The
Eagle's Eye
Summer/Fall 2008
Florida Air National Guard
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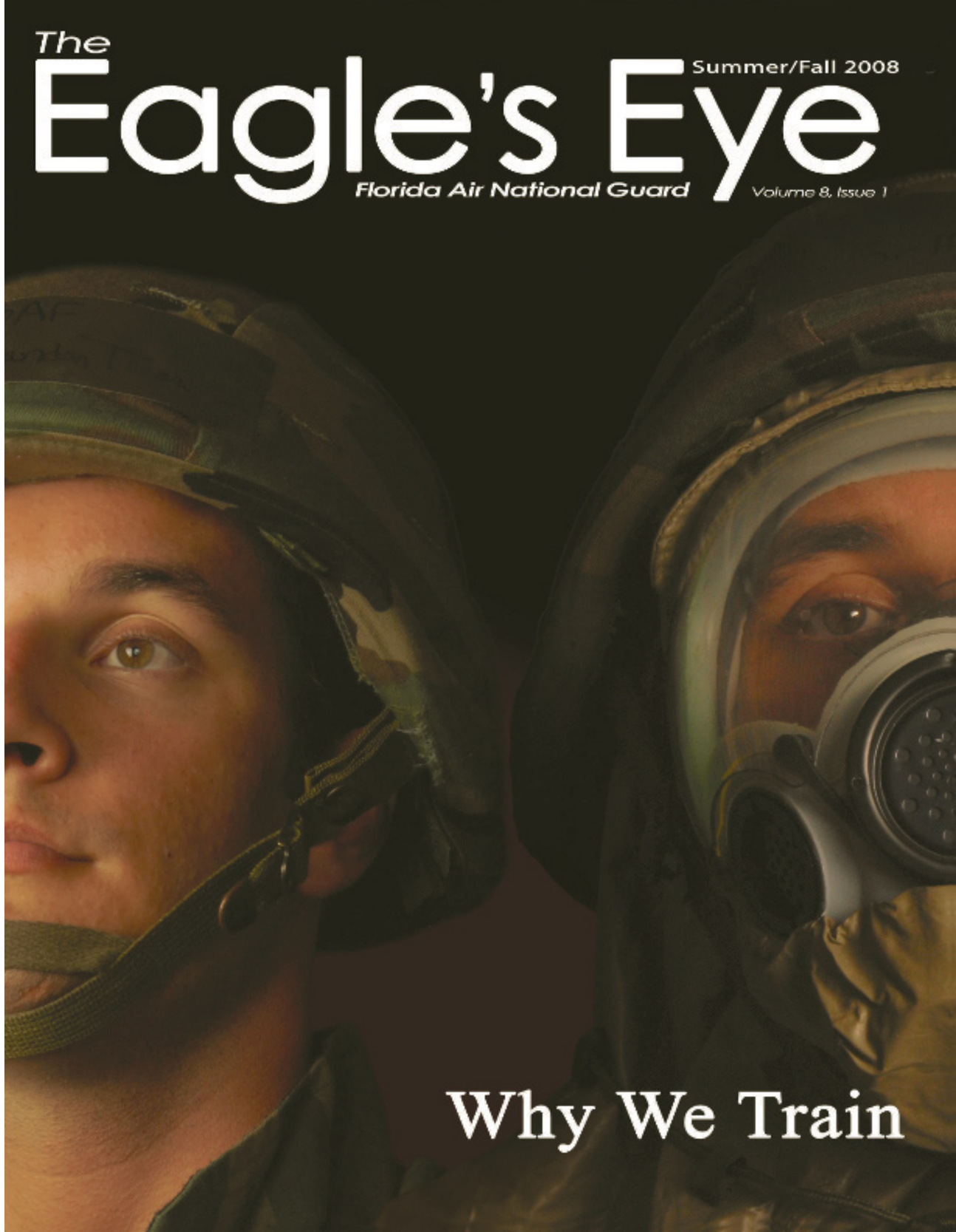

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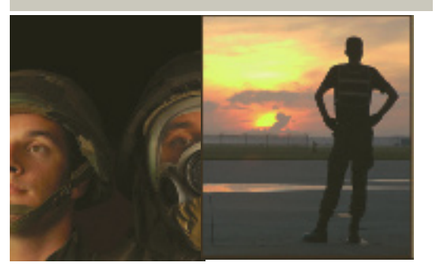


Front Cover: The Airman on the left represents the CONUS missions, the right, what we train for in a deployed environment.
Back Cover: Airman 1st Class Michael Sparks watches the sunrise at the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville IAP, Florida, while waiting for a cargo load to arrive during an ORE Phase I exercise.

Commander's Column

By Brig. Gen.(Sel) J. Kirk Martin
Chief of Staff, Florida Air National Guard

Brig Gen Joseph Balskus, our Commander, has given me the great honor of writing the feature article for this edition of our Eagle's Eye. I am deeply humbled to serve as the ninth Chief of Staff of the Florida Air National Guard and am pleased to have an opportunity to share some of my thoughts about this edition of "Why We Train".

We recently had the opportunity to honor our Outstanding Airmen of the Year. These fine young men and women exemplify the best of the best in the Florida Air National Guard. During our time with them, we examined The Airman's Creed.

Notice that the foundation of an Airman is to be a *warrior*. Our United States Air Force was born out of the brave "bomber boys" who took the air war to Nazi Germany in World War II. Donald L. Miller in his book *Masters of the Air* recounts that in the three months of June, July, and August 1944, the Eighth Air Force lost 1,022 heavy bombers and 10,200 Airmen which amounted to approximately half its operational strength, along with 665 of 900 fighters on hand. It is sobering to realize that an Airman in WWII stood more than a 1-in-3 chance of being killed or captured before finishing his tour of 25 combat missions. And while three or four Soldiers were injured for each one killed in action, Airmen generally died. Over three times as many Airmen were killed as wounded. This is our heritage as Airmen.

We were warriors in Korea in 1950 when the 159th Fighter Squadron was deployed to Misawa Air Base, Japan. Airmen were warriors during Vietnam, and Operation Desert Storm. Florida Airmen have maintained real-world alert fighters for the defense of the United States since 1956.

We are warriors now. The Air Force and Air National Guard have been engaged in continuous combat operations since 1991.

I am an American Airman.
I am a warrior.
I have answered my nation's call.
I am an American Airman.
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.
I am faithful to a proud heritage,
a tradition of honor,
and a legacy of valor.
I am an American Airman,
guardian of freedom and justice,
my nation's sword and shield,
its sentry and avenger.
I defend my country with my life.
I am an American Airman:
wingman, leader, warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter,
and I will not fail.

Every day approximately 41% of our Total Force Airmen (over 200,000) are fulfilling Combatant Commanders requirements, deployed to more than 100 locations around the world in support of the Global War on Terror.

Casualties treated in our deployed and Joint Theater hospitals have an incredible 97 percent survival rate, due in no small part to the more than 48,500 patients transported by ANG, Air Force, and USAFR from the CENTCOM AOR to higher levels of care.

Operation Noble Eagle has been conducted by the Air National Guard and Air Force since Sept. 11, 2001, and during the past seven years the Florida Air National Guard has contributed greatly to planning and execution of the more than 51,000 sorties flown.

One of the Guiding Principles of the Air National Guard is "to be the Total Force's Swing Force and always support the homeland mission as the Governor's first military responder, while providing ready, capable, trained and

Continued next page

equipped units to support the Air Expeditionary Force."

We train "to bring capabilities to the Governor while maintaining relevance as a warfighting component of the Air Force." Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civilian Authorities are part of our dual mission. Indeed, the Air National Guard plays a key role in hurricane, tornado, and flood relief, border security (Operation JUMPSTART), and fighting wildfires.

Today, the Florida Army and Air National Guard can provide approxiamately 11,000 members to the Governor for disaster operations, and in the future, the Air National Guard will be more involved in any such operation. These efforts are coordinated through our Joint Operations Center (JOC) and Joint Air Operations Center (JAOC) which have performed in exemplary fashion through multiple storms in the first half of our 2008 hurricane season. Our JOC is serving as an example for other states, and was visited recently by Gen Victor E. Renuart, Jr., Commander of NORAD and USNORTHCOM. When he assumed Command 23 March 2007, Gen Renuart emphasized, "Defending the homeland and providing defense support of civil authorities are top priorities for NORAD and USNORTHCOM." The Air National Guard is uniquely positioned to Protect America at home and abroad, and to do so economically.

The National Guard Posture Statement 2009 noted the Air National Guard performs 34% of USAF missions with only 7.2% of the USAF budget.

A key part of being an Airman warrior is 24/7/365 fitness. We don't train to complete our ANG Fitness Assessment each year. We train to stay fit to fight, and this must become part of our daily routine. The average age of our enlisted members is 35 years, and the average age of our officers is 41 years. The ANG simply has to work harder to stay fit, and we have to do it largely on our own time, since over 96,100 out of our total 106,700 members are Drill Status Guardsmen.

Our 19th USAF Chief of Staff Gen Norton A. Schwartz has emphasized his view that everyone is a leader, everyone contributes, and everyone is responsible and accountable, both as an individual and as part of the Air Force team. He outlined immediate key actions at the recent AF Senior Leader Orientation Course, including stopping the slide in AF credibility, providing precision and reliability, and regaining stature as professionals and uncompromising warfighters.

No matter what your Guard job is, remember that you are a warrior. So, "Why Do We Train?" We train to be warriors. We must infuse the warfighting ethos into all of our training. Airmen were first warriors, and our mission was, and still is, To Fly, Fight, and Win in air, space and cyberspace.

I am an American Airman. I thank each of you for the privilege of being your Chief of Staff, and look forward to meeting with you at your Units. I invite you to review the video of the Airman's Creed, available on our website at: https://125fw-sp-01/C6/Videos/default.aspx.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Eagle's Eye.

"Indeed, the Air National Guard has played a key role in hurricane, tornado, and flood relief, border security (Operation JUMP START), and fighting wildfires. Today, the Florida Army and Air National Guard can provide approximately 11,000 members to the Governor for disaster operations, and in the future, the Air National Guard will be more involved in any such operation."

Chief's Counsel

By Chief Master Sgt. Charles Wisniewski
HQ FLANG, Command Chief

Yet another Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) in preparation for an inspection. It seems like a never ending cycle.

