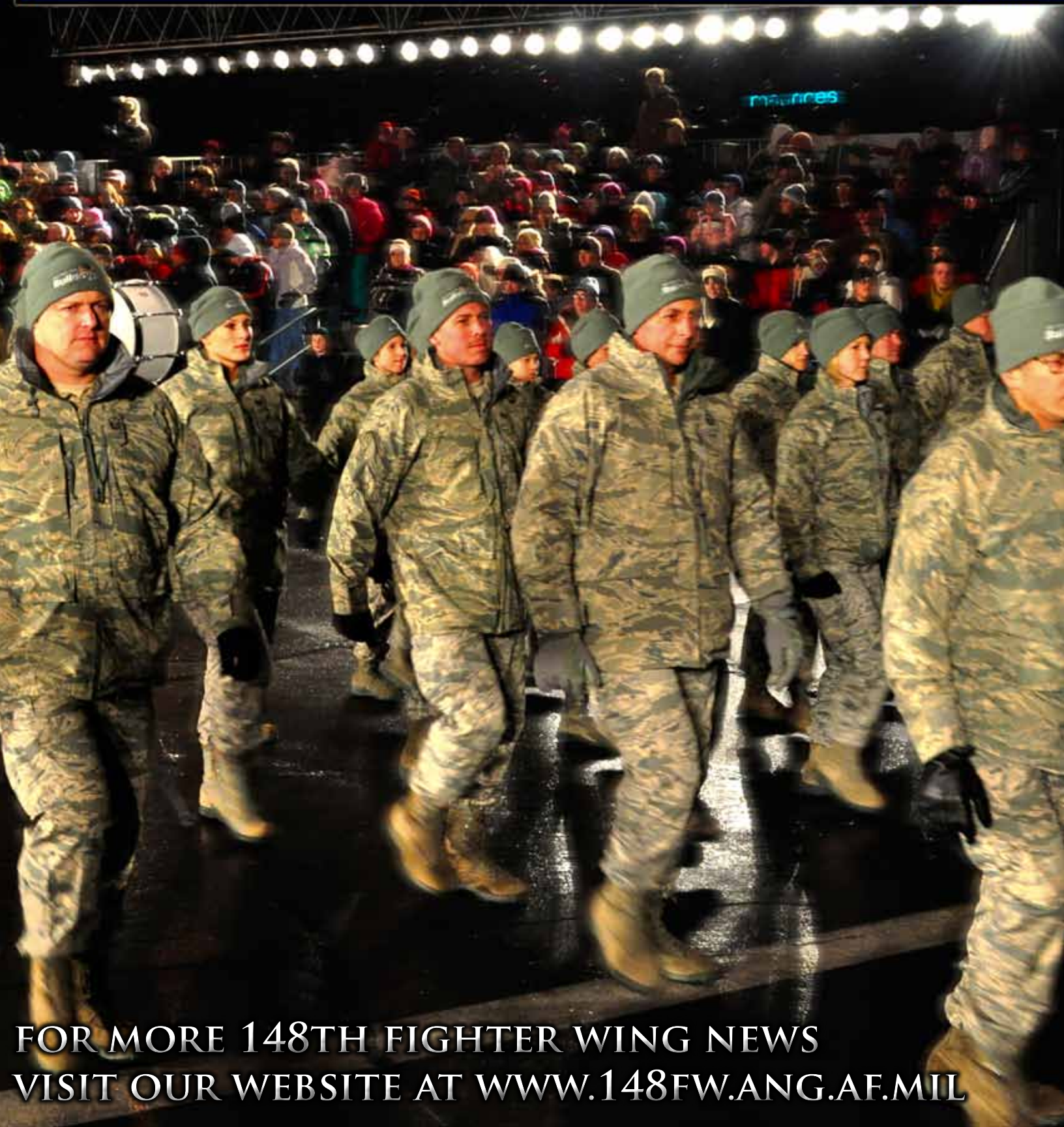


ON FIVE

JAN/FEB/MAR 2012



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.148FW.ANG.AF.MIL



Active Associate Wing

What Does it Mean for the 148th?

