

102nd Fighter Wing Seagull

Vol. XXI, No. 5

Aug.- Sept. 2006



Engineering in Iraq



Colonel Paul G. Worcester

From the wing commander's desk

Just One Thing.....

While I had hoped to reveal in this column some breaking news on our new missions, unfortunately we are still waiting for good words from higher headquarters. While we try to wait patiently, another issue presented itself that I thought was appropriate even if it is way off track from a new mission assignment discussion. Everyone in the wing knows my biggest safety pitch is **Wear Your Seat Belt!!** So my topic this month is simply that – **Wear Your Seat belt!!**

As many of you know, my past involved racing sports cars and teaching high performance driving, a six year stint as Wing Chief of Safety, being an active member in my home town promoting traffic safety issues as part of a state-grant program, and now the responsibility for the safety of nearly 1100 members of this unit. There is NO other single safety concern that rises to the importance of this simple act of **Wearing Your Seat Belt.**

Think about it. Virtually every one of us climbs into a car everyday to go to work, do an errand, or to

meet friends. I cannot think of one other act that carries as much safety significance in day-to-day activities that can have such a profound affect.

I can say this because of the extensive safety education I have received over the years, the lives I've seen saved and bodily harm reduced as a result of many friends, acquaintances, and co-workers who are alive because they heard the message and chose to **Wear Their Seat Belt.** I can now add to this the choice made by my son and two of his friends to Wear Their Seat Belts that resulted in saving all three of their lives a few weeks ago. I am unbelievably grateful they did so.

I have heard all the arguments over the years not to do so. Those arguments have no basis in fact. No basis whatsoever! DO NOT LISTEN to those that would try to convince you otherwise. The chances grow astronomically of your suffering painful injuries that will last you a lifetime (if you are lucky to last a lifetime) and more so if you are ejected from your vehicle because you didn't **Wear Your**

Seat Belt. Death might actually be the preferable alternative!!

Strong statement isn't it? It was intended to be. Remember, your choice to Wear Your Seat Belt doesn't affect just you - it affects your family, dependants, friends, and co-workers. We are all affected by your decision. Make the right one....**Wear Your Seat Belt!**

I have intentionally kept this column brief so the font can be big so the message can be loud and clear.....

WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT!!!

My fellow commanders and I all need each and every one of you present for duty, capable of doing the assigned mission, with a smile on your happy faces, and where we get to send you home to your family and friends to enjoy that important part of your life. Please, take this advice seriously. Everyone knows I do.

ON THE COVER

This month...

Tech. Sgt. Paul Jacques of the 102nd Civil Engineering Squadron takes a break from physical training to check out an armored humvee at Ali Air Base, Iraq. Story and photos on Page 14.

CE helps school with scoreboard

Story on Page 5



Seagull

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Dad in Qatar sees baby's birth

Story on Page 6



Wing supporter flies high

Story on Page 7



What's for lunch?



Saturday, Aug. 26

Beef spareribs or baked ham, salad, vegetables, assorted desserts and beverages.

Sunday, Aug. 27

Sausage subs or ravioli and meatballs, vegetables, assorted desserts and beverages.

Saturday, Sept. 16

Sloppy joes or turkey a la king, vegetables, assorted desserts and beverages.

Sunday, Sept. 17

Family Day: Chicken, burgers, hot dogs, baked beans, cole slaw, vegetables, watermelon, Italian Ice push ups, assorted desserts and beverages.

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 (508) 968-4516.

*Have a safe
and fun
Labor Day
Holiday*

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

Aug. 26-27

Nov. 2-3

Sept. 16-17

Nov. 4-5

Oct. 21-22

Dec. 2-3

* First drill in November replaces July 2007 drill.

* Unit Compliance Inspection Nov. 2-7.

Wing command support staff has vacancy

The 102nd Fighter Wing Group Orderly Room has an information management (3AOX1) position available. It is a master sergeant position and any 3AX01 can apply.

Interested personnel should contact Lt. Col. Richard Ryan, wing group executive officer, e-mail at richard.ryan@maotis.ang.af.mil or phone 508-968-4664, or SMSgt Michael J. Poirier, group first sergeant, at michael.poirier@maotis.ang.af.mil or 508-968-4662.

In sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to the family of retired Chief Master Sgt. Gene MacAuliffe, who was superintendent of the former 102nd Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Sympathy is also expressed to Master Sgt. Raymond Blais on the death of his father, Joseph. Sergeant Blais is a member of the 102nd Communications Flight.

Sympathy also is expressed to the family of Master Sgt. Robert Palomba. Sergeant Palomba was a former member of the 102nd Civil Engineering Squadron, serving as military fire chief and deputy fire chief before his retirement.

Seagull deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the next Seagull is 2 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 17. 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.ang.af.mil or prepared on a floppy disk, preferably in Word for Windows.

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

Briefing to explain satellite PME

Master Sgt. Thomas Carmichael of the 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Air National Guard Base will be briefing the Airman's Council on the satellite professional military education program at 1 p.m. Aug. 26 in the Wing Conference room.

Anyone interested in becoming an instructor or who would like to get more information on the satellite PME program is invited to attend.

State headquarters has opening

Headquarters, Massachusetts Air National Guard, has a vacancy for a traditional Guard information manager, 3AOXX. This would be ideal for a new recruit, airman first class, senior airman or staff sergeant who may live in the Milford area.

For more information, contact Lt. Col. Gary A. Porter, Joint Force Headquarters MA ANG, military personnel management officer, by phone at 508-233-6543 or Defense Switched Network 256-6543 or by e-mail at gary.porter@mabarn.ang.af.mil.

CE helps Sandwich High School

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

Again reaching out to the Cape Cod community, 102nd Civil Engineering Squadron personnel has done the site preparation work to erect a lighted scoreboard at a field hockey and lacrosse field at the Sandwich High School.

The project was not completed during the double unit training assemblies in June because the steel uprights for the scoreboard were delayed.

According to Master Sgt. Guy G. Chiocchio, who ran the project, although rain caused some delays, "Everything went extremely well. ... the host staff was fantastic. ... All personnel received great training, the town of Sandwich received free labor for their project and I think I can speak for the crew when I say we enjoy doing projects like these to help the surrounding communities."

Thomas Kinchla, a volunteer with Sandwich Girls STIX Sports, which raised more than \$6,000 to pay for the sign and related materials, said, "We wouldn't have gotten the project going if not for the Air National Guard. ... We didn't have the expertise or manpower to do the job.

"The high school staff was thoroughly impressed with the expertise of the National Guard personnel," Mr. Kinchla said.

STIX Sports supports girl's field hockey and lacrosse in Sandwich and

Tech. Sgt. David Palmquist, left, and Senior Airman Bill Greenwood prepare to take a Bobcat off a flat-bed trailer.



Master Sgt. Guy Chiocchio, who ran the scoreboard installation project, climbs out of the trench after smoothing it to install electrical conduit.

before the scoreboard project usually focused on uniforms and such. Mr. Kinchla's wife, Brenda, and Kathy Gattoni organized the group and got it going.

Plans for the four-day project began in April when Maj. Stephen Demianczyk, base civil engineer, and Chief Buddy Manamon asked Sergeant Chiocchio to oversee the project. Sergeant Chiocchio then visited Sandwich High School where he and Tom Kinchla prepared a list of materials, man-hours and the scope of the work.

Once the materials were delivered to the site, the civil engineers began working.

