

102nd Fighter Wing Seagull 11

April 2006

Vol. XXI, No. 2



Orient Express



Colonel Paul G. Worcester

From the wing commander's desk

The heroes among us

As you can imagine, I get lots of people asking me how everyone in the Fighter Wing is doing these days. I'll get stopped on-base, in my home town, at other military bases, when speaking in front of large groups like Rotary clubs or chartered military assemblies like our MMR Civilian Community Council, political delegation meetings, and just about anywhere I am recognized as the 102nd Fighter Wing commander. And the answer I give might surprise you. I say: I think they are doing far better than they should be considering the situation we are all in as result of the BRAC decision.

Why do I say that? Because over the past ten months, I have seen the most difficult situation this unit has arguably ever been through be handled with such incredibly positive, focused, and professional behavior than ever before in my 28 plus years in the Air National Guard! You are all heroes in my eyes!

While we have worked diligently to build a future without aircraft, something the unit has not had to deal with in its 85 year history, you remain engaged in producing the finest aircraft ever flown in the Air Guard, further extending our already enviable safety record, and meeting the high standards the Air Force has challenged us with. Units that have a solid flying future beyond BRAC are finding this challenge very difficult. You have not. The recent high scoring Alert Force Evaluation or AFE ("Outstanding" of course) is testament to that attitude.

"It takes a total team effort to do what we are doing these days. Every section, flight, squadron, or group has a part in keeping the focus on mission."

And it's not just the aviation side of the house that's performing. Our security assessment during this same AFE proved the point. The 102nd Security Forces Team set the bar so high for the inspectors they had nothing to say except to use such positively descriptive terms as "top notch, exceptional, and dedicated." But it's a team effort at Otis, and these terms could easily be applied to any of our other small or large group of fighter wing teams. Team Otis is a term we hear being used time and time again by nearly everyone. That team spirit lives in each of you whether it is a team of two, or 122.

It takes a total team effort to do what we are doing these days. Every section, flight, squadron, or group has a part in keeping the focus on mission. And everyone has contributed. And if the day-to-day mission activities weren't enough to keep everyone fo-

cused or busy, many of you added professional military education programs or advanced schooling to your resume and performed there in the same extraordinary manner you perform at Otis. The continuous flow of distinguished graduates, honor grads, and various other awards from these PME schoolhouses and formal training sites goes on endlessly. You are a remarkable group of people. You are heroes in my eyes.

But you are heroes in your neighbor's eyes as well. While people ask how you are doing, they also tell me to tell you, thanks. And they tell me this daily....at the gas pump in my town, at Rotary Club, at bases outside Massachusetts, and virtually everywhere I go to represent you. And if there's more than one person present, most likely you'll get a round of applause and even a standing ovation for the work you are doing. It's a very moving experience. You are all heroes in their eyes.

I can never stop saying thanks to all of you for all the hard work and loyalty to this unit. This wing has a long and distinguished history and one that deserves to be rewarded with an even longer future. I am convinced we'll have one but only because of your focus and professional behavior. Thank you....again. You are all heroes in my eyes.

ON THE COVER

Maj. Ken Fragano, left, and Chief Master Sgt. Brad Arruda watch at Kadena Air Base, Japan, as the first of nine F-15C and D model aircraft gets ready to fly to Otis. Story and more photos on Pages 10-11.

Cover photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Jackson

This month...

Wing's Alert Force capability is tested

Story on Page 6

Seagull

Col. Paul Worcester
Commander

Col. Anthony Schiavi
Vice Commander

1st Lt. Nicole Ivers
Public Affairs Officer

Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler
Editor

Senior Airman James Reagan
Cliff McDonald
Staff

Doris S. Bousquet
Proofreading

Harry B. Harding & Son
Printer

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Cape family shows it cares



Story on Page 6



Council working hard

Story on Page 13

What's for lunch?



Saturday, April 1

Baked ham with scalloped potatoes or chicken caesar salad wraps, salad, vegetables, assorted desserts and beverages.

Sunday, April 2

Broiled salmon or steak bombs, salad, vegetables, assorted desserts and beverages.

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.

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.

Staff Judge Advocate's Office, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays.

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

April 1-2

Sept. 16-17

May 6-7

Oct. 21-22

June 8-9

Nov. 2-3

June 10-11

Nov. 4-5

Aug. 26-27

Dec. 2-3

* First drill in June replaces July drill.

* June 8-11 is for Phase II Operational Readiness Exercise.

* 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.

In sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to the family of retired Chief Master Sgt. Rodger O. Myers who was formerly the security forces manager for the 102nd Security Forces Squadron at Otis.

Sympathy also is expressed to the family of retired Chief Master Sgt. Chester Frazier, who formerly was noncommissioned officer in charge of the wing administration office.

Seagull deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the next Seagull is 2 p.m., Sunday, April 2. 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.

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 September unit training assembly.

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.

Wing's alert force capability tested

By Cliff McDonald

When the alert horn sounds at Otis Air National Guard Base, as it did one morning in January, pulses rise.

Carefully practiced response reactions take over as highly skilled pilots and ground crews spring into action, and race to scramble F-15 Eagle fighter jets.

Within a few minutes, two jets are speeding down the runway and climb into the sky above Cape Cod in pursuit of a potential threat.

Members of the 102nd Fighter Wing never know when it's going to be the real thing, a false alarm, or perhaps another test.

This time, it was an Alert Force Evaluation designed to test the response of the wing's air defense force to a scramble against a simulated unknown aircraft penetrating U.S. airspace. Inspectors from the North American Aerospace Defense Command arrived at the Cape Cod base early in the morning, without prior notice, and initiated the inspection.

The action began in the wing command post where controllers received the order from Northeast Air Defense Sector to scramble aircraft. Hitting the alarm horn button, the command post notified pilots in the alert barn. The alarm also alerted security forces personnel who provided a safe corridor for the aircraft from the alert barn to their takeoff area.

The pilots concentrated on getting the fighter jets fired up and off the runway. Within half the time allotted for this phase of the inspection, two F-15 Eagles are screaming down the runway. The pilots don't receive their instructions until after they are airborne.

The target is a Learjet 35 flying off the East Coast. The aircraft has been hit by lightning rendering its radios and identification tracking devices inoperative.

Since the pilot is unable to communicate with air traffic controllers, they become suspicious, requesting Air Force support to identify the aircraft, which could be a possible

homeland security threat. It must be covertly intercepted, identified, and if necessary diverted before it can penetrate U.S. airspace.

