

The

Eagle's Eye

Winter 2008

Florida Air National Guard

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Recruiting, Retention and Inspections

The Road To Green

Meeting demands of mission change with 100% end strength
In pursuit of OUTSTANDING ORI, UCI, and sustained EXCELLENCE

Winter 2008 *The Eagle's Eye*



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Front Cover: The graphic represents the 'road' to success in recruiting and retention, as well as inspections.

Back Cover: Then Lt. Col. Buddy Titshaw, right, and Lt. Col. Craig McKinley, center, with Congressman Charlie Bennett circa 1990 when Titshaw and McKinley shared leadership of the then 125th Fighter Interceptor Group.



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Commander's Column

By Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus
Commander, Florida Air National Guard

What an incredible start to 2009! We have a new Chief of the National Guard Bureau – Florida's own, Gen. Craig R. McKinley. McKinley, whose career we have all followed with pride, is the first Chief, NGB to pin on a forth star. What a historical honor. (See story, page 16) McKinley, as expected, has hit the ground running and is making an immediate impact and implementing initiatives in the area of Strategic Planning to secure our future.

As he transitioned to his new position, he selected Florida's own Maj. Gen. Buddy Titshaw, former FLANG Commander and Assistant Adjutant General for Air, to serve as the "acting-Director of the ANG." Titshaw has done an incredible job over the last several months to keep ANG organizations in 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia moving forward. Titshaw kept all of General McKinley's programs on track and ensured the ANG was well cared for as he handed off to the new Director, Lt. Gen. Bud Wyatt - former adjutant general of Oklahoma.

Our Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Burnett, is really proud that two key FLANG members, mentored by him, have gone on to such great and prestigious positions.

On this cover of *The Eagle's Eye* I wanted you to get a fresh view of how our job remains one of sustaining superior programs and also planning a road to always achieve the absolute highest marks.

The color green is associated with 'best' practices in our military. Much of what we do is 'sustaining our green' and because of mission changes and an on-going inspection cycle, we sometimes are in a position of being on a road to 'achieve green' again.

Now is one of those times.

Our FLANG has changed and grown. Post Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) growth at the 125th Fighter Wing took us from 15 Primary Assigned Aircraft (PAA) to 18 PAA. The Southeast Air Defense Sector has experienced transitional growth as it became an Air Operations Center, significantly changing their manning document which took us off a steady-state 100% end strength in that organization.

Our plan is in place to aggressively manage our very lucrative

"Our plan is in place to aggressively manage our very lucrative recruiting environment in Florida to get us from our present 94 percent to 100 percent in a few short months."

recruiting environment in Florida to get us from our present 94 percent to 100 percent in a few short months.



I want to thank our commanders for their personal involvement and our recruiting team, personnel specialists and medical team members as well. Many wonderful new non-prior service and prior-service members are joining our FLANG family and we are quite pleased with the caliber of the new members we are enlisting.

In the area of retention, Command Chief Chuck Wisniewski and I, along with our Family Program Director, Laura Pageau, our Recruiting and Retention Superintendent, SMSgt. Reese Edwards, and state Human Resource Advisor, Chief Master Sgt., Fred Speilman, are on the road every drill-period to hold Town Hall meetings. Our specific objective is to meet with first

and second term Airmen and penetrate their hearts with reminders of why we serve. We role the cameras and tape testimon-

nials from our Airmen and you

Continued next page...

would all be proud of the stories they are telling. These meetings reinforce just how valuable each member of the FLANG is to our success!

The 'road to green' also includes our path to achieve an Outstanding rating on our Operational Readiness Inspections, Alert Force Evaluations, and Unit Compliance Inspections.

The alert detachment nailed the AFE Jan. 29 when they were inspected and rated overall 'Mission Ready/Outstanding' in all areas! Lt. Col. Mike "Orville" Birkeland and his team set the standard once again.

Tech. Sgt. Cindy Abreu was also recognized as a Superior Performer in the Intel section.

In May the 125th will be visited for a Phase II ORI. Col. Bob "Squirt" Branyon has been putting the 125th members through exercises (ORE's) and has his team engaged in a plan to peak in the month of May to

produce an Outstanding rating in May.

The effort, the morale, the commitment, is incredible, and we couldn't be more proud of what we are seeing at the Fighter Wing.

Colonel Jack Paschal has his Red Horse team preparing for a UCI and we are seeing paperwork, processes, and efficiencies all over this heavily tasked unit in preparation for this critical inspection.

Last, our road to 'green' involves strategic planning and ensuring our State initiatives are properly vetted through the national Strategic Planning System and properly managed through the NGB corporate process to ensure our success.

The current initiatives to expand the 114th Range Operations Squadron at Patrick AFB to be the primary organization conducting range operations on the Cape Canaveral East-

ern Range is gaining more support by the day.

We are aggressively working a follow-on mission for our F-15 Associate unit at Tyndall AFB to ensure our talented F-15 flight instructors are cared for at a time when F-15 training needs are diminishing.

Part of that plan is continued growth in the F-22. Major C.J. Kovoras, our second FLANG pilot in F-22 training, will soon join Lt. Col. Tom "House" Kafka as a fully qualified F-22 instructor pilot.

Yes readers, we are an incredibly busy Air National Guard State. We serve an Adjutant General who is very proud of us and a governor who values and honors our contributions.

We are also blessed to have a four-star General leading the entire National Guard who knows us personally and values our heritage and commitment for a prolific future.

Enjoy this edition of *The Eagle's Eye!*

Chief's Counsel

By Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Wiesneski
State Command Chief Master Sgt.

Recruiting is as important as all the other mission tasks we as enlisted Airmen are asked to accomplish.

And it's not just our Senior NCOs who need to push recruiting. All enlisted personnel can be recruiters.

Your unit recruiters are in the community at schools, job fairs and other local events. You can volunteer to go out with them and talk to prospective recruits, sharing your experiences and telling them what the Florida Air National Guard means to you.

As you go about your daily activities you can share your story with the people you meet. You have served your country

defending its freedom in Afghanistan and /or Iraq. You have gone into the field after devastating hurricanes and brought badly needed food and water to fellow Floridians and citizens in neighboring states. You can share how the Guard is helping you gain a college degree with its many programs and benefits.

Yes, you should be proud of what you have done for your country and state and you should share that pride with others.

There are many young people out there that long to be a part of something bigger than themselves, wanting a way to serve their country and their fellow citizens.

They want what you have.

They want to be as proud as you are when you put on your uniform and head out to drill, annual training or on a deployment.

They want to be part of a family. A family like the one we have in the FANG.

We not only serve our country and its citizens but we also serve each other.

We take care of our own. I know every one of you could share a story about how your unit came to the need of one of your fellow Airmen in time of need. It happens every day.

All of us can be recruiters. What we have in the FANG needs to be shared.

People want what we have - they want to be involved, to serve their country and all we have to do is tell them where they can find that!



From the Cockpit

*By Maj. David Lynch
125th Program Manager*

Every one of the F-15 Eagle drivers in the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, had his own path to flying for the FLANG. Some knew at a young age they wanted to be pilots. Maybe their dads were pilots or they grew up around aviation. Some of us didn't have any experience, just a suspicion it'd be something we could do and we would enjoy.

My first experience with jet fighters came at an air show in Jacksonville in the early 1970s. Watching F-4 Phantoms launch and recover made an impression on me that lingered through my teens and into college and drove me to contact a USAF recruiter four months before graduating college.

Now I have the privilege of flying to air shows, helping recruit young folks interested in aviation, the military, and, in particular, the Florida Air National Guard. Of course, most fighter pilots are naturally good advertisers of their craft:

"How can you tell if someone is a fighter pilot?" "You don't have to. Wait a couple of minutes and he'll tell you!"

Still, the 125th is relatively unknown to the public even in Florida. In 2005, Lt. Col. John Black and I flew two F-15s to the Sun 'n Fun air show in Lakeland, Fla. Master Sgt's Guy Reinecke and Craig Crawford were there to care for the jets and to answer questions Lt. Col. Black and I couldn't.

If you've never been to Sun 'n Fun, it eclipses everything you've seen for air shows. Sun 'n Fun is essentially the "Disney World for pilots." The event attracts pilots from around the world, some even flying their private planes across the ocean to attend the week-long fly-in. Every civilian aviation manufacturer is represented, and the airport pattern is opened to them exclusively in the early morning hours to show off their planes. Next, private planes launch to fly to/

from the show, or spend time flying in the rather crowded pattern. After lunch every day, the pattern is closed to normal traffic and the air show begins. It includes all aspects of aviation, from gyroplanes, to high-performance acrobatic planes, to jet fighter demonstration teams!

Such a show is perfect for trumpeting the mission of the Florida Air National Guard. The crowd has more adults and children with aviation experience than most any other audience in the world. Instead of the questions being, "What kind of airplane is this?" you'll hear, "What was the toughest part of the Air Force Officer Qualification Test?"

Not so much, "How fast can this go?" but "What can I do to separate my application from the others?" It's a chance to relive the memories of the application process, the long days of pilot training, those first flights, etc. That one trip to Sun 'n Fun generated three quality applications for our next two pilot recruiting boards.

Over the next few years, there will undoubtedly be more, as the younger folks we talked to get old enough to apply.

Even more folks learned there was a squadron of fighter planes in northeast Florida that sits alert to protect the homeland. I've heard from a couple of people from that air show who joined the active duty USAF.

