

ON FIVE

OCT/NOV/DEC 2011



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Legacy of Excellence

Our members accomplish their mission with a quiet determination and dependable efficiency that our national leaders recognize. Indeed, our Bulldog Airmen have forged a Legacy of Excellence that has become synonymous with Duluth, Minn. They have established this legacy based upon consistent efforts that include reliable performance during Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployments, superb Higher Headquarter inspection results, and professional emergency responses. It is a reputation that emphasizes compliance with directives, integrity, and the ability to get the job done without excessive fanfare. The legacy has gradually become a way of life for our Airmen; we envelop our new members with its culture. When we raise our hand and join the 148th Fighter Wing, each one of us shoulders this reputation. We agree to do things ethically, morally right, and to treat each other with dignity and respect.



Col. Frank H. Stokes

The Legacy of Excellence will define our future. The fact that the most capable Vipers in the Air Force inventory sit on our ramp will forge potential missions than we are not accustomed to. Senior Air Force leadership will watch with keen interest how we perform at Red Flag next February. Our National Command Authorities will direct our aviation package to visit new parts of the world. The operational plans that task our Wing will radically change. In short, we have become the first unit they will call – we are no longer on the bench, we are in the starting line-up.

Our Legacy will also influence decisions for our Wing structure. It may bring active duty Airmen to our base. If that happens, we will embrace the opportunity as we always have in the past. We will welcome the Airmen as Bulldogs. We will work to impart our experience and knowledge to make them better Air Force partners. And we will infuse them with our culture; teach them how Duluth does business.

It is imperative that this reputation and work ethic continue. Our legacy is responsible for nearly all our recent successes: (1) it allowed the Wing to survive the 2005 BRAC closures, (2) it earned the Wing recognition through multiple Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, NGAUS Distinguished Flying Unit Awards, and the Raytheon Trophy, and (3) it placed Block 50 F-16's on our ramp.

Your efforts have established a legacy in Duluth; our future is bright. Your dedication and talented efforts, and the support of your families have made the Bulldogs what we are today: the best Wing in the Air Force. We must now step towards the future always improving, challenging each other to continue a Legacy of Excellence.

LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

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Year 2011 & 2012 Unit Training Assembly (UTA) and other training schedules for the 148th Fighter Wing and all subordinate units:

2011		2012	
UTA	SUTA	UTA	SUTA
15-16 Oct	29-30 Oct	07-08 Jan	21-22 Jan
19-20 Nov	None Nov	04-05 Feb	04-05 Feb
03-04 Dec	None Dec	17-18 Mar	None Mar
		14-15 Apr	21-22 Apr
		19-20 May	05-06 May
		23-24 June	09-10 June
		14-15 July	28-29 July
		04-05 Aug	None Aug
		08-09 Sept	None Sept
		20-21 Oct	27-28 Oct
		17-18 Nov	03-04 Nov
		01-02 Dec	None Dec

ON THE COVER..The finished F-16 Block 10 static display shines at night at the entrance to the 148th Fighter Wing. The static display was made possible through incredible donations of time, labor and funding by local businesses and organizations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka.)



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- 1. Provide a competent, ready force for our state and nation.**
We must maintain our role as a full spectrum force. From catastrophic events at home to deployments abroad, the Guard must continue to seamlessly integrate with the broader force. We will be able to leverage our national Department of Defense and interagency relationships built over many successful deployments.

In Minnesota, we must ensure the Guard is prepared to carry out our homeland defense and disaster response mission. With members in nearly every Minnesota zip code, we are our military's first responders.
- 2. We must continue to work toward an optimal force structure.**
We'll do this by striving to maintain the significant investment in readiness made over the last seven years. Guard units must be trained, equipped and ready for deployments.
- 3. We must advance our environmentally sustainable infrastructure with regards to our facilities and equipment statewide.**
Continue to set the standard with our environmental initiatives and be stewards of our natural resources.
- 4. Continue to grow, coordinate and communicate our "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" program.**
When Guard units do deploy, we need to continue to take care of their families. Spouses of deployed Guard members are far from a community of other families who share in the burden of protecting our nation. Serving these geographically dispersed families is our first priority.
- 5. The Minnesota National Guard must continue to diversify our military force.**
We are committed to fostering an environment that truly represents the demographics of the communities in which we serve. We must have leaders that reflect those who we lead and serve.
- 6. Develop capacity to combat the emerging cyber warfare threat.**
Ensure the Minnesota National Guard is prepared to defend our nation against the next threat.



