nd Fighter Wing
First Sergeant's Council

Senior Master Sgt. James D. Haehnel of the 102nd Civil Engineering Squadron was named the 2005 Master Sgt. Thomas Flynn Memorial Award recipient and received his award in October.

The award is named for Sergeant Flynn, a member of the former 102nd Resource Management Squadron, now called the 102nd Logistics Readiness Squadron. He was a prominent member of the wing family and was extremely active in morale-related activities, including playing Santa at wing holiday parties and volunteering his time to other wing activities. He was also the originator of the annual enlisted-officer softball game.

Sergeant Flynn retired in June 1988 upon reaching the mandatory retirement age and passed away six years later. Shortly after his death, the memorial award was established in 1995 with the full concurrence of his family.

Previous award recipients are Lt. Col. Philip French, 1995; Lt. Col. Chris Faux, 1996; Tech. Sgt. Donnie Hopper, 1997; Master Sgt. Robert Howard Jr., 1998; Maj. Robert Henry, 1999; Senior Master Sgt. Julie A. Munson, 2003; and Master Sgt. Gregory L. Harriman, 2004.

Last year, Sergeant Haehnel was selected for a special Air Force Engineering Inspection team attached to the Army. He underwent special Army Combat training, left for Iraq in March 2005, served a six-month tour, and



Senior Master Sgt. James Haehnel enjoys a feast at a local sheik's home during his deployment to Iraq last year.

while there received the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron (ECES) senior noncommissioned officer award for the month of May.

This was the third deployment in the last three years for Sergeant Haehnel as he was deployed to Diego Garcia for three months in 2003, and was deployed to Iraq for four months in 2004.

While in Iraq, he adopted a school where he donated pens, pencils and books that he gathered. Last year, Sergeant Haehnel also donated his own personal time by preparing care packages, and ensuring that those deployed had whatever necessary equipment they needed.

Sergeant Haehnel's work in his community includes volunteering at his local American Legion, donating platelets for cancer research at the Dana Farber Hospital, serving dinner at the Ronald McDonald House, and being a key leader in coordinating and working the Pan Mass Challenge.

Years ago, he and his wife started the Brittney Lambert Foundation in memory of his stepdaughter, who died from cancer.

The foundation assists families who have family members of their own who have cancer.

Logistics and plans has opening

The wing logistics and plans section has an immediate opening for a traditional technical sergeant in Air Force specialty code 2G0X1. Job responsibilities can be found in Air Force Manual 36-2108. Interested persons should email Maj. William Salvaggio at william.salvaggio@maotis.af.mil or call 508-968-4320

Flynn Award nominations due

Nominations for this year's Master Sgt. Thomas Flynn Award are due by June 11.

Take a few minutes to recognize and nominate a member you know who deserves recognition for doing so much for others.

Nominations should consist of a one-

page narrative containing a description of the nominee's contribution to patriotism, morale, and concerns for their organization and community.

Contact Senior Master Sgt. Michael Poirier for more information at 508-968-4663 or at Michael.Poirier@maotis.af.mil.

MSgt. Marshall is CE's new first shirt

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

In a first for the 102nd Civil Engineering Squadron, a woman has been named as the unit's first sergeant.

Master Sgt. Deborah A. Marshall, of Carver, took over the post in December when Master Sgt. Thomas Collela retired.

"For most of the 10 years that I've been a member of the Civil Engineering Squadron, I've been the only woman in the squadron," Sergeant Marshall said. "Another woman started when I did in 1995 but she wasn't around long. Now there are two others, in addition to me."

Sergeant Marshall said people are the reason she wanted to move into the first sergeant's position.

"After being in the unit for 10-plus years, I wanted to make more of an impact in helping unit members take care of their needs," she said. "A first sergeant's job is people. I've always been good at communicating with people and I wanted to do that in the military."

Mechanically inclined, Sergeant Marshall started her military career in the Army in what some might consider a non-traditional area — at least for women — as a light wheeled vehicle mechanic, working on pickup trucks and larger 2-1/2 and 5-ton trucks. After basic and technical training at Fort Jackson, S.C., she served for almost 18 months, again the only female in the motor pool, at the 525th Ordnance Company in Siegelshack, West Germany.

For a few months after leaving the Army, she was in the Army Reserve's 327th Medical Clearing Company in Brockton before "realizing that the educational benefits were better in the Army National Guard."

Then, in 1988, she joined F Company, 26th Aviation Battalion at Camp Edwards, where she also worked as a light wheeled vehicle mechanic and also that shop's only female member.

In 1995, she moved across over the Massachusetts Military Reservation to become a member of the 102 FW Civil Engineering Squadron and worked in the engineering section as a site developer



Master Sgt. Deborah A. Marshall receives her "diamond certificate" from her First Sergeant's Academy instructor, Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Bragg.

and doing site surveying. She did that job until becoming the first sergeant.

Before entering the Army, Sergeant Marshall attended Daniel Webster College in Nashua, N.H., where she received an associate's degree in aeronautical engineering. She later used the National Guard's 100 percent tuition assistance benefit and the G.I. Bill to attend Bridgewater State College where she received a bachelor's degree in earth sciences with a concentration in geology.

As a civilian, Sergeant Marshall has worked since 1993 for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Pro-

tection and is now Section Chief in the Audits Section of the Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup. Her job there is to ensure that oil and hazardous waste spills are cleaned up in a timely manner in accordance with state regulations. Her section monitors cleanup reports to ensure the jobs are being done properly. In her small amount of spare time, Sergeant Marshall is a volunteer at a cat shelter in Duxbury operated by the Standish Humane Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to stray and homeless animals in Southeastern Massachusetts.

She also enjoys time spent with family, her three shelter adopted cats and friends.

Tips for aiding suicide prevention



Submitted by the Chaplain's Office

Conservative studies show at least one out of 17 people think seriously about committing suicide each year. At Otis, that means around 47 of us.

