

THUNDERBUMPER

South Dakota

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

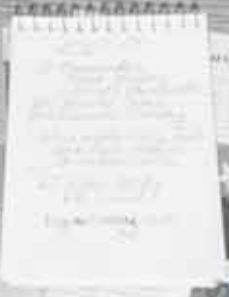


VOLUME THIRTY NINE NUMBER 1

Final Issue

March 2012

EDITOR



.....*A word from past commanders*.....

**A LOOK BACK AT COMMANDER
COMMENTS FROM PAST
THUNDERBUMPERS**

“So you think you’re a leader! In today’s terms, that means you’re a manager of resources, a supervisor, knowledgeable in human relations and communications, and a problem solver. If these topics seem rusty maybe it’s time to go back to school...so courses are available and what you do with this information is up to you, but remember, education is a continuing process.”

- Col. Justin Berger, August 1974



*Col. Justin L. Berger
Commander, 1966-1980*



*Col. John N. Olson
Commander, 1980-1983*

“I am very proud and pleased to know that the hours of dedication and sacrifice of every unit member paid off in such a great honor as the Wilson Trophy.”

- Col. John Olson, November 1981



*Col. Philip G. Killey
Commander, 1983-1987*

“The challenges that lay ahead are great - the sacrifices will be tough-but the right to live and be free is worth it. That’s my challenge to you as I finish my final commander’s column - be the best you can possibly be.”

- Col. Philip G. Killey, March 1987



*Col. Brian C. Bade
Commander, 1987-1993*

“You have the right to expect a commitment to quality from your leaders and fellow guardsmen. We are all expected to work to be the best. As we prepare for a demanding year of training in 1993 we have the right to take pride in a quality effort this past year and to work confidently together knowing that we will do even better next year!”

- Col. Brian Bade, November 1992



*Col. Thomas J. Lien
Commander, 1993-2002*

“Many things have changed during my time in the 114th Fighter Wing. We have had changes in aircraft, missions, buildings, and how we do day-to-day operations. Our personnel and aircraft deploy around the world and outstanding performance is the norm wherever we go. You and your fellow “Fightin’ Lobos” are what have made this unit consistently outstanding throughout the years.”

- Lt. Col. Tom Lien, October 2002



*Col. Steven R. Doochen
Commander, 2002-2006*

“The 114 FW was recently honored by receiving the John Pesch Flight Safety Award. The Wing has an excellent safety record. This record is the result of exceptional teamwork, attention to detail and, most importantly, not accepting anything but the very best. All unit members should take pride in receiving this award. My congratulations go out to all of you on this award.”

- Col. Steve Doochen, November 2004



*Col. Russ A. Walz
Commander, 2006-Present*

“While the future of what specifically will be required downrange for AEF’s remains uncertain, we can be assured that it can’t be done without the Air National Guard. Our transformation from a strategic to operational reserve force continues to provide a relevant and reliable solution for our nation.”

- Col. Russ Walz, October 2009

What's the news of the day?

After 39 years and 409 issues, the Thunderbumper bids farewell. This will be the last issue of the South Dakota Air National Guard Thunderbumper publication. Volume one, number one of the titled "Thunderbumper" was written on a typewriter, photocopied, and hand delivered to our unit members in February 1973.

You may question the origin of this unusual title and the story is printed in the first issue in 1973 explaining this name. It goes;

The name THUNDERBUMPER is a term used by pilots in defining an atmospheric event containing a number of up and down air currents, clouds, turbulence, lightning, and shriek moments of excitement and sometimes outstanding terror while flying through. The technical meteorological term for this event is a thunderstorm. We really don't want this newsletter to be a thunderbumper, no matter how it appears, but it sounded like a good name.

Prior to February 1973, sev-

eral other titles were used for the news-sharing publications put out to unit members. These included the earliest issues of the 175th Vapor Trails in June 1951 and the simply titled Air Guard News from July 1958. Whatever they were called, the publications were written by unit members, for unit members and kept us in touch with the events of the time and also now provide us with a historical record of the unit's past events.

The 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office will continue to provide unit members with the news of the unit by using the technology of today and the future. Websites and social media have taken over and made our ability to share our news and photographs much quicker and in many cases in living color and action. Visit our website at www.114fw.af.mil for news stories, press releases and videos.

175TH VAPOR TRAILS

22 June 1951

VOL. 1 NO.1

175th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron

MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, SIOUX FALLS, SO. DAK.

175TH TEAMS VICTORIOUS

SQUADRON PARTY POSTPONED

The all-squadron party which was to be held tonight at East Hall on Wall Lake has been postponed because of the heavy rainfall.

The party has been tentatively set for next Friday night* (June 29) at the same location.

All officers and airmen of the 175th are invited to attend the gala event. Wives and sweethearts of squadron personnel may also attend.

Those who have not purchased tickets may do so by contacting T/Sgt Ray Falon, engineering.

The undefeated 175th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron baseball team notched its fifth victory last night by defeating the S. Dak. Redjackets 8-2 at Howard Wood field.

Softball equally held the spotlight last night as Leonard Rollag pitched a two-hitter to lead the 175th softballers to an 11-1 win over Brunson.