Master Sgt. Frank Porciello of the equipment shop was responsible for transporting the needed CE equipment to the site and the training of heavy equipment operators. Tech. Sgt. Robert Calderwood was responsible for the operation and training on the "digger truck."

Master Sgt. John Cody and Tech. Sgt. Thomas Jones oversaw the installation of footing forms to ensure they met engineering requirements for the project.

On the second day of the project, rain caused some delays but the CE crews completed trenching, installing electrical conduits and started backfilling. Then everyone "pitched in" to install the electrical wiring in the 450-foot-long conduit.

Facing more rain on the third day of the project, the start of work was delayed till mid-morning when personnel began site cleanup, removing large rocks from the excavation area, compacting the soil with hand compactors and raking the area for grass seeding.

The final morning dawned bright and sunny, so the crew completed the raking and seeding before returning their equipment to Otis.

Helping stork reach out to Qatar

Wing scrambles to ensure dad is 'there' for birth

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

"It's a boy!"

Kaleb Blanchette's birth was relatively quick for his mom, Leslie, but the process to ensure his dad, Staff Sgt. Robert "Rob" Blanchette, was "there" for the delivery involved some digital ingenuity to reach out to him thousands of miles away in Qatar.

Earlier this year, Sergeant Blanchette got word that he and several other members of the 102nd Security Forces Squadron were being activated and sent to the Middle East.

Leslie was five months pregnant at the time. "It was scary," she said. "We had a 2-year-old daughter."

She said Rob only had two to 2½ weeks to get ready for the deployment. "During that time, he had to go to the base to get his will, family-care plan and other paperwork done." While he was busy with his details, Leslie was facing the prospect of setting up "digs" for a new son.

"It was very stressful," she said. Besides the situation being difficult for her, trying to explain to a 2-year-old that her daddy wouldn't be around for several months was even harder. "They just don't understand at that age."

Trying to get everything done for Kaleb's birth also caused her to have premature labor pains, but those subsided.

When Leslie's mom flew in from Florida to help, that took off some of the pressures. "I couldn't lift much in the last months" of pregnancy.

As the time for Kaleb's birth got closer it, became obvious that Rob wasn't going to be able to make it home. This is when his commander, Maj. Christopher Hamilton, started looking for a way to have him participate in the birth.

Major Hamilton contacted Erin Creighton, coordinator of the Family



Leslie Blanchette talks to her husband Robert in Qatar on a video phone while Kylie reaches to touch her father image on a television screen.

Readiness Office, to see whether she could help out. Apparently, Erin had some videophone equipment in her office but was unsure whether it worked.

Luckily, Master Sgt. Ellie Brosseau, an electronics maintenance specialist with the 102nd Communications Flight, popped in to say, "Hi!"

"I've worked with Family Readiness before and just happened to be in the right place at the right time" to help out.

She said Erin had most of the video equipment she needed to get the job done, but it all had to be tested to ensure it would all work together.

"We looked into Web casting, but streaming video is not allowed on Air Force systems," Ellie said. So they decided to use videophones and go through the Defense Switched Network, long-haul voice communications network.

Sergeant Brosseau then began the testing process and contacted Marie Kessel, the technical guru at Rhode Island Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, R.I., about what needed to be done. She laughed that part of the process involved indoctrinating Ms. Kessel and other civilians into the military way of doing things.

Next was to get a videophone to Rob in Qatar and coordinate with the people

there to set up a DSN connection to Otis for what amounted to a conference call.

"I was very excited" Leslie said, "because it was the only way Rob could be involved. He could have seen photos (after the fact), but it's not the same as being involved."

Before the birth, Sergeant Brosseau contacted Tech. Sgt. Paul Walker of the Rhode Island Air National Guard's 143rd Communications Flight who helped set up the equipment. In addition to setting up the videophone connection, Ellie also got Leslie a handheld Handicam and made sure she was comfortable using it to keep Rob updated on her progress.

Testing of the equipment also involved a test call to Qatar and Ellie got Leslie and Kylie, the Blanchette's 2-year-old daughter, involved for that. During the test, which had to take another bit of coordination because of the time difference between Qatar and Pawtucket.

During the test, "Kylie was able to talk to her dad," Leslie said.

But when the big day came, things were a little different - and much more hectic.

Leslie contacted Rob in Qatar by satellite phone - "That was a bit expensive," but necessary, Sergeant Brosseau said.

(See BABY, Page 22)

Wing supporter gets F-15 incentive ride

By Cliff McDonald

One of the 102nd Fighter Wing's top civilian supporters recently was rewarded with an F-15 incentive flight in recognition of his many acts of kindness.

But what is it that propels Ken Middleton above others? Spend only a few minutes with Mr. Middleton and it is clear what sets him apart from the average.

His passionate spirit for giving is what distinctively makes him a civic leader. Most noteworthy is the way he willingly and openly helps other people live out their lives with greater passion and dignity — it is this passion to give that makes Mr. Middleton special.

Mr. Middleton is an avid supporter of the 102nd Fighter Wing, and other units' Family Readiness support programs. He participates in the 102nd's Family Day activities where he has donated both his time and expertise to build several detailed model aircraft, which he bequeaths to the wing. He also has donated numerous kits of Lego toys and "plane sticks" to children of wing family members.

After his incentive flight, Mr. Middleton sent the wing members an e-mail thank you, which said in part, "It was an honor for us and an experience we will never forget, and has furthered our belief that the 102nd ... is not only the best fighter wing anywhere, but also has members



Photo by Master Sgt. Sandra Niedzweicki

Ken Middleton gives a thumbs up before his F-15 incentive flight.

who are genuinely nice and thoughtful people."

Mr. Middleton also donates model F-15s for the wing's Pilot for a Day Program. This program focuses on children who have been stricken with life-threatening illnesses.

According to Col. Paul W. Worcester, wing commander, "We have taken great pride in being able to welcome Mr. Middleton into our extended 102nd family. He truly embraces the adage that teaches us that giving is so much more rewarding than receiving. Experiencing the excitement of a child who had re-

ceived a gift from Mr. Middleton is a privilege that instills pride of service in all members of our wing; it certainly is a reward that makes us all proud to represent the U.S. Air Force."

A resident of Connecticut, Mr. Middleton is a civic leader whose enthusiastic support for Air Force activities extends to contacts with others within his civilian community. Mr. Middleton not only has supported this unit, but also, in similar ways, has worked with Vermont, and Louisiana Air National Guard units, and a fighter squadron at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.



Cape Cod Times photo

Pilot for a day

In right photo, 12-year-old Tucker Rockett, the 102nd Fighter Wing's most recent Pilot for a Day listens to instructions in an F-15 Eagle simulator as Senior Master Sgt. Sharon Rich of the life support shop looks on. In left photo, Sam Rockett taps on his brother, Tucker's helmet.



Photo by Master Sgt. Sandra Niedzweicki

Lt. Col. Sweeney pays tribute to his dad

Gives lecture to Kadena Airmen

By Senior Airman James P. Regan

As Lt. Col. Joseph P. Sweeney stood behind a podium on the base theater stage at Kadena Air Base, Japan, Airmen from the 18th Fighter Wing sat, staring up at the 102nd Fighter Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander. An intimidating figure in both size and rank, Colonel Sweeney surely could be expected to bark orders or lecture on the importance of military bearing - but not that day.

"Today, I get to talk about someone very special in my heart and that's my dad," he said.

He was speaking about his father, the late Maj. Gen. Charles W. Sweeney, who commanded the flight that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki that helped end World War II.

"When he was 18, he had never been in a plane. By the time he was 25, he was the only man who actually flew in both atomic bomb missions," he continued.