Why do we do it? Is the goal to get excellent and outstanding ratings? Although those exceptional ratings are what we strive for, there is another more important goal: to be trained and ready to perform our war fighting skills when called.

I recently traveled to Qatar and Afghanistan with Brig. Gen. Joseph Balskus for a tour of bases and briefings and to visit with deployed Guardsmen. At each location, when we met with our deployed Guardsmen and their supervisors, we were told in every instance that our Guardsmen hit the ground running and were contributing to the mission from day one.

Why were they able to blend in to the day to day operations in such a remarkable fashion? It all goes back to training. That is what we do when not in the fight; we train to be ready to get in the fight.

All those ORE's and ORI's that we suffer through help us to be ready to deploy; we practice what we will do when we are sent down range. We met with two members of the 125th Figther Wing in Qatar, both of them had become integral and essential members of their assigned units.

And, in both cases, their supervisors could not say enough good things about how well they did their jobs and how prepared they were when they arrived on station to perform their mission. So, when you are in that cycle of preparing for another ORI, try to remember that it is not designed just to put you through unneccesary hoops; it is designed to prepare you and your unit for deploying to the fight.

There is a fight going on and it will be going on for years to come. The enemy is relentless in their desires and this Global War on Terror is a fight we must win.

The Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain (Lt. Col) Steven Thompson
125th Chaplain

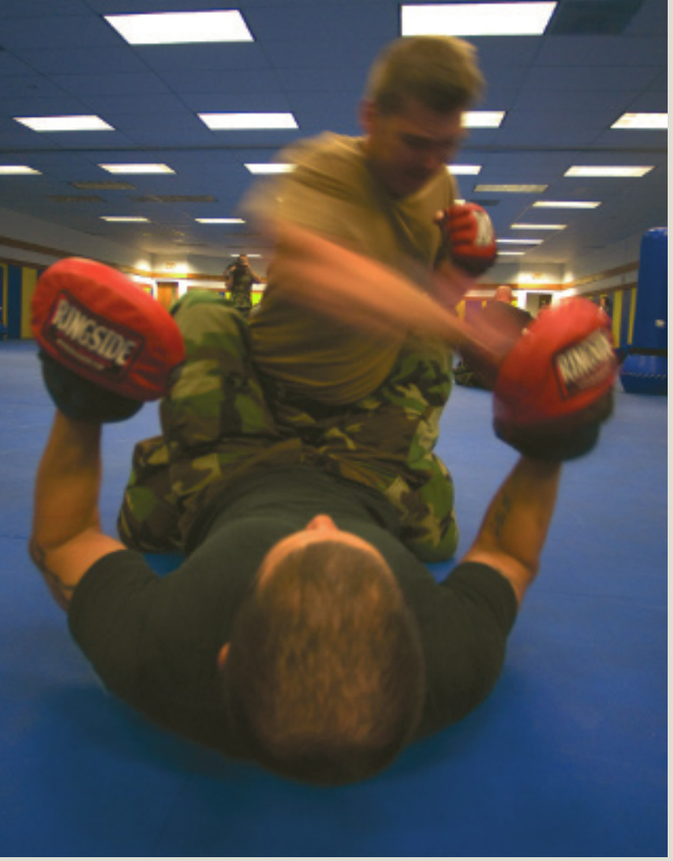
Like many of you, I played sports in high school. Football and baseball were my favorites and my main focus, but I also competed in wrestling and gymnastics. I look back on those days with great fondness, EXCEPT FOR SUMMER FOOTBALL PRACTICES! Under one coach we practiced (not twice), but four times every day. Take that back, he did give us off on Sunday mornings. Those practices were and continue to be my benchmark for difficult as well as miserable. If I find myself in the midst of a tough task, I just go back in my mind to those sweltering August days in Virginia Beach and think, "Compared to summer football practices, this is a piece of cake!"

There is a correlation to this story that is applicable to each of us who wear the uniforms of our military services. I never understood why we practiced certain skills that we never performed in our games. It seemed to me that we ought to practice what we play. I vividly remember running 100 yard sprints after football practice. Let me ask you, how many times do you run 100 yards at one time in a game. Yet there we were, in each sport I played, exerting ourselves to exhaustion for what seemed to be worthless activities that are never use in a game.

Well, as I got a little older, coached a few teams myself and thought about it all a bit; I realized a few things.

First, we actually did use a few of those goofy skills. I cannot count the number of tires I stepped in and ran through during practices. And, though I never saw a single tire on the football field during a game, I did step and run through many blocked opponents on my way to scoring touchdown after touchdown for our world championship team. Actually, I am exaggerating a wee bit in order to make my point, but I think you understand.

Second, the overall conditioning we achieved through tough practices readied us to almost effortlessly play our games. As my football coach used to say, "You can have fun in practice or you can have fun during the game, but not both. If practices are fun, then games will be hard, unrewarding work. If our practices are tough, then our games will be fun and we will win more than our share." He was absolutely right! That is what military inspection and training cycles are all about, i.e., practicing and ultimately demonstrating our war-fighter skills to a level that might make battles easier than ORI's.



Tech. Sgt. Richie Melkerson (top) and Senior Airman Chad Alfred, 125th Fighter Wing Security Forces, practice defensive tactics at the center.

Punching up training

Twenty-five members of the 125th Securty Forces Squadron recently traveled to Glynco, Ga. for specialized law enforcement training designed to give them hands on training they normally won't get on a drill weekend.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco is the headquarters facility center and is situated on 1,600 acres in southeast Georgia. Among these is a 34-building "neighborhood" practical exercise area, which includes houses equipped with video cameras for recording various kinds of practical exercises.

The classroom buildings house various special purpose areas including a library, interviewing suites, mock court rooms, computer forensics laboratories, and other laboratories for fingerprinting and identifying narcotics.

The center's physical techniques complex encompasses over three acres, including mat rooms, classrooms, weight rooms, gymnasium, and other facilities devoted to training and fitness.

Lt. Col. Colby Kelsch, 125th Fighter Wing commander, works full-time at the center and guided the Airmen through the courses taught in modern conventional facilities.

Kelsch said that the opportunity to train at the state-of-of -theart facility is one that "is not afforded most security forces personnel in the Air National Guard."

Below: 125th Fighter Wing Security Forces Commander, Lt. Col. Colby Kelsch (left) demonstrates arm length variation in relation to position with Staff Sgt. Doug Haas. Kelsch is a full-time trainer at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Ga.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Shelley Gill

Tech. Sgt. Charles Wilkie, 125th Fighter Wing Security Forces throws a weighted ball against one of the training aparatus' at the center.

Communicators on call

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

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE – With only a couple hours notice and a few boxes of equipment, they can be flown anywhere in the world to keep the U.S. military talking.

A team of six Airmen from the Florida Air National Guard's 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron are currently on alert status to provide initial communications for U.S. forces, whether they're needed in Bangkok, Baghdad or Bradenton.

This rapid-response team – the Alert Postured Force (APF) – began a six-month alert cycle on April 1, during which the Guardsmen could be called any time to support distant communications missions.

"I don't know of any other communications team that is on such a short notice to be anywhere in the world and be ready to go at a moment's notice," said APF member 1st Lt. Carl Wingard. "Literally, we get a phone call and the wheels start turning and we're getting a team out the door…going anywhere."

The Guardsmen must be ready to move out from their headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa within 18 hours at the most, but Wingard noted they can actually pack their gear, board an airplane and depart within six hours.

He explained there is an advantage to being a small, highly mobile team: "Being this small of a team we can actually support more 'special forces' types of units. That opens up a whole new customer base for us."

The 290th team is part of a larger APF, which includes personnel from other service branches and also offers airborne communications, communications planning and other rapid response communicators.

Above: Members of the 290th Joint Combat Support Squadron Alert Postured Force at MacDill Air Force Base. Pictured are Senior Airman Sarah Cook (left), Lt. Col. Loretta Lombard, Staff Sgt. Sarah Dietz, Tech. Sgt. Tyrone Grant, 1st Lt. Carl Wingard, and Master Sgt. Timothy Carlin. Left: Staff Sgt. Sarah Dietz (left) and Senior Airman Sarah Cook test the unit's mobile communciation's equipment.

When deployed the APF uses its state-of-the-art, mobile equipment packages to provide a variety of services to customer-units, including: voice and data communications, video or radio transmissions, and Internet access. Because they could be working with any branch of service or civilian agency in nearly any environment, the team trains for the most rigorous combat conditions

Already the team went through combat training with the Army at Fort Campbell, Ky., learning everything from lifesaving skills to weapons marksmanship.

Continued next page

Master Sgt. Timothy Carlin of the 290th JCSS Alert Postured Force establishes communications via satellite during a training exercise at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla..

"I'm not going to say that it's easier or harder being so mobile, but it is definitely more interesting" Wingard said. "When you're out there you're literally at the tip of the 'spear.'

Lt. Col. Loretta Lombard, commander of both the 290th and the smaller APF team, said the possibility of a mission keeps her Airmen in a constant state of readiness around-the-clock.

"Just about every day the team is setting up the equipment and tearing it down…making sure all the equipment's working," she said. "We also do (physical training) every day and perform various practice alerts to make sure the team stays sharp."

But the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron as a whole is always busy, Lombard said. Often squadron members are scattered in various countries supporting U.S. military exercises; currently members of the squadron are serving in countries like Iraq, Afghanistan and Thailand. The unit is also picking up responsibility for a potential communications mission in Florida during state emergencies – a mission normally performed by the Army National Guard's 146th Signal Battalion which is deploying to Iraq later this year.

601st Air Operations Center hosts 43rd annual Air National Guard tournament

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Farley
1st Air Force (AFNORTH)

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — The 601st Air and Space Operations Center hosted the 43rd annual Air National Guard Softball Tournament in August.

Although the 116th Air Control Wing's Team Georgia men's softball team won the open championship, the 601st was in contention in all of the divisions, taking home three of five trophies.

Overall, Team Georgia would go on to a 21-19 victory over New Jersey's 108th Air Refueling Wing on Aug. 9 at Frank Brown Park. Team Georgia continued its dominance of the Air National Guard softball tournament walking away with its seventh championship since 2001.

The 601st AOC won the 35+ tournament beating the 116th Air Control Wing 8-6, defeated Ohio 15-3 to capture the women's title, and topped the 123rd Airlift Wing 13-7 in the co-ed championship.

