

COMMAND CHIEF'S COLUMN



Chief Master Sgt. Mark S. Rukavina, Command Chief

What is your readiness status? When we hear that question, we most often think about deployment or medical readiness. These are important aspects of readiness, but my question refers to your promotion readiness. What are you doing to prepare yourself for your next promotion or position? Promotion readiness has three separate phases:

Phase One- Skill Level Training. We begin our journey by achieving our Air Force Specialty Code three-level in technical school and then

complete upgrade training to achieve our five-level and seven-level to become the technical expert in our career field. AFI 36-2618 describes this as the Tactical Expertise Level and normally applies to airman basic to technical sergeant. As we progress in experience and rank we achieve our nine-level moving to the Operational Competence Level. This applies to master sergeant to chief master sergeant where first line supervisors have broader operational leadership, supervisory, and managerial responsibilities.



Phase Two- Professional Military Education (PME). It's important to note there is a difference on how you study for your career development courses (CDCs) vs. PME. You memorized the material for CDCs; you must know how to apply the material to the situation with PME.

Airman Leadership School- This course is required for promotion to staff sergeant and currently has three options with a fourth option coming soon. A member may complete the correspondence course, satellite course, or attend the inresidence course. The fourth option will be an on-line six week course with two weeks in-residence at McGee Tyson, Tennessee.

NCO Academy- This course is required for promotion to master sergeant and is only available by correspondence. In addition to the correspondence course, a member may attend an in-residence course for an intermediate leadership experience.

Senior NCO Academy- This course is required for promotion to senior master sergeant and is only available by correspondence. In addition to the correspondence course, a member may attend an in-residence course for advanced leadership experience.

Community College of the Air Force-Required for promotion to senior master sergeant and chief master sergeant. A member may apply for an exception to policy, at time of promotion, if they have an associate degree or higher in their military record.

Phase Three- Unit Manning Document. The squadron commander uses this document which provides the organization's rank structure to make career progression decisions. It's important to become familiar with your squadron's manning document and to know where the opportunities exist.

Currently, our wing is authorized 905 enlisted positions; 18 chief master sergeants (CMSqt's), 49 senior master sergeants (SMSqt's), 173 master sergeants (MSqt's) and 211 technical sergeants (TSqt's). The Air National Guard is in the process of an Enlisted Grade Review which will provide a path for all AFSCs to be promoted to senior master With this review, the sergeant. wing has the potential to increase its rank structure by nine SMSqt's, eight MSqt's, and 28 TSqt's in April 2017. An opportunity that you thought didn't exist may now be there. Don't eliminate yourself from an opportunity because you didn't complete a requirement. It's important for your development and growth to know what requirements you need for that next promotion.

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RSD SCHEDULE

2016 RSD 2016 SRSD 09-10-11-12 ΔPRII 23-24 APRII NONE MAY 21-22 MAY 25-26 JUNE 11-12 JUNE NONE IIIIY 16-17 JULY 06-07 AUGUST 20-21 AUGUST 10-11 SEPTEMBER NONE SEPTEMBER 13-14-15-16 OCTOBER 29-30 OCTOBER NONE NOVEMBER 12-13 NOVEMBER

ON THE COVER

NONE DECEMBER

03-04 DECEMBER



Airman Ist Class Hannah Race. 148th Fighter Wing Communications Flight, checks the fuel level of a generator Feb. 2, 2016. Eight Communication's Flight Airmen were at a remote site approximately seven miles from Grand Marais, Minn., supporting the John Beargresse Sled Dog Race and training in cold weather conditions. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph Kapustka)

BULLDOGS IN ACTION

STAFF SGT. BRYCE HEBERT

DUTYTITLE: ELECTRICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN HOMETOWN: MAHTOWA, MINNESOTA

Why Is Serving In The Minnesota National Guard Important To You? My mother and uncles were both in the military and I hoped one day I would be able to do the same. It's great to be a part of something that is bigger than myself and am so thankful to be serving my country.

What Military Moment Or Accomplishment Are You Most Proud Of? Being awarded as the top graduate and distinguished graduate for Airman Leadership class 16-2.

What Is Your Favorite Part Of Your Job? Digging in and getting my hands dirty while working on issues with the F-l6s. Finding and fixing the problem with a jet and then ultimately watching it take off to do its mission.

