

Bulldogs

148th Fighter Wing
Duluth, Minnesota

On Five

April - June 2009



DULUTH

36

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1 AUG 1978
1 SEP 1978
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Commander's Column

Col. Penny J. Dieryck



This is my first opportunity to write a Commander's column as an O-6 in the 148th Fighter Wing. With the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection, I could fill 10 pages with my thoughts and theories about the assessment. However, by August, our On-Five readers will have been inundated with ORI, ORI, ORI. Therefore, I decided in this column, I'm going to focus on being an AIRMAN!

What does it take to be an Airman in today's Minnesota Air National Guard and United States Air Force? To answer this ques-

tion, I look to the Airman's Creed which says:

THE AIRMAN'S CREED

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 AIR-
MAN BEHIND,
I WILL NEVER FALTER,
AND I WILL NOT FAIL.

Go back and read the creed

again. These words do not only apply to Airman; they apply to everyone in all walks of life. It does not matter if the person is fulfilling a commitment to the military or serving their community as a banker, tradesmen, elected official, parent, teacher, or student. The creed says NO matter what role you play in life, you will strive to do your best. Whatever the opportunity is from giving all at your daily jobs, donating time to a community effort, supporting a deployed military member's family, or lending a helping hand to a friend, the creed reflects on the fact that a person will give their time, energy, compassion and utmost professional help to these actions.

Go back to the last paragraph of the Airman's Creed. It says, "I WILL NEVER FALTER AND I WILL NOT FAIL!" Think about the tough economic times we are going through. It is affecting hundreds of businesses, individuals, and local, state, and federal governments. The creed does not say another person will not falter or fail, it says "I." At this moment in

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Year 2009 Unit Training Assembly (UTA) and other training schedules for the 148th Fighter Wing and all subordinate units:

UTA	SUTA	MANDATORY AFT
18-19 Apr	04-05 Apr	
16-17 May	None May	14-15 May
13-14 Jun	None Jun	
18-19 Jul	None Jul	15-17 Jul
22-23 Aug	None Aug	17-21 Aug
12-13 Sep	None Sep	
03-04 Oct	24-25 Oct	
21-22 Nov	07-08 Nov	
05-06 Dec	None Dec	

On the Cover

Col. Frank H. Stokes assumes command of the 148th Fighter Wing from Col. Mark R. Johnson during a change of command ceremony Mar. 22, 2009. See story on page 6.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka.

Check out the 148th Fighter Wing website at www.148FW.ang.af.mil

Commander's Column continued from page 2.

our lives, we need to take responsibility for ourselves (I). We need to put the extra effort forward whether its here at the 148th Fighter Wing or in other endeavors we undertake it our lives. The 110% we give to all aspects of our lives will give us back 200% success.

Chaplain's Column

By Chaplain (Capt.) Darrell Kyle

Rutger's Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids, Minn. is a beautiful place. The Guard Family Network and the chapel section along with 21 couples from the 148th and 23 couples from the 133rd in Minneapolis found out just what a beautiful place Sugar Lake Lodge is when they traveled there for a Strong Bonds retreat a few weeks ago. Of course, it wasn't just the lodge that we enjoyed. It was also a wonderful time away from the distractions of everyday life to focus on our relationships as couples.

The Strong Bonds program is an Army initiative that has been embraced by the Air Force as a way to keep couples strong in the face of the many pressures that we encounter in our everyday lives. Strong Bonds gives couples some very valuable tools to strengthen their relationship and to make couples better at being open in communication and to understand how relationships work and why they sometimes don't work. For example, the communication between a couple can be greatly enhanced by the use of a few simple tools that the program teaches so couples can understand each other and be understood.

Grand Rapids was the third time in less than a year that the 148th

I can honestly say I have personally witnessed the effort, dedication, and commitment members of the 148th past, present and future, have given to making our Wing the successful organization it is. I again re-read the Airman's Creed and promise you as

has hosted a Strong Bonds weekend. We are leading the Air Guard in making our relationships stronger and, as a result, making our Wing an even better place to serve. We did our first Strong bonds in Biwabik, Minn. last spring and held one in Rhinelander, Wisc. in the fall with the 128th Refueling Wing from Milwaukee, Wisc.

