

THUNDERBUMPER

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Contact the Public Affairs Office at (605)988-5709 or DSN 798-7709.

Send submissions to 114 FW/PA or e-mail to PA.114FW@sdsiou.ang.af.mil.

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On the cover . . .

Lt. Col. Gregory S. Young and Lt. Col. Richard A. Kruse pilot the F-16 Fighting Falcon over the Missouri river in central South Dakota during



a recent Familiarization Flight held at the unit Nov. 6. The photo was taken from the cockpit of the Utah Air National Guard KC-135 aircraft by Master Sgt. Nancy J. Ausland.

A word from the commander

BY COL. RUSS WALZ, 114TH FIGHTER WING COMMANDER



SDANG FILE PHOTO

The training, processing and deployment for Cycle 8 AEF is underway with some of our Airmen deployed and many others soon to depart. The efforts required to move a large force and aviation package to a deployed theatre of operations is truly amazing. It requires detailed planning and coordination from all wing personnel. You make it look easy and I know that is certainly not the case.

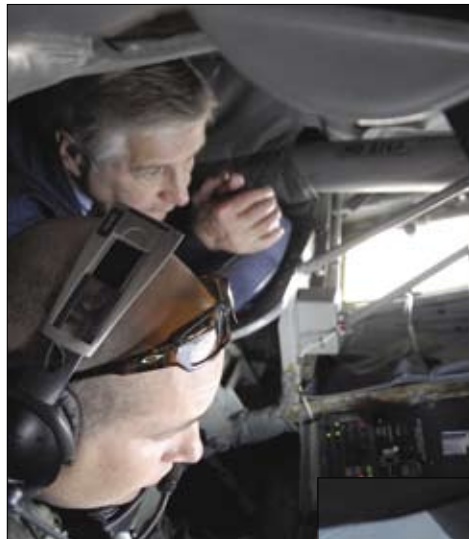
While the future of what specifically will be required downrange for AEF's remains uncertain, we can be assured that it can't be done without the Air National Guard. Our

transformation from a strategic to operational reserve force continues to provide a relevant and reliable solution for our nation. As the Air Force continues to get smaller in these fiscally challenged times, our contribution and commitment will likely continue. Your efforts in maximizing the training with each UTA ensures we are 'always ready.'

We will enter this holiday season with many of our Airmen deployed. I know you have trained and prepared yourself for this important mission and are ready. Let's make sure we look after each other at home and while deployed, helping our families and friends cope with the absence of a loved one during this emotional time. If there is anything wing leadership can do for you, please let us know. I'm looking forward to your return!

On the cover... South Dakota Air National Guard familiarization flight takes off

PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. CHRIS STEWART



(Above) Sioux Falls Mayor Dave Munson observes as Tech. Sgt. Tony Kalakis, 191st Air Refueling Squadron, lowers the boom to refuel a 114th Fighter Wing F-16 during the Civic Leader Familiarization Flight.

(Right) Lt. Col. Gregory W. Lair, 175th Fighter Squadron pilot maneuvers his F-16 aircraft into position for refueling from a Utah Air National Guard KC-135.



Select congressional representatives, civic leaders, and educators were given the opportunity that few civilians enjoy Nov. 6.

A familiarization flight was held at Joe Foss Field thanks to the cooperation of the Utah Air National Guard and their KC-135 aircraft.

The day was spent high in the clear skies over South Dakota where the members were given the opportunity to watch the KC-135 refuel our very own F-16 aircraft.

In addition to the flight, the visitors were given a briefing on our mission, a close up view of a static F-16, and the chance to fire an M-16 via a weapons simulator.

AEF preparations are made as others return home

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. NANCY J. AUSLAND

As members of the unit prepare to leave for our upcoming Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) deployment, others are just returning home.

AEF deployments are not the only way our members are serving overseas these days. In 2009, 12 members of the 114th Fighter Wing deployed in Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) positions in countries to include; Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kyrgyzstan, Germany, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Many served for 179 days or more.