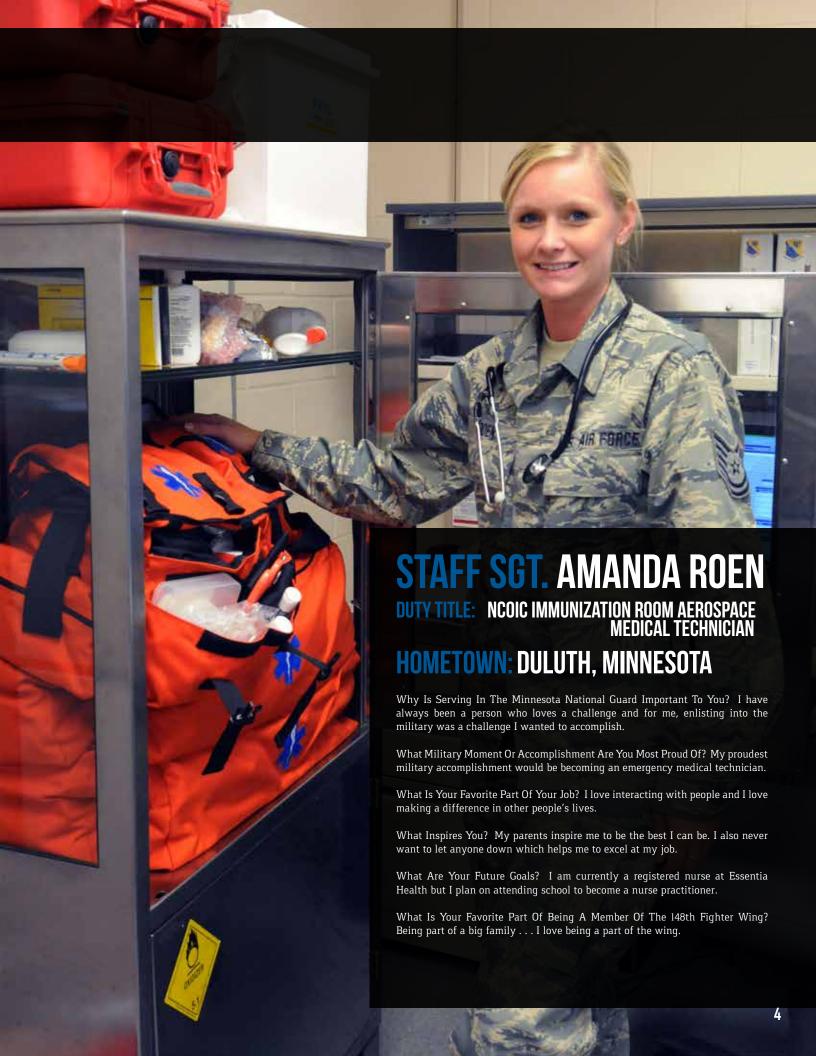
What Inspires You? Watching the pilots prep their plane, get inside, start the engine, taxi, and take off. The idea of possibly being able to do that in the future inspires me.

What Are Your Future Goals? Earning a four-year degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth and becoming an F-16 pilot for the 148th Fighter Wing.

What Is Your Favorite Part Of Being A Member Of The 148th Fighter Wing? The 148th Fighter Wing is one big family in which everyone looks out for one another.



Go to www.148fw.ang.af.mil for more Bulldogs in Action!





The 148th Fighter Wing Communications (COMM) Flight set up shop in a remote location approximately seven miles northwest of Grand Marais, Minnesota to support the 2016 version of the John Beargrease Sled Dog Race that took place in Northern Minnesota the first week of February 2016.

The deployed location had limited road access and no amenities and forced the COMM flight members to set up a place they could work and sleep out of; a place where nothing previously existed.

The deployment provided the Airmen a chance to set-up and test their communications It included establishing equipment. communications via a mobile package called the Joint Communications Platform 3 (JCP3). Some of the services this package can provide include satellite internet access, radio and phone communications, video teleconferencing (VTC) and satellite television. The package can bridge together separate organizations to allow them all to talk on the same network, be it computer, radio or phone networks. The equipment and technology contained in this package can support both military and civilian operations.

Supporting the sled dog race gave the COMM flight the opportunity to test their equipment in a cold weather, remote environment. "This is a great training opportunity, said Tech. Sgt. Tyler Stodola," 148th Communications flight. "We get to see how our equipment works in a cold weather environment and to problem solve any issues that might result because of it. We will be better prepared to respond to a real world emergency because of this."

The COMM flight Airmen supported the race by managing a checkpoint. "We provide HAM radio support and kept Beargrease Net Control informed of the sled dog teams that passed our location," said Stodola. If needed, the checkpoint had the capacity to give the mushers shelter and first-aid.