In a few years, those folks might have the opportunity to bring that active duty experience back to northeast Florida and join our Wing. Most of our pilots took that path!

Just one more jet

By Col. Robert M. Branyon
125th Fighter Wing Commander

Lieutenant Ryan Strayve is sleeping soundly at Det. 1 Alert, Homestead ARB, Fla. He's the newest FANG pilot, also one of our own previously enlisted troops from Maintenance selected to fly the F-15. Strayve has his jet cocked for a scramble, with the necessary switches set, his G-suit and harness positioned perfectly for quick donning, and his flight suit and zip-on boots resting on a chair in his alert bedroom.

The scramble signal horn blares and Strayve bolts out of bed, dresses quickly, dashes to the jet, ascends the ladder to the cockpit, and quickly and efficiently starts the engines as he is strapping himself to the ejection seat. In minutes, he is taxiing his Eagle toward the runway, intending to follow his flight lead for the takeoff. Unfortunately, the flight lead's jet didn't start, and that pilot is running to the spare jet. It's now Strayve's job to take off and initiate the intercept of the unknown aircraft, by himself. There are so many things that can go wrong for Strayve right now if he does not execute flawlessly. He will be screaming toward the target, attempting to talk on two radios at once, avoid other airborne traffic and possibly don night vision goggles for an intercept... by himself.

The success of this Operation Noble Eagle mission and whether Strayve endangers himself or other aircraft might very well depend on his "proficiency level." That's a measure of his most recent F-15 flights: how many and what type. This term is different than one's "experience level," which is the number of years, locations, and types of aircraft that person has flown. Strayve has almost zero experience level, so we, and his family, are counting on him to be "proficient."

Let's look at the other end of the spectrum. I am, as I write this article, sitting at a table, upstairs at the Alert Det. at Homestead. I have 26 years experience flying two trainer jets and four different types of fighters. I have flown alert from the Det. for 17 years in the F-16 and F-15. I definitely have a lot of "experience." However, my "proficiency" stinks! It's Jan. 11 and I have only flown once since Dec. 14. I lost a sortie on Dec. 23, Jan. 5 and Jan. 8 because we didn't have enough mission capable F-15s.

All we needed was "just one more jet" on each of those days and I would have flown. I was the last pilot to fall out of each of those missions. Because I am very experienced, I know my limitations during this Friday to Tuesday alert tour. I know where and when I have to be very careful if I get scrambled, so I don't "screw the pooch" or "buy the farm," which are very unpleasant results of poor flying or poor decisions. I have a very "dirty" feeling as I type this, and I don't like it. However, I would rather it be me in this situation than any one of the other pilots. It's why I told Operations to make me the last priority to



fly when we are running low on mission capable jets on any given day.

"Just one more jet." That's what I'm asking of our Maintenance folks - just one more jet.

That's what we need to focus on during the day and night shifts. Ask yourself: "Is there anything else I could possibly do to get just one more jet on the schedule?" We need every jet possible, not only for the daily preparation to deploy to war or sit alert, but also to train for our Operational Readiness Inspection.

Our Wing cannot, by USAF regulations, score any higher a grade than the grade of the Operations Group. We have to kill the bad guys and we need flyable fighters to kill them. And we can't allow them to kill us or get past our air defensive patrol. We have to produce sorties, in order to allow the pilots to kill the bad guys. It was a very ugly year for sortie production in 2008, for many reasons, but Maintenance is turning the corner and providing sorties. Last week, we were minus eight on our monthly sortie count, and now we're plus two...

An F-15 Eagle takes off from the Jacksonville International Airport during an Operational Readiness Exercise Phase II at the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, Florida, January 21, 2009. The ORE Phase II analyzes the unit's capability to fight and survive from a deployed base.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Shelley Gill

that's some great work! We must continue that trend. It is crucial that we get on a rhythm that starts every flying day with the scheduled number of jets plus two spare aircraft.

We know jets will break at the last minute and the pilots need to be able to step to a spare jet and make the mission.

What most folks don't know is that each loss of a jet from a mission has an exponential decrease in training, not a linear decrease. If we schedule six sorties, we need to fly six in order to generate the number of jets required to create the ORI scenario for our pilots. If we get down to four or fewer jets, we are relegated to dogfight type maneuvers, which do little to nothing to prep us for the skills we need and will use in the ORI. In the ORI, if you get down to dog-fighting, you're in trouble. You should have killed the bad guys when they were miles from you.

I have asked and will continue to ask for the

entire Wing team to help support the Maintenance Group as they work their magic on our very old jets. Now, I am asking the maintainers to do whatever possible, day or night shift, to produce "just one more jet."

Why am I explaining this to everyone? Because just as I ask the maintainers for "just one more jet," I am asking every support unit on our base for "a little bit faster" and "a little bit better" each time you are providing fuel and parts or prepping for the ORI. That's what it will take for us to achieve an Outstanding rating on our ORI. The last time a fighter unit got an Outstanding on a Phase II ORI was 1998. That's a decade ago. If you get that Outstanding, you will be a part of history. An Outstanding on both Phase I and Phase II... you will have bragging rights for years to come!

One Team; One Fight!



'Right passion for mission'

Adjutant General awards alert detachment for inspection success

*Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa
Florida National Guard Public Affairs*

HOMESTEAD, Fla. – When the alarm sounds at the 125th Fighter Wing's Detachment 1, the F-15 Eagle fighter jet pilots have about five minutes to be in the air and ready to respond to a threat.

Twenty-four hours a day, seven day a week, this Florida Air National Guard unit waits on alert at Homestead Air Reserve Base near Miami to defend the southeastern United States against airborne threats. The pilots and Airmen could be the last line of defense against an attack anywhere from South Carolina to Alabama.

Recently the team was honored for proving its mettle during an inspection by Headquarters, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett and Florida Air National Guard leaders met with the unit Feb. 6 and presented awards to the Airmen for helping the Detachment receive a "Mission Ready" rating on the no-notice Alert Force Evaluation.



F-15 Eagle pilot Maj. James Spooner and ground crew member Tech. Sgt. Aaron Hartley on the flightline at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., Feb. 5, 2009.



Master Sgt. Dwayne Gainey (left), Tech. Sgt. Steven Colegrove and Tech. Sgt. Aaron Hartley of the Florida Air National Guard's Det. 1, 125th Fighter Wing, at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., Feb. 5, 2009

According to the general this was the "highest possible rating" the Detachment could receive from the inspection.

"It takes the right passion for the mission to pull these things off," the Adjutant General told the unit members. "...I just can't say enough good things about your hard work."

On Jan. 29 an Alert Force Evaluation team from NORAD conducted the surprise inspection, evaluating each area involved with the alert mission: operations, maintenance, command and control, and security.

According to Detachment 1 Director of Operations Maj. James Spooner, the inspectors evaluated and scrutinized the unit's response time during an alert, studied how well the F-15 pilots could



Staff Sgt. Tung Tran of the Florida Air National Guard's Det. 1, 125th Fighter Wing, replaces a light on an F-15 Eagle fighter jet at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., Feb. 5, 2009.

intercept an airborne target, and checked the maintenance of an aircraft after a mission.

"The inspectors saw almost zero discrepancies in how we operate both in the air and on the ground maintaining the aircraft," Spooner noted. "They are saying that the crew on duty and the maintainers here are top notch – which they truly are."

F-15 Eagle Crew Chief Tech. Sgt. Aaron Hartley explained that the "Mission Ready" rating they received from the inspection highlights the amount of work the unit puts into training and preparation.

"We spend basically every day working towards the same goal – to be the best," Hartley said. "Our motto is 'Excellence in Air Defense' and we strive every day for excellence. Every day we're concentrating on having our programs tight (and) our procedures down, so whenever anybody shows up – whether it's an actual threat or an inspection – we want to do the job right every time."

Alert Flight Chief Master Sgt. Dwayne Gainey said the unit's success during the inspection wasn't a surprise, considering how smoothly operations go when they receive an actual alert.

"When we get the horn, all the guys here are experienced and have an idea of what to

expect," Gainey said. "Everything runs smooth, and we get the job done."

According to unit personnel, the alert mission there began in the early 1960s after the Cuban Missile Crisis, and has been operating continuously ever since. The 125th took over the alert mission in South Florida in 1983.



The Adjutant General of Florida, Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett pins a medal on Tech. Sgt. Cindi Abreu, an intel specialist who was named as a superior performer for the inspection.

Military 'Cool Tools'

202nd REDHORSE Squadron featured on cable television show

By Jon Myatt
FLNG Public Affairs

A popular prime time television series on the DIY Network visited members of the Florida National Guard's 202nd REDHORSE Squadron at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center Jan. 8 to produce an episode highlighting the unique tools and equipment used by the military.

"Cool Tools," a fast-paced showcase of the most fascinating, useful, gee-whiz tools on the market, "wanted to focus an entire episode on military tools, vehicles, gadgets, and paraphernalia while shooting all the segments at a military base," according to the show's producer, John Pauley.

"We wanted to shoot various tools and general cool stuff that the troops use to 'get the job done.'"

The show started the week filming Army Guard activities at Cecil Field before moving on to the REDHORSE. From early morning till sundown, the crew crawled over and around



"Cool Tools" host Chris Grundy talks to the camera during filming at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center near Starke, Fla., Jan.8.

various vehicles and tools used for runway repair, building construction and vehicle maintenance.