Delaware's 166th Airlift Wing captured the 45+ title winning three games in a best of five game championships.

The 116th ACW entered the tournament championship undefeated, but New Jersey tested the club keeping the score knotted at 12 through the sixth inning. Team Georgia broke the game open in the seventh inning with a nine run flurry.

"We had someone different stepping up every inning," said Tech. Sgt. Russ Hearst, an air maintenance supervisor at the 116th ACW and Team Georgia coach. "We can be down or tied, and it doesn't matter. We just play. We gave up 10 runs in the base championship and came back to win."

Hearst drove in four runs on a grand slam home run in the fourth inning.

The 108th ARW responded at the bottom of the seventh with seven runs, but fell short before Georgia recorded the third out to end the game.

Chief Master Sgt. Bill Messer, an airfield manager at the 116th ACW and the team's assistant coach, said that Georgia came in very confident of their chances.

"We always have a chance with this team," said Chief Messer. "We were tested physically and mentally in this tournament. We played until midnight (Aug. 8) and returned at eight. It was tough. We were playing on little sleep, quick snacks and a lot of heat."

Photo courtesy of AFNORTH

A member of the 60st Air Operations Center' softball team throws the ball during one of the games during the Air National Guard Softball tournament. The 601st hosted the event this year.

WRTC instructor recounts time in Iraq

By Tech. Sgt. Garrett Palmer
WRTC Instructor

Photos courtesy of WRTC

Then Senior Airman Palmer rides aboard an Army Blackhawk helicopter in March of 2004 at FOB Speicher, Iraq while was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division.

On March 24, 2003, a swirling mass of sand started to spin over the Syro-Arabian desert, the storm grew in strength and size as sand from Saudi Arabia's Rub' Al Khali and An-Nafud deserts sped northward.

Two days later the storm had progressed east and engulfed the skies of Iraq. Operation Iraqi Freedom was halted due to visibility of less than 30 feet and winds over 60mph.

My small detachment consisting of two Air Force Joint Forward Air Controllers (JFAC) and me, an Air Force Combat Weather Team (CWT) member embedded with combat support units and was ordered to report immediately to the Army Intelligence officer. We slowly moved across the desert northward passing units stalled by the intense storm.

We finally reached our objective just in time to be met by enemy probes moving under the cover of the blowing sand. After a short engagement and perimeter sweep the enemy was neutralized and I reported to the intelligence officer.

He wanted to know when the weather would favor us and if the brigade could continue its march north, a heavy call for a Senior Airman (E-4) to make surrounded by Army staff officers. Pilots flying above the storm were reporting that it topped off at around 10,000ft. After doing a quick dust settling rate equation in my head I forecasted that visibility would be "green" or above three miles in 10-12 hours.

Within 12 hours convoys were heading out and the invasion continued.

My job as an Air Force Weather Technician is an atypical Air Force job at times.

Our main mission and focus is to observe and forecast the weather using analysis and data that will provide the Army with an operational capability to exploit battlefield environmental effects as a force multiplier in combat operations.

Often times this means being deployed forward with our Army customer providing up to the minute weather conditions so that the second the weather turns in our favor we can exploit it to conduct combat operations. The skills needed to make these operational calls and survive in a combat environment with our Army customer are taught at the Air National Guard's Weather Readiness Training Center (WRTC) at Camp Blanding, FL.

All ANG students attend the WRTC to further train after their Initial Skills Course (ISC) at Kessler AFB, Miss. Training at ISC consists of learning the basic rules and fundamentals of the atmosphere and weather forecasting. When the students arrive at the WRTC we continue their training by teaching them to observe current weather conditions and refine their forecasting skills.

As they advance in the course focus is taken away from the daily forecasting and observing of basic weather.

Instead we teach the operational significance of what we forecast and how it will affect enemy and ally operations.

Our students learn how to forecast more advanced elements such as hours of Night Vision Goggle (NVG) usage based on the moon's emitted ambient light and absorption of that light through the atmosphere.

We also teach how to provide pilots or ground troops with how close they need to be to a target to laze for precision guided munitions employment based on atmospheric conditions.

Once the students have a grasp on how weather affects the operator it is time for them to experience this support from the battlefield through our Battlefield Weather Applications course.

This course teaches Air Force personnel Army Warrior Skills (Level 1) and the weather equipment necessary to operate in the field. When our students are done they will be returning to their units expected to keep pace with their Army customers on the battlefield. Some of the courses we teach are movement under enemy fire, convoy operations, defensive fighting positions and weapons training.

Palmer (left) with another former WRTC student Staff Sgt. Patricia Ballou (right) at Camp Taji Iraq, in October 2005 while they were assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division.

Tech. Sgt. Garrett Palmer instructs students at the WRTC located at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in May.

Florida honors Airmen of the Year for 2008

By Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa
Florida National Guard Public Affairs

Florida Air National Guard command staff pose for a photo with the Florida Air National Guard 2008 Outstanding Airmen of the Year and nominees at the St. Francis Barracks in St. Augustine, Fla., June 22, 2008.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – Six Airmen described as "shining examples of devotion to duty, honor, state and country" were honored during the Florida Air National Guard's 2008 Outstanding Airmen of the Year awards presentation in June.

The six Airmen were selected as the "best of the best" of the Florida Air National Guard, as Assistant Adjutant General for Air Brig. Gen Joseph Balskus presented awards to Airmen from units throughout the state for the categories of Airman, Non-Commissioned Officer, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, First Sergeant, Honor Guard Member and Honor Guard Manager of the Year.

The evening presentation was held at the Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village in St. Augustine.

Selected were: Senior Airman David Johnson of the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron as Airman of the Year; Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Cline of the 125th Fighter Wing as Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year; Master Sgt. Scott Baker of the Southeast Air Defense Sector as Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year; Master Sgt. Billie Statom Jr. of the Southeast Air Defense Sector as First Sergeant of the Year; Master Sgt. Charles Fuller of the Southeast Air Defense Sector as Honor Guard Member of the Year; and Tech. Sgt. Douglas Henry of the 114th Range Operations Squadron as Honor Guard Manager of the Year.

Each of the winners received the Florida Distinguished Service Medal, recognition from various corporations and associations to include a $50 check from the Air Force Association.

These Florida Air National Guard winners will go on to compete at the National Guard level, and those winners will then compete against active duty Airmen at the Air Force level.

Airman of the Year Senior Airman David Johnson is a Communications-Computer Systems Journeyman assigned to the Small Command and Control Internet Protocol section at the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron (JCSS), based at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Originally a native of Florida, Johnson attended Warren Wilson College in Asheville, N.C., where he participated in a variety of activities, such as educational development, community service, and cultural awareness. He was instrumental in establishing a diversity taskforce at the school and was also voted team captain of the men's basketball team. Johnson graduated in May 2005 with a degree in Business Administration. He joined the 290th JCSS in December 2005, and deployed to Iraq in 2007.

Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Cline is an Active Guard Reserve Security Forces Craftsman assigned to the 125th Security Forces Squadron in Jacksonville, Fla. Cline enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard's 178th Fighter Wing in February 1993 as a traditional Guardsman, and in 1996 transferred to the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing. Since joining the Florida Air National Guard Cline has served in a variety of positions. He is currently the Wing Antiterrorism Officer as well as the chair of the installation's Threat Working Group, a member of the Installation Security Council and serves as a liaison for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force in Jacksonville. He attends Liberty University and is working toward a degree in Business and Psychology.

Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Master Sgt. Scott Baker is a Safety Craftsman assigned as the Chief of Safety for the Southeast Air Defense Sector (SEADS) at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1987 and served in the Aerospace Control and Warning Systems career field on active duty in Alaska, South Korea and Florida. After a break in service to attend paramedic school, he returned to uniform in 1997 by enlisting in the Florida Air National Guard. While assigned to SEADS he served in a variety of positions including senior director technician, weapons director technician, and communications security custodian. As a safety professional, he has attended numerous Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Safety Council courses and was awarded the National Safety Council's Advanced Safety Certificate. Off-duty, Baker is a dedicated and extremely active volunteer firefighter, and serves as the Deputy Fire Chief for the City of Port St. Joe Volunteer Fire Department. He attends Gulf Coast Community College and is working toward a degree in Fire Science.

Assistant Adjutant General for Air Brig. Gen. Joseph Balskus (left) State Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Wisniewski talk with the 2008 Outstanding Airmen of the Year and nominees outside of the Florida National Guard Headquarters in St. Augustine, Fla.

Honor Guard Manager of the Year Tech. Sgt. Douglas Henry is a Special Vehicle Maintenance Technician with the 114th Range Operations Squadron at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. Additionally he is a member of the Patrick Air Force Base Honor Guard team, serving on a voluntary tour at the newly opened South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth, Fla. Henry enlisted in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard in 1987 as a Ground Radio Maintenance Technician. He has served as a Public Health Technician for both the Pennsylvania and Iowa Air National Guards, before enlisting in the 114th Range Operations Squadron as a Special Vehicle Maintenance Technician. Henry is enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force and is three classes from receiving his first associate's degree.

Other nominees for the 2008 Outstanding Airman of the Year included: **Airman 1st Class BriAnne Julian** of the 125th Fighter Wing; **Senior Airman Garrett Haskell** of SEADS; **Senior Airman Clifford Walker** of the 202nd RED HORSE; and **Senior Airman Penelope Pippin** of the 114th Range Operations Squadron. Also competing for the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year were: **Tech. Sgt. Scott Schweitzer** of the 114th Range Operations Squadron; **Tech. Sgt. Nicole Gardner** of SEADS; **Tech. Sgt. Kim Lovejoy** of the 202nd RED HORSE; and **Staff Sgt. James Davis** of the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron. Other competitors for the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year were: **Master Sgt. Jeffrey Vaughan** of the 125th Fighter Wing; **Master Sgt. Alan Ladd** of the 114th Range Operations Squadron; **Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Kash** of the 202nd RED HORSE; and **Master Sgt. James Johann** of the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron. **Master Sgt. Stuart Smith** of the 125th Fighter Wing was also a competitor for the First Sergeant of the Year. Also competing for Honor Guard Member of the Year were **Staff Sgt. Jason Emery** of the 114th Range Operations Squadron and **Master Sgt. Coran Williams** of the 125th Fighter Wing. **Staff Sgt. John Citrullo** of the 125th Fighter Wing also competed for the Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year.

