



May 2011

## Title defenders



The 107 Airlift Wing Combined Arms team consisting of Security Forces members Master Sgt. Edward Stefik, Tech. Sgt. Guy Carlo and Staff Sgt. Erik Johnson and Staff Sgt. Warren Jones were selected as the New York State 2011 Combat Sustainment Training Exercise Match (TAG Match) overall champions. This is the second year in a row they have won this championship. (Air Force Photo/107th SFS)

**Ready, set, let's deploy! Wait!!...Have you checked your SA?**

*Be slow of tongue and quick of eye.* -Miguel de Cervantes

For the purpose of this article I am only going to address AEF mobilization as they pertain to OPS and Maintenance, since that is what I'm most familiar with.

Well, here we go....it's finally here....we are deploying many OPS & Maintenance folks to Southwest Asia in support of U.S. ongoing wartime operations. You may ask "Haven't we done that before?" The answer to that question is yes, of course we have.

Both the 107<sup>th</sup> Operations and Maintenance groups deployed to Oman in 2002 and to Incirlik AB, Turkey in 2004 and 2007 all in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. In addition, an undisclosed location in northern Africa provided the setting for our mobilization in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

The reason I'm making this distinction is that war is a lot like real estate in that there are three important things to consider: Location, location, location. The significant difference of how we deploy now is the proximity to the fight. As you may recall, the deployments mentioned above involved the KC-135 Stratotanker, a strategic weapon system. By that I mean in the past we were able to employ it from a friendly country, many miles from the front line and out of immediate harm's way. Now that we are an airlift wing flying the C-130H2, we are in the Tactical Support business. This means that we are IN THEATER, very close to where the action is. That is where situational awareness comes in.

Situational Awareness (SA) is defined as the ability to identify, process, and comprehend the critical elements of information about what is happening to you or your team with regard to the mission. More simply, it's "knowing what is going on around you."

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# THUNDERBIRD

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The unfortunate truth in all of this is that there are bad guys out there who would like to do harm to us. Because of this, deployed personnel are significantly affected in how they perform their assigned duties. Aircrew must employ combat tactics within their flight profiles and, are sometimes required to carry side arms. Aircraft mechanics will be expected to wear body armor most of the duty day, even while working on aircraft.

As you can see, things have changed since the last time we deployed to support a war-time tasking. We have a different weapon system, a generous influx of new personnel, and we are much closer to the fight. As Deputy Maintenance Group Commander I can confidently state that all deploying maintenance personnel are technically proficient and thoroughly trained to perform in their assigned AFSC's. However, as a deployer, what you need to continuously ask yourself is "How's my SA?"

Good luck and God speed to all!

# Congratulations are in order– The past month's enlisted promotions

Promoted to:

### Senior Airman

Sarah Fratta, AW  
Christian Pittman, LRS  
Jordan Kiera, MXG

### Staff Sergeant

Ronald Adam, MXS



### Technical Sergeant

Jeffery Barber, CES  
Kristian Alex, LRS

### Senior Master Sergeant

Matthew Rose, LRS  
Gregory London, MXS



## Chaplain Services

### Catholic Mass

Saturday 4 p.m., Base Chapel

### Protestant Worship

Saturday 4 p.m.,  
Wing Conference Room, Building 901

### The Rosary

Fridays prior to UTA at noon,  
Wing Conference Room, Building 901  
For service schedules of **Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim,** and **Orthodox** communities, call extension 2395.

If you need to see a chaplain, please call Chaplain Services at extension 2395, or at the numbers listed below. Chaplains are always on call.

### Catholic Chaplain

Lt. Col. James P. Jaeger  
St. Mary's Church  
32 E. Morris St.  
Bath, NY 14810  
Phone: (315) 597-4571

### Protestant Chaplains

Maj. Jackie Ann Rose Kraft  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
3750 Millesport Highway  
Getzville NY 14068  
Office: (716) 688-8677  
Home: (716) 625-6266

Capt. Keith A. Manry  
Akron First United Methodist  
7 Church St.  
Akron, NY 14001  
Office: (716) 542-2060  
Home: (716) 542-9567

## 25th ordination anniversary reflection

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James P. Jaeger  
107<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Chaplains Office

This May 17, 2011 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my priestly ordination. Bishop Matthew Clark of the Diocese of Rochester, NY ordained me on May 17, 1986. I write this because you have helped to make me the priest I am today. As I look back on eight years of college education and seminary formation it all went by so very fast. These past 25 years as a priest seemed to go even more quickly. I have never looked back or regretted my vocation. Perhaps being so busy with family, friends, parish, and reserves has kept me from being bored or having time to second guess. As scripture says I have kept my hand to the plow and never looked back to what could have been (Luke 9:6).