Officers and enlisted members alike can volunteer or be called up to support these contingencies in support of Operation's Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

"Without question, one of the most rewarding personal and professional experiences of my career," said Lt. Col. Reid A. Christopherson.

"I would encourage anyone who is able to volunteer for one of these contingencies to do so. You won't be sorry you did." he said.

Along with these ECS deployments, many members of the unit have also participated in state-side deployments. Ten members from maintenance and nine from operations supported the Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA) mission on the east coast. Others have volunteered to backfill at state-side Air Force bases throughout the U.S. for active duty members deployed overseas. Whether overseas or state-side, all these opportunities are supporting the war on terror and are an important part of our total force concept.

2010 looks to be another busy year

for the 114th Fighter Wing with ECS deployments. Fourteen members of the unit are ready to deploy starting in December through April 2010 to several AFCENT AOR locations for various tour lengths.

The opportunities to deploy continue and if you are interested in volunteering for one of these rewarding tours, speak to your supervisor or commander about your interest.



Lt. Col. Diana V. Edwards was greeted by Col. Matthew P. Jamison, 114th FW vice commander and others at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport as she returned from her recent deployment. Edwards is a public health officer with the 114th Medical Squadron and volunteered for her recent deployment.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MASTER SGT. MACHELLE L. KOCCER

Chaplain Maj. David E. Stevens was presented with a personalized blanket from members of St. Nicholas Parish in Tea, S.D. upon his return from his recent deployment to Southwest Asia. Pictured with Chaplain Stevens is Deacon Harold Pardew.



Lt. Col. Reid A. Christopherson is welcomed home by ESGR State Chairman, Donald W. Kelpin and other members of the 114th Fighter Wing at the airport Oct. 29.

LIDS used in unit FOCUS training

SUBMITTED BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. RICHARD W. LARSON

To most, LIDS are what you put on a garbage can! To members of the U.S. Air Force, LIDS stands for Lightweight Inflatable Decontamination System. The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing used the LIDS in November at Focus On Critical Unit Skills (FOCUS) training sessions.

Airmen processed through the LIDS in order to rehearse in case of an attack involving Chemical, Biological, Radiological, or Nuclear (CBRN) hazards. The system may also be used in the event of a hazardous materials (hazmat) mishap. Over 800 members from all sections on base got familiar with LIDS over the weekend's events.

Mr. Charlie Branstetter, (Master Sgt., USAF, Ret) of Wel-Fab, Inc, manufacturer of the LIDS joined the Lobos for the FOCUS training. He aided Senior Master Sgt. Randy Wingen in training new team volunteers.

"Without the Airmen, the mission fails and that's not an option," commented Branstetter, a 21 year veteran of the USAF Fabrication career field.

"This system allows us to take a CBRN contaminated Airman and safely remove the offensive agent. We can also use this with our civilian counterparts in case of a stateside attack with weapons of mass destruction," said Emergency Management Flight Chief, Senior Master Sgt. Richard W. Larson.

Thanks goes to Charlie Branstetter for taking time to be here with us and we also pass our gratitude to Wel-Fab President Paul Elstone for his on-going support of unit readiness and force support. Wel-Fab not only manufactures the LIDS, but also the collapsible mobility bins used by the unit.



Charlie Branstetter works to tear down the LIDS equipment after training was completed at Joe Foss Field Nov. 8.

Chaplain's Corner: Spiritual Readiness

BY CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) WILLIAM TESCH



SDANG FILE PHOTO

As we prepare for the current contingencies, readiness is job one. We've learned that readiness is more than being able to accomplish one's job. There is "family readiness," "mental readiness," and our comrades in the USMC insist, and I agree, that it is also necessary to be "spiritually ready." Here, I will highlight three aspects of spiritual readiness. One note: I am a Christian, and so my core beliefs about Jesus Christ shape how I think about "spiritual readiness." However, in examining the basic tenants of all the major faith traditions and with consideration of the basic meaning of "spirituality," I believe that these concepts of spiritual readiness are universal.