The air response of the exercise was only one portion of the evaluation. Wing personnel also were evaluated on command and control procedures, initial response action, mission employment, aircraft maintenance, and security.

According to Lt. Col. Fredrick Shepherd, deputy inspector from the NORAD Inspector General's Office, the 102nd received exceptionally high marks for its performance, "every major area was rated as outstanding with an overall grade of outstanding."

Col. Shepherd said the NORAD inspection team knew how well the 102nd had done on previous evaluations and was also aware of the results of last year's Base Realignment and Closure Commission decision to move the air defense mission from Otis. With this potentially morale-lowering result in mind, the team was impressed at how very well the 102nd continued to perform.

During his briefing after the evaluation, he said, "Knowing of your unit's future uncertainty, and to show our team what you displayed during the inspection, it was obvious that the 102nd is still in the air defense game and giving it a 110 percent effort. To continue to do the mission in such an outstanding manner says a lot for the men and women of the 102nd."

Col. Paul Worcester, wing commander, congratulated his unit by saying, "Until the last jet leaves the ramp at Otis Air National Guard Base, this unit is going to put forth the same attention to its business as it always has. We know that this mission is critical to the defense of our country. It's what put us on the map on Sept. 11, 2001, even though it shouldn't have."

"The fact is this unit set its mark of excellence almost 85 years ago, and has been continuing in that culture. And, I say given post-BRAC mission changes, we will continue to do so in the future."

Vocational Aptitude Battery test to be offered

In light of the wing's changing mission, personnel who are changing jobs may need higher Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery scores 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 MPF. Descriptions also are being posted on the Otis Home Page. The list is not yet all-inclusive and is being increased each day.

Officer AFSCs are listed in Air Force Manual 36-2105 and the entry requirements are listed in the AFSC description.

There is no ASVAB requirement for officer AFSCs.

ASVAB tests have been scheduled in the wing training plan. The ASVAB is scheduled for 7 to 11 a.m. on the Friday before the unit training assemblies in 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 also can be taken at Hanscom Air Force Base or Quonset Air National Guard Base, R.I. If you are interested in taking them in either of those other locations, contact Sergeants Hennessey or Archer for information.

Cape Cod family really ‘Cares for Our Troops’

By Senior Airman James Regan

A workbench packed with boxes sits in the center of a long, narrow room. The walls are lined with collapsible tables, which are crowded with bins. Candy, clothing, and toiletries are piled high in each of the containers. There is a pair of windows, but not much light comes through on this winter morning.

“You usually can’t see the windows at all. We always have shaving cream and toothpaste stacked that high,” Dylan DeSilva said.

“The electrician told me he would come over whenever things clear out. So, we figure we won’t see him for a couple years,” added his mother, Michelle.

Dylan, along with his sisters Jamie and Torri, brother J.D., Uncle John, and parents Michelle and Paul, are better known as Cape Cod Cares for Our Troops.

The nonprofit organization is responsible for sending more than 600 care packages to military men and women serving overseas.

Originally intended to include two bedrooms, a kitchen and a mudroom, the 1,000-square-foot addition to the family’s Brewster home now looks more like a warehouse for major product line. It serves as the headquarters for the organization.

Originating from a Cub Scout project, the idea for the organization was Dylan’s. One of his Scout leader’s sons was in Iraq and Pack 73 provided him regularly with care packages. Once he returned home, Dylan and his family thought they should continue the good work.

Earlier this year, the 102nd Fighter Wing invited the family to the base for a tour and a special presentation from several unit members. After a warm introduction by wing commander, Col. Paul Worcester, Master Sgt. Ken Boyd presented the family with a flag on behalf of the Honor Guard. Later, the maintenance squadron supplied the family with several boxes of donations to be used for care packages. Several



Working with his family, Dylan DeSilva is the prime mover behind the Cape Cod “Cares for Our Troops” program.

Airmen also stopped by to greet the family and say “thank you.”

Master Sgt. Chris Anderson of the 253rd Combat Communications Group, who spent time in Afghanistan and received a package from the family, said, “They were a constant reminder of why we were over there and what we had to look forward to when we returned home”.

As a way to bring attention to military personnel, the DeSilva family put them in the spotlight – literally. They organized last year’s “Troops in the Spotlight” in less than one month and with the help of a flatbed truck, company donations, private donations, and several willing service members, it was a success. So much so, that it is now a yearly event.

The second annual “Troops in the Spotlight” will take place on Memorial Day weekend in the Kmart shopping plaza on Route 132, Hyannis. Starting at noon and continuing for 24 hours, military personnel representing every branch of the service will be standing at attention.

Everyone involved is confident that this year will be even better than the first and the bar has been set high.

Radio station Pixy 103 gave away concert tickets, t-shirts were sold, ribbons were handed out, a flatbed truck served as the platform for the troops, and there was a separate tent for organizing the donations. Everything ran as planned until Dennis-Yarmouth High School showed up with 1,200 items as part of its truckload of supplies.

It was an incredible and great surprise, added Mrs. DeSilva, with a laugh.

Turning a bit more sentimental, she recalled the parents who handed the DeSilvas “crumpled pieces of paper” with their kid’s names on it. They were fighting overseas and the DeSilvas immediately made getting them packages a priority.

New additions to this year’s event include two hours dedicated to police and fire departments. Cruisers and trucks from every town will enter the Kmart Plaza during their respective hour and drop off their department’s donations.

While most of the people the DeSilvas have met have been supportive, they have encountered some who weren’t.

Once when Dylan was sending out one of the weekly shipment of boxes at the local post office, a customer waiting behind him became impatient. The postmaster came out from behind the counter and explained to her that “there’s nothing you’re mailing that is more important than what he’s mailing,” Mrs. DeSilva said.

But due to the press coverage the family has received, they know most people understand their focus.

Initially, Michelle and Paul DeSilva were unsure about allowing any press to interact with the family. Harboring the feeling that it shouldn’t be about them, just about the troops, they declined interviews and appearances. However, after discussing it as a family, they decided it would be best to bring attention to their cause. And the coverage has helped.

Dylan has appeared on Fox News

(See FAMILY, Page 7)

Pick up yellow shot records or they will be thrown out

The Air National Guard had decided that DHSS Form PHS 731, the yellow shot record, will no longer be maintained by the 102nd Medical Group. It is being replaced by the automated Complete Immunization Tracking Application.

Anyone who would like to have their yellow shot record can pick it up when

they go to the medical group for an immunization or recurring physical exam. The records will be kept at the medical group until Sept. 30. Any records left at the clinic after that date will be shredded.