Rollag, who has received credit for each of the 175th's three wins had a double and single to aid his own cause. He fanned eight in pitching his second two-hitter of the season. Yesterday's victory gave the 175th softballers, coached by Pfc. Pfeifer, a 3-1 record.

(Story cont'd on page 3)

THE AIR GUARD NEWS

114th FIGHTER GROUP (AD), SOUTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Vol. 1, No. 1 Joe Foss Field, Sioux Falls, South Dakota July, 1958

175th FIS

BEST IN THE NATION

By Lloyd Noteboom
Argus-Leader Staff Writer

There's been no doubt in the minds of the personnel of the 175th Fighter - Interceptor Squadron that they belong to the top outfit.

Today the glow of pride generated by the squadron personnel and Col. D. L. Corning, commander of the 114th Air Defense Fighter Group, was almost bright enough to ignite afterburners.

Because today the squadron has proof that it is the top Air National Guard Squadron among the 89 ANG Squadrons in the entire United States.

Col. Corning was notified that the squadron will be awarded three first place trophies, the first time in the history of the ANG that a single unit received all three of the top awards.

THE AWARDS ARE:
Spaatz trophy as the outstanding AFNG tactical flying squadron for the calendar year of 1957. (The local unit also won this trophy in 1949.)
Air Force Association Outstanding Unit trophy as the outstanding AFNG tactical flying squadron.
Winston P. Wilson trophy as the outstanding AFNG fighter-interceptor all-weather squadron.

SPAATZ TROPHY

(Continued next page)

THUNDERBUMPER

114th Tactical Fighter Group-South Dakota Air National Guard Sioux Falls, S.D.

VOLUME ONE, NUMBER ONE FEBRUARY 1973

TO THE LOSS OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIEND
AND A GREAT SQUADRON COMMANDER-----L/C LESLIE A. YOUNG

This was a gent who took the blunt of a thousand deeds done wrong, right, or otherwise of you and me. A person who respected everyone's relative needs to the program regardless how small or insignificant they may have been-----

It seemed to go un-noticed, the hours and hours of extra time he spent cradling and protecting, in his own way, us unsuspecting and pompous pretenders-----

He who could set and ponder face to face with you a mediocre decision that had to be made to pacify the childish whims of such as you and I and at the same time listen to the beautiful harmonious rhythmic roar that's necessary to mean your doing well as your wheels were folding into that steel gut-----

It was easy to make a smile or laughter come to him from a sudden and humorous input to fit the situation----and he wasn't bad at contributing his share to the same picture either-----

A deep and understanding feeling for the words of a well-written and sadistic ballad that would prey the mind of a humble man was one of his unknown possessions--- though through hours of trial and tribulations that were spent on his deeming desire to put these sounds onto a melodic instrument----these were not his----So What-----

His fond inseparable love of flying and his conquest of it could not have been surpassed by the God given abilities of the Eagle-----

Please tell me the necessity of our loss that we unknowingly and wantonly must submit----for he, with time and seasoned experience, could have followed the program and produced leadership in the SDANG that may have been unsurpassed in the archives that have yet to be written-----

It is my feeling and belief that you may never fill the empty eternal depth of such a death and that your mind will submit only to pre-occupation at best----it seems that one's direct dealings with sadness are only fleeting moments compared to the eternity of hell it will place in the caverns of your mind forever-----God speed Les---and may your new house be forever laden with the beauty and serene peace that

is the quest of us all-----

SO NOW TO PRESS ON AS HE WOULD WANT-----D.K.

The following was taken from the South Dakota Air National Guard's 40th anniversary book published in 1986 and was written by Tech. Sgt. Larry Green. Updated information is provided by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland.



February 1973 marked the first issue of the "Thunderbumper", the newspaper of the South Dakota Air National Guard. It was introduced with the following editorial comment:

"The Thunderbumper is a monthly newsletter about and for the members of the South Dakota Air National Guard. It will be as good as the members want it to be by the submission of news to the contributing editor for each squadron. The name Thunderbumper is a term used by pilots in defining an atmospheric event containing a number of up and down air currents, clouds, turbulence, lightning, and shriek moments of excitement and sometimes outstanding terror while flying through. The technical meteorological term for this event is a thunderstorm. We really don't want this newsletter to be a thunderbumper, no matter how it appears, but it sounded like a good name."

The first issue was marked by a philosophy which has continued - that there should be a mix of both national and unit news stories, official and human interest, straightforward news and a bit of gossip. Among the news items that were reported in the first issue, want ads were a mixture of humor and serious offers. Gordon Bolton was attempting to sell a 17-foot canoe. Others were wishing to buy a used toupe cheap as well as someone seeking to locate a right front fender for a '54 Olds (not rust).

The "Thunderbumper" began as a one-page publication, rapidly growing in size and in the variety of what it offered its readers. Like its namesake, the thunderstorm, the "Thunderbumper" has chronicled the winds of change which have swept across the United States over the years. It has been an observer, a reporter, and a commentator on the changing American scene.

The February 1973 issue reported the tragic death of Lt. Col. Les Young, commander of the 175th Tactical Fighter Squadron, in an auto accident while on a deployment to Holloman AFB, New Mexico. The March issue urged readers to send letters to television networks, encouraging their continuing coverage of the return of American prisoners of war. The Vietnam War remained in focus as quotes from Lt. Col. Leo K. Thorsness expressed his appreciation of support as he returned home from his status as a prisoner of war. Themes of patriotism, the importance of a strong military posture, and the love of country have been consistent throughout.