Spirituality is the quality of our lives that has to do with the intangible: things that are important to us, but that are hard to get our hands on. So for example:

1) Relationships: Spiritual readiness involves relationships. We can't be ready for whatever

we may face in times of war and contingency if there is a nagging hurt or deep inner discomfort over our relationships. Attend to relationships. Do this first by exercising humility about your opinions. Consider it more important to understand than to be understood. And if you know someone who is angry or has something against you, make a reasonable effort to make amends immediately.

2) Sense of gratitude: I asked a friend who has terminal cancer, "How are you?" He could have told me about how much pain he was in, how much strength or time he was losing. He said, "I'm grateful." Gratitude does not spring from having a large quantity of good things in our lives. Gratitude is an attitude in which every moment is perceived as a completely undeserved gift. Feelings of resentment and dissatisfaction flow from ingratitude. When you feel these things, it's hard to be "ready" for whatever comes next. When you feel these things, stop and ask yourself, "What, at this very moment, is lacking?" You will find that the answer is always, "nothing."

3) Relationship with God, the higher power or the sense of mystery. Whatever your

faith tradition, or even if you have no faith tradition, humans have a sense that there is something more than what we see before us. It has been called many things. Being spiritually ready means making peace with this reality. As a Christian, I believe that God has made peace with me through Jesus, and so the door to peace is standing wide open before me at every moment. What do I mean by making peace? I mean shedding the soul crushing, heart numbing suspicion that the world, the universe, everything is against you. Studies show that when bad things happen, one of the most debilitating effects is that people lose confidence in the goodness of life. They become cynical, or they sink into despair. Making peace means adopting the confidence that there is a basic goodness at the core of life. When bad things happen, it's not punishment or the whim of a god who doesn't care. Rather this basic goodness is present to us, always there for us, even as we struggle with the hardest situations.

These are the main three aspects of spiritual readiness. There are more, and I would love to discuss them with you at any time. Please never hesitate to call or stop in. God's Peace to you.

A family affair: Mother and son enlist in the 114th together

BY STAFF SGT. MIRANDA SKILES



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. CHRIS STEWART

place for Staff Sgt. Dawn Whaler and Airman Basic Vince Whaler.

The second child in a family of eleven kids, Vince Whaler started exploring military options towards the end of high school to get money for college. When he started talking to active duty recruiters at his school, Dawn told him he needed to visit with the SDANG recruiting office to ensure he could make an informed decision.

That's when she accompanied him to a meeting with recruiter Master Sgt. Eric Tidemann. While they were getting information about Vince's future, Dawn asked questions of her own and learned she could rejoin in the unit fully qualified. She had previously been in the unit from 1987-1992. She joined during her senior year of high

In the South Dakota Air National Guard, it is quite common for multiple members of the same family to be in the unit. However, it's not too common for a mother and son to enlist at the same time. That is exactly what took

school and left for Basic Training about two weeks after graduation.

After she finished her first enlistment and gotten out of the unit, Dawn reflected on her time in the military and had always wondered what life would have been like if she had stayed in the unit. She realized it might be a good idea for her to rejoin for various reasons, including health insurance. So in February 2009, mother and son enlisted in the South Dakota Air National Guard together.

Vince left for Basic Training in June. After completion of BMT he returned home to Sioux Falls for seven months before he will attend tech school at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, for his position in the 114th Engine Shop. He says the guys he works with in the Engine Shop are the best part of his military experience so far.

Dawn works in the Maintenance Personnel section. Her favorite part of being in the military is the pride of belonging to the organization and the sense of serving the country.

Dawn's advice for her son, "Pursue your options in the military and fully explore your opportunities."

Vince says mom's military experience helps him out, "because she has been there and done that and she can give advice on what I should do."