Personnel also can get a printout of their current automated shot record at the same time.

Worth repeating

“A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others.

He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent.”

— *Gen. Douglas MacArthur, U.S. Army (1880-1964)*

Family

(Continued from Page 6)

and chatted with MSNBC’s Joe Scarborough, while Torri manned a fire truck in the Falmouth Christmas Parade. The organization is mentioned daily on PIXY 103, due in part to program director Suzanne Tonaire’s enthusiasm for the cause.

Ms. Tonaire – better known as the Rock Babe – is excited about the upcoming events and the inception of the Pixy Platoon. Listeners can “enlist” on the station’s website (www.pixy103.com) and by doing so, receive e-mails about upcoming events. In the near future, there will be an “item of the week” – whatever is in low supply for the DeSilva family.

“We’re committed with them until the end and hopefully there will be an end in sight soon,” said Suzanne.

Of all the recognition the family has received, perhaps the most illustrious was the letter sent by President Bush. After hearing his State of the Union address, the family sent him a sample care package and to their surprise, received a response. Andrew Card, the president’s chief of staff, also sent his own letter.

The DeSilvas now have their own version of “mail call” and it’s taken quite seriously – just ask Torri, who was locked out of the house by Dylan after she reached the mailman before he did. The family insists they never expected any responses, but do admit that when one arrives, it’s the highlight of their day.

A grin creeps across J.D.’s face when he recounts the story of one soldier in particular.

“He never got any mail, so he never bothered going to mail call. When they called his name (for our package) somebody had to run and get him.”

A fellow soldier then sent the DeSilvas a letter telling them what it had meant to his friend.

“He’d been over there for six months and he hadn’t received any mail or packages. We’ve probably sent him at least one a month, if not more,” J.D. added.

Cape Cod Cares for Our Troops helps many troops beyond Cape Cod.

When Army Pvt. 1st Class Joshua Sparling was recovering from a gunshot wound he suffered in Iraq, a deceptively innocent card reached his bed at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington. The cover was decorated with kindhearted pictures, but it contained a truly repulsive message. The supposedly elementary school author wrote:

*“Dear, Soldier
Have a great time in the war and
have a great time dieing in the war.*

*From Miguel
P.S. DIE”*

The DeSilvas immediately sent emails to everyone they knew in order to combat this hatred. They also purchased a portable DVD player with their fund-raising money and sent that to Joshua as well.

The family has tried to construct a schedule for assembling the care packages, but that’s proven to be difficult. One person will come out to work on a

few things, but then they’ll all end up out there, said Mrs. DeSilva.

“Last night, we came home and there were two or three of our friends at our house putting together packages,” she added.

The biggest out-of-pocket expense the family endures is the actual shipping. There are also items that are always in constant demand, like coffee and Slim Jims. Anything that comes in a travel size is also highly sought after.

For this reason, the family is negotiating a deal with Kmart and BJ’s Warehouse to purchase supplies in large quantities. “We go in one morning and the employees will think their sections are all set and by the time we’ve left, we’ve wiped out half the store,” Mrs. DeSilva said.

The selflessness of U.S. military personnel continues to surprise the family the most. Toys were not included in the care packages until emails were received asking for them ... not for our soldier’s entertainment, but to give to Iraqi children. They’ve proven to ease the tension when families drive their vehicles through mandatory checkpoints. The soldier’s lighthearted jokes about intense situations also surprise the family

Retired Brig. Gen. Sam Shiver, who gave Dylan his personal German flight jacket, said that what makes the family’s work truly tremendous is the small size of the organization.

With a core group of only six people, Cape Cod Cares for our Troops is accomplishing exceptional tasks.

Firefighter donates kidney to a 'brother'

By Cliff McDonald

The odds of finding a kidney donor usually depend on blood type and donor availability. Currently, there are more than 60,000 potential kidney recipients in the U.S. waiting for a transplant. Many won't get one and there are too few willing donors.

But for Otis Air National Guard Base Station Chief Walter Stecchi, all it took for his transplant was a call to his union brotherhood, the International Affiliation of Firefighters.

In California, Firefighter Seth Wells, a complete stranger, went beyond the call of duty and offered to be Stecchi's donor. Wells and Stecchi underwent the surgery on Feb. 23 and have returned to work.

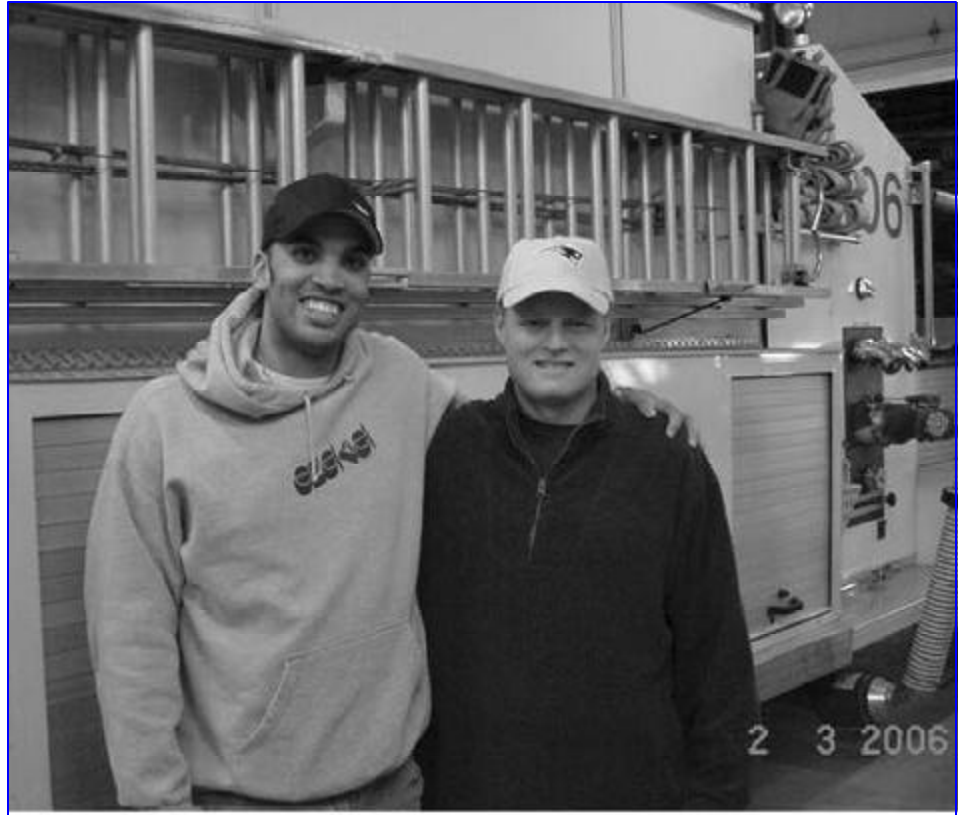
In February 2005, Stecchi had his first kidney transplant operation because of chronic renal disease. His father was the donor. However, following the surgery, complications caused doctors to remove the transplanted kidney because of a lack of blood flow. Stecchi was again placed on dialysis.

