

The Granite State **REFUELER**



157th Air Refueling Wing, Pease ANGB, New Hampshire

www.nhpeas.ang.af.mil

AUGUST 2003



SSgt. Mike Girouard, boom operator, 157th ARW, prepares to transfer fuel to a F-15E.. The mission is over Iraq. (NHANG photo by MSgt. Terry L. Blevins)



Tanker Task Force

Following the end of Iraqi Freedom, the Pease Tanker Task Force launched over 40 Coronet fighter moves. These missions re-deployed some 213 receivers with the support of 170 tanker flights. The TTF's attention has now turned to the tradition summer exercise and air show season. Left, a 157th tanker refuels a German Tornado enroute to Goose Bay, Canada after an exercise at Nellis AFB. (NHANG photo by Maj. Randy Dyer)

Readiness primary focus for unit

CMSgt. Ron Nadeau



I'm sure you've heard the term "R E A D I - N E S S" a few times during the past few years. It has been the primary focus of our Annual Plans and drives much of

what we do in the armed forces. I'm also sure that there are nearly as many definitions for that term as there are members in the unit. For what it's worth, here is this old chief's perspective:

Readiness is having and maintaining the ability to respond to all federal and state taskings - anywhere, anytime. It also means having the skills to survive those taskings and to continue responding until the task is done.

OK, that's cool, but what the heck does it really mean in terms of what we do as individual military members or as a unit?

Having and maintaining the ability to respond means gaining and maintaining proficiency in the skill associated with your assigned position. You must also keep your personal information (emergency data, wills, power of attorney, etc) up-to-date. You must keep your family and your employer ready by keeping them informed of financial arrangements and key documents as well as being honest and clear about the potential for real world taskings and their effect on you.

All federal and state taskings means individual and unit taskings that come from federal authorities such as the President, AMC or Stratcom as well as those that come from the Governor of New

Hampshire. Taskings cover a wide range of activities that require a response such as combat, peacekeeping, natural disasters, civil disturbance and military containment of potential enemies.

Anywhere, anytime means we don't get to pick where and when we go. It could mean responding very quickly to a bare base that is under fire in a foreign country or it may mean operating from Pease ANGB or dealing with a crisis in one's own community.

Having the skills to survive: This encompasses a whole range of skills. You must know how to use a weapon to defend yourself or attack the enemy. You must know how to properly don your chemical gear as a defense against chemical attack. You must stay current in your immunizations to protect yourself from disease and biological weapons. You have to stay in shape in order to withstand the rigors of combat or the stress of long work hours and continuous activity with few or no days off. You have to understand the importance of safety and risk management in order to prevent avoidable injuries, loss of life or damage to equipment. And, in case you're tempted to think that your survival is a personal thing, remember this: When you are part of a team that is under fire or experiencing high ops tempo over an extended period, that team's survival may depend on your ability to continue to do your job. That's why it is mandatory to get your shots, stay in shape, practice ATSO and follow safety rules. Your loss could jeopardize the whole team and the mission.

Until the task is done: Successfully completing the task is ultimately the prime objective of readiness. To do that, we must know our jobs, be willing and able to respond no matter where or when, and must survive to finish what we started.

War stories from the Air Guard's history

By CMSgt. Ron Nadeau

Over the years, some of my favorite moments in the Guard have come when I've had the opportunity to listen to some of the older veterans of our unit tell stories about things they and other unit members experienced while serving in the NHANG. Most of these tales are about things that happened right here at Pease or back at Grenier Field. Some are about incidents that happened while TDY or deployed. On occasion we even hear about experiences in war. All fall under the general category of "War Stories" and, whether sad, touching, exciting or hilarious, they are always fascinating. Historians call these stories: Oral History. They are the mythology of our unit: sometimes real, some-

War stories continued on Page 11



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The Refueler welcomes articles and ideas that will improve the paper. If you have suggestions for feature or specific articles, please contact the PA office at x3413/3577, or your Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR).

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COMMANDER
AIR MOBILITY COMMAND
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILLINOIS 62225-5310
15 May 2003

Colonel Richard P. Martell
Commander
157th Air Refueling Wing
302 Newmarket Street
Pease ANGB, New Hampshire 03803-0157

Dear Colonel Martell *DICK* -

The extraordinary contributions of the Air National Guard and your organization to the Global War on Terrorism cannot be overstated. Without your support, Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM could not have succeeded.

The air bridge across the North Atlantic has long been an essential part of mobility support to the warfighter, but your great people took it to an entirely new level for OIF. In the past four months, you flew 333 sorties, off-loaded 23,400 pounds of fuel, and serviced 518 receivers. Additionally, you also turned 19 missions on the ground. Incredible! You can be justly proud of your achievements.

