

THUNDERBUMPER

South Dakota AIR NATIONAL GUARD



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Heartfelt
Homecoming

Vol. 37, No. 1 January-March 2010

- Maj. Gen. Steve Doohen**
Adjutant General
- Brig. Gen. Dave Holman**
Assistant Adjutant General for Air
- Col. Russ Walz**
Commander, 114 FW
- Public Affairs Staff:**
- 1st Lt. Michael Frye**
Public Affairs Officer
- Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland**
NCOIC, Public Affairs
- Master Sgt. Chris Stewart**
Still Photographer
- Tech. Sgt. Jared Hirsch**
Broadcast Journalist
- Airman Basic Nikita Donovan**
Journalist
- Staff Sgt. Quinton Young**
Still Photographer
- Staff Sgt. Jennifer Masterson**
Information Management

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

www.114fw.ang.af.mil

On the cover...



Members of the 114th Fighter Wing deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom are welcomed home to Joe Foss Field Feb. 12. (Photo by Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)

My last thoughts

BY COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SGT. LANE J. MUNGER



SDANG FILE PHOTO

Looking back over my last 39 years in the Air Force and Air National Guard, there's no doubt that at the end of the journey, I stand in amazement of how quick time seemed to have passed. I am grateful for all the opportunities that came my way over the years and was very proud to have worn the Air Force uniform. I can't begin to express the pride I feel belonging to, and now retiring from, the South Dakota Air National Guard. No doubt the crowning achievement of my career was being selected as the State Command Chief. I am very indebted to General Doohen for this opportunity to represent and work for our enlisted personnel. If I have been successful over the last three years in this position, it is due to the enlisted men and women, who trusted in me, confided in me, worked with me to make a difference, and who helped to break paradigms and move forward in our thinking and the way we do business.

My success has also hinged on the

respect and support of commanders and officers on base. Thank you for realizing the importance and significance of the Command Chief position.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the friendships I have made with our Army Guard folks throughout the state. I have always been a believer in joint initiatives and will also miss working with the State Command Sergeant Major and other Army enlisted and officer folks.

Best wishes to Chief Welch as he assumes the position. He has served extremely well as the Wing Command Chief and I'm confident he will be successful as the State Command Chief.

Someone asked if I would have any last "words of wisdom". I asked them for a topic and they said, "What makes a successful career"? So here goes. I think of four essential ingredients: Choose a career you love and give it the best there is in you, be ready for and seize your opportunities, give respect and expect it in return, and remember to share your knowledge and experiences as a mentor.

I thank all of you for your service to this great state and nation. God bless you and your families. I will miss all of you.



PHOTO BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. DON MCLEER



< Maj. Gen. Steven R. Doohen, The Adjutant General for South Dakota presented Command Chief Master Sgt. Lane J. Munger with his retirement flag during a ceremony held for him on March 6. at Joe Foss Field, South Dakota.

The original “Dream Team”

SUBMITTED BY MASTER SGT. JON GOEHRING
 BEGINNING EXCERPT FROM NBA.COM

Many consider it the greatest team ever assembled, in any sport. Yet even that description fails to give it proper credit for its impact.

The original “Dream Team,” the U.S. basketball team that won the gold medal at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, was a phenomenon on and off the court. It mattered not that it dominated the Olympic competition, beating its eight opponents by an average of 44 points. What was important was that the Dream Team, the first U.S. Olympic team to include NBA stars, gave fans a glimpse of basketball at its finest, and an entire world responded.

Many might ask “What does this have to do with the 114th Fighter Wing?” A magical number, 1097, will allude to the following monumental accomplishment of the 114th Fighter Wing Recruiting and Retention Team.

In September 2008, the 114th Recruiting and Retention Dream Team was established by Recruiting and Retention superintendent Senior Master Sgt. Brian Voges. His goal was to reach official end strength of 1097.

He gathered up his team, which included Master Sgt. Becky Langloss, Master Sgt. Eric Tidemann, Master Sgt. Jon Goehring, Tech. Sgt. Jake Lackas, Staff Sgt. Jessica Larson and Mrs. Rachel Vanderzee, and informed them of the challenges that would lie ahead. He relayed that Col. Russ A. Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander, had given him an established timeline of January 2010 to get the unit back to 100 percent of its assigned end strength. To ensure the timeline was met, Senior Master Sgt. Voges challenged his dream team to reach the goal by October 2009.

The dream team had to refocus from its normal way of conducting business and fully engage precision recruiting tactics with the use of many recruiting tools. Some would be familiar and some would be new. The tools included numerous school visits, career fairs, the annual 114th FW Career Day and the unit referrals. Master Sgt. Becky Langloss, Retention manager for the 114th Fighter Wing,

pulled extra duty to ensure the units retention rate held steady at 96.5 percent. On average, the unit loses approximately 80 members per year through retirements and normal attrition. Through her dedicated mentorship, she was able to curb the number of departures to 62, resulting in 18 fewer enlistments that the recruiting staff would have to seek out.

