

# *Bulldogs*

148th Fighter Wing  
Duluth, Minnesota

# *On Five*

January - March 2009





## Commander's Column

Col. Mark R. Johnson, CC



“Thank You”

*“It is not how much you do, but how much love you put in the doing.”*

*-Unknown*

Sometime during January, 2009, the majority of Wing members will have returned from another successful AEF/ECS deployment cycle. Once again, it is time to thank the deployed members and their families for the sacrifices that were made during this cycle, especially during the Holiday Season.

Holiday separations always seem to take a deeper toll on families and loved ones; it is supposed to be a time for togetherness, not a time for separation. It is also time to thank all of the Wing members who remained behind and supported our Air Sovereignty Alert commitment and the deployed members. It takes over a 1,000 members from this Wing to accomplish our mission ... everyone contributes. We would not be as successful as we are if 100% of the members do not contribute 100% of their effort, 100% of the time. Thanks to everyone for your contributions; never accept less.

January 2009 will also bring an orderly change in administrations and a new President will be sworn in. Our way of democracy is what makes our country great, it is what all of us have committed our lives to defend. We have also taken an oath to support and defend the President and the Constitution, regardless of their political party. In addition, never forget what makes us different than the Active Duty; we also take an Oath to support

the Governor and the Constitution of the State of Minnesota. 2009 will bring financial challenges this nation and state has not faced in a long time. Each of you will be faced with similar challenges in your personal lives, just remember that your fellow Bulldogs, your wingmen, stand ready to assist through these challenging times. Together, as a family, we will continue to accomplish our mission to the same standard the 148th has achieved for over 60 years; never accept less.

Finally, January 2009 will bring a change in leadership to the 148th, but not a change in the dedication, commitment, and culture of the Bulldogs; they all transcend the Wing Commander. One person does not make an organization great, but a great organization can make an ordinary person appear pretty darn good. It has been my privilege and honor to serve with all the present and past members of the 148th. I owe a great deal of thanks to all of those that have gone before me and for all those I am currently serving with. People

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Year 2009 Unit Training Assembly (UTA) and other training schedules for the 148th Fighter Wing and all subordinate units:

UTA	SUTA	MANDATORY AFT
10-11 Jan	24-25 Jan	
07-08 Feb	None Feb	
21-22 Mar	07-08 Mar	
18-19 Apr	04-05 Apr	
16-17 May	None May	14-15 May
13-14 Jun	None Jun	
18-19 Jul	None Jul	15-17 Jul
22-23 Aug	None Aug	17-21 Aug
12-13 Sep	None Sep	
03-04 Oct	24-25 Oct	

## On the Cover

The 148th Honor Guard and more than 140 Wing members of the 148th Fighter Wing lead the 50th Annual Christmas City of the North Parade in Duluth, Minn. Nov. 21, 2008.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason W. Rolfe.

Check out the 148th Fighter Wing website at [www.148FW.ang.af.mil](http://www.148FW.ang.af.mil)

Commander's Column continued from page 2.

are what makes this organization great, everyone working towards a shared vision. I only wish I could somehow convey the sense of pride that comes over me when I travel and hear Senior Leaders talk about the 148th. You have all made me proud, please continue to do what you do best; never accept less.

On Sept. 3, 1980, I made one of the best decisions of my life, I joined the 148th. I joined for one reason, to fly fighters in my home state. Not quite as good as flying fighters in your own home town, but pretty darn close. I was an outsider, I was not from Duluth or the Range, I did not hunt or fish, I

never played hockey or had I ever been to a hockey game, nor did I have any relative that was member of the unit. I was a true outsider, a Southerner (someone from south of the Cities). But none-the-less, the people were fantastic, they made me feel welcome, they made me feel like family, and they made me feel like I belonged. To everyone I have come in contact with over the past 28 ½ years, from the bottom of my heart, thank you. In the end, it is not about how much we have done together, it is all about how much love we all put into doing the mission; never, ever, accept less!

## Chaplain's column

We have been called to serve

By Master Sgt. Joseph R. Kresky, Wing Chaplain Assistant

This past year has been tremendous for the 148th Fighter Wing. We can be so proud of the Outstanding service the entire unit has provided the world, nation, and local community. We were eager to raise our hands when there was a need and we continue to serve with passion and the desire to put others before ourselves. The awards and recognition the 148th received this past year was incredible and well deserved, although recognition was not the primary motivator for the men and women of the 148th. It was the belief that our life finds its purpose and meaning in relationship to something much larger than ourselves or our own personal satisfaction.

This spirit of service drew me to the military after high school and inspired me for the next 20 years as a member of the Naval Reserves

and Air National Guard. This was also true for my father Master Sgt. Robert Kresky, who continues to feel a sense of pride from his 20 plus years of military service. He retired from the 148th 16 years ago.

When we look back and review where our lives have been, we can be at peace knowing that our lives were part of a larger plan. A plan to help people realize their God given gifts and potential by providing safety, support, and freedom to those most in need.

As a hospice chaplain, I was blessed to have walked with many folks during their final journey home to God. When they reviewed their lives what mattered most was not how much money they made or how much status in society they had, but their relationships and service to God and God's people.

As I join my father in retirement

## 148th Fighter Wing Outstanding Airman of the Year

Airman

Senior Airman Donald Brown

NCO

Technical Sgt. Jarel Tanski

SRNCO

Master Sgt. David Blazevic

First Sergeant

Master Sgt. Lawrence Beaulier

Congratulations!



from the 148th, I will never forget the love and respect I have for the men and women who proudly serve our country because they were called to something bigger than themselves. I will always be thankful to God for the opportunity to be part of the Air National Guard as a chaplain assistant. I will cherish the 13 plus years with the 148th. May I forever remember the Air Force Core Values that helped shape me personally and spiritually, "Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do." Until we meet again, may God hold you in the Hollow of his hand.

God's Bountiful Blessings to all this New Year.

# Frequent flier flyer

By Senior Master Sgt. Roland J. Schaeffbauer

The 148th Services Flight has been carrying on a tradition for the last 20 years which resulted in one of the most traveled “member” of the flight being a Minnesota State Flag.

“I’ve actually had the flag since 1988,” said Senior Master Sgt. Roland J. Schaeffbauer. “We took it on my first deployment to Germany and did the group photo thing, and we’ve been making it a part of all our deployments ever since.”

The state flag along with the 148th Services Flight has made trips to Germany four times, Great Britain twice, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, South Korea, Japan, Guam, Panama, and Antarctica.

However, the flag isn’t just pulled out for photo ops. Whenever possible we display it

in an area where members of the 148th Services Flight are assigned. On the last Operation Enduring Freedom deployment it hung in the flight line field dining hall at Al Dahfra Air Force Base. Prior to that, it was proudly displayed behind the check-in counter at Rhein Main Air Force Base contingency lodging.

Tech Sgt. Ronald Schutte who was the daytime lodging Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge at Rhein Main in 2005 said, “It was amazing how many people were from Minnesota, knew someone from Minnesota, or just commented on how do you Minnesotans tolerated the cold weather.”

According to Tech Sgt. Emeri

Rohweder, who spent four months working at the SPEK (Single Palletized Field Kitchen) at Al Dahfra AFB in 2007, “The Minnesota flag was hanging on the door going from the dining tent to the store-room and walk-in cooler/freezer. I had to go through that door like about a million times a day and it always was a friendly reminder of home, no matter how bad your day was going.”

It also provides a great recognition factor for our deployed troops. Any time anyone asks, What’s with the flag? We never hesitate to tell them, “We are from the 148th Services Flight in beautiful Duluth Minnesota.”

The flag and nine members of the Services Flight are currently deployed to the Persian Gulf and scheduled to be back in The Northland in February 2009.

## 148th Fighter Wing arrives in Iraq



An F-16 Fighting Falcon piloted by Maj. Troy Zierden coasts to a halt after landing at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Dec. 10, 2008. Zierden’s home unit, the Minnesota Air National Guard’s 179th Fighter Squadron, will carry the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron designation while deployed. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson)

Maj. Curt Grayson fills out paperwork shortly after landing at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Dec. 10, 2008. Grayson’s home unit, the Minnesota Air National Guard’s 179th Fighter Squadron, will carry the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron designation while deployed. Grayson, an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson)



Check out the 148th Fighter Wing website at [www.148FW.ang.af.mil](http://www.148FW.ang.af.mil)

# 148th Medics support Operation Continuing Promise

By Maj. Audra A. Flanagan

Staff Sgt. Daisha McCuskey and Senior Airman Alexandra Olson returned home Thanksgiving weekend after serving four months on the USS Kearsarge, an amphibious assault ship, supporting the humanitarian mission Operation Continuing Promise.

While deployed, McCuskey and Olson traveled to eight countries (Haiti, Nicaragua, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Island of Trinidad, Cuba, Curacao and Puerto Rico) where they provided humanitarian relief in the form of medical support to those in need.

The Aerospace Medical Services Specialists assisted 150 medical personnel from every branch of service set up “shot gun” clinics in remote locations for two weeks at a time. The bare bones clinics would

serve 150 to 300 people per day. Olson said, “the lines did not stop, they just kept on coming and some of these people were taking 8-hour boat rides to be seen by a doctor.”

One rewarding experience included assisting a little girl who was born with her eyes webbed shut. A day after meeting her, Kearsarge medical personnel surgically opened both her eyes and she could see for the first time “and she had the most beautiful brown eyes” said Olson.

It was very common for them to board a helicopter on the Kearsarge, fly 90 minutes to work, work all day, and then fly back to the ship. During this mission, 47,000 patients were treated and more than 81,000 prescriptions were dispensed.

## 148th Fighter Wing AEF Coin and T-shirt for sale at Bulldog BX

If you would like to purchase the 148th AEF Coin or t-shirt, contact Master Sgt. Mark Wasserbauer (Bulldog BX Administrator) at (218) 788-7884 or mark.wasserbauer@us.af.mil. Coins will be available in Feb. and are \$7 each. T-shirts are available in black or sand and cost \$15 each. Sizes include adult S, M, L, XL, XXL.



**Minnesota State  
Outstanding Airman  
of the Year**

**First Sergeant  
Master Sgt. Lawrence Beaulier**

**Senior NCO  
Master Sgt. David Blazevic**

**179th Fighter Squadron  
Pilot of the Year  
Capt. Scott Cheslak**

**Congratulations!**



# 2008 – A Year in Review

*There is a time to let things happen, and a time to make things happen.*

*- Anonymous*

- 148th deployed to Hickam Air Force Base to support Operation Noble Eagle when the entire fleet of Air Force F-15s were grounded (Nov 07 to Feb 08)
- Civil Engineers deployed to Nogales, Ariz. in support of Operation Jump Start; constructing 320-feet of steel fence panel, performing road maintenance and repairing much needed security lighting (Jan to Feb)
- 148th deployed to Elmendorf Air Force Base in support of Operation Noble Eagle; performing Air Sovereignty Alert (Feb to Mar). The Wing made history by being the first F-16 unit to intercept a Russian Bear Bomber off the coast of Alaska.
- OSHA announced the 148th Fighter Wing was the first Air Force unit to earn its Voluntary Protection Program “Star” Status (Apr)
- The 148th Medical Group earned an “Excellent” Health Services Inspection rating (Apr)
- The 148th held “BIG BANG WEEK”; hosting an AFSSO 21 course, hosting the Croatian Air Force Commander, providing key Air Force and Community leaders orientation flights, and holding an Awards Ceremony attended by:  
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force – William Anderson  
Assistant Secretary of Labor – Edwin Foulke  
Chief of the Air National Guard – Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley  
1st Air Force Commander – Maj. Gen. Henry “Hank” Morrow
- The 148th supported the Republican National Convention (RNC) by performing Air Sovereignty Alert from Minneapolis and Duluth; the Medical Group and Public Affairs also supported the RNC (Sep)
- The Wing celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a gathering at Spirit Mountain and a Family Day that featured a fantastic Oktoberfest-style meal prepared and provided by Upper Lakes Foods and friends (Sep)
- 148th members began deploying around the world in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Operations and Maintenance personnel deployed to Joint Base Balad to provide Theater Airborne Reconnaissance System (TARS) support while members of Civil Engineering, Services, Logistics Readiness Squadron and Personnel deployed throughout the CENTCOM region (Sep)
- The 148th earned a “Mission Ready” during its NORAD Alert Force Evaluation (Sep)
- The 148th ends Fiscal Year 2008 with 111.41% End Strength and 93.33% Retention Rate
- The 148th deployed its Aviation Package to Joint Base Balad for its Air Expeditionary Force commitment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with many personnel deploying on Thanksgiving day



Civil Engineers support Operation Jump Start.



A mission ready F-16 in Anchorage, Alaska.



148th awarded VPP “Star” Status.



148th Recruiters support Duluth Airshow.



*Unless a man  
undertakes more than  
he possibly can do,  
he will never do  
all that he can.  
-Henry Drummond*



Photos from top Left: 148th supports Republican National Convention, 148th retirees' celebrate Family Day, 148th deploy to Balad AFB, Iraq, 2008 Deployment Ceremony, 3 of the founding charters members of the 148th Fighter Wing celebrate the unit's 60th Anniversary.

## National Awards

- The 148th earned the 2008 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- Senior Airman Nicole Rosga was named the 1st Air Force Airman of the Year
- Lt. Col. Reed Bowman was named the 1st Air Force Pilot of Distinction
- The 148th Communications Flight earned 1st Air Force Communication Flight of the Year
- The 148th Public Affairs earned a bronze Telly Award from the Cable TV Association for its contributions to "First Air Force Now – Air Guard News"
- The 148th earned the NGAUS Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque; given to the top five ANG flying units
- The 148th earned the NGAUS William W. Spruance Award for its efforts towards accident prevention

# Medical Minute - LASIK

By Maj. Todd H. Hnatko, OD  
148th Medical Group, Optometry

Who of us would not want to be free from glasses or contact lenses? Most of us know someone who has had their eyes “fixed.” But what is LASIK and is it really safe.

LASIK was first done in the early 1990’s. (Although, lasers had been used on the front clear surface of the eye (the cornea) for many years before LASIK existed.) It is a part of the broader group of treatment called refractive surgery. The goal of refractive surgery is to change the overall power of the eye thereby decreasing or eliminating the need for glasses and/or contacts. LASIK is currently the most performed refractive surgery. It has been approved for myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness) and astigmatism.

The procedure itself has three parts. The first part involves the creation of the “flap.” The flap is a partial thickness slice through the cornea which exposes a deeper layer of cornea – the stroma. The stroma is the thickest layer of the cornea and is the layer which is reshaped during LASIK. The flap is left attached to the cornea at the “hinge.” The flap is created either with a small blade called a microkeratome or with a special laser called a femtosecond laser in a procedure called IntraLASIK.

Currently it is thought that the thinner flap created with the femtosecond laser contributes to a more accurate overall outcome of LASIK. More study is needed to confirm the theory. Once the flap is

created, it is folded over on the hinge to expose the underlying stroma.

An excimer laser is then used to precisely remove thin layers of stroma. This reshapes the stroma and changes the patient’s refractive error. How much stroma removed is based upon the patient’s baseline refractive error. The stronger the initial prescription, the more stroma that has to be removed. During the third step, the surgeon folds back the flap into its original position. All air bubbles and debris are removed from under the flap. The flap stays in place without sutures. Patients are then placed on an antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drops. Artificial tears are also used during healing.

Most patients see very well immediately following the surgery. However, the best vision is achieved after full healing which may take several weeks.

Complication can and do occur. However, the vast majority of complications are considered minor. These include mild dry eye. Dryness is reported in approximately one third of patients. Other complications that occur at a much reduced rate include, vision fluctuation (although this may be contributed to dryness), halos or starbursts around lights, conjunctival hemorrhages, ghost images and over or under correction. Over and under correction can sometimes be corrected with a second LASIK procedure. The surgeons call this an enhancement. Major complications occur at much less than 1% of patients. Included in here would be infection and flap issues.

Having LASIK does not guaran-

tee that you will never need glasses or contacts again. In some patients, over or under correction can not be enhanced. Other patient’s refractive error may change later in life – called regression. Also, LASIK does not keep us from aging. At some point after age 40, reading glasses will probably be needed.

Even with the risk of complications, millions of people have had the procedure. One study looked at satisfaction of about 2,200 patients world wide. Over 95% of these patients were satisfied with their results.

After studying the procedure and results for years, the Air Force in May 2007 allows LASIK for all pilots including those flying high performance, ejection seat models. However, very precise protocols are in place for pilots wanting LASIK.

Even with the success of LASIK, it is not for everyone. There is an upper limit to the amount of refractive error that may be corrected. Certain systemic diseases and corneal conditions may exclude you. A refractive surgery consultation is the only way to know for sure if you are a candidate.

If you are thinking about refractive surgery, please contact me prior to having the procedure. There may be some AFSC related issues that need to be sorted out before the procedure is done. If you have already had refractive surgery, a copy of your procedure and all follow up appointments must be provided to the Medical Group for inclusion in your health record.





# CHIEF'S CORNER

The latest updates from your Chiefs' Council  
By Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey P.Knepper

## *Culture and our Unit*

As the Wings 60th anniversary came and went, I reflected on what has made our organization as successful as it is. I believe it is in large part due to the culture left to us from our retirees. The men and women who have served before us have continually left us better off than when they came. The culture of this unit has been derived from the professionalism and contagious positive attitude of members past.

James Q. Wilson wrote "If the culture is shared and endorsed across the various subgroups that comprise the organization, then a sense of mission exists, and the organization is relatively cohesive, both internally and in its approach

to the outside world."

These sub groups easily equate to the different rank structures throughout our unit. From the top down, "Excellence in all we do" is engrained in all of us. It was through the hard work and diligence of our previous members that "set the bar" a little higher each time they left and a new person came in to try and take that bar up one more notch.

So, the next time you see a retiree, we all need to say, "Thank You" more often to them. Thank you for helping mold the outstanding unit we have, and laying the solid foundation we enjoy today.



Tech. Sgt. Tod Swenson poses for a photo in front of the Aerial Lift Bridge on a voyage aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Alder on Nov. 10, 2008. The Coast Guard invited 30 members of the 148th Fighter Wing to sail about the Alder in honor of Veteran's Day. Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Rick Davis.

## 148th Fighter Wing PROMOTIONS

### Rank/Name

SMSGT JOHNSON, KYLE  
SMSGT PICCONATTO,  
JAMES  
MSGT MCDUGALL,  
DENISE  
MSGT NONPONEN, CRAIG  
MSGT ZOBITZ, CHARLES  
MSGT ANICH, DARREN  
MSGT MCLEAN, BRETT  
MSGT OCONNOR, SEAN  
TSGT ENGBRETSON,  
MARGARET  
TSGT ACKER, JOSEPH  
TSGT GABRIELSON,  
ANDREW  
TSGT PAULOVICH, BRIAN  
TSGT SONDGEROTH,  
DANIEL  
TSGT RUNIONS, NEIL  
TSGT WIITA, BRIANA  
SSGT GROSS, MICHAEL  
SSGT TAYLOR, NICHOLAS  
SSGT NICKILA, IAN  
SSGT DOEBER, MICAH  
SSGT LACOURSIERE,  
MITCHELE  
SSGT RIVERA, JOSHUA  
SSGT CLAUSEN, CHRISTA  
SRA BOBEN, MEGAN  
SRA YANTOS,  
CHRISTOPHER  
SRA ZACK, CODY  
A1C TABER, CHRISTIAN



**CONGRATULATIONS**

## New law allows saluting during the national anthem

Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month.