In Memory

Staff Sgt. Jason Emery, a 2008 Honor Guard Member of the Year nominee, sadly passed away as the result of a motorcycle crash July 31in Orlando, Fla. A satellite communications operator for the 114th Range Operations Squadron, Emery joined the unit two years ago and was an active member of the honor guard.

Our hearts go out to his wife Hannah, and his daughter, Lilian.

Staff Sgt. Jason Emery, right, performs honor guard duties at the 144th Range Operations Squadron.

RED HORSE gearing up for emergency missions in U.S.

By Staff Sgt. Bill Nicholls, 202nd RED HORSE Squadron

Tech Sgt. Charles V. Crumity helps assemble an "Alaskan" billeting tent during a four day RED HORSE exercise at Camp Blanding.

CAMP BLANDING JOINT TRAINING CENTER, Fla. — In preparation for the upcoming hurricane season, the Florida Air National Guard's premier engineering unit trained for possible emergency missions during a recent four day exercise at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

The 202nd RED HORSE Squadron — based at Camp Blanding — conducted its annual field training exercise April 17-20, giving the Squadron a chance to sharpen its engineering skills for disaster relief missions.

According to 202nd Chief Master Sgt. Douglas Gilbert, the exercise packed more than a week's worth of training into just a few days. The training included "worst case" scenarios that could make a disaster recovery mission more difficult for the 202nd Airmen.

"We set it up in a hurricane '(Category Five)' scenario," he said. "We had a chemical plant that was damaged, which caused us to use our MOPP Four (Mission Oriented Protective Posture) chemical gear. We also had a prison that was destroyed, so we had inmates in unknown locations, and we had to stay in a security mode.

"The exercise was not tactical, it was operational.

The goal for us was to meet our UCI (Unit Compliance Inspection) criteria time, as well as document essential military training."

Senior Master Sgt. Sean Register said RED HORSE training this exercise was customized to eliminate unpleasant surprises and break in new equipment.

"We had fire extinguisher training," said Register. 'We also set up all the new State assets — they were all in their original wrappers — Alaskan tents, ROWPU's (Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit), the boilers, the electrical system — all brand new. We wanted to set up this camp so when we get called up for a hurricane, we know everything is ready to go. It took a little while because everything was brand new, but we got everything working. We had some excellent training out here."

Master Sgt. Daniel Robshaw said the new "Alaskan" billeting tents are a major upgrade over previous tents.

"The biggest improvement in the Alaskans is how easy they set up," he added. "They're a lot safer."

According to Robshaw, the pinch points with the older TEMPER (Tent Extendable Modular Personnel) tents posed a serious safety risk. The Alaskan models are all color-coded aluminum slide-in/slide-out parts—no pinch points, offering more safety.

"These are the new tents of the future. Alaskans can sleep ten people comfortably; you can probably get fifteen in there fairly comfortably. In the near future, we're going to be all-Alaskan, on the State side and Federal side," he said.

Training for disaster

By Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa
Florida National Guard Public Affairs

CAMP BLANDING JOINT TRAINING CENTER – You're trapped under tons of rubble. You can't move, everything is dark, and the stifling air is so thick with concrete dust you can barely breathe.

Minutes ago the building you were working in exploded and collapsed, and now with every passing second a rescue seems less and less likely.

And by the way, the bomb that brought your world crashing down may have been radioactive.

This nightmare scenario was the focus of an intense training exercise by members of the Florida National Guard recently , helping prepare some Soldiers and Airmen for immediate emergency response that could save lives in the event of a disaster.

More than 125 members of the Guard's CERF (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force) conducted the training at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center near Starke, Fla., working through a scenario simulating a large scale explosion with injured civilians trapped in collapsed and damaged buildings. The CERF tested its abilities to provide search and extraction, medical triage and radiological decontamination, working in the mid-day heat with role-players acting as injured civilians.

The Florida National Guard CERF team – one of 12 validated regional teams – is designed to augment first response agencies in incidents potentially involving hostile use of chemical, biological or radiological agents.

Above: Lt. Col. Philip Carnevale of the 125th Fighter Wing Medical Squadron) examines Andreas Ramirez in a medical triage tent Ramirez was simulating a patient with throat and chest injuries. Top left: Tech. Sgt. Brandy Hiner of the 125th Fighter Wing Medical Group helps treat a simulated patient contaminated with possible radiation Bottom right: Members of the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron help pull a simulated disaster victim from a pile of rubble.

"This was our first collective training exercise where we actually had a scenario, role-players and fully resourced site," explained CERF Commander Maj. Michael Ladd during the exercise on Friday. "For the search and rescue teams, the medical teams, and decontamination teams, this was just incredible."

When the CERF team – comprised of Guardsmen from the 202nd RED HORSE (Engineering) Squadron, the 927th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and 125th Fighter Wing's Medical Group – arrived at the disaster site, they encountered numerous casualties, including some trapped under piles of concrete rubble.

Within minutes the CERF members began rescue operations, often crawling through tight spaces under the damaged buildings as they wouldin an actual emergency. Nearby the team set up a medical triage and a decontamination line for "victims" exposed to radiation from the blast.

"We helped 90 casualties within a matter of minutes," Ladd explained.

Photo by Debra Cox

Ladd added that if an actual emergency occurred in the near future, he was confident the CERF team could respond and save lives.

"Any time you bring in the best of the Army Guard and the best of the Air Guard, the strengths of each unit come together and you can't lose," he said.

Working in the "hot triage" zone just outside of the blast area, Tech. Sgt. Brandy Hiner and other medics examined casualties prior to carrying them into the decontamination line.

She wore a protective mask in case the victims had been exposed to radiation or chemicals, and worked quickly to assess their injuries.

"The toughest part is when we have a large group of patients coming in and they are all yelling and screaming," Hiner, a nursing student at the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Fla., said. "We have to deal with that. And on top of all the emotional aspects of this, it is hard work."

As the battered casualties moved from the decontamination line in the medical triage, CERF member Lt. Col. Philip Carnevale and his team of Airmen examined the victims and assessed their wounds. He explained the main objective is to provide initial treatment and move them through as quickly as possible so they can be transported to civilian hospitals.

"The public should be aware that the government has mechanisms in place – that we are constantly trying to improve – in case something like this does happen," Carnevale, who is also a civilian anesthesiologist in Tampa, explained. "It's an honor to be part of something like this."

The CERF can work hand-in-hand with the Guard's 44th Civil Support Team – also located at Camp Blanding – and is available to support the needs of the emergency response and emergency management communities throughout the region.

Above: Soldiers from the Florida Army National Guard's 927th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion help decontaminate roleplayers acting as civilian casualties in a medical triage. The CERF (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force) team brings Soldiers and Airmen together for a common goal: disaster preparedness. Right: Staff Sgt's Andrew Gessner (left) and Adam Cairo of the s 202nd RED HORSE Squadron crouch down in a crawlspace under a pile of rubble simulating a collapsed building.

Why we train

Photo essay by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Trumble and Staff Sgt. Shelley Gill
125th Public Affairs

Pilots approach the flight line en route to their aircraft in support of an Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) Phase II at the 125th Fighter Wing, JIA, Florida, May 16, 2008. The ORE phase II analyzes the unit's capability to fight and survive from a deployed base.

Above: Senior Airman Matthew Riley, 125th FW Mortuary Services, arrives at the medical squadron to receive casualties from a simulated chemical attack during an Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) Phase II . The ORE phase II analyzes the unit's capability to fight and survive from a deployed base.

Top Right: 125th Logistic Readiness Squadron personnel perform an accountability check after a bomb threat during the one of several simulated situations aimed at preparing Airmen for overseas deployments.

Bottom Right: Gregory Rutledge drinks water in MOPP 4 at the request of an Evaluator in a Security Forces bunker located at the simulated front gate.

News from HQ

Director of Staff of the Florida Air National Guard honored during retirement ceremony

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – Airmen, Soldiers, friends and family gathered to honor the retiring Director of Staff of the Florida Air National Guard Headquarters Col. Jeanette Booth, during a ceremony at the historic St. Francis Barracks, last May.

Col. Booth, a resident of St. Augustine, served for more than twenty-three years with the USAF and Florida Air National Guard, and has served in her current position for six years.

She was the first female to serve as a vice Wing commander, and the first female in the FLANG to rise to the rank of full-bird colonel, outside of the medical field.

During the ceremony Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett awarded Col. Booth the Legion of Merit and the Florida Cross.Col. Booth graduated from Oregon State University in Covallis, Ore., in 1984, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, and a commission as a second lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Following four years on active duty at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida and Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma, she joined the Florida Air National Guard as an Intel Applications Officer at the 125th Fighter Group in Jacksonville, Fla.

Over the next 13 years she served at various positions in the 125th and joined Florida Air National Guard Headquarters staff as a colonel in 2002.

Col. Booth is a graduate is the Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, and the Air War College.

Her awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Florida Commendation Medal.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

Family, friends and military members look on as Col. Jeanette Booth is awarded the Legion of Merit during a military ceremony in St. Augustine, Fla. May 22.

Strategy for emergency operations

By Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus
Assistant Adjutant General for Air

It was January of 2004, and our state had no idea that 2004 and 2005 would be years that would be forever etched into the state archives as two of the worst "Hurricane seasons" in Florida's history. I was talking with the, at that time, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Brig. Gen. Buddy Titshaw (now Maj. Gen.), and had pointed out the Florida Air National Guard section of the Florida National Guard Military Support to Civil Authorities (MSCA) now called Defense Support (DSCA) was simply titled TBD; TBD, the infamous acronym for "To Be Determined."

Simply stated, we had done nothing, nada, not one input into the State plan for Air involvement in hurricanes or other state disasters. Afterall, we had not had a major hurricane in our state in almost 12 years and historically, the Air side didn't participate in the hurricane preparation or recovery, except to evacuate our aircraft and personnel from Homestead.

Other acronyms such as WMD, CST, and CERF-P were starting to appear and there we stood with a big, bold TBD.

The boss asked me to facilitate a meeting with the staff, and with one meeting and the right people on task, we launched ourselves into a plan which has today become one of the most successful, productive, and functional Joint Air Operations Centers in the nation; an Air Component for Coordination and an Air Operations Center that has defined us in the state joint arena and has provided a capability to the Joint Operations Center and Joint Task Force that is absolutely invaluable.