Myths about suicide

- * People who commit suicide are mentally ill
- * Good circumstances prevent suicide
- * People who talk about suicide won't commit suicide
- * People who threaten suicide or are unsuccessful at attempting suicide will not do it
- * Talking about suicide will put the idea in someone's head
- * People who are deeply depressed don't have the energy to commit suicide
- * People often commit suicide without warning

Risk factors can include

- * Alcohol and drug abuse
- * Legal problems

- * Family violence
- * Poor job performance
- * Relationship difficulties
- * Financial problems
- * Coping problems - poorly developed coping skills
- * Disciplinary actions
- * Being under investigation

Symptoms of risk

- * Suicide gestures
- * Giving away items
- * Talking about suicide
- * Talking about death
- * Farewells
- * Pessimistic outlook
- * Increased alcohol/drug use
- * Weeping easily
- * Change in eating habits - weight loss
- * Drop in job performance
- * Increased irritability
- * Loss of sense of humor
- * Social withdrawal
- * Continual sadness
- * Feelings of hopelessness/helplessness

- * Change in sleeping habits

What to do if you suspect trouble

(AID LIFE)

- * Ask, "Are you thinking about committing suicide?"
 - * Intervene immediately
 - * Don't keep it a secret
 - * Locate help
 - * Inform family and individual's support network
 - * Find someone to stay with the person
 - * Expedite - get help immediately
- What to avoid when you suspect trouble
- * DO NOT ignore warning signs
 - * DO NOT warn against seeking help
 - * DO NOT assume minor troubles are unimportant
 - * DO NOT give false reassurance
 - * DO NOT assume someone is immune from self harm
 - * DO NOT advise alcohol use
 - * DO NOT challenge the individual to "just do it"

Resources

1. NGB/HC Suicide Prevention Briefing
2. www.afsp.org
3. www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets

One-year open enrollment for SBP announced

Submitted by the 102nd Mission Support Flight Personnel Relocations Section Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Department of Defense officials announced Aug. 19 that military retirees, who opted out of some or all their survivor benefit plan coverage, will have another opportunity to elect coverage during a one-year open enrollment period that runs through Sept. 30.

Upon a retiree's death, the plan provides an annuity of up to 55 percent of the military retired pay.

Until recently, the annuity for a surviving spouse age 62 or older was reduced to 35 percent to reflect the availability of Social Security benefits. This reduction will phase out by April 2008, and the full 55-percent benefit will be paid regard-

less of the spouse's age in accordance with the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

Current non-participants will be able to elect any coverage they could have elected previously upon retiring from active service or upon receiving notification of eligibility for reserve retired pay at age 60.

If they have a reduced election, they may increase their coverage. A participant with child-only coverage may add a spouse or former spouse to their coverage, and a person may add child coverage to spouse or former spouse coverage. But those who took coverage and later elected to terminate that coverage are not eligible to make an open enrollment election.

Open enrollment elections require a lump sum buy-in premium as well as

future monthly premiums.

The lump sum equates to all back premiums, plus interest, from the date of original eligibility to make an election plus any amount needed to protect the Military Retirement Fund. The latter amount applies almost exclusively to those paying fewer than seven years of back payments.

The lump sum buy-in premium can be paid over a two-year period. Monthly premiums for spouse or former spouse coverage will be 6.5 percent of the coverage elected, the same premium paid by those currently enrolled.

Reserve component members under age 60 and not yet eligible for retired pay do not pay back premiums or interest, but must pay a monthly plan premium "add-on" once their retired pay starts.

(See SBP, Page 23)

Recruiters set up shop in storefront

Look to give 102nd more visibility

By Senior Airman James Regan

As part of on-going efforts to increase visibility within the community, the 102nd Fighter Wing recruiting staff recently hosted the grand opening of its new off-base office.

Brig. Gen. Oliver Mason, state adjutant general; Col. Paul Worcester, wing commander, and Sen. Marc Pacheco, D-Taunton, had the honors of cutting the blue and white ribbon that hung in front of the entrance to the Jordan Plaza.

Located on Cranberry Highway in East Wareham, the office provides the recruiters with easy access to the public without the standard security regulations that are in place at military bases. It also makes it easier for the public to contact the recruiters.

After the grand opening ceremony, Master Sgt. Kevin Eccleston was approached by a man interested in joining the Air National Guard.

"He saw our sign and asked if I was a recruiter. We went upstairs (to my office) and talked for a little bit. He's our first walk-in recruit," said Sergeant Eccleston.

With a welcome area, full-size conference room and four offices, the 1,410 square feet of rented space is being put to good use. The staff is



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki

From left, Col. Paul Worcester, 102nd Fighter Wing commander; Brig. Gen. Oliver Mason, state adjutant general, and Rep. Marc Pacheco, D-Taunton, jointly cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the new recruiting office in the Jordan Plaza in East Wareham.

responsible for finding men and women for the 102nd Fighter Wing and the 253rd Combat Communications Group.

Between September 2004 and October 2005, the recruiting team surpassed its goal of 90 recruits, bringing a total of 96 into the Air National Guard. This occurred during a time when the Air National Guard fell short of its recruiting goals nationally.

"We had a great team anyway, but this will only enhance their efforts," said Senior Master Sgt. Pete Johnson, retention and recruiting superintendent for the state Air National Guard.

The idea of moving out of Otis was

originally brought up four years ago by state officials, but obtaining funding prolonged the process.

After surveying several locations close to the cape in the fall of 2005, the newly constructed Jordan Plaza was selected soon thereafter. The office has been opened since November and everyone seems optimistic that it will improve on the already impressive numbers.

"I'm very excited for our recruiting staff and the wing ... to have them out among our community is great," added Lt Col Virginia Doonan, commander of the 102nd Mission Support Flight.

267th Combat Commucations Group has openings

The 267th Combat Communications Squadron has openings in the following career fields: 3A0X1 - information management; 3C0X1 - communications-computer systems operations; 3C2X1 - communications - computer systems control; 2E1X1 - satellite, wideband, and telemetry systems; 2E1X3 - ground radio communications; 2E2X1 - computer,

network, switching and cryptographic systems; 2E6X3 - voice network systems; 2S0X1 - supply management; 2T3X4 - vehicle and vehicular equipment maintenance; 3E0X2 - electrical power production; 3E1X1 - heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration; and 3E9X1 - readiness.

For more information, contact Capt.

Christopher G. Willander, detachment commander, 267 Combat Communications Squadron, (508) 968-7302 or Master Sgt. Galon Barlow, chief 102nd Fighter Wing recruiter's office.

Captain Willander is located in Building 330, across from the Eagles Nest and is willing to give interested individuals a tour of the facility.

My Life for yours

By Chief Master Sgt. Don Nelson Wing human resources advisor

People who are not in the military cannot fully grasp the unspoken allegiance one service member has for another. No request is too large or unreasonable.

The most profound examples of service to others are probably found in combat or in situations of extreme stress. Consider this story.

In 1894, a person named Raymond Kolbe was born in Russian Poland. He was called to become a Catholic priest and took the name of Maximilian.

He earned doctorates in both theology and philosophy and was very involved with the salvation of all people. However, his health was always in bad condition and he fought tuberculosis all his life.

When World War II broke out, the Gestapo arrested him in 1939 and again in 1941. He was sent to Auschwitz

concentration camp where he was regularly beaten, attacked by dogs, given the worst job details, and made to carry corpses. Throughout all this, he maintained a positive outlook and gave fellow prisoners great strength.

In July 1941, a prisoner escaped. Camp rules said that if a missing prisoner was not caught and returned, 10 fellow prisoners would be killed in reprisal.

The commandant selected the 10 victims at random. A Polish soldier, Sergeant Francis Gajowniczek, was selected and cried out, "What will happen to my family?"

Immediately, Maximilian volunteered himself in the soldier's place.

The 10 men were sent to a starvation cell, stripped of their clothing, and left to die.