The Whaler legacy in the SDANG may continue to grow. Two of Dawn's daughters came out for career day this year to explore what the unit may have in store for them. One of them even went home and tried on her uniform.

Top ways to manage family separation during war

SUBMITTED BY LT. COL. RUTH A. SIEM



1. Take time to listen to each other. Know that deployment will be a painful and frightening time, particularly for children. People may need to just express themselves during this time. The more family members can communicate with one another, the less long-term strain there will be on the family.

2. Limit exposure to news media programs. Families should minimize exposure to anxiety-arousing media related to the war. News programs often emphasize fearful content and frightening images to create a "story". Watching a lot of TV news programs, for example, can create needless distress. When children worry about war, let them know that the war is far away. Acknowledge children's fears, and let them know that parents, teachers, and police are here to protect them.

3. Remember the deployed member is still a part of the family. Find ways to keep a symbolic representation of the deployed member visible to the family. Keep photographs of your loved one in prominent locations. Get children's help in keeping a family journal of each day's events for the deployed member to look at when he or she returns.

4. Understand feelings. Emotions such as fear, anger, and feeling "numb" are normal and common reactions to stress. Family members need to make sure these emotions aren't turned against one another in frustration. It will help family members manage tension if you share feelings, recognize that they are normal, and realize that most family members feel the same way.

5. Spend time with people. Coping with stressful events is easier when in the company of caring friends. Ask for support from you family, friends, church, or other community group.

6. Join or develop support groups. Forming support groups for the spouses of deployed military personnel helps spouses cope with separation from their loved ones. Peer-support groups, led by spouses of deployed service members, can be a tremendous aid to family functioning. Spouses can share ideas with each other, trade childcare or other responsibilities, and encourage each other if they are feeling taxed.

7. Keep up routines. Try to stick to everyday routines. Familiar habits can be very comforting.

8. Take time out for fun. Don't forget to do

things that feel good to you. Take a walk, spend time with your pets, or play a game you enjoy.

9. Help others. It is beneficial for everyone to find ways you and your family can productively channel energy. Helping other families and organizing neighborhood support groups or outings can help everyone involved.

10. Self-care. The more emotionally nurturing and stable the remaining caretaker is, the less stress the children will feel. However, trying to "do it all" can lead to exhaustion. Signs of caregiver stress include feeling as though you are unable to cope, feeling constantly exhausted, or feeling as though you no longer care about anything. It is especially important for caretakers to devote time to themselves, exercise, and get plenty of rest.

11. Ask for help if needed. When stress becomes overwhelming, don't be afraid to seek professional help. Ongoing difficulties such as exhaustion, apathy, worry, sleeplessness, bad dreams, irritability, or anger-outbursts warrant the attention of a professional counselor. The military employment assistance program provides free counseling for family members impacted by the stress of deployment.

Use military outreach programs. Interventions for military families are especially important for younger families and those without a prior history of deployments. Group leaders are trained to (1) assist in the grief process that a family goes through when a spouse is deployed and (2) teach coping skills to deal with indefinite separations.

DD-214's online

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MASTER SGT. PATRICIA A. QUINLIVAN

It's official, DD-214's are now online. Please pass it on to other vets.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's. Go to <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or (<http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov/>)

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new on-line military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the website. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that often occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service to these requests by eliminating the records center mailroom and processing time. Additional documents and services such as awards and medals eligibility, replacement medals, benefits and claims, health and medical records, etc., can be provided by NPRC upon request.

Please pass this information on to all retired military service members and their dependents and to all veterans you know. Be sure to log on and check out this useful website.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. NANCY J. AUSLAND
Tech. Sgt. Douglas J. Brush and Master Sgt. Murhl D. Fredrikson, crew chiefs with the 114th Maintenance Squadron, wait on the flightline at Joe Foss Field for a Utah Air National Guard KC-135 to shut down. The aircraft was here for a familiarization flight Nov. 6.