Please convey my personal thanks to each member of your unit and best wishes for their continued success.

Sincerely

John W. Handy
JOHN W. HANDY
General, USAF

Upgraded flight simulator brings new realism to pilot training

By Lt. Col. John W. Rice, State HQ PAO

Wing pilots are bracing for Mother Nature's worst. Outbreaks of wind sheer, micro bursts and other kinds of turbulence are expected daily from now on-in the upgraded flight simulator that is.

Motion-some six degrees of it-has been added to the unit's \$12 million simulator, also used to train pilots from Niagara, New York's 107th ARW.

"Now, when our pilots train," says MSgt. Gordon Hay, Project Officer and Quality Assurance Representative for the KC135R Operational Flight Trainer, "the whole simulator moves and gives the sensation of flight."

And there are some very unpleasant sensations at that, such as the aforementioned foul weather. In-flight emergencies could also include engine and/or hydraulic failure or both and more. Pilots can face the exact microburst conditions that caused a Delta L10-11 passenger jet to crash at Dallas Airport in 1985.

Not every flight is entirely unpleasant, though. Operators experience "normal" conditions as well as the rough stuff.

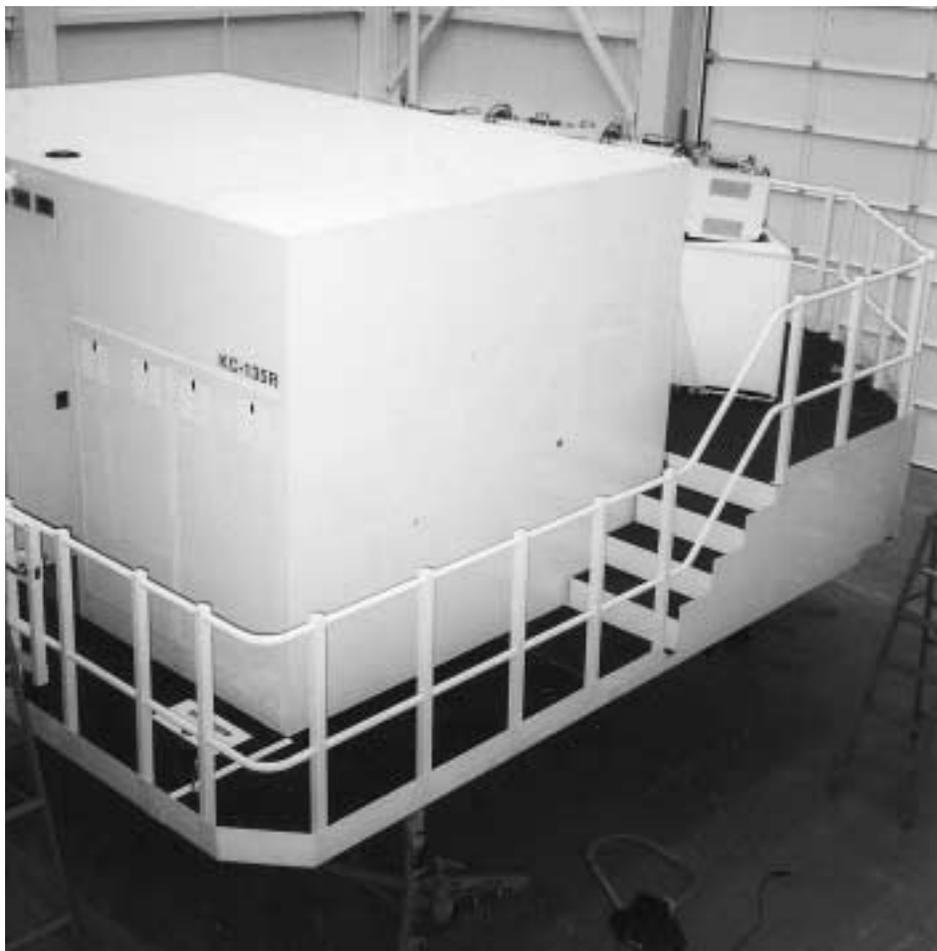
"The simulator provides pilots with a much more realistic environment to train for every possible emergency scenario," Hay said. "More than that, pilots can now practice things you wouldn't want to be practicing in a real air frame because the safety factor is so high."

The upgraded simulator has been made possible since the new, more spacious, Flight Simulator facility opened opposite Independence Hall in April. This

month another enhancement is to be added: a new visual system. The system simulates daytime flying conditions in addition to night, which was all the older system previously offered.

This latest upgrade is scheduled for November completion.