There were many challenges along the way like a back log in technical training dates, reduced bonus career fields, budget restraints and many long hours. Scoffing at the challenges, the dream team took to the court and exceeded the coach’s expectations by enlisting a record breaking 153 applicants to officially return the 114th FW to 100 percent manning four months ahead of the coach’s goal and seven months ahead of Col. Walz’s established timeline. June 2009 will forever go down in the record books as the month the dream team made recruiting history for the 114 Fighter Wing.

Congratulations to our R&R team

The 114th Recruiting and Retention Team was selected to represent Region Two for the “Patriot Team Award” category for 2009. Their packet will now be submitted to the National Guard Bureau to compete against the units that are selected from the other regions.

To be considered for this award, the unit must have made significant contributions to the state, region and national levels of Recruiting & Retention as well as making significant personal improvements, being involved in the community, and working successfully together as a team through leadership and overall job knowledge.

Region Two is made up of units from Minn., N.D., S.D., Neb., Iowa, Mo., Kan., Ill. and Wis. Last year, the 185th Air Refueling Wing, Sioux City Air National Guard, received this award and went on to win at the national level.

This is a great accomplishment and testament to the outstanding job this team did during fiscal year 2009.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

The 114th Fighter Wing Recruiting and Retention office left to right: Staff Sgt. Jessica Larson, Master Sgt. Jon Goehring, Senior Master Sgt. Brian Voges, Master Sgt. Eric Tidemann, Master Sgt. Becky Langloss, and Tech. Sgt. Jake Lackas.

A Run to Remember

BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

The 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia weren't just something to watch on a cold winter night for one South Dakota Air National Guard Airman, it was also a run to remember.

Chosen by his employer, DM&E Railroad, Staff Sgt. Thomas Ries was lucky enough to be one of very few Americans chosen to be a torch bearer for this year's winter games in Canada.

For his part of the run, Sgt. Ries and four others ran their torches through a small town just north of Lake Superior called Nipigon.

"The pride that the Canadians feel for the Olympics is really amazing," said Sgt. Ries. "You tell people you are a torch bearer and they treat you like your some sort of a king."

The torch that Sgt. Ries actually carried for the run is now his to keep thanks to his employer.

"Canadian Pacific who owns DM&E Railroad actually purchased the torches for us," said Sgt. Ries.

The torches have only been available for bearers to purchase for a couple of years. Fifteen thousand torches were produced for this year's winter games and twelve thousand torch bearers participated. After the bearer is done with the run, the line carrying fuel to sustain the flame is cut so that the torch will never be lit again. The original flame



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. CHRIS STEWART

is transferred to a coalminer's lantern to be taken to the next city where that city's torch bearers wait.

Although it was a cold and windy day on Jan. 3 when he ran the 1/4 mile up-hill run with his arm in the air it was one that he'll never forget.

"An 11-year old girl came up to me in the hotel after the run all excited to meet a torch bearer," shared Sgt. Ries.

The little girl had her picture taken with Ries and his torch and as it turned out, was in town for a doctor appointment and was going to miss going with her class to see the torch being run through her hometown the next day.

"She ended up with a better experience to share with her classmates when she got home because she actually got to hold a torch," said Sgt. Ries.

The entire experience was a memorable one for both Ries and his wife and the torch he'll forever display will prompt many stories for years to come.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY STAFF SGT. THOMAS RIES AND THE ARGUS LEADER

Lieutenant of the Year



2nd Lt. Ariel R. Keating, 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is the Deputy OIC of Aircraft Maintenance.



Airman of the Year



Senior Airman Joshua D. Mork, 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, works in the structural repair shop.

Senior NCO of the Year



Master Sgt. Chad M. Rydberg, 114th Security Forces Squadron, is the NCOIC for the Combat Arms Training Section.

NCO of the Year



Staff Sgt. Mark S. Kreul, 175th Fighter Squadron, works in Intelligence.

OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

After 68 years, Civil Engineers have new home

SUBMITTED BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. RICHARD W. LARSON



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

“Our original title was the Air Installations Office” said Senior Master Sgt. (Ret) Carl O. Dellman. “We were in the building in front of the old operations building, where the Club and chaplains office used to be.” Dellman, a retired member of the 114th Civil Engineers Squadron, former Prime BEEF and proud force provider reflects. Dellman spent 42 years serving with the 114th Civil Engineer Flight, now the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron. The unit relocated to building 47 in 1975, a facility built in

1942, where they resided until the completion of the new building in January.

Many of the older members of the civil engineer squadron never thought they’d see the day that this modern \$7.6 million facility would be built.

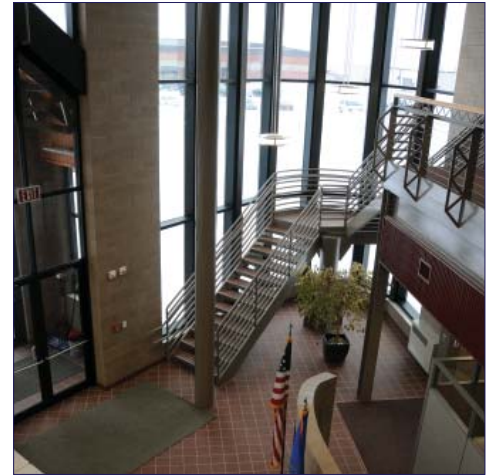
“The first Form 1391 was completed by then Major Dave Holman back in 1989” said 1st Lt. Lance Niewenhuis, 114th CES Project Manager. “As we all know, that major is now Brig. Gen. Dave Holman, our Assistant Adjutant General for Air.”