Colonel Sweeney, who was in Kadena for acceptance of the F-15C model, started his speech with a brief history of himself and his early days as a Marine. He then talked about his father's career as an Air Force pilot and the recognition it brought him after retiring in 1976.

The screen behind Colonel Sweeney was illuminated with a picture of his father sitting in the cockpit of his aircraft enjoying a cigar. Half way through the lecture, the image changed to a photograph of his father's best selling book, "War's End: An Eyewitness Account of America's Last Atomic Mission."

Released in 1997, it received worldwide recognition and has been printed in 12 editions.

On Dec. 7, 1995, General Sweeney appeared on the "Imus in the Morning" radio program. Tom Hanks heard him and arranged to have lunch with him



Photo by Master Sgt. Sandra Niedzweicki

Lt. Col. Joseph P. Sweeney talks to Airmen at Kadena Air Base, Japan, about his father, the late Maj. Gen. Charles W. Sweeney, whose picture is projected on a screen behind him.

"When he (the late Maj. Gen. Charles W. Sweeney) was 18, he had never been in a plane. By the time he was 25, he was the only man who actually flew in both atomic bomb missions."

— Lt. Col. Joseph P. Sweeney

that day.

"Hanks bought the rights to the book and something might come out of that," Colonel Sweeney said.

It should come as no surprise General Sweeney had an opportunity to dine with a top Hollywood star, for he himself had a list of accomplishments that outshined any amount of Oscars.

He became the youngest general in the history of the Air Force when he pinned on his first star at age 37. He also played a large role in separating the Army Air Corps into two separate

branches.

He lobbied Congress in 1947 for separate forces, said Colonel Sweeney.

Before his retirement in 1976, he achieved the rank of major general and was the commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

Lt. Col. Steven E. Bachelor, 18th EMS commander at Kadena, booked Colonel Sweeney to speak to his troops because of the historical importance his father played.

"I believe that it's important for our Airman, of all ranks, to know and understand their history and their legacy," said Colonel Bachelor. "This is one of those true treats when you have the opportunity to speak to the relative of a real, true American hero."

Feedback from the troops was positive, Colonel Bachelor said.

"They gave him a standing ovation and that speaks for itself."

Colonel Sweeney has spoken publicly about his father many times, including in his hometown of Milton, Mass., at the Veteran's Day parade.

Recruiting Street Team keeping busy

By Senior Airman James Regan

The 102nd recruiting Street Team has kept busy this summer with a variety of events throughout Massachusetts.

New Bedford's Whaling City Festival, the Falmouth Road Race and beach volleyball all proved successful, and there are more upcoming events that wing members can attend!

Friday, Aug. 25 is the last beach volleyball game of the year and is being held on Nantasket Beach in Hull.

On Saturday, Sept. 9, join us at Gillette Stadium as the New England Revolution takes on the New York Red Bulls.

Is soccer not your taste?

That same weekend, Sept. 9 and 10, they will be in Boston for College Fest 2006! This year's event is being held at the Hynes Convention Center.

The 102nd recruiting staff is always looking for energetic and professional individuals to join the Street Team and support these events.

Contact MSgt. Chip Barlow at (800) 292-3184 for more information.

*Massachusetts Air National Guard
Beach Volleyball*

Every Friday This Summer!

Come out and join us ...

Nantasket Beach, Hull
July 21st, Aug 4th
Aug 18th, Aug 25th

Horseneck Beach, Westport
July 28th, Aug 11th

*Call (800) 292 - 3184
for more information*

Tech. Sgt. Marianne Whelan, a 102nd Fighter Wing recruiter, is featured on the Street Team's beach volleyball flyer.

Girl Scouts send cookies, cards to troops overseas

Brownie Troop 2359 from Brookline, N.H., recently provided more than 200 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies and dozens of handmade greeting cards to Air National Guardsmen deployed overseas.

The girls sought donations during their annual cookie sale starting in January. They also made a special effort to seek donations for cookies through the Richard Maghakian Memorial School and the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy, the two Brookline elementary schools.

The Brownies also sought donations at their booth sales outside at local stores.

Through their efforts and the generosity of the community, donations for more than 16 cases of cookies were raised.

The cookies were sent to members of the 102nd Civil Engineering Squadron who are serving in Iraq. Lt. Col. Eric Pauer, civil engineering squadron commander, accepted the cookies on behalf of the deployed members.



Pictured are, from left, back row, Carol, a Girl Scout leader, Lt. Col. Eric Pauer, and Lisa, another leader. Standing, from left, Caitlin, Vanessa, Kelly, Julia, Erin, Valerie, Rebecca, Katarina, Becca. Kneeling, from left, Bethany, and Rachel.

All dressed up and ready to go?

By Airman 1st Class Alexis Colonna
Airman's Council

"Fit to Fight"? Airman of the Quarter? How about a military funeral, wedding, or honorary duty? A photo for your family? A chance to meet a dignitary?

OK, you've done the work well, why not take the time to polish up and enjoy the recognition? Pull out your service dress uniform, polish it up, press out the imperfections, update your awards, and shine!

Let's be honest ... how many of us really dress out? How many actually keep their service dress uniform anywhere handy, never mind ready?

Outside of those whose job function requires a service dress uniform, most of us probably have them stored neatly in the back of the closet, just in case, despite the admonitions of our sharply turned out military training instructors whose eyeballs would be rolling back in their heads if they knew how out of date your uniforms really were. Let's face it — most of us just don't use them very often.

If you ask a first sergeant, however, they'll be the first to tell you that one of the difficulties in giving their troops the recognition they deserve is in the troops' lack of preparation to receive recogni-



tion or participate in boards, special duties, or honors. Service dress uniforms often are not readily available, updated, or properly fitted, in keeping with the standards demanded by basic training and professional military education. Personal records, achievements, and voluntary service are often not on record or not prepared for discussion, etc.

The greatest frustration is to see the most generally deserving person unable to show their excellence before a board, commander, or honored guest simply because they haven't followed up on the details of their own ability to present themselves in keeping with standards.

Excellence is distinguished from proficiency by the quality of the details.

Be prepared to present and sell yourself for boards, interviews, and inspections. Pull out the regulations for dress and appearance, Air Force Instruction

36-2903. Make sure your uniform is clean and properly fitted, shoes are shined, and gig lines are straight.

Be sure your ribbons are documented and up to date, in proper sequence, and right side up, and that badges and pins are correct for your specialty and properly affixed to the uniform according to standards.

Document and be prepared to discuss and give references regarding voluntary military service, community service, academic and career development, special training, and special duties you've participated in or completed. Be prepared to discuss current events and their relevance to the Air Force, as well as the relevance of your own achievements and goals.

Being prepared, according to military standard is part of your duty, but it is also to your advantage.



ESGR tour

Col. Paul Worcester, left, 102nd Fighter Wing commander, shows the under carriage of an F-15 Eagle to two curious participants in the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve tour in June.

Smart Card logon is coming to your network

By Col. Mark F. Ellis
Commander

102nd Mission Support Group

The Air Force and Air National Guard are migrating away from using passwords to log on to unclassified networks.

This transition began taking place at the 102nd Fighter Wing on July 31 and will be completed when our drill-status Guardsmen report for the August unit training assembly.

The primary method for logging on to a standard unclassified wing user account will be through a process known as Smart Card Logon (SCL). A "smart card" is the standard DoD identification card and is also known as the Common Access Card. To use the CAC for network logon, simply insert your CAC into the reader attached to your workstation and enter the associated six- to eight-digit personal identification number you created when the card was issued to you.