"The fact that this state-of-the-art simulator is here is very important to the 157th," Hay says. "There are only 19 KC-135 simulators throughout the world to begin with, so it gives us very high visibility. And, of course, our guys have immediate access."



Around the wing

Operations

Jets and personnel deployed to Qatar
24 hour ops ceased in late June in preparation for deployment
OIF stats 26 Jan to 10 Jun
405 sorties
1405 flying hours
27.9 million pounds off loaded
775 receivers

Medical

Sent SME team to Qatar. We've heard from them a few times and things seem to be going well. They've requested a few medical supplies which we're sending

over on the swap-out plane.

The clinic will go to Hawaii August 23rd thru September 6th for annual training at Tripler Army Medical Center. During this time the clinic will be minimally staffed and offer few services.

The clinic just purchased a new cholesterol machine which provides results in about five minutes, allowing patients to have their numbers before they see the physician and avoiding having to come in the next month for follow-up care.

Maintenance

Approx. 60 people deployed, about 1/4 of

total force

Workload has lessened due to deployed planes and fewer transients

KC-135 Systems Programs Office and contractor ARINC are testing modifications on three unit aircraft. Once complete, the improvements will be rolled out system-wide.

In memoriam

TSGT. JAN R. WOOLSON, HQS, (RET)

TSgt. (Ret) Jan Woolson, 57, of Lisbon, N.H., passed away on May 29, 2003, at her residence, surrounded by her family, after a long illness.

She was born on November 6, 1945 in Clarksburg, W. Va. She graduated from Lyndon Institute in Lyndon Center, Vt. in 1963. On November 6, 1963, she enlisted in the U.S. Army where she served as a Medical Records Clerk until her release in 1964. She joined the Vermont Air National Guard on August 6, 1981 and served in that unit until April 12, 1996. On April 13 1996, she enlisted in the NHANG as a Personnel Technician in Headquarters and served in that capacity until her retirement on April 10, 2003. During her career, she served 18 months at the Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. during Desert Storm. She also served on the Air Force Honor Guard. She received several medals and awards throughout her military career.

Her pastimes included reading, sewing, canning foods, traveling, and being a den mother.

Our condolences are extended to her husband, Michael Woolson, Sr., and three sons, Cheyenne Greatorex, Michael Woolson, Jr., and Maurice Woolson.

Memorial Donations may be made to the charity of one's choice.

MSGT. ROBERT A. WILLBRANDT, 260th ATC

MSgt. Robert Willbrandt, 38, 260th ATC, of Portsmouth, N.H., passed away suddenly on July 4, 2003.

Born December 7, 1964 in Muskegon, Michigan, he graduated from Reeths-Puffer High School in Muskegon in 1983. From September 1983 to February 1985, he attended Muskegon

Community College. In September 1985, he transferred to Western Michigan University in Kalamazo. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on December 2, 1987 and remained on active duty until February 7, 1996. During his active duty years, he served as a Satellite and Wideband Communications Equipment Journeyman and was stationed overseas in Turkey and Okinawa. He enlisted in the NHANG on February 8, 1996 and served as a Supply Technician for six years. He transferred to the Air Traffic Control Squadron on October 20, 2002 as a Logistics Planner. He was promoted to Master Sergeant on June 6, 2003, a status that he was very proud to achieve. A Memorial Service was conducted at Pease ANGB on July 8 where he was presented posthumously with the Meritorious Service Medal.

Bob married his soul mate, the former Michelle Greiner, on November 11, 1988, in Pensacola, Florida. Their union formed an everlasting bond of love, friendship, and devotion.

Bob had a real zest for life and a keen sense of adventure. His quick wit and devotion to family and friends will be greatly missed. His untimely death leaves a huge void in the lives of many.

Our condolences are extended to his wife, Michelle, a member of the NHANG, and two sisters, Marie Francisco, of Ionia, Michigan, and Barb Neumann, of Muskegon, Michigan, and their families.

Memorial donations may be sent to Operation Sharing, c/o MSgt. Kathy Davis, 157LGS, 302 Newmarket St., Pease ANGB, NH 03803-0157.



Crew Chief MSgt. Charlie Nyberg carefully paints nose art on Tail No. 3576. The shamrock and Celtic cross signify his wife Carol's Irish heritage while the 'II' is in recognition of the original Miss Carol (tail no. 3515). MSgt. Nyberg assembled the design on an overhead, projected it on the nose, and sketched the outline before filling it in with the appropriate shades of green and gold paint. (NHANG photo by Capt. William Davis)

People Poll

Questions and pictures by Amn. Brenda Dillon

Do you feel that readiness training prepares you to deploy? Why or why not?