The COMM flight had eight members take part in this training opportunity. For half of the Airmen, this was their first time supporting the race. "This was the perfect mix of people, it gave us the opportunity to train our new members in a low stress environment," Stodola said.

"It was great to come out here and gain knowledge on how to set-up the JCP3," said Airman Ist Class Hannah Garvey. "This also gave us the chance to get to know each other on a more personal level which will help improve the teamwork back at the office."



Members of the 148th Fighter Wing Communications Flight pose for a photo while supporting the John Beargrease Sled Dog Race Feb. 2, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ralph Kapustka/Released)

148TH FIGHTER WING CELEBRATES AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

By Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka, 148th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Pastor Billy G. Russell, Senior Pastor of Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minn., shares remarks with members of the Minnesota National Guard while in Duluth, Minn., on Feb. 5, 2016. Russell was at the 148th Fighter Wing to share his experiences about the hardships he encountered growing up during racial segregation and to talk about the importance of diversity. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka/Released)

The 148th Fighter Wing celebrated African American History Month by hosting a lunch and learn event on Feb. 5, 2016. The keynote speaker for the event was Pastor Billy G. Russell, Senior Pastor of Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Pastor Russell talked about his experiences growing-up as a young black man in Mississippi during racial segregation. "Legally mandated segregation of race, separate schools, separate motels, separate rest-rooms and drinking fountains, segregation was the world I grew up in," said Russell. As a youth he was bussed 23 miles one-way to school, passing up a school that was just three miles away because he wasn't allowed to go there.

Russell's message was one of forgiveness and encouragement. "You can be anything you want to be ... you do not let circumstances hold you down, you can rise above that."

He encouraged the audience to interact with other cultures. "Talk to them, get to know them rather than just having a perceived thought about them," said Russell. "We must recognize that we live in a very diverse place, we must begin to talk now."

Col. Jon S. Safstrom, 148th Fighter Wing Commander, stressed both the importance and benefits of diversity. "We need to open our eyes as a wing and educate ourselves on some of the things we don't get to experience that often in the

Duluth community, which is diverse backgrounds and experiences," Safstrom said.

The 148th Fighter Wing is working hard at building relationships both in the Duluth community and the surrounding areas, with an on-going effort towards recruiting from a diverse talent pool.

"Everyone has a diverse experience and background to bring to this wing, we just want to make sure we are encompassing all of those backgrounds to strengthen the wing," said Safstrom.

RESISTANCE TO CHANGE IS A DEAD END STREET

By Chief Master Sgt. Mark Graves, 148th Fighter Wing



age credit: Disney

All leaders are posed and challenged with the responsibility to adapt and change to not only themselves but the organizations they serve. As the title of this article alludes, "Resistance to Change is a Dead End Street" it relates to all aspects of leadership. During my tenure with the Air National Guard I have watched young men and women progress through their military careers; some came by the skill of leadership naturally while others struggled. The one commonality of all highly productive and successful leaders was their ability to adapt to change.

You can't deny, since 9/11, the 148th Fighter Wing has evolved into one of the most highly effective and professional organizations the Air National Guard possesses; but why? It's surely not because we have unlimited resources or can resolve every issue by throwing money at it; but more realistically we have learned to engage organizational leaders that can focus on transitioning their teams from "Change Avoidance to Change Acceptance." Listed below are the five stages that accompany change (Connor, 1993):

- Denial Cannot foresee any major changes.
- Anger Aversion at others for what they're putting me though.
- · Bargaining Working out solutions and keeping everyone happy.
- · Depression Doubt and worry set in.
- · Acceptance Reality sets in, we must change or die.

Perhaps some of the things listed can provide insight into why we resist change so vigorously. After all, it is difficult to leave our comfort zones and leave the comfort of complete control that the status-quo provides. Perhaps, resistance to change stems from the required effort that will be needed to evoke change or the fear that you will look foolish or lose favor with your friends if you deviate from "the way it's always been."

Regardless what the barrier to change is, the fact still remains that the most successful and highly productive leaders engage change. Not only do they engage it, but they engage it with passion. Leading change with passion can be infectious. The most effective leaders in the

world would not take the Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh "Looks like rain" approach to embrace change but perhaps the more upbeat positive and highly energetic position of Tigger. If the change can be communicated in an upbeat positive way then understanding of the change at hand can lead to inspiration. Furthermore, a clear understanding and explanation of what your team's role in the change will look like creates an environment that fosters ownership and with a little luck implementation.