Technological advances have also been profiled. With the growth of the South Dakota Air National

Guard and its increasing links with the Air Force, the equipment has been more complex, and the upgrading of skills necessary for their operation. Computerized systems became more and more a part of our every day operations, as the equipment got "smarter" and as the need for the organizing and rapid retrieval of information became increasingly vital. The summer of 1977 saw the welcoming of the A-7D aircraft and articles described just what was necessary to convert from one aircraft system to another.

As the unit added members and became more specialized, there was a need to inform people of what was going on in various shops around the base and the kind of work they do. Features on parachute packers, firemen, fuel storage and handling, artists, aircraft inspectors, security operations, and overall plans for improvements around the base were written.

As the South Dakota Air National Guard mission increasingly focused on a worldwide operational capability, articles were written describing deployments: May 1976 - Italy; Fall 1978 - Norway; June 1981 - Volk Field, Wisconsin; September 1982 - Portugal; and May 1985 - England. Other deployments to Arizona and the Panama Canal Zone that have been ongoing in recent years have been profiled.

The "Thunderbumper" has welcomed three Group Commanders to their posts, and bid goodbye to many members, both officer and enlisted. Some of these people date back to the original crew who had a hand in creating the unit and are a part of its history. Their personal commitments to excellence and their motivation to pursue these goals have benefited our organization immeasurably.

Along the way many people have made the "Thunderbumper" possible. Thanks to the contributing editors who faithfully have submitted information about what their squadrons have been doing. The Photo Lab people who bring stories to life with their photo coverage. The Publications people are often on a hectic race with the clock to print the paper each month. Finally, appreciation goes to the people who have been part of the "Thunderbumper" staff through the years. Their help has been greatly valued.

Since the printing of this article in the 1986 South Dakota Air National Guard 40th Anniversary book, the Thunderbumper has seen a lot of changes and even more history in the making.

1990 brought about the beginning of Desert Shield/Desert Storm and the unit conversion to the F-16 followed closely in 1991.

The Thunderbumper continued to report on the changing times at the unit to include the unit's first combat mission with the F-16C in support of Operation Provide Comfort II to Incirlik AB, Turkey in 1993/1994. Throughout the 1990's the Thunderbumper continued to report on the activities of unit members to include those deployed to locations overseas. This made the Thunderbumper not only valued by the members of the unit, but also by the families and retirees left back home waiting for word about loved ones and their activities.

September 11, 2001 is a day in history that will not be forgotten and the Thunderbumper did its best in the aftermath of this tragedy to inform and console the members of the South Dakota Air National Guard.

As our participation in both Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) and Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) deployments increased, the Thunderbumper continued to report on these and other local unit activities, continually changing its appearance as technology and our capabilities grew.

The merger of Visual Information and Public Affairs which began in 2005 confirmed what many of the members of these two shops already knew; that stories and pictures go hand-in-hand to tell our story and so it made sense that the two offices be combined. Unfortunately with the combining of these offices, also came the loss of manning and some funding. The Thunderbumper was forced to go from a monthly publication to an every other month publication. We had fewer people to do the job and less money to work with. In order to keep the unit members informed of events taking place on the off months, the Public Affairs office began creating the "Lobo NOTAMs" in 2005.

As technology started to increase and we became much more "web" savvy, the public affairs office followed the movement and began to use the worldwide web to share stories and pictures. The unit's public website, e-mail, and social network sites like facebook and flickr make it easier and more convenient to get information on unit activities to our members.

The Public Affairs office will continue to share the stories and photos of the South Dakota Air National Guard with our members through the use of the technology of the future, but we will also maintain our past by reflecting back on past issues of our cherished THUNDERBUMPER.

THUNDERBUMPER

Mastheads changed, but the name remained the same . . .

. . . The Thunderbumper.

THUNDER BUMPER

114th Tactical Fighter Group-South Dakota Air National Guard Sioux Falls, S.D.

VOLUME ONE, NUMBER ONE

FEBRUARY 1973

THUNDER BUMPER

ONE, NUMBER ELEVEN

NOVEMBER 1973

114th TACTICAL FIGHTER GROUP - SOUTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD - SIOUX FALLS, S. D.

THUNDER BUMPER

114th Tactical Fighter Group - South Dakota Air National Guard - Sioux Falls, SD

Volume Fourteen Number Ten

October 1986

THUNDER BUMPER

114 Tactical Fighter Group - SDANG

Volume Eighteen Number Two

Sioux Falls, SD

February 1990



THUNDERBUMPER



114 FIGHTER WING - SOUTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

SIOUX FALLS, SD

VOLUME TWENTY-NINE NUMBER ONE

JANUARY 2002

THUNDERBUMPER

South Dakota Air National Guard
114th FIGHTER WING

VOLUME THIRTYTHREE NUMBER 2

MARCH/APRIL 2006

THUNDERBUMPER

South Dakota AIR NATIONAL GUARD



VOLUME THIRTYNINE NUMBER ONE

Final Issue

March 2012

Remembering Publications...