Going Home

STORY BY STAFF SGT. MIRANDA L. SKILES
PHOTO BY 1ST. LT. MICHAEL V. FRYE

“Contrary to a very inaccurate stereotype sometimes applied to members of our military, he was college educated and he was happily involved and participating in a profession which he loved very much. But on the morning of 9-11 he called his mother and he said this, ‘I can’t believe terrorists could be allowed to attack us on our own American soil. I’m going in.’”

These words were part of the introduction by retired Army Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Norris Einertson as he delivered the keynote address at the Going Home sculpture dedication ceremony at Veterans’ Memorial Park in Sioux Falls, S.D. November 7, 2009.

Staff Sgt. Robb Roling joined the Army in 2003. He volunteered to go immediately to where the action was in Iraq. After his first tour overseas, he became a part of and trained with the military’s elite Green Berets. He again deployed to Iraq in March 2007.

Rex Roling, Robb’s father, told the following story to describe how Going Home became so meaningful to his family.

“Margie, TJ, Tiffany and I were on the Sculpture Walk June 30, 2007 when we saw the statue of an angel carrying a fallen Soldier. None of us wanted to look at it very long fearing what it meant. But our fears came true, came to reality, the next morning when two Soldiers appeared at our door to announce that our son Robb had been killed the night before in Iraq. With the time change, he died at approximately the same time that we had seen the sculpture.”

See Going Home, page 11



The future is now: The Expeditionary Combat Support System

SUBMITTED BY MAJ. ED VANDERWOLDE

The Air Force is in the midst of an historical transformation. The way the Air Force is organized and the ways that airpower is employed are changing in revolutionary ways. Also changing are the ways in which Air Force Logisticians provide support to Warfighters.

The Expeditionary Combat Support System is the cornerstone enabler of the logistics transformation effort. Using an Enterprise Resource Planning software solution, ECSS is applying best commercial practices and using industry-proven tools to establish the Air Force's first capability to globally view and manage its logistics resources (i.e., major end items, material, people, and funds).

But ECSS is much more than an IT system. It will fundamentally change business processes, personnel roles, and jobs across the spectrum of the Air Force Logistics community. Locally, ECSS will drive dramatic changes and improvements in the way logistics is done.

For example, the process of scheduling a repair currently means setting a repair date at the base level without the ability to ensure technicians, parts, facilities, tools, etc., are available Air Force-wide. With ECSS, an integrated global view of people/parts availability will enable greater scheduling effectiveness and ultimately increase availability of repaired components or major end items. Simply put, Air Force Logisticians will have what they need to get the job done when repairs are system-scheduled under ECSS.

Citing another example, today Air Force Logisticians collectively rely on paper forms and enter data into multiple base-level systems. This labor-intensive effort will be replaced by entering data once into one system. When fully implemented, ECSS will replace hundreds of logistics information systems and will be the single source of truth for logistics information.

While it will be several years before ECSS reaches full operational capability and its benefits are fully realized, the implementation process is already underway. And, that process will affect Sioux Falls very soon.

ECSS will be fielded throughout the Air Force in multiple releases and Sioux Falls will see ECSS fielded in November 2011. While that may seem to be a part of the distant future, the reality is that we need to begin preparing for ECSS now.

To help with that preparation, the ECSS program conducted its kickoff meeting with the 114FW leaders and ECSS users on Oct. 29, 2009.

During that meeting, ECSS program officials delivered an informational and educational briefing about ECSS, its goals, program timelines, and how the Air Force will be affected.

The kickoff represented the beginning of the ECSS organizational change management program, which is designed to help prepare everyone for this transformation effort. History tells us that no change is ever successful until individual behaviors change. The people who perform Air Force Logistics processes must personally engage in the transformative aspects of ECSS in order for it to succeed.