One after the other died and some were kicked to death by the guards. Maximilian led the survivors in prayer

and singing of hymns.

Two weeks later, only four men remained alive and the commandant ordered them injected with carbolic acid. When his turn came, he courageously raised his arm. He died the next day.

As I read about Maximilian, I thought about his brave and unselfish actions. Time after time during the 47 years of his life, he denied his own personal needs and wants in deference to someone else and he forfeited his life for another human being.

What greater gift can someone give to another person?

Do we as military members figuratively give something of ourselves to others? Do we need to consider the example of Father Maximilian when we deal with other people?

The time is now to think about all the men and women we deal with, personally and professionally.

Legal documents available on wing intranet

Submitted by the wing Staff Judge Advocate's Office

Are you deployable, being deployed, or scheduled for a temporary duty assignment?

Do you have a will?

If you do, have you reviewed it within the past 36 months?

Have you had a recent, significant family event such as marriage, divorce, birth of a child, or adoption of a child?

Do you have a health care proxy, living will, or durable power of attorney?

Do you have a general power of attorney so someone can take care of things for you while you are away?

If you are married, have children, have a specific beneficiary in mind, or have substantial assets, you should seriously consider preparing a will.

If you are single, have no children and few assets, you should still consider preparing a will and related estate planning documents now so you will be ready to deploy or go TDY.

If you are interested in having a last will and testament, a power of attorney, or other estate planning documents prepared it is as simple as filling out a questionnaire.

Questionnaires are available in the legal office which is located in Building 158, room 244, or by calling 508-968-4336.

The estate planning questionnaire is also on the 102nd

judge advocate intranet site at: <http://131.62.32.33/organizations/ja/EstatePlanPack.doc>

And the questionnaire for durable or special powers of attorney is at: <http://131.62.32.33/organizations/ja/GenOrSpecPwrOfAttyWorksheet.doc>

Completed questionnaires can be e-mailed to Tech. Sgt. Paul Tucker at paul.tucker@maotis.ang.af.mil

ASVAB testing planned at Otis

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

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

ASVAB tests have been scheduled in the wing training plan, beginning in January. Upcoming ASVAB are scheduled from 7 to 11 a.m. on the Friday before the unit training assemblies in January, March, May, August, October, and December. In light of the news of our changing mission, the requirement for changing jobs may need higher Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery scores in order to qualify for a new Air Force specialty code.

The Russians have been here

Russian officers pose for a group photo in front of an F-15.

Photos by
Senior
Airman
James Regan



Russian officers, members of the U.S. - Russia Security Program at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government watch as an F-15 does a low-level pass over the Otis runway.



Col. Paul Worcester, 102nd Fighter Wing commander, exchanges gifts, including wing coins for a unique bottle of vodka, with a Russian general officer.

A Russian general poses for a photo in front of a Coast Guard rescue helicopter.



An F-15 makes a high speed turn as members of the U.S. - Russia Security Program at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government watch.

Photos by Senior
Airman James Regan

Defense budget hikes military pay, benefits

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush ushered in an across-the-board 3.1 percent military pay raise, effective Jan. 1.

It was in the 2006 National Defense Authorization Bill, that also included a variety of new or enhanced benefits for servicemembers and their families.

In addition to a pay raise that's a half percent higher than the average private-sector increase, the new budget provides about 20 new or increased bonuses or special pays or benefits. This reflects a trend DOD officials emphasize is becoming increasingly rare in the private sector.

The new law provides a variety of benefits designed to better compensate servicemembers, improve their quality of life, bring reserve-component benefits more on par with those for the active force and promote recruiting and retention, Chuck Witschonke, DOD's deputy director for compensation, said.

"Not only does it contain the routine annual pay raise, which is one-half percent higher than the raise measured in the private sector, but it also includes a number of increases in ceilings on some very important pays," he

said.

The law provides a variety of benefits specifically targeting members of the reserve components. These include:

- * Full housing allowance payments for reserve members called to active duty for more than 30 days, vs. the previous 140-day requirement;

- * Income replacement benefits to help offset the pay loss some reservists and guardsmen experience when called to active duty, based on specific guidelines provided in the law;

- * Increases in the maximum payment for accession and affiliation bonuses, from \$10,000 and \$15,000, respectively, to a consolidated \$20,000 for enlistment in the Selected Reserve;

- * Boosts in the maximum affiliation bonus for officers in the Selected Reserve, from \$6,000 to \$10,000;

- * A bonus that could total up to \$100,000 over a career for members with a designated critical skill or who volunteer to serve in a designated high-priority unit; and

- * Extension of eligibility for a prior-service enlistment bonus to include Selected Reserve members who previously received one.

Mr. Witschonke emphasized that the

new law does not guarantee that all servicemembers will qualify for these pays and benefits, or that those who do will receive the highest amounts authorized. Rather, the law gives defense and service leaders the flexibility they need to tailor the force to meet operational, recruiting and retention goals.

The 2006 authorization act, like those in recent years, reflects steady progress in compensating servicemembers and their families with increased benefits and opportunities, he said.

"Every year for the past several years, our servicemembers have gotten larger pay, increased benefits and increased special incentive pays. This is a clear reflection of our Congress, our administration and our country wanting to take care of our servicemembers and their families," he said.

"The members of our uniformed services should feel very good about this year's defense bill as a follow-on to those from past few years," he said.

More information about pay and benefits is posted on DOD's military compensation Web site at www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/.

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 con-

ditions.

Essential personnel include firefighters, 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.

Capt. Jaffe helps Marines with wills

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

In a display of military cooperation, staff judge advocates from three different services, including Capt. David Jaffe from the 102nd Fighter Wing, last month volunteered to help members of a force of 500 Marines who were preparing to deploy to Iraq.

Captain Jaffe joined an Army National Guard captain, two category B Air Force Reserve officers and a Marine Corps Reserve lieutenant colonel in a joint-force effort to help the Marines prepare wills, powers of attorney, living wills and health-care directives.

"They were 18-to 21-year-old kids full of all kinds of confidence and invincibility," Captain Jaffe. "I hope none of those wills will have to be probated for a very long time."

During the almost 12-hour day spent in Londonderry, N.H., Captain Jaffe and the other four officers processed 100 to 120 wills, in addition to the other documents.

"Several wills were already generated and many were generated on site."

The process didn't always go smoothly.

At first, the officers were working with a couple of laptop computers, "and

only one ink jet printer, but we finally commandeered a laser printer." Later, they got another computer, but only Captain Jaffe's laptop had a serial port that could be connected to the printers.

When one of the computers "conked out," the lawyers had to scramble to come up with a solution. They ended up writing the wills on one computer, then moving the flash card to another computer to print the document.

"We were constantly working out ways to make things work. ... Almost every Marine wanted at least one of the documents. ... It was a true team effort."

Saying goodbye to a wonderful organization

By Chief Master Sgt.