THUNDER BUMPER

114th Tactical Fighter Group - South Dakota Air National Guard - Sioux Falls, SD



MARCH 1977

VOLUME FIVE NUMBER THREE

FIRST A-7 ARRIVES

The South Dakota Air National Guard received its first A-7D Corsair II Attack Aircraft Saturday afternoon. Although the aircraft is officially named the Corsair II, the pilots affectionately call it the "SuperSLUF". The SLUF is an acronym for "Short Little Ugly Fellow". Col Justin L. Berger, Commander of the 114th Tactical Fighter Group commented that "we are pleased to receive current first line equipment to match the quality of the people in the Guard and to fit into the Department of Defense total force policy. We have no doubt that we can handle the airplane and its associated systems."

The first two aircraft will be used to train maintenance technicians on the airframe, engine, and computerized systems. Many personnel have been in school since October 1976 to become familiar with the many complicated systems of this modern day airplane. Maintenance schools have lasted from 54 days to 226 days.

Lt Col Dan Robar, Commander of the 175th Tactical Fighter Squadron, commented that he expects the first fully trained A-7D pilots to return from school this week. It takes approximately 17 weeks of training for a pilot to be classified as an instructor in this aircraft. Most of the pilots are transitioning in the A-7D at Tuscon, Arizona. The Unit will change its manning requirements as there will be fewer aircraft. Presently the Unit has 24 F-100D's which will change to 18 aircraft with the A-7D. However, those personnel no longer required in aircraft maintenance will be transferred to new vacancies in the avionics area due to the sophisticated electronics systems in this aircraft.

The A-7D was first flown in 1968 and accomplished some 5600 hours of tests prior to being released for active service. The aircraft has now flown over two million flight hours and has one of the lowest accident rates of all U.S. Tactical aircraft.

The official transition date of the unit is 1 July 1977 and all A-7D aircraft should be received by the end of August. The F-100D's will all be flown to the storage area at Tuscon, Arizona, with the exception of a few training models, which are scheduled to go to European countries. The F-100D has been serving Air National Guard since 1970.



TAC COMMAND BRIEFING GIVEN TO 114th

"TAF Modernization - the New Era" is a briefing developed by the TAC Command Briefing Team. The slide and film presentation, presented to the SDANG on Sat and Sun of this UTA, has been developed specifically to inform active and reserve personnel on the equipment entering the Tactical Air Forces inventory by 1980.

The briefing stresses the importance of the reserve forces and how their forces are being equipped with modern fighters. This briefing is a comprehensive look at our new developments and emphasizes the importance of modernization and its impact on the Tactical Air Forces capability to continue to meet our commitments.

Capt Greg Crane, a member of the TAC Briefing Team, Langley AFB, presented the "New Era" to the 114th. Capt Crane is highly experienced in the F-4 Phantom and served a tour as an Air Force Exchange Pilot with the Navy. He has over 2300 hours of flying time and 437 combat missions. His decorations include 5 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 26 Air Medals the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.



114th TACTICAL FIGHTER GROUP
THUNDER BUMPER JR.
SOUTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD



VOLUME NINE SPECIAL ISSUE # NINE **VOLK FLD WISC.**

11 JUNE 1981

HOMeward BOUND

*Well, I'm leavin' on a jet plane
Don't know when I'll be back again
Leavin' on a jet plane....*



WE CAME

AND PROVED WHAT WE ALREADY KNEW...



THAT WE ARE THE BEST

AND CAN DO THE JOB

SO LONG VOLK...HELLO HOME

... from the Past

'83

'8

THUNDER BUMPER

114th Tactical Fighter Group - South Dakota Air National Guard - Sioux Falls, SD

SEPTEMBER 1983

VOLUME ELEVEN NUMBER NINE



COMMANDERS FROM PAST TO PRESENT

At a recent Air Force Association meeting in Rapid City, SD, all the former base commanders and the new 114 TFG commander, Lt Col Phil Killey, gathered to accept an award.

The Air Force Association presented the award to the South Dakota Air National Guard for their recent outstanding accomplishments. The unit has received several prestigious awards in the past few years.

The meeting of the commanders followed a recent change of command. When Col John Olson was appointed as Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Lt Col Phil Killey was chosen as the new Group Commander.

Col Olson would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every Guardsperson for their dedication and support over the past years.

"Your cooperation and eagerness to make the 114 Tactical Fighter Group the greatest unit in the Air National Guard has been absolutely outstanding, and I certainly hope that each of you will support Col Killey equally as strong," said Col Olson.

He also said that he would cherish the friendships made through this association with the South Dakota Air National Guard for the rest of his life.

Lt Col Killey served as Deputy Commander for Operations for nearly five years, and has been a member of the SDANG since 1970.

In his remarks after being announced as the new commander, Lt Col Killey lauded Col Olson for his outstanding achievements during the past three years as commander of the 114th. In addition, he said that the SDANG has a personality that makes it outstanding, and that personality has been brought about through the enthusiasm and dedication of its members.

CHANGE IN AFR 35-10

As of 1 Jan 84, skirt length must not be higher than the top of the knee cap nor lower than the bottom of the knee cap.

Overblouse, light blue, standard length, without epaulets, and tie tab, is no longer authorized for wear.