SrA. Alicen Hogan (Air Traffic Control)

“After just coming back from Afghanistan I know first hand how the training you get on equipment here impacts the mission when you are deployed.”



SSgt. Lisa Joyce (Personnel)
“We can never have too much training.”



TSgt. James Wood (Airfield Management)

“Yes, I feel that the readiness training gives you vital skills and information needed while deployed.”



TSgt. Brian Marden (Information Manager)

“Yes, the training is valuable for all deployments, CONUS and overseas. Everyone needs to do it.”



SrA. Jeff Clark (Avionics)

“Yes, without the training you would not know what to do.”



TSgt. John Schlieman (Fuels Accountant)

“Yes, I feel that the readiness training prepares you to deploy as long as the training is throughout the year, not last minute.”



MSgt. Wayne Dyer, CMF, makes an award at the summer Special Olympics, a competition open to all people with disabilities, was held at The University of New Hampshire on June 7th and several 157th members volunteered their time to support this worthwhile cause.

Participants were divided by age group and competed in numerous events including softball throw, bocce ball, 4x1 relay, 4x4 relay, pool events, equine events, long jump.

Medals were awarded to first, second and third place finishers and ribbons were awarded to the fourth, fifth and sixth place; all competitors received participation ribbons. Award presentations were conducted by the volunteers and military members were in uniform. Despite periods of steady rain both the athletes and volunteers maintained an optimistic disposition and enjoyed the day. (NHANG photo by SSgt. Dawn Finniss)

Mission's end needs members

CMSgt. Kendall W. Brock

As the new Vice President of the Mission's End, I'm sending a plea to all members of 157th who are not currently a paid member of Mission's End. Presently, our only source of income is membership dues. We desperately need everyone eligible to become a member, to pay his or her \$20.00 and become a member of the Mission's End. There are some very expensive items we need to purchase before we can ever envision opening the club. Some very important items are as follows; bar equipment,

stock for the bar, an insurance package and the liquor license. These are just few but very expensive pieces to putting an establishment like this into operation. Believe it or not, the club must be ready completely before the State of NH. will give the club a license to operate.

I also have another request to any charter member who on the onset was unable to afford more than the minimum donation. The Board members would gladly entertain upgrading your charter. Please, again, we need you to join!



Please call CMSgt. Brock at x2484 for more information

Dining facility closes a successful 106-day run



SrA Bradley Bogue and TSgt. Brian Godfrey prepare for the midnight meal. The two airmen, along with two contract employees, cooked to order for up to 50 people between mid-night and 2 a.m. "I'll miss it when we close," Godfrey said, "but we enjoyed it, felt like we contributed to the mission and learned a lot too." (NHANG Photo by Capt. William Davis)

By Capt. Bill Davis

During the noon meal on June 30th, unit members packed Independence Hall to show their appreciation to the Services staff for a job well done. SMSgt. George Little and crew hit the ground running on St. Patrick's Day and never looked back, serving meals around the clock to unit members as well as to local police and federal employees.

Declining demand due to reduced operations tempo heralded the end after more than three months but SMSgt. Little looked back fondly on the rare opportunity for a Guard unit to operate a full-time dining facility. "I think that Pease was the only Guard base in the country to try it," he said, "and the experience we gained is irreplaceable." "We had 13 mobilized personnel, every one a volunteer." "They did a fantastic job and I couldn't be more proud of them."

When asked what the biggest lesson the experience taught him he replied, "Despite being a little nervous and hitting a few bumps in the beginning, we learned that we're ready, reliable, and relevant by delivering a product and service that was evaluated by scores of people every day".

"Another important point," he said, "is that we didn't do this alone." "Contracting procured the food products, FM managed the money collected, Security Forces trained our people in robbery procedures." "This facility wasn't designed for 24-7 ops," he continued, "and CE straightened out all of our 'building headaches' such as drainage and electrical problems."

"We went into this with apprehension because we didn't know what the numbers (of customers) would look like," he said, "but we also looked at it as an opportunity for our younger airman to get training they couldn't get on a UTA." "The skills, teamwork, and camaraderie we developed are irreplaceable."

What we did...

Meals:	26,285
Milk	1760 gallons
Beef	4800 pounds
Potatoes	2250 pounds

Coffee	2450 cups
Apples	2100
Gatorade	810 gallons
Eggs	23,744

... and how we did it

9600 military work hours
6400 contractor work hours
2544 open for business hours

New fitness program will 'assess' members fitness

By: Lt. Col. Gretchen Dunkelberger

The operations tempo and nature of our mission as a military force has dramatically changed since September 11, 2001. With this change, the necessity of having a physically fit force has become paramount. As a result, in April 2003 the Air National Guard officially did away with the "Walk/Run" program and has implemented a new Physical Fitness Assessment program. The program was developed as part of a nation wide health improvement/promotions program. No longer will we be "tested". The program is designed to assess a members fitness status and then offer suggestions on how to improve your fitness and in turn your health. The regulatory guidance for this program is ANGI 40-501 and applies to all Air National Guard members including Title 10 and 32, active and inactive status. This assessment will be an annual requirement.