These retreats are but a beginning. If you haven't had an opportunity to participate in a weekend yet, talk to someone who has and hear how it has impacted those who have had the experience. And keep an eye out for the announcement of our next chance to build Strong Bonds for couples at the 148th

the 148th Mission Support Group Commander, I will follow the Creed statement by statement, word by word, letter by letter. "I WILL NEVER FALTER AND I WILL NOT FAIL" to support our Wing, our members, our community, our mission and our nation!



Fighter Wing.

We haven't forgotten those of you who are single either. For the first time in the Air National Guard, we are going to hold a singles retreat at the end of June. Keep an eye out for the information as it becomes available.

People with strong relationships tend to have more to give than those who struggle in their connections with others. We are always working to make our people stronger and, as a result, make the unit a stronger and more vibrant place to serve God and country.



2nd Lt. Jodi Kiminski (148th Public Affairs) is joined by her brother, Maj. Curt Grayson (179th Fighter Squadron) and father, retired Col. Richard Grayson (148th Fighter Wing) at the Academy of Military Science graduation on Feb. 20, 2009.

Bulldogs help Minnesota Biathlon Team win national championships

By Lt. Col. Eric Chandler

The Minnesota National Guard Biathlon Team won First Place Team overall at the 2009 Chief National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships. Three races took place at Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho, Vt. Mar. 1-7, 2009. Minnesota earned First Place overall for finishing First Place in the 15 kilometer Patrol Race. The race was a nail-biter with Minnesota narrowly defeating the Vermont National Guard team in 50 minutes and 41 seconds with strong shooting at the range and a hard-fought team effort on the ski trails. The members of the Patrol Race team were Maj. Paul Peterson (Army), Capt. Eric Nordgren (Air), Master Sgt. Greg Wohlfeil (Air), and Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Gray (Air). The South Dakota National Guard Team came in 3rd. The relay race on the last day of competition was cancelled due to warming temperatures and deteriorating trail conditions.



The Minnesota National Guard Biathlon Team won first Place Team Overall. Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Wohlfeil.

“The team’s performance on the range was stellar,” said their coach Chief Warrant Officer Roger Sorben. “Eric hit the target on his first shot, Nick knocked his target down on the first shot with a bullet that split when it hit the edge of the target, and Greg collected himself after his first shot was a miss and knocked his target down with a solid shot.”

In the individual races earlier in the week of competition, Capt. Eric Nordgren finished 9th in the 10k Sprint competition and 12th in the

20k Individual. Nordgren narrowly missed selection to the All Guard Biathlon Team, which is based on these performances. Lt. Col. Eric Chandler finished 30th in the 10k Sprint and 24th in the 20k Individual. He was awarded a silver medal for 2nd place among the 18 novice competitors in the field of 60 biathletes.

For questions about the National Guard Biathlon, contact Lt. Col. Chandler, Capt. Nordgren, or the 148th Fighter Wing Recruiting and Retention Office at 218-788-7210.



Lt. Col. Eric Chandler begins the 10k Sprint competition. Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Wohlfeil.



Capt. Eric Nordgren fires on a target in the 15k Patrol Race. Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Wohlfeil.

Check out the 148th Fighter Wing website at www.148FW.ang.af.mil

179th Fighter Squadron wins Raytheon Trophy

By Maj. Audra A. Flanagan

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Norton Schwartz, recently announced that the 179th Fighter Squadron is the recipient of the 2008 Raytheon Trophy for its accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2008.

The Raytheon Trophy, formerly known as the Hughes Trophy, is awarded for outstanding performance to an Air Force or Air National Guard fighter unit with a mission in air defense or air superiority. Units are judged on performance in the air defense or air superiority mission, exercise participation, inspection results, and squadron and/or individual accomplishments.

Accomplishments from this rating period include the following:

- Operation Noble Eagle deployments to Hickam Air Force

Base, Elmendorf Air Force Base and Minneapolis in support of the Republican National Convention – flying a total of 264 sorties

- The Wing’s third deployment to Joint Base Balad, Iraq

- The 2007 Operational Readiness Inspection “Excellent” rating

- The 2008 Alert Force Evaluation “Mission Ready” rating

- Earning OSHA’s Voluntary Protection Program Star rating

This is only the fourth time an Air National Guard unit has received the award and only the second time an F-16 unit has received the award since its inception in 1953. 179th Fighter Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Eric Chandler said, “It’s awesome for the Bulldogs to get recognition for the hard work they did in 2008. All our people make it look easy, but

it isn’t. They deserve this kind of award.”