Shirt, tuck-in style, light blue, long sleeved, with epaulets, and tie



GROUP COMMANDERS THROUGH THE YEARS
-This group of Base Commanders reflects the history of the 114 Tactical Fighter Group. (From l. to r.) Joe Foss, Base commander, 1946-1952, Duane "Duke" Corning, 1952-1963, John Schilt, 1963-1966, Justin Berger, 1966-1980, John Olson, 1980-1983, and Phil Killey, the new Base Commander.

THANKS TO ADVISORS

This weekend we have been visited by 24 officers and airmen from our advisory wing, the 366 TFW, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

Through the Operational Readiness Exercise activities this weekend, experience in responding to the full spectrum of hostile activities that would be encountered in an actual wartime scenario was gained. More than 60 sorties were flown by our pilots, despite all our people having to operate under extremely adverse conditions.

Thanks to the Idaho people for their help, as it provided valuable training and helped in readying us for future exercises.

tab, will not be worn with semi-box style coat or skirt without waistband. When wearing the dark blue blazer in lieu of semi-box coat, coat and skirt must be of matching shades and materials.

THUNDER BUMPER

114th Tactical Fighter Group - South Dakota Air National Guard - Sioux Falls, SD

Volume Fourteen Number Ten

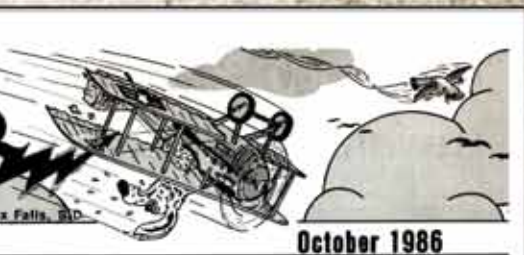
PRESIDENT VISIT



"We do not remember days,

6

'90



October 1986

ITS SIOUX FALLS

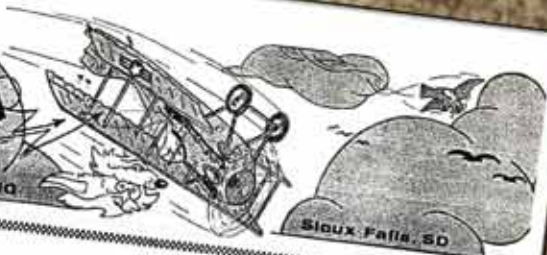


On 29 September President Reagan, along with hundreds of media, security and communications personnel, made Sioux Falls a stop on Campaign '86. Air Force One just doesn't land anywhere by accident. Days of preparation were required as members of the South Dakota Air National Guard were key players in the arrival, departure and protection of the President. Chief Wayne Steensma and SMSgt Mike Valland along with their crews worked hundreds of hours to accomplish their mission. The Resource Protection Team was activated to augment national and local security forces. This was the second visit this year by a prominent national leader. Vice President Bush spoke in Sioux Falls last summer. During his address, President Reagan praised "the row of airplanes at the National Guard base." We were all proud to have the White House move to our base and Sioux Falls for a day.



THUNDER BUMPER

114 Tactical Fighter Group - SDANG



Sioux Falls, SD

New Bureau Chief

President Bush has nominated Maj Gen John Conway for appointment to Lieutenant General and assignment as Chief of the National Guard Bureau. General Conway is currently the Vice Chief. (AFNS)

RMS Announces Airman Of The Quarter

By 1st Lt Ruth Christopherson

Congratulations to SSgt Bradley S. Linder, Assistant NCOIC of Freight Traffic, on being selected as the 114 Resource Management Squadron's Airman of the Quarter. SSgt Linder is a traditional guardmember and has been with the unit four years. Prior to enlisting in the Guard he served four years of active duty with the Air Force.

SSgt Linder and his wife Sandra have one daughter, Trista and live in Sioux Falls where he is employed with Lewis Drug Stores in the Central Warhouse.

In recognition of his achievements SSgt Linder gets the use of a Ben Hur Ford 1990 Taurus for the weekend. He also receives a weekend for two at the Sioux Falls Ramkota and dinner for two at the Red Lobster.

Make Way For The F-16 Fighting Falcon

By 1st Lt Ruth Christopherson

The South Dakota Air National Guard has been named as the next A-7 unit to convert to F-16 fighters. A recent recipient of its fourth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The 114th Tactical Fighter Group has excelled in unit performance. They have consistently rated high on inspections and maintained top standards of safety. All of these factors have earned the unit a priority placing on the list for converting to the state-of-the-art F-16 fighter, scheduled to occur in April of 1992.

The South Dakota Air National Guard conversion will have a positive effect on the local economy. The unit will receive 18 F-16 Fighting Falcons. Traditional guardmember positions will



Arriving back in Sioux Falls from their two week rotation in Panama, guardmembers departed 6 Jan. The second rotation returned 20 Jan. As a result of their support of Operation Just Cause, the Commander of the Tactical Air Command, General Russ, extended his personal congratulations to the members of the 114th TFG. In a message to the SDANG he said that the unit's efforts during Operation Just Cause are clearly indicative of their readiness and dedication to the mission of the Tactical Air Command.

increase by 54. There will be 8 new civilian positions created and a loss of 5 technician positions.

Conversion related construction costs will be a budgeted \$3.96 million and will be contracted with local companies.