Although more than 20 Airmen appeared on camera, Senior Master Sgt. James Householder had a major speaking role as the Cool Tools crew taped the construction of a "K-Span" building from step one through completion.

Col. Jack Paschal, 202nd REDHORSE Squadron commander spent two days as an advisor to the producer, explaining how the Guard works and providing operational background.

"It was a great experience...our people had a wonderful time," he said. "We hope that the national exposure this show provides for the Air Guard will help the public understand who we are and what we do, and that we also enjoy some potential recruiting benefit."

Grundy, the show's high-energy



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

Senior Master Sgt. James Householder of the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron (right) explains Air Guard construction operations on-camera.

host said he was energized by the Soldiers and Airmen he worked with.

"We worked some long hours putting the show together, but there was no sadness or whining...no one was saying 'I don't want to go to work today.' They were excited and wanted to show me things and what they can do with them," he said. "That's what I do in my profession -- I like to show people what they can do with tools, and I get excited about it too."

More information about the show can be found on the website for DIY's "Cool Tools" at:

http://www.diynetwork.com/diy/shows_dctl



Master Sgt. Colen Brinkley of the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron (right) instructs "Cool Tools" television host Chris Grundy on operating a hydraulic excavator during filming for the DIY Network show "Cool Tools".

Town Hall meetings a time to talk one on one

Brig. Gen. Joseph Balskus, the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Florida National Guard is hosting "Town Hall" meetings with first and second term Airmen around the state each month during Unit Training Assemblies. The adjoining photo shows Staff Sgt. Nichole Ellyson, 202RHS, discussing issues with the general during a recent meeting at the 202RHS Jan. 11, 2009.

The meetings are designed to give junior Airman a venue to talk one on one with the most senior leaders in the FLANG openly and honestly. The meetings are intended to see what makes today's young Airmen tick. To answer the questions; "What drives them?



What motivates them to continue to serve with the FLANG?" The primary focus of the sessions is retention because, as Brig Gen. Balskus says, "if we can understand why they serve, whether it is because their mother, father or grandparent served, or for other reasons, we can use that information to retain them and help them succeed and further the missions of the FLANG at the same time."

According to Grig. Gen. Balskus, "these meetings are a "weapons free" forum for open and relaxed discussions."

His Town Hall team has been very pleased and excited with the results.

Former Florida Air National Guardsman honored for contributions as space and civil rights pioneer

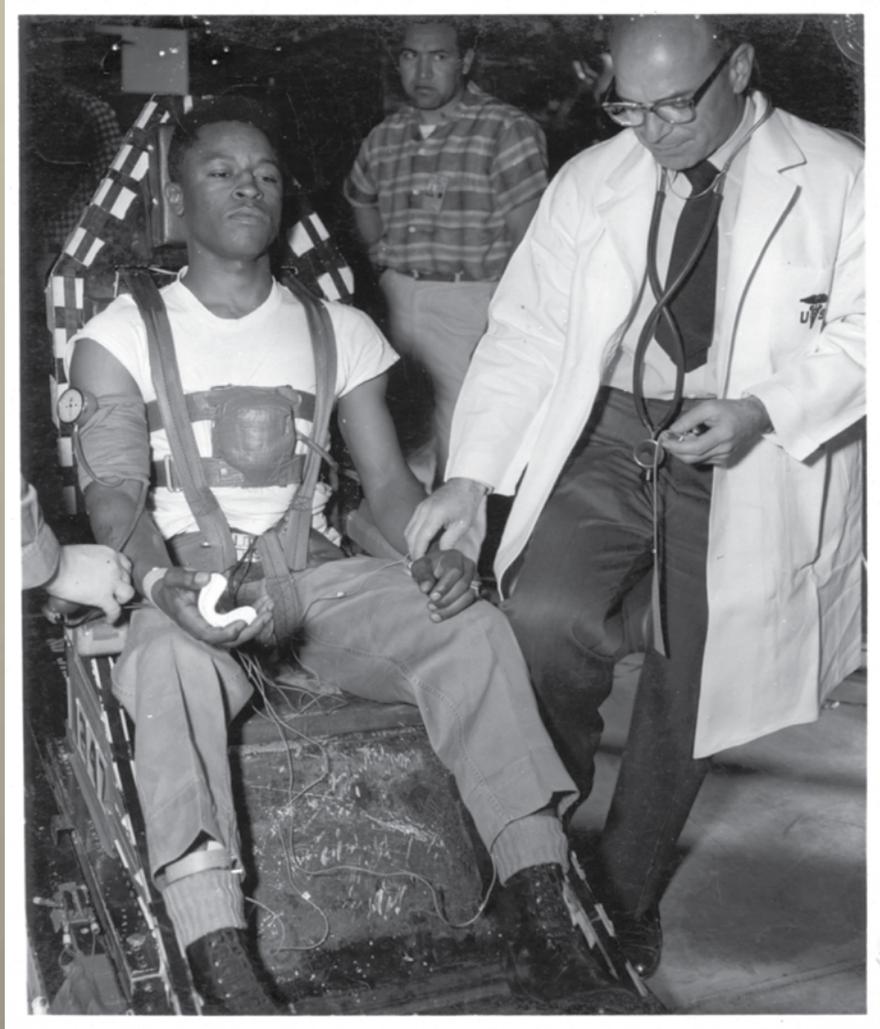
By Tech. Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125FW Public Affairs

“Lt. Col. Yates is a great American. His sacrifice and dedication to our nation and his community have helped ensure the freedom and equality of all Americans,” said Florida Gov. Charlie Crist moments before presenting the Air Force veteran with the Medal of Merit Nov. 10, 2008 at the Florida Air National Guard’s 125th Fighter Wing.

Crist presented the medal to retired Lt. Col. Alton Yates, 72, who served as a volunteer test “astronaut” in the early days of the space program and was a well-known leader during the civil rights movement in Jacksonville.

The Medal of Merit is the highest military honor the Governor can bestow and is reserved for those who give exceptional service while on active duty.

In 1956, Yates, an Airman 2nd Class in the U.S. Air Force, volunteered for the Rocket Sled Testing Program at Holloman AFB, N.M.



A doctor checks Yates’ vitals after one of the 65 “G” force tests the then Airman endured during the four year period as a test volunteer in the early days of NASA.

At the very beginning of the “space race” between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, little was known about how far the body could be stressed and still survive.

The rocket sleds were designed by space pioneer Col. (Dr.) John Paul Stapp to test a human’s ability to tolerate gravitational forces during liftoff, reentry and recovery.

Famed researcher known as “the fastest human on earth,” Stapp attained a then-world record land speed of 632 mph in 1954, going from a standstill to that speed in five seconds on a specially designed rocket sled that screeched to a dead stop

in 1.4 seconds, sustaining more than 40 “G’s of thrust; the equivalent of hitting a brick wall in a car at 120 mph.

Two years later, Stapp recruited the young Yates for the program, and for the next four years, the Air Force supply clerk rode a sled called the “Bopper” a record 65 times. The sled, more or less a slingshot, accelerated from zero to more than 400 miles per hour in seconds, then slammed to a stop.

Along with the rocket sled testing, Yates also ascended to more than 65,000 feet in balloons testing pressure suits for astronauts. On one test run, his equipment malfunctioned and he passed out before parachuting back to earth

using experimental equipment.

After leaving active duty in 1959, Yates returned home to Jacksonville becoming a leader in the civil rights movement by joining demonstrations inside restaurants and drug stores in an attempt to end segregation.

He also helped encourage racial diversity and equality in the military while serving from 1981 to 1996 in the Florida Air National Guard, where he worked as an Equal Opportunity Officer in the Florida Air Guard's St. Augustine headquarters. In the early 1990's he served as the 125th Fighter Wing's Social Actions officer, an early title for Military Equal Opportunity officer.

"Lt. Col. Yates is as close to a true American hero as I have met," said Maj. Gen. Douglas

Burnett, the Adjutant General of Florida. "He was a pioneer in the early days of our nation's space effort, risking his life countless times while testing the rocket sleds used in space flight research. He also acted bravely and courageously in the civil rights struggle in his community for many years. He is very deserving of this honor."

Yates served as aide to several Jacksonville mayors during five administrations and was executive director of the city's Community Relations Commission.

He also served on Leadership Florida, Leadership Jacksonville, and was a board member of Florida Community College.

His wife of more than 40 years, Gwen, was a Jacksonville City Council member.

Accepting the award "on behalf of all those who volunteers who risk their lives for America's Space Program," Yates said, "I owe a great deal to the late Col. John Paul Stapp. He taught me that man is capable of accomplishing any goal he wishes to reach in life as long as he has confidence in himself."

Yates also credited his late father for raising his family with "a deep and abiding respect for this country," and concluded his acceptance speech with "God bless the United States of America."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jaclyn Carver

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist congratulates Lt. Col. (Ret) Alton Yates, 72, after presenting him with the Governor's Medal of Merit Nov. 10 while Gwen Yates, his wife of more than 40 years, looks on. As the state's highest military award, the medal is reserved for those in the military who have demonstrated exceptional service while on active duty.

Going Guard, staying Guard

*Getting and keeping quality Airmen now
and for years to come*



Staff Sgt. Latisha Georges (right) and Senior Amn. Arnaldo Sanes (left), raise their respective right hands during an enlistment ceremony at the 290th Joint Combat Support Squadron at MacDill AFB, Fla.

By Lt. Col. Loretta J. Lombard
290JCSS Commander

With the reduction of my unit from 238 to 191 authorized personnel in April 2008, you would think the 290th wouldn't have any problems with maintaining effective manning but you would be wrong.