Another retiree who was skeptical and never thought he’d see this day is Lt. Col. (Ret) Tom Molohon, former CES commander. He used to say that he would never see a new Civil Engineer building in his lifetime. Lt. Col. Alvin Punt, current 114th CES commander, joked at the buildings groundbreaking ceremony 20 months ago, “Tom, you’d better start making arrangements!” Lt. Col. Punt added, “We are fortunate to have had support from our congressional delegation for this project. This facility will continue to meet the needs of future South Dakota Air National Guard engineer missions and personnel for years to come.”

As you enter the new facility it is apparent that it was designed with engineers in mind. The glass wall exposing the elevator, the exposed duct work, and the industrial looking stairway all reflect appearances that engineers can appreciate. The building is fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and essentially tripled the previous space the squadron occupied. Command, Operations, Site Development, HVAC, Electrical, Power Production, Structural, Utilities, Resources/Supply, Emergency Management and Heavy Equipment all have their own facilities within the new complex. The state maintenance staff also has shop facilities within the building.

A new storage facility means that the full complement of CES Prime BEEF, or Base Engineer Emergency Force, mobility and response equipment can be adequately protected from the elements. A purpose built Operations Center will mean better command and control capability during emergencies and disasters. The multi-purpose classroom facility can be set up in numerous configurations to meet mission requirements.

A new feature is being installed in Building 49. It’s known as a Mass Notification System. The system will alert the building’s occupants to the presence of a wide array of threats such as a security incident, severe weather, a technological emergency or other base-wide emergencies. Both visual and audible warnings will sound when commanded. The system will eventually alert all computer users, as well as ring desk phones and send text messages.



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. QUINTON YOUNG

The entry to the new Civil Engineer building proudly displays the PRIME BEEF logo and boasts architectural details reflective of the engineers who occupy it.

Words from your new command chief

BY COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SGT. KEVIN UTHE



SDANG FILE PHOTO

As your new Wing Command Chief, let me introduce myself to those that don't know me, I am Chief Master Sergeant Kevin Uthe. I have been a member of the South Dakota Air National Guard since March 1977. I started out as a traditional guardsman in the Aerospace Ground Equipment shop. In 1981 I accepted a full time Air Technician position in the AGE Shop where I worked as a mechanic until 1998, at which time I was selected as the AGE shop supervisor. I assumed the position of your Wing Command Chief effective March 14.

The Wing Command Chief is responsible for the interests regarding welfare, readiness, morale, proper utilization and progress concerning the enlisted personnel of the South Dakota Air National Guard. What does that mean? It means you can come to the Wing Command Chief with a concern and he or she will do whatever they can to get it straightened out at the lowest level possible. If the Wing Command Chief can't assist in resolving the situation, they will up channel it to the next higher level.

One of my goals as the Wing Command Chief is to encourage as many enlisted members as possible to attend in-residence enlisted Professional Military Education. It may be the Airman Leadership School, the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, or the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy. I know from experience that in-residence schools take a big commitment, but in the long run I believe they offer so much more than the correspondence courses can. If nothing else, you get the opportunity to meet people from other Air National Guard units, as well as some of our active duty counterparts. If you have any questions about in-residence PME, stop by the Base Training office or give me a call at extension 5430 or 5495; I'll

put you in contact with a recent graduate of in-residence PME.

As your new Wing Command Chief, I am also striving to meet as many of you as I can. My door will always be open – either in my office in Building 60, Room 114 during UTA weekends, or in the AGE shop, Building 11, during the week. Stop in and say hello. Remember I work for you. Take care of yourselves and take care of each other.

Mentor program available

BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. JENNIFER M. REECY



SDANG FILE PHOTO

Portal at <https://www.my.af.mil>

You will find the Enlisted Development Plan under the "Featured Links" and then "Top Viewed: Careers" column under the message from our leaders. It only takes a few minutes to register and access is available from both the base and home.

I encourage all enlisted leadership at the 114th Fighter Wing to become members. It is important to note Airmen cannot request guidance from potential mentors unless supervisors and those willing to be mentors have created their own EDP.

The focus of the EDP is to maximize performance of our people through positive mentoring relationships. It is broken down into three separate modules; education and training, leadership and job experience.

Although we recognize mentoring happens both formally and informally in each organization, the EDP allows Airmen to develop professional goals, draft a plan

to achieve those goals and track their progress in their personal journal with an embedded calendar to keep them on task.

Mentors will be able to view a protégé's progress and add comments for guidance.

Data is linked to the Virtual MPF; however, other members authorized to view your plan will not have access to any Privacy Act information, such as home address or Social Security number.

The EDP has direct links to appropriate AFIs, Air Force Doctrine and other information required for career development.