So what does this mean for members of the NHANG? In September, we will begin assessing the fitness of our members. This will be done by measuring 5 different components of a member's physical fitness. First, the assessment will look at a member's Body Composition, by measuring a member's height, weight and waist. The

second assessment will involve the Cardiovascular System; measuring a member's resting heart rate, then having them step up and down on a 12" step for 3 minutes. Immediately after the 3-minute step exercise is complete, a heart rate will be calculated. This will be called a recovery heart rate. The third assessment will involve a flexibility measurement. Members will be asked to sit on the floor with legs straight out in front of them, and will then reach for their toes. A measurement of how far they can reach will be taken. The fourth assessment will be an upper body muscular strength and endurance assessment done by counting the number of push-ups a member can do. Lastly, a mid-sectional muscular strength and endurance will be done by counting the number of sit-ups a member can do in a 1-minute timeframe.

For the 157th ARW, MSgt Brenda Blonigan (Wing Staff First Sergeant) will be the Fitness Program Manager (FPM-it wouldn't be a military program without acronyms). She is responsible for the implementation of this program and oversees the Fitness Enhancement Program. To support her, each unit will have a Unit Fitness Monitor. MSgt Blonigan will begin

training the unit fitness monitors on Saturday of the Aug unit. This training will be conducted at 0800 at the Medical Squadron. Once the units have trained Unit Fitness Monitors they may begin assessing the physical fitness of their members and inputting the measurements into a national database. From the database a member will be given information as to how their chronological age correlates to their physical fitness age and suggestions on how to improve their physical fitness. If there is greater than a 7 year difference between chronological and physical fitness age, a member will be placed in a Fitness Enhancement Program and encouraged to meet with the Wing Health Promotions Officer, Dr. Keith Nichols.

While this is a very different program from which we are used to, it is a more comprehensive assessment and very enlightening. Don't be disheartened if your chronological age is 41 and you are assessed as a 59 year old. This is meant to be a wake up call to motivate us all to improve our fitness and in turn health. I encourage you to have fun with this, learn from it and work towards being a healthier New Hampshire Air National Guard member.

Medical Care After Demobilization

By MSgt. Jim Leavitt
157th MDS

Like many of you, I was activated from my full time civilian job and ordered to active duty to serve here full time with the 157th ARW. With that came some changes. Different work hours, difference in pay, and significant changes in my and my family's medical care. Upon being activated, I immediately enrolled in TRICARE Prime, as did my family. Now, six months later, there is talk of demobilization and more changes. What am I going to do now about medical care? That is where I can give you some valued information.

Reserve component members ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation are entitled to transitional health care and dental benefits upon separation. Members separated with less than six years of total

active federal military service (as indicated on the DD 214) and eligible family members are eligible for 60 days of transitional health care. Members separated with six years or more of total active federal military service and their eligible family members are eligible for 120 days of transitional health care. Family members of those activated individuals are also eligible for transitional medical care but not eligible for transitional dental benefits. There are options for family members, however, under the TRICARE Dental Program. Contact United Concordia Companies Inc (UCCI), at 1-800-866-8499 for more information.

Reserve component members are also eligible for the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP) when they lose military health benefits and their transitional health care benefit period has expired. They also may enroll their family

members for this coverage. CHCBP provides benefits similar to TRICARE Standard for a specific period of time (up to 18 months for members and their family members). They must enroll within 60 days of the date that their transitional benefit period expires and pay quarterly premiums (\$933 per individual, \$1966 per family). For more information about CHCBP, individuals may call toll free: 1-800-444-5445, visit online at www.humana-military.com or write to Humana Military Healthcare Services Inc., Attn: CHCBP, P.O. Box 740072, Louisville, KY 40201. For other transitional medical care issues or questions, you may contact MSgt Jim Leavitt at x2347 or by email james.Leavitt@nhpeas.ang.af.mil

Recruiter Rap

OUR RECRUITING TEAM - 1-800-257-9368

by MSgt. Shannon Tolley, 157 ARW
Recruiting

Our Newest Members!!! Give a big NH
Welcome to these folks!