Since the waiting period for an available kidney in Massachusetts is normally five years, members of Local F-264 in Massachusetts began spreading the word, asking IAFF members and their families throughout the nation to consider donating an organ to Stecchi.

According to the IAFF, Capt. Mark Jones at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., remembered Stecchi who was stationed at Vandenberg as a senior airman in the 1980s. He made sure that other members of the local knew that a fellow brother needed a kidney.

"The way it happened is pretty incredible," said Stecchi, a 22-year veteran firefighter. "After my first kidney transplant did not work out, I wasn't sure how long it would take before I could find a donor. Then Seth - who I didn't even know - stepped forward."

Wells, a seven-year veteran firefighter at Vandenberg says, "I heard about it through my captain and fellow



Otis Station Chief Walter Stecchi, right, poses with his savior, firefighter Seth Wells of California. When Stecchi needed a kidney transplant, Wells stepped forward. In February, the two met for the first time when they underwent their respective operations.

"If I were in Walter's situation, I would want someone to do the same for me. He is a fellow firefighter, and, as such, he is a part of a brotherhood that has signed on the dotted line to help others."

— Firefighter Seth Wells

Local F-116 member Mark Jones. After I agreed to donate my kidney, Captain Jones asked me more than once if I was sure. I just said, 'It seems like the right thing to do.' My father is a heart surgeon, so I've been around the medical community a lot," said Wells. "I didn't think about how I might need my

kidney someday. I just knew that someone else needed it more than I did."

For Wells, "It was the right thing to do," he said. "If I were in Walter's situation, I would want someone to do the same for me. He is a fellow firefighter, and, as such, he is a part of a brotherhood that has signed on the dotted line to help others. It is only fitting that we help each other."

Stecchi's insurance covered the hospital bills for both men. Wells' firefighter union paid for the plane tickets, hotel and food.

Doctors are optimistic that the procedure will work this time. "The great news is that both of us will be back on the job in a matter of only a few weeks," said Stecchi.

The Stecchi and Wells families already are planning a reunion for next year.

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 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 at left.

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. Spencer C. Bridgman
25 Spruce Hill Avenue,
Florence, MA 01062-3414

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Milestones

Promotions

To lieutenant colonel

Eric L. Carlson

Erik K. Pauer

To first lieutenant

Michael C. Kelley

Michael B. MacCannell

To master sergeant

Rose B. Gould

To technical sergeant

Jay M. Beauchesne

Luciana M. Hayner

To staff sergeant

Robert Blanchette

Darjanikk La Smith

Albert R. Pavao

To senior airman

Michael P. Callahan

William J. Peterson

Retirements

Master Sgt. Thomas Colella

Tech. Sgt. Robert G. Fender

Senior Master Sgt. Susan A. Smith

Master Sgt. Dennis E. Storsveen

Welcome aboard

102nd Medical Group

Senior Airman Sarah Perry, medical administration, Berkley.

Schuyler D. Wires, human resources specialist, Mashpee.

202nd Weather Flight

Airman 1st Class Richard C. Melcher Jr., weather apprentice, Wareham.

102nd Security Forces Squadron

Airman 1st Class James P. Hightower, security forces specialist, Falmouth.

Airman 1st Class Benjamin R. Palmer, security forces specialist, Bourne.

102nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Ardan E. Goin, tactical aircraft maintenance specialist, Leominster.

Staff Sgt. Scott A. Gemelli, aircraft armament apprentice, Plainville.

*Think
safety!*

Orient express

First two of nine 'newer'

F-15s arrive from Kadena

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

The 102nd Fighter Wing has acquired a little oriental flavor with the arrival of the first two of nine C- and D-model F-15 Eagles from Kadena Air Base, Japan.

Since January, personnel in 22-person rotations from the 102nd Maintenance Group have been going through the aircraft, getting them ready for the around-the-world flight to Otis. The rotations of personnel will continue through June before all the aircraft are at Otis.

According to Maj. Kenneth Fragano, who was the maintenance officer on the first rotation in February, nine F-15s coming from the 18th Wing at Kadena will eventually replace six F-15A and B-model aircraft at Otis, resulting in an increase of planes here.

Major Fragano said the main differences between the F-15s are better fuel capacity and an improved environmental system on the Cs and Ds.



One of the local recreational activities was a visit to the nearby Churami Aquarium at the Okinawa Ocean Expo Park.

Photos by
Master Sgt.
Matt Jackson

The six F15As and Bs are slated to be retired from the Air National Guard inventory because they "soon will no longer be supported" for maintenance by the Boeing Co., Major Fragano said.

Otis' "old" F-15s will be flown to the aircraft graveyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, outside Tucson, Ariz., where they will be used for parts.

The 18th Wing is slated to receive upgraded F-15Cs from the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley AFB, Va. That unit has begun flying the Air Force's newest air superiority fighter: the F-22 Raptor.



Master Sgt. Wing Ng reconnects cannon plugs on an Eagle.



Another tourist attraction for 102nd personnel in Japan was Shurijo Castle.



Tech. Sgt. Keith Erps troubleshoots a wiring problem on an F-15 Eagle.



Staff Sgt. Ken Brereton, right shows off his culinary skills to a somewhat bewildered Master Sgt. Steve Brown.

*Photos by
Master Sgt.
Matt Jackson*



Trying their hand at scuba diving are Master Sgts. Dennis Mills, left, and Pat Ryan.



Master Sgt. Miguel Franco looks a bit surprised at getting his photo taken in the cockpit of an F-15, while he works on the egress system.

Chapel Call

Chaplain (Maj.) David Berube



What's 10 minutes really worth?

I recently saw a TV program about the North Platte, Neb., cantina.

This was set up during World War II to provide a quick sandwich and drink to soldiers on troop trains. The cantina was staffed by townspeople, and soldiers spent only about 10 minutes there.

The intriguing part of the story was the impact those 10 minutes had on the lives of people. The soldiers were boys, for the most part, on their way to becoming combat veterans. They were on their way to a major life-changing experience.