Debra Manamon

Health systems specialist

102nd Medical Group

After 24 years of being a member of the Air Force and the Massachusetts Air National Guard, it will be hard for me to say goodbye when I retire in the near future.

One of the hardest parts of my departure will be to leave the 102nd Medical Group after 18 years and all the personnel I work with and the personnel that I get a chance to help every day.

Being a part of the Medical Group has been both inspiring and fulfilling for me. I have experienced at the height of my career an "outstanding" Health Services Inspection, the best seen in the Air Guard; an annual training trip to Germany assisting at their hospital and visiting some wonderful countries as a group; and making the rank of chief master sergeant for the Medical Group.

Leaving the people I work with every day will be the hardest thing for me. I have worked with Master Sgt. Monica Parks for 11 years and, as our lives have changed and work became demanding, we always had hugs and cards to share with each other.

Master Sgt. Keith Delgado came to us full-time at the clinic after I left as the



Chief Master Sgt. Debra Manamon

junior health tech in 1995. He was bold to start working where only ladies ruled. I am so grateful to him for being there as the old clinic was torn down and we moved into the new clinic in 1996.

If it weren't for him, Sergeant Parks and I would still be working out of cardboard boxes. He set up the offices and carried desks to every section in the Medical Group. Thank you, Keith, for always being there for the Medical Group.

Tech. Sgt. Kathy Goodwin assisted us every summer while she attended col-

lege and was someone I always relied on both professionally and as a dear friend.

And then, of course, I can't forget the personnel we activated since 9/11 to work with us at the Medical Group. Some are still with us because they are devoted to what we do here. The 102nd Fighter Wing is very lucky for their devotion to this organization.

Master Sgt. Cindy Moody came to us right after 9/11 and loved us so much she took a full-time job and cut in pay just to be part of the Medical Group. We are lucky and I know the Medical Group has given her a direction that has fulfilled her love for the military.

Tech. Sgt. Christine McClaurin has helped us out here at the Medical Group every time we need it. She gives countless hours to ensuring personnel are taken care of and that the dental section is in excellent condition every day. She brings laughter and kindness every day.

Master Sgt. Greg Harriman, Tech. Sgt. Dan LaRiviere and Staff Sgt. Bob Montgomery were activated with us and without them our TRICARE program and our Health Inspection would have fallen short. Sergeant Harriman has become my friend and tries to give guidance to this stubborn chief, mostly without success.

(See GOODBYE, Page 14)

Armed Forces vocational tests are scheduled

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

When the new AFSCs are announced, the requirements can be found in the back of Air Force Manual 36-2108 and your current scores can be found on your personnel RIP on the

Virtual Military Personnel Flight Internet site.

ASVAB tests have been scheduled in the wing training plan, beginning in January. Upcoming ASVAB are scheduled from 7 to 11 a.m. on the Friday before the unit training assemblies in January, March, May, August, October, and December.

If you are interested in taking the ASVAB, send an e-mail to

DPMT.102FW@maotis.ang.af.mil or to Senior Master Sgt. Paul Hennessey or Master Sgt. Colleen Archer so you can be scheduled.

The ASVAB can also be taken at Hanscom Air Force Base or Quonset Air National Guard Base, RI.

If you are interested in taking them in either of those other two locations, contact Sergeants Hennessey or Archer for information.

New policy decreases threat of identity theft

Air Force Print News

ARLINGTON, Va. — The undersecretary of defense-comptroller and the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness have cosigned a new policy that directs military departments and all defense civilian employees to support the policy to eliminate paper copies of leave and earnings statements and W-2 tax statements.

Under the new policy, servicemembers and civilian nonbargaining employees who logon to the myPay Web Site are consenting to receive electronic copies of their documents.

MyPay is available to all

servicemembers, Department of Defense civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants.

Although the policy applies to servicemembers and DOD civilians, the benefits of using myPay to eliminate identity theft associated with postal delivery of these statements also applies to retirees and annuitants for their 1099 tax statements.

For many years, myPay has provided servicemembers and civilian employees with a secure method to view, print and save their LES, W-2 or 1099s electronically.

Receipt of electronic documents eliminates risk associated with hand-delivered mail. By using myPay to

view and print statements, names, addresses and Social Security numbers are protected.

The individual controls when the document is viewed and printed, and sensitive data is under his or her control at all times.

This is particularly important for W-2s and 1099s, where the SSN cannot be masked because of Internal Revenue Service regulations.

Besides obtaining electronic copies of LES' and tax statements, customers can make adjustments to federal and state tax withholdings and update bank account and electronic transfers by accessing myPay.

Goodbye

(Continued from Page 13)

Lt. Col. Chris Faux also provides daily laughter to the Medical Group and without his great pride in this organization some of the high-tech equipment we have today would not be here.

And of course, there are others like our first sergeant, Senior Master Sgt. Angela Pizzino who has been my friend and a team player here at the Medical Group for many years. Her friendship is dear to me and we talk almost every day. I will miss those phone calls.

I will also miss Master Sgt. Christine Lazarescu who came to this organization (102nd Fighter Wing) as a (I won't tell you how old, because it makes me think I'm old). I was her first supervisor in Personnel and we have remained friends since then. Her dear friendship will live in my heart forever. I'm glad she made the military her home and her expertise in Personnel is unbelievable.

To have dear friends with people that you work with made me realize just how blessed I truly am.

I will miss the military, but most of all I will miss the 102nd Fighter Wing and the 102nd Medical Group personnel.

Worth repeating

"Make sure you're not just waiting for someone else to fix things, or hoping that things will improve ... Figure out what's going on and make a plan to improve things."

— *Kenneth W. Thomas, Ph.D., Professor of Management, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.*

Milestones

Promotions

To senior master sergeant

Arthur L. Odum Jr.

To master sergeant

Allen H. Bachand

Rose B. Gould

To technical sergeant

Jackie M. Cunha

Michael P. DiPadua

Jacom D. Foell

Paul E. Levesque II

Christine McClaurin

Carly M. Monetiro

Sara A. Norman

Ross R. Shannon

Robert H. Tetreault

To staff sergeant

David A. Degnan

Nathaniel Monetiro

Shawn K. Puleo

To senior airman

Francis T.I. Condon

Katharine DeMoraes

Brian T. McKenzie

Robert J. Mitchell

To airman first class

Christopher Overy

Professional military education

Tech. Sgts. Jen Barry, 102nd Mission Operations Flight, and Tech. Sgt. Jeff Zastawny, 102nd Aircraft Maintenance Sqyadron, distinguished graduates, Noncommissioned Officers Academy, McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.

Technical schools

Senior Airman Marisela A. Garcia, 102nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, distinguished graduate and certificate of recognition for overall 95 percent average, supply management apprentice school, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Awards and decorations

The following medals were acknowledged during Family Day:
Air Force Meritorious Service Medal
Master Sgt. Jarrod J. Cabral
Chief Master Sgt. Richard Haddon, first oak leaf cluster
Chief Master Sgt. Thomas R.