In conclusion, don't let change be your dead end street. Look at change, no matter how small, as an opportunity to show your leadership, your fellow Airman and yourself that you possess the abilities to be a highly productive, inspirational leader. These are the day-to-day untold and unseen interviews that define our careers. These are your chances to build the street portfolio that leads to future leadership opportunities. After all, "Managers are people who do things right, while leaders are people who do the right thing" (Warren Bennis). Do yourself and your career a favor, remove the roadblocks to change and don't let these opportunities pass you by.

UMN BEE VETERANS PROGRAM KICKOFF

By Master Sgt. Julie M. Tomaska, 148th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Members of the University of Minnesota Bee Squad and community members gather for the unveiling of the Bee Veterans site Oct. 3, 2015. (Photo by Judy Griesedieck)

The University of Minnesota's (UMN) Bee Squad is launching a first of its kind project here in Minnesota. Bee Veterans was founded in honor of Veteran and beekeeper Michael Roche. His strong belief in the therapeutic benefits of beekeeping for returning Veterans dealing with PTSD, has allowed the program to provide the materials and training necessary to make beekeeping an integral part of Veterans' lives. The Bee Veterans program is a partnership of the UMN Bee Squad and the Metropolitan Airports Commission. The Bee Veterans Apiary is located at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport.

Bee Veterans functions as free beekeeping workshops for Veterans. Participants will be provided with protective clothing and tools, and will work with UMN Bee Squad beekeepers to learn about bees and to try their hands at working in the hives. The sessions kick off on Saturday June 18, and will be held every other Saturday throughout the summer. There are two options for Bee Veterans participants: they may attend one

Basic Training session to experience beekeeping, or they may attend Advanced Training workshops for a more comprehensive introduction to the skills needed for beekeeping.

Program Requirements

- · U.S. Veteran.
- · Curious about bees and beekeeping.
- · Preregister for any class you plan to attend.
- Wear light colored pants, socks and shoes to class. You will be provided with protection for your face and arms.

Please note that beekeeping involves using smoke, and a risk of getting stung! Our Veterans Apiary is in close proximity to planes taking off and landing. For more information, or if you are interested in attending a class but are concerned about any of these items, please contact the Bee Squad before signing up: beesquad@umn.edu or visit www.beelab.umn.edu/bee-squad/bee-squad-programs/bee-vets



Photo by Judy Griesedieck

CHIEF'S CORNER

By Chief Master Sgt. Todd R. Garson

It seems every year the climate survey brings up communication as a problem. Given all the technology that is available to us today, one would think that communication processes would be seamless and without error. Why is this still a problem?

When I started my career back in the early 80's communication consisted of three basic processes: Face to face, telephone, and written. Face to face communication, in my opinion, is still the best because you can look at the body language of the sender as well as the receiver and get better feedback as well as a feel to what the sender is trying to get across. The second line was the telephone which made it possible to communicate from just about anywhere as long as you were connected to a land line. The third line of communication was writing a letter, it

generally took a week or two to get a reply back on your letter depending on where it was going.

Fast forward to today, we utilize: E-Mail, cell phone, texting, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snap Chat, etc. The rate and quantity at which we exchange communication has increased several fold since the years of past. Why is there still a problem? The rate at which communication occurs is irrelevant if a clear message is not delivered. The fix may be as simple as the sender adapting his or her ways of communicating to get their message across. It could be as simple as the receiver of information to ask questions if they don't understand what the sender is trying to say. Remember, communication is a two way street and if everyone participates it will make this a better place to work.

TRAVEL AND THE ZIKA VIRUS

By Tech. Sqt. Christine Sawyer, 148th Fighter Wing Medical Group

You should know the facts about the Zika virus especially if you plan to travel out of the country. The Zika virus is transmitted by Aedes species mosquitoes and it is possible that transmission can continue to occur through blood transfusion or sexual contact. Common symptoms of the virus include fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis. Most people infected by the virus may never develop symptoms. The virus can cause birth defects in unborn children and fetal loss in women who are infected during pregnancy.

So far the United States has not had any local transmission from mosquitos; however, travelers returning to the United States have reported the illness. The areas that have known outbreaks of Zika include Africa, Asia, Central America, South America, Mexico, and Islands in the Pacific and Caribbean. If you plan to travel to these areas wear long sleeved shirts and long pants, treat

clothing and gear with permethrin, stay indoors, use mosquito bed nets if you will be sleeping outside, use EPA-registered insect repellents, when possible use air conditioning, and window and door screens, avoid unprotected sex, and check out the Centers for Disease Control travel website: wwwnc.cdc.qov/travel/notices.