Col. Frank Stokes was born in Duluth, Minn. and grew up in Lakeside. I'm a Hermantown, Minn. native and Chief Michael Layman is proud to be a "Ranger." Most of us at the 148th are Viking or Packer fans and have ties to Minnesota or Wisconsin. But, there's a new group of people coming to work at the 148th in the near future who won't have those hometown ties. With the 148th identified to become an Active Associate Wing, approximately 40 and possibly over 80 active duty Air Force personnel will spend a tour at Duluth for the first time since the Duluth Air Force Base closed in 1982.

Selection to become an Active Associate Wing didn't just happen; it's been in the works for several years. Our state elected leaders, Minnesota Joint Force Headquarters leadership, three consecutive wing commanders, Mayor Ness and the Duluth Chamber's Military Affairs Committee all worked hard to sell the 148th and the city of Duluth as the right location for an Associate Associate Wing. Active duty personnel could arrive at the 148th Fighter Wing as early as sometime this year followed by more in 2013 and 2014.

Many of you are probably asking why the active duty is sending their people to a Guard base. The answer is two-fold. First, the active duty doesn't have enough jets to keep all their pilots

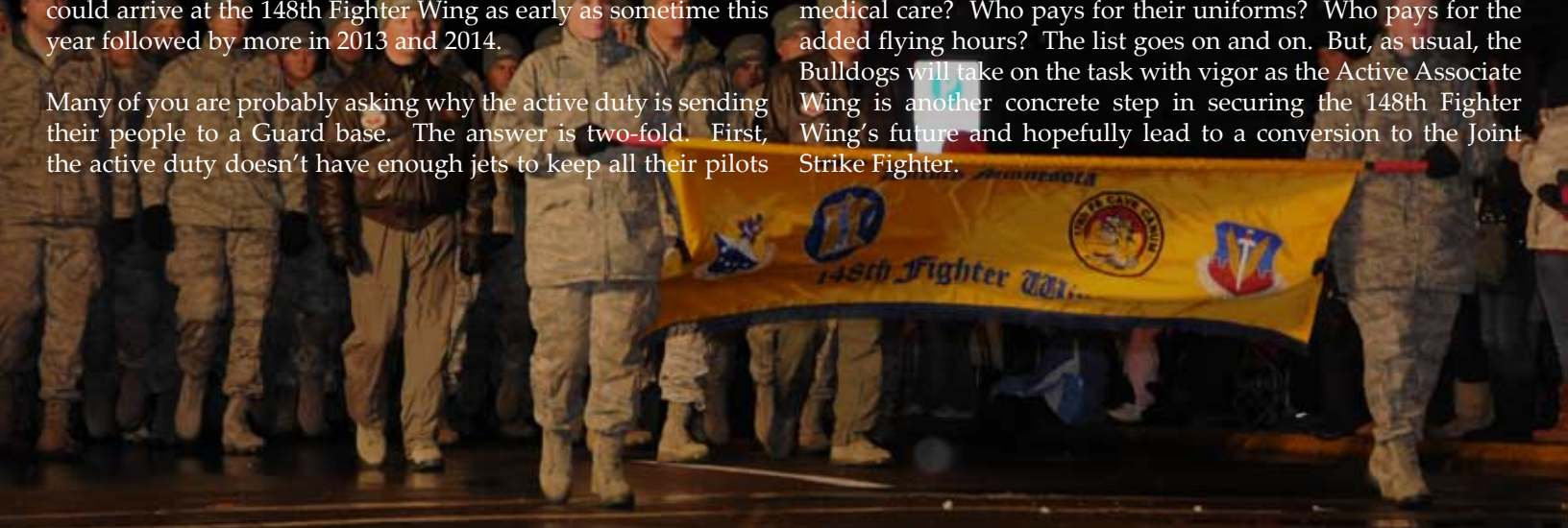
trained and mission qualified so they are tapping into the Air National Guard's (ANG) highly experienced pilot force and stellar fleet of jets for training. Second, the ANG's maintenance force averages 17-19 years of experience working on jets. The active duty can send young inexperienced Airmen to an ANG unit where they can get training from the most highly qualified maintainers in the business. It's a win-win partnership where the active duty gets training they can't match elsewhere and the ANG gets additional manning to boost its maintenance capacity.