Why are we doing this?

Our networks are essential to the success of our war-fighting missions and the protection of our basic privacy information. Unfortunately, these same networks are under attack daily by hackers, saboteurs, and terrorists. They can compromise the integrity of our network and put critical information systems at risk through unauthorized access, fraud, e-mail tampering, eavesdropping, and data theft.

Just imagine what could happen if you could not get access to critical information that you needed to perform your duties in support of war-fighting operations?

Besides the operationally sensitive in-

Need help!!!

ID Cards (Common Access Card cards) are now required for computer access.

If you have forgotten your PIN number, please go to Building 158, room 211. If you cannot log into your computer with your CAC card, please go to the ID card room, Building 158, room 111.

Both offices will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday of the August unit training assembly and will not be closed during the lunch hour.

formation, we increasingly conduct many personnel and financial transactions over the network. That information is personal and we cannot afford the operational or identity theft consequences if the data were compromised.

One of the key weaknesses of our network is the use of passwords that many of us have grown accustomed to using. Unfortunately, conventional passwords are vulnerable because they are stored on and transmitted over the network and they are easily hacked. Our adversaries know how to capture our passwords. They access our systems at will and move about freely, posing as legitimate users from the safety of their own base of operations.

Why use the CAC for logon?

Increased security! The advantage of CAC plus PIN is known as "two-factor

authentication." It requires something you have, (i.e., your CAC), and something you know, (i.e., your PIN). You'll need both to gain access to the unclassified network.

Unlike passwords, PINs are not stored on or transmitted over the networks. And since your PIN works differently than a password, you don't have to change it unless you think it has been compromised. Your PIN is yours and not to be shared with anyone.

If your CAC is lost or stolen and another person tries to guess your PIN, the CAC will be locked after three consecutive unsuccessful attempts.

What's next?

SCL is necessary to ensure that critical information is available to the warfighter where and when it's needed. Air Force and ANG network managers are preparing the Air Force infrastructure for SCL. This includes ensuring there is a card reader and associated software on every work station.

SCL also represents a change in our business processes that affects every member of the Air Force community, and each of you will also need to prepare as well. You will need to make sure you have a properly functioning CAC and that you know your PIN.

Your unit client support administrators (CSAs) and the Military Personnel Flight will help get you ready.

You can also learn more about Smart Card Logon by visiting the Air Force Public Key Infrastructure, System Program Office (AF PKI SPO) Web site at <https://afpki.lackland.af.mil/html/sclogon.asp>

Lt. Gen. James says farewell to Air Guard members

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON — Lt. Gen. Daniel James III retired as the 11th director of the Air National Guard at a May 10 ceremony at Bolling Air Force Base.

He earlier bid farewell to members of the Air National Guard in a short speech that focused almost entirely on them and

barely on himself.

"You're very special people," General James said in a March 28 ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., touching on Air Guard efforts after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

"They just don't make them like you every day," he said.

He received a standing ovation from the hundreds of Airmen in attendance.

The next Air National Guard director has not been named.

General James's wife, Dana, and son, Daniel, were among those who gathered for the farewell ceremony. Recognizing the director's tireless, seemingly continuous travel obligations to fulfill duties (See JAMES, Page 18)

Israel deployment was highly successful

By Lt. Col. Robert T. Henry
Commander

102nd Maintenance Squadron

Earlier this year, aircraft and personnel from the 102nd Fighter Wing participated in Juniper Stallion 2006, a Joint Chief of Staff-level bilateral military exercise involving the Israeli Air Force and U.S. Air Forces.

Lt. Col. Timothy W. Estep, wing project officer, termed the exercise a "huge success". The intra-guard planning and execution of this 'rainbow deployment' was outstanding.

Four F-15As from Otis and four F-15Cs from the 131rd Fighter Wing, St. Louis, Mo., were deployed with a planned 6-turn-6 flying schedule.

The total Air National Guard package included 134 personnel flown to the deployed base in Israel on a variety of aircraft, including a Russian AN-124 cargo aircraft, KC-10 en-route support team aircraft, and a civilian L-1011. The route of travel to the area of responsibility was through Moron, Spain, for the F-15s and the en-route support team, while the L-1011 took the remaining passengers through Aviano Air Base, Italy.

The exercise included nine flying days with 12 sorties each day, divided between two daily flying periods.

In addition to the basic schedule, the maintenance team was able to provide all eight of the deployed aircraft during three of the flying periods to accommodate critical pilot upgrade sorties. The combined ANG contingent, nicknamed "St. Otis," flew a combined total of 145 sorties for 362 hours.

During the deployment, the strong maintenance team accomplished two engine changes along with numerous other critical fixes involving aircraft fuel systems, avionics, landing gear and flight controls.

As for the living conditions, approximately 400 personnel were housed in four connecting "K-spans," Quonset style dormitories. Rooms were "cozy" with four people to some rooms and 10 in others. Some of the rooms did not have ceilings so noise was a consistent challenge.

Meals were good with lots of fresh vegetables and more chicken than Frank Purdue and KFC combined.

Variety was lacking but quantity was not.

The redeployment provided additional challenges as four F-15s diverted to Zaragoza, Spain. Quick coordination between the en-route support maintenance team and the KC-10 crew ensured the diverting F-15s would have the skilled maintenance personnel on the ground in Spain to fix the problem.

All exercise participants were true ambassadors of the ANG and the Air

Force, both on and off duty. The ANG could not have deployed a more competent team.

Editors Note: Colonels Estep and Henry, want to "thank all the exercise participants, unit deployment managers, logistics readiness, transportation, load planners, ramp coordinators, aircraft maintenance transient volunteers, base operations and everyone else who supported the deployment. Special thanks to the many families and friends who 'took care of home business' during the course of the deployment."



Master Sgt. Jeff Booker installs a hydraulic pump into the belly of an F-15 Eagle.

Photos by Master Sgt. Jeff Booker



Rudimentary outdoor shower and sink facilities were outside the living quarters at the unidentified Israeli base.



Maintenance personnel crafted this sign to commemorate the visit by personnel from the 102nd Fighter Wing at Otis and the 131st Fighter Wing from St. Louis, Mo.

The flightline maintenance area at the Israeli base lacked many of the accommodations found at Otis.

Photos by
Master Sgt. Jeff Booker



Tech. Sgt. Robert Abbott, left, and Master Sgt. Timothy Tremarche don yarmulkes to visit the Wailing Wall.

Otis members help keep Ali Air base in repair

By Master Sgt. Andrew Gates
407th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

ALI AIR BASE, Iraq - Like the trunk and limbs of a tree, the infrastructure of a base gives its inhabitants certain reliability - places to work, to live and to have fun.

And like the tree, the base will continue to grow, responding to changes in the environment to add or remove certain infrastructure and to repair damage done by the elements.

At Ali Base, Iraq, that job - maintaining the base infrastructure and restoring buildings after any attacks - falls to the men and women of the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron structures flight, which is made up primarily of Air National Guard members.

"We provide flexible facility construction to maintain and improve the structures on Ali Base to sustain the force and to recover the base after an attack," said Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Foster of the 145 Civil Engineer Squadron, North Carolina ANG, structures shop superintendent. "We want to make sure we take care of that infrastructure and provide the best possible service to our customers - we want to take care of our Airmen's facility needs to help them



Tech. Sgt. Paul Jacques stands guard in a Humvee parking lot.

accomplish their missions."