In the past twenty-five years I have served in geographic areas of Rochester such as Hornell, Irondequoit, and the VA hospitals in Canandaigua, Palmyra, Bath and Hammondsport. I have enjoyed the priests, religious, deacons, staff, and people in all those locals. I learned from those areas so much about the Diocese, the counties, and the history of the parishes and people.

It reminds me that I also have spent 23 years in the military reserves. I first served at Griffiss AFB in Rome, NY for eight years before coming to the 107<sup>th</sup>. I have been a Chaplain at the 107<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing in Niagara Falls NY for 16 years since arriving Dec. 1995. I have witnessed many Hale's and Farewell's. My time here has flown by so quickly. (Get it -Air Guard and flown by? Ha ha That is a grammatical joke and play on words. Laugh out loud now, it's okay. )

Speaking of flying with the Wing, I have been to lots of places in our world with the finest Airmen the United States has to offer here in Niagara Falls. The time here has made the 107<sup>th</sup> and Falls a second home to me from Rochester. The parish and base work have all enhanced my priesthood and life. These experiences have made me grow in faith and wisdom and challenged that faith and maturity. They both have been environments that have been 'assisted living' sites where the community of faith and friends have helped me to be secure in my growth and development as a person and minister. I could have never matured and been as successful as a priest or chaplain without your love, prayers, support and other investments of care and concern. We have done it as a team.

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On my 25<sup>th</sup> I salute all of you that I minister among. You by your dedication to God and Country have inspired me to continue on in my vocation and calling to do the same. Our Diocese of Rochester will publically celebrate the 50/25<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup>. You are all invited to attend. I know you are most likely working and the distance makes it difficult. Together in spirit I just ask your prayers for continued health and happiness in the Lord's work. Be assured of my prayers for you as I celebrate this milestone in my life. You have all been such a blessing to me. Yes, I have been the same person I was 25 years ago. You still see me and join me by having a glass of red wine or a good cigar or by breaking bread together. I pray none of that changes with the health issues and changing times. But more importantly, we enjoy one another when we work side by side or worship together each week or month. We have a great communion of the faithful serving God and Country, and in our own individual friendship. I am truly grateful for that. This reminds me of the Psalm 116: *How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. Our blessing cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.*"We have communions that reflect the Divine Trinity. We have great relationships between one another and God.

I conclude this reflection on the years by asking this question. Why do I stay as a chaplain and put up with training, the sacrifices and difficulties of the drive and the leaving behind of the parish to be a National Guard Chaplain? Why do I remain a priest? Why do you readers continue to drill? Why do you remain faithful to your spouses and marriages? Why do you make sacrifices for your kids, families, friends or country? Because of Love! The love of God that has been poured out into our hearts. May that love continue to dwell among us and give our communions much life and blessings. Amen. God bless all of you and God bless our Country.

With my prayers, gratitude, and affection,  
( Your Father Jim )  
Ch. James P. Jaeger LtCol. N.Y.A.N.G.



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<http://www.107aw.ang.af.mil/>

**STAY** **CONNECTED**



## Iran's protests and economic realities

Interview with Suzanne Maloney, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution (Interview conducted by Roya Wolverson.)