The unit will be ending almost 15 years of flying the A7D Corsair II, having received that aircraft in 1977. During that time no pilots or aircraft have been lost. Colonel Brian C. Bade, Commander of the 114 Tactical Fighter Group, commented on the conversion saying, "We're ready for a new challenge."



114 Tactical Fighter Group South Dakota Air National Guard
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

February 1990

we remember moments."

~Cesare Pavese

A Look Back Through...

THUNDER BUMPER

114 FIGHTER GROUP - SDANG



SIoux FALLS, SD



Air Guard Deployment To Turkey A Success Story!

BY CAPT REID CHRISTOPHERSON

It sounded like an impossible challenge! With only 60 days notice, take 12 aircraft and 185 people from four geographically dispersed Air National Guard units and deploy them into a combat environment for 45 days over the Christmas and New Year holidays. In the unique spirit of the National Guard, however, Lt Col Bob Seifert of the Virginia Air National Guard stepped up to the command challenge, assembled a dedicated team of professionals, and went out and got the job done!

These combat veterans returned home during late January having not only met the deployment requirements, but having achieved new performance highs. The first of the F-16C fighters having arrived at Incirlik AB on Saturday, December 4, 1993, were turned and reconfigured to fly their first combat missions on Sunday, December 5, 1993, less than 16 hours later. Over the next 45 days this "rainbow contingent" representing the Colorado, Iowa, Ohio, South Dakota, and Virginia Air National Guard, would fly 350 combat sorties. The dedicated Air Guard maintainers would produce a 95.3% Fully Mission Capable rate in support of the 1,032.4 hours flown.

Once again the Air National Guard demonstrated its flexibility and capability in accepting operational tasking in a volatile international environment.

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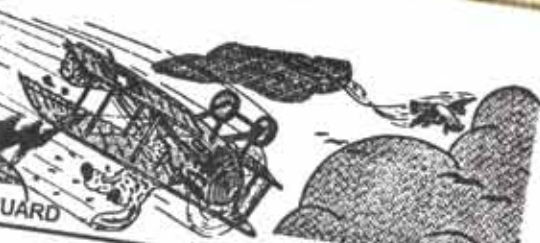
NOTAM For Life

"Nine-tenths of wisdom consists in being wise in time."
 - Theodore Roosevelt (1859-1919)
 U.S. President

February 1994

THUNDER BUMPER

114 FIGHTER WING - SOUTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD



SIoux FALLS, SD

Experience escalates with SDANG Pilots Pilots Reach 1000th Hour

■ 1Lt Kristin Miller

For Capt Greg Lair and Capt Greg Young, reaching the 1000th flying hour is a great milestone. Not only is it a milestone for them; but for the 114th as well.

The typical Air Guard fighter pilot averages 160 flying hours per year. "It took me about six years to fly 1000 hours", said Capt Greg Lair, "which was F-16 flying alone."

Many of our unit's pilots have gained their flying time on active duty or with other units in different types of aircraft. Captains Lair and Young have achieved all of their flying time in the F-16 with this unit. We can expect more to reach the mark right behind Lair and Young. Several have joined the exclusive group of pilots with focused F-16 experience. "We have pilots that have flown over 2000 hours in the F-16 alone in many types of aircraft. When you include this total time, we have several that have cleared 3000 and 4000 hours."

"I think it's great for the unit, it just shows you how much experience that all of us have together."

Guard continues Southern Watch Patrol

■ Air Force News Service

Even though a possibility now exists that the latest Iraqi crisis will be settled peacefully, a long-term contingency meant to ensure Saddam Hussein complies with United Nations' resolutions continues.

Called Operation Southern Watch, it was established Aug. 2, 1992, in response to Iraqi warplanes flying bombing and strafing attacks against Shiite Muslims in southern Iraq. The derbolt II and F-16 Fighting Falcon units, enforces a no-fly zone below the 32nd parallel for Hussein's fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

Patrolling that area from Al Jaber, located about 75 miles from the Iraqi border, are F-16s from the 114 FW.

Lt Col Dick Rayburn, 114 FW detachment commander, said the unit's 175th Fighter Squadron, nicknamed the Lobos, is flying "no more and no less" despite a military buildup started when Hussein steadfastly refused to let UN inspectors examine suspected weapon sites.

"We have six aircraft flying 4-turn-4 (four sorties that return for another four sorties) daily," the colonel said.

The colonel continued, "That's pretty much been the regular schedule ever since the Guard, actually, ever since the F-16 community joined their A-10 counterparts in manning this job."

Rayburn said his pilots will fly 11 sorties in 12 days from the barren base, while averaging only six back home monthly. And they are receiving "superb" training opportunities.

"We are flying," he explained, "with British, French and other U.S. forces while on patrol. It's very similar to what we do at Red Flag, Maple Flag and Cope Thunder exercises back home. By coming here, we continue our objective of participating in a huge contingency-type scenario every other year. With, of course, the realization that it's real-world."

Guard and Reserve units have continued to pull their fair share of real-world commitments, such as Operation Southern Watch, as the Air Force continues downsizing. Maj. Reid Christopherson, 175th maintenance commander said both are facing an operations tempo problem much like the active-duty.

What's Inside...