To meet that need, the flight's operations range through all forms of construction, said Master Sgt. Roger Chouinard, a member of the 102nd Fighter Wing at Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass. "One day we may be fixing tents in Bedrock (the Air Force community) and the next we may be building ductwork for new air conditioning units."

Mornings for the flight begin early - usually starting outside work around 6 a.m. to beat the desert heat, which in July was nearly 120 degrees in the middle of the day. The afternoons, said Sergeant Chouinard, normally are spent working on indoor projects and preparing for the next day's activities.

The mission is somewhat different from that at home for this crew, most of whom are Guard members on a standard four-month rotation.

"Our mission here is much faster and much more critical," said Staff Sgt. Charles Saunders, deployed from the 117th Air Refueling Wing, a Guard unit in Birmingham, Ala. "I enjoy the ability to serve other folks here and hear their appreciation."

There is a lot more construction to do here than at home, said Staff Sgt. Sean Winchcombe, here from the 131st Fighter Wing, a Guard unit in St. Louis. He appreciates the opportunity to get much more hands-on experience and the sense of accomplishment he gets building something from nothing.

"It is important to me to make life better for the Airmen here and to improve the mission," he said.

Their construction work brings together
(See CE, Page 15)



Firefighters from the 102nd Civil Engineering Squadron put out a tent fire at Ali Air Base, Iraq.

Miss Eddleston receives NGAMA scholarship

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

The daughter of the supervisor of the wing financial services office was one of five recipients of \$1,000 scholarships from the National Guard Association of Massachusetts.

Lauren A. Eddleston, 18, daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Archie and Lynn Eddleston of Rochester, is a 2006 graduate of Old Rochester Regional High School in Mattapoisett.

Miss Eddleston ranked ninth in her graduating class and had a 4.13 grade point average in the advanced honors program.

A member of the National Honor Society, she was the top student in the physics program and tutored fellow students in the subject.

In her free time, since October, she has participated in a work-study program at the New Bedford Police Department, where she filed photographs, filed and printed suspect profiles, learned fingerprinting, photographed and video-



Lauren A. Eddleston

taped graffiti and learned to identify major gangs.

As part of that job, she worked with the identification unit, gang unit and traffic division.

The department gave her an award

for her PowerPoint presentations on the gangs and major crimes units as well as the community policing unit.

Miss Eddleston also is an active member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church in New Bedford, where she is an acolyte and a mentor for younger youth.

At Old Rochester Regional High School, she was a member of the chorus and ran the 600-meters in track.

This fall, she will be attending Northeastern University, where she will pursue a degree in criminal justice.

In addition to the National Guard Association scholarship, Miss Eddleston also received the Rochester Town Scholarship, Cranberry County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Talbot's Scholarship and the Educators Association of Freetown-Lakeville Scholarship.

In the high school honors program, Miss Eddleston took advanced placement Spanish, honors anatomy, physics, pre-calculus, honors English and honors psychology.

CE

(Continued from Page 14)

a lot of disciplines, said Sergeant Chouinard.

"We have carpenters, masons, welders, sheet metal mechanics and sign makers," he said. "We construct or work on facilities using metal, lumber and various types of fasteners. We are lucky to have a great inventory of battery-operated tools here that allow us to travel to remote worksites and not have to worry about power. We also have a carpentry shop and a welding area with all the appropriate stationary machinery."

The team has put all its skills to use, said Sergeant Foster, working a number of projects for the installation. The team extended the vehicle parts warehouse by 1,400 square feet, helping the vehicle maintainers keep their repair parts inside. The parts were originally kept outside in storage boxes, so it was difficult to inventory and access them. They also built additional space for the Ali fitness center, known locally as Muscle Beach, to open up space for more workout equipment, and even put together a dunk tank for Ali July 4 activities.

The team's biggest challenge is to complete all the projects they have and

get home safely, said Sergeant Foster. Another big enemy, though, is dealing with the heat.

"The heat can really wear you down," said Sergeant Chouinard. "Sometimes you don't realize how much it has affected you until it's too late."

Even with the heat, the opportunity to build and improve facilities around the base gives the team the chance to meet many of the people at Ali.

"It's nice to know that the job you do is helping make someone else's work area a more conducive place to work," Sergeant Chouinard said.

Tiki Time at the Eagles Nest!

Bon Fire Luau Saturday night, Aug. 26.

Wear your favorite Hawaiian outfit and jam with the band "Eden's Lie."

BBQ Chicken meal is \$5. Limited tickets are available. To get tickets, contact TSgt. Marianne Whelan at 508-968-4998 or email: marianne.whelan@yahoo.com

A 50/50 raffle will take place and you do not need to be present to win.

See you all there!!!

Stolen VA records: Airmen urged to be vigilant

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials are asking Airmen to stay extra vigilant in protecting their credit and themselves from identity theft in light of the recent theft of 26.5 million veteran's records from the home of a Department of Veterans Affairs employee in May.

The computer has since been recovered, but it is unknown if any records were compromised.

The VA said the stolen records might include personal information of people currently in the military, according to a VA news release. Initial findings from the VA indicated the personal information on about 50,000 active duty, National Guard and Reserve Airmen may have been involved.

As the two agencies compared electronic files, VA and the Department of Defense learned that personal information on as many as 1.1 million active-duty servicemembers, 430,000 National

Guardsmen, and 645,000 members of the Reserve may have been included in the data theft.

The VA has received no reports that the stolen data has been used for fraudulent purposes. However, the VA is asking all veterans to carefully monitor bank statements, credit card statements and any statements relating to recent financial transactions.

Several resources are available for people to go to for more information. The VA has set up a special Web site at www.firstgov.gov/veteransinfo and a toll-free telephone number, 800-FED-INFO or 800-333-4636, that feature up-to-date news and information on the data compromise.

The site offers tips on how to check credit reports, how to guard against identity theft and whom to call if an individual believes any fraudulent activity is occurring using his or her personal informa-

tion.

The Air Force and Department of Defense are working closely with the VA to determine how many Airmen and other service members may be affected by the compromise of records. Airmen whose information has been compromised will be notified by the VA so they can take the appropriate steps.

Tips on how to watch for suspicious activity include the following:

- Closely monitor your bank and credit card statements for fraudulent transactions. Monitoring accounts online is the best way to detect fraud early.

- Place a 90-day fraud alert on your credit report, which tells creditors to contact you before opening any new accounts or making any changes to your existing accounts. This action may cause some delays if you are trying to obtain new credit.

- It is only necessary to contact one of three companies to place an alert. That company is then required to contact the other two. The three companies are Equifax (800-525-6285, www.equifax.com); Experian (888-397-3742, www.experian.com); and TransUnion (800-680-7289, www.transunion.com).

Once the fraud alert has been posted, you are entitled to free copies of your credit reports. Review these reports for inquiries from companies you haven't contacted or accounts you didn't open. The alert can be renewed after 90 days.

Airmen are advised to take the following steps if they discover fraudulent accounts or transactions:

- Contact the financial institution to close the fraudulent account(s) that have been tampered with.

- File a report with the local police department.

- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by phone at 877-438-4338, online at www.consumer.gov/idtheft, or by mail to Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580.

Additional help can be found online at: www.militaryonesource.com

Cited by Guard Bureau



Senior Master Sgt. John Noland is presented a special award by Elizabeth Sheppe, Air National Guard weapons safety manager, for his work with the National Guard Bureau Weapons Safety Office in developing and updating the standards for weapons safety in the Air National Guard. The award was presented at the Air National Guard Safety Conference in Fort Wayne, Ind., on May 24.