Excerpt taken from: [The New Arab Revolt](#), Council on Foreign Relations, cfr.org, February 22, 2011

Iran's hardline regime has cracked down on opposition protests in the wake of sweeping regional protests following revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia. Internal economic and political pressures, as well as a new wave of international sanctions against Iran, have prompted questions about how long the Iranian regime can hold onto power. But the Brookings Institution's Suzanne Maloney says a number of factors work in the regime's favor, including the Iranian military's greater ability to repress the public and its allegiance to the regime; an ability to block the public's access to technology; and opposition leaders' loyalty to the idea of preserving an Islamic Republic. International sanctions have also increased domestic political support for needed economic reforms that may actually strengthen the Iranian regime's hold on power, she says. Maloney notes that, unlike in Egypt, heavy reliance on public sector jobs has dampened public support for political upheaval. "When your job comes from the state, it's much more difficult to go out to the streets because you risk losing your livelihood as well as endangering your own safety."

There has been a flurry of comparisons between Egypt and Iran. Considering these, is Iran also ready to fall? What made Egypt a successful and relatively blood-free revolution was the presence of a large, mobilized, well-prepared young population that had access to technology and had a very coherent, tactical plan for driving an opposition movement. They were also disconnected from the interests of, or need to bargain with, the government. You don't have those factors in Iran today. The Iranian regime is deeply paranoid and watching the youth because they played such an important role in the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Their access to technology is frequently constrained and the surprise factor that facilitated some of the stumbles of the Egyptian and Tunisian regimes simply isn't present. There is also a much greater repressive capacity and fear factor in the population's relationship with the military. The Egyptians saw the military as potentially an honest broker, which wouldn't happen in Iran. Finally, Iranian reformists Mehdi Karoubi and Mir Hossain Mousavi have yet to disavow the Islamic Republic as a model, even as they press for greater democracy. And so their involvement makes it more likely that what you will see in Iran is a sort of pacted transition, rather than a full-scale upheaval.





## NIAGARA FALLS AIR FORCE HONOR GUARD

### To Honor with Dignity

Honor, honesty, fairness, and integrity, these are big words that are not taken lightly by the members of the Niagara Falls Honor Guard. The honor guard performs more than 200 details a year, to include military, colors, and flag folding ceremonies. The Honor Guard is looking for Air Force members who are will to commit for one year and assist two days a month on orders to perform these ceremonies. Each member will go through a 5-day class and be issued an Honor Guard ceremonial uniform. For further information please go to our Web Page, <http://www.914services.com/honor/> or call Master Sgt. Jon Saunders at 716-236-3182 or Tech. Sgt. Joy Holland ext. 2458

# Sabres Alumni Vs. Team Niagara April 10, 2011



Team Niagara readies to play the Sabres Alumni at Dwyer Arena, Niagara University



Team Niagara and the Buffalo Sabres Alumni gear up to raise funds for both the 107th and the 914th Family Readiness.

Members from the Sabres Alumni toy with Team Niagara in a game that deployed members and their families came out as the clear winners.  
USAF Photos/Tech Sgt. Justin Huett





## Performance feedback

Time and again I hear questions about ANG Performance Feedback. I realize that there is some confusion about what we need to do. Additionally, I hear that the ANG doesn't have written guidance on this subject. I also hear it being referred to as an appraisal or yearly evaluation. Finally, folks tell me that they can't get the right form to document their feedback. I understand your questions and why there is some confusion. Let's see if we can clear the air on some of these issues.

First, what do we need to do? Well, most basically we need to provide our Airmen with feedback on how they are measuring up relative to their assigned standards. Feedback sessions are the formal opportunity for supervisors to let subordinates know what is expected of them and how they are doing. This would be an excellent opportunity for a midcourse correction, should one be needed. Of course, we should be providing informal verbal feedback continually in addition to complying with the written requirements of the Performance Feedback Program. The formal feedback is documented on the Air Force Forms 931 (AB-TSGT) and 932 (MSGT-CMSGT). They are available on AF E-pubs. <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>