As is always the case, these sweeping changes will not be easy, as long-standing ways of doing business will either dramatically change or completely disappear. ECSS will pull people from their comfort zones and cause them to do new tasks in different, unfamiliar ways. To help logisticians navigate these changes, the ECSS program will provide education and training programs for those who will use the new system. An Air Force-wide change agent network, supported by an ECSS program team, will share information on ECSS activities, schedules, and lessons learned and conduct local problem-solving meetings to help smooth implementation at each installation. This same network will support the sustainment of ECSS after fielding is completed.

ECSS will drive changes in the way the Air Force does business and the way logisticians perform their jobs. The result will be an Air Force enterprise better enabled to provide its Warfighters the right material at the right time. Expeditionary Combat Support System will also enable logisticians to use their time more productively. This will significantly reduce the cost of accomplishing the Air Force Logistics mission.

To learn more about the Expeditionary Combat Support System, contact Major Ed VanDerWolde, ext 5903, or visit <https://www.ecss.wpafb.af.mil>.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

Mr. Mike McCarthy, Air National Guard ECSS Champion briefs the Logistics Readiness Squadron in the new Expeditionary Combat Support System.

I would like to thank the men and women of the South Dakota Air National Guard for the award and gift certificate presented to me at the Turkey Feed.

I enjoyed the 14 plus years of sewing for all of you. It was only a small part I did for what you all do for us.

Take care on your deployments.

*Thanks again,
Rosy McDowell*



Rosy McDowell was presented with a certificate of appreciation from the members of the 114th Fighter Wing for her many years of sewing patches on uniforms (over 37,000). Rosy is the mother of Senior Master Sgt. Bruce McDowell, Engine Shop chief and the wife of retired Senior Master Sgt. Dale McDowell. Thank YOU Rosy!

Execution through engagement

BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. JENNIFER M. REECY, 114TH FIGHTER WING HUMAN RESOURCE ADVISOR

As we look towards fulfilling the mission of the AEF, we must honor and value the unique diversities we each bring to mission success and synergy. As Airmen, and especially the leaders of Airmen, it is important to remember we possess a valuable resource that is never-ending, abundant and valuable - the ability and responsibility to cultivate a culture of diversity for our Airmen.

Embracing and fostering a culture of diversity endears us to each other and forms lasting relationships that bond us together. On the other hand, when misunderstanding of diversity is found lacking in an organization, the absence can damage the institution's ability to respond appropriately to members' needs. Mission failure then becomes a very real possibility.

Proactively supporting diversity and leadership initiatives begins with our teammates and fellow Airmen. We have invested valuable time and limited resources on every unit member -- civilian, enlisted and officer. In today's challenging times everyone

matters. We should always treat people with respect and dignity.

A s k Y o u r s e l f :


What diversity/leadership initiative do we currently have in our organization? What is the cost to your organization if you do nothing about it? How does this effect morale, retention, or productivity on base?

We should all make every day count by giving 100 percent effort all the time - our nation expects no less. Care for your mission. Put the maximum effort into your work as though someone's life depended on it, because in many of our duties someone's life does depend on our actions.


Flywheel Challenge: Ask yourself, "What did I do today to push on the flywheel?" What is your personal commitment to support and develop your Airmen to lead? What contributions are you making to engage your Airmen in preparing themselves for future possibilities? Do you lead so that your Airmen can tell their Airmen that you stood for something and you acted on it?



If you would like additional helpful guidance, please feel free to contact: Chief Master Sgt. Mike Haugen, State Human Resource Advisor or Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer M. Reecy, 114th Fighter Wing Human Resource Advisor.



SDANG FILE PHOTO



SDANG FILE PHOTO

114 Fighter Wing Earns Governor's Safety Award

The South Dakota Safety Council has awarded a Governor's Safety Award to the 114th Fighter Wing for excellence in workplace safety and health. Awards were presented by Lieutenant Governor Dennis Daugaard.

The 114th is one of 49 employers who were recognized at the Governor's Safety Awards luncheon at the Sioux Falls Arena Oct. 13.