BULLDOG ENLISTED COUNCIL COMPASS

BY TECH. SGT. JON D. CLAUSON, BEC PRESIDENT

The Bulldog Enlisted Council or BEC recently celebrated two years of existence. In just two short years we've done many great things within our organization and for the Wing as a whole. I would like to take this opportunity to share what the BEC is all about and review some of our past accomplishments as well as plans for the future.

Mentorship and professional development opportunities aren't just limited to the formal events we plan each year. They are also built into the agenda during our Sunday UTA meetings. We've recently started a new professional development effort which engages our Chiefs to come and speak at our meetings. As the top enlisted ranked members within our organization, the BEC believes that each Chief is in a unique position to share key information as to how they have had a successful career. It's also an opportunity to get to know these individuals better and for them to provide some mentorship to younger Airmen. I'm very excited about this new initiative and think it will prove to be a very worthwhile endeavor for everyone involved.

The BEC was formed with a primary mission of promoting professionalism and the highest standards of conduct through the example set forth by its members. The goals of the council are to provide mentorship as well as professional development opportunities for all members of the 148th Fighter Wing. The BEC works to meet its goals each year through the work of our committees. In just the past year, our committees have organized the 2011 Military Ball, the 2nd Annual Meatball 5K and two great "It's Your Career" events on interviewing and being hired as a ground officer. We also have a rookie ranks committee which works to provide meaningful activities for our new enlistees to participate in. In the future, we are looking to establish a heritage committee that will look for ways in which we can celebrate the rich history of the 148th.

The BEC is constantly looking for new ideas in which to help meet its mission and goals. We are always looking for enthusiastic individuals to become involved with our organization. The BEC is a great organization to join whether you're looking for mentorship, professional development, networking, or the ability to serve the Wing in a greater capacity. The BEC meetings are open to all members of the 148th and membership is open to all enlisted members. I encourage everyone to attend a meeting and find out a little more about what BEC is all about.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Jon Clauson at (218) 788-7508.

NO STRANGERS TO SAFETY

148TH FIGHTER WING MAINTAINS WORLD CLASS SAFETY RATING

BY TECH. SGT. SCOTT G. HERRINGTON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

July 25, 2011, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) announced that the 148th Fighter Wing has maintained its prestigious Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star status after the April 25-28, 2011 evaluation. After the April 2008 inspection, the 148th had become the first Air Force (active duty, Guard, or Reserve) unit to achieve VPP Star status, and now is the first Air Force unit to maintain that status as well.

"I'm proud for the Wing—it validates our programs, and shows that we are a world class safety organization," said Senior Master Sgt. Todd A. Zimmer, 148th Fighter Wing Safety and Occupational Health Manager. "VPP has had a positive effect on the unit's safety culture. They (OSHA) say it's harder to maintain the Star status than it is to earn it the first time, but with the strong safety culture within the organization, it has become the new norm, and we're improving on that."

According to Zimmer, the inspection team from OSHA did not find any items that needed immediate attention after the inspection. Zimmer said there is always room for improvement and that the safety office continues to self identify issues.

The VPP inspection is different from other safety inspections in

that it utilizes one-on-one interviews with key members of the organization being inspected to gain an in depth view of how that particular safety program functions.



The Voluntary Protection Program flag flies proudly at the 148th Fighter Wing. The 148th Fighter Wing has just been recertified as part of the VPP as a Star worksite—the Star status is OSHA's highest rating. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ralph Kapustka/released)

"We could not have been successful without the outstanding efforts of every unit member," said Zimmer.

Zimmer credits 148th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Frank H. Stokes with providing the true management commitment and leadership. The VPP process requires continuous improvement, and according to Zimmer, the 148th is up to the challenge.

Col. Stokes' philosophy on safety is proactive rather than reactive. "Let's not focus on the last accident—let's focus on preventing the next one," said Stokes. According to Stokes, maintaining VPP Star status is another achievement that further improves the reputation of the 148th.

"We have made great strides to get to the level that we are at today and we know that through the continued effort of Wing personnel we will be at an even better state in the years to come," said Zimmer.

148TH FIGHTER WING MEMBER WINS STATE SAFETY AWARD

BY TECH. SGT. SCOTT G. HERRINGTON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Despite lengthy preparation, sometimes meetings don't go as planned. An Air Force Instruction (AFI) had changed, and it was Master Sgt. Matt Wolff's job to explain these changes to Vice Wing Commander Lt. Col. Jon Safstrom. He had all of his documents in order. He knew what time the meeting started, and he knew where it was being held. He showed up on time, and was ready to tell Lt. Col. Safstrom how the changes affected the base.

A few minutes after Wolff was seated at the conference table, Maj. James A. Shirk, the state safety and occupational health officer came into the room flanked by Lt. Col. Guy Schaumburg and Senior Master Sgt. Todd Zimmer of the 148th Fighter Wing Safety Office.

The topic of the meeting wasn't an AFI change. Wolff had been chosen as the recipient of the Adjutant General's 2010 Airman Safety Award.

The award isn't just for members of a safety office, and it isn't an Air Force or Army specific award; any servicemember in the state of Minnesota is eligible to win the award.

Wolff is the first Airmen to have ever received this award.

"To get a pat on the back like this just motivates you to do more," said Wolff.

"He is doing very high level work, and not only as the weapons

safety manager for the base," said Zimmer. "Being a stellar performer, he's done a lot of things that not only improve the safety office, but the whole base. His best practices during the ESOHCAMP (Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment Management Program) went out as a template to other units in the Air Force. That's something that's had a wide impact outside of our own unit."



Senior Master Sgt. Matt Wolff, winner of the state safety award, poses with Senior Master Sgt. Todd Zimmer, Maj. James Shirk, Lt. Col. Guy Schaumburg, and Lt. Col. Jon Safstrom June 28, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka)

"The weapons/explosive program here at the 148th Fighter Wing is an extensive program with an enormous responsibility to the personnel that work with and around high explosives that could cause severe damage to property and loss of life," said Wolff. "We in the safety office ensure that the wing commander is confident that his explosive program is sound."


Wolff has been with the 148th Fighter Wing for the past 19 years, and in 2010 completed 38 inspections and assessments, greatly increasing the safety of operations. He briefs safety information to base personnel and provides shop specific training to flightline workers in addition to performing a lead role in shop safety in the aircraft maintenance facilities.

"We can all improve our own work areas, but when people step up and make their footprint larger, that's when you see exceptional performance," said Zimmer.

1. Members of the 148th Fighter Wing don reflective vests prior to participating in the Adopt-a-highway cleanup on Hwy 194 Aug. 18, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington.) 2. Master Sgt. Keith "Dizzy" Johnson creates a balloon animal for a Bulldog youth during family day, Sept. 10, 2011. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Donald L. Acton.) 3. Sen. Amy Klobuchar visits with members of the 148th Fighter Wing prior to a press conference on base Aug. 5, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ralph J. Kapustka.) 4. Senior Airman Elise Verhel, Tech. Sgt. Brant Jewett, and Staff Sgt. Derek Menz pose for a photo after winning the second semi-annual weapons load competition Sept. 10, 2011. A head-to-head competition, along with a crowd of family, friends, and co-workers watched their every move, increasing the intensity. Tech. Sgt. Jewett's crew finished two minutes faster with minimal errors earning the crew the title of 148th's 2011 load crew of the year. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Donald L. Acton.) 5. Tech. Sgt. Jon Clauson and his family are interviewed by the 148th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office during the Fox Sports North Minnesota Twins viewing party Aug. 7, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett R. Ewald.)

QUICK SHOTS



ob • jec • tive: The incentive flight program is a valuable tool for the 148th Fighter Wing. An incentive flight may be given to provide a visible reward for outstanding service and to motivate others to similar levels of performance.

"This opportunity was one I will never forget. It was an hour and a half of excitement. To have a short glance of what the pilots do, was amazing. I enjoyed the cloud chasing, the two planes wingtip to wingtip. A word to all, always do your best, and be ready, as you never know when opportunity will knock at your door."

-Master Sgt. Keith Johnson, 2004 148th Fighter Wing NCO of the Year

"I can't compare it to anything. As I was actually sitting in the cockpit I was thinking, 'Am I really doing this, or am I dreaming'--it was kind of surreal. For people that will be on an incentive flight, as soon as they're done, try and write down everything that they can remember. It was quite the experience. Do your best in your (Outstanding Airman of the Year) interviews, and hope for the best."

-Tech. Sgt Frank Bucar, 2011 148th Fighter Wing NCO of the Year

"My incentive flight was an opportunity of a life time, and was the highlight of my career. The incentive flight program should serve as a great motivator for all members of the Wing to work toward earning a flight in an F-16. The incredibly positive impact this experience had on my family was beyond what any of us expected. We will always have fond memories of the day I got my flight."

-Maj. Babette Van Hees, 2010 148th Fighter Wing Company Grade Officer of The Year



CHIEF'S CORNER

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. BILL HESSELGRAVE

Today's Air Force is different than when some of us started our careers, but the one thing that remains the same are the U.S. Air Force Core Values. We need to look at these values and refresh ourselves in what they mean for us as military members.

There has been a big push lately on mentoring and diversity, while they are great programs that will not go away, we also need to look at our core values. At one point in all of our careers, we have all read the "little blue book," stating what the core values of the U.S. Air Force are. Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do is the foundation that was taught to us in basic training. For our younger Airmen these values should still be fresh in your minds but for those of us with a few more years and our minds possibly more on mission accomplishment, daily flying, and future missions; it is important that we take a time out and look at these three areas briefly.

Integrity first: As defined in the core values, integrity is a character trait and the willingness to do what is right even when no one is looking. This hits home in our jobs every day; whether you are performing maintenance on an aircraft or a piece of support equipment, processing orders or military pay, securing our base either physically or keeping an eye on our cyber security. We all have technical data and job guides that we need to follow to make sure our jobs are done correctly and to the best of our ability. Your supervisors need to feel confident when sending you out on a job or task that this will be done correctly and to the best of your ability. Here are a few other words associated with integrity; courage, honesty, responsibility, accountability, and self respect.

Service before self: This tells us that we must put our professional duties before our personal desires. This area is one that people may struggle with due to human nature, but the key elements here are to

follow the rules, respect the people you work with and that are in your chain of command, and most importantly to have discipline and self control. We all have differences sometimes in the work place, but it is very important how we take care of these. All of us are adults and should be able to sit and talk these items out, but we in the military also have a chain of command to follow to help resolve issues. In the military we must have faith in the system, so when we are called to duty we can do our jobs and trust the orders given from those appointed over us.

Excellence in all we do: With today's tempo in the military this is probably one of the most important areas. There is no doubt in my mind that at the 148th Fighter Wing, we already operate in this manner on a continual basis and our track record speaks for itself! Even on the days that you feel pushed to the edge, it is always good to take a step back and remember what we are doing this for. We are here to answer our nations call; anytime, anywhere, and to do what it takes to accomplish our mission. Whether it is an inspection at home station, a temporary duty in support of the flying mission, or more importantly going to the area of responsibility and doing our jobs and saving lives. We also must remember we need to do our best not only in our jobs, but also in our personal lives and in the communities in which we live. Take pride that you belong to the best unit not only in the Air National Guard but in the entire United States Air Force.

If you are new to the Air Force or have been around more than 20 years, remember to take pride in all that you do no matter the size of the task or job because like any well trained unit if one part is missing it may affect the entire operation. Our core values are a very important part of our tradition and these will keep us going well into the future as long as we hold them true and don't hesitate to pick up that "little blue book" to refresh ourselves.

42ND ANNUAL MNGEA CONFERENCE

BY MASTER SGT. DEANNA WOLFF, RET., CO-DIRECTOR MNGEA CHAPTER 48

The 40th Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) conference was held in Charleston, W.Va., Aug. 14-18, 2011. With nearly 2,000 members registered, the four-day conference encompassed many committee meetings, professional development classes, and social events in addition to the daily general business sessions.

The conference kicked off with opening remarks by MNGEA / EANGUS Life member, U.S. Congressman Timothy Walz (D-MN). Also speaking to the group were U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), U.S. Congresswoman Shelley Moore-Capito (R-WV), as well as Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt (Director - ANG), Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala (President - NGAUS), Maj. Gen. Errol Schwartz (President - AGAUS), National Guard Bureau leaders Command Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall, Command Chief Master Sgt. Chris Muncy, Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burch, and members of the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs (OSD-RA) Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Ron Young. Lots of information regarding the "State of the Guard," impacts of current federal budget deficits, and current legislative initiatives were discussed.

It was also stressed by many officers and enlisted leaders about the importance of being members of professional military organizations and better understanding the importance of grassroots lobbying to help protect many of the benefits we currently enjoy as National Guard members. Three members of the 148th Fighter Wing attended the conference in delegate status (Staff Sgt. Corrine Sager, Master Sgt. Dale Rindahl, and Master Sgt. Mark Wasserbauer). Minnesota also had one member attend in military status (Spc. Daniel Lodermeier - Minnesota Soldier of the Year). He was recognized by his peers during the Army Guard breakout session by Maj. Gen. Timothy Kadavy (Deputy Director Army Guard) and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burch (NGB Army CSM).

Ten of the 15 submitted resolutions were approved, plus 26 resolutions from 2009 were reaffirmed for another year. It was a busy four-day event packed full of information and camaraderie.

As state president, I'd like to thank all those who attended this year's conference. I also challenge each and every one of you to get involved. Join a professional organization today. Don't forget about our next state conference Apr. 27-28, 2012 in South St. Paul, Minn.

Visit www.mngea.com for more details.

MNGEA CHAPTER 48 AT FAMILY DAY

BY MASTER SGT. DEANNA WOLFF, RET., CO-DIRECTOR MNGEA CH 48

Staff Sgt. Corrine Sager, Master Sgt. Dale Rindahl, Tech. Sgt. Kelly Nelson and Master Sgt. (Ret.) Deana Wolff spoke with 148th Fighter Wing members and their families at Family Day 2011 on the many benefits that MNGEA fights to maintain and receive. A MNGEA informational table was set up and the 2012 MNGEA Chapter 48 membership drive officially kicked off, with several 148th members signing up. With many of our current benefits at risk, it is especially important to have strength in number. Become a member and be a direct voice to keep all the benefits we enjoy today.

TRICARE PRESCRIPTIONS CHANGE

BY TECH. SGT. JILL M. HAAPALA

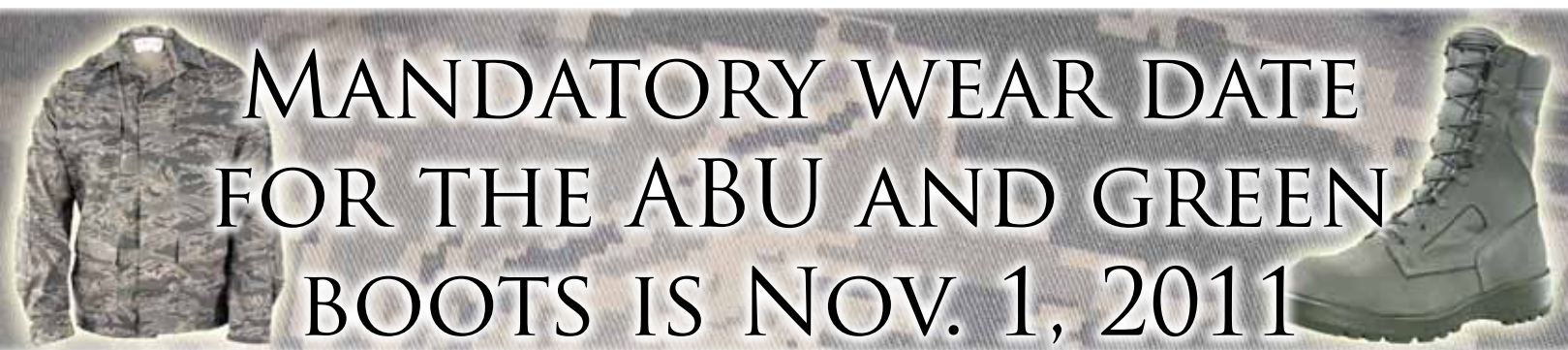
Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, Walgreens will no longer be participating in the Express Scripts pharmacy coverage under Tricare. Walgreens will, however; continue honoring all prescription plans administered by Express Scripts through Dec. 31, 2011. If you are currently enrolled in Tricare and using Walgreens for your prescriptions; it is advised that you transition to a new pharmacy no later than Dec. 31, 2011. Please contact Tech. Sgt. Jill Haapala at (218) 788-7212 or by email jill.haapala@ang.af.mil with any question or concerns. Thank you!



Chapter 48 members pose with U.S. Congressman Tim Walz and Spc. Daniel Lodermeier (MN 2011 Soldier of the Year) at the 40th annual EANGUS conference. (Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Mark J. Wasserbauer)



Staff Sgt. Corrine Sager and Master Sgt. Dale Rindahl pose with NGB Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall at the 40th annual EANGUS conference. (Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Mark J. Wasserbauer)



MANDATORY WEAR DATE FOR THE ABU AND GREEN BOOTS IS NOV. 1, 2011

PROMOTIONS

JULY

MUSOLF, ANGELA, FSS, AMN
GOORHOUSE, KATELYN, MXS, A1C
GERMOLUS, ALEXIS, MXS, SRA
OLSON, JACOB, CES, SRA
BROWN, EDWIN, CES, SSGT
ROEN, AMANDA, 179FS, SSGT
FREEMAN, TYLER, HQ, TSGT
MODIN, JOSHUA, MXS, TSGT
HALLFRISCH, AMANDA, HQ, MSGT
PEDERSON, JUSTIN, CF, MSGT