McGuire

Chief Master Sgt. James E. Gray

Air Force Commendation Medal

Master Sgt. Galon L. Barlow III

Master Sgt. Kenneth L. Boyd Jr., second oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. Andrea L. Burgo

Master Sgt. George A. Burr, first oak leaf cluster

Master Sgt. Colleen Cabral

Lt. Col. Eric L. Carlson, first oak leaf cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Sherrie L. Correia, second oak leaf cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Stephen G. Day

Senior Master Sgt. Ronald J. Demelin

Master Sgt. Kevin G. Eccleston, first oak leaf cluster

Staff Sgt. Russell E. Finnegan, first oak leaf cluster

Master Sgt. Varoujan J. Garabedian
Senior Master Sgt. Paul J. Hennesey, first oak leaf cluster

Staff Sgt. Gregory J. Hollohan III

Master Sgt. Steven B. Hunt, first oak leaf cluster

Master Sgt. Richard J. Ingham Jr.
Master Sgt. Paul J. Knight

Master Sgt. Eric A. LaFranchise, first oak leaf cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Candace C. Leblanc, first oak leaf cluster

Master Sgt. John P. Mallard
Senior Master Sgt. Michael A. McCarthy

1st Lt. Kenneth S. Nunley, first oak leaf cluster

Staff Sgt. Kristin M. Quintal, first oak leaf cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Sheryl F. Rogers, second oak leaf cluster

Staff Sgt. Robert Segrin, first oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. Weston W. Smith, first oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. Edward J. Veneto, first oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. Thomas L. Whiddon, second oak leaf cluster

Air Force Achievement Medal

Tech. Sgt. Daniel J. Ahaesy, second oak leaf cluster

Senior Airman Kimberly A. Ander-

son, first oak leaf cluster

Capt. Jeffrey S. Beckel, second oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. Dawn M. Bodeau, first oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. Kenneth R. Bowman, first oak leaf cluster

Staff Sgt. Kelley R. Coombs, fourth oak leaf cluster

Staff Sgt. Jackie M. Cunha
Staff Sgt. Rosa M. DeCastro

Senior Airman Joshua A. Engle
Staff Sgt. Andrew T. Fahey, first oak leaf cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Jose L. Franco
Senior Airman Edward A. Gawlowicz

Staff Sgt. Tabitha M. Gendreau
Tech. Sgt. John J. Gloria, third oak leaf cluster

Senior Airman Phuong Le Hinh, first oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey S. Kennedy, first oak leaf cluster

Master Sgt. Brian P. Kirby, third oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. Victor E. Knill, first oak leaf cluster

Senior Airman Richard C. Koch
Master Sgt. Mary E. Long, third oak leaf cluster

Staff Sgt. Carl R. Machado
Master Sgt. Jack Montgomery II

Senior Airman Ryan R. Olsen
Staff Sgt. Robert Palomba, second oak leaf cluster

Senior Airman Sarah Perry
Airman 1st Class William J. Peterson

Tech Sgt. Joseph D. Pitta
Staff Sgt. Robert G. Rozzi Jr.

Tech. Sgt. Alfred Semenech, fifth oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. Weston W. Smith, second oak leaf cluster

Staff Sgt. Celeste L. Trepanier, first oak leaf cluster

Senior Airman Juan X. Valencia, first oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. Jessika D. Wahlberg, second oak leaf cluster

Tech. Sgt. Jennifer B. Waters, first oak leaf cluster

Staff Sgt. Marianne K. Whelan

Off they go into the wild blue yonder ...

Three award winners and a new retiree recently were given incentive rides on wing F-15 Eagles.



Retired Brig. Gen. Gary Pappas, right, is all smiles before his flight with Lt. Col. Michael McGee.

Photos by
Tech. Sgt. Sandra Niedzweicki

You can be sure that Tech. Sgt. Ray Gendreau has a big smile under his oxygen mask. He was a noncommissioned officer of the quarter



Senior Airman Donna Morgante gives a big double thumbs-up before her flight. At left is Tech. Sgt. Ed Veneto. She was an airman of the quarter.

Senior Master Sgt. Mike Poirier kneels on the tarmac before his flight. He is a former first sergeant of the year.





Members of the enlisted softball team are, from left, Christine Fallo, Chris Penney, Joe Pitta, and Jay McGarrahan. Back row, from left, are Mickey Condon, Steve Penney, Wes Smith, Dave Degnan, Nick Mead, Ryan Page, John Crawford, Chad Pimental

Flynn trophy back where it belongs

In a much anticipated battle for bragging rights, the enlisted softball team knocked off the officers for the first time in three years.

"I was sick of listening to them" said enlisted coach Joe Pitta. "They've had our trophy for two years and the whole team stepped up to put an end to it."

Indeed the war of words was on, especially seeing as the game was cancelled with the September unit training assembly, and rained out on Family Day earlier in the week. The tension was about as high as it could get.

The enlisted squad came out firing, scoring two runs in the first on hits by Joe Pitta, Dave Degnan, Ryan Page, and Chris Penney. After Chad Pimental held the officers big bats at bay, the enlisted team came out in force in the second. Joe Pitta started the scoring with a home run to right center. Later that inning, Ryan Page, Chris Penney, and Nick Mead went back to back to back, the show of force ended when Chad Pimental went deep for the fifth solo homerun of the inning.

The officers showed their scrappy side, scoring twice in the third on bloop hits by Michael Dolan, Martin Richard, and Jeff Beckel. The rally fell just short when a fly ball off the big bat of Jeff Jensen left two men on base.

After the enlisted bats fell silent the officers team

continued the attempted come back scoring twice again in the next inning with hits from Mike McGee, Tim Estep, and Frank Haluska who shot some life into the O's with deep shot to center that went over the outfielders heads.

The enlisted team was not to be denied on this day though. They put an end to any thought of comeback by scoring five more times in the fifth. John Crawford got things started with a triple and scored easily on a base hit by Jay McGarrahan. Steve Penney followed with a single as did Christine Fallo. Wes Smith put the game away with a deep three-run bomb to center. The sixth home run off the starter for the officers Jay Davis, signaled the end of the day for Davis who was replaced by Mark Zechman on the mound.

The officers scored one more run when another shot of the bat by Haluska scored Andrew Fessenden. In the top of the seventh, Wes Smith made a bid for MVP honors with his second homer of the game driving in his fourth, and scoring his third run of the game on his fourth hit.

In the end, the Officer corps put forth a valiant effort but just couldn't match the firepower of the enlisted team. Be assured that both teams will be ready to play next year. The 59th meeting between the two teams will be the most exciting.

Film depicts the history of the 102nd

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

The film contains actual footage and

numerous photographs of personnel and aircraft from the inception of the 101st in the early 1900s through the establishment of the wing after World War II right up to the present day

activities involving 9/11 and current deployments.