SGLI premium rate changed July 1

Air Force Print Pews

WASHINGTON - On July 1, the monthly premium rate for basic Servicemember's Group Life Insurance increased by 5 cents per month for each \$10,000 of coverage, from 65 cents per month per \$10,000 to 70 cents per month per \$10,000. On the same date, family SGLI premiums decreased.

The most recent SGLI premium change occurred in July 2003, when the monthly premium rate for basic SGLI was reduced from 80 cents per \$10,000 of insurance to 65 cents per \$10,000. That

change was made to reduce surplus reserve funds in the program.

A small increase in the SGLI premium rate is now necessary for the program to remain in sound financial condition, while covering the cost of peacetime claims. The cost of wartime SGLI claims is borne by the uniformed services, not by servicemembers.

As a result of this increase, members who have the maximum \$400,000 of SGLI coverage saw their monthly SGLI deduction from service pay increase by \$2 a month, from \$27 to \$29, beginning

with their July pay.

This monthly SGLI premium includes a \$1 per month charge for traumatic injury protection coverage, which took effect Dec. 1 and provides payments of up to \$100,000 for serious traumatic injuries.

Also in July, family SGLI monthly premium rates were reduced for all age groups by an average of 10 percent. The new rates reflect better-than-expected claims experience for each age group in the family SGLI program.

Long-term insurance available for federal employees

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program offers federal employees an option when purchasing long-term-care insurance.

The insurance policy helps defray the cost of in-home, nursing home or assisted living facility care for people who cannot care for themselves due to chronic health conditions.

"Although many people may believe this insurance to be needed primarily by the elderly, anyone may require potentially expensive long term care," said Janet Thomas, human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "Any eligible individual may apply at any time, and once enrolled, coverage can't be canceled due to age or a change in health."

Those eligible for the insurance program include: federal employees and annuitants; separated federal employees with title to a deferred annuity; active and retired military members; active members of the selected Reserve; retired "grey" reservists even if they are not receiving retirement pay; those people receiving compensation from the Department of Labor; the current spouse of an eligible person; adult children, parents, parents-in-law and stepparents of living eligible people; and surviving spouses receiving a survivor annuity.

The FLTCIP is sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management and offers group premiums and comprehensive benefits. There are two types of plans available, and enrollees may select from prepackaged options or customize a plan to meet their needs:

— The facilities-only plan that covers all levels of nursing home, assisted-living facility and inpatient hospice care; or

— The comprehensive plan that covers everything the facilities-only plan covers, plus care provided at home by a nurse, home health aide, therapist,

informal caregiver or other authorized provider. Costs of adult day care centers and home hospices are covered as well.

"The best thing to do at any age is to gather and assess available information. Doing so will help you make the appropriate decision concerning your insurance needs," Ms. Thomas said.

For more information, call (800) 582-3337, TTY (800) 843-3557, or visit the Web site www.LTCFEDS.com. Certified long-term care representatives are available weekdays 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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.ang.af.mil, or to 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 Sergeant Archer for information.

Board to release uniform updates

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — An update to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Air Force Uniform Dress and Appearance, will soon be released, said Air Force officials.

A key feature of this updated instruction will be the return of heritage to the enlisted corps — chevrons on the sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia.

“Over the years, we’ve made changes that made sense at the time, but had the effect of moving us away from our heritage,” said Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff. “Chevrons on sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia are historical symbols of the finest noncommissioned officer corps on the planet. We need to return that heritage to them and reconnect them to the great NCOs who went before them.”

The circle around the U.S. was eliminated in 1991, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos of the Air Force Uniform Board.

“Yet, every uniform board since received requests to return that to the enlisted force, so it has been done,” she said. “Wearing the circle on the lapel has a lasting heritage that dates back to April 27, 1918.”

The change will include the removal of senior NCO shoulder boards from

“Over the years, we’ve made changes (that) had the effect of moving us away from our heritage. Chevrons on sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia are historical symbols of the finest noncommissioned officer corps on the planet. We need to return that heritage to them and reconnect them to the great NCOs who went before them.”

— **Gen. T. Michael Mosley**

the blue uniform and from all upper garments, except the optional wool sweaters. Implementation dates will be reflected in the revised AFI.

The updates will also include information about the new air staff badge and new space badge. Desert combat uniforms are now only authorized on civilian flights to and from the area of responsibility. Also, Air Force personnel are not authorized to wear desert boots with the battle dress uniform.

As a reminder, Oct. 1 marks the

mandatory wear of physical training gear. All Airmen will be required to have one running suit, two T-shirts and two pair of shorts. Also beginning in October, enlisted Airmen will receive an increase in their clothing allowance to offset the increase of the mandatory number of T-shirts and shorts from two sets to three sets in October 2007.

Air Force officials emphasized that Airmen should not wait until October to purchase these items. The revised AFI will clarify wear of the PT gear by specifying that when doing organized PT, the shorts and T-shirts will be worn as a set and not mixed with civilian clothes; however, at other times the PT gear, to include the running suit, can be worn with civilian clothes.

More clarification will be provided about sister service badges, as well as cell phone use in uniform. New guidance about the wear of flight clothing also is incorporated in the updated document.

“The Air Force Uniform Board, chaired by Air Force A1, reviews any matters related to Air Force uniforms involving possible improvements, and in turn, provides recommendations to the chief of staff for a final decision,” Sergeant Athnos said. “It’s a deliberate process that is focused on feedback from the field to better accomplish our mission.”

James

(Continued from Page 13)

around the world, officers gave him a gift certificate for a recliner. They also said it seemed unlikely that the director would use it very much, even in retirement, because of his hard-charging personality.

General James became the Air Guard director in 2002, the first African-American to hold the post.

“One of the things I didn’t want to change was the character of the people,” he said.

His father, Gen. Daniel “Chappie”

James Jr., was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen and the first African-American to become a four-star general in the active Air Force. The son became a command pilot, flying more than 4,000 hours in fighters and trainers, including more than 300 combat missions in Vietnam. His awards include two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

General James served as operations group commander for the Air Guard’s 149th Fighter Wing in Texas before he became that state’s adjutant general, a position he held for more than six years.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks occurred during his tenure as director. He com-

pared their impact to the Kennedy assassination two generations earlier.

“For the rest of your lives you’ll always remember where you were and what happened,” he said.

He emphasized the Air Guard’s role in securing the nation’s skies immediately after the attacks and helping to move 48,000 Guard members to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina.

“You make it look so effortless,” he said. “Thank you all for what you do.”

“Special people like you can do extraordinary things,” General James told the Airmen. “You’ve proved it in the past. You’ll prove it again.”

6 union soldiers laid to rest at vets cemetery

By Master Sgt. Ken Wheeler

More than 150 years ago, the six Union soldiers went off to war, dying on a faraway battlefield while trying to keep their nation from splitting apart.

Through a quirk of fate and some modern detective and forensics work, the six Union soldiers' remains have been brought home to rest in the Veterans National Cemetery on Cape Cod.

On June 10, during a reenactment of a late 1879 military burial ceremony, the six soldiers were given the honors they never received when they died on a Virginia battlefield during the Civil War.

Under a moderate rain, the mournful sound of a fife and drum corps led an honor guard dressed in Civil War military uniforms into the Massachusetts National Cemetery. As part of the contingent, women dressed as Civil War widows carried flowers to place on the soldiers graves.