Col. Steven Wabrowetz

The active duty group will likely consist of about four pilots and somewhere in the vicinity of 40 maintenance personnel (10:1 ratio) plus an officer and senior non-commissioned officer. The pilots will be inexperienced and require additional sorties each month. The majority of the maintainers will be 3-levels, many just out of their first technical school.

While the 148th eagerly anticipates arrival of the active duty personnel, work remains to be done before the first active duty boot steps on our ramp. The administrative and logistical arrangements are staggering but not insurmountable. Where will they live and eat? How will the young troops get to and from work? Where will they get medical care? Who pays for their uniforms? Who pays for the added flying hours? The list goes on and on. But, as usual, the Bulldogs will take on the task with vigor as the Active Associate Wing is another concrete step in securing the 148th Fighter Wing's future and hopefully lead to a conversion to the Joint Strike Fighter.



148TH FIGHTER WING BIDS FAREWELL TO COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SGT. LAYMAN

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

"It's been a pleasure to serve with the men and women of the 148th," said 148th Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Layman.

Layman, a Bulldog since October of 1986, spent his final day as the command chief of the 148th Fighter Wing Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011 after 22 months of service in that position--during which Layman gave Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Rukavina the command chief title in a Transfer of Authority ceremony at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC) in Duluth, Minn.

"I tried to give the position its due," said Layman.

Being the command chief for the 148th Fighter Wing allowed Layman to serve as a liaison for all the enlisted members in his charge--a function he views as vital in the successful operations of the Wing.

"This position really is a vehicle or a conduit to be able to take concerns from the enlisted force and explain them or advocate for them to the commander, and then take the commander's vision and be able to present it to the enlisted corps. You can call it a go-between, but you're really a vehicle for the commander to get his thoughts out. He just can't come and sit and talk to everyone, and neither can I, but what I can do is talk to the chiefs, or talk to different groups at different times. There's a little difference in me discussing with a group to convey the commander's intent rather than the commander doing it; there's a different type of dialog that happens. The same is true for me to take those concerns from the enlisted force and go and talk to the commander because the dialog is different. Not that I'm not intimidated, but the relationship level is different."

"That ability to talk to him is the reason I wanted to be a command chief," said Layman.

According to Layman, the chance to become the command chief was the result of the correct circumstances and opportunities lining up.

"It was a culmination or zenith of being able to positively impact the unit; to be a representative of the enlisted corps, to the commander first and foremost, but to all the officers, all the group commanders, and commanders," said Layman.

Prior to being selected for command chief, Layman was the quality assurance chief at the 148th.

"My role as a quality assurance superintendent or chief was to have oversight of the maintenance that's being done at the 148th Fighter Wing. Though I don't write all the policies or procedures,



I had oversight over everything that was written. There are too many gray areas that have to be defined, and that's our job."

Layman describes the difficulty inherent in the struggle to both accomplish the mission and yet follow the letter of the many procedures.

"It's a blend; you have to meet the mission requirements and you have to get the job done, but you can't compromise any principle. So you have to be able to do both. You follow written guidance, but you still get the job done. It's certainly possible, but there are some that would say it's not," said Layman.

Layman recalls that negativity was the largest obstacle he faced in his 31 years of service.

"There are challenges that will come your way--no matter what position you're in--if you can just meet those challenges with a positive attitude, knowing that though it seems difficult in that time, over time, the way in which you handle yourself, or the attitude you have in any situation will have far greater, and far longer lasting consequences than the actual outcome of that situation," said Layman.