Wing Commander, Col. Frank Stokes stated that “This award is especially important to our Wing because it validates the intense effort we have put forth over the last several years: the many times we have answered calls from ANG, ACC, and the Air Force; packed up and deployed on short notice; and accomplished the mission in a professional, efficient manner. We have answered those calls repeatedly, and often returned to take an inspection or deploy to the AEF, and then immediately fulfilled another short notice request. We have done all this without complaining, and in a manner that often left the operation in better shape than when we came. The Bulldogs should feel good that our efforts were not lost on our nation’s leadership, they have now rewarded us for them.”

The Raytheon Trophy will be presented at a later date. No details on the event are yet available.

Bulldog named Duluth Firefighter of the Year

A 148th Fighter Wing Firefighter has been named the Kiwanis Club of Duluth Firefighter of the Year.

Tech. Sgt. Charles Smith, an 11-year veteran of the Duluth fire department and member of the 148th Fighter Wing received the award which is presented to a firefighter

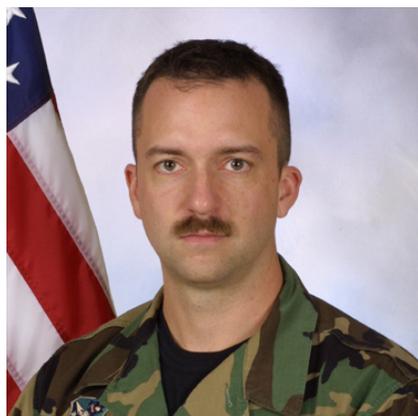
who demonstrates dedication to protecting the public and making the community safe, the club said. Smith said he was grateful and humbled to be nominated by his peers.

“The greatest honor that I could ever receive is to be recognized by those that I work with on a daily basis,” he said.

Duluth Fire Chief John Strongitharm said, “Capt. Smith takes pride in his work, in his crew and his profession. He believes in leading by example and finds time to help and encourage anyone who asks. He is always cool, calm and collected when under pressure.”

Smith is the fire department’s police liaison, helping coordinate operations with the police department.

**Maj. Audra Flanagan
named 1st Air Force
Company Grade Officer/
Superior Performer of
the Year for CONR-1 AF
(AFNORTH)**



Tech. Sgt. Charles Smith



Maj. Audra Flanagan

Command of 148th Fighter Wing changes hands

By 2nd Lt. Jodi L. Kiminski

Duluth's 148th Fighter Wing has a new commander. Col. Frank H. Stokes took command of the 148th Fighter Wing during an official change of command ceremony Mar. 22, 2009 at the Duluth Air National Guard base.

Stokes took command from Col. Mark R. Johnson who will transfer to Minnesota's Joint Force Headquarters in Saint Paul. Johnson has been the base commander since July of 2004.

The new wing commander told guard members they've reached the top and are now riding the wave, "Bulldogs, It is now our job and your job to instill that reputation in this wing. I want you to smother your Airmen with it. Infect your co workers with it. I want you to make it a part of your daily life."

Stokes is a Duluth native who joined the Air Force in 1983 and later joined the 148th Fighter Wing in 1991. He has served in various positions at the 148th to include Air Operations Officer, 179th Fighter

Squadron Commander, Maintenance Group Commander and, most recently, Vice Commander. Additionally, Stokes served as the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group Commander at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan from January to May 2007 where he earned the Bronze Star. He is a command pilot with over 3,300 flying hours, of which 1,260 are as an instructor pilot in the F-15 and F-16.

"I promise I will do everything in my power to guide the Wing toward future success. As I told you a few weeks ago, no one will work harder-- with more dedication or enthusiasm-- than I," Stokes said.

Stokes holds a master's degree in aerospace engineering and mechanics from the University of Minnesota. He is a graduate of Leadership Duluth through the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce, has served on the board at Kenwood Lutheran Church and coached baseball for the Central Little League. He and his wife, Kristy, have four sons. During the



Col. Frank H. Stokes receives the guidon from Maj. Gen. Larry W. Shellito symbolizing the change of command. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Amie M. Dahl.



Members of the 148th Fighter Wing stand in formation during a change of command ceremony at the 148th Fighter Wing Mar. 22, 2009. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Amie M. Dahl.