A wooden casket containing the remains of each man was ceremoniously carried to a bier before dignitaries, including retired Brig. Gen. Sam Shiver, assistant adjutant for air, Massachusetts National Guard, spoke.

Eight musket-carrying Civil War reenactors provided a gun salute while a bugler played taps.

According to Frank Haley, department secretary of the Massachusetts Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the organization traces its roots back through many generations of fighting men. More than three dozen mem-



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Ruben Hernandez-Gandia

A wooden casket bearing the remains of a Civil War Union soldier is carried by members of the Massachusetts Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War past a veterans honor guard.

bers of the unit reenacted the ceremony.

"We are the legal heir to the Grand Army of the Republic, which was similar to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and other veterans organizations."

Originally the group limited its membership to Civil War veterans, but as those men began dying off, "the GAR was putting itself out of business," Mr. Haley said.

"Once the group realized what was happening, they decided to form another

group of sons of the Union veterans."

After the Spanish-American War, a sons group was formed for that war. The current Massachusetts Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is an outgrowth of the need to show respect for those veterans. Though full members still have to have a family tie to the Civil War, the group now allows associate members, persons who have a deep interest in the Civil War and its impact on the United States.

The organization is broken up into camps and Camp A.A. Sherman 18 from Uxbridge provided the honors for the six Union Soldiers buried at the Massachusetts National Cemetery. The group traces its heritage to a unit founded in the 1800s.

The cemetery ceremony for the six soldiers was based on a "GAR ceremony from the late 1800s," Mr. Haley said.

The honors accorded the soldiers began the day before the burial when the unit met a hearse containing remains at the Massachusetts-Rhode Island border and escorted the hearse to a Milford

(See CIVIL WAR, Page 21)



Female members of the Massachusetts Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, dressed as widows, march in the funeral procession for six Massachusetts soldiers killed during the Civil War.

Chapel Call

Chaplain (Capt.) Mary Scheer



‘Facing the Furnace’

I went to the beach for the first time the other day. It was pretty crowded, but I found a great spot to read and relax for about an hour.

While I was reading my book, I couldn't help but hear the conversations taking place around me.

* One mother was explaining to her young son and daughter about different cultures and accents. The kids were asking about someone in a store they had just heard speaking with an accent

* A father was talking with his children about manners and how to be polite and express gratitude.

* On the other side of me was a large, extended family with children, parents and grandparents. The dad was talking with the kids about teamwork and how the family is a team and every one pitches in and shares in responsibility.

I left the beach thinking about how some people might think of the beach as just a place for sun and fun, and yet lots of parenting and learning happen there as well.

Life lessons can happen in unlikely places, such as the beach. It would be nice if all of life's lessons could take place on a warm sunny beach, but they don't. Sometimes they take place in a fiery furnace.

In the Bible, the book of Daniel (3:1-30) tells the story of King Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and the fiery furnace.

It all starts one day when King Nebuchadnezzar, who invaded Judah in 588 B.C. and in 586 B.C. takes the residents of Jerusalem as captives into Babylon, (Modern day Iraq).

The king sets up a gold image of himself that stood some 90 feet tall. He demanded that everyone in t stop whatever they were doing to bow to the golden image when they heard the band playing and if they didn't they would be thrown into the fiery furnace.

However Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who after being taken as captives had risen to high positions as government officials, refused to bow before the image that the king had set up. A group of astrologers noticed they weren't bowing when the others were and went to the king and told him.

The king had the three brought before him. Upon questioning, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, your majesty. (v. 16-17) But even if he doesn't, your majesty can be sure that we will never serve your gods or worship the

gold statue you have set up." (v. 18)

The king became so furious that he commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual, the three tied up and thrown into the fiery furnace. And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames leaped out and killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in!

But soon he saw not three but four men walking unbound and unhurt in the fire! Believing the fourth to be the son of the gods, he called the three out of the fire. They came through the fire unhurt, not a hair on their head had been singed.

The king praised them for their faith and convictions and promoted them to even higher positions.

I wonder if there were people who came to them and told them to compromise, "Just bow, who cares, God knows how you really feel, it's what's in your heart that counts anyway."

I wonder what role their friendship played in their decision? (The Bible says a strand of three chords is not easily broken Ecc. 4:12) We all need friends who will stand with us when the tough times come because it's easier to endure hard times when someone else is with us.

Some of us have been through trying times when we felt like our hands were tied and doing the right thing wasn't easy.

We can learn from Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego how to face the furnaces of life. We learn;

* That a strong faith conviction can affect how we face the furnace. They had no way of knowing that God would save them, only that He was able to save them and that was enough!

* God will not leave us. In the face of suffering, some people wonder where God is. He is where he was then ... he was already in the furnace when they got there.

* That doing the right thing takes courage and sacrifice and commitment. Compromise sometimes looks like an easy way out. But lives, jobs, families, reputations and more are ruined when we compromise.

* That life is not fair and even when we are innocent. Even when we try to do the right thing, we may find ourselves in a difficult trial.

* That sometimes God will deliver us "from" the furnace and other times he may choose to deliver us "in" the furnace.

* That true freedom never comes through compromise. Sometimes it's in the middle of life's most traumatic trials that we experience the clearest sense of God's presence.

Some of us have been in the furnace, you may feel like you're there today. Sometimes the furnace is one we've made

(See CHAPLAIN, Page 21)

Milestones

Promotions

To captain

Kenneth W. Nunley
Nicole A. Ivers

To first lieutenant

Christian A. Leighton
Glenn G. Milliken Jr.

To chief master sergeant

John H. Shaw Jr.

To senior master sergeant

George A. Burr

Thomas R. Rudzik

To master sergeant

Yvette M. Bennett
Raymond L. Gendreau
Sandra L. Niedzwiecki
Wayne G. Sherman
Weston W. Smith
Thomas L. Whiddon

To technical sergeant

Kenneth S. Brereton
Kevin T. Donahue
Nathaniel Herreman
Lawrence W. Higgins
Gary F. Lochhead
James V. Moynihan
Patrick V. Simpson
Paul R. Stewart
Marianne K. Whelan

To staff sergeant

Martin C. Clark
Russell J. Field
Alejandro V. Franch
Erica R. Griffin

Kelly R. Jette

Sarah Perry

Wayne A. Reay

To senior airman

Meagan M. Cuthbert

Alexis R. Colonna

Mark T. Devin

Ryan P. Golden

Stephen J. Kavol

Brandon S. Thompson

Retirements

Master Sgt. Kimberly I. Banks

Master Sgt. Joseph F. Dotolo

Master Sgt. Richard Rocheleau

Welcome aboard

202nd Weather Flight

Senior Airman Namala T. Moss, weather forecaster, Pemberton, N.J.

102nd Medical Group

Staff Sgt. Christine M. Torres, public health specialist, Medford.

102nd Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Blair P. Sharleville, aerospace propulsion technician, Whitinsville.

102nd Civil Engineering Squadron,

Tech. Sgt. William A. Martel, structures technician, Fall River.

102nd Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Ryan P. Beliveau, se-

curity forces specialist, Plymouth.

102nd Fighter Wing

Tech. Sgt. Justin P. Hole, financial management specialist, Raynham.

Technical schools

First Lt. Glenn Milliken, Top Gun Award, F-15 Basic Qualification School, Kingsley Field, Ore.

Airman 1st Class John McLaughlin, honor graduate at Basic Military Training School; distinguished graduate, Security Forces Apprentice Course, both at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Airman 1st Class Meagan Cuthbert, letters of appreciation for voluntary performance in squadron retreat and outstanding academic achievement for attaining 100 percent in Blocks IV and V, Avionics Test Station and Aircraft Component Apprentice School, Sheppard AFB, Texas.