MXS
SSgt. Patrice Swan
A1C Jeff Hill

ATC
SSgt. Matt Noponen
A1C Brian Whittlemore
A1C Evan Appleton ATC

STHQ
2nd Lt. Russ Morin- State HQ

CES
A1C Sal Davidson CES

ARS
A1C Robert Winkler

MDS
TSgt. Phil Plourde MDS

LS
A1C Mike Glennon LS

AGS
A1C Mike Mortell AGS
SSgt John MacManus

CMF
A1C Curtis Lenz

Our Honorary Recruiters are:

TSgt. Bill Bates - State HQ

MSgt. Ray Drury - LS

Maj. Elizabeth Sweeney - MSF

SOOOOOO many folks are close to
becoming the FIRST recipient of the NHNG
Honorary Recruiter Ribbon. Keep up the
good work!

Well, our newest recruiter has hit the street! We want to let you know that SSG Shannan Brown is back from recruiting school and doing great! Shannan comes to us from the Air Traffic Control Squadron. She was an Air Traffic Controller for the last 4 years! Shannan will be working in the Nashua Lowell area if you live in that area give her a hand. Welcome Aboard Shannan!!

Prior service enlisted folks are now eligible to receive their commission up until their 40th Birthday with an age waiver. Certain conditions still apply so check in with the recruiting office for more details.

As the School year begins, remember, If you have a son or daughter who is a Senior this year, **THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY INTO THE NHANG.** When looking for a referral some of us fail to see the forest thru the trees. Ask your children if they may be interested

Recruiting's Public Service Quick Tip:

Use your child's skateboard to roll your trashcans to the curb on garbage days; it will help save your back!

Family Program announces family day

By Bonnie Rice - Family Readiness
Program Coordinator
Phone: (603)-430-3545

Please check out our New Hampshire
National Guard Family Program
Webpage at <http://www.nhpeas.ang.af.mil/hro/Family/index.htm>

FAMILY DAY

Remember that August 10, 2003 - from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m will be our Family Day.

Come on by, enjoy the day, relax with your friends and make some new ones - but above, all have fun.

August 10, 2003 - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Pease ANGB ("Quad Area") Plan on arriving by 10 a.m., parking will be on the North Ramp, follow the signs. Plenty of free food and activities for all age groups. And please bring your own lawn chair.

VOLUNTEERS

We always welcome volunteers; please let us know if you have a family member - (parent, spouse or a friend) that is interested in volunteering for the Family Readiness Program. The amount that you volunteer is entirely up to you - are you

good at gathering donations, baking, making phone calls or whatever, let us know.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

I would like to thank the Aerospace Dining Facility for the fantastic meals that they prepared for our recent deployment receptions. SMSgt George Little and his Services Staff did an awesome job. Your efforts were well appreciated.

A special thank you also needs to go out to many of our volunteers who helped with the recent deployment receptions (held Jun 25, 27, and 28, 2003) that were held for the families and the deploying members. Mrs. Ann Hyland Hebert., Jim Protzmann, Kathy Jones, Pat Noyes, Nichole Piaseczny, Catherine Keenan, Cathy Sullivan, and Pam Martell were all very helpful at the receptions. In addition to these volunteers working at the reception they also, along with Tove Stigum and Deanna Leedberg, assisted with many of the phone calls to the families.

Richard Brooks of the American

Legion Post #6, Portsmouth, presented phone cards donated by the Legion to all the deploying members.

Thank you to all of you for all your support for the Family Program.

MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION (MWR)

Erin from MWR will be available in the dining facility 9 Aug 03 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Erin will have the following tickets available for you to purchase.: Hoyt's Theater (\$7.00 each), New England Aquarium (\$6.00 each), Museum of Science, Boston (\$5.00 each), Six Flags New England (\$24.00 each), Water Country (\$23.00 each), Funtown Splashtown USA (\$21.00 each), and Canobie Lake Park (\$19.00 each). Prices subject to change. For the NHNG Satellite MWR Page, check out: www.nharmyguard.com/mwr.

**Family Emergency Hotline:
1-800-472-0328**

200,000 parents receive Guardians of Freedom pins

by Master Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Your Guardians of Freedom, the Air Force's grass-roots outreach information and recognition program, has touched the lives of more than 200,000 parents of airmen, a Pentagon official has announced.

The program began in 2002 as a way for Air Force leaders to personally recognize the employers of reservists and guardsmen who were called to active duty to support operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. Employers who were nominated by their airmen employees received lapel pins emblazoned with the Air Force logo and the letter "E," and a personal letter signed by the Air Force's senior leaders.

The recognition program expanded in May to include parents. Nominated parents received a letter and lapel pin with the letter "P." All active-duty, Air National Guard and Reserve airmen may participate in the program, officials said.