I called the A3, Colonel Al Rutherford, and he brought in the A8, Lt. Col. Ed Clarke and the meeting began. "Gentlemen, I have a tasking and opportunity for you to develop something completely from scratch. It will come with a fairly large checkbook and our desire is to create a capability to assist the state with a central aviation section that controls all Air activity, keeping in mind the State Aviation Officer (SAO) will be in Tallahassee assisting coordination for the #1 Aviator, The Adjutant General.

We need to have a plan to assist the SAO and provide coordination with all air entities so the information to the SAO is up channeled to TAG and the State Emergency Operations Center." We need to be a central command and control cell, a force provider of air personnel and a coordination cell that reports to the Joint Task Force."

This was a new concept; a way of truly defining the Air role, and a way of finally addressing the TBD.

It began with the construct of the Air Component Coordination Element (ACCE) and evolved into a fully operational Joint Air Operations Center (JAOC).

Colonel Rutherford and Lt. Col. Clarke wasted no time in going to work analyzing the latest in Joint Operations, the latest new acronyms at Air Operations Centers, and the latest equipment available to put our cell together. We had our first meeting in a classroom at the Armory and the foundation was laid. Colonel Rutherford briefed that "We must mirror active duty/joint construct in joint doctrine and language."

As the commander of the FLANG, I published my intent which was, "Commander, Florida Air National Guard directs that unless deployed or conducting combat operations, supporting real-world DSCA will be the Florida Air National Guard's primary mission. All FLANG units and personnel are potentially available for DSCA operations."

From this meeting, the Air team worked with the Joint Operations Center to secure a room in the 207 (Ensslin) Armory and they developed a Concept of Operations.

After careful planning and testing which came as "on the job training" during the storms of 2005 (particularly Hurricane Wilma), they pressed on with refining the concept and in June of 2006, we opened the doors of the new Joint Air Operations Center directly adjacent to the Joint Operations Center.

Today, the Florida Air National Guard Joint Air Operations Center is a world-class "showcase" for how the Air fits into the overall construct in supporting the JOC, the SEOC, TAG, and the Governor/Commander-in-Chief.

My thanks to Col. Al Rutherford, Lt. Col. Ed Clarke, Lt. Col. Sean Doughty, and the many members of our organization, who embraced this vision, developed a concept, set the plan into motion, and created an operations cell that will have a long-lasting positive and significant impact on the Florida National Guard!

STARBASE News

STARBASE students prepare a "flight plan" during their week-long math and science course designed to build essential skills.

STARBASE Florida finished the 2007-2008 school year with exciting new projects and experiments from our dynamic duo of instructors. Dorothy Train-Marsh and Melissa Quinto spent the year working on developing new hands-on integrated math and science curriculum.

This year students will be doing cross country flight planning, experiencing the difficulties of handling small objects in space and designing airfoils with 3D AutoCAD software. They will learn about kinetic energy, inertia and levitation in a fun and exciting environment.

Drop by and visit STARBASE to see our amazing instructors making science magic in the classroom.

A Barracuda visits STARBASE

What do hockey pucks and Sir Isaac Newton have in common? Hockey pucks in motion like to stay in motion—until acted upon by an external force.

Meet Tim Haun, external force, otherwise known as a Goalie, for the Jacksonville Barracudas hockey team.

Tim minored in Math while in college and when told about the STARBASE program had expressed an interest in coming out to STARBASE at the end of the hockey season to see what we do.

STARBASE students learn about kinetic energy.

Overseas Care

Chaplain Maj. Keith Dobbe comforts a patient while deployed to Ramstein, Germany.

From the cockpit

By Lt. Col. John Black
125th Operations Group

Flying in a Red Flag is an invaluable experience. For the new aviator, it provides a "combat like" environment allowing for mistakes to be made and learned from without loss of aircraft or life. For the experienced aviator, it provides the opportunity to "knock off the rust." The Red Flag the 125th Fighter Wing deployed for, provided an additional layer of valuable training - employing with allied air forces. Flying with different aircraft and working with aviators who have different ideas about airborne tactics provides an unmatched breadth of experience. Training with allies at Red Flag is not uncommon, but the number of allies at this particular one was a "first."

RED FLAG: Flying operations at Nevada Test and Training Range

The view from 32,000 feet over the Nevada desert is astounding; however, there is no time to enjoy it. We are one minute to "push" and one minute to the start of the Red Flag engagement which will mark the completion of the two-day planning process orchestrating this mission. I survey the Offensive Counter-Air fighters I'm leading: the four-ship formation of FLANG F-15s I'm part of and to the left, and the other four-ship of FLANG fighters. I look over to my right and see four Indian SU-30 "Flankers" (yes, the bad guys, but not today).

We have just been given an update on the "enemy's" forces, both fighter and surface to air missiles, 80 miles to the west. I hear the last of our strike force, over 40 total, check in and acknowledge ready. USAF and Korean F-15Es, more Indian SU-30s, French Rafales, USAF F-16s and USN EA-6Bs are orbiting below me. They are awaiting their time to begin their run to the west to accomplish our mission objective for the day - destroy the "enemy's" ability to conduct a coordinated war. Push time..... I see the Indian SU-30s leave their orbit point and head west towards our adversaries. Three minutes later I maneuver all eight of our F-15s into position behind the four SU-30s, accelerating our formation to supersonic and climbing to prepare to conduct our portion of today's mission: the destruction of the "enemy's" air forces.

The SU-30, the most advanced Flanker model, is normally the threat we train against. For two weeks we flew on the same side as the SU-30s, which was quite a mindset change. While this was not as good as fighting the German MIG-29 "Fulcrums" at Key West, the experienced gained by flying with the SU-30s is something I would not have passed up for any reason.

The actions of the Indian SU-30s have worked. The "enemy" air forces have left their orbit and begun to maneuver apart to attack. They don't know that the SU-30s are bait. Their formation separation has reduced the advantage of strength in numbers - our plan is working. The Flankers begin their preplanned maneuver to rejoin back to the north of the 8 ship wall of FLANG Eagles. I call "float" and the 8 ship of F-15s spread apart as the Flankers rejoin north of us. Now the "enemy" air force, separated and firepower not massed, faces a coordinated effort of 12 aircraft working to clear the sky of "enemy" aircraft. Feedback on our plan arrives minutes later when the "enemy" fighters are simulated killed and our strike force run unopposed to their targets. No time to relax though - our adversaries will tag a regeneration point and be back for round 2 any second!

FLNG communications trailers to Louisiana

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Trumble

Florida Air National Guard members from the 290th Joint Communication Support Squadron (JCSS) were deployed in four Regional Emergency Response Network (RERN) teams to assist in hurricane relief efforts in Louisiana after Hurricane Gustav made landfall on September 1, 2008. RERN team Number 10 provided phone and internet connections to hurricane relief personnel at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., on Sept. 6, 2008.

By Lt. Col. Ron Tittle
Director, FLNG Public Affairs

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Florida National Guard sent four of its Regional Emergency Response Networks (RERN) to assist in Louisiana's communications needs after Hurricane Gustav swept through the area in early September.

The RERN is capable of providing voice and data communications in disaster areas without electricity

When the RERN teams, made up members of from the Florida Air National Guard's 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron (JCSS), arrived in Louisiana, they reviewed an assessment of the impact areas. Quickly the four teams separated and moved into areas where they could be most beneficial: Grand Isle, Southern University in Baton Rouge, Fort Beauregard and LaFayette.

One of the teams arrived in Grand Isle and provided initial communications capability.

After commercial service providers were able to restore communications with mobile generators, it was then quickly determined the RERN was urgently needed in Raceland.

Since the RERN is capable of quick setup and take down, it was moved to Raceland where the LaFourche Parish emergency operations center (EOC) was damaged and practically non-operational.

The RERN team, led by Master Sgt. Scott Craver, was able to set up his unit and by the time the EOC moved to the closed-down department store parking lot, phone and internet were already available for the emergency response team.

"The team is excited to be a part of something where we are able to give back to the community and the residents, including the Louisiana Guard units," commented Craver. "They have welcomed our support like best friends and neighbors do."

The 290th Communications Squadron took over responsibility of operating the RERNs recently since the Florida Army National Guard's 146th Expeditionary Support Battalion is mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom and is completing its deployment training. These Florida. Army and Air National Guard units worked together to ensure there was a continued capability in event of a state or regional emergency response.

Col. Ron Brooks, Florida Air National Guard Director of Air Staff, deployed to Louisiana and checked with the Louisiana National Guard's joint operations center.

He visited the RERN teams to determine the effectiveness of the units and discussed the emergency management assistance compact with Florida, which enables states to support each other in an emergency.

According to Col. Brooks, the RERN teams provided a great service to the state and federal government, and they are very flexible and easy to set up.

He added that the units had Florida phone numbers but the team was able to reconfigure the unit quickly to adapt to the Louisiana area to make the RERNs work.

In addition to the Florida National Guard team in Louisiana, Col. Brooks commented that "all the folks out here with boots on the ground from all over the country are providing a valuable service."

The Florida National Guard has additional RERNS to support Florida's communications needs in the event nother disaster occurs requiring additional communications in support of emergency responders.

Florida Air National Guard members from the 290th Joint Communication Support Squadron (JCSS) were deployed in four Regional Emergency Response Network (RERN) teams to assist in hurricane relief efforts in Louisiana after Hurricane Gustav made landfall on Sept. 1, 2008. Members of RERN team Number 10 were visited by Col. Ronald Brooks, FLANG Director of Staff, on Sept. 6, 2008 (Left to Right) Senior Airman Clint Williams, Senior Airman Angela Tuttle, Col. Ronald Brooks, Staff Sgt. Chris Richmond, Master Sgt. Travis Moore. The team provided phone and Internet connections to hurricane relief personnel at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

inbrief

Family Readiness

By Mrs. Laura Pageau
FLANG Family Program Coordinator

We all need a chance to talk and share what is going on in our lives. It's easy to find someone to talk to about success and joy but it can be challenging to speak about the problems we face every day. We have a dedicated team of professionals at our fingertips to help with just this!

The Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC) program addresses issues that occur across the military lifestyle and helps service members and their families cope with normal reactions to the stressful events created by deployments, war, reintegration and the military lifestyle.Florida has two dedicated Military Family Life Consultants (MFLC) who are Masters-level educated licensed clinical counselors.