For instance, you can locate the minimum requirements for promotion to the next rank and outline the appropriate steps to prepare for promotion.

As mentioned above, in order to effectively develop goals and a career plan for your Airmen, supervisors and mentors must create their EDP on the Air Force Portal.

Through the AF Portal you can work towards achieving personal goals and career objectives for the ANG as well as your civilian occupation.

The EDP also allows Airmen to participate in online forums, open to all Air Force enlisted members and maintain a personal library. Once enrolled, supervisors and mentors can participate in all phases of an Airman's development.

The journal area allows supervisors and mentors to store accomplishments and goals. This can be a real asset during performance review and awards & decorations time.

Questions regarding the EDP, ANG Mentoring, and other relative programs can be directed to the office of the Human Resources Advisor.

I challenge each of you to develop a plan for your future!

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 Reecy; 114th FW HR Advisor.



Operation Ir
December 2009



Iraqi Freedom
to February 2010

332nd AEW pilot reaches 4,000 flight hours in F-16

BY CAPT. BYRON COWARD
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Feb. 6, 2010 - JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- A pilot with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing reached a monumental milestone while deployed here Feb. 5.

Lt. Col. Gary M. Middlebrooks of the 114th Fighter Wing, 175th Fighter Squadron of the South Dakota Air National Guard, logged his 4,000th hour of flying in the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

"It does feel rewarding even though it is just a number that doesn't really mean anything," said Colonel Middlebrooks. "I never expected to be able to keep flying this long, so it has been a real pleasure and joy for me."

Colonel Middlebrooks reached his 4,000th hour while flying close air support sorties over Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron under the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group.

"Achieving 4,000 hours of flight time is a milestone that only a handful of F-16 pilots will ever achieve," said Maj. Eric J. Gerber, 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron operations officer and fellow 114th, SDANG pilot. "(Even in wartime) ANG pilots accumulate approximately 150-200 hours of flight time annually, which makes it extremely difficult to ever achieve such a significant accomplishment."

According to Mr. David M. Hill of Lockheed Martin, Colonel Middlebrooks is the 33rd F-16 pilot to reach the 4,000 hour milestone. Two of the others to do so are also currently deployed to JBB - Col. Robert McCutchen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing director of staff, and Col. David A. Lujan, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group commander.

This is Colonel Middlebrooks' third deployment to Balad. During his career, he has deployed more than six additional times to Saudi Arabia and Turkey in support of Operations Southern and Northern Watch.

"The flying is about the same except that it's much quieter this time with the drawdown in progress," he said.

The Greenville, S.C., native is a 1984 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He completed undergraduate pilot training at

Reese Air Force Base, Texas, where he served as an instructor pilot in the T-38 Talon aircraft. Initially, he was not thrilled about being an instructor.

"In the long run though, that actually worked out for the best," said Colonel Middlebrooks. "By getting my additional duty assignment out of the way right at the beginning of my career I was able to stay in fighters once I got in."

Following his instructor pilot assignment, he



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. LINDA C. MILLER

was selected for F-16 training at MacDill AFB, Fla. As an active duty F-16 fighter pilot, he has been assigned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Kunsan AB, South Korea; Shaw AFB, S.C., and Langley AFB, Va.

"The F-16 is probably the best multi-role fighter built in the last quarter of the 20th century," said Colonel Middlebrooks. "The Air Force and ANG have done a superb job of keeping it on the cutting edge of modern technology with constant improvements. When I first started flying them back in 1989 we only carried unguided freefall bombs and AIM-9 heat seeking missiles. Now the jet can employ anti-radiation missiles, laser and GPS guided bombs and radar guided air-to-air missiles. Plus the night vision goggles, targeting pods and GPS bombs have turned what was originally a day, VFR fighter into a night, all weather multi-role machine."

Colonel Middlebrooks transferred to the South Dakota Air National Guard in January 2000 after 15 years of active duty. He had heard about the Air Guard from former active duty friends. To him, joining the SDANG was an opportunity to continue flying the F-16.

"It's the best unit I've ever been a part of,"

said Colonel Middlebrooks. "Our maintenance folks are without exception the best there ever were. I have more confidence and comfort climbing into one of our wolf tail F-16s than any other plane in the world. They take great care of these jets and I'm sure I owe them my life for every one of those many hours I've flown. They spend 30 to 50 hours of work for every hour we fly."

"Lt. Col. Middlebrooks is our most experienced and seasoned aviators," said Lt. Col. Nathan B. Alholinna, 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander and fellow 114th, SDANG pilot. "His mentorship and professional example sets the standard for peers, junior aviators, and enlisted corps. He is always the first to say I'll do it and delivers outstanding results every time."

As a full-time air guard fighter pilot, Colonel Middlebrooks jokes that he doesn't have a life outside of flying. Although reaching 4,000 hours is an achievement, Colonel Middlebrooks credits his wife and children for "putting up with my obsession for the last 26 years."

"We've been all over the world together and they've never complained once," he said.