That 10 minutes in Nebraska was a blip on the radar.

Yet, 60 years later, some of those men returned to North Platte to remember the cantina and reconnect with some of those Nebraskans who hosted them.

One veteran was asked how that 10-minute whistle stop could be so memorable. The man responded, "After the way we were treated, how could we forget?" Ten minutes of kindness, in the midst of lives about to be turned upside down, became one of life's most cherished moments.

That story got me thinking about the value of 10 minutes. What is 10 minutes really worth?

There is no need to remind you this is a challenging time for us. The "big picture" is complicated and often difficult to perceive. The future is unfolding frustratingly slowly,

and every day seems to present us with new challenges.

It is not hard to get to a place where we ask ourselves why we do this.

On Saturday night of the March unit training assembly, I had the honor of performing chaplain duty at the Security Forces Squadron retirement party.

One of the events of the evening was the presentation of retirement flags which included our Base Honor Guard's flag-folding ceremony.

This solemn ceremony speaks of our nation's symbol using words like loyalty and sacrifice, reminding us what our country stands for at its core. It only took about 10 minutes, but those minutes have high value for me because they were a reminder of why I believe we do this.

We serve because our country needs us, because the freedoms and values we protect for our families and our communities are worth the sacrifice.

The days ahead in our journey together promise to constantly challenge and test us. The road looks long and we only get glimpses of our destination.

I pray God will grant us many 10-minute reminders of what is good and right and valuable in what we do. I also pray that God will grant us all a sense of peace in that journey.

Air Force One Source provides Airmen with vital information

Air Force One Source is a 24-hour-a-day helpline that provides active-duty, Reserve and Guard Airmen and their families access to support by telephone, the Internet and e-mail.

Some issues the helpline addresses include making plans to deploy or coming home from a deployment, resolving personal problems or cop-

ing with challenges that come up during the course of a day.

The helpline is available anytime by phone in the United States at 800-707-5784, internationally at 800-707-7844, internationally collect at 484-530-5913 or at www.airforceonesource.com.

The website requires customers to create a user name and password.

Retirement party set for Chief Manamon

A retirement party is planned April 1 for Chief Master Sgt. Debra Manamon.

Festivities will run from 5:30 to 10 p.m. in the tent behind the Eagles Nest. Tickets are \$15 for junior enlisted members and \$20 for all others.

Dinner will include salad, ziti with meatballs, Mediterranean wraps and a cash bar.

For more information and to check on ticket availability, contact the clinic at 508-968-4190.

Here's what the council is doing for you!

By Master Sgt. Rose Gould

A Web page, promotional tool and enhancing the sponsorship program, the Otis Airmen's Council has come out the gate running this year in developing and implementing initiatives that enhance both enlisted quality of life and professional development.

With a new facelift under the direction of Tech. Sgt. Raymond L. Gendreau and Senior Airman Yugeny M. Escobar, the Airmen's Council undertakes finding solutions to the issues that are relevant to you. With a direct line of communication to the base commander, chiefs and first sergeants, concerns can be addressed simultaneously on multiple levels.

Airmen's Council Web page

A highly informative Web page, with easy access from the Otis Intranet home page, has been created detailing the Airmen's Council's objectives, goals, meeting minutes and other helpful information. In addition a page was developed where you can anonymously submit questions, recommendations and concerns to the council.

The issues presented through this venue will be discussed during subsequent Airmen's Council meeting and responses will be posted on the Web site.



Professional development tool

Built from the onslaught of concerns regarding the promotion process, an innovative professional development tool has been created and will be on the Web site soon. In less than the minute it takes you to enter some pertinent data, your entire career progression from airmen basic to chief are displayed, detailing the matching requirements.

No longer driven by difficult password-protected, Web-based programs, individuals and supervisors can keep this simple excel document on their personal home and work computers. The document also updates the data each time you enter.

Future endeavors

The Airmen's Council is working to ease some of the challenges involved with attending the Noncommissioned Officer's Academy in-residence, provide tutoring to those people wishing to retake the Armed Services Vocational

Aptitude Battery and working a wealth of issues relevant to you.

Join us!

The Airmen's Council is always looking for energetic creative thinkers to join them. Meetings are held the Saturday of each unit training assembly in the Building 158 wing conference room. If your schedule does not permit you attending every month, just drop in when you can and share your ideas.

Those wishing to e-mail input ahead of time can do so by e-mailing Raymond.Gendreau@maotis.ang.af.mil

Stay tuned

The next Airmen's Council article will detail both free and discounted entertainment and travel benefits available to you.

From staying in a beach-front hotel in Hawaii for next to nothing to free Blue Man Group tickets, the article will present the where and how to take advantage of these incredible benefits.

Billing date changes for government travel card

By Megan Orton

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - In March, Air Force government travel card billing cycles for individually billed accounts began closing out on the 22nd of each month.

Bank of America has customer service representatives available to handle all calls relating to the cycle date change.

Cardholders also can register online for electronic account government ledger system user IDs and passwords using information found on GTC statements. The system allows cardholders to view current transactions and previous statement activity and maintain account information online.

To register, visit www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/eagls_selfregistration/selfreg.aspx.

Eagles Nest calendar

April unit training assembly

Come and try to become the "Otis Idol" during Karaoke night at the Eagles Nest on April 1. Food will be available (TBA) for a small fee.

May unit training assembly

On May 6, come celebrate the holiday of Cinco De Mayo, The 5th Of May, which commemorates the victory of the Mexicans over the French army at the battle of Puebla in 1862.

We will have music and a chili cook-off. Contact Staff Sgt. Marianne Whelan at 508-968-4998 or Master Sgt. Mary Long at 508-968-4133 if you would like to participate in the chili cook-off.

Prizes will be awarded to top three winners voted by the patrons that night.

Uniform board results released

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The 97th Air Force Uniform Board released its newest results for proper wear of the uniform.

The board met in October and discussed everything from eliminating the Air Force Good Conduct Medal to maternity uniforms.

In addition, a Headquarters Air Force badge will be available this summer. The badge provides a distinct identification of military staff members assigned to the Air Staff and the Air Force Secretariat. Details about this badge will be available at a future date.

The following changes are effective immediately:

- Approval to wear the blue nametag with the Air Force informal uniform — the member's abbreviated rank and name will be on one line. This uniform is worn by recruiters, honor guard, enlisted aides, chaplains, chaplain assistants, world-class athletes, and fitness center and health and wellness center staffs.

- Cumberbund pleats will face up in all cases.