- Page 2 American Legion
- Page 3 SDANG Spotlight
- Page 4 Unit Roundup
- Page 5 Comptroller Award
- Page 6 Chaplain's Column



SMSgt Rick Larson, Air Base Operability NCOIC, carries the 175th logo in Kuwait. Larsen was part of the ADVON Team and the first rotation which returned to Sioux Falls exceptionally early Monday morning, March 3rd.

VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE NUMBER THREE

MARCH 1998

... Past Publications

< 2002

2002 - Year of Diversity

Diversity and the Transformation of Military Culture

CMSGT RANDY HANDEL
 HQSDANG

Demographic changes in the United States and in the South Dakota Air National Guard are the driving forces in altering economic, cultural, social, and political landscapes. These changes of the future merge to create a new world order of business that's almost unrecognizable from the business world of just a decade ago. This is a powerful trend we must acknowledge as it continues to reshape and realign our market place.

What are Demographic Trends?

One, is that we have a shrinking workforce. The labor force over the next decade will grow at half the rate as it did during 1975 - 1990. Second, more women will be entering the work market. The participation of women in the workforce will continue to rise to record levels. It is estimated by the year 2005 women will pass men in the workforce. Ten years ago the workforce picture was around 60 - 40 in favor of men. Currently it is very close to 50 - 50 on men and women in the workforce. Third, there is more ethnic diversity in America. Ethnic groups once referred to as minorities, are rapidly becoming numerical majorities, now representing over 30% of the total U.S. population. According to the 1990 Census, African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans and Asian-Americans represented a majority in 51 of the largest 200 cities in America. The participation of minorities in the labor force will accelerate dramatically because of



higher birth rates than the generation. Fourth, more foreigners currently represent 10% of the population at 23 million. This is the highest percentage level of foreign-born since World War II. Fifth, older workers. The "Baby Boomer" generation, causing a rapid growth in population segments. Older workers will try to fill in the shortfall for years.

Sixth, more physically challenged workers will be entering the workforce. They will be represented by a larger percentage of the U.S. population due to the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1992.

In conclusion, these demographic changes will cause major tensions and adjustments.



VOLUME THIRTYTHREE NUMBER 2

MARCH/APRIL 2006

Walz takes command

SDANG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In a change of command ceremony at Joe Foss Field, March 5, 2006, Col. Steve Doohan relinquished his command of the 114 FW to Col. Russ Walz.

Col. Walz began his career with the South Dakota Air National Guard in September 1980 serving five years as a firefighter assigned to the Joe Foss Field Crash, Rescue, Fire Department, achieving the rank of Staff Sgt., prior to his commissioning. His only intentions at that time were to serve his country and take advantage of the college benefits offered. Col. Walz said commanding the wing was not yet part of his plan.

"When I was selected for a pilot position, my goals began to change and they continued to evolve over the following years," said Col. Walz. He said there came a point in his career when he just knew that he wanted to add wing commander to his list of goals. "I feel very fortunate to have been selected and to have the opportunity to command this great organization," said Col. Walz.

Col. Walz is a graduate of the University of South Dakota with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business. He received his commission



SDANG Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Mike Gorman passes the flag to Col. Russ Walz, right, who accepts command of the 114 Fighter Wing March 5, 2006.

through the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science. He went on to complete undergraduate pilot training at Columbus, Mississippi. Throughout his career, he has served as a squadron pilot, maintenance officer,

weapons and tactics officer, commander of the 114th Operations Support Flight, commander of the 175th Fighter Squadron and commander of the 114th Operations Group. He is a command pilot with over 3000 total flying hours in the A-7 and F-16. He has also flown over 20 combat hours in support of Operations Northern and Southern Watch.

Col. Walz's vision for the future of the SDANG is first and foremost security and stability. "I want our unit to be around for generations to come, allowing our families and friends to share and experience the great tradition of the South Dakota National Guard," said Col. Walz.

Other changes resulting from Col. Walz's promotion to wing commander include Lt. Col. Matt Jamison's selection as the Operations Group Commander and Lt. Col. Phil Tau's selection to serve as Air Operations Officer, responsible for the daily functions of the 114 Operations Group.



State Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Bekaert, Col. Ted Johnson, Brig. Gens. Steve Doohan and Tom Lien, Maj. Gen. Mike Gorman, Brig. Gen. R.J. Cliff, Col. Russ Walz, Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Portice and State Command Chief Master Sgt. Randy Handel

2006 >

Award winning publications

The Thunderbumper has not only been a source of information for thousands of unit members of the South Dakota Air National Guard, but also an award winning publication.

Under the guidance of then 1st Lt., Ruth Christopherson, the publication won second place in the National Guard Association of the United States publication contest in 1990. Not to be outdone by his wife after taking over as the Officer in Charge of Public Affairs, then Capt., Reid Christopherson, led the Public Affairs team to a first place win in 1992 in the same contest.

The Christopherson's have a long history with the 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office and not only have both Reid and Ruth Christopherson served in the office, but their son, Nathan (below photo) enlisted into the base Visual Information shop in 1998.



Thunderbumper alumni

There have been many people over the years who have contributed to making the Thunderbumper possible. Thunderbumper alumni include members of the public affairs office as well as members of visual information, information management, reprographics, and base historians.

We hope this list includes all members who have given you this great product over the past 39 years but if we did miss a name or two, we apologize for the error.