About 110,000 of the nearly 590,000 uniformed airmen have nominated their parents for recognition, according to Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini, program director.

"That's a huge number," he said. "We've gotten an exceptional reaction to the program from the individual airmen and incredibly emotional responses from their parents when they've received their letters and pins."

The general said the program was so well received in its first few days that technical overload initially hampered the project.

"There was such an onslaught of people signing up, so we had some problems," he said. "We jammed the Web site to where it was virtually impossible to get in."

The program also endured a short-lived identity problem, where some airmen mistakenly thought the program was a fraud because of its dot-com Web address.

"We are 'non-standard' in many ways," Tonini said. "The standard Web sites people in the military are used to dealing with for official business is dot-mil, and we're dot-com. A lot of people thought this was a hoax, so we had to throw water on that fire quickly. This program has both the endorsement and full support of the secretary and chief of staff."

Tonini brought a network administrator, Senior Master Sgt. Jack Gruber from the California ANG, to his team to work out the technical issues, and it has been smoother sailing ever since, he said. Gruber's responsibilities can be really daunting; the site was, for a time, one of the 300 busiest Web sites in the world.

"The site has had more than 29 million hits," Tonini said. "That's pretty staggering. We're working with new technology — we're one of the first Air Force sites to use 'dot-net,' which is an Internet operating system that is very leading-edge."

A team of six people works the program, managing the technology and "customer service" liaison between the airmen who request pins and the parents who receive them — as well as the thousands of letters and pins sent to employers.

The program will soon inform family members, employers and community lead-

ers during times of military deployment, Tonini said.

"The overall YGOF program will be tied to air and space expeditionary force deployment schedules," he said. "When people are scheduled to deploy, we will press very hard to make sure they have the communications and outreach support they need in order to be successful."

"In its broadest terms, it's an outreach program," Tonini said. "The message we give is, we consider each of the constituencies as our partners. We can't do our job without their support. They are full partners in the global war on terror."

The work is important because without support from the home front, deployed airmen face a domino effect of issues that may lead to those airmen separating from the service, Tonini said.

"The program is working and it does what we were looking for it to do," Tonini said. "We know there are parents out there who proudly wear the pin to church, the store or meetings, and every other time they have an opportunity to brag on their son or daughter. That represents a swelling support for the work of the Air Force all over the world."

Airmen may request up to two parent pins and letters to be sent to either their parents or people they view as parental figures, Tonini said. To participate in the program, visit www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com.

"Everyone has someone they want to recognize," he said. "The person who gets the pin will feel an amazing attachment to the work you do."

War stories continued from page 2

times exaggeration. They are repeated over and over again long after the protagonists of the tales have retired or gone on to their reward. We should never minimize the importance of these stories for they help to bring generations of Guardsmen together and give us that common bond that all good teams must share. They are the stuff of tradition, the building blocks of unit culture.

Sometimes the war stories are pure history. A few of us had the opportunity recently to visit LT Col Norman Fortier (USAF ret.), the man identified in our history book, Granite Wings, A History of the New Hampshire Air National Guard, 1947-1998, as the first commander of our unit. Col. Dick Martell, Capt. Bill Davis, CMSgt Steve Hodgson and I spent two marvelous hours at Lt. Col. Fortier's home listening to his account of his Air Force career which included a very short tour in the NH Air National Guard in early 1947. We were delighted to learn that he was a fighter Ace in

World War II, having served in the European Theater. His detailed accounts of dogfights with German fighters, long difficult days during the Normandy invasion, and life on a British airfield were truly fascinating. After the war, he was recalled to active duty to fly cargo planes during the Berlin Airlift in 1947-48 and ended his career flying B-47 bombers on SAC alert here at Pease. In February 1947, he had joined the NHANG at the invitation of Brig Gen Charles Bowen, the Adjutant General of NH. The actual commander of the unit at that time was Major Charles G.Y. Normand, but he was absent when the unit received federal recognition on 14 April 1947. Major Fortier was the acting commander during that first Drill. He left the unit in May of that year. He did manage one adventure before he left. The 24 year old acting commander was a student at UNH that semester and felt the need to pay his fellow students and faculty a visit. So he borrowed a P-51 from the Reserves and

did a couple of very low passes over the college. His friends thought it was fun; the townspeople were not as impressed! Fortunately, there was still a reserve of good will left over from the war and the Major managed to wiggle out of this mess. If any of you are interested in reading about his WW II accomplishments, he has recently published a book entitled: An Ace of the Eighth: An American Pilot's Air War in Europe (Presidio Press; April 2003).