"An effective safety program reduces injuries and costs, maximizes productivity and builds morale," said Cary Swenson, executive director of the South Dakota Safety Council. "Employers like the 114FW understand that safety is good business, now more than ever."

Since 1993, the annual Governor's Safety Awards have spotlighted South Dakota employers with above average safety records. Participants submit injury information which is compared with state and national data, as well as the entrant's past performance. Ongoing safety programs and activities are also considered.

Winners are recognized at three levels:

- Meritorious Achievement: Better than average performance in incident rates, dependent on type of industry.

- Outstanding Achievement: Continuing improvement and/or a continuing outstanding record.

- Award of Honor: Exceptional accomplishment in reduction of injuries and illnesses in the workplace.

The 114FW received an Outstanding Achievement Award.

The Governor's Safety Awards luncheon was part of the 17th South Dakota Safety & Health Conference, coordinated by the South Dakota Safety Council. The conference is the largest gathering of workplace safety and health professionals in the region. The South Dakota Safety Council, founded in 1949, is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in South Dakota by preventing unintentional injuries or accidents.

Movin' up, movin' in, movin' on

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. JAMES WELCH, WING COMMAND CHIEF



SDANG FILE PHOTO

There have been some manning changes with the base First Sergeant positions since July 2009. Over half of the 114th FW First Sergeants have retired or moved on to different positions.

As the liaison for the first sergeants, I want to express my gratitude for their tireless efforts to assist and be there 24/7, 365 for our Airmen.

Senior Master Sgt. Julie Zitterich retired at the end of July with over nine years of service as a first sergeant for the Support Group. The Support Group position was filled by Master Sgt. Kenneth Grunewaldt; he is presently at the First Sergeant Academy and will graduate mid-November.

Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Anderson's position opened in September and was filled by Master Sgt. Randy Wingen, who was the First Sergeant for the Logistic Readiness Squadron. Chief Anderson had over 11 years of service as a first sergeant. The LRS position was filled by Master Sgt. Jason Stevens.

In October the Medical Group position opened, which was held by Master Sgt. Tom Schulte, this position will be interviewed in December. Schulte will have over four years of service as a first sergeant for the Medical Group.

There is one more position that has opened in November and that position is in the Civil Engineer Squadron and will be filled in January. The position is held by Master Sgt. Jeff Smith who will have three years of service as a first sergeant.

To be a first sergeant, with the present OPS tempo can be very trying, but rewarding. I

cannot say enough about the caliber of the first sergeants that are leaving; they have done a great service to the 114th FW as well as their country.

To Senior Master Sgt. Zitterich who has retired, thanks for all your years of service and thanks for your tireless effort.

To Chief Master Sgt. Anderson, Master Sgt. Schulte, and Master Sgt. Smith, thank you for stepping up for serving as first sergeant and good luck with your next tour, wherever that is. Your years of dedication in serving as a first sergeant will not be forgotten.

If you are interested in what it takes to be a first sergeant or what a first sergeant's duties and responsibilities are please ask a first sergeant or ask me.

I am always available if you have a problem, question or idea. You can reach me at (605) 212-9690, (605) 351-1537 or email: james.welch@sdsiou.ang.af.mil

Jamison receives award



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. QUINTON YOUNG

Col. Matthew Jamison, 114th FW Director of Strategic Initiatives recieved the I.G. Brown Command Excellence Award from the NCOAGA for Region 3. He was nominated for his support of the enlisted force during his time as the Operations Group Commander. Region 3 consists of Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Retiree Coffee Dates

December 8, 2009	February 9, 2010
January 12, 2010	March 9, 2010

That Guy.com



Moving In

Staff Sgt.

Joshua A. Thayer, 114 MXS
Mark S. Weyer, 114 MXS

Airman 1st Class

Amanda L. Bradshaw, 114 STUF
Scott V. Cmelik, 114 STUF
Jon J. N. Vandehoef, 114 STUF

Airman Basic

Michael R. Bailey, 114 STUF
Beau A. Bartscher, 114 STUF
Daniel D. Larson, 114 STUF
Ashley M. Morris, 114 STUF

Moving Up

To Capt.