Public Affairs Officers

- Col. John Kittelson
- Col. Janet [Auch] Drew
- Major Dan Hacking
- Col. Ruth Christopherson
- Lt. Col. Reid Christopherson
- Lt. Col. Kristin Baur
- Major Fay Ludens
- Major Don Jorgenson
- Capt. Michael Frye



Ruth Christopherson

Public Affairs Enlisted

- Master Sgt. Darrell Modica
- Tech. Sgt. Larry Green
- Tech. Sgt. Marilyn MacTaggart
- Master Sgt. Sara Hilmoe

Information Management

- Tech. Sgt. Dick Schmidt
- Master Sgt. Tori Hofer
- Staff Sgt. Leah Anderson
- Amn Kevin Watson
- Staff Sgt. Kristi Niedert
- Staff Sgt. Jennifer Masterson



Larry Green and Marilyn MacTaggart

Visual Information Enlisted

- Tech. Sgt. Elmer Ibis
- Tech. Sgt. Larry Watkins
- Command Chief Master Sgt. Ron Roos
- Master Sgt. Mark Leyba
- Tech. Sgt. Bob Striek
- Master Sgt. Dave Sonnichsen
- Staff Sgt. Ron Christenson
- Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Riswold
- Tech. Sgt. Robert Watkins
- Airman 1st Class Kevin Parker
- Mater Sgt. Michael Chambers
- Senior Master Sgt. Scott Leebens
- Senior Airman Nathan Christopherson
- Chief Master Sgt. Don Mcleer
- Tech. Sgt. Kristin Baur
- Staff Sgt. Michael Frye
- Staff Sgt. Anne Fodness
- Airman 1st Class Bob Griffith
- Tech. Sgt. Dwight Wollman
- Sgt. Jon Heisel
- Senior Airman Amber Fountain
- Senior Airman Care Bosanco
- Tech. Sgt. Tina Flynn

- Staff Sgt. Jody Clark
- Staff Sgt. Curt Sabag
- Staff Sgt. Cindy Miller
- Tech. John Slieter
- Senior Airman Chris Lottman
- Staff Sgt. Miranda Skiles



Left to right; Jim Prostollo, Gregory Johnson and Kim Barnhart

Reprographics [Print Shop] Enlisted

- Chief Master Sgt. Dan Jennings
- Senior Master Sgt. Kim Barnhart
- Master Sgt. Jim Prostollo
- Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
- Master Sgt. Gregory Johnson
- Staff Sgt. Bart Metzger

Historian Enlisted

- Tech. Sgt. Larry Green
- Senior Master Sgt. Terrence Oppold
- Staff Sgt. Brandi Shabino
- Chief Master Sgt. Glenda Blom
- Senior Master Sgt. Denise Likness



Chief Master Sgt. Ron Roos

Current Public Affairs Office

- PAO Select - Tech. Sgt. Jessica Bak
- Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
- Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart
- Tech. Sgt. Jared Hinsch
- Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young
- Staff Sgt. Trisha Smeenk



Master Sgt. Sara Hilmoe interviewing Lt. Col. Jeffery Wish.



Base Visual Information staff in 1993.

Familiar faces from the past

The faces of those who told the story of the South Dakota Air National Guard over the years are many. Here is just a small sampling of some of those dedicated individuals.

All photos on pages 14 and 15 are South Dakota Air National Guard file photos.



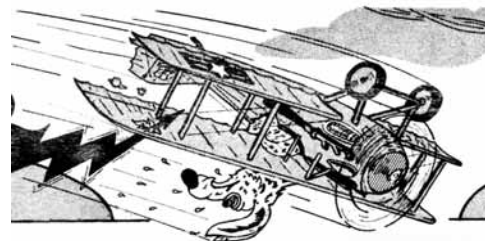
Base Visual Information Services, or the "Photo Lab" as it was called, in 1986. From left to right; Master Sgt. Mark Leyba, Tech. Sgt. Robert Watkins, Airman 1st Class Kevin Parker, Master Sgt. Dennis Riswold, Senior Master Sgt. Ron Roos, Sgt. Scott Leebens, and Tech. Sgt. Dave Sonnichsen.



The Public Affairs staff in 1986 included; (left to right) Tech. Sgt. Larry Green, Major Dan Hacking, Tech. Sgt. Marilyn MacTaggart, and Tech. Sgt. Richard Schmidt.



The 2008 Public Affairs staff included; (back row, left to right) Lt. Col. Reid Christopherson, Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart, Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland, Capt. Michael Frye, (front row, left to right) Tech. Sgt. Jared Hinsch, Staff Sgt. Miranda Skiles, and Staff Sgt. Quinton Young.



Original Artwork

The original masthead for the Thunderbumper was hand drawn and designed by Tech. Sgt. Willard G. Van Hoorn. Sgt. Van Hoorn was a Production Analyst with the 114th CAMRON.



Tech. Sgt. Willard Van Hoorn

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Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks

Assistant Adjutant General for Air

Col. Russ Walz

Commander, 114th Fighter Wing

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The Thunderbumper Material:

This is the last printed issue of the Thunderbumper. Thank you to all those members who contributed to its content over the years.

Questions, contact the Public Affairs Office at (605)988-5946 or DSN 798-7946.

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*Farewell
Old
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TO:

