Vol. XXXVIII, Number 10, October 2012

Countdown to fully-digital wing news

The SCANG News is poised to make a huge leap forward in the coming months, planning just two more hard-copies of the monthly 12-pager before transitioning to purely electronic communication of wing news and information. The conversion will save more than \$25,000 annually in printing and postage costs and at least 30 hours of production time each month.

Editor Technical Sgt. Stephen Hudson recognizes the difficulty some readers will have letting go of the tried-and-true paper copy. "The last thing we want to do is lose readers," he said. "So, our public affairs staff is going to work hard and be extremely conscientious in developing a new product that conveniently delivers the news and info folks are used to reading in the SCANG News.

"The great thing about this change is that we're going to be able to provide more timely updates," he said. "Instead of waiting a month to read old news, our readers are going to hear from us on a weekly basis. Plus, we'll be able to share lots more imagery and even video of SCANG events. Instead of selecting one photo to accompany an article about a recent development, we'll be able to post several and thus feature pictures of more Swamp Foxes than ever ... in full color."

The public affairs team warns the new online publication is not quite ready for prime time. Over the next two months, they will refine the schedule and methods by which loyal readers will be notified of and steered toward online material.

"It's a little overwhelming," Hudson said. "We're going from 12 tightly-packed pages on a monthly basis to virtually limitless space

Where will all the information go?

~ Visit our website - www.169fw.ang.af.mil ~

Home Page: Commander's Corner, Chief's Concerns, Menu, News Articles and upcoming events

"News" tab: The Retirees' Corner, Reflections, News, Commentaries, Fitness Tips, etc.

"Resources" tab: wing leadership biographies and unit strength statistics

"Careers" tab: Top Achievers, Job Openings, Base Training info, Enlistments, Promotions,

"Questions" tab: "For Your Information" for news briefs

and Retirements, Recruiter Conctacts

on an almost daily basis. In today's communication environment, where most people get their information from frequently-changing websites and various social media platforms, the possibilities are practically limitless."

Next month's edition will include additional details and information about subscribing to the new electronic publication. Stay tuned.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jorge Intriago, 169th FW/PA)

Finish Strong

The Foxtrot III Warrior Run raised \$2,400 to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. One hundred twenty Swamp Foxes signed up and gave it their all for the 3.4 mile run. Read about it and see the results at www.169fw.ang.af.mil/news.



(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Caycee Watson, 169th FW/PA)

Just a Taste

Staff Sgts. Sachet Ratulowski and Sherryl Linkous and Tech. Sgt. Jessica Guiry serve traditional Asian-American and Pacific Islander dishes during the second annual Taste of McEntire celebration. Read more at www.169fw.ang.af.mil/news.

Commander's Corner



Col. Mike Hudson 169th Fighter Wing Commander

Any attempt to capture, in words, the magnitude of this wing's accomplishments over the past several months would almost surely fail.

I am awe struck by your determination, your professionalism, your courage and the extent to which you are willing to endure personal sacrifice for the sake of our mission. In fact, I am humbled to serve alongside the hundreds of patriots and heroes who are making history as members of the 169th Fighter Wing.

You'll notice right away that this edition of the SCANG News is a little different. The following eight-page keepsake pull-out is a tribute to you.



Whether you were one of the 500-plus Swamp Foxes who went downrange this summer or a hardworking member of the home team who kept our Aerospace Control Alert mission running 24/7 and conducted the home station flying that fed the fight, you are to be commended.

In August, this wing completed the second of two highly successful and truly historic Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotations. The standalone, 120-day, 18-jet deployment you've just concluded is absolutely unprecedented. As always, the men and women of the 169th are breaking ground, setting the bar high and liv-

ing up to our storied motto ... Semper Primus.

Meanwhile, at home, your families and your civilian employers also were making selfless contributions to the mission. The sacrifices they endured for the sake of this wing's enormous impact on the other side of the world are invaluable and deeply appreciated.

Every member of the McEntire team had a hand in fulfilling our largest AEF tasking since Operation Desert Shield. And hundreds of you laid it all on the line.

Your teammates here at home are aware you were serving in a true combat environment and that your successful efforts have resulted in progress that many Americans will perhaps never understand or appreciate. Know that your leaders at the highest levels of the South Carolina National Guard, the ANG and the USAF, your friends, families and McEntire wingmen understand and appreciate your good work.

I am proud of all of each member of this world class organization. Congratulations on a job well done.

> Sincerely, Col. Mike "Puff" Hudson

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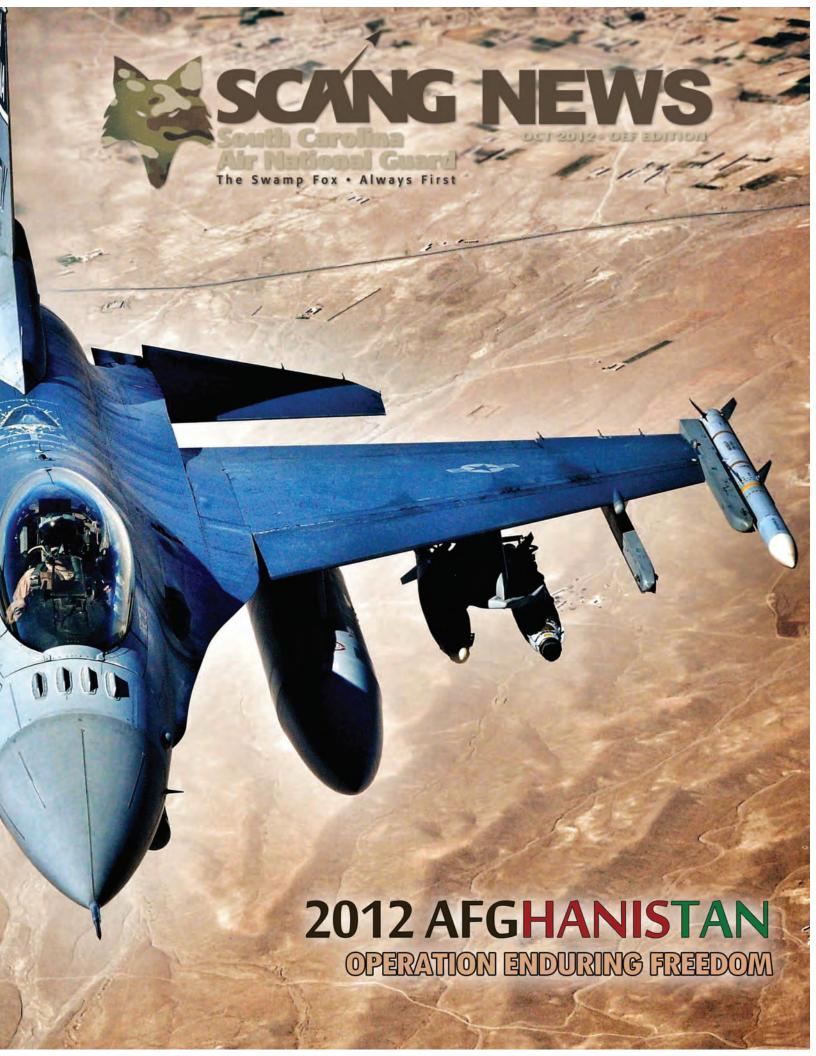
Official Mission Statement of the 169th Fighter Wing: To provide a trained and equipped citizen fighting force that exceeds the capability of any Guard, Reserve, or active-duty Air Force unit in the protection and defense of state and nation; to maintain the capability for worldwide deployment of combat-ready assets to meet contingency and general war requirements; to employ conventional munitions in close-air-support, interdiction, offensive counter-air, defensive counter attack, suppression of enemy air defenses and special capability AGM-65 Maverick missiles; to provide world-class units that are recognized as being the best of the best when directed by the governor to preserve and protect the life, property, peace and public safety of the citizens of South Carolina.

Submission of SCANG News material: Articles and photography are welcome and should be submitted prior to the deadline (see below). E-mail submissions to 169FW.PA.SCANGNews@ang.af.mil.

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Deadline for the December issue is November 4



169th Fighter Wing wraps up momentous Afghanistan deployment

In August, the Swamp Foxes of the South Carolina Air National Guard's 169th Fighter Wing wrapped up an historic four-month deployment to Afghanistan. Having accomplished their mission there, the wing recently handed responsibility for the Air Tasking Order over to their replacements from the Minnesota Air Guard's 148th Fighter Wing and the 35th Fighter Wing from Misawa Air

the deployed unit completed 1,465 joint tactical air requests, 410 troops-in-contact and 500 Priority Taskings. The McEntire team provided 246 "shows of force," dropped 207 bombs and expended 7,303 rounds of 20mm.

The flying mission obviously could not have been as successful in meeting the ATO

Minnesota Air Guard's 148th Fighter Wing and the 35th Fighter Wing from Misawa Air Base, Japan.

Lt. Col. Brent Allen, launches for a mission, May 4, 2012.

The Swamp Foxes added to their rich legacy as the Air Force's premier fighter wing by flying an astounding number of missions while deployed. They flew 2,194 combat sorties for 9,192.8 combat hours and never missed an ATO, thus concluding the AEF deployment with a 100 percent completion rate.

Lt. Col. Boris Armstrong, 157th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander, said, "Our biggest success was right where it needed to be – providing ground commanders close air support 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week for 120 days straight.

"Given CAS is not our primary mission, it took a very well-planned and executed spin-up program to prepare for this AEF while balancing our obligation to remain competent at our primary mission sets."

In April, the 169th deployed 18 F-16s and about 400 personnel (including pilots, maintenance specialists, and support staff) to support Operation Enduring Freedom from Kandahar. Meanwhile, throughout the four-month AEF rotation, the home team continued to train to "feed the fight" while simultaneously executing the Aerospace Control Alert mission at McEntire.

Since taking over the ATO in mid-April,

without the behind-the-scenes efforts of the crew chiefs and maintenance crews working in the brutal Afghan summer heat to keep the jets airborne.

Armstrong said, "It is staggering when you look at the workload, the inspections and a phase requirement for F-16s flying so many hours, not to mention the rate at which parts wear out or break. My hat is off to them."

The Airmen completed 23 phase inspections during the deployment. In other words, every time a jet hit 400 hours in the air the maintenance staff did a complete breakdown

of scheduled and preventative maintenance. In fact, in May the Swamp Fox Airmen set a record for Phases completed at Kandahar Airfield with eight jets.

Maj. Shari Askins, officer in charge of F-16 maintenance while deployed to Kandahar, said, "The sacrifices they have made and the demands they have met are immeasurable.

"Walking the flight line in 118 degree heat with jets running, dust blowing in your face and the constant anticipation of incoming rockets. I was constantly reminded why I am a part of this unit. The dedication and camaraderie is truly remarkable."

Askins deployed in June, rotating with Capt. Grady Patterson, who served as the officer in charge for the first leg of the deployment. She said her most memorable moment was watching South Carolina F-16s take off from Kandahar Airfield "to answer the calls from our men and women in the field."

This was the wing's largest deployment since Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and the fourth major deployment of its F-16s since 2002 when the Swamp Foxes deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where they flew more than 200 combat missions in the early days of the Afghan Campaign. The wing also deployed in 2003 and 2010 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

(Story by Tech Sgt. Stephen Hudson, photos by Tech. Sgt. Caycee Watson, 169th FW/PA)



Airman 1st Class Isaac Niesen, a crew chief, marshals Capt. Jeffery Beckham for takeoff to fly a mission, April 22, 2012.

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AEF Swamp Fox Scrapbook



Capt. Jeffrey Beckham, prepares to launch an F-16 fighter jet for a mission, May 20, 2012.

✓ 2,194 - COMBAT SORTIES FLOWN



Staff Sgt. Shelby Griscom, a crew chief, raises the U.S.flag on the flight line, April 17, 2012, at the start of the deployment.



Lt. Col. Andrew Thorne prepares to launch for a mission, 17 May, 2012.

✓ 9192.8 - COMBAT HOURS FLOWN



Senior Airman Josh Anderson, builds a tire rack. May 9, 2012.



Staff Sgt. John Denny and Senior Airman Donald Rhodes, weapons loaders, load a GBU-38 bomb onto an F-16 Fighting Falcon, April 25, 2012.

✓ 81.6% - ACFT. AVAILABILITY

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Airman 1st Class Rahkeem Jenkins and Staff Sgt. Symeon Graham, ammo technicians, install tail and nose fuses on a GBU-38 bomb, April 21, 2012.



207 - 500LB GBUs **DROPPED**



Chaplian, Lt. Col. Brian Bohlman prays with airmen assigned to the 451st Expeditionary Maintenance Group at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, May 11, 2012.



wraps a bandage around the head of an Airman after a procedure to drain an auricular hematoma on the Airman's ear, Aug. 1, 2012.



Captain John Sparks taxis to launch for a mission May 4, 2012.

7,303 - 20mm ROUNDS **EXPENDED IN COMBAT**



Airman 1st Class Earl Sale, an avionics technician, returns tools to Senior Airman Pierce Duffey in the tool room, May 1, 2012.



Airman 1st Class Damian Willis, a crew chief, removes screws from a South Carolina Air National Guard F-16 in the phase dock, June 26, 2012.

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Airman 1st Class Bryan Martin, a weapons loader, uploads a GBU-38 bomb to an F-16 Fighting Falcon, April 22, 2012.

✓ 503 - PERSONNEL DEPLOYED

Senior Airman Tony Goodwin, Airman 1st Class Benjamin Lawrence and Tech. Sgt. Robert Seter, conventional munitions maintainers, reload 20mm rounds, used in F-16 Fighting Falcons, to the Universal Ammunition Loading System, June 9, 2012





Airman 1st Class Robert Barber, a crew chief, shows Captain Jerrod Sonderman the EPU pin has been pulled as he prepares to launch an F-16 fighter jet for a mission, May 30, 2012.

✓

, 95.7 - SHORT TONS OF CARGO PROCESSED

MAIN BODY INPROCESSING COMPLETED IN 2hrs AND 3mins!



1st Lt. Andrew Lehman is marshaled by crew chief, Senior Airman Chuck Cooley, June 6, 2012.



Staff Sgt. Paul Riddle, a crew chief, conducts pre-flight checks on an F-16 Fighting Falcon preparing to launch for a mission, 17 May, 2012.

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Re-deployment completed in record time!



300 Airmen. 700 bags. Almost endless paperwork. The challenge for McEntire Joint National Guard Base was to in-process all the returning Swamp Foxes from their largest deployment since Operation Desert Storm as rapidly and as safely as possible. During the last week in August, it was mission accomplished thanks to a lot of planning and hard work. "This was the fastest, most conscientious homecoming I've ever been part of," said Col. Mike Hudson, 169th Fighter Wing commander.

- For the rest of the this story, visit the 169th Fighter Wing's web site www.169fw.ang.af.mil and go to the "News" tab.

(Story by Lt. Col. Jim St.Clair, JFHQ/PA) (Photos by the 169th MDG and the 169th FW/PA staff)















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Historic Deployment - AEF 2012

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Job Openings

The 169th Medical Group is seeking a Unit Training Manager. Current experience preferred. This is an E-5 position. Call 803-647-8296.

The 169th Maintenance Squadron has an opening for a First Sergeant. Candidates must be Master Sgt. or Tech. Sgt. promotable. The closeout date is Nov. 4.

The 169th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron also has an opening for a First Sergeant. Criteria are the same. The closeout date is Oct. 14.

For either position (or both), submit a letter of intent, resume, passing PT score and RIP to Chief Master Sgt. Robert Davis, the 169th FW Command Chief, at *robert.davis.4@ang.af.mil*.



Officers:

Recruiting & Retention

Military Personnel Summary

Strength

Recruiting/Retention

Authorized	135		
Assigned	133		
Percent Manned	98.5%		
Enlisted:			
Authorized	1190		
Assigned	1175		
Percent Manned	98.7%		
Total:			
Authorized	1325		
Assigned	1308		
Percent Manned	98.7%		
(as of September 9th, 2012)			

Gains:	MONT	H YTD
Prior	0	21
Non-Prior	1	67
Total	1	88
Losses:		
ETS	1	13
Discharge	1	46
Medical	0	0
Resignation	0	3
Retirement	1	28
Transfer	0	20
Other	1	4
Total	4	114
Net Gain/Lo	ss -3	-26

Recruiting Progress We're at 98.7 percent!



We must maintain 100% strength through 2012! Recruit & Retain!

There are many positions open for immediate recruiting...



All images cleared for public release will now be uploaded to our **SCANG Flickr** page. To view all the photos posted now, go to: www.flickr.com/photos/thescang

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What's for Lunch? Saturday

Herb Chicken Breast, Salisbury Steak, Yellow Rice, Green Beans, Broccoli

Sunday

Roast Pork, Roast Beef, Baked Potato, Cauliflower, Collard Greens

Snack Line

SAT: Hamburgers, Pulled Pork Sandwich,

French Fries

SUN: Meatball Sub, Chicken Nuggets,

Assorted Chips

* All with Soup / Salad Bar / Desserts / Beverages

The Dining Facility is open 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone using the facility must present a valid ID card.

South Carolina ANG McEntire Joint National Guard Base 1325 South Carolina Road Eastover, SC 29044-5010

United States Air Force Columbia, SC Official Business

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REFLECTIONS

"Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway."
—John Wayne

According to a recent Air Force News report, more Airmen killed themselves in the first three months of 2012 than in any other first quarter in the past decade. The spike in suicides comes amid an intensive campaign to improve resiliency and the rollout of the service's new Comprehensive Airman Fitness program, which focuses on physical, social, mental and spiritual fitness.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy say leadership and resiliency are key to reducing the number of suicides. According to Roy, "The Air Force, and its sister services, need to create a culture where people take care of each other...that means putting down the smart phone, powering off the iPad and being able to look another airman in the eye, see the cues for distress and do something about it. We've got to understand how to communicate with people."

Remember, your SCANG Chaplain Corps staff is available 24/7 to care for your soul, and we are very excited about bringing on two new chaplains in the next few months to join our Swamp Fox ministry team. You will soon know who your unit chaplain and chaplain assistant are as they make their rounds to visit their assigned units. Please welcome them and let them know how they can best serve you. Thank you for giving us the honor and opportunity to care for your personal and spiritual needs. Have a great drill weekend!

(by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Brian Bohlman)

Worship Schedule

Saturday Maintenance Hangar & SFS after roll call **Sunday** 0815 - 0845 - Traditional Worship (Wing HQ Auditorium)

1100 - 1130 - Contemporary Worship (Wing HQ Auditorium)

1330 - 1400 - Catholic Mass (Eagle Vision Conference Room)

TOP ACHIEVERS

Outstanding Academic Achievement (90 % or Higher)

Maj. Jim Roth, 169th FW ACSC Joint Air and Space Operations

Master Sgt. Kathie Iorga, 169th LRS SNCOA - Human Resource Management

Staff Sgt. Garrett Johnson, 245th ATCS
Air Traffic Control Craftsman

Staff Sgt. Nathaniel McLeod, 169th CF *Electrical Power Production Journeyman*

Dates to Remember

Blood Drive - Oct. 14

Contact Master Sgt. Selina Chavez at 803-647-8200 or selina.chavez@ang.af.mil ~ Walk-ins are welcome ~

Fall Festival - Oct. 27, 5-8 p.m.
Costume contest at 6:30 p.m. Hay Rides,
Pumpkin Patch, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs
Call Terry DeLille at 803-647-8089