Colonel Middlebrooks and his wife have three sons: Mark, a sophomore at Roosevelt High School; Nathan, a senior at the University of South Dakota; and Taylor who enlisted in the U.S. Army and is stationed in Italy. Colonel Middlebrooks deployed to Iraq in the same week Taylor deployed to Afghanistan.

"After all these years of being the one deployed away, I finally have the experience my wife's had to live through of worrying about someone I love potentially being in harm's way," said Colonel Middlebrooks. "It turns out she's had the harder job all along."

Colonel Middlebrooks and many of the SDANG members will be returning home between mid February and early March.

"My goal when I graduated from the academy was to spend 20 years in a flight suit," said Colonel Middlebrooks. "I'm on my 26th year now and have been flying the whole time so I count myself very lucky. Flying the F-16 has been a dream come true for me."

Over the flood

BY CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) HARRISON J. LIPPERT

The snow piles are finally melting down. Snow can't just keep piling higher all winter without having somewhere to go when it begins to melt. When all that snow melts it can threaten to do some damage and overwhelm the normal systems for dealing with it.

Stress is like that. There are seasons when it piles up. Some of you are recovering from a recent deployment and the stresses that it puts on you and your families. It's very likely that on top of all the normal stresses some of you have added health crises, relationship crises, financial crises, or grief from loss. It can pile pretty high and when the melting begins all that cumulative stress can overwhelm your regular coping systems.

If you are standing in the flood or being washed downstream, faith can be the rock that keeps you from drowning. Seasons of high water and overwhelming stress have been the common experience of people for thousands of years and in the Psalm below we can see the faith that brought some through--the belief that someone above the water sees us and will help us survive the flood.

*The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as King forever.
The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.
(Psalm 29:10,11 Today's New International Version)*

Family Day 2010

This year's Family Day will be held on Sunday, June 13. Breakfast will be served for members and their families as well as other family oriented activities. This year's activities will also include another Wings and Wheels event.

In the afternoon, we will be holding our Hometown Hero Ceremony at the Arena. More details will follow on these events from your supervisors. Mark your calendars now for this annual event.

The best and cheapest prescription for good health

BY LT. COL. RUTH A. SIEM, PA-C



SDANG FILE PHOTO

The benefits of exercise make it the best prescription for long life and health. With the new fitness standards being implemented in July, we all need to take fitness more seriously. It is too bad we don't take the advice to exercise from our doctor like we would follow their instructions on how and when to take a prescription medicine. Unfortunately, exercise is often the first thing we give up when we're busy and the last thing we think of when we have some spare time.

Inactivity is one of the four major risk factors for heart disease. The others are smoking, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. Exercise will benefit all the major risk factors. It is important to make exercise fun and to get into a routine. Walking is the preferred exercise, but whatever you choose it is important to be consistent and not to be a weekend warrior, which increases our risk for injury. When it comes to exercise the more often the better, but moderate exercise versus intense exercise provides more long-term health benefits. Just 30 minute three times weekly of moderate intensity exercise provides a huge number of benefits.

The old adage of, "It is never too late to teach an old dog new tricks," also applies to exercise. It is never too late to start and receive benefits from exercise. However, the earlier it is started the better. Listed below are just a few of the benefits exercise provides.

1. Those who maintain an active life style have a 45% lower risk of developing coronary heart disease.
2. Exercise keeps arteries elastic, which in turn keeps blood flowing and blood pressure low. Athletes are 35% less likely to develop high blood pressure.
3. Exercise reduces the risk of stroke.
4. Exercise improves insulin sensitivity, which reduces the risk for developing diabetes.
5. Exercise reduces pain and stiffness and increases strength and endurance.
6. Weight bearing exercise slows the progression of osteoporosis.

7. The risk for colon cancer is reduced by exercise.

8. Employees who participate in as little as once a week in the employee fitness program averaged nearly five fewer sick days annually than their inactive counterparts. One should not exercise through fever or wide spread viral illness.

9. Exercise burns calories and helps fight against obesity.

10. It also improves mental vigor, reaction time, acuity and math skills.

11. It reduces depression.

12. It reduces sleep disturbances and helps provide a more restful sleep.

13. Pregnant women aren't excluded. Women who have a normal low risk pregnancy should exercise to help with timely delivery as well as reaping the other benefits of exercise.

14. As always, you should check with your doctor before starting any exercise program.

Wouldn't it be great if we had a prescription that would decrease blood pressure and cholesterol; reduce our risk for diabetes, cancer, stroke, heart disease, early death and depression, and also increase our strength, stamina, mental health and sleep? The list could go on and on. We all have that prescription at our fingertips and it is called EXERCISE. We just have to make a commitment to set aside some time and make a commitment for healthier living and a longer happier life. With spring here and our fitness test just around the corner, there is no better time to get started.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. CHRIS STEWART

114th closes mission with success

BY COLONEL MICHAEL A. MEYERS
114TH OPERATIONS GROUP COMMANDER



SDANG FILE PHOTO

On Feb. 18, the 114th Fighter Wing closed out over 26 months of Air Sovereign Alert around-the-clock duty at Langley AFB, Va. The Langley Alert Detachment started due to airplane conversions at other Air National Guard units on the east coast. It was a hybrid operation shared with the 158th Fighter Wing of the Vermont Air National Guard.