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

2012
COMMANDER Col. Frank H. Stokes
VICE COMMANDER Lt. Col. Jon S. Safstrom
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS Capt. Julie M. Grandaw
1st. Lt. Jodi L. Kiminski
WING EXECUTIVE STAFF OFFICER Maj. Babette S. Van Hees
EDITOR Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington
PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF - Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka, Master Sgt. Jason W. Rolfe, Tech. Sgt. Brett R. Ewald, Tech. Sgt. Margaret R. Engebretson, Tech. Sgt. Amie M. Dahl, Tech. Sgt. Julie M. Tomaska, Staff Sgt. Donald L. Acton, Tech. Sgt. Nancy L. Hanson, Senior Airman Sarah C. Hayes.
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR Master Sgt. Paula J. Kane

Table with 2 columns: UTA and SUTA, listing dates from Jan to Dec.

ON THE COVER...Members of the 148th Fighter Wing march in the Duluth Christmas City of the North Parade Nov. 18, 2011, (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett Ewald.)

For more 148th stories, visit us at www.148fw.ang.af.mil



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148TH FIGHTER WING OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR

AIRMAN OF THE YEAR



National Guard photo by Senior Airman Sarah Hayes

SENIOR AIRMAN KAYLA GOORHOUSE

Senior Airman Kayla Goorhouse, a services journeyman, was selected as the 148th Fighter Wing's 2012 Airman of the Year for her accomplishments in 2011. During this period, Goorhouse completed and exceeded requirements for the difficult Serve Safe training, displayed leadership as an active participant in the second consecutive Global Patriot Exercise at Camp Ripley, Minn., all while enrolled as a fulltime student at the College of St. Scholastica. As a services journeyman, she meticulously prepares and serves meals each Unit Training Assembly, providing exceptional service to approximately 800 Airmen and manages the tracking system which accounts for personnel served in the dining facility.



National Guard photo by Senior Airman Sarah Hayes

NCO OF THE YEAR

Technical Sgt. Jon Clauson, budget analyst, was selected as the 148th Fighter Wing's 2012 Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year for his accomplishments in 2011. During this period, Clauson was elected president of the 148th Fighter Wing Bulldog Enlisted Council, a role charged with promoting and encouraging professionalism, core values, diversity, trust, integrity and a focus on professional development of Airmen. He was responsible for the accurate and proper planning, budgeting, allocation and execution of \$40,000 in operations and maintenance and \$1.6 million in military personnel appropriation funding critical to wing mission success. As a budget analyst, Clauson executes the wordy control officer role, making him responsible for 62,590 days valued at \$11.8 million.



National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka

TECHNICAL SGT. JON CLAUSON



National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka

SENIOR NCO OF THE YEAR

Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Wolff, the weapons safety manager for the 148th, was selected as the 148th Fighter Wing's 2012 Senior Non Commissioned Officer of the Year for his accomplishments in 2011. During this period, Wolff was selected as the Adjutant General's 2011 Outstanding Safety Individual--making him the first Airman to receive this award in Minnesota. He was critical in the 148th achieving Occupational Safety and Health Associations's Voluntary Protection Program Star rating recertification in April of 2011, and was chosen to be the focal point for explosive site planning of a more than \$1 million munitions storage expansion project. As the Weapons Safety Manager, Wolff is responsible for 5,000 technical orders and their currency and is currently deployed overseas.



National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka

SENIOR MASTER SGT. MATTHEW WOLFF



National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka

FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR



National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Don Acton

SENIOR MASTER SGT. MARK GRAVES

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Graves, First Sergeant, was selected as the 148th Fighter Wing's 2012 First Sergeant of the Year for his accomplishments in 2011. During this period, Graves served as the First Sergeants' Council president, insuring all first sergeants were aligned with current Wing priorities. He developed and implemented a mid-level ranks curriculum to create a NCO development course at the 148th Fighter Wing. He supported all Wing deployment taskings, including the deployments to Tyndall and Nellis Air Force Bases. As first sergeant for the Headquarters and Operations Groups, Graves has been instrumental in the ongoing development and timely recognition of all deployed members and their families through the Home Town Heroes Program.



National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Don Acton

YEAR IN REVIEW

Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Freeman signals a 148th Fighter Wing Pilot to stop after a flight with St. Paul Mayor Christopher B. Coleman. Coleman and U.S Congressman Chip Cravaack both experienced the thrill of a ride in a Block 50 F-16.