AUGUST

SORENSEN, DANIEL, STU FLT, A1C
MESSINA, MATTHEW, AMXS, SRA
HILL, JACOB, MXS, SSGT
NYEN, BENJAMIN, SFS, SSGT
LACOURSIERE, MITCHELE, MXG, TSGT
JACOBSON, CRAIG, SFS, MSGT
TWINING, SCOTT, MXS, MSGT
WOLFF, MATTHEW, HQ, SMSGT

SEPTEMBER

CHRISTENSON, MATTHEW, SFS, SRA
ZEMPEL, CHRISTOPHER, 179FS, SRA
AXELSON, CHRISTOPHER, AMXS, SSGT
BROBERG, JOHN, MXS, SSGT
MENZ, DEREK, AMXS, SSGT
OWEN, BRANDON, MXS, SSGT
PETERSON, JACOB, AMXS, SSGT
REHBEIN, BRIAN, MXS, SSGT
BRUNS, JOHN, AMXS, TSGT
HIEB, JENNA, LRS, TSGT
LOTT, NATHAN, CF, TSGT
MONROE, JAMES, MXS, TSGT
PUKEMA, MYLII, MXG, TSGT
JOHNSON, TANA, MSG, MSGT

Original 148th Fighter Wing member pays a visit

BY TECH. SGT. SCOTT G. HERRINGTON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“It’s a thing to behold.” That’s what Capt. Howard Ramstad said when asked what he thought of the base as it stands today. And he would know; Ramstad is one of the original members of the 148th Fighter Wing, having joined back in 1948. Born in 1921, Ramstad was on hand to photograph the original muster of the first group of enlistees here at the 148th Fighter Wing.

Ramstad and his cousin, Howard Rockstad, were on a road trip that brought them to the 148th Fighter Wing June 28, 2011. During his visit, Ramstad had time to share memories and insight with a few current members here at the base.

One of his significant memories centered on a particular flight in a P-51 Mustang—a flight that stands out among his 22 years of service which ended when he retired in 1960.

It was during a routine trip back to Duluth after having maintenance performed on a P-51 Mustang, which Ramstad had stopped to refuel near Kansas City, Kan. While refueling, he heard on the radio that there was a B-36 up in the air that would like any fighters in the nearby area to ascend and run aerial combat maneuvers.

Eager to enjoy part of his flight home, he finished refueling and quickly got up to 20,000 feet to perform air-to-air exercises.

In his haste to put his plane through its paces, he forgot that the center of gravity was severely thrown off when a P-51’s fuselage was full of fuel, which made any kind of fancy maneuvers unsafe. While attempting to put his plane in position behind the B-36, Ramstad put his plane into a sharp turn leaving him upside down and losing altitude fast. It was 2-3,000 feet before he righted the plane and was back in position to begin the exercises with the B-36.

After a few passes were made, Ramstad pulled up next to the B-36 and in a show of disdain for how slow the other vessel was traveling, he put his landing gear down. “If you’re going to fly that slowly, you might as well land,” said Ramstad. In return, a crew member, visible to Ramstad within the B-36, simply smiled and raised a cup of coffee, as if to say “you’re at 20,000 feet in January, and you don’t have this.”

What made Ramstad’s joke less funny was that his landing gear did not come back up when it was supposed to.

The B-36 was quick to inform him of his plight, despite already being informed by his instruments.

“Little friend, you’ve got one hanging,” was what Ramstad heard come across the radio.

He tried four or five times to get the wheel to come up, before he tried descending to a lower, warmer altitude, as it was the heart of winter, and perhaps the cold was having a negative effect on his landing gear.

He tried flapping the wings back and forth while upside down, and the delinquent wheel finally went back into the plane where it belonged.

However, Ramstad’s troubles were just starting. The extra fun with the B-36 had depleted his fuel supply more than he had planned, and he had to make a decision regarding where and when he would stop for more fuel.

The small St. Paul Airport was his best bet, but upon closer inspection, he realized that the runway was completely covered in deep snow.

“I had flown the P-51 for awhile, and knew how far I could go on a tank of fuel. So, I leaned it back and figured I could make it to Duluth,” said



Capt. Howard Ramstad (Ret.) reflects on a photograph he took Sept. 17, 1948 of the original members of the 148th Fighter Wing. Ramstad, a founding member of the 148th Fighter Wing, was a pilot who flew the P-51 Mustang among other aircraft throughout his career. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Amie M. Dahl)

Ramstad. “By the time I was over Duluth I was going so slowly I could count the rotations of the prop as it passed by in front of me. I had called ahead, and as the runway came into view I could see the fire trucks and airport authorities waiting for me on the ground.”

Ramstad put the landing gear down and only two of the three lights indicating his wheels were down lit up. The same wheel that would not retract earlier decided it wouldn’t extend. Thinking quickly, Ramstad “yawed the plane” (flapped the wings up and down) and the stubborn wheel shook loose.

Ramstad landed the plane safely; satisfied he had made his journey with fuel to spare. He was later told that he had all of 10 additional minutes of flying time left in his fuel tank.

“It was not a comfortable feeling,” said Ramstad.

The tale of Ramstad’s ordeal was already known to his peers upon returning to the base that day.

“All the other pilots laughed and said ‘you had to fly upside down to get the (landing) gear up,’” said Ramstad.

Later that summer, while testing that very P-51 Mustang, another pilot planted the plane firmly into the ground. “He didn’t know to yaw the plane,” said Ramstad.

Before that story led into several more, Ramstad stopped himself in order to continue his tour of the base. When asked what he would like to see while on base, he smiled and replied “The main hanger, so I can climb into one of those aircraft!”

KEY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A BUILDING BLOCK TO MISSION & FAMILY READINESS

BY JENNIFER J. KUHLMAN, AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM MANAGER

The Key Volunteer program is an official Family Readiness program that supports Airmen and their families during deployment, separation and emergencies, as well as enhancing and encouraging regular communication between units and families. Key Volunteers provide a “chain of communication” which allows for information sharing & issue resolution at the grassroots level.

The Key Volunteer program is a Commander’s program. The Commander establishes and maintains the program in each squadron. The Key Volunteer team is comprised of the Commander, First Sergeant, key volunteer(s) as well as the Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager.

What Key Volunteers are: Volunteers, trained, active, visible, available, team players, conduit of information, official unit representative.

Who is eligible to become a Key Volunteer: Unit spouses, adult family members, parents, significant others, retirees, etc. The overall goal is to designate a Key Volunteer who is passionate about helping military families and increasing unit readiness.

What Key Volunteers are not: Counselors, babysitters, “taxi” service, gossipers, fundraisers, expected to work alone or to assume leadership authority.

Where and when does a Key Volunteer accomplish their tasks? A Key Volunteer attends meetings and events (both official and unofficial). A Key Volunteer can work from home and/or the 148th Fighter Wing.

The National Guard provides a comprehensive training program for volunteers. Certain categories of volunteers are eligible to have some of their expenses reimbursed like mileage & childcare. There is also an opportunity to attend the National Guard annual volunteer symposium in the summer. Your hours are tracked and recognition is provided. You can even use your volunteer role as work experience when applying for federal jobs.

If interested in learning more about the Key Volunteer program, please contact Jennifer Kuhlman, the Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager at (218) 788-7833. The objective is to designate a Key Volunteer for every 148th Fighter Wing Squadron. Let’s do this together and be ready for 2012.

GUIDANCE FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

148TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Maj. Gen. William H. McCoy, the Acting U.S. Army Inspector General, sent a Memorandum for Inspectors General this past year highlighting the top ten things that are getting both junior and senior leaders into trouble. He stated, “Although some of these seem benign, they are surfacing across the Army at an alarming rate.”

Maj. Gen. McCoy’s list included:

- 1) **Improper use of government vehicles**
- 2) **Lack of dignity and respect accorded to subordinates**
- 3) **Improper support to private organizations (Non-federal/state entities)**
- 4) **Reprisal**
- 5) **Failure to take action**
- 6) **Discrimination**
- 7) **Preferential treatment**
- 8) **Excessive or unnecessary travel**
- 9) **Excessive awards and gifts**
- 10) **Inappropriate relationships**

Maj. Gen. McCoy continued, “I personally believe that after nine years of persistent war, and war’s associated stresses, that our leaders have gotten sloppy. Many have been promoted faster than at any time in our recent history, resulting in a knowledge gap. Leaders are focused on tactics, techniques, and procedures associated with combat operations. Achieving our country’s objectives while simultaneously keeping their Soldiers alive is the focus; not ‘stuff’ that, too many leaders think, are

administrative in nature. The problem is that most of the top-ten are punishable...careers are ending because of this knowledge gap.”

Although this memorandum was written by the Acting U.S. Army Inspector General, it applies equally to both Soldiers and Airmen. In Minnesota, our ARNG and ANG IGs have also been dealing with some of the top ten items, especially cases involving failure to take action and preferential treatment. Minnesota National Guard IGs have also seen an increasing trend in cases involving failure to comply with regulatory procedures. These failures directly correlate with the “sloppiness” referred to by Maj. Gen. McCoy.