“The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation’s armed forces,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation’s flag.”

The new provision improves upon a little known change in

federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year’s provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation’s veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization’s official head-gear.

The most recent change, autho-

rising hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.

## Adopt-a-highway clean-up

On Oct. 29, 2008, nine members of the 148th Fighter Wing participated in our third and final Minnesota Department of Transportation Adopt-a-Highway clean-up of 2008. The 148th Fighter Wing is responsible for cleaning up a two mile stretch along Highway 194 three times each year. Thank you to all of this year’s volunteers! Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Contact Staff Sgt. Megan Shaner if you would like to get involved in 2009.

Photo by Col. Mark R. Johnson.



## Troop Tube

TroopTube is a new video-sharing site for troops and their families available through the Military OneSource Web site. Troop Tube is the only video-sharing site for military families sponsored by the Department of Defense. TroopTube extends the virtual military community by enabling service members and their families to connect with each other and share videos wherever they may be.

To access Troop Tube, visit [www.MilitaryOneSource.com](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com) and click on the TroopTube link. Once you’re on the site, you will be required to register in order to view or post videos. During the registration process, you will be asked to identify your e-mail address, name, and service branch or affiliation.

TroopTube emphasizes the ability for deployed troops and their families to stay in touch and share information. Deployed individuals in forward areas should check with their commanding officers for current protocol. Videos are limited to 5 minutes or 20MB.

*Happy New Year 148th!*

Check out the 148th Fighter Wing website at [www.148FW.ang.af.mil](http://www.148FW.ang.af.mil)

# News around base

## 148th Fighter Wing Retirees' Meeting Minutes

Dec. 7, 2008

Wing Commander Col. Mark Johnson spoke to open the meeting with Maj. Audra Flanagan assisting. A brief summary follows:

1. The 60th Anniversary book will be mailed as soon as it is available.
2. Deployment and Award Ceremonies were held prior to the latest deployment.
3. Alert Force Evaluation in September was very successful.
4. A few of the deployments in 2008 include:
  - a. Hickam AFB, Hawaii
  - b. Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
  - c. Republican Nation Convention in St. Paul. 4 Jets, 57 Personnel, 1 Week.
  - d. September to January deployment to Iraq. This was done in stages and to date we have done 104 flights and 444 flying hours.
5. Infrastructure: Lots of build-

ing coming down and lots going up. New Fuel Cell Building in the works. Roads to be straightened out.

Treasurer Larry Burda called the business meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. with 16 members present. The treasurer's report was accepted.

No minutes from last meeting. Ken Stromquist promoted membership in various Air Guard and Air Force organizations.

Jerome Blazevic reported that the Enlisted Association Annual Meeting will be in Duluth in April 2009.

Next meeting is March UTA on Sunday the 22nd at 1:00 p.m.

Thanks to the Dining Hall crew for a very excellent Christmas dinner. Your hard work is appreciated. Meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

Barb Herrington, Secretary

## Driftwood Estates

By Master Sgt. Stephanie LaFleur  
Driftwood Chairperson

It was another outstanding summer at Driftwood Estates. A great big "thank you" goes out to Ryan Marple, Paul Sinnott, Kyle Johnson, Josh Graves, Jeremy Graves, Rick Stanius & anyone else I missed. These people donated their time and equipment to install the siding and soffits on the garage/sauna building and the playground restrooms. The retirees stained the buildings, road upkeep, installed doors, plus cleaned-up the mess from the upgrades. We are so lucky and blessed to have so many great families at Driftwood.

The 2008 Season just kept on getting better, with four temporary seasonal spots, the money generated from this went into the maintenance on our entrance road and snowplow agreement with the county. The Annual Family Picnic happened in July along with some great guests from Wells Fargo making popcorn and playing games with the children. We had movies in the park and a flashlight sucker search that everyone enjoyed.