Harry MacNeill has over 30 years of VA experience and is a former Tricare provider. Jennifer Matthews is our Child and Youth Specialist and has experience with crisis response and grief counseling. The MFLCs can offer short-term, situational, problem-solving counseling to both troops and families.

The services can be provided to individuals, couples, families and groups. With exception in duty to warn situations all information shared with the MFLCs is completely free and confidential. Some specific topics the MFLC's can assist with range from anger m nagement, deployment stress, coping skills and relationship issues.Although our MFLCs are based at the 125th Fighter Wing they are extremely mobile and can come to your unit either on or off base or meet with you over the phone. They can also assist in identifying resources in your particular area. In summary, talk is not only cheap it's free however the value of their services is priceless! Harry MacNeill he can be reached on 904-718-9987 and Jennifer Matthews can be reached on 904-738-3657.

Safety Matters

By Master Sgt. Dana Gaffney
125th Safety Office

The 2nd Quarter 2008 Outstanding Safety Performance Award winner goes to SSgt Patricia Loffredo from the Vehicle Maintenance Shop. On 12 January 2008, she was in the Vehicle Maintenance' break room when she noticed that a co-worker was having difficulties swallowing a piece of chicken and began to choke. Once she was convinced that the co-worker was clearly in trouble, she immediately performed the Heimlich Maneuver and was able to dislodge the obstruction, allowing the co-worker to continue to breathe on his own. With the keen attention of SSgt Loffredo, she surely saved the life of her fellow co-worker. She was awarded with a certificate and a $25.00 gift card to Outback Steakhouse. Congratulations!

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

Spotlight on

Senior Master Sgt. Terrilee Terrill

By Tech. Sgt. Michelle Thomas
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The new 125th Fighter Wing Human Resource Advisor, Senior Master Sgt. Terrilee Terrill, meets with first sergeants during the May 2008 Unit Training Assembly.

Terrill is the new Human Resource Advisor for the 125th Fighter Wing. A Jacksonville Sheriffs Office corrections sergeant in her civilian job, Terrill works to develop and maintain liaison and facilitate team relations with the Wing Commander, and various base and off base organizations.

As the advisor, she ultimately strives to identify methods to assess how "the Wing maintains a work environment conducive to the well-being and growth of all members."

She has more than 18-years in the military, all with the Florida Air National Guard.

Terrill joined the military twelve years after graduating high school, even though she was exposed to the military life while growing up.

"My father served in the Navy and growing up we had many family gatherings where the Navy films would come out for all to see, again and again. He was so proud of those times in his life and I felt that.

"Twelve years in to my career right out of High School and quickly aging, I often spoke of joining the military but never put it in to action until a friend came to me and convinced me to join with them. I guess we weren't brave enough to go it alone. Well, I joined and they didn't. I have no regrets, I'm still here."

She believes that the Air National Guard "is the best kept secret of the Armed Forces" because of the endless opportunities. Now, after 18 years of service, Terrill serves as the chief mentor at the Wing.

"My biggest goal right now is to get the word out about my position as the Wings Human Resource Advisor.

"This is a great job and I want people to know what I do and that I am here for them. This position is all about the people. Airmen are the bread and butter of the organization. Without them there can be no organization."

Promotions

To Colonel
Scott J. Barberides, 601AOC
Ronald G. Corey, 125MXG
Randall A. Spear Jr., 601AOC

To Lt. Colonel
Gary A. Helfeldt, 114ROPS
Thomas E. Kafka, HQ DET 1
Walter J. Lasecki, 601AOC
Christopher C. Morton, 125FW DET 1

To Major
John A. Arledge, 125MDG
Christopher A. Fields, 125OG
Daniel P. Roeske, 202RHS

To Captain
Eric J. Stringer, 125MDG

To 1st Lieutenant
Joseph C. Balchunas Jr., 290JCSS
Benjamin A. Sorrells, 125AMS
Ryan C. Strayve, 125SF
Carl M. Wingard, 290JCSS

To 2nd Lieutenant
Kimberly A. Farley, 125MDG
Kelly J. Thompson, 125MSF
Christopher D. Wisham Jr., 601AOC

To Chief Master Sgt.
Robert D. Lee Jr., 114ROPS
Larry E. Linton, 202RHS

To Senior Master Sgt.
Martin J. Barron, 125MXG
Angela M. Beckom, 125MDG
Carmel L. Latta, 202RHS
Alan B. Secrest, 125MXG
Terrilee V. Terrill, 125SFS
Mark M. Wilson, 125MOF
Steven M. Whittaker, 125MSF

To Master Sgt.
Stephanie L. Boop, 601AOC
Andrew J. Burke, 125AMS
James R. Burns, 125AMS
Charlie T. Byram, 601AOC
William S. Copeland, 601AOC
Mark A. Costley, 125CF
Craig A. Crawford, 125AMS
Walter C. Davis, 125AMS
David A. Espinosa Jr., 125MXS
Thomas F. Fitzgerald, DET 1
Charles B. Fuller, 601AOC
Corey L. General, 125SFS
Jonathan C. Goodman, 125AMS
Dace A. Gordon, 125FW
David L. Greagrey, 290JCSS
Matthew T. Groves, 125AMS
Mark A Hamby, 202RHS
Ronald E. Harrelson Jr., 125MXG
Bruce N. Hartke, 125MXS
Gary W. Holland, 125AMS
Michael S. Hudson, 125AMS
Danielle L. Jones, 125OG
Gregory C. Jones, 114ROPS
Benjamin M. Klosterman, 601AOC
Walter B. LaCorte, HQ FLANG
Joseph B. Larsen, 202RHS
James E. Long, 202RHS
Thomas P. Martin, 290JCSS
Molly S. Massey, 125MSG
Robin D. Mayo, 202RHS
Jerry W. Merritt, 125MXS
Jonathan L. Mickett, 202RHS
James A. Middleton, 601AOC
Alden C. Morrow Jr., 202RHS
Larry D. Overstreet, 125MXS
Gerald N. Pangelinan, 125FW
Donald E. Pettyjohn, 202RHS
Jerome A. Powell, 125AMS
John P. Revels, 290JCSS
Kenneth M. Russell, 125AMS
Darren W. Small, 125MXS
Sean M. Smith, 125AMS
Edward V. Tirotta, 601AOC
Jaime M. Vasquez, 125AMS
Kevin M. Wall, 125CF
Karrie S. Warren, 601AOC
Chad E. Wedekind, 125MDG
Homer W. White Jr., 125MXS
Michael Wilson, 125AMS
James E. Young III, 202RHS

To Technical Sgt.
Paul F. Acree, 125MXS
Edward P Aguilar, 125MXS
Makila R. Alldredge, 601AOC
Micaiah K. Amick, 202RHS
Mitchell W. Archer Jr., 125CF
Abea S. Balala, 125LRS
David J. Ballard, 125MXS
Steve Batistavega, 125MXS
Brian T. Brevaldo, 125MXS
Steven R. Burnett, 125AMS
Daniel C. Card, 202RHS
Timothy T. Carson, 125AMS
Mark H. Chapman, 202RHS
Thomas L. Chasteen, 202RHS
Jason L. Clemmons, 290JCSS
Daniel S. Clemons, 125MSF
David B. Cox, 125MXS
Kenneth M. Creager, 125MXS
Joshua R. Crews, 202RHS
Charles V. Crumity, 202RHS
Julius C. Dawson, 125AMS
Randall L. Dobbs, 202RHS
Joseph L. Ezell, 601AOC
Mark E. Farmer, 114ROPS
Stephen G. Ferguson, 202RHS
Daniel A. Flores, 114ROPS
Carlos Garcia Jr., 125FW
Kenny D. Geisendorff, 202RHS
Shelley R. Gill, 125FW
Ronald L. Green, 125AMS
James M. Healy, 125MXS
Filicity A. Humphrey, 601AOC
Gregory B. Jackson, 202RHS
Charles A. Jones, 125MXS
Robert W. Jurgensen, 202RHS
Brian J. Kuiper, 125AMS
Patricia R. Loffredo, 125LRS
Jenny C. Love, 125LRS
Rafaela A. Lugo, 125AMS
Thomas J. Mahan, WRTC
Richard P. Mandella Jr., 290JCSS
Eliot R. Meade, 202RHS
Alby Mejia, 202RHS
Stephen M. Messier, 125MXS
Michael T. Moleta, 125MXS
Gregory S. Moss, 125MXS
Kevin W. Newport, 125MXS
Kevin S. Niksala, 125MXS
Christopher J. Nolan, 125AMS
Chester D. Norman, 125AMS
Geoffrey L. Overcash, 125MXS
Thomas E. Pharis Sr., 202RHS
Raymond D. Purcell, 125MXS
Luis A. Quinonessantana, 601AOC
Richard C. Ray, 125CES
Crystal L. Register, 202RHS
Margaret H. Rivera, 290JCSS
Jarvis M. Robinson, 202RHS
Alan E. Rocha, 125MXS
William E. Ryals III, DET 1
Cleverson Schmidt, 114ROPS
Benton O. Scott, 125AMS
Robert Sepulveda, 125MXS
Crystal N. Sims, 125SVS
James T. Sims, 601AOC
Darnell L. Smith, 601AOC
Ryan D. Stewart, 125MXS
Jonathan T. Storey, 202RHS
David B. Studebaker, 125MXS
Patricia F. Summers, 125MXS
Harold G. Taylor, 202RHS
Tracy L. Vickery, 601AOC
Clinton V. Walker, 202RHS

To Staff Sgt.
Sean A. Abene, 290JCSS
Crystal D. Barrera, 601AOC
Jonathan B. Brown, 125MDG
Christie M. Card, 202RHS
Clinton W. Carr, 125MXS
John H. Colonna, 125MXS
David R. Deloach II, 125CES
Patricia A. Edwards, 114ROPS
Michael G. Eftim, 125MDG
Ryan E. Ellison, 125LRS
Brian A. Encarnacion, 125LRS
Andy Fernandez, 125SFS