- If a temporary medical condition, such as chemotherapy, results in baldness, commanders will authorize the approved American Cancer Society cap, wigs or baldness while in uniform.

- Bracelet size is reduced to one-half inch. Bracelets that support a cause, philosophy, individual or group are not authorized. Traditional POW/MIA bracelets are still permitted. Gemstone and tennis bracelets are only authorized while wearing the mess dress.

- Rings will be worn at the base of the finger and will not be worn on the thumb. Wedding sets count as one ring.

- Eyeglasses will not be worn around the neck, on top or back of the head or hanging on uniform.

- New epoxy blue nametag is optional on the blue shirt.

- Wear of the firefighter duty badge is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3E7X1 duty Air Force specialty

code, including periods of professional military education and staff tours above group level.

- Wear of the security forces duty badge and beret is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3PXXX duty AFSC position and is also their primary AFSC, including PME attendance and staff tours above group level.

- The Air Force Good Conduct Medal will no longer be awarded. Previously earned medals are still permitted.

- Mandatory wear of the physical training uniform is set for Oct. 1 as per the instructions released last November.

- Cell phones, pagers and personal digital assistants must be solid or covered in black, silver, dark blue or gray, and must be conservative. They may be clipped to the left side of the waistband or purse or carried in left hand. Only one may be worn on the uniform belt. Members will not walk in uniform while using phones, radios or hands-free headsets unless required in performing official duties using a government-issued device.

- Permanent wear of the scuba badge is authorized on the battle dress uniform.

- While not deployed, desert combat uniforms may not be worn unless en route to the basic combat convoy course. "Deployed" for this purpose includes members traveling en route to/from rest and recuperative leave from the Central Command area of responsibility, as outlined in policy announced in mid-2005.

This session of the Air Force Uniform Board included a special panel that was specifically chartered to make recommendations regarding updates/revisions to uniform standards affecting women Airmen. After careful review, the board approved several changes that affect women specifically:

- "Scrunchies" are prohibited.

- Hairpins and bands must match hair color.

- Hair color, frosting and highlights will not be faddish and will match natural hair colors, i.e. blonde, brunette, natural

red, black or gray.

- No shaved head or flat top hairstyles for women.

- Synthetic hair can be worn, as long as it meets safety and mission requirements.

- Braids, micro-braids and cornrows are authorized.

- Nail polish will not contrast with complexion or detract from the uniform. Nor is polish of extreme color, such as purple, gold, black, blue or any florescent color, authorized. Nail polish also will be limited to one color.

- French manicures are allowed, but fingernail length in all instances will not exceed one-quarter inch beyond the fingertip.

- In addition to clutch-style purses, purses with no more than two straps are authorized with mess dress.

- Earrings will be small spherical, conservative diamond, gold, white pearl or silver with any uniform combination and must be worn as a set. For those with multiple ear piercing, only one set of earrings will be worn in the lower earlobe and will also conform to these earring wear standards when performing duty in civilian clothes.

- Male flight cap is optional.

The updates were added to Air Force Instruction 36-2903 when the new version was released in March.



***Happy Easter
Sunday,
April 16***



Golf tourney helps the seriously ill

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

In memory of their son, who died of a congenital heart defect, 2nd Lt. Timothy M. Portlock and his family have come up with a way to help families who also have suffered the loss of a family member to serious illness.

The Inaugural Tyler's Tee Time Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Friday, May 12, At Wayland Country Club, 121 Old Sudbury Road, Wayland.

Less than five weeks after he was born, Tyler Ryan Portlock passed away on April 17, 2005, of Ebstein's Anomaly. Ebstein's is a congenital heart defect so rare and complex that doctor's were unable to offer any predicted outcomes for Tyler's prognosis. "As expectant parents of our third child, we never anticipated receiving such devastating news." Christine Portlock said.

Christine and Timothy Portlock also have two other children, Haley, 4, and Cameron, 2. A forth child, Brenna, is expected on April 14.

The tournament benefits the cardiac intensive care unit and the "Miles for Miracles" Annual Walk for Children's Hospital in Boston.

Registration and a luncheon begin at noon, and the tournament's shotgun start is at 1:30. Dinner and awards banquet begin at 6 p.m. Experienced and "rookie" golfers of all abilities are welcome to participate.

The individual \$135 registration fee includes greens fees, carts, luncheon, dinner, gifts, and awards. For those who can not make it to the tournament but would like to attend the awards dinner, the cost is \$28. Children under 12 are free. Registration deadline is April 30.

Foursomes are encouraged.

Make checks payable to the Tyler Ryan Portlock Memorial Foundation and mail to 28 Fayette Road, Bedford, MA 01730. Non-golfers also can send a contribution to the same address.

For more information on the tournament, contact Lieutenant Portlock during the unit training assembly at the

Registration and a luncheon begin at noon, and the tournament's shotgun start is at 1:30. Dinner and awards banquet begin at 6 p.m. Experienced and "rookie" golfers of all abilities are welcome to participate.

102nd Services Flight at 508-968-4505 or timothy.portlock@maotis.af.mil. Between UTAs, he can be contacted at MSGTTIM@Yahoo.com or PortlockT@K12.Waltham.ma.us; his cell number is 781-640-4529

Lieutenant Portlock also said that one of the things that helped him and Christine remain in contact with family and friends during Tyler's illness was www.carepages.com, a web service developed by parents of children with serious illnesses. Carepages.com allows families to create a personal web

page about a family member who is seriously ill at Children's Hospital, Boston.

On the page, the family can post updates, send out information, photos, etc. to family and friends.

"I used it as a therapy of sorts; to clear my head, get out a few words and then go back to be with Tyler. ... It saved us a lot of time and heartache (from telling everyone the same information over and over and over)."

If you would like to know more about Tyler and the Portlocks, go to www.carepages.com, create an account and look for the web page: [tylerslove](http://tylerslove.com). After the family approves your account, you will be able to see Tyler and read about his life.

"It really helped us to know that family and friends were there to support us. People would leave words of love and support for Tyler and our family, so we could feel connected to those who couldn't be in the hospital with us." Christine and Tim said.

Fill out the following form and send it in with your registration fee.

Name: _____

Email _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Foursome Names:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

*Make checks payable to: Tyler Ryan Portlock Memorial Foundation
Mail to: Tyler Ryan Portlock Memorial Foundation
28 Fayette Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Most Reserve, Guard members earn more, not less, in uniform

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Despite general perceptions that Guardsmen and Reservists lose income when called to active duty, most actually earn more in uniform than as civilians, a new Rand Corp. study reveals.