National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington

St. Louis County Rescue Squad members prepare a 148th Fighter Wing pilot for transport during a major accident response exercise at Fish Lake, Duluth, Minn. July 26, 2011. The exercise simulated rescuing a pilot after an F-16 crashed into a lake.

Four F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 148th Fighter Wing conduct a flyover during the national anthem at the 2011 Minnesota Twins home opener at Target Field Minneapolis, Minn. April 8, 2011. More than 130 Minnesota National Guard members display a 1,600 pound flag during the flyover.



National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington

Members of the 148th Fighter Wing attend a pre-deployment briefing prior to flying to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Oct. 15, 2011. The deployment's focus was the conversion to the 148th's new Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) mission.

Employers of 148th Fighter Wing members pose with a Block 50 F-16 during a tour Nov. 1, 2011. The tour and accompanying breakfast allow the employers to learn about the 148th and their employees' military careers.

Senior Master Sgt. Todd Zimmer coordinates with Minnesota State Troopers Oct. 6, 2011 during a public health exercise. The exercise simulated the distribution of large quantities of a vaccine to the northland.



National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson



National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett R. Ewald



National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington

Members of the 148th Fighter Wing work with volunteers during the final assembly of the F-16 Static Display Aug. 19, 2011 at the entrance to the 148th Fighter Wing.

A Bulldog youth learns about fire fighting equipment during Family Day at the 148th Fighter Wing Sept. 10, 2011.

Members of the 148th Fighter Wing execute a checklist during weapons loading operations in the June 11, 2011 Operational Readiness Exercise. The exercise was designed to refamiliarize Airmen with Force Protection Conditions, Mission Oriented Protection Postures and for members to perform the mission while wearing the Chemical Protective Overgarment.

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton and U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar meet with 148th Fighter Wing member Senior Master Sgt. Ted Windus Jr. and Minnesota Army National Guard members Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Zamora, and Spc. Jacob Runge in Ely, Minn. Sept. 16, 2011. The Air and Army National Guard worked hand-in-hand to battle the fires in the Ely, Minn. area using Blackhawk helicopters and the refueling trucks necessary to keep them airborne and full of fuel.



National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett R. Ewald



National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington



National Guard photo by Senior Airman Sarah C. Hayes



National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka

AWARDS, RETIREMENT, & HOMETOWN HEROES CEREMONY

Members of the 148th Fighter Wing receive certificates for completing their Community College of the Air Force degrees.

National Guard photo by Senior Airman Sarah Hayes



Capt. Chris Rogge poses with Vice Wing Commander Lt. Col. Jon Safstrom and Wing Commander Col. Frank Stokes after being awarded the 148th Fighter Wing Company Grade Officer of the Year.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Layman stands in front of the 148th Fighter Wing as senior leadership recount his 31 years of service.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Layman applauds his wife, Theresa Layman, after she was presented the Military Spouse Medal.

National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett Ewald



The 148th Fighter Wing Honor Guard perform a flag folding ceremony in honor of the retirees standing behind them.

National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett Ewald



National Guard photo by Senior Airman Sarah Hayes



National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett Ewald



National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett Ewald



National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett Ewald



National Guard photo by Senior Airman Sarah Hayes



Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Rukavina addresses the 148th Fighter Wing for the first time as command chief during the Transfer of Authority ceremony.

148th Fighter Wing Pilot of the Year 1st Lt. A.J. Cox poses with 148th Fighter Wing Operations Group Commander Col. Gerald Ostern and Wing Commander Col. Frank Stokes.

148th Fighter Wing retirees stand as the Wing honors their years of service and dedication during the retirement ceremony.

CHIEF'S CORNER

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. MARVIN MISGEN

Good leadership is essential for the success of any organization. Developing leaders with the fundamental skills and core competencies necessary for continued success requires professional mentoring and selfless dedication to others.