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

You may obtain a copy by making a minimum \$25 (tax deductible) 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 or by mailing in the accompanying order form below.

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

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

You could help the museum if you know the whereabouts of any former members by letting them know about the film's availability.

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

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

Mass. ANG Historical Association
Mail To: Mr. Robert C. Bridgeman
25 Spruce Hill Avenue,
Florence, MA 01062-3414

Amount of Donation \$ _____
Number of Copies _____

Name: _____ Circle One

Address: _____ DVD / VHS

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Send Gift Copy (s) To:

Name: _____ Circle One

Address: _____ DVD / VHS

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Benefit extended

Courtesy of TRICARE Management Activity

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Benefit that was due to end Oct. 31, has been extended through Oct. 31, 2007.

The Department of Defense extended the benefit for an additional two years to ensure continuity of care for family members of approximately 170,000 National Guard and Reserve members called to active duty for more than 30 days in support of Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The demonstration waives the TRICARE annual deductible for family members who use TRICARE Extra or Standard; waives the pre-authorization

The TRICARE demonstration waives the TRICARE annual deductible for family members who use TRICARE Extra or Standard and waives the pre-authorization requirement for non-emergency inpatient civilian care at civilian hospitals.

requirement for non-emergency inpatient civilian care at civilian hospitals; and authorizes TRICARE to pay non-participating providers up to 115 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge.

"The demonstration makes it less ex-

pensive for these family members to continue seeing their usual doctors if they take TRICARE," said Steve Lillie, deputy chief, TRICARE Operations. "The demonstration does not apply to families who enroll in TRICARE Prime since there are no deductibles or cost shares for referred care in TRICARE Prime," Lillie said.

National Guard and Reserve members and family members with questions or who need assistance may use the TRICARE Yellow Pages available at www.Tricare.osd.mil/yellowpages to contact their TRICARE regional contractor. Up-to-date TRICARE information is also available on the TRICARE Web site at www.Tricare.osd.mil/reserve.

Diversity panel seeks volunteers

The wing diversity committee is re-energizing and looking for representatives from each unit.

Everyone is welcome to participate.

Participation can be as active or passive as you wish.

Contributions can range from attending meetings, helping with functions, assisting with training, writing articles, or simply brainstorming and sharing your ideas to be a voice and advocate for diversity.

The committee's mission statement is: "We are committed to fostering a culture of inclusion and equity by embracing and promoting diversity in the 102nd Fighter Wing community."

Meetings are held at 1 p.m. Sundays



Members of the diversity committee are, from left, Senior Master Sgt. Mike Porier; Tech. Sgt. Danilo Nitcha; Chief Master Sgt. Anita Keenan, state headquarters human resources adviser, Chief Master Sgt. Don Nelson wing human resources adviser; Staff Sgt. Tabitha Gendreau, diversity committee president; and Tech. Sgt. Reuben Hernandez-Gandia

of each unit training assembly in the Wing Conference Room in Building 158.

If you are interested in participating in any fashion, please contact Staff Sgt.

Tabitha Gendreau at 508-968-4184 or at tabitha.gendreau@maotis.ang.af.mil

We look forward to your participation at the next meeting!

SBP

(Continued from Page 11)

Elections are effective the first day of the month after the election is received. An election is void if the retiree dies in the two years following an election and all premiums are refunded to the designated survivor.

To make an open enrollment election, a retiree can complete and submit a DD Form 2656-9, "Survivor Benefit Plan and Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan Open Enrollment Election."

The form is available electronically at www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2656-9.pdf.

For assistance with the form, people can contact the Air Reserve Personnel Center Entitlements section at 800-525-0102.

Retirees can mail the completed form to the address specified on the form. Applicants will be formally notified of their cost and have 30 days from the date of the notice to cancel the election by notifying the Defense Finance and Ac-

Survivor Benefit Plan Open Season facts

Eligibility - A member is eligible to make an election to participate in the plan if entitled to retired pay on Sept. 30, 2005, and is not participating in the plan to the fullest possible extent, or was eligible at an earlier date, to make a valid election for plan coverage at a greater level than now in effect, but did not do so.

Covered beneficiaries - An open enrollment election may be made only for a beneficiary who meets the definitions of law as of the date the election is filed. In other words, you may not elect spouse coverage unless you are married. In addition, a retiree may add an eligible child or children as "contingent beneficiary" to spouse or former spouse coverage. No election for an Insurable Interest beneficiary may be made if a member was married upon retirement or on Sept. 21, 1972, whichever was later.

Making an election - To make an open enrollment election, a member must complete and submit a DD Form 2656-9, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Open Enrollment election and mail it to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

The address is: Director, DFAS-US, Military Retired Pay, PO Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130. It must be received (or postmarked) before the deadline. Elections will be effective the first calendar day of the month following the date DFAS receives the election.

counting Service or the reserve component, as applicable, in writing.

If you have any questions, please con-

tact the 102nd Mission Support Flight Personnel Relocations section at 508-968-4181.

Walsh, Millsaps, Hobbs earn quarterly honors

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

An avionics craftsman, a traffic management specialist and an aircraft metals technology apprentice have been selected as the wing's quarterly award winners.

Master Sgt. Michael P. Walsh is the senior noncommissioned officer of the quarter, while Staff Sgt. Tina R. Millsaps is the NCO of the quarter. Senior Airman David G. Hobbs was named airman of the quarter.

An integrated avionics electronic warfare craftsman, Sergeant Walsh analyzes the performance and isolates malfunctions on the wing's F-15 Eagles, working on such systems as radar warning receivers, flight controls, communication and navigational systems, countermeasures, indicators, transmitters and cockpit visual displays.

He does this by inspecting, aligning, calibrating and performing bench checks at a semi-automatic bench station. He also is responsible for ensuring that the repaired line replaceable units are tracked electronically and documented.

In his nomination papers, Sergeant Walsh, a member of the 102nd Maintenance Squadron, was cited for making numerous suggestions to Boeing and Northrop engineers concerning software and hardware changes to aid in testing F-15 avionics line replaceable units.

An honor graduate of the integrated avionics electronic warfare component technical school, he also has spent numerous hours studying advanced digital techniques, solid-state devices and high reliability soldering.

Active in the local employee bargaining unit, he was the lead unit spokesman assigned to the community coalition www.SaveOtis.com and spoke when the Base Realignment and Closure Commission members heard testimony at Otis.

While on orders from the Pentagon, Sergeant Walsh went to Washington

to meet with congressmen from throughout New England to lobby for the new National Security Personnel System, a rewrite of the Department of Defense Civil Service system that will affect all DoD employees.

A member of the 102nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, Sergeant Millsaps works in traffic management.

She was cited for her superior organizational ability, communication skills and "strong can-do attitude" during Operation Task Force Yankee in support of the Hurricane Katrina recovery.