The 114th provided the airplanes and 75 percent of the alert pilots while the 158th supplied the onsite personnel and remaining pilot manning. It was a very lean undertaking that exemplified Air Force Smart Operations while supporting the number one mission priority of the Secretary of Defense.

With the exception of 8 pilot and 10 maintenance personnel “man years” and associated travel expenses, the 114th

accomplished this mission with no additional overhead. During this timeframe, the 114th provided four Full Mission Capable jets at Langley under the existing 18 primary aircraft assigned construct while still maintaining a baseline home station daily flight schedule of 8 turn 8. The 114th Maintenance Group’s outstanding aircraft availability rate earned several enviable remarks from other F-16 units. The 114th averaged 250 flight hours per year in support of the ASA mission. Even with this significant “out of hide” commitment of aircraft and flight hours, the unit suffered zero months of reduced pilot readiness.

The 114th maximized cost efficiencies with a baseline template of one week pilot alert rotations. Further air travel expense savings were accomplished by aggressive use of Joint Operation Support Airlift Center. JOSAC’s mission is to synergize operational travel requirements with available airlift. Flight hour savings were realized by the 114th Maintenance

Group minimizing jet swap outs through optimized scheduled maintenance practices. The 114th Maintenance Group also utilized JOSAC travel to accomplish routine egress maintenance at Langley which cut scheduled swap outs down to one per month. This flight time savings was equivalent to providing one pilot’s tactical flying requirement.

The 114th and 158th team successfully completed two Alert Force Evaluations over this period, ensuring this “no fail” mission was properly prepared and ready. Communication and flexibility between the 114th Maintenance and Operation Groups, as well as the 158th, were integral in the success of this “hybrid” solution. Strong cross cutting relationships and creative thinking were hallmarks in the execution of this 24/7 operation. The manpower and maintenance practices provided benchmark examples of AFSSO-21 goals and underscored the professionalism and capability the 114th Fighter Wing brings to the total force.

Newer F-16’s destined for Sioux Falls

“This aircraft conversion will ensure that the 175th Fighter Squadron remains ready and relevant for many years to come,” said Colonel Russ Walz.

BY LT. COL. REID CHRISTOPHERSON

Feb. 26, 2010 - SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force senior leaders announced today that nearly two dozen newer F-16 fighter jets will soon arrive at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls.

The 175th Fighter Squadron of the South Dakota Air National Guard’s 114th Fighter Wing has been flying Block 30 F-16 aircraft since 1991. Those jets will be retired and replaced by newer Block 40 F-16s. The 22 replacement jets are scheduled for transfer from Hill AFB, Utah, to Sioux Falls between April and September.

“The South Dakota Air National Guard’s fighter aircraft have provided outstanding contributions to our nation’s defense and global interests for more than 62 years,” said Gov. Mike Rounds. “This latest aircraft conversion will secure the Air Guard’s operational capabilities for many years to come.”

The assignment of Block 40 F-16s will ensure that the 175th Fighter Squadron remains fully combat capable. The abilities of the Block 40 F-16s are very similar to those of the squadron’s currently assigned aircraft, which have had numerous system upgrades.

“The assignment of Block 40 F-16s provides strong affirmation by U.S. Air Force and National Guard leaders of their confidence in the contributions of the S.D. Air National Guard to our nation’s defense,” said Colonel Russ Walz, commander of the 114th Fighter Wing. “This aircraft conversion will ensure that the 175th Fighter Squadron remains ready and relevant for many years to come.”



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. QUINTON YOUNG

Among those effected by the Block 40 change are Staff Sgt. Ryan J. Sullivan and Senior Airman Ciara G. DeSmet. Both are in Avionics and will have to undergo training for the new aircraft.



Medical Group First Sergeant Timothy W. Stark presents Master Sgt. Rochelle L. Prickett with a Diamond Sharp Award for fiscal year 2009. Sgt. Prickett is the NCOIC of Flight Medicine and was presented her award on Feb. 6 at a ceremony in front of her peers.

(Below) 114th Civil Engineer Squadron First Sergeant Jeffrey A. Smith presents Tech. Sgt. Kelly J. Jennings with a Diamond Sharp Award for fiscal year 2009. Sgt. Jennings is an electrician with the Civil Engineer Squadron and returned from an overseas deployment to Kuwait in 2009.



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. CHRIS STEWART



DIAMOND SHARP

This award is given out annually by each unit First Sergeant to an individual in his or her unit that the First Sergeant believes has demonstrated the core values of the Air Force, has an outstanding appearance, sets examples for others to follow and is a good mentor.

(Below) 114th Fighter Wing First Sergeant Randy A. Wingen presents Tech. Sgt. Jeremy J. Lehman with a Diamond Sharp Award for fiscal year 2009. Sgt. Lehman is an assistant program security manager and recently graduated as a Distinguished Graduate from the NCO Academy at Lackland AFB, Texas.