Col. Mark R. Johnson addresses the crowd during the change of command ceremony on Mar. 22, 2009 at the Duluth Air National Guard Base. Johnson joined the 148th Fighter Wing 30 years ago. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Amie M. Dahl.



Above: The 148th Fighter Wing Honor Guard presents the colors during the change of command ceremony. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett R. Ewald.

ceremony, he thanked his family for all of their support over the years and making the best of the time that he has been away.

Both Stokes and Johnson placed all the credit for the success of the 148th on the brave men and women who have served over the years.

“I joined this unit because I loved to fly. But during that 28.5 year time period, something changed, something happened,” Johnson said. “Instead of filling the void of flying, all the people in this wing have filled my heart.”

The 148th Fighter Wing has had three tours in Iraq over the last four years and has been praised for their other assignments when called upon since Sep. 11, 2001.

“We stand at a cross roads now,” said Stokes, “we can relax and live off that rep. or double our efforts and instill that ethic in those who follow. We will do the ladder.”



Above: Col. Frank H. Stokes is honored during the change of command ceremony.

Left: Maj. Gen. Larry W. Shellito addresses the crowd during the change of command ceremony on Mar. 22, 2009. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Amie M. Dahl.

Col. Johnson takes final F-16 flight

Col. Mark R. Johnson poses for a picture with Col. John Spencer, Col. Frank Stokes and Col. Howard Hayes after taking his final flight in a 148th Fighter Wing F-16 on Mar. 21, 2009. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett R. Ewald.



Bulldog member displays Service Before Self

By Master Sgt. Jeff Groves
148th CES Electric Shop Supervisor

Tech. Sgt. Timothy Dwyer felt the call to duty and stepped forward with enthusiasm.

From Jan. 2008 to Jan. 2009, he deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Mission wise, Dwyer thinks his most important contribution was leading approximately a dozen personnel in the relocation of the Combat Metal Shop. Dwyer led the project and also planned and designed the new facility. He coordinated work between the civil engineering squadron and the maintenance squadron, following through on his guarantee that there would be no downtime while ensuring the timely completion of the project. For his leadership and work, he was awarded the 386th ECES Operations Flight Leadership Award of the Month-July 2008.

In regard to cost savings to the United States Air Force, Dwyer sees the installation of the motor/generator set for the oxygen plant at the hospital in the deployed loca-

tion as his biggest accomplishment. He noticed a brand new piece of equipment that had been abandoned. Knowing what it was, he researched why it was sitting open



The Dwyer family welcomes home Tech. Sgt. Timothy Dwyer at the Duluth International Airport. Dwyer was deployed to Southwest Asia for a year. Photo by Master Sgt. Jason W. Rolfe.

to the elements in the civil engineering yard. Once he had determined that the generator was a necessary component for the oxygen charging system, he cleaned and repaired the damage it had received due to exposure to the weather. He procured a concrete building to house the unit, and his actions saved the USAF \$40,000.

Dwyer feels that the most important accomplishment of his tour

was when he rescued an Airman from the pool. He was alerted to the fact that an Airman had become exhausted and was at the bottom of the pool. Dwyer immediately took action, and while fully clothed, rescued the drowning Airman. After performing the rescue, he removed the Airman from the pool, opened his airway, and had the Airman transported by ambulance to the hospital. He was happy to see when he followed up on the Airman that he had fully recovered.

When asked what makes for a good deployment, Dwyer said, "What makes for a good deployment is, above all, a positive attitude. As it states in the Air Force

Core Values, Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All we do. Its not about me, it's about how I can help. I think it is each of our duty to pass on the knowledge we have gained. As the saying goes, make your days count; don't count your days."

Please welcome Tech. Sgt. Dwyer back from his tour of duty. He has done us proud.

Flood Fight 2009

By Maj. Audra A. Flanagan

Five 148th Fighter Wing personnel deployed to the Red River Valley to set up a Joint Communications Platform (JCP) in support of Flood Fight 2009. The JCP is one of two mobile communications platforms in Minnesota. It provides satellite uplink and downlink, tele-

phone, radio, data, and wireless capabilities to provide command and control functions in anticipation of power outages due to flooding.

More than 600 Minnesota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were activated to support the flood fighting activities in the Red River Valley.

The Minnesota National Guard, under the direction of the Governor, provided assistance to civil authorities to support their flood fighting efforts. The Guard will back up the civil agencies as they require and are ready to stand-up additional military forces when necessary.