She helped ensure the continuous flow of 500 Army and Air National Guard personnel and 220 short tons of cargo that were loaded onto 17 aircraft within a 24-hour period.

As an additional duty, she is the squadron's retention monitor.

She holds a bachelor's degree in studio art with a concentration in graphic design and engineering technology from East Tennessee University, as well as a Community College of the Air Force associate's degree in traffic management.

Active in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, she attends lectures and workshops in the Department of Religious Education.

As an official representative for the National Oratorical Festival, Sergeant Millsaps helps students in 7th through

12th grade write speeches about their faith and obtain scholarships.

She also designs departmental publications for the archdiocese, including a biannual magazine.

A gifted musician, she plays clarinet in the Hellenic College Community Band. Sergeant Millsaps is also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Airman Hobbs, also a member of the 102nd Maintenance Squadron, is a precision machinist and metal fabricator, repairing and building key components for F-15s, as well as aerospace ground equipment.

He formerly was in the Army for four years, working as a forward observer in field artillery.

During that time, he was nominated for Soldier of the Year twice and earned the Army Achievement Medal.

Airman Hobbs was the first wing member to earn an incentive ride on an F-15 Eagle for recruiting three new people to the wing.

During his off-duty time, Airman Hobbs is involved in World War II re-enactments throughout New England. He formerly was involved in Civil War re-enactments for 14 years. He also is a licensed collector of curio and relic firearms.

As a civilian, he is an armed security officer at the Pilgrim Nuclear Plant. An avid motorcyclist, Airman Hobbs is a member of the Vulcan owner's club.

Welcome aboard

102nd Maintenance Group

Staff Sgt. Robert K. Nacke, munitions systems specialist, Peachtree, Ga.

102nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Senior Airman Peggy A. Farmer, supply management specialist, Buzzards Bay.

102nd Medical Group

Staff Sgt. James M. Waters, medical services specialist, Buzzards Bay.

Senior Airman Richard W. Czubinski,

nursing services specialist, Boston.

102nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Paul G. Poulin, aircraft armament systems specialist, Augusta, Maine.

Senior Airman Ashley M. Sheffield, tactical aircraft maintenance specialist, Bernardston.

102nd Fighter Wing

Airman 1st Class Francis T. Condon II, command and control technician, Sandwich.

Medals approved for hurricane relief efforts

The director of the National Guard Joint Staff has approved awarding the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Armed Forces Service Medal for U.S. military personnel and the Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal for Defense Department civilians engaged in the relief efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

To qualify for the HSM, service members must have provided direct support to immediate relief operations for at least one day in the area of eligibility - east of and including Houston, Texas, Alabama, Louisiana or Mississippi - from Aug. 29 to Oct. 13, 2005.

Service members eligible to receive the AFSM must have provided direct support to relief operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in the continental United States from Aug. 27, 2005 to Feb. 27, 2006, minus

the specific area and time-period used to qualify for the HSM.

If you believe you are eligible for either of the medals, you must provide a copy of your orders to the career enhancements section of the 102nd Mission Support Flight for verification, update and issuance of the ribbon.

You can submit your orders one of four ways.

* Bring a hard copy to Building 158, room 232.

* Scan then email your orders to tabitha.gendreau@maotis.ang.af.mil

* Fax your orders to 508-968-4183 Attn: Career Enhancements

* Mail them to: DPMPE, 158 Reilly St., Box 17, Otis ANGB MA 02542-1330

For more information, call 508-968-4184.

DoD announces traumatic injury protection

**Submitted by the
102nd Mission Support Flight
Air Force Print News**

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense has announced the implementation of traumatic injury protection insurance under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program as enacted by section 1032 of Public Law 109-13.

The program, which will be known as TSGLI, is designed to provide financial assistance to servicemembers during their recovery period from a serious traumatic injury.

On Dec. 1, all members eligible for SGLI became insured for traumatic injury protection of up to \$100,000 unless they decline SGLI coverage. A flat monthly premium of \$1 will be

added to the monthly SGLI deduction, regardless of the amount of SGLI coverage that the member had elected effective Dec. 1.

TSGLI is not disability compensation and has no effect on entitlement for compensation and pension benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or disability benefits provided by the Department of Defense. It is an insurance product similar to commercial dismemberment policies.

TSGLI provides money for a loss due to a specific traumatic event while disability compensation is intended to provide ongoing financial support to make up for the loss in income-earning potential due to service-connected injuries.

The retroactive provision of PL 109-

13 provides that any servicemember who suffers a qualifying loss between Oct. 7, 2001, and Dec. 1, 2005, will receive a benefit under the TSGLI program if the loss was a direct result of injuries incurred in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Department of Defense developed this program in close coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness will monitor implementation with the services and make necessary adjustments if required.

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Paula G. Cronin at 508-968-4538.

Maintenance squadron needs first sergeant

The 102nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is looking to fill first sergeant vacancies.

Resumes should be submitted to Command Chief Master Sgt. Roy Piver.

He can be contacted at 508-968-4503 or at roy.piver@maotis.ang.af.mil no later than the close of business on Friday Feb. 17. For a description of duties and responsibilities, see Air Force Manual 36-2108 and Air Force Instruction 36-2113.

Technical sergeant applicants must be a graduate of an in-residence noncommissioned officer academy and be immediately eligible for promotion to master sergeant.

A minimum physical fitness score of 75 also is required.

A two-week course at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., is mandatory and must be completed within one year of selection.

Communications security is everyone's business

Submitted by Chief Master Sgt.

Richard J. Haddon

The Air Force and Air National Guard use unsecured telecommunications systems such as telephones, cellular phones, text pagers, radios, facsimile, Blackberries, Palm Pilots, and computer networks to conduct day-to-day official business.

Adversaries can easily monitor these unsecured systems that could provide information on military capabilities, limitations, intentions, and activities. The Air Force monitors unsecured telecommunications systems to determine if these unsecured systems were used to transmit sensitive or classified information.

The Telecommunications Monitoring and Assessment Program is an integral part of the Air Force operations security program and provides a very effective tool for a commander's use during day-to-day operations and exercises to identify real world problems that can adversely affect operations security and the warfighter's effectiveness.

Here at the 102nd, we need to be recertified every two years to con-

tinue to use the above mentioned systems. This year (every even number year in April), the 102d Communications Flight has to submit a TMAP report for recertification.

We need your help in making sure that all the right stickers are in the right places, the consent to monitoring statements are on all computers, and if you were issued a portable electronic device, you signed a form with the consent to monitoring statement.

How can you help?

First, to support the TMAP program, you must make a conscious effort not to transmit or discuss classified information or critical information over unsecured telecommunications systems.

Second, you need to ensure the following consent to monitoring notifications are in place:

- Your telephone/STU-III/STE must have a DD Form 2056, Telephone Monitoring Notification Decal, affixed to it.

- Your facsimile machine must have consent to monitoring sticker on it.