If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant and plan to travel to one of these areas you may want to postpone travel, but if you plan on traveling anyways talk to your doctor first. Men who have traveled to these areas with a pregnant partner should abstain from sexual activity or use proper protection and should be tested to see if they have been infected with the virus. Further information can be found at www.cdc.gov/zika or contact your 148th Fighter Wing Public Health Office at (218) 788-7224.



Members of the 148th Fighter Wing are vaccinated in 1958. Photo courtesy of 148th Fighter Wing Photo Archives.



PROMOTIONS

OCTOBER 2015

KRAUSE, JESSE, AMXS, SRA
RODNEY, KYLE, MXS, SRA
SAICE, ERIK, CF, SRA
SIROIS, NICHOLAS, MXS, SRA
VIAENE, BRENDON, AMXS, SRA
WASBOTTEN, CRISTIAN, MXS, SRA
ULIVER, NICHOLAS, CES, SSGT
OLSON, JUSTIN, 179 FS, SSGT
PAULSON, MICHAEL, AMXS, SSGT
BURKLUND, JOSHUA, MOF, TSGT
FRITZ, NATHANIEL, 179 FS, TSGT
LUNIEWSKI, MARCIUS, CES, TSGT
PUFAHL, LEE, CES, TSGT
GOORHOUSE, GARRET, LRS, MSGT

NOVEMBER 2015

BARATTA, JAMES, LRS, SRA
EGGERT, HANS, AMXS, SRA
GILBERTSON, DUSTIN, AMXS, SRA
JALOVICK, PHILLIP, MXS, SRA
NEIBAUER, DYLAN, AMXS, SRA
PENDER, MICHAEL, SFS, SRA
SAWYER, ALEX, MXS, SRA
THORSON, KEVIN, SFS, SRA
WACKER, CHARLES, MXS, SSGT
FLANNIGAN, BRADLEE, AMXS, TSGT
KEDLA, VERNON, CES, MSGT
KOENIG, ARTHUR, CES, MSGT
TAMMI, BRIAN, CES, MSGT

DECEMBER 2015

COMSTOCK, ALEXANDER, FSS, SRA FOSTER, LEAH, AMXS, SRA JOHNSON, TYLER, FSS, SRA RUHANEN, RIKKI, AMXS, SRA JOHNSON, ROBERT, MXS, SSGT CONRADI, MICHAEL, CES, TSGT KIMINSKI, NICHOLAS, MSG, MSGT NEPHEW, ALICE, FSS, MSGT NORD, JAMEY, SFS, MSGT TOMASKA, JULIE, HQ, MSGT

JANUARY 2016

BENEDICT, NICHOLAS, MOG, SSGT DECHAINE, SEAN, AMXS, SSGT HOVLAND, BETH, STU FLT, SSGT BARNSTORF, JOSEPH, MXG, MSGT VARGO, DEAN, HD, SMSGT WATCZAK, MARK, CES, CMSGT

FEBRUARY 2016

CHRISTIANSON, JORDAN, AMXS, SRA MILLER, NICHOLAS, AMXS, SRA ERDAHL, PETER, MXS, SSGT HEBERT, BRYCE, MXS, SSGT HEWITT, JOSIAH, MXS, SSGT JUSULA, DANE, MXS, SSGT SORCI, VINCENT, MXS, SSGT BRAMAN, STEVEN, CES, TSGT HINKS, JARED, MXS, TSGT LICKISS, CORY, LRS, TSGT MICHAEL, REID, AMXS, TSGT RIESLAND, ADAM, AMXS, TSGT Stodola, Tyler, CF, TSGT HAYES, ANDREW, HQ, MSGT JOHNSON, DOUGLAS, MXS, MSGT KNIGHT, ADAM, AMXS, MSGT LARSEN, TIMOTHY, CES, MSGT MICKEN, RACHEL, MDG, MSGT STARKEN, JENNIFER, AMXS, MSGT JUREK, SARAH, LRS, SMSGT MIKETIN, JOZEF, SFS, SMSGT

MARCH 2016

TYYKILA, TARA, SFS, SRA
CHRISTENSON, DANIEL, SFS, SSGT
LAWRENCE, RACHEL, HD, SSGT
SCHRECENGOST, DEREK, LRS, SSGT
SHEARER, DUSTIN, AMXS, SSGT
COUCH, AARON, MXS, TSGT
JACKSON, THOMAS, CES, TSGT
PRIOLA, MICHAEL, CES, TSGT
TROLSON, TED, CES, TSGT
ROBBINS, AMANDA, MDG, MSGT

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