Please take the time to read regulations to ensure compliance and use available resources to clarify any “gray” areas. Your FSS (ANG), S1/G1 (ARNG), HRO, LRS, JAG, EO and IG offices are excellent resources and can often provide subject matter expertise. Don’t let a “knowledge gap” end your career. Submitted by the Minnesota Joint Force Inspector General’s office.

Any Inspector General-related issues should be addressed to the Wing Inspector General. The 148th Fighter Wing Inspector General is Maj. Connie Armstrong. The Wing Inspector General is located in Bldg 250 and can be reached at (218) 788-7303.

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BulldogBits



By Col. Penny J. Dieryck

It's Sunday, Sept. 9, 2011, 5:45 a.m. I am sitting in my office thinking back 10 years ago and how the day started on Sept. 9, 2001. It was a typical work day. I had dropped off our daughter at day care and headed into work. I had been selected to take part in the Leadership Duluth Program, so that morning I headed to Grandmason Studios to have an official photo taken for the class. As the photographer was taking the portraits, the office administrator had the television on watching what was transpiring in New York and Washington, D.C. I knew I had to get back to the base, so I quickly completed the session and drove back to the base. Chief Master Sgt. Robyn Randall (Ret.) came over to the Logistics building to tell us to turn the television on. We continued to watch in awe as the world changed before our eyes. On that day, Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Dieryck, my husband, was in Saudi Arabia deployed in support of Operation Southern Watch. He and Senior Master Sgt. Ted Windus had volunteered for a 15 day hitch to go over and build F-16 fuel tanks. They were woken up and informed what was happening in the United States. They were scheduled to come home that day but got stuck for a few more days as the country's airline industry was halted. On that same day, Chief Master Sgt. Jodi Stauber (Ret.) and Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Bruch (Ret.) were in an elevator at the Air National Guard Readiness Center and knew they had to get home. As the FAA shut down air traffic, Jodi and Jeff rented one of the last vehicles available in Washington D.C. and drove home to Minnesota. Another interesting part of this day was our sister unit, the 133rd Airlift Wing, had a C-130 taking off from Andrews Air Force Base, Md. at the same time the airliner was headed toward the Pentagon. Lt Col. Steve O'Brien, the pilot, was vectored onto that aircraft and watched it crash into the center of our military. Knowing there was nothing they could do from the skies over Washington; he turned and began to fly to the west back to Minnesota. On the way, he once again was asked to determine what was happening with a fourth potentially troubled airliner. The C-130 saw the crash site of the aircraft the passengers overtook over the Keystone State and saw the debris from the airplane over the fields of the Pennsylvania countryside. Now it is 10 years later and on that day we all acted and reacted to the situation at hand. Little did we know how much those events would change all of our lives forever! FIGHT'S ON!!!

Now I have come back to present time and need to give the On Five readers an update on the next technological step. Soon, the 148th Fighter Wing will be uploading a Facebook page onto the Ethernet of life. The Air Force, Air National Guard and Armed Services have recognized that social media is a trend we should not ignore. It's a mechanism many people utilize to stay current with their friends, families, old high school classmates, etc. What does this mean? It means you'll be able to read my Bulldog Bits article via a cyber café, logging onto the 148th's external webpage through Google, Bing, or Yahoo accessing the information onto your Kindle, iPad, Nook, or other electronic mechanism. If you had told my grandparents within 100 years we were going from using the Pony Express to send messages, to having millions of pages of information available without a white piece of paper, they would have laughed at you. We've come a loooooong way!!

It seems early to say Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays on a day when the weather forecast is set for 80 degrees above and the leaves have not yet begun to change. But before we know it, the Christmas bells will be ringing, the red kettles for the Salvation Army fundraising will be in front of stores, and we'll be shoveling the white stuff. I wanted to add a small paragraph to thank the members of the Wing, their families, employers and friends for supporting the 148th Fighter Wing on our mission. We have become one of the best Air Guard units in the country because of our members, the support we receive from our loved ones and our employers and from the quality of individuals we all work together to be. The Proud Tradition from the 148th members who served before us laid the ground work for the success of this unit. The leadership, past and present, provided each of the members with the drive to Be the Best, Expect the Best, Provide the Best! Now we continue to strive to leave a Legacy of Excellence to those we serve with today and in the future. Have a great Holiday Season!



To connect to the 148th
Fighter Wing website, scan
this tag with your smart
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www.148fw.ang.af.mil