Anthony E. Siemonsma, 114 FSS
Scott A. Smit, 114 OSF

To 1st Lt.

Jerry R. Grotjohn, 114 STUF

To Senior Master Sgt.

Randy A. Wingen, 114 FW

To Master Sgt.

Dennis G. Ganter, 114 AMXS
Mark A. Lueth, 114 MXS
Brett R. Schroeder, 114 MXS
Jason A. Stevens, 114 LRS

To Tech. Sgt.

Jenna M. Hoff, 114 FW
Eric J. Hoogendoorn, 114 CES
Kristina E. Niedert, 175 FS
Nathan P. Semrau, 114 AMXS
Tyler J. Susie, 114 LRS

To Staff Sgt.

Quentin T. Jackson, 114 CES
Joshua D. Mork, 114 MXS
Ryan A. Nimick, 114 MDG
Brian H. Vanhill, 114 LRS
Bridget A. Vanliere, 114 FSS

To Senior Airman

Brittnie B. Bunkers, 114 FSS
Courtney L. Francis, 114 FSS
Jill M. Klatt, 114 AMXS
Joel T. Lockwood, 114 SFS
Maegan M. Nimick, 114 MXS
Spencer E. Parmelee, 114 MXS
Matthew R. Rollag, 114 MXS
Tucker R. Ulmer, 114 SFS
Dustin M. Wagner, 114 MXS

Moving On

Tech. Sgt. David A. Huber, 114 LRS, will retire Nov. 28 with over 23 years of service.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

Master Sgt. Theresa F. Hanna, 114 MXS retired Oct. 30 with over 31 years of service. Sgt. Hanna was presented with a print during her technician retirement party Oct. 23.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

Col. Russ Walz presented Chief Master Sgt. Russell K. Larsen, 114th Maintenance NCOIC Component Repair Chief with his retirement flag during his technician retirement party Nov. 6. Chief Larsen will retire January 11, 2010 with over 36 years of service.

Going home continued

“Going home now is part of his headstone,” he says, “it helped us grieve. We knew it needed to be part of something even bigger for the whole community of Sioux Falls.”

The Roling family wanted to share the statue with all the families who have lost loved ones. So they led an effort to raise the funds needed to get the sculpture placed in Veterans’ Memorial Park.

“I do think this is probably the greatest honor of my life,” said Sondra Jonson, the artist who created Going Home. “In designing this sculpture, my intention was to somehow express the inexpressible; the deep gratitude of our nation to those who lay down their lives daily to preserve our freedom and our securities.”

Now Going Home is a permanent part of the serene park that honors all of the fallen servicemembers of the Sioux Empire.

“I urge you all to bring your children and your grandchildren here to this magnificent park to teach them about freedom and why it is not free,” says Rex Roling.

He finished speaking with these last few statements, “We all cry for those who have given so much for us to remain free. What we have is worth fighting for and sometimes worth dying for.”

“With this artwork I bow to you who make freedom possible,” says artist Jonson. “To those of you who have seen your loved ones off to war, not to return, I hope that this sculpture reminds you of whose arms they rest in now and I hope that when you see this sculpture you can almost hear the same voice that they heard saying, ‘Well done my good and faithful servant. Now enter into the joy of your Father’s house.’”

> Members of the four service honor guard presenting the colors at the Going Home ceremony included 114th Maintenance Group Fabrication Element Supervisor Senior Master Sgt. Robert



PHOTO BY 1ST. LT. MICHAEL V. FRYE

D. Funk. Other members of the honor guard were not identified but included a Soldier from the Army, a Marine, and a Navy Seaman.

Tech. Sgt. Todd D. Holden, paralegal and Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, Radiological and Explosive augmentee with the 114th Fighter Wing, assists members as they practice using the Light Inflatable Decontamination System during focus training Nov. 7.

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