The nonprofit research organization's study, commissioned by the Defense Department and released Jan. 25, shows that 72 percent of the more than 100,000 troops surveyed saw their earnings jump 25 percent when called to active duty.

Their average pay hike amounted to about \$10,000 a year, Rand officials said.

However, Rand researchers also found that 28 percent of Reservists studied lost pay after being called to active duty. About one-fifth of the survey group lost 10 or more percent of their normal income.

DoD commissioned the study to determine the financial effect of mobilization and deployment on reserve-component members, said Army Lt. Col. Bob Stone, DoD Reserve affairs spokesman. Survey results and anecdotal reports had suggested that a large fraction of mobilized Guardsmen and Reservists lost income while serving on active duty, but DOD wanted empirical evidence, Colonel Stone said.

The study shows that while some reserve-component members lose money during mobilization and deployment, many are actually better off financially, Colonel Stone said.

"Our findings contradict the prevailing belief that most reservists lose pay when called to active duty," said Jacob Klerman, a Rand senior economist and lead author of the study. "But there is a group of reservists who experience a drop in income when activated."

Rand researchers based their findings on a review of pay records of more than 110,000 Army and Air Force reservists mobilized in 2001 and 2002. The calculations factor in military pay and allowances and the fact that those re-

ceived in a combat zone are not subject to federal taxes, Rand officials said. The study does not account for any salaries or benefits mobilized reserve members may continue to receive from civilian employers while serving on active duty.

The new study found that average earnings increase and the percentage of reservists who experience earnings losses drops the longer reserve-component members serve. For example, reservists who served for 270 or more days in a year saw their earnings jump by an average of 44 percent over normal pay, the study showed.

However, about 17 percent of Reservists who served on active duty for a similar duration lost 10 or more percent of their normal wages.

The results suggest that recent increases in military pay and benefits for servicemembers, as well as enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses, are helping bridge gaps between military and civilian pays, Colonel Stone said. New legislative authorities provided for in the 2006 defense budget, including a measure to help make up income shortfalls for mobilized reserve members, are expected to further reduce financial hardships related to military service, he said.

The latest Rand findings contrast with those of a May 2004 survey of Reserve pay. That study, conducted by the Defense Department, found that 51 percent of Reserve and Guard troops reported an earnings loss when serving on active duty. Of those, 44 percent reported a loss of 10 or more percent, and 21 percent reported 20 or more percent income losses.

Rand officials said the discrepancy boils down to how income is defined. DoD's 2004 survey compared before-tax income before and while serving on active duty. The Rand study also took into consideration tax advantages for troops serving in a combat zone. In addition, the DoD study was based on voluntary participation and as a result, may not be representative of all Reservists, the Rand study noted.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters looking for volunteers

Submitted by Erin Creighton
Family Readiness

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program of the Cape and Islands is looking for dedicated and caring adult volunteers and children (ages 6 through teens).

The adult volunteers will help children in the program cope with the

special problems they face growing up in single-parent homes. The primary goal of the program is to match children to dedicated and caring adult volunteers who will provide the friendship and one-to-one mentoring needed during childhood and adolescent years.

In addition, the program provides group mentoring to matched and un-

matched children with a variety of recreational and educational activities to enrich their lives and provide positive peer interaction.

If you are interested in becoming a Big Brother/Big Sister, or your child(ren) in becoming a Little Brother/Little Sister, contact Lisa Lopes-Berry at 508-771-5150, ext 102.

Duty history centralized for Reservists

By Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims
Air Reserve Personnel Center

DENVER — Since mid-March, Reserve Airmen have been able to access and change their duty history through the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve, or vPC-GR, a 24/7 customer service Web portal operated by the Air Reserve Personnel Center here.

ARPC continues to centralize processes once located at unit level military personnel flights.

The most recent process to be centralized is Reservist duty history.

Before now, Reservists had to visit their local MPF to change or request a copy of their duty history. Now, Reservists can log on to the vPC-GR at arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/default.asp. Airmen can establish an account by answering a few questions.

Once logged in, members can click on "Duty History," where they can add, edit or delete data. Supporting

documents can be attached while logged in to the Web portal or by a separate email.

The customer will be e-mailed a tracking number once the submission is received. They will receive an e-mail letting them know when the actions are completed.

"The ultimate goal is to improve how we deliver services to our Reservists," said Col. Ann Shippy, ARPC commander. "It is time that we stop making people drive across base to go to the military personnel flight to do their updates."

The service delivery transformation team at ARPC continuously studies which processes handled by local MPFs can be centralized and automated at ARPC.

Since the launch of the vPC-GR in mid-2005, several processes have been automated or centralized, including the 20-year letter, mortgage letter, letters to officer promotion boards, pre- or

post-promotion board counseling requests, and more.

Overall, the team is studying more than 100 processes for automation and centralization.

The goal is to bring as many "front-line" personnel services from throughout ARPC and the Reserve into the contact center or on the Web.

"Sure, change is hard, but inevitable," said Dave Aldrich, ARPC director of personnel service delivery.

"Businesses across the globe use Web-enabled tools to deliver goods and services to their customers; our Air Force ought to be no different. Let's keep Airmen on the flightline, in training or ensuring their readiness — not sitting on a customer service bench."

In the future, centralized services should account for nearly every aspect of every Reservists' personnel actions, from initial enlistment to far beyond retirement.

BMT extended; NCOs to learn new languages

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
Air Force Print News

ORLANDO, Fla. — Civilians wanting to be Airmen are going to have to tough it out for an additional 2½ weeks at basic military training, said the Air Force's top general.

Airmen graduating from BMT are going to be better trained and better equipped to be war fighters, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley during the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium in early February.

"My belief is that every Airman should be ready the minute they graduate for the air expeditionary force that is today's Air Force," he said. "We demand a lot of those kids when they get out into the field, and they have to be better prepared for the challenges they face out there."

The additional weeks will give more time for Airmen to be trained on war-

Airmen need to have more awareness about the Air Force expeditionary business, General Moseley said.

fighting skills they would encounter in a deployed combat location, such as the use of small arms and emergency medical skills.

Airmen need to have more awareness about the Air Force expeditionary business, General Moseley said.

New Airmen will not be the only ones getting trained for global and expeditionary warfare.

Senior noncommissioned officers and field grade officers soon will be required to take up a new language as part of their professional military training.