A mentor has been defined as a trusted counselor or teacher, an influential sponsor or supporter, a coach, a motivator, and a role model. Look around during any drill weekend and you will see all of these principles in action. There are new recruits being shown around by their sponsors who are answering their many questions, helping them fill out forms and undoubtedly giving an honest opinion about what life is like as a Bulldog in the 148th Fighter Wing. There are Airmen helping others through their career development course (CDC) coursework, providing study tips, and keeping them motivated to complete their professional military education (PME) on schedule. There are countless skilled crew chiefs and Airmen teaching their craft and imparting lessons to future leaders and supervisors of the 148th. We show up for drill wearing the uniform properly, follow customs and courtesies and set good examples for those around us. All of these actions demonstrate mentoring in action at a basic informal level.

The Air Force also has formal mentoring programs as outlined in AFI 36-3401, Air Force Mentoring. Their purpose is to provide career guidance, technical and professional development, leadership, Air Force history and heritage, knowledge of air and space power doctrine, strategic vision and contribution to joint war fighting, knowledge of the ethics of our military and civil service professions and an understanding of the Air Force's core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.

The Air National Guard Mentoring Program, ANGI 36-3401 discusses the importance of mentoring to develop competent and confident leaders to successfully accomplish the mission. It is through good mentoring that we learn and enhance the leadership competencies of communication, supervision, teaching, job proficiency, decision-making, planning, use of available technologies and systems and professional ethics.

DULUTH FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES PATRIOT AWARD

BY MASTER SGT. RALPH J. KAPUSTKA, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Col. Frank H. Stokes, 148th Fighter Wing Commander presented the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Award to Fire Chief John Strongtharm and Deputy Chief Bryan Bushey of the Duluth Fire Department during a ceremony held in Duluth, Minn. on Nov. 1, 2011. Stokes thanked them both for the support they provide to their military members and for sharing their employees with the Guard.

The Duluth Fire Department (DFD) was nominated for the Patriot Award by seven members of the 148th Fighter Wing for the exceptional support they provide to their military service. If deployed, the Duluth Fire Department ensures that all Servicemembers return to the position they held prior to their deployment, and are welcomed home by their supervisors and peers. All Servicemembers are treated with dignity and respect with regard to their military service.

Almost half of our military force resides in the Reserve component which is comprised of the Guard and Reserve. The men and women who serve in the Reserve component are unique in that they also have civilian employers. Support of America's employers, and the employees they share with the nation, ensure the viability of the all-volunteer force and help to ensure our national security.

The Patriot Award recognizes employers who support a strong National Guard and Reserve force. Employers qualify for recognition by practicing leadership and personnel policies that support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve.



Scoutmaster Staff Sgt. Jerome A. Blazevic assists Boy Scout Troop 13 during a 50 mile hike in 1960.

We are fortunate at the 148th to have a positive environment that supports mentoring and leadership development from the moment we get back from basic training. It is important to take this seriously as we progress through our careers. The formal mentoring program adds structure and tools to the process and is organized to help ensure the continued development of our Airmen. Informal mentoring is no less important and is taking place all around us, all the time.

As we progress through our careers, we will all be given the opportunity to be teachers, coaches and role models. It is our responsibility to pass on the best of what we have learned to ensure our continued success and avoid our past mistakes. This is the mentoring process. It is the basis of our future leaders, it enables us to provide the best trained personnel to complete the mission and it will help ensure the continued success of our organization.



John Strongtharm and Bryan Bushey (holding awards) from the Duluth, Minn. Fire department and winners of the Patriot Award pose for a group photo with the members of the 148th Fighter Wing who nominated them for the award. The 148th members who are also members of the Duluth Fire Department nominated their supervisors due to the exceptional support they receive with regard to their military service. (National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph Kapustka)

PROSTATE HEALTH...WHY GET CHECKED?

BY LT. COL. RICHARD PASQUARELLA, MEDICAL SQUADRON

This is for the "real men" of the 148th and of course those who love you. As the end of year holidays come and go, and as the new year begins, many of us reflect on the past year's events and happenings and begin to plan resolutions for the next...anybody fail this one in the past?