Even though we are still over 100 percent manned, we are challenged with the same issues of recruiting and retention as other units in Florida.

Our new mission requirements opened many vacancies in highly technical electronics AFSCs while reducing many of our support positions. So we now have force management challenges of recruiting hard-to-find "techies" while working

to retain or relocate excess members from the support functions.

But we are making it happen.

How?

By using three keys for success:

1. A focused and dedicated recruiting and retention staff

2. A vital mission

3. Retention benefits and incentives like the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP).

Master Sgt. Davie Oakes aggressively pursues new recruits for the 290th. By visiting schools, expos, State or community events; following up on phone leads or greeting the occasional walk-in, he presents our mission and needs along with the benefits of military service.

"I was 17 when I learned that I could get affiliated with the military on a part-time basis, serve my community, state and country and build my resume," said Oakes. "I started off in vehicle maintenance, cross-trained to personnel, and then had the opportunity to become a recruiter. To be a good recruiter you have to start with retention.

You have to care about the people you are recruiting. I love the people!"

His love and care is also evident when he works with our members displaced by the downsizing.

Oakes suggests retraining options to stay in the 290th or places them with other units in the FLANG. He works with other states' ANG recruiters, and he has even found opportunities for them on active duty, in the Air Force Reserves and in the Army Reserves.

We want to keep everyone in the FLANG but sometimes we need to let people "go to grow" which serves both the member and the units in the long run.

We continue to have "rebounders", members who come back to the 290th after being at another unit or state.

They bring back a wealth of experience that only adds to our capabilities in the long run.

Oakes also works closely with our personnel staff, Master Sgt. Michel Sybert and Tech. Sgt. Vanessa Mason, to ensure we retain our current members.

I meet with each member coming up for re-enlistment 120-90 days out to discuss career goals and their role within the 290th.

The whole team ensures all the paperwork and requirements are squared away.

It gets tricky sometimes, but we are flexible and try our best to take care of the member and meet the requirements of the Wing and Headquarters.

Our mission supporting the Joint Communications Support Element is one of our best retention tools. And many of our positions provide education and training in high-demand technical fields that personnel can use for high-paying civilian jobs in their hometowns.

"I love the Air Guard! It pays for education, I developed skills for life, I love the sense of family and pride in serving my country," said Staff Sgt Latisha D. Georges.

She tells others that joining the Air Guard could be the best thing they could possibly do. You can travel, go to school and develop a skill, you meet new people outside your community, you build confidence and pride in your career!

The proof is in the pudding because she just re-enlisted for another three years in a joint ceremony with our newest recruit - Senior Airman Arnaldo Sanes. Sanes is a Clermont, Fla. resident who left active duty in 1999. He was ready to be involved with the military again and Master Sgt. Oakes made the connection. Arnaldo enlisted for six years and will soon be on his way to satellite technical school.

G-RAP is a tremendous incentive for current members to help find recruits but unfortunately it is not well known.

However, Airman 1st Class Cecile Durand knows about the program and has become an expert.

"I love the Guard and I love telling people about what it can do for them!" said Durand. "I'd love to be a recruiter. It is exciting and fulfilling to help others benefit like I have."

And through G-RAP Durand has earned \$4000 in bonuses and is mentoring two others right now.

For more information on G-RAP go to: <http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com/air>.

"...supporting the Joint Communications Support Element is one of our best retention tools. Many of our positions provide education and training in high-demand technical fields that personnel can use for high-paying civilian jobs in their hometowns."

Guard's first general ready to take Minutemen forward

By Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau Public Affairs
Contributor – Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa
Florida National Guard Public Affairs

The Florida Air National Guard's own Gen. Craig R. McKinley officially became Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) and was promoted to the rank of general by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates in a ceremony Nov. 17, 2008 held at the Pentagon.

Gates and Navy Adm. Michael G. Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as McKinley's wife, daughter and son helped add the fourth star to McKinley's uniform.

The crowd of more than 300 from all ranks, services and many states' National Guards then watched Gates administer the oath of office to McKinley, who swore in as the first four-star general to lead the National Guard in its 372-year history.

"The promotion of Gen. Craig McKinley to this rank, to serve in this post, is in recognition of his outstanding leadership abilities and shows the confidence the



Photo By Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

Chief of the National Guard Bureau Gen. Craig McKinley (center) receives a briefing on mobile communications systems from Sgt. Bernard Fuller of the Florida Army National Guard during a visit to the Robert Ensslin Armory in St. Augustine, Fla., Dec. 2.

president and I have in him to be the nation's senior Guard officer at such a critical time," said Gates.

McKinley succeeds Army LTG H. Steven Blum, who served some five and a half years as Chief of the Bureau and in January became deputy commander of U.S. Northern Command, the first Guard officer to hold that position.

McKinley joins the ranks of Army generals George Washington and Ulysses S. Grant, and two other former, four-star officers who served as Guardsmen during their military careers.

"It's a rich and high honor to be the 26th Chief of the National Guard Bureau," said McKinley. "I will give it every bit of energy, every bit of heart and soul that I can possess to make sure that our National Guard and our Soldiers and Airmen are well taken care of, and I will work very closely and faithfully with the services."



Photo by Cherie Cullen

Gen. Craig McKinley has his new 4-star General rank pinned on by his wife and son during the Chief National Guard Bureau transition ceremony at the Pentagon, Nov. 17, 2008.



Maj. Gen. Buddy Titshaw - acting ANG Director from Nov. 17, 2008 to Feb. 2, 2009.

Of the more than 460,000 Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen, some 68,000 Army and 5,700 Air Guard members were on active duty for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom at the time of the ceremony. Furthermore, on any given day an average of 17 governors call out their National Guard for a variety of domestic needs.

Speaking to the current battle rhythm of the Soldiers and Airmen in the Guard Gen. McKinley said, "You have to give credit to the men and women of the National Guard at a significant point in our history where the National Guard has been used so effectively and efficiently by our services. We're a nation at war. Our National Guard - both Army and Air - are heavily involved in our overseas operations, but because of Sept. 11, 2001, defense of our homeland became very important for us. That is our main reason for being; we protect our homeland, we protect our communities, we work for our governors and our nation needs us."

Gen. McKinley again credited the Guardsmen with making the National Guard a "highly efficient, community-based defense force."

"It's always been that way, but when you have the conditions that this world-situation presents us with, it's a time for our people to really stand out and do what they've been taught to do, what they

are equipped to do, what they're motivated to do," he continued. "...as Chief of the National Guard Bureau I will say that the Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard exemplify what true patriots are."

McKinley is the fourth Air Guard officer to serve as CNGB. He most recently served as Director of the Air National Guard. Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, who previously served as the adjutant general of the Oklahoma National Guard and was nominated to succeed McKinley late last year, officially became the Director Feb. 2, 2009 and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general in a ceremony held at the Pentagon.

Florida's own Maj. Gen. Buddy Titshaw, former Assistant Adjutant General of the Florida Air National Guard, served as the interim Director of the Air National Guard during the transition period between Gen. McKinley and Lt. Gen. Wyatt. There, he was responsible for policies, plans and programs affecting more than 106,000 Airmen.

Gates credited McKinley for successfully leading the Air Guard during a time of severe manpower reductions and other, major challenges from the Global War on Terrorism, Base Realignment and Closure implementation, budget changes and the transformation of the National Guard from a strategic reserve to an operational force.



Photo By Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

Chief of the National Guard Bureau Gen. Craig McKinley (left) and Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett tour emergency operations vehicles and systems during a visit to the Florida National Guard's Robert Ensslin Armory in St. Augustine, Fla., Dec. 2.

'America's AOC' supports Inauguration

By 1st Lt. Andrew J. Scott
601AOC Public Affairs

In addition to the 601st Air and Space Operations Center's continuous mission of monitoring all the air traffic in the Continental United States, the 601st also prepares and executes air plans for National Security Special Events, including this year's Presidential Inauguration.

As America witnessed the inauguration of the nation's 44th president, "America's AOC" and Air Forces Northern were fully engaged, ensuring the safety of the skies over Washington, D.C. In partnership with the Joint Task Force - National Capital Region, and working side by side with numerous organizations including the U.S. Secret Service, Federal Aviation Administration, various Department of Defense agencies, and local law enforcement officials, the AOC developed and executed the Combined Forces Air Component Commander Maj. Gen. Hank Morrow's air defense plan for keeping the airspace over the NCR safe.

As CFACC, Gen. Morrow is responsible for all air and space assets in the Continental United States, establishing operational control, assigning missions, and coordinating an expert staff of professionals from every branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"With an event like this, where you have an enormous crowd in attendance, it is crucial we remain ready and prepared to detect and prevent any possible air threat that may occur," said Col. David Kriner, 601st commander. "It's a total team effort, and this AOC worked closely with the Secret Service, the FAA, and

local governments to ensure all possible coordination was achieved."

The FAA designates the D.C. Special Flight Rules area (formerly known as the Air Defense Identification Zone and the Flight Restricted Zone) over the district's airspace. The Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region helps enforce these restricted flight areas should an unauthorized aircraft enter the airspace.

The air defense plan developed at the AOC involved air patrols by U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptors from the 1st Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, Va., and Coast Guard helicopters coordinated with JTF-NCR.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ben Bloker

Photo by 1st Lt. Andrew J. Scott



Main Photo: F-22A Raptors line up behind a KC-10 Extender to refuel. Raptors such as these were used to conduct air patrols in support of the 2009 Presidential Inauguration.