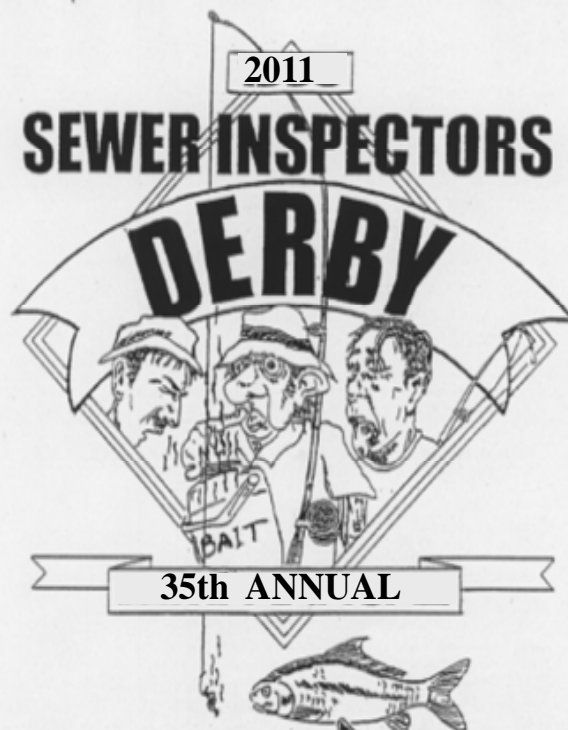
So, now we have an idea of what to do, where is the written guidance? Currently, there is not an Air National Guard Instruction or supplement for performance feedback. I know that the Air Force Instruction (AFI 36-2627) does not apply to the Guard. Well, here's the guidance we have from ANG. There will be ANG specific guidance forthcoming. Until then, use AFI 36-2627 as a guide. The main thing is that we are providing our Airman with feedback. I realize that is not the best Air Force answer we've ever been provided, but it's what we have for now.

Every UTA I hear, "Shirt, I got the appraisal done for Airman Snuffy." Performance Feedback is not an appraisal. It is a formal and documented session where the supervisor lets the subordinate know what the standards are and how he or she is measuring up. It needs to be honest or we will get no benefit from it. Once completed, different squadrons may track its completion differently. If you have specific questions about this important requirement, please contact your squadron first sergeant.

Finally, what form do we use to document our feedback session? The forms shown in AFI 36-2627 are not available anymore. We do use the AF 931 and 932 depending on the rank of the person receiving the feedback. I realize that the forms have been updated and look different than the ones shown in the book, but we still use the AF 931 or AF 932. Both forms are available on e-pubs.

I hope this article helps to clear up questions about our performance feedback requirement. The most important thing is to provide honest and constructive feedback to our folks so they know what is expected, how they are doing and what corrective actions they need to take. Your first sergeant is your squadron focal point for questions about performance feedback. Please contact him or her if you'd like additional information.





**June 25, 2011**

**Upper Niagara River and Lake Erie**

Fishing starts at midnight till noon, party at noon, judging at 1300

**VETERANS PARK, RIVER ROAD**

**TOWN of TONAWANDA, N.Y.**

**ENTRY FEE: \$25.00** Due when making reservations

*Nearest boat launch is at Isle View Park which is near Veterans Park.*

***No fishing license required for this weekend.***

***This is a NYS free fishing weekend.***

*License still required for Canadian waters*

***Lunch served with the trimmings***

**RESERVATIONS BY MAY 15, 2011**

Contact: Steve Buja 236-2359, Bob Spahn x-2348, Joe Hodkin x-2463,  
Gary Henning x-2034

E-mail: [gary.henning@ang.af.mil](mailto:gary.henning@ang.af.mil)

*Rules furnished upon request at payment of entry fee*



# Welcome to the family



Airman 1st Class William Mark, MG takes the oath, enlisting into the 107th



Staff Sgt. David Lanthier, OPS, is sworn in and welcomed by Lt. Col. Michael Bank





## **Team Niagara invites your bosses to come fly with us**



## **Bosses Day 2011**

This year's Bosses' Day scheduled for September 8th will be joint with the 914<sup>th</sup>. Guardsmen may invite up to two of their bosses to experience a flight on a C-130, enjoy a lunch catered by the Falcon Club, and view an arrival show performed by the USAF Thunderbirds.

The application is available on our public website:

<http://www.107aw.ang.af.mil/>

As a reminder, this is strictly limited to civilian bosses only. Applications will not be accepted after **12 June**. Incomplete applications will not be accepted (social security numbers are required for flight). The cost is \$12 for each employer and for the Guardsman, which includes lunch and refreshments.

