

The THUNDERBOLT

VOL. 2-No. 2

NYANG, NIAGARA FALLS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

17 December 1950

Well Trained Men Greatest Need In A.F. History

Dec. 11, 1950. THE NEED FOR WELL TRAINED MEN TODAY IS GREATER THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE AIR FORCE. In a closed meeting of Wing, Group and Squadron training personnel, Lt. Alton Massey, Wing Training Officer told the officers present, that in order to meet the crisis existing today, we must have well trained, efficient personnel. "If you are called upon", said Lt. Massey, "the odds against you will be terrific.

DEFENSE BUILD-UP. The Army's December draft call for 40,000 men will bring the number of men called up since the expanded defense program started to over 200,000. When you consider those already called, those now in the army, the called-up Reservists and federalized National Guardsmen, this will give the army more than 970,000 men. Under the President's proposal for a 3,000,000 man armed force, the army manpower goal is at least 1,300,000 by next June.

Also included in the June goal is a 62 group Air Force and a Navy strength of 905 ships.

But big as it is, the current program for defense tagged at 25 billion dollars a year will be increased by a new and larger program presently being prepared by the Department of Defense. President Truman has already asked for another 73 billion to carry on the program.

JETS COME OF AGE. In a recent article, Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Air Force chief said Korea clinched the case for a jet air force. Combat proved jet fighters can take more punishment from air and ground fire than piston-type fighters.

The general said that jet aircraft can now match piston engine planes in range and capacity to carry bombs, rockets, and guns, while far exceeding them in speed.

Church membership is increasing rapidly, which led one editor to observe that the atomic bomb has scared a lot of citizens.

Only by having a head on your shoulders, will you help yourself . . . and the unit . . . and the country. Remember, if we are called up to fight--WE CAN'T LOSE!! To the victor go the spoils Buddy--and in case you didn't know, you are the spoils. Don't think anyone is worrying about you--but yourself. Use your head--take training seriously and when you have a job to do--it's done right with no questions asked. Ask the questions now, not when the hot lead is buzzing around your noggin' ".

Lt. Col. Henry Harper, Base Training Officer briefed the assistant base training officers and school commanders on the new training curriculum effective with the Sunday drill of 17 December. Col. Harper emphasized the need for effective training lectures and pointed out to the school commanders the three prerequisites for a successful lecture--preparation, presentation and explanation. Of the first, said Col. Harper only diligent study and exhaustive research could enable the instructor to properly make preparation of the lecture. To be effective, the lecture must be presented in a manner so as to enable all to grasp its meaning. The subject matter must be thoroughly explained to the edification of all. All training aids such as films, diagrams, charts, etc. must be used to best advantage. He further stressed the fact that all lectures must be prepared and given on time. Material must be reviewed and outlined to be able to go through the entire period. After Col. Harper's and Lt. Massey's talks, a group discussion on the subject matter was held.

THE THUNDERBOLT

Founded: 4 April 1949 at the ANG Base,
Niagara Falls, New York

Editor and Publisher Lt. G. H. Nicklas
Assistant Editor Pvt. F. Bach

Published for and by the personnel of the
NYANG, Niagara Falls Municipal Airport
Niagara Falls, New York

The editor is still looking for men to help on The Thunderbolt. If your unit is not represented in this paper, the blame will be your own. It is impossible for Pvt. Bach and myself to round up news from all the units without some cooperation on your part. It behooves each and every one of you to see that your own unit is mentioned in our paper. There is a news box in operations and one just outside the main lecture room for your convenience in placing articles of interest. Let's get on the ball and work with the organization.

The Editor

136th FIGHTER SQUADRON

THE CO's CORNER--In the past two years of my association with the 136th Fighter Squadron as Operations Officer, I have come to know all of you quit well. I have made many new friends during this association.

In my new assignment as Commanding Officer of the 136th, it is my earnest desire to maintain this friendship and association. I shall always endeavor to fulfill my obligations and to put the interests of the 136th before all else.

Knowing the team spirit which exists in the 136th I have complete faith in your support of our new operations officer, Capt. Walt Ennis.

Have pride in your outfit--you're in the best squadron in the Guard.

Plans are being made for another weekend trip for Air Guardsmen whose attendance record has been 80% or better. The choice of where to go will be up to the Guardsmen--so let operations know what city, place or thing you want to see--majority rules.

Maj. Richard H. Hintermeier
Commanding

FLYING SAFETY--Capt. John Blewett--Now that icing conditions are here, we should be extra careful. Caution should be the rule in taxiing on icy pavement. Be careful around aircraft warming up--throttle back when chocks are being pulled.

WINTER OPERATIONS--Following last Monday night's meeting, Lt. Smith briefed Squadron pilots on winter operation of aircraft. He stressed the necessity of post-flight as well as pre-flight of aircraft. Oil dilution on cold days is important in the Jug. Also cool your oil to 40-50 degrees before diluting the oil. An ounce of prevention and care will go a long way in keeping our aircraft in flyable condition this winter.

FORM 1's--Form 1's are still being incorrectly filled out by pilots. We should all be familiar by now with the new forms land 1A. Be sure to give sufficient explanation of aircraft malfunctions when writing a ship up--use one or more lines for each malfunction. Capt. MacMurray suggested that all pilots check with their crew chiefs if status of aircraft shows a T.O. has not been complied with.

SPORTS--Sgt. Jim Gassman reports that we have four teams now playing at Crystal and Ideal Bowling Alleys. The individual team members have distinctive shirts embroidered with the name of the team they represent.

Lt. Svisco reports that a basketball team is in the making. All men wishing to get up a team should contact him.

The status of sporting equipment is not known at the present time . . . the editor would appreciate some more articles of interest in the sporting line. We would like to add a Sports Editor to the Staff of the Thunderbolt. Anyone who is interested in sports and who would like to contribute weekly standings of the bowling teams and other items from the Sports world, should get in touch with this department.

RECOMMENDED READING

FLYING REG.--Air Force has issued regulation 60-16, which covers air traffic, clearance and general flight rules. It's applicable to the Air Guard and is recommended reading for all pilots.

WING BASE PLAN--On page 9 of the October issue of the National Guardsmen magazine is a simple, basic explanation of the new USAF's Combat Wing Plan. Also included is a simplified chart showing the breakdown of the wing. To understand the basic concept of the new Wing Plan, it is suggested that a reading of this article be made by all members of this organization.

ORVIL ANDERSON AND OUR TRADITION is a feature article in the October issue of AIR FORCE magazine and provides much food for thought. If you haven't yet read this article, get a copy of October's issue and read it over.

NEW PAY TABLES OUT--There's a new regulation out that every Guardsman would do well to study. As a special reg it's numbered 35-1310-1; as an Air Force reg it's numbered 173-108. It contains Army and Air Force pay tables. These show at a glance monthly rates of pay and allowances for those on active duty and the pay Guard officers, warrant officers and enlisted men earn per drill. There's more finance and fiscal information in SR 35-1810-2 and AFR 173-113. This reg sets up the procedures for withholding income tax from pay earned by Guardsmen for drill and field training. And a final reg AFR 35-571, lists the authorized officer military occupational specialties in the Air Force.

SOCIAL NEWS

NEW CIVIL ASSOCIATION CLUB BEGUN--Sgt. Jim Gassman announces that building of the new club has begun in No. 7 Bay, the site of the present Mess Hall. Sgt. Gassman said the first item to be completed will be the kitchen. Everyone who can handle a saw, hammer etc. is requested to participate in this work. The club will be for all of us and therefore we should all pitch in to help in building it. Complete plans have already been drawn up but any suggestions will be welcomed and should be made now.

Col. Kirsch said that free coils and cooling systems have been offered by two local breweries. We might also add that one of the local supply houses is going to donate two drink mixers. It might be mentioned here that all donations to the club will be appreciated and acknowledged. If you know of any business house willing to donate material or equipment of any kind to our club, please get in touch with them and let us know about it.

Funds for the club are not too ample but our raffle of the automobile last year, the television raffle, etc. have helped build up the 'kitty'.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

MORE FLYING SAUCERS . . . Cardboard serving plates with "Greeting from Mars" were dropped on Poughkeepsie with no other explanation given to the startled folks who found them. A few hours later, more plates were dropped, reading: "RCA Victor 45-rpm--out of this world to you".

BUFER AGAINST DISHARMONY . . . It's a pity so many of us persist in regarding politeness as being merely a superficial grace instead of what it really is, namely one of the necessities of life. Quite apart from politeness for its own sake, and as a matter of plain justice it is invaluable as a sort of cushion of buffer to hold off the jolt that would otherwise disrupt the harmony of things.

SOCIAL NEWS continued.

CIVIL ASSOCIATION DANCE--Sgt. Gassman reports that the Civil Association dance held last month was a social success but they are still trying to figure out how much money we lost or made on the deal. Tone Paone and his orchestra provided the dance music and a good time was had by all present. A number of men were noted by their absence. These affairs do not happen too often during the year and each member should try his best to attend these functions. It's part of the life of your organization and in order to enjoy all the Guard has to offer a certain amount of social life must be indulged in. Let's try to have 100% attendance at future social affairs.

OFFICERS CLUB DANCE--The Officers Club held its annual Anniversary Winter Formal at the Hotel Niagara on 9 Dec. The entire Ballroom and mezzanine were taken over. The theme for the dance was the flying saucer as it is supposed to appear. We wish to extend our heartiest thanks and commendations to Capt's. John Quirk, Murray Freeman and to all the men who put in so much time and effort to design and build the "Flying Saucer". It is hoped that we will be able to use this in our new club house.

LET'S SHOW A LITTLE MORE INTEREST IN YOUR CIVIL ASSOCIATION--

MERRY CHRISTMAS

On this last meeting of the Air National Guard here at Niagara Falls for the year 1950, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to each and everyone of you for the fine cooperation given not only here on drill nights but while away at camp this summer. The year 1951 poses many problems, many hurdles to be jumped, many rough corners to be smoothed and much more work and efficient use of time by all of us. In the present crisis which we now find ourselves, we must work even harder to develop ourselves into a well coordinated team, working for our country, our families, our friends in the guard and last of all . . . for our selves.

On behalf of my staff and myself, I wish each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas and a most prosperous New Year.

Colonel Robert J. Kirsch
Commanding, 107th Fighter Wing

LEADERSHIP

JOHN HALLOCK, University of Pittsburgh says in the Advertisers Digest "I've noticed two things about men who get big salaries. They are almost invariably men who, in conversation or in conference, are adaptable. They quickly get the other fellow's view. They are more eager to do this than to express their own ideas. Also, they state their own point of view convincingly." This is something for all of us to ponder.

SELECTED

DON'T STRUT . . . The fact that you have a certain title or position doesn't proved anything except that maybe in selection you somebody made a mistake that will be rectified later. . . . John Temple.

IF TWO FRIENDS ask you to judge an argument, don't accept, for you will lose one friend. On the other hand, if two strangers ask you to judge a dispute, accept, for you will gain one friend.