114th Support Group First Sergeant Kenneth A. Grunewaldt presents Staff Sgt. Joshua S. Slieter with a Diamond Sharp Award for fiscal year 2009. Sgt. Slieter is a personnel specialist with the Force Support Squadron and recently returned from a 120 day overseas deployment in support of the unit's Expeditionary Combat Support.

114th Fighter Wing



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The screenshot shows a website layout with a top navigation bar, a main content area with multiple news items, and a right-hand sidebar. The news items include headlines such as '114th Fighter Wing pilot reaches 4,000 flight hours in F-16', 'Recruiting and retention efforts pay off', and 'Operations Building dedicated'. The sidebar contains sections for 'Inside the 114th FW', 'State of South Dakota', and 'Featured Links'. The overall design is clean and professional, typical of a military public website.

Thunderbumper undergoes change

BY 1ST LT. MICHAEL V. FRYE
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer

Throughout the history of the 114th Fighter Wing, the Thunderbumper has seen numerous changes. From the black-and-white manual layout to the current full-color software-based layout. The changes in technology have allowed us to create a dynamic publication to communicate the news to our members, families and dignitaries. Today, technological advances have put us on the World Wide Web.

In changing with the times, the Thunderbumper is moving to a quarterly newsletter, with issues arriving in your mailboxes in January, April, July, and October. This will allow Public Affairs to shift efforts to the unit's public website.

The public website will place timely news in the hands of the unit members, retirees, and the public, allowing us to share with you the news that affects our unit as well as information about the Air National Guard and Air Force.

As the website becomes more

refined, visitors to the site will have access to information about current job openings, historical information, and photos from around the unit. Video stories will allow you to see and hear from unit members and the jobs they perform. The website gives you the option to post your opinion and support about the stories that are happening within your Air National Guard. A Contact Us link puts you in touch with various offices throughout the unit, whether you are seeking information about current job opportunities or wish to touch base with our Public Affairs office and more.

The website is a standard template, used throughout the Air Force, to give a consistent look to all Air Force bases throughout the world. This means ease of locating other bases and information on those sites.

Take the time to visit us at www.114fw.ang.af.mil and if you have questions please feel free to contact the Public Affairs office.

A screen shot of the 114th Fighter Wing website shows the standard template used throughout the Air Force for our public websites. Included are links to both Air National Guard and Air Force news items as well as local news and features.



www.114fw.ang.af.mil



Moving In

Major

Kurt D. Tongren, 175 FS

2nd Lt.

Sean M. Cappel, 114 STUF

Senior Airman

Bradford C. Gallatin, 114 STUF

Airman 1st Class

Tyler L. Haviland, 114 STUF
Stephan J. Livingston, 114 STUF

Airman Basic

Rachel A. Bjerke, 114 STUF
Caleb B. Buysse, 114 STUF
Tyler K. Cownie, 114 STUF
Jeremy B. Nelson, 114 STUF
Kaitlin K. Resmen, 114 STUF

Moving Up

To 2nd Lt.

Jason J. Mundt, 175 FS

To Chief Master Sgt.

Kevin D. Uthe, 114 FW

To Senior Master Sgt.

Michael D. Gross, 114 LRS

To Master Sgt.

Daniel W. Johnson, 114 MXS
Cynthia S. Lauck, 114 MDG
Adam J. Punt, 114 FW
Michael J. Vandriesen, 114 FW

To Tech. Sgt.

Kelly J. Jennings, 114 CES
Dennis C. Kwandt, 114 CES

To Staff Sgt.

Tyler J. Basset, 114 SFS
Amber A. Berkaert, 114 MDG
Caleb J. DeGroot, 114 AMXS
Adam W. Groff, 114 CES
Sara L. Jones, 114 MDG
Andrew C. Stanga, 114 LRS

To Senior Airman

Adam J. Carlson, 114 MXS
Evan R. Fey, 114 SFS
Brandon L. Fey, 114 CES
Alexandra T. Hellwig, 114 FSS



Karl L. Hoskins, 114 AMXS
Kourtenay K. Ironcloud, 114 FSS
Michael D. Larson, 114 AMXS
Jay P. Mendel, 114 AMXS
John A. Person, 114 MXS
Tyler G. Polzen, 114 SFS
Justin D. Schnieders, 114 AMXS
Daniel J. Vanderostyne, 114 MXS

To Airman 1st Class

Andrea L. Hollatz, 114 AMS

Moving On

Tech. Sgt. Craig E. Bowes, 114 MXS retired April 9 with over 20 years of service.

Staff Sgt. Douglas L. DeWaard, 114 MXS retired Feb. 9 with over 20 years of service.

Tech. Sgt. Charles E. Lohsandt, 114 MXS retired Feb. 28 with over 21 years of service.

Chief Master Sgt. Lane J. Munger, HQ SDANG retired March 14 with over 39 years of service.

Master Sgt. Brian D. Welch, 114 CES retired March 30 with over 21 years of service.

Upcoming Retiree Coffee Dates

April 13, 2010
May 11, 2010
June 8, 2010
July 13, 2010
August 10, 2010

Tricare Reserve Select

If you are thinking about purchasing Tricare Reserve Select please be aware that the initial payment that you send to them will ONLY cover the first month.