"Starting next year, the students down

at Maxwell (Air Force Base, Ala., home to Air University and the Senior NCO Academy) are going to see a more robust education that is going to prepare them to be leaders in this global war on terror, and that includes language education" General Moseley said. "It is going to be mandatory that they take one of four languages: Arabic, French, Spanish and Chinese. This will enable them to go to other countries, not only in the (Middle East), but in the sub-Saharan, and be able to better work in those regions."

General Moseley said Air Force leaders are seeking ways to make education opportunities more accessible to its force.

"We want to put options out there for distance learning and advanced degrees," he said. "A higher education is of immense value to our Airmen, especially our senior NCOs and junior officers."

Benefits from 2006 defense authorization

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The 2006 National Defense Authorization Act signed into law Jan. 6 provides new or enhanced benefits for National Guard and Reserve members, a senior defense official said.

President George W. Bush signed the legislation, providing a variety of benefits designed to bring reserve-component compensation more on par with what the active component receives, Chuck Witschonke, the DOD's deputy director for compensation, said.

The package provides other benefits that affect all forces, both active and reserve, including better overall compensation and improved quality of life, while promoting overall recruiting and retention, he said.

The law also 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, versus 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 to be established within the next six months;

- * Accession and affiliation bonuses of up to \$20,000 for enlistment in the

Selected Reserve, and an increase for officers for service in the Selected Reserve, from \$6,000 to \$10,000;

- * A bonus of up to \$100,000 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 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.

One big change in the new law is a provision that shortens the duty time before a reserve-component member qualifies for the full housing allowance.

Reserve and Guard members called to active duty for more than 30 days will now get the full allowance, just as active-component troops do, Mr. Witschonke said.

Another benefit, the critical-skills retention bonus, will be "a very good tool" in helping keep members with important experience and training in the force and in maintaining readiness in high-priority units, Mr. Witschonke

said.

The 2006 authorization act also increases recruiting bonuses for the Reserve and Guard, Mr. Witschonke said. The new law authorizes accession and affiliation bonuses of up to \$20,000, to be offered as needed by the services, he said.

For reserve-component members who experience pay cuts when called to active duty, the new provision for income replacement will help reduce the strain military service places on the family, he said.

"It can be difficult for a family that has been living on a certain income to now have less money, particularly at a time when they're stressed by a change in their lifestyle" due to a military deployment, Mr. Witschonke said.

The income-replacement program won't be instituted for six months, in accordance with the law. At that time, specific guidelines and qualifications will be issued, he said. This authority will end in December 2008.

These enhancements in reserve-component pay and benefits are particularly critical during the global war on terror, when members of the Guard and Reserve are playing a major role in U.S. national defense, he said.

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

Combat communications schedules open house

The 267th Combat Communications Squadron will be hosting an Open House from 1 to 3 p.m. April 1 and from 9 a.m. to noon April 2.

Individuals interested in a tour of the facility and learning about the mission, equipment, personnel, vacancies and skill sets are encouraged to visit.

The squadron is located in building 330 across from the Eagles Nest.

Please contact Maj. Christopher Willander, detachment commander for

more information at 508-968-7302, DSN 557-7302, or email at christopher.willander@maotis.ang.af.mil.

The 267CBCS has openings in the following career fields:

- 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

- 3E9X1 - readiness



A Global Hawk taxis down the runway after landing at a desert base. The Department of Defense's quadrennial defense review will add to the unmanned aerial vehicle program.

U.S. Air Force
photo by Tech. Sgt.
Mike Hammond

QDR directs Air Force and Guard future

**By Senior Airman J.G. Buzanowski
Air Force Print News**

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense released the results of the quadrennial defense review Feb. 3.

“The QDR guides and supports Air Force transformation in pursuit of key joint, interdependent combat capabilities that enable us to deliver more sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interest,” said Lt. Gen. Stephen G. Wood, Air Force deputy chief of staff for strategic plans and programs.

The QDR is a congressionally mandated review of how the armed forces plan to fund current and future projects specific to each service.

“The QDR was an exhaustive look at how each service operates and supports the combatant commanders now, as well as how they will support them in the future,” General Wood said.

“The studies and analyses provide us a guidepost that will improve the capabilities and sovereign options the Air Force provides the president.”

The QDR reaffirmed the strong role the Air Force plays in special operations and irregular warfare. Furthermore, it added strength to that effort with increased combat aviation advisors, dedicated Predator units and recapitalization

of the special operations fleet.

In addition, the QDR reinforced the Air Force importance in emerging missions and strengthening the Air Force's role in space and cyber operations.

To underwrite investment in new capabilities, the QDR calls for easing restrictions so the Air Force can trim the number of older aircraft it operates such as the C-130 Hercules, KC-135 Stratotankers and B-52 Stratofortresses, he said.

General Wood is positive about the Air Force's future based on the initiatives in the QDR.

“The QDR process was a reaffirmation we're headed in the right direction,” he said. “Several credible and independent agencies both in and outside DOD examined the needs of the Air Force and came to the same conclusions we have — that flexibility, stealth, speed and new advanced technology are necessary for our ability to project airpower and support our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.”

Other additions the QDR calls for are:

- * A new long-range bomber in the next 12 years

- * A significant increase in the fleet of unmanned aerial vehicles

- * More special operations forces

- * Fielding more battlefield Airmen to support our sister services on the ground

- * Airmen trained to fight with emerging technologies, such as protecting the nation through cyberspace

“The Air Force is focused on the global war on terror and we'll continue to transform the force to provide combatant commanders with the tools they need,” General Wood said.

Those transformations will affect the total force — from added weapon systems to a decrease in manpower. The Air Force will further reduce its strength by roughly 40,000 Airmen; 88 percent will come from active duty.

“This is a team effort and the Guard and Reserve are part of that team,” General Wood said. “So while 12 percent of our manpower cuts will come from them, the future of the Air Force will also see Guard and Reserve Airmen in our newest missions and equipment.

All in all, the QDR process was lengthy and drew input from a number of sources.

“It really is a credit to the Secretary of Defense as well as Air Force leadership that we were able to voice our opinions about how the Air Force should evolve for the future,” General Wood said. “Tough decisions had to be made, but what's most important now is that we're all on the same page and we know what we have to do. Now we just have to get out there and do it.”

Thanking the DeSilva family



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Wes Smith

Master Sgt. Ken Boyd, behind podium, of the 102nd Logistics Squadron motor pool reads a citation to accompany the presentation of an encased U.S. Flag to the DeSilva family, which has unselfishly supported deployed members of the 102nd Fighter Wing and other military members overseas with care packages through its Cape Cod Cares for Our Troops program. Story is on Page 6.

Seagull

Public Affairs Office
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