Inset Photo: Colonel David Kriner, 601st Air and Space Operations Center commander, monitors air tracks on the Operations Floor. The 601AOC is responsible for detecting, deterring, defending, and if necessary defeating any aviation threat to the citizens of the United States and to U.S. critical infrastructure.

Gen. Craig McKinley awarded Order of the Sword

By Staff Sgt. Richard B. Mongold
114ROPS

Members of the 114th Range Operations Squadron, Florida Air National Guard, attended a two-day motivational conference and follow on Order of the Sword ceremony honoring Gen. Craig McKinley at McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn. Oct. 31 – Nov. 1.

The event featured superstar guest speakers that kept the audience on the edge of their seats as they educated and inspired the crowd of more than 500 Air National Guard members.

Dr. Dale Henry jump-started the audience members attitudes with his message of staying positive and not letting anyone get us “out of our whack.” He gave us our “whack back.”

Special guest CMSAF Rodney McKinley covered a wide variety of issues facing USAF members today, providing a discussion of current issues and future goals of programs such as manning and the physical training program.

There were many other outstanding speakers,



Photos by Master Sgt. Shaun Withers

which led up to the “Air National Guard Super Bowl,” The Order of the Sword ceremony.

The Order of the Sword recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the enlisted corps. It’s the highest award enlisted members can bestow upon an officer who they hold in high esteem and wish to honor. The award began in 1967 and only 230 individuals have been honored previously with this award. Gen. McKinley became number 231 on Nov. 1, 2008.

The ceremony featured a Sword at Arms, the Air National Guard Band, the eight surviving former Air National Guard Command Chiefs, CMSAF McKinley, the Honor Guard and the event’s honoree, Gen. McKinley.



Enlisted members of the Air National Guard from around the United States and its territories gathered at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn., Nov. 1, 2008. The gathering was in honor of then Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley at his induction into the Order of the Sword, the highest award that can be bestowed from the enlisted corps on an officer.

News from HQ

Inspection and exercises *Some observations from the “new” old guy*

By Col. Scott A. Studer
HQ FLANG/A3, Operations

As a State Headquarters representative, I had the opportunity to observe the 125th Fighter Wing ORE January 23-24.

First, I would like to say thanks to everyone for their hard work and first-class attitude. All of the Exercise Evaluation Team members I talked to commented upon the great attitudes and the openness of individuals to take feedback and fix items on the spot.

Having walked in and around the 'bunkers', I know it can be tough to take many of the ORE scenarios seriously when you have such a large number of 'simulations' at Base X. Having been to a Real Base X, I can tell you your sense of urgency and dedication to play each exercise as if it were for real will pay dividends in the future - hopefully, a set of skills that you will never have to use.

Do not assume that you will never use them.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Shelley Gill

Master. Sgt. Dace Gordon listens to an injected scenario and refers to his Airman's Manual along with other 125th Fighter Wing members while providing self-aid and buddy care during an Operational Readiness Exercise Phase II at the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 21, 2009.

In July 1990, while based in Bitburg, Germany, I never would have guessed that six months later I would be flying combat missions in a desert environment. My real Base X was located next to a 'middle of no where' 13,000 foot runway and a concrete pad that would later hold five fighter squadrons and 5000 personnel for Operation Desert Storm.

My first combat mission was on the first night of the war. I was to lead a four-ship of F-15s on a night defensive combat air patrol. The first bombs dropped in Iraq at 3:15 in the morning as we were doing our aircraft pre-flights. We needed to be airborne by 4:00 a.m. to meet our scheduled mission time.

During those 45 minutes, we had: two Alarm Reds, a SCUD missile attack, a run to a bunker to put on chemical gear, terrorists outside the perimeter of the airfield, and a commercial airliner that was threatening the ramp.

We did get airborne and we did cover our designated vulnerability period. So



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Trumble

A sign marks the entry zone control point from one base zone to another during an ORE Phase II at the 125th Fighter Wing.

yes, it is realistic, it does happen, and it takes the efforts of everybody to be successful.

Now as they say - the rest of the story.

I'm sitting in the cockpit ready to start engines and a maintenance supervisor drives by and tells me there is gunfire on the far side of the airfield. I'm not surprised because Intel has briefed us that Saddam Hussein has paid Bedouins to attack our remote airfields. I am, however, surprised at how fast the attacks are coming after the first bombs fall.

Note to self – get airborne and don't taxi in that direction.

I start engines and the airfield goes to Alarm Red. I shut down the aircraft and run 75 yards in all of my gear to a bunker. In the bunker, in the dark, I find my Chem bag and put on my mask. After spending five minutes admiring my handiwork in the bunker (I filled sandbags to build the bunker two weeks prior) we're given the all clear. I'm informed that Scuds had been inbound but had landed well to the west of our location. I was also informed the reported gunfire was actually crackling on the giant voice system.

Yes, people were nervous.

I find a crew chief, do a scramble start, and begin to taxi. The airfield again goes Alarm Red. We are far enough along that I decide to continue the launch. After a few more minutes of taxiing the long way - away from an airliner, we blast into the night sky.

The second Alarm Red was for a commercial airliner that diverted into our military airfield because all of the navigational aids in Saudi Arabia had been turned off - a reasonable course of action. Well, another briefed Intel scenario was for Saddam Hussein to fill an airliner full of explosives and then have it detonate. When the commercial airliner diverted, the security forces moved very quickly to place HUMVEEs in the path of the airliner until things could be straightened out.

So the point of the story is, there will always be fog and friction during war, so take every opportunity to learn and hone your skills during these exercises. The real world could more closely resemble what you practice than you might think.

Colonel Jesse Kinghorn retires after 35 years of military service

Colonel Jesse D. Kinghorn, Jr., pictured right, put on his USAF Service Dress uniform for the final time Oct. 17, 2008 after serving more than 35 years as a Florida Air National Guardsman.

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett (pictured left), presided over the ceremony honoring Kinghorn that was held on the parade field at St Francis Barracks on a beautiful Florida Friday afternoon.

Kinghorn began his service as an enlisted Airman with the 125th Fighter Interceptor Group in Jacksonville in January 1973.

He completed his career in uniform serving



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle Thomas

at Joint Force Headquarters in St. Augustine, Fla. as the State Quartermaster and the Director of Financial Management.

Kinghorn will continue in his current position as a Department of Military Affairs civilian employee.

Florida Air National Guard Chief of Staff promoted to brigadier general

Story and Photos by
Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa
FLNG Public Affairs

Colonel Joseph K. Martin, chief of staff of the Headquarters, Florida Air National Guard, was promoted to brigadier general during a ceremony at the historic St. Francis Barracks in St. Augustine, Friday, Dec. 5, 2008.

Martin, who lives in Jacksonville, has served as an Air Force Officer for more than 23 years, and is an Emeritus Surgical Oncologist at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville where he specializes in pancreatic surgery. He holds academic appointments as Professor of Surgery at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Surgery at Uniformed



Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, along with Martin's wife Vicki, pin the silver "one-star" rank on the new general officer before a crowd of friends, family and military peers, Dec. 5, 2008.

Services University of the Health Sciences.

Adjutant General of Florida, Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, along with Martin's wife Vicki, pinned the silver "one-star" rank on the new general before a crowd of friends, family and military peers.

"He is the right leader at the right time," said Burnett. "He has done great as a doctor. He has been a leader and a doctor, now he is going to be a general officer of the line to help take the Florida Air National Guard to the next level."

Martin's military career began in October 1985 when he received a direct commission as a captain in the United States Air Force Reserve Medical Corps. He joined the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing in 1986.



Brig. Gen. Joseph Martin and State Command Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Wisniewski unfurl Martin's one-star general officer flag.

During his 23 years in the military he has served in various roles including flight surgeon, his first position with the Wing.

On Sept. 11, 2001, he was mobilized and selected as the first-ever surgeon general at Headquarters, First Air Force, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

He spent the next two and a half years working Homeland Defense and Civil Support medical issues on the Joint Staff there.

Martin was promoted to colonel in March 2002, and selected as the Chief of Staff of the Headquarters, Florida Air National Guard, in July 2007.

The newly promoted Brig. Gen. Martin thanked

the other general officers present for their mentorship, and thanked his family for its continual encouragement and support.

“As leaders, we are keepers of the flame for a very short time,” Martin said. “I am humbled to work in this 400-year-old building and be part of an organization that can trace its roots back to a muster of Spanish settlers.

“As your ninth Chief of Staff I pledge that I will work tirelessly to advance the Florida Air National Guard supporting both our federal and state missions,” he added.

“How fortunate (I am) to have the great privilege of serving the men and women of the Florida Air National Guard.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Withers

A USAF career that spanned more than 38 years, 30 as a Florida Air National Guardsman, came to an end in October 2008 as Maj. Gen. Charles V. Ickes II, pictured right, hung up his uniform for good. Ickes received his USAF commission through the Grove College, Penn. ROTC program in 1970. He joined the 125th Fighter Interceptor Group (now Fighter Wing) in 1978 serving initially as a fighter pilot and finally as Wing commander from March 1996 until August 2002. He then joined the Guard Bureau leadership team as Chief Operating Officer for the Air National Guard, serving in that capacity until he was named Deputy Director of the Air National Guard in February 2005. In April 2007 he was hand picked to serve as the Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters USAF, Washington, D.C., his final position of service.