If you neglected the engine and inner mechanics of your vehicles and are only concerned with outside appearances, it could mean trouble may be lurking ahead. The same goes for our bodies. Men, likely since the beginning of time, have been known to consistently neglect their innards and often avoid the doctor like the plague. Am I right? That is why I chose the topic of prostate health to talk about. It's all about "men" in this column, sorry women of the 148th. Albeit, more women need to know about prostate/men's health so you too may become more of a health advocate for the man or men in your lives who may be neglecting their inner mechanics. Why get checked? Prostate problems usually are more common as we age. (Not everyone will have a problem). However, if problems are caught early most can be successfully treated. Especially prostate cancer! If caught early, there is a high cure rate and most men live a long productive life.

What are the risk factors? (Things that make someone more likely to have a problem).

- Age: Most prostates grow larger with age and cancer possibilities increase with age.
- Race or ethnicity: African-Americans are more likely to develop a cancer at a younger age than others.
- Family history: If your grandfather, father or brother had prostate cancer, this significantly increases your risk.

What are the symptoms?

- Difficult or very frequent urination or pressure feeling in the genital region or rectum, this could also mean an enlarged prostate called (BPH).
- Pain or burning with urination. This may be an infection or simple prostatitis (inflammation) of the prostate.
- NO symptoms. Most prostate cancers DO NOT have any symptoms. (This is mainly why we have exams and screening tests).

When should I start exams and screening?

- Without any family history, exams usually start at age 50. Earlier with significant family history.

What should I expect with the screening?

- First your provider will ask you questions about your family health history.
- Next will be a physical exam.
- Next a simple blood test called a PSA (prostate specific antigen). If this is in your blood stream and is high, it could be a sign of prostate cancer.

If any of the above seems abnormal to your family provider, you will be referred to a urologist (specialist in urinary systems). If the urologist is concerned, a biopsy (tissue sample) of the prostate may be needed. This is really the only way to confirm or not a presence of cancer.

What can I do to help prevent problems?

- As always, a healthy diet and exercise!
- Decrease saturated fats (especially meats).
- Some prostate healthy foods: tomatoes, salsas, nuts, fish, grains, and green veggies.
- There are some dietary supplements that are available also. Ask your provider for a list of recommendations.

Guys, you owe it to yourself and your loved ones to try hard to keep both your inside and outside in as great of shape as possible. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to stop by the clinic and one of us will answer them as best as we can.



148th medical personnel treat their fellow Bulldogs in the 1960's.

PROMOTIONS

OCTOBER

ESSON, TREVOR, MSG, AMN
OLSON, JUSTIN, 179FS, AMN
YEPMA, ZACHARY, FSS, AMN
LEE, DANIEL, HQ, SRA
SUNDEEN, CORY, AMXS, SRA
CHARTIER, MARTHA, OSF, SSGT
HEWITT, PAUL, HQ, SSGT
OLSON, WHITNEY, AMXS, SSGT
SANDERS, MICHAEL, MXS, SSGT
DAVIDSON, BEAU, FSS, TSGT
GIERNETT, ROBERT, LRS, TSGT
JENDERNY, WAYNE, CES, TSGT
KNIGHT, ADAM, AMXS, TSGT
KNIGHT, ANDREW, AMXS, TSGT
MATACZYNSKI, ANNIE, FSS, TSGT
NELSON, AMANDA, MDG, TSGT
RONCHETTI, BRENT, FSS, TSGT
ROSEN, TYLER, CES, TSGT

NOVEMBER

LUSTIG, AMANDA, MXS, SSGT
VERHEL, ELISE, AMXS, SSGT
EHLERS, WADE, AMXS, TSGT
KEOLA, VERNON, CES, TSGT
MCLEOD, CHRISTOPHER, CPTR FT, TSGT
STANIUS, RICKARD, MXS, TSGT
WITT, CHRISTOPHER, AMXS, TSGT
ADAMCZAK, MICHAEL, MXS, MSGT
BERG, GERALD, MSG, MSGT