Timothy J. Gamblin, 601AOC
Steven L. Gilberg, 125CES
Dustin T. Harrison, 125CES
JeanPaul L. Heath, 125LRS
Jaclyn D. Jacola, 125FW
David J Munoz, 202RHS
Brittany Alena Nanchy, 125MSF
Jacob G. Neer, 125AMS
Jaime M. Padgett, 125SVS
Amilcar Padilla, 125SVS
Arleis Perez, 125SFS
Penelope K. Pippin, 114ROPS
Matthew Baker Portlock, 601AOC
Wesley L. Prater, 125LRS
Brandon E. Roach, 125AMS
Emilio H. Rodriguez, 125MXS
Robert C. Ryon III, 202RHS
Porsha V. Scott, 125FW
Timothy P. Shea Jr., 290JCSS
Glenn E. Shotwell, 290JCSS
Angel L. Smith, 125MDG
Kyle G. Treece, 125MXS
Joseph J. Vadder, 290JCSS
Clifford H. Walker, 202RHS
Kimberly H. Walker, 290JCSS
James C. West, 125MXS
Homer A. Wilkerson, 114ROPS
Jairus L. Wilkerson, 114ROPS
Matthew J. Williams, 125MXS
Tyra L. Williams, 125SVS
Sheena A. Wingo, 125MDG

To Senior Airman

Danielle M. Chavez, 125SVS
Steven L. Damato, 125SFS
Scott L. Duran, 125SF
Francisco Galletti IV, 202RHS
Leamon E. Goines Jr., 125MXS
Sabrina Yousef Hanania, 125MDG
Timothy D. Jackson, 202RHS
BrieAnne J. Julian, 125MXS
Lara S. Rutherford, 125CES
Tara L. Thomas, 125SVS

To Airman

Dana N. Cekosh, 125LRS
Joshua C. Delarm, 202RHS
Joshua M. Ritter, 125SF

Welcomes

SrA Cody D. Abraham, 125MXS
TSgt Cindy M. Abreu 125OSF
SSgt Kyle B. Adair, 125AMS
TSgt Dionne C. Adams, HQ
SrA Mary E. Adams, 125SF
TSgt Dana M. Alderman, 601AOC
SrA Chad Michael Alfred 125SFS
TSgt Makila R. Alldredge, 601AOC
Capt James C. Archer, 125OSF
SSgt Arfe R. Arnold, 601AOC
SrA Wendell D. Babb, 125MXS
SSgt Keith A. Baumbaugh, 125AMS
TSgt Brian E. Beck, 125OSF
A1C Steven E. Beckman, SF
SrA Jessica Marie Blydenburgh, 202RHS
TSgt Brian D. Boice, 125SFS
SrA Robin R. Bowman, 125MDG
1LT Mary C. Brown, HQ FLANG
SrA William F. Brown Jr, 114ROPS
SrA Jermaine L. Butler, 125MSF
SSgt Adam B. Cairo, 202RHS
SSgt Ricardo A. Cardonacamacho, 125SFS
SSgt Dustyn B. Carrol, 114ROPS
SSgt Jason A. Chapman, 124SFS
SSgt Debra M. Chaves, WRTC
SSgt Brian S. Cleary, 125MXS
SSgt Alex Coleman, 125AMS
SrA Frank Duane Cooper IV, 125MDG
SSgt Michael D. Crothers, 125SFS
A1C Michael J. D'Amico 125SF
A1C Kyle P. Danaher, 125SF
A1C Sara M. Delille, 125SF
A1C Brandon S. Devault, 125SF
LtCol Judith E. Dickey, 601AOC
SSgt Joshua P. Divona, 202RHS
A1C Shawn M. Dodsworth, 125SF
SMSgt Robert J. Doskoez, 125OSF
SrA Michael S. Dotson, 601AOC
A1C Glen J. Drexler, 125SF
SSgt Jeremy Adam Duncan, 125MXS
A1C Christopher J. Dunn, 125LRS
SrA Scott L. Duran, 125SF
A1C Lothar E. Eckardt, 125SF
SrA Nicole Lee Egbert, 601AOC

A1C Jerad S. Engel, 125SF
SrA Edmond Aubrey English IV, 125MXS
SrA Nathaniel L Ennis, 125MXS
SSgt Joseph L. Ezell, 601AOC
A1C Ronald C. Falleck Jr, 125SF
SrA Danreb Decaney Faustino, 125MDG
SSgt Jorge Febresrivero, 290JCSS
Capt Chrisopher A. Fields, 125OG
SrA Michael D. Fillinger, 601AOC
SSgt Steven Frederick Foster, 125AMS
SSgt Timothy J. Gamblin, 601AOC
SSgt Samuel Gibbons Jr, 202RHS
SSgt Kavan O. Grant, 290JCSS
SSgt Anthony Joseph Grassi, 125MXS
SSgt Ricardo T. Green, 125SF
Capt Gary L. Gresset, 601AOC
A1C Jannah F. Groce, 125SF
Col Bruce Robinson Guerdon, HQ FLANG
TSgt Ricky G. Guzman, WRTC
SSgt John Joseph Hall, 290JCSS
A1C Michael H. Hamilton, 125SFS
A1C Sabrina Yousef Hanania, 125MDG
A1C Michelle L. Harper, 125SF
SSgt Charaine L. Harris, 125LRS
SrA Matthew John Harris, 601AOC
A1C Joshua Hartmann, 125SF
SSgt John Thomas Hartzell Jr, 601AOC
SrA Vernon J. Hayes, 202RHS
TSgt Michael D. Hays, 601AOC
SrA Gabriel Henaogutierrez, 125MDG
A1C Crystal L. Henningson, 125MDG
A1C Kevin L. Henry Jr., 124SF
SSgt Jason C. Herbkersman, 114ROPS
A1C Keith L Hingson, 125SF
SrA Jeffrey W. Holbrook, 114ROPS
SSgt Nichole L. Houchin, 202RHS
SrA Thomas Matthew Houle, 202RHS
SSgt Jeremy Donald Howarth, 125MXS
A1C Christy L. Hudson, 125MSF
SrA Justin Daniel Hunniecutt, 290JCSS
Maj Gen Charles V. Ickes II, HQ FLANG
A1C Lanisseah D. Jackson, 125SF
A1C Christopher D. Jones, 125SF
A1C Kevin D. Jones, 125SF
Maj Matthew E. Jones, 601AOC
SrA Daryl Matthew Keith, 290JCSS
Capt Edward W. Keller III, 601AOC

A1C Amanda N. Kennedy, 125SF
TSgt Jeffrey M. Kerzan, 601AOC
MSgt Mark A. Kimrey, 290JCSS
A1C Aaron M. Kirkpatrick, 125SF
SrA Brittany L. Kiselich, 125SFS
SrA Tasharus Shamonique Kitzmiller, 125MXS
SrA Christopher J. Labanca, 114ROPS
A1C Ethan C. Labonte, 125SF
SSgt Geoffrey M. Lagarde, 125SFS
A1C Roger E. Lane, 601AOC
TSgt Anthony B. Laurent, 290JCSS
MSgt Kirt D. Lee, 125CES
A1C Christopher L. Linton, 125SF
A1C Lauren M. List, 125SF
SSgt Raymond A. Mackney, 114ROPS
Capt Kevin P. Maddox, 125MDG
A1C Patrick J. Mailhot, 125SF
SSgt Ryan L. Martin, 125SFS
A1C Amber M. Martinez, 125SF
Maj Eli J. Martinez, 601AOC
SrA Maresa Constance Martone, 601AOC
A1C Douglas B. Massinger, 125SF
SrA Sakinah N. McDuffie, 125SVS
A1C Stephen P. McGuire, 125SF
2LT Anthony A. McPherson, 125MDG
SSgt Carl J. Misko, 290JCSS
SSgt Jayson E. Moats, 114ROPS
MSgt Kenneth D. Moisan, 125CES
A1C George B. Mollinea, 125SF
SSgt Richard B. Mongold, 114ROPS
A1C George M. Moore Jr., 125SF
SSgt Jason N. Moore, 125MXS
SrA Jesse N. Moore, 125MDG
SSgt Bonnie Jo Morey, 290JCSS
TSgt Zachary J. Morris, 125MDG
SrA Robert A. Mowry, 125AMS
SSgt Randall W. Moyle, 125AMS
MSgt Debra L. Mulder, 125MDG
A1C Jason A. Nahorney, 202RHS
SSgt Brittney Alena Nanchy, 125MSF
A1C Stephanie V. Navarro, 125SF
MSgt Kevin S. Niskala, 125MXS
SrA Wade Colburn Norris, 125SF
A1C William J. O'Donnell Jr., 601AOC
TSgt Jami L. Osborn, 114ROPS
SrA Matthew S. Osborn, 202RHS
SrA Tracie N. Oster, 601AOC
SSgt Jose R. Otero, 125SFS

SrA Henry L. Padilla, 290JCSS
SrA Timothy C. Palomo, 290JCSS
A1C Sean M. Parr, 125SF
SSgt Andrea D. PateJackson
A1C Mark Patterson Jr., 125SF
SrA Bryan R. Pontius, 125OSF
SrA Matthew B. Portlock, 601AOC
SSgt Jennifer R. Posey, 125MDG
SrA Christopher S. Primmer, 601AOC
SSgt Matthew T. Rainer, 125MXS
SrA Prinya J. Ramos, 125SF
SrA Krysta N. Ramsey, 125MDG
SrA Isaac D. Raplee, 290JCSS
SSgt Kendrika M. Ratcliffe, 290JCSS
SrA Monica B. Real, 125SF
SSgt Harold R. Reese II, 125AMS
SSgt Nicole R. Renner, 125OSF
A1C Ryan J. Rhoden, 125SF
SSgt Diego O. Rico, 125AMS
SSgt Dimitry Rios, 114ROPS
Maj Jaime A. Rios Jr., 202RHS
SSgt Brandon E. Roach, 125AMS
SSgt Jessica N. Roberson, 202RHS
SSgt William T. Roberts, 125SF
Maj William R. Roche, 125AMS
SrA Aldo R. Rosario, 125MDG
SrA Corey M. Ross, 290JCSS
SSgt William E. Ryals III, 125AMS
AB Christopher P. Ryan, 125SF
SrA Ricardo M. Salas, 125AMS
A1C Charles W. Sanders, 125SF
SrA Timothy J. Shellenberger, 125MXS
AB David B. Sheridan, 125MXS
SSgt Michael T. Squier, 601AOC
Jeffrey A. Starratt, 202RHS
SrA David R. Stoler Jr., 290JCSS
A1C Michael T. Summers Jr., 125SF
SrA Jenny L. Swem, 601AOC
SrA Jody D. Swem, 601AOC
A1C Javaris D. Taylor, 125SF
SSgt David R. Terrazas, 125SF
SrA Jill A Thompson, 159WF
SrA Alexander R. Tressler, 290JCSS
TSgt Zachariah Turissini, 601AOC
SSgt Jonathan Turnage, 202RHS
SSgt Erika Turpin, 601AOC
SSgt Joseph J. Vadder, 290JCSS
SrA Mathew J. Vanoverloop, 125MXS
SrA Ulises Varela, 202RHS
A1C Daniel J. Viera, 290JCSS
SrA Michelle O. Wallace, 125MDG
SrA Aintzannee I. Webb, 125LRS
TSgt Jason L. White, 159FS
A1C Jennifer M. White, 290JCSS
SSgt Amon J. Whitehurst, 202RHS
SSgt Marcus J. Whiteside, 125AMS
SSgt Joel P. Whitmore, 125MXS
A1C Daniel V. Wiese, 125SF
SrA Derek J. Williams, 290JCSS
A1C Mark C. Williams, 125SF
SrA John A. Wilson, 202RHS
SrA Van M. Wilson, 125SF
Capt Frank C. Wolf Sr., 125MDG
SSgt Joshua S. Woodard, 125SFS
SSgt John J. Wright, 125SF
A1C Stephanie R. Young, 125SF
A1C Darin J. Zauner II, 125SFS
SrA Botija Zephir, 290JCSS