Known to most simply as “Chuck,” Ickes will be missed by the many that enjoyed serving with him. His was always wise counsel and I gained valuable mentorship under his wing.

Sir - May all of your drives be long and straight and all of your putts be true.

- The Editor in Chief

Families gather to celebrate the holiday season

The 125th Fighter Wing held a holiday inspired family day in December where Guard members clad in civilian clothing and their families spent the day visiting displays and decompressing from a hectic operational exercise schedule.

Children of all ages rode a special train from the dining facility to Santa's Workshop—also known as the Corrosion Control building. At the 'workshop', elves painted ornamental designs on young faces and hopeful children sat on Santa's lap, wish list in hand.

Along with family orientated activities and a specially prepared holiday meal, members also visited informational displays sponsored by the Florida Air National Guard Family Readiness Program.

Representatives sharing information about important resources such as financial planning, Military OneSource and Military Life Consultants talked with members and their families.



Above: Tech. Sgt. Carmina Aquirre, 125th Fighter Wing Executive Assistant, shows five-year-old Emily R. Burnett her new 'look', while her sister Lauren Burnett, 3, looks on. Their grandfather, Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, visited the Wing and brought his family to enjoy the activities. Maj. Gen. Burnett also took the opportunity to talk to Airmen about their hard work to prepare for an upcoming inspection in May.



Left: Maj. David Kozdras, 125th Services Flight Commander, and his children, Samantha and Garret, leave Santa's workshop and walk toward the dining facility. Families like the Kozdras' spent the day together at the Wing to celebrate the holiday season.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Michelle Thomas

Chaplains Corner

By Lt. Col. Steve Thompson
125FW Chaplain

Some advocate, “Do unto others before they have the opportunity to do unto you.” (Note: I began my military career in 1972 as a combat field medic with the 82nd Airborne.

I can almost hear “AIRBORNE” resounding in my ears recommending this approach.) Others are less antagonistic.

Their mantra is, “Don’t do unto others anything that you would not like for them to do unto you.”

The Lord Jesus Christ framed the argument very differently.

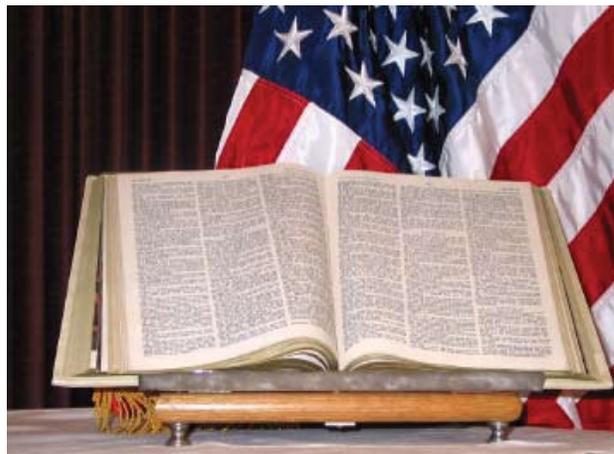
He called upon His followers to, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” (Matthew 7:12) His words were a clarion call to proactively do the right thing, the right way, at the right time and for the right reasons.

He challenged His own to make a commitment to make a difference!

You are probably thinking, “That is a mighty fine sermon, but what does that have to do with me?” Good question. The answer is pretty close to your heart.

You see, keeping the best of the best in our units will never be accomplished by throwing money at them. However, it is one of my deepest convictions that loyalty, affection and commitment that is bought and paid for are rarely worth their price.

Showering our Airmen with benefits that serve



as opportunities for them to grow and excel or enhance their family life are better than the above, but I do not think they are the key.

I believe with all my heart that the best way to keep our fellow Guardsmen on task, on target and in our shops on drill weekend is to treat each other the same way we desire and deserve to be treated.

Care about your fellow Airmen and let them know it. Encourage them when they are down. Correct them when they mess up, but don’t miss the opportunity to praise them when they get it right. Be the person you would like to work along side.

Taking care of each other as we take care of business for our country is an ethic and an environment that will both call and keep the finest our communities have to offer.

I commit myself to be that kind of chaplain and Airman for you.

Operation Christmas Stocking results are in

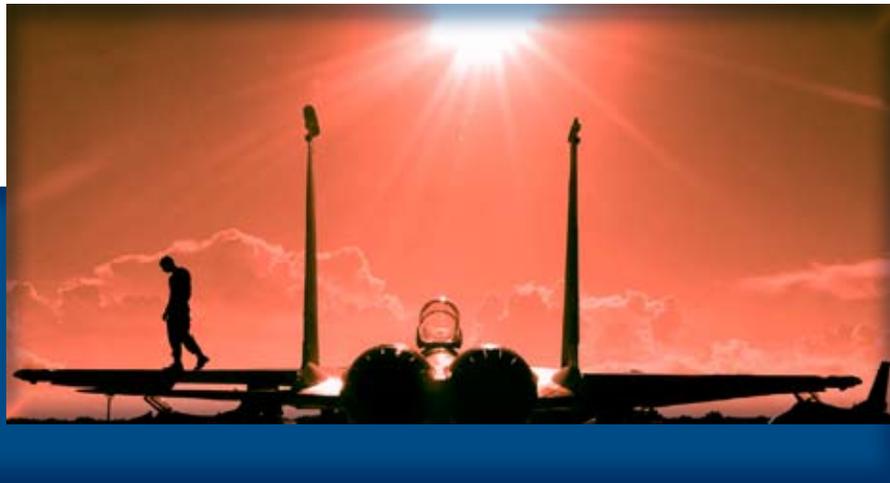
997 Actual gifts delivered to chapel

3,572 Gifts donated through “Santa’s Work Shop” and cash donations

4,569 gifts; grand total for Operation Christmas Stocking 2008

350 Crown Point & Pilot Truck Stop gift collection

4,919 Grand Grand Total!!!



Security Issues

By Tech. Sgt. Ben Cline
125FW Antiterrorism Office

How well do you protect your personal information and that of others? Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, social security number, credit card number or other identifying information, without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes. People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years and their hard-earned money cleaning up the mess thieves have made of their good name and credit record. In the meantime, victims may lose job opportunities, be refused loans, education, housing or cars, or even get arrested for crimes they didn't commit.

If you think your identity has been stolen, here's what you should do:

Contact the fraud departments of any one of the three major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit file. The fraud alert requests creditors to contact you before opening any new accounts or making any changes to your existing accounts. As soon as the credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, the other two credit bureaus will be automatically notified to place fraud alerts, and all three credit reports will be sent to you free of charge. Close accounts you know or believe have been tampered

with or opened fraudulently. File a police report. Get a copy of the report to submit to your creditors and others that may require proof of the crime. File your complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC maintains a database of identity theft cases used by law enforcement agencies for investigations. Source: Federal Trade Commission, www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

If you have any questions about personal security contact the 125FW Antiterrorism Office at (904) 741-7871.

Safety Matters

By Master Sgt. Dana Gaffney
125FW Safety Office

During the past Operational Readiness Exercises (ORE), the Safety Office has been out-and-about observing. The following are a few reminders to keep in mind to keep things safe during the upcoming ORE and ORI.

Most important - HYDRATE!

Seatbelts are MANDATORY –

Set parking brakes on parked vehicles

Check chemical gear prior to wear for bugs/insects

Use required technical orders, checklists, etc.

Slow down while driving on base

Be extra cautious transporting wounded 'players'

PPE use - wear hearing protection, safety glasses, reflective belt, etc.

During the OREs and ORI, please do not take any unnecessary risks. Remember to stay focused on safety by using common sense in all of your day-to-day duties.

Help us put an end to FOD! It destroys our engines and takes away our combat capability. Please join us for a stroll down the runway to pick up iron, stretch the legs, get some sun, and breathe the clean sweet air. Who wants to sit behind a desk? Times and dates will be published via Wing-wide e-mail.

The third and fourth quarter 2008 Outstanding Safety Performance Awards went to Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Williams from the AIS Shop and Lt. Col. Julia A. Kyrazis from the Fighter Wing, respectively. Both were awarded with a certificate and a \$25.00 gift card to Outback Steakhouse. Congratulations!

If you witness a safe practice or a 'safety attitude', nominate that individual by submitting an AF Form 1206, Nomination for Award, to the 125FW Safety Office.

The form can be found on the Wing Safety website. You may send it by email to wingsafety@fljack.ang.af.mil or call 904-741-7015.

Safety...It's an attitude!

Family Focus

By Mrs. Laura Pageau
FLANG Family Program Coordinator

In-person financial counseling is available through Military OneSource (MOS), in partnership with National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC). NFCC provides financial education and counseling services at hundreds of local offices nationwide. MOS arranges for you to meet face-to-face with a financial consultant in your community.

This program is specially designed to provide short-term, solution-focused financial counseling for service members and families who may be experiencing a financial setback.

Whether you need advice for a specific debt problem or basic assistance with money management, a financial expert can help you analyze your situation and develop a debt management plan.

Six counseling sessions per issue, per calendar year are allowed for each eligible client. The sessions are available to active-duty, Guard, and Reserve

members (regardless of activation status) and families located in the continental U.S.

For those unable to attend in-person counseling or in locations where in-person counseling is not available, MOS will provide telephone consultations. This additional in-person and specialized telephonic mode of service delivery is intended to augment the various financial services already available to Service Members and families through MOS. Financial Counselors are members of the Accredited Financial Certification Program (AFC).