I would encourage you to spend some time with our retirees or even some of the old timers still in this unit. Get them to tell you what it was like in the NHANG twenty, thirty or forty years ago. I promise you that it will not only be entertaining, it will enrich your perspective of how we do business today and give you a hint of how you will see the world when the day comes when you are considered the old timer.



Guard Talk

by SMSgt. Valerie Morgan
Wing Human Resource Advisor

Guard Talk welcomes your submissions. If you have something interesting or a special event that you'd like to share, please give me a call at tel: (603) 430-3151, fax: 430-2456 or drop a line to 157 ARW/HRA,

302 Newmarket Street, Pease ANGB, NH 03803-0157E-mail address: valerie.morgan@NHPEAS.ANG.AF.MIL

- Congratulations to **Jennifer** and **Michael Munt (CES)** on the birth of their son, Christopher Michael, who was born on April 5. Baby Christopher weighed in at 9 lbs. 5 oz. and measured 22 1/2 inches long. The couple have another child, Gabriel Felix, who is three years old. Michael is a traditional guardsman in the Utilities Section of the Civil Engineer Squadron. The family makes their home in Manchester.
- Please welcome **Ashley Michele Vatcher**, newborn baby daughter of **Mark** and **Michele Vatcher (HQS)** who arrived on April 18 at 8:41 a.m. Baby Ashley weighed in at 8 lbs. 15 oz. and measured 21 inches long. Michele is a full-time technician in the USPFO Office in Concord. Mark works for the Hudson School District as a Heating & Air Conditioning Technician. The family resides in Dunbarton.
- Warmest wishes are extended to **Linda** and **John Lennon (OPS)** on the arrival of their first child, **Mitchell Wallace**, who was born on April 30. Baby Mitchell weighed in at 6 lbs. 14 ozs. and measured 21 inches long. John is a commercial truck driver who serves militarily as a boom

operator in the 133rd Air Refueling Squadron. Linda, who is also a commercial truck driver, is currently on maternity leave. The family makes their home in Fremont.

- It's baby #3 for **Jen** and **Daryl McPhee (OPS)**. Little **Morgan Olivia** made her arrival on May 28, weighing in at 8 lbs. 11 ozs. She joins big brothers **Hunter**, 6, and **Dakota** 1 1/2. Daryl is currently serving on active duty in Life Support. Jen is presently on maternity leave. The family makes their home in Monroe.
- A round of applause is in order for **Nicole Taatjes**, 18, daughter of **Stacy** and **Scott Taatjes (AGS)** and **Kathy Prunier**, who was salutatorian for her graduating class at Nute High School. Nicole will be attending UNH in the fall and plans to major in Business Administration. While at Nute High, Nicole was a member of the National Honor Society. Needless to say, her parents are very proud of her accomplishments! Congrats, Nicole, and good luck at UNH!
- Another outstanding scholar in our Guard Family is **Joseph Nachez (CE)** who was among the top ten graduating students at Farmington High School. While at Farmington High, he was involved in sev-

eral activities to include class president, varsity soccer, and a member of the National Honor Society. Joseph is currently in basic training at Lackland AFB, TX. Upon return from technical school training, he will be assigned to the Structural Shop in Civil Engineering. By the way, Joseph is the nephew of **James Dahlberg**, who is a traditional guard member in Personnel. Way to go, Joseph!

- **Shirley** and **Ralph Siemer (OPS)** would like to announce the arrival of their latest family member, **Kachina**. Kachina is 7 hands tall, 100 lbs. and was born at 5 p.m. on April 28. Mother **Windy** is quite proud and protective, as to letting her barn and paddock mate **Jazzi Girl** get too close. Windy is happy to finally deliver the foal after 367 days of pregnancy!

ATTENTION ALL GOLF PLAYERS:

- 15th Annual **Lilljedahl Fall Golf Classic** will be held at the Wentworth Golf Club at Jackson Village in Jackson, NH, on Monday, September 22. All full-time and traditional personnel and retirees are eligible to play and may invite family members to participate as their guests. All active players in the Air Guard's golf league are also eligible to compete. The deadline for entering this 18-hole team tournament is Monday, September 15. The entrance fee is \$65.00. Checks should be mailed to:
NHANG Fall Golf Classic
157th Air Refueling Wing
c/o MSgt Bobby Conant (Ret)
Box 25
302 Newmarket Street
Pease ANGB, NH 03803-0157

**THAT'S ALL FOR THIS TIME,
FOLKS! SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!**

Drill Dates

For Drill Dates
see your printed
Refueler or go to
the Public
Folders: Annual
Plan Section

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
157 ARW/PA
302 NEWMARKET STREET, BLDG 16
PEASE ANGB, NH 03803-0157

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