Farewells

MSgt Larry Amos, 125MXS
MSgt Eugene Anderson Jr., 601AOC
SMSgt Michael Antis, 290JCSS
TSgt Geri Austin, 125SVS
MSgt Lucian Bailey Jr., 125MXS
TSgt David Ballard, 125MXS
MSgt Robert Bell, 125SFS
Col Jeanette Booth, HQ FLANG
MSgt Joanna Brand, 125MDG
TSgt Shawn R. Bryant, 601AOC
SMSgt Tina Carter, 125LRS
LtCol Stephen Cates, HQ FLANG
MSgt Catherine Chacon, 125FW
MSgt Bernard Cheeseman, 290JCSS
MSgt David Clay, 125CES
MSgt Timothy Clayton, 125MXS
MSgt Don Coleman Jr., 290JCSS
MSgt Douglas Cox, WRTC
MSgt Lawrence Damato, 125SFS
Maj Amy Dean, 125MDG
MSgt Mitchel Devereaux, 125SFS
MSgt Randy Dodsworth, 290JCSS
MSgt Nathaniel Dudley Jr., 290JCSS
SMSgt Anna Elleseg, 125CF
SMSgt Sherry Evans, 125LRS
MSgt Bryan Fitzpatrick, 601AOC
TSgt Richard Geer, 125FW
TSgt Phillip Gilbert, 290JCSS
Col Billy Graham Jr., DET 1 125FW
LtCol Aaron Hagan, DET 1 125FW
MSgt Luther Hagy III, 125MSF
TSgt Edward Hamilton, 125CES
MSgt Ronald Harris, 125AMS
MSgt Mark Harrison, 290JCSS
LtCol John Hayden, 125OSF
SSgt Jackie Henson Jr., 125LRS
SSgt Donnis Hinz, 125SFS
TSgt David Hugo, 125AMS
CMSgt Calvin Jones, 125CES
SrA Paul Kenally III, 202RHS
MSgt Mark Kimrey, 290JCSS
MSgt George King, 125 MXS
Col Jesse Kinghorn Jr., HQ FLANG
MSgt Jimmy Kinsey, 125MDG
TSgt Frank Kobes, 125AMS
TSgt Gregory Larkins, 125MXS
SMSgt Roger LeBlanc, 202RHS
MSgt Kirt Lee, 125CES
MSgt Virgil Lockhart III, 125MDG
SSgt Harry Masters, 125MXS
MSgt William Maule, 125CES
SSgt Randall Naugher, 125CES
SMSgt Kerry Olson, 601AOC
MSgt Steadman Pottinger, 125MSF
LtCol Christopher Prusak, 125OSF
TSgt Randall Ratliff, 125SFS
LtCol Joseph Redwine, HQ FLANG
SSgt Lonnie Roberts Jr., 125SFS
MSgt James Roman Jr., 125MXS
TSgt Patricia Ross, 159FS
SMSgt John Seaman Jr., 290JCSS
MSgt Gerald Sinex, 202RHS
SMSgt Lea-An Steiner, 125FW
MSgt Ann Swanson, 290JCSS
SMSgt Patricia Thompson, HQ FLANG
SSgt Tiffany Todd, 601AOC
Capt Lisa Ward, 125MSF
MSgt Wendel Worrock, 125AMS
MSgt John Zabrucki, 290JCSS

FLANGRA news…
Exciting changes ahead for FLANG retirees

By Don Bunk
FLANGRA President

We held our semi-annual dinner at Magnolia Point Golf and Country Club in April where the theme of the evening was "Do You Remember?" and the answer is *yes*, we do remember. Guest speaker, Bill Yoakley; one of the original FANG pilots back in 1947 and also co-author of book, *The Wingmen,* provided a look back at the early days of the Florida Air National Guard and its call-up during the Korean War.

This evening turned-out the largest number of retirees we have gotten together at a dinner, not to mention it was probably also the most laughs we have shared as a group. We told on ourselves and each other for "pranks" of the past. There was laughter and smiles all around. One of the biggest laughs of the evening was when Gracie Barnhart told Rik Szot, "It's never too late to get even" as she remembered a prank Rik was responsible for on her!

We had plenty of gifts for our raffle drawings such as green fees for four at Magnolia Point, two $50 Wal-Mart gift cards, a dinner at Longhorn Steak House and numerous other smaller prizes. Magnolia Point was a beautiful setting with superb food and great service. It was a memorable evening spent remembering the good times we all experienced. Please join us at one of our retiree dinners and share your stories with us.

Contact information: Don Bunk 904-910-9428
DBretire@bellsouth.net or 1toolguy@bellsouth.net

Donation program gives Airmen, Soldiers a way to call home

The FLANG Family Readiness office is collecting used cell phones and chargers/accessories for a program called Cell Phones for Soldiers. This program generously donates international calling cards that our deployed troops can use while gone. They are extremely generous to us (300 so far this year) and the cards they provide have proven to be very useful. Donation boxes which are clearly marked have been set up in the following locations across base: CE, SFS, OPS, COMM, LRS, Services, Maintenance (in the center hallway) and in the MPF lobby.

For each phone that is donated, ReCellular will pay Cell Phones for Soldiers up to $50 - which is enough to provide almost twenty-five hours worth of calling cards. Phone chargers, batteries and accessories are recyclable too. Many people have asked how they can erase the data from their phone before donating, here's a link: http://www.recellular.com/recycling/data_eraser/default.asp (thanks to Comm for this valuable info!).

Here's some more information about the program: Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Bergquist from Norwell, Mass., with $21 of their own money. After reading a story about a soldier who ran up a huge phone bill calling home from Iraq, these two teenagers decided to help out. Since then, the registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization has raised almost $1 million in donations and distributed more than 75,000 prepaid calling cards to serving soldiers overseas.

If you have any questions, please call Nola Bonner, Family Programs Assistant at the 125th Fighter Wing for the Florida Air National Guard at 904-626-3281 or e-mail at nola.bonner@fljack.ang.af.mil. More information is also available at www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com or www.ReCellular.com. If you know of a civilian organization that would like to have a box please let Nola know that as well, we are happy to spread the word to any organization/group or church that is willing to help.

Nola will be checking the boxes occasionally and when we have enough to fill up a box completely we will ship it back to Cell Phones for Soliders free of charge.

Heroes in our own Backyard

By Senior Master Sgt. Mark Penwell
125th Contracting Office

Charles Warren

Heroes. Veterans are the heroes of our past, full of pride and ready to tell their stories.

This is a challenge to all who communicate with these heroic veterans. One of these historic veterans, Charles Warren Sr. of Patterson, Ga., is a War World II veteran of the U.S. Navy. He earned nine battle stars aboard the USS Princeton (CVL-23). The USS Princeton was a light carrier commissioned Feb. 25, 1943.

The light carrier was sponsored by Margaret Dodds, wife of Princeton university president Harold Dodds. The Princeton conducted air strikes against Japanese Emily reconnaissance planes and installations on Makin and Tarawa.

She also saw action in Espiritu Santo, Rabaul, Nauru, Wotje, Taroa, Kwajalein and Majuro. The Princeton intercepted the Japanese fleet enroute from the Philippines to the Marianas. In the ensuring Battle of the Philippine Sea, *Princeton's* planes contributed 30 kills and her guns another 3, plus one assist on Japan's naval air arm. On the Oct. 24, 1944 in the Leyte Gulf a single Japanese Emily broke through the clouds and dropped two bombs, one of them missing the ship, the other struck the carrier between the elevators crashing through the flight deck.

Charles Warren Sr. remembers the day the Princeton went down. "We were fed boiled eggs and corn bread for breakfast," he said. "After the ship was hit the entire crew was engaged in fighting the fires from the main aircraft refueling line being severed."

The Princeton received assistance from the USS Irwin and the USS Birmingham. After about an hour of fighting the fires with assistance from the other ships, the final order was given by the Commander, Capt. John M. Hoskins to abandon ship.

Seaman Warren remembers removing his boots and helmet just before abandoning ship.

He wanted to be as light as possible before hitting the water and remembers the pilots removing their flight gear on the flight deck to include pearl handled 38's and 45's. He was amazed that no one picked them up.

Warren spent over four hours in the water that day and remembered his training from Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois which said, if you are ever in the water to group together. Your chances of being picked up are much better then if you are alone. So, he did just that. Many of his shipmates were not so fortunate, 108 men from the Princeton were lost in the attack that day.

Many of the men were killed by sharks.

Many of the men were injured prior to abandoning ship, the blood brought the sharks. Warren remembers men shooting at the sharks from the assisting ships while he was in the water. Seaman Warren was happy to grab the cargo net and get pulled to safety. Charles Warren Sr. was 18 when he volunteered for the Navy. Then at age 19 he was called to active service. He was married and this was his first time away from home. He wanted to serve his country if only for two years, two months and seventeen days, all in the Navy, but they all counted. We are a great nation thanks to heroic veterans like Charles Warren, Sr. Let's not forget our veterans and God Bless America.

The Eagle's Eye
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