Contact MOS at 1-800-342-9647 to schedule an appointment with a financial consultant.

Financial Counseling topics include:

Budgeting, Eviction or foreclosure, Credit/debt management issues; Military specific financial matters such as: Credit issues, Money management before, during and after deployment and Coaching on military benefits (SCRA, Thrift Saving Plans, etc.)

All financial planning sessions are conducted by Certified

Financial Planners and offer information and education, not advice.

The Financial Planners have an average of 10 years experience. The telephone consultations last 45 minutes and typically the consultant addresses issues such as: Investing, Retirement planning, 401K questions, IRAs and Roth IRAs, and information about selecting a Certified Financial Planner in the local community.

Military OneSource Tax Filing Service

Military OneSource is providing tax filing services for the 2008 tax season. Services include free online tax filing (both state and federal), and free telephone tax consultations.

To get access to free tax filing services, please visit:

http://www.militaryonesource.com.

You must enter the tax filing services via the link provided to our customized version of the tax filing site.

Florida Air National Guard Retiree's Association

By SMSgt. (Ret.) Don Bunk
FLANGRA President

The FLANGRA semi-annual dinner was held at Magnolia Point Golf and Country Club in September. There was a record crowd in attendance to hear retired Brig. Gen. Donald Barnhart talk about preserving our heritage. Everyone was encouraged to locate mementos from their military careers whether it be pictures or various items of everyday work life that are no longer in use that help to tell the story of our past and to put these in a place for historical use and preservation.

Many laughs were shared as stories were told of memories of the years that just are too good to hold in. The added incentive of a free coin for a story told seemed to have the intended effect of "loosening lips". So, you may have been there in story even if you were not there in person! We intend to continue with the "Do You Remember?" theme. Come and tell your favorite story. We had some lucky winners in the raffle and everyone left with smiles after a great dinner.

The food, service and atmosphere is so appreciated at this location that it was the unanimous choice for the next dinner to be held April 25, 2009. There is a major change in the date. This time we are meeting on a Saturday to avoid the traffic rush hour and we will start earlier for the social hour so that the drive home will be earlier. Social hour starts at 5 P.M. with Dinner following at 6 P.M. All FLANG retirees are welcome. This is a time to see those faces from the past and share a few good laughs. We have a very special surprise program planned. No details...come and see! For more info contact me. Phone: 904-910-9428 E-mail: fang.125@bellsouth.net.

In the Spotlight

125FW Public Affairs Office

Enhancing war-fighting situational awareness through internal communication

The USAF recently made the bold step of integrating public affairs and multi-media functions. The Air National Guard followed suit and now the 125th Fighter Wing headquarters public affairs section has talented members that are trained in broadcasting/videography, photography and journalism.

The USAF did away with the former multi-media graphics function (and personnel slots) as a way to save manpower in 2007. The section still provides this service but on a limited basis.

Colonel Bob Branyon, 125FW Commander, has challenged the Wing PA office to create innovative videos to enhance communication throughout the organization. He directed the office to create "125th Fighter Wing News" broadcast which showcases Wing activities and highlights the Wing's outstanding combat Airmen.

His vision is primarily focused on using the resident expert broadcasting skills to produce videos that showcase the Wing's activities and enhancements. The videos will run continuously during UTAs at lunchtime in the dining facility, throughout the day on CCTV and also stream over the FLANG intranet to maximize exposure.

"I am a big believer in effective communication," said Branyon. "I want the entire Wing to see all the great things everyone is doing to support The Mission. I want each person to see and understand that mission and where their role fits in. That's why I asked Lt. Col. John Black to provide the segment on our August 2008 Red Flag deployment. So every



Photo by Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Poplin

The members of the 125th Public Affairs office are multi-talented service members whose jobs often 'crossover' from video, graphics, photography, writing--even though each person has a specific job designation. Pictured counterclockwise from top left: Tech. Sgt. Jeff Trumble (photographer), Staff Sgt. Jaclyn Carver (broadcaster), Maj. Richard Bittner (chief), Tech. Sgt. Shelley Gill (photographer), Tech. Sgt. Michelle Thomas (editor/journalist) Master Sgt. Larry Show, (NCOIC) Maj. Kevin Cotton (public affairs officer).

Airman can see the value in their contribution. I also want to highlight our Airmen of the Year and other award winners."

Public Affairs can also be used to chronicle historical events such as the Governor's recent presentation of the Medal of Merit to Lt. Col. (Ret) Alton Yates. Yates received the award, the highest the governor can bestow, for a lifetime of achievement for work in the budding space program in the 1950's, civil rights activities in the 1960s, a lifetime of civil service culminating with his retirement from the FLANG in 1996.

Precedent setting events such as the Fire Department's recent acquisition of their first

brand-new fire truck, the Security Forces deployment to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick and morale events like the inaugural October Fun Fest featuring camaraderie improving competition are just a few of the 'goings on' that have been included in the broadcasts.

Branyon also wants to increase the use of locally developed videos to enhance the training opportunities at the Wing.

Recently produced videos showing the proper way to operate in a chemical environment are

available for viewing on the FLANG net now.

According to Lt. Col. Brian Simpler, the Wing ORI Project Officer, "It's the details that contribute to ORI success. It really is important that every person in the Wing knows how to correctly don MOPP gear, use chemical codes and duress words, and navigate transition points.

These videos will ensure every member of the Wing receives the same instruction and will be able to review it multiple times if refresher instruction is needed. We are very lucky to have the capability to produce our training videos."

Groundhog Day

*By Maj. Richard E. Bittner
125FW Chief of Public Affairs*

I recently returned from a six-month deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, specifically the International Zone or 'Green Zone' as it is commonly referred to in the media, serving in the Multi-National Force - Iraq headquarters. Several people have asked me since my return "so how was it over there?" I usually have a hard time answering the question. Why? Because the answer depends on the memory that comes to mind at the time the question is asked.

My fondest memories are of the people I was blessed to work with and have established what I hope to be life long friendships with like my roommate U.S. Army Maj. Edward Rouse, a Blackhawk pilot from Georgia and father of four who loves his Atlanta Falcons. Then there was Mr. Sabah Danau, a 70 year-old Iraqi-American cultural advisor we fondly referred to as 'the Godfather' who went above and beyond to befriend me and several others and show us the many wonderful traits that make Iraq truly special.

I also met some pretty important people - Gen. David Petraeus, Ambassador Ryan Crocker, then US Senator Barack Obama and several high-ranking Iraqi officials. I was also able to participate in some pretty historic events. Flying to Ramadi in Anbar province to provide media support for the Provincial Iraqi Control ceremony Sept. 1 was a huge highlight.

Although it was a 20-hour workday, it was thrilling to be able to participate in such an incredibly historic event. Iraqis taking security control of a province that just a year prior was one of the most dangerous places on earth. It doesn't get much better than that. Flying to Ramadi on a Marine Sea Knight helicopter and

back to Baghdad on a CV-22 Osprey was quite a thrill too! There was also the ever present threat of attack from rockets and mortars lobbed into the IZ and I will forever hear the phrase "duck and cover" in my brain because of it.

But most days were basically "groundhog days." Each new day was very similar to the day before. I got up around 0600, readied for work, strapped on my weapon and walked the half mile to the DFAC (dining facility.) Breakfast for me was 0700-0720 then I headed to my office in the Media Operations Center (MOC) in the Republican Palace (US Embassy). Coffee was at 0720 then at 0730 we watched the BUA (Battlefield Update Assessment) via CCTV that Gen. Petraeus held with his leadership team and the US Embassy leadership staff everyday.

Friday's BUA was held at 0900 in deference to the Iraqis who also attended the brief and usually had the rest of Friday off.

The BUA would last anywhere from a half hour to an hour and a half depending on how much feedback Gen. Petraeus chimed in with. His comments were never boring and we gleaned what we in the public affairs world call 'command messages,' basically our marching orders, from those comments every day.

After the BUA I would read tons of e-mail; attend meetings and work on whatever public affairs planning issue the boss told me to. I worked the planning on several Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC) ceremonies and Islamic holidays, such as the Death of the 7th Imam, etc. My workday ended around 2030-2130 then I would walk back to my 'hooch' (basically a cargo container converted into living quarters), read a book or watch some AFN TV and then place a call to my beloved wife Debbie who would usually be in the middle of a hectic workday herself due to the seven hour time differential. Then I'd crash for the night till the next day when I would get up and do pretty much the same thing all over again.

So if you run across my path and you ask me "how was Iraq?" If you really want to know, let's sit and talk awhile and I'll tell you all about it.

Promotions

To Colonel

Sheila R. Jimenez, 601AOC

To Lt. Colonel

Arthur H. Arakelian, 601AOC

Zachary B. Mann, 290JCSS

Barry D. Wilkes, 159FS

To Major

Edward W. Keller, 601AOC

To Captain

Mary C. Brown, HQ FLANG

To 2nd Lieutenant

Brannon J. Ferguson, Det 1, 125FW

To Chief Master Sgt.

Paul J. Levesque, 290JCSS

Robert R. Swann, Jr., 125MOF

To Senior Master Sgt.

Danny E. Cooper, 601AOC

Richard E. Dautzenberg, 290JCSS

Troy H. Herr, 290JCSS

Patrick W. Herran, 290JCSS

Michelle A. Karst, 125LRS

Conrad F. Prestwood, Jr., 125MXS

Charles L. Richard, 601AOC

William J. Wiener, 601AOC

To Master Sgt.