CHIEF'S CORNER

The latest updates from your Chiefs' Council

By Chief Master Sgt. Trish Beaudry

The New World of Self-Care

Just as our everyday lives are transitioning to a world of self care in banking, education, and appointment scheduling, the military is also taking advantage of the benefits of the electronic age. The new "virtual" world has already changed the way we do business. Along with this new virtual world, our Wing has seen dramatic increases in the number and frequency of deployments as well longer tour lengths. All things considered, it has become difficult for people to find the time to come to the Military Personnel Flight (MPF) in person to check on their records. However, this new virtual world will soon make your military personnel record available to you 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

Many of you have heard of vPC-GR (virtual Personnel Center – Guard/Reserve). Most of you have your accounts and passwords set up to access this new site. If you have not done this, now would be a good time to do so. vPC-GR is a stepping stone which will bring us into the new Defense Integrated Military Human Resource System (DIMHRS) expected to come on-line in 2010. The Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC) has pulled one full time position from every MPF across the nation (ours was taken in March of 2008) and used that work year to start up a contact center in Denver, CO to manage the vPC-GR. This contact center now acts as the central system for

many of the actions once handled by MPF personnel. vPC-GR and the ARPC contact center are the focal points for your duty history, awards & decorations, correction of military records, EPRs & OPRs, and document requests. You will even apply for your retirement on line! This list is expected to grow.

You will be affected by these changes more personally beginning in July of 2009. The MPF is currently auditing the hard copy of your military personnel record to make sure everything is in order. In July, we will be packing up the records and mailing them to Denver as we transition to electronic personnel records. Once the records are shipped, you will be able to access your record through the Virtual MPF site in the Automated Records Management System (ARMS). The MPF will no longer maintain hard copies. You'll be able to access copies of all your documents and monitor your military career electronically.

As always, the MPF will be here to help you with the transition. We are learning new processes right along with you. The ARPC contact center number at Denver is 1-800-525-0102, or if you are currently a military member you can log on 24 hours a day/7 days a week at arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/. Retirees with questions on pay, survivor benefits, or address changes can also utilize the contact center number listed above. Your local MPF customer service number is 218-788-7212.

148th Fighter Wing PROMOTIONS

Rank/Name

CMSgt DUMANCAS, MARCIA
CMSgt FEHRINGER, STEPHANIE
CMSgt NEPHEW, PAUL
SMSgt ERIKSON, LISA
SMSgt KAPUTSKA, RALPH
SMSgt WILLIAMS, TEDD
SMSgt KOVACH, LYNETTE
MSgt ROLFE, JASON
MSgt MCDOUGALL, MICHAEL
TSgt GOORHOUSE, GARRET
TSgt AULT, JULIE
TSgt WABROWETZ, ADAM
TSgt LIPINSKI, STEVE
SSgt THOLE, MARCIA
SSgt HATFIELD, ANDREW
SSgt PFEFFER, NATHAN
SSgt ZOLEN, ROBYN
SSgt KIMINSKI, NICHOLAS
SSgt OLSON, ALEXANDRA
SSgt FINNER, JOSHUA
SSgt JOSEPHSON, TIFFANY
SSgt VAGLE, MATTHEW
SSgt JOHNSON, KEVIN
SSgt HAWLEY, NATHANIEL
SSgt SANDBERG, ROBBY
SSgt SALO, JESSICA
SRA WESTERGREN, ANDREW
SRA PEDERSON, KYLE
SRA LINDER, JESSE
SRA STODOLA, JARED
SRA EWALD, AMY
SRA LINDQUIST, LONLEE
SRA SOUDERS, JEREMY
SRA LUKANEN, JACOB
SRA AULT, ADAM
SRA SCHAFTER, NICOLAS
SRA GILLET, MELISSA
SRA TROLSON, TED
SRA NEPHEW, STACY
SRA ROEN, AMANDA
A1C FREDERICK, ASHLEY
A1C BUNDY, JHESY



CONGRATULATIONS

Staying Safe over Spring Break

By Tech. Sgt. Stephen L. Tuohy

Are you or your family members thinking about Spring Break in Mexico?

Here are some interesting facts about Tijuana, Mexico:

This border city across from San Diego is winding up a violent year with at least 843 killings in 2008, a Mexican official said Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008.

Tijuana's murder rate of about

56 per 100,000