- Your locally developed facsimile cover sheet must have the following statement on it: "DO NOT TRANS-

MIT CLASSIFIED INFORMATION OVER UNSECURED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS. Official Department of Defense telecommunications are subject to monitoring. Use of telecommunications systems constitutes consent to monitoring." Or you can use the AF Form 3535, Facsimile Electro Mail Transmittal, which carries the consent statement.

- Your computer must have the current log-on banner with the notice to consent statement.

- All users of portable electronic devices (i.e. text pagers, cell phones, Blackberries) and LMRs must sign a form with the notice and consent statement on it when issued a portable electronic device or LMR.

Stickers for Fax machines and telephones are available by sending an e-mail to Staff Sgt. John Crawford or calling extension 508-968-4148.

Stickers for LMR radios will be provided by the Mission Systems Maintenance Branch through each respective unit LMR manager.

More information on the TMAP program can be found on <http://131.62.32.33:104/scb/scbs/tmap.htm>.

Minimize risk when using Outlook Web Access

Staff Sgt. John P. Crawford

Wing information assurance manager

Most of us use Microsoft Outlook Web Access to stay in communication with our organization while on temporary duty or from home.

You should be aware that risks are involved with using OWA in an untrusted environment, such as public libraries, internet cafes, hotel lobbies, etc., and those risks may negate some, if not all, of OWA's security features.

You should be aware of the following items when using OWA in an untrusted environment:

- * You have no control over public computing facilities. There is no guarantee these facilities provide the level of protection required to process sensitive or official government data.

- * Keystroke loggers are becoming more prevalent and can passively capture what is typed, saving it for retrieval at a later time. Loggers may capture usernames, passwords, social security numbers, or any other information entered into the computer via the keyboard. Since the data is collected transparently at the user's system, encryption will not alleviate this problem.

- * When an attachment or email is deleted from OWA, it resides in the public workstation's recycle bin, where it can be retrieved. Even if the recycle bin is emptied, the file is still resident on the computer and can be retrieved using open source forensic tools.

- * The system cache also may retain

login credentials, even after the OWA session is finished. This could potentially allow the next user unauthorized access to your email. You need to ensure you log out of OWA prior to closing the browser window.

- * When using public information systems, you should be aware of your surroundings and watch for "shoulder surfers" who may be watching your computer screen.

Suggestions to minimize the risk of compromise:

- * Close all web browsers, clear the recycle bin, and clear the web browser cache after using a public system.

- * Assume all untrusted systems have a key logger enabled and could be monitored.

Virtual commissary opens for business

By **Bonnie Powell**

Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — Defense Commissary Agency shoppers looking for a different kind of gift can let their fingers do the clicking at the new Virtual Commissary.

Commissary officials said Virtual Commissary will open up new options of Internet shopping for authorized users.

“We’re excited about DeCA’s first adventure into the world of Internet shopping,” said Patrick Nixon, chief executive officer and acting director for the Defense Commissary Agency.

Virtual Commissary products can be found on the shelves of “brick and mortar” commissaries, but the unique packaging of products into gift and special occasion baskets adds a new twist. With titles like “Camouflage,” “Drill Sergeant” and “Touch of Home,” the baskets offer assortments of crackers, canned cheeses, cookies, candies and even beverages and coffee packs.

“The number of vendors and manufacturers participating will continue to increase — along with the variety of products,” Mr. Nixon said.

To access Virtual Commissary, shoppers must pass through a secure portal found under the shopping link at www.commissaries.com. Personal information entered by the customer is validated to ensure they are an authorized shopper. Access is dependent on whether the customer is entered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting Sys-

tem. Military exchanges use a similar method to check for authorization before permitting access to exchange Web sites or online shopping.

Department of Defense civilians stationed overseas who are otherwise authorized to shop at commissaries may not be able to access Virtual Commissary until changes are made to the DEERS database by the Defense Manpower Data Center, said DeCA officials. The DMDC is targeting completion of the changes for late November.

Virtual Commissary customers can make selections and fill in their payment and shipping information in one easy and secure step before being transferred to the manufacturer’s site to receive the total cost for the product, including the shipping. Customers then finalize their purchase.

Shipping and handling charges are similar to other Internet shopping sites, and charges will vary depending on the method of shipping selected, location and the speed of delivery requested. Customers can check for availability of delivery to Army Post Office and Fleet Post Office addresses, as well as receive more information on what is in the gift baskets by clicking on the image of the gift basket at Virtual Commissary. Payment for orders can be made with any credit card accepted in “real” commissaries. Customer information is not archived by DeCA.

“We’re certainly energized by the possibilities offered to our customers through this partnership with industry,” Mr. Nixon said. “The future of online commissary shopping is unlimited.”

Online process simplifies tuition assistance

By **Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein**
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Airmen are only a few mouse clicks away from financial support for their college education, thanks to the tuition assistance feature on the Air Force’s virtual education center.

Online since early 2003, the center helps active-duty, Guard and reserve Airmen pursue their off-duty education from a computer.

“It’s a continual process to make [the site] a one-stop shop for an Airman’s educational needs,” said Kendall McAree, the Air Force’s education systems manager at the Pentagon. “We’re very excited to be able to now make tuition assistance available online.”

Air Force tuition assistance is a qual-

ity of life program that provides tuition assistance and fees for college courses taken by active duty Airmen during off-duty hours. It’s capped at \$250 per semester hour — \$166 per quarter hour — and is one of the most frequent reasons Airmen give for enlisting and re-enlisting in the Air Force, according to the Web site.

Now that all application paperwork is online, Mrs. McAree hopes more Airmen will take advantage of the program.

“Airmen can now access the information anywhere at any time, whether they are at home or deployed somewhere,” she said. “With the online signature, all the paperwork can be routed through the appropriate channels faster and more efficiently.”

That means Airmen do not visit an

education center, which is good, “because some Airmen are in places where there are no education centers,” she said.

Mrs. McAree said the new online capability also frees up education center workers, who spent a lot of time doing the paperwork involved with tuition assistance. Now they can devote more time to face-to-face counseling and assisting customers, she said.

Along with tuition assistance, Airmen can use the Web site to check their Community College of the Air Force progress, request transcript and civilian course conversion tables, distance learning information, DANTES and CLEP test results and more.

The Air Force Virtual Education Center link is available through the Air Force Portal at www.my.af.mil

Meeting General James



Several members of the 102nd Fighter Wing attended an enlisted leaders symposium held recently in San Antonio, Texas. From left are Senior Airman Ryan Romsey of the 102nd Logistics Readiness Squadron; Senior Master Sgt. Sheryl Rogers of the 102nd Operations Support Group; Mrs. Dana James; Senior Airman Sharon Messina of the operations support group; Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, director of the Air National Guard; Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, command chief of the Air National Guard; Tech. Sgt. Gary Gray of the logistics readiness squadron; and Master Sgt. Brian Eastham, also of the logistics readiness squadron.

Seagull

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