Timothy A. Barrett, 125SVF

Carl R. Boulding, 202RHS

Marcus Burgos, 125CF

James A. Burns, Det 1, 125FW

Charlie Brown, 601AOC

Kirt D. Carpenter, 601AOC

Jeffrey L. Collins, 202RHS

Mitchell D. Gainey, Det 1, 125FW

Ricky Guzman, WRTC

Juan R. Guzmancamacho, 290JCSS

Jennifer L. Harris, 114ROPS

John R. Maye, 290JCSS

Allen T. Scott, 290JCSS

Shane D. Smith, 601AOC

David A. Thomas, 290JCSS

Joel M. Thompson, 125MXS

Kenneth C. Wells, 601AOC

To Technical Sgt.

Jason A. Chapman, 125SFS

Debra M. Chaves, WRTC

Corey T. Clark, 125MXS

Ian L. Clementson, 125MDG

Jordan M. Dailey, 125MXS

Joseph D. V. Do, 125CF

Camilo L. Dsa, 290JCSS

Francisco Galletti III, 290JCSS

Aaron J. Hartley, Det 1, 125FW

Andrew J. Iyog, 290JCSS

Brittani J. Johnson, 125MXS

Charlene E. Liberty, 125SFS

Michael MacDonald, 290JCSS

Tonya R. McEady, 125FW

James M. McGovern III, 125AMXS

Carlos M. Moralejo, 290JCSS

Keith L. Morreira, 125SFS

Randall W. Moyle, 125MXG

Jose R. Palacios, 290JCSS

Johnathon R. Pavan, 290JCSS

Christopher A. Richmond, 290JCSS

Arturo J. Rodriguez, 290JCSS

Raleigh A. Rogers, 125CES

Timothy L. Whited, 125SFS

Charissa D. Younce, 125MDG

To Staff Sgt.

James L. Beaudoin, 125MXS

Maximo Caba, 202RHS

Frank D. Cooper IV, 125MDG

Erica J. Dietz, 601AOC

Lakeya L. Gaines, 125MXOF

Ashley D. Graves, 125SFS

Gabriel Henaogutierrez, 125MDG

Justin D. Hunnicut, 290JCSS

Carlos E. Leal, 202RHS

Joshua S. Leighly, 125MXS

Sakinah N. McDuffie, 125SVF

Lamar T. Rios, 125MXOF

Michael D. Sparks, 125MXS

Michelle O. Wallace, 125MDG

To Senior Airman

William H. Horton IV, 125SFS

Roger E. Lane, 601AOC

William J. O'Donnell, 601AOC

Keedric A. Woodard, 290JCSS

To Airman 1st Class

Dana N. Cekosh, 125LRS

To Airman

Christopher Ryan, 202RHS

Welcomes

LtCol Aja V. Williams, 601AOC

Maj Joseph J. Grindrod, 601AOC

Maj Kevin M. Holthaus, 125MDG

Maj Roxana Y. Moerscher, 601AOC

Maj David M. Slaydon, 159FS

Maj David J. Smith, 601AOC

Maj Adria P. Zuccaro, 601AOC

Capt Sarah N. Adams, 125OSF

Capt Edward W. Keller III, 601AOC

2Lt Logan M. Jergens, 202RHS

TSgt Roger N. Barber II, 601AOC

TSgt Michael J. Fegley, 290JCSS

TSgt Ryan P. Fogarty, 601AOC

TSgt Daniel J. Hebert, 290JCSS

TSgt Kelly Parker, 601AOC

TSgt Michelle A. Strickland, 290JCSS

SSgt Sandy J. Beardslee, 125MXS

SSgt Alfonso L. Brooks, 601AOC

SSgt Austin J. Brown, 125MXS

SSgt Jonathan Castro, 601AOC

SSgt Nolan R. Clark, 125CF

SSgt Christopher E. Currin, 125STUFT

SSgt Brett D. Dunning, 601AOC

SSgt Martha E. Dunning, 601AOC

SSgt Thomas E. Fotos, 125MXS

SSgt Joseph R. Gast, 601AOC

SSgt Timothy D. Gore, 202RHS

SSgt Alonzo H. Hall, Jr., 125STUFT

SSgt Thomas L. Haessly, 125AMXS

SSgt Kevin L. Hill, 125LRS

SSgt Lacy A. Hogan, 125MSG

SSgt Indya S. Jackson, 601AOC

SSgt Frank C. Johns, 601AOC

SSgt Yohance W. Johnson, 202RHS

SSgt Drew A. Jones, 202RHS

SSgt Henry R. Joseph, 601AOC

SSgt Timothy N. Kleinfelter, 202RHS

SSgt Tavares T. Lowery, 601AOC

SSgt Joseph S. Michael, 290JCSS

SSgt Caleb M. Miller, 125MXG
 SSgt Carl L. Rich, 202RHS
 SSgt Mark P. Rogers, 125AMXS
 SSgt Brian M. Rothermel, 125CES
 SSgt Jonathon D. Russo, 125SVF
 SSgt Olmarie Sheen, 601AOC
 SSgt Billy J. Shelton, Jr., 114ROPS
 SSgt Barry J. Simons, 125AMXS
 SSgt Jamica T. Smith, 159WF
 SSgt Marlon R. Smith, 125MDG
 SSgt Joseph S. Tremblay, 125LRS
 SSgt Jonathan H. Vanho, 202RHS
 SSgt Alex M. Wade, 125AMXS
 SSgt David L. Washington, Det 1, 125FW
 SrA Diego Acevedo, 202RHS
 SrA Eugene L. Black, 125STUFT
 SrA Patrick T. Brackett, Jr., 125MXS
 SrA Richard O. Culliver II, 125SFS
 SrA Blair N. Fitzgerald, 601AOC
 SrA Joshua L. Hendricks, 125MXOF
 SrA Christian B. Hobbs, 601AOC
 SrA William E. Knight II, 202RHS
 SrA Charles L. Loeffler, 125STUFT
 SrA James R. Lovett, 125MXS
 SrA Adisneidy Martinez, 125MDG
 SrA Joseph P. McCabe, 601AOC
 SrA Stephen A. Morris, 125MXS
 SrA Christopher L. Nester, 114ROPS
 SrA Gabriel M. Peterson, 290JCSS
 SrA Aaron M. Potts, 290JCSS
 SrA Derick S. Reisman, 125MXS
 SrA Vaughn T. Reynolds, 290JCSS
 SrA Angela R. Stahl, 125MXS
 SrA Jason C. Stoker, 125STUFT
 A1C Jon M. Ackerman, 290JCSS
 A1C Daphne J. Barbour, 601AOC
 A1C Myles L. Barnett, 125STUFT
 A1C Michael L. Bennett, 125STUFT
 A1C Steven P. Blucher, 125STUFT
 A1C Robert J. Butterly, 290JCSS
 A1C Curtis A. Cairatti, 202RHS
 A1C Manuel F. Castillo, 125STUFT
 A1C Emmanuel N. Cuba, 125STUFT
 A1C Daniel T. Garner, 125STUFT
 A1C Julia C. Glinski, 125STUFT
 A1C Darren D. Harkins, 125STUFT
 A1C Zachary D. Holten, 125STUFT
 A1C Carlus E. Johnson, 125STUFT

A1C Dustin L. Kane, 125STUFT
 A1C Matthew D. Kozdras, 125STUFT
 A1C Jennifer R. Lopez, 125STUFT
 A1C Justin C. McAlpine, 202RHS
 A1C William D. Metzgar, 125STUFT
 A1C Kaysee J. Murgueytio, 125SFS
 A1C Abiel Nazario, 202RHS
 A1C Alexander J. Nolan, 202RHS
 A1C Matthew K. Rockwell, 202RHS
 A1C Franco E. Rossy, 202RHS
 A1C Justin R. St. Vincent, 290JCSS
 A1C Sigrid M. Wellhausen, 125STUFT
 A1C Sheldon M. Williams, 202RHS
 A1C Amber Vance, 202RHS
 A1C Katie M. Young, 125STUFT
 AMN Jessica F. Guy, 125STUFT
 AMN Jennifer L. Barney, 290JCSS

Farewells

Maj Gen Charles V. Ickes II, NGB
 Col Scott K. Stacy, 125FW
 SMSgt Darrell L. Abram, 125AMXS
 SMSgt Louis D. Ceragioli, Jr., 125OG
 SMSgt Robert J. Doskoez, 125OG
 SMSgt Roger Leblanc, 202RHS
 SMSgt Elmer R. Lowney, Jr., HQ FLANG
 SMSgt Mark A. West, 125CF
 MSgt Rexford C. Arnold, 290JCSS
 MSgt David A. Clemmens, 601AOC
 MSgt Jerry E. Deese, 125FW
 MSgt Terry W. Garnett, 125AMXS
 MSgt Maxion L. Gray, Jr., 601AOC
 MSgt Dwayne E. Morris, 125CF
 MSgt Andrew S. Summers, 125FW
 MSgt Michael R. Wilkinson, 125MXG
 TSgt Shawn Bryant, 601AOC
 TSgt Troy A. Burnett, 601AOC
 TSgt Kim Lovejoy, 202RHS
 TSgt Scott J. Schweiter, 114ROPS
 SSgt Angela M. Acosta, 125CF
 SSgt William A. Hamilton, 202RHS
 SSgt Percy White, 125MDG



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