DECEMBER

LARSON, TROY, FSS, AMN
NELSON, ANDRIA, FSS, A1C
COUCH, AARON, MXS, SRA
DAVIDSON, LUKE, FSS, SRA
JAHR, KEVIN, AMXS, SRA
MORIN, BROOKE, CF, SRA
O'CONNOR, ERIC, AMXS, SRA
RANTA, TYLER, SFS, SRA
ST JOHN, MICHAEL, AMXS, SRA
EWALD, AMY, MDG, SSGT
KUSTER, ERIC, CF, SSGT
RECHTFERTIG, JENNIFER, FSS, SSGT
SCHANELEC, RUSSELL, MXS, SSGT
EKLUND, MELISSA, MOF, TSGT
OKSTAD, VANCE, MXS, TSGT
OLSON, DANIEL, MXS, TSGT
SCHEIB, MARK, AMXS, MSGT
VERVILLE, KURT, MOF, MSGT
GERADS, STEVEN, MXS, SMSGT
JACKSON, DAVID, MOF, SMSGT

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BulldogBits



By Col. Penny J. Dieryck

Well another year has quickly flown by. The Wing is in the final months of conversion to the Block 50 F-16s. As we approach the new year; the pilots, maintainers and support elements are preparing for a road trip to the mecca of flying space and dog fighting, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. An aviation package of over 120 people, 10 airplanes, and thousands of pounds of cargo will be moving down Route 61 to the Nellis ramp. The test during this deployment will be for the pilots to employ the war time fighting capabilities, suppression of enemy air defenses and finding and killing the bad guy in the sky. This deployment will be the final testing ground of our new frontier in this destruction of enemy air defense mission. The hard work and dedication which the Wing has placed once again into this conversion is a true testament of how the Bulldogs are handed a challenge to figure out and rise to the occasion. Not only have the operations staff poured their heart and soul into these efforts, so have the maintenance personnel with striving to bring the F-16s up to Duluth standards. The mission support and headquarters staffs have responded to each of the needs the flying operation has placed upon them. We will fly, fight and win!

The conversion has continued to place the Wing's emphasis on construction and remodeling projects. The biggest one of this year is the new POL Facility. What is POL? It stands for petroleum, oil and lubricants, i.e., the fuel farm. This new state-of-the-art facility is environmentally friendly, built with today's security standards surrounding it. With the new fuel facility comes a new entrance to the base. The goal of having a second road into the Wing for deliveries is on the horizon. The civil engineers have been coordinating with the Duluth Airport Authority, Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, the city of Duluth and state of Minnesota to obtain the proper legal descriptions, right of ways and cooperative agreements to prepare the roadway, lay down blacktop and build a security gate house so the large delivery trucks will not have to come through the small roadways of the Wing.

The changes with the conversion and continued construction projects are the mechanisms in place to make the 148th Fighter Wing a great location for the Active Associate Wing concept. This ideal places active duty U.S. Air Force members at an Air National Guard unit for upgrade and on-the-job training. The main focus of an Active Associate Wing is to provide the

means for increased flying training and sortie production while giving Airmen the skills to progress in their career field.

Why would the 148th and the Duluth area be a superb place for this initiative, you may ask? Well, here are a few areas in my personal opinion, where we exceed the Air Force standard:

1. Training airspace for the pilot
2. Lease on the land for the next 50+ years
3. Facility square feet
4. Construction dollars (\$96 million over the last 9 years)
5. Upcoming projects (back gate, weapons load, upgrade to Munitions Storage Area igloos, simulators)
6. Airport Authority Joint Use Agreement and Mutual Aid agreements with the Arrowhead Regional Volunteer Fire Association (AJUA, fire dept.)
7. Potential basing options (campus apartments, rentals, homes, etc.)
8. The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee and its commitment to local military organizations
9. Duluth being a "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" city
10. Four major colleges/universities with course options to fulfill Community College of the Air Force course work
11. Being a BULLDOG who will carry on the Proud Tradition to Be the Best, Expect the Best and Provide the Best to Leave a Legacy of Excellence!

Let's continue to capture these ideals for now and for the next 60 years.



Summer 1949. Work progresses on the hangar. Flightline and operations buildings are set up on the new ramp.



To connect to the 148th
Fighter Wing website, scan
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