During that first month of coverage you will need to set up either phone payments, credit card or direct withdrawal from your personal checking account. Please call Tricare at 1-888-874-9378 to get assistance in setting up your payment option. If you have additional questions or concerns please call Nikki Wajer at the Airman and Family Readiness Center at (605) 988-5962.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

Senior Master Sgt. Catherine Anderson presents her husband, Chief Master Sgt. Bruce E. Anderson with a shadow box during his retirement ceremony held March 6. Chief Master Sgt. Anderson, 114th Fighter Wing 1st Sergeant, retired March 31 with over 27 years of service.



PHOTO BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. DON MCLEER

Brig. Gen. David E. Holman, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, retired March 8 with over 38 years of service.

Thank you

For each of us there comes 'that time' when it is your turn to move on - my turn has come.

As I move on, I would note that it has been my pleasure to work with each of you. It is said that an organization is only as good as its people.....trusting that this is true, I know why the South Dakota Air National Guard is second to none. Thank you for allowing me to be part of such an organization.

Dave Holman

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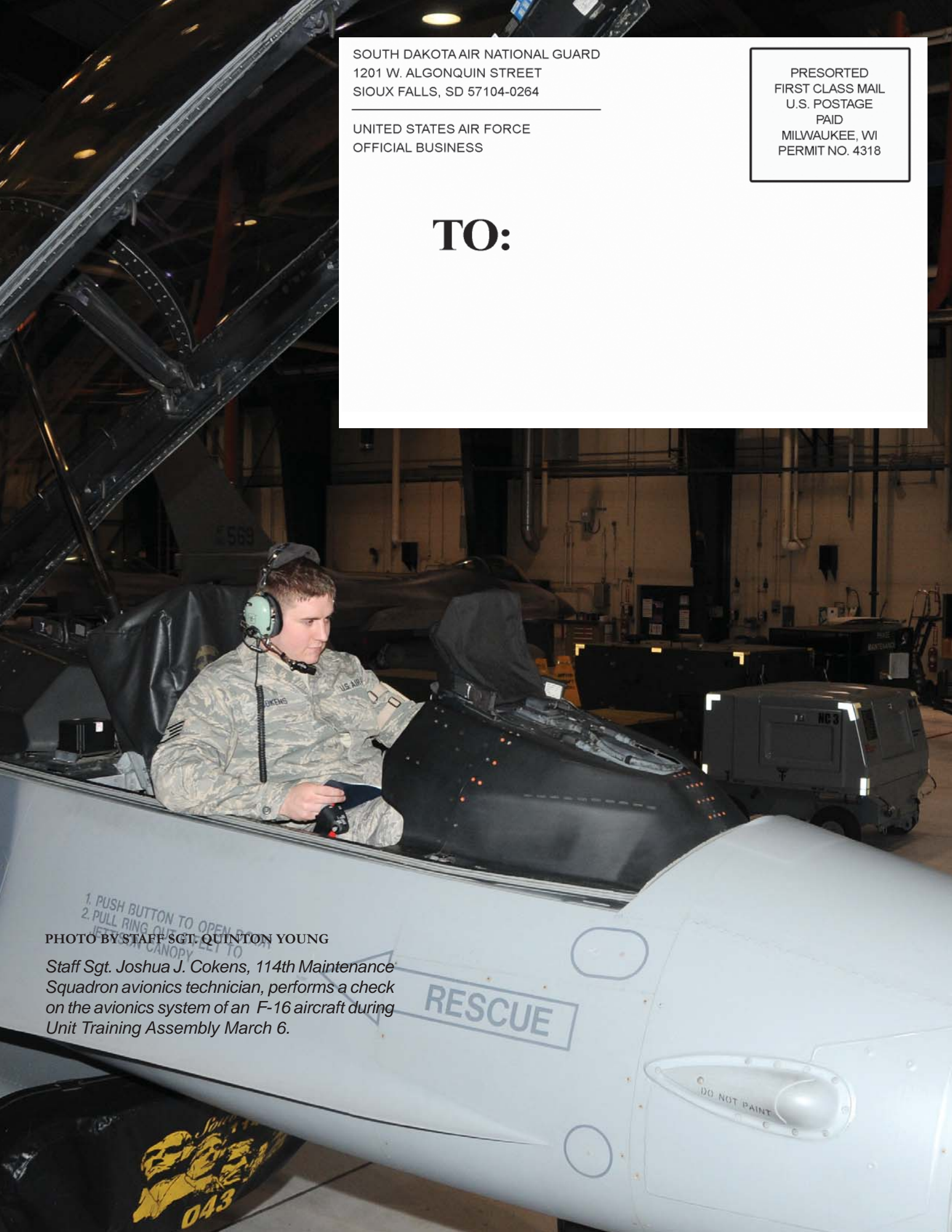


PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. QUINTON YOUNG

Staff Sgt. Joshua J. Cokens, 114th Maintenance Squadron avionics technician, performs a check on the avionics system of an F-16 aircraft during Unit Training Assembly March 6.