Airman 1st Class Mark Devin USAF Services Academy Chief's Award for outstanding military bearing, courtesy, initiative, motivation, and professionalism, Lackland AFB.

Airman 1st Class Kevin Teves, Honor Graduate, Basic Military Training School, Lackland AFB.

Civil War

(Continued from Page 19)

funeral home. At the funeral home, the remains were placed in six separate caskets. A unit honor guard stood vigil all night. The soldiers received a state police escort to the cemetery the next morning.

Paul B. McFarland, director of the Massachusetts National Cemetery, decided that the soldiers deserved individual grave sites and found a spot where all six could be buried side by side near the graves of a World War II veteran and a Vietnam veteran. Each Civil War soldier will have a grave marker indicating he is an unknown.

The earlier unmarked graves of the six soldiers were found during construction of a McDonald's restaurant in Centerville, Va. Extensive research by

the Fairfax County Park Authority Office of Archeology Services and the Smithsonian Institute identified them as members of the 1st Battalion of the 1st Massachusetts Infantry. They determined that the soldiers were casualties of the Battle of Blackburn's Ford on July 18, 1861, three days before the First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas.

Mr. McFarland said 40,000 veterans and their spouses are buried at the National Cemetery on Cape Cod, including another Civil War veteran, whose remains were found in South Carolina, and Korean War Medal of Honor recipient Richard C. DeWert of Taunton, a hospital corpsman assigned to a Marine infantry company.

Despite being wounded several times, he continued to treat and rescue three Marines while under enemy fire before being mortally wounded.

Chaplain

(Continued from Page 20)

ourselves and sometimes it's one of another person's making. Yet regardless of how we got there God is able to see us through.

We are all in one stage or another: Either we are in the furnace ... coming out of the furnace ... or about to enter the furnace. Yet trying times are when some of life's most significant lessons are learned.

The most important thing we have when we face the furnace is our faith and conviction. It's knowing when to draw the line and say this is my line that I will not cross and from which I will not retreat.

Baby

(Continued from Page 6)

That set the wheels in motion both for the hospital, the base in Qatar and for personnel at the command post at Otis. Rob rushed over to where the videophone setup had been established and placed his long-distance call to Otis, where people working in the command post then forwarded the call to the videophone set up in Rhode Island.

Leslie said she could talk with Rob via the videophone, but it was her doctor who gave him the “play-by-play” of what was occurring. She said they talked before Kaleb’s birth but once “things started happening, I was focused on other things.”

Rob also was not able to see the actual birth as it happened, but others in the in the delivery room made a video of the birth using the Handicam.

After Kaleb’s birth - he measured in at 7 lbs, 12¾ ozs and 21 inches long — Rob got to see his son on the videophone. “He looks a lot like Rob,” Leslie said. “He’s a very good baby and sleeps most of the time.”

“Kylie absolutely adores him. ... She was very excited when we told her that she was getting a baby brother ... and wanted her turn holding her baby brother.”

“I want to thank everyone who had a part in this,” she said. “There were many people who made this happen.”



Leslie Blanchette shows off newest 102nd Fighter Wing member, Kaleb, after his birth at Rhode Island Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, R.I.

Sergeant Brosseau said, “I had a great time ... this is one of the neatest things you can do for someone. The important thing was bringing the birth to Rob in Qatar. I do a lot of professional videos as part of my job, but this was personal.”

The members of the “Operation Baby Blanchette” team included:

102nd Security Forces Squadron: Maj. Hamilton, CMSgt. Wayne Raymondo; Master Sgt. Renan Flores and Tech. Sgt. Robert Miller

102nd Communications Flight: Chief

Master Sgt. Rick Haddon, Senior Master Sgt. Andy Heckler and Sergeant Brosseau.

102nd Fighter Wing: Chief Master Sgt. Carolyn Lucas and Erin Creighton

143rd Communications Flight, Rhode Island Air National Guard: Senior Master Sgt. Michael Healis and Sergeant Walker.

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island: Ms. Kessel, Steve Story and Sue Jackson.

102nd Maintenance Squadron has officer opening

There is a traditional Guardsman aircraft maintenance/munitions officer vacancy (AFSC 21Ax) in the 102nd Maintenance Squadron.

The position is the officer in charge of the 102nd Equipment Maintenance Flight. The position description for an aircraft maintenance/munitions officer can be found at www.goang.com, then search for “21Ax”. A detailed description of the duties and responsibilities of the job can be found in Air Force Instruction 21-101, section 2.6.

This position is open to all officer and enlisted personnel at Otis. Enlisted personnel who wish to apply must possess the qualifications required to become a commissioned officer as described in AFI 36-2005 and Air National Guard Instruction 36-2005. Applicants must be less than 35 years of age at the time of graduation from the Academy of

Military Science at McGhee-Tyson ANG Base, Tenn. If the applicant exceeds the age limit for commissioning, yet possesses extraordinary qualifications for the position, then he/she may apply for an age waiver.

Application packages must include a resume and the Air Force Officer Qualification Test results as a minimum.

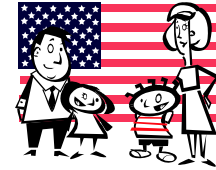
An enlisted applicant selected for the position must graduate from the AMS commissioning program, then must attend the aircraft maintenance officer school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

Interested parties should submit application packages to Lt. Col. Robert Henry by Sept. 17.

Colonel Henry is located in room 245, Building 158, and can be contacted by email at robert.henry@maotis.ang.af.mil or by calling 508-968-4284.



Family Day 2006 Sunday, September 17th



Food



Rides



Classic Cars



Face Painting

Also:

F-15 Fly-by & F-15 static displays with picture taking
 Fingerprinting/ID for children
 Air Force Band
 Civil Air Patrol
 102nd Fighter Wing Museum
 M61A1 Display
 102nd Security Forces Display
 Family Readiness

8-10:30 a.m. - Members and their families can visit the various displays and work centers

10:30 a.m. - Wing commander speaks to all

Military Equal Opportunity seeks equal opportunity officer

102FW Military Equal Opportunity Office has an opening for an equal opportunity officer.

Upon selection, the successful applicant must complete all phases of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) Equal Opportunity Advisor 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 26-day program at DEOMI, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. Also required is the completion of a six-week basic personnel officer's course at Keesler Air

Force Base, Miss. In addition, uncommissioned applicants will be required to attend and successfully complete a six-week course at the Academy of Military Science, McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.

Responsibilities include:

- 1) advising commanders on equal opportunity issues;
- 2) providing education and training in equal opportunity;
- 3) providing assistance to members who feel they have been the victims of discrimination;
- 4) serving as a central point to receive military complaints of unlawful discrimination;

5) participation on and organization of committees designed to assess the equal opportunity climate on the base; and

6) organization and preparation of annual reports.

In addition to the above responsibilities, the equal opportunity officer works with medical squadron personnel in the administration of the wing urinalysis drug testing program.

Resumes should be sent to Lt. Col. Richard Ryan, 102nd Fighter Wing, executive officer, 158 Reilly St., Box 45, Otis ANGB, MA 02542-1330 by the close of the August unit training assembly.

Film depicts the history of the 102nd

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

The film contains actual footage and

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

activities involving 9/11 and current deployments.

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

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

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

Mail to: Spencer C. Bridgman Mass. ANG Historical Association 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: _____	
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