Woodcutting was GREAT! We had a lot of great families and their children working, stacking, cutting, you name it. Hats off to everyone that took time out of their day to make it a success. Thank you to



### Current Job Openings:

Family Physician  
Public Health Officer  
Flight Surgeon Internist  
Avionics Test Station &  
Components  
Avionics Systems  
Aerospace Ground Equipment  
Aircraft Fuel Systems  
Aircraft Electrical &  
Environmental Systems  
Ground Radio Communications  
Munitions System  
Aircraft Armament Systems  
Information Management  
Power Production  
Structures  
EOD  
Security Forces  
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Ray Nelson's skill and cooking to keep everyone satisfied. Every year so many groups and families use our facility, from Courage Duluth to the Boy Scouts. We are so lucky to have this place to share. Many Thanks to Jim Jerome, Tom Sinnott, David Udd and every other person that has helped with projects and upkeep at Driftwood Estates. If I have missed something or someone, forgive me. Let's keep the spirit going so everyone can enjoy what we have to offer at our great campground. What's to come... you ask? You'll have to come and check Driftwood out to see!

# **BulldogBits**



By Col. Penny J. Dieryck

As I write this column, I am headed to the Air National Guard Readiness Center with our Base Civil Engineer, Capt. Ryan Kaspari. We are going to brief the Air National Guard Civil Engineer Planners and Programmers (A7) on the design of the new fuel cell facility for the Wing. I have learned a lot about military construction in my short time as the Mission Support Group Commander and briefing A7 about our projects at specific intervals is the first step in the construction project. Not only do we plan on discussing the fuel cell, we'll also talk about the proposed Wing parking lot and other potential projects.

As I ponder our brief in the morning, I reflect on where the Wing is headed with its facilities. Our long range goals are to build a new fuel cell, a weapons load training and weapons release facility, move the Logistics Readiness Squadron to a modified building in the current roads and grounds, move roads and ground to the old fire hall, utilize the Naval Reserve

Building for Security Forces, and expand the Communications Flight facilities within Building 255. The Defense Energy Supply Center is drafting a new aviation fuel farm for the Wing, which will be located on our side of the airfield. A Wing cold storage building has been approved and funded, and we're busy planning and designing a second entrance to the base. When all these stars align and the moon shines down on us, the 148th Fighter Wing will be the "state of the art" base in the Air National Guard. This vision and proposed 22nd Century view will be taking place over the course of the next several years. Add to these thoughts the new base roads, continued upgrades in technology and security systems, large aircraft parking ramp, etc., to the Duluth/Superior/Hermantown/Proctor communities for many years to come.

As I mentioned, economic stimulus, I also need to write a quick "Thank you" to Congressman Oberstar, Senator Klobuchar, Senator Coleman, Governor Pawlenty, Gen. Shellito, Joint Force Headquarters, Gen. Cossalter, and Col. Eric Ahlness for supporting our initiatives and helping us obtain the

funding for these projects. Their belief in the 148th Fighter Wing and our importance to the security and sovereignty of our nation are unparalleled. Through the work of our national political arm and our state legislature, our mission to "Fly, Fight, and Win" is always at the forefront because we know we have their sponsorship.

Another individual I want to say "Thank you" to is Col. Johnson, our Wing Commander. His unyielding desire to ensure the longevity of the base has driven all of us to "Expect, Provide, and Be the Best." Under his leadership and guidance, we have excelled in all parameters to include Wing End Strength; commitment to federal, state, and community tasking; "Outstanding" inspection ratings, "Mission First, Family Always" initiatives, and giving more of ourselves every step of the way. I need to say "Thank you" also to Cynthia, his wife, and his children: Jessica, Chelsey, Brittney, and Mathew. Thank you for allowing him to give so much of himself to the Wing. Your support of him on our behalf is phenomenal and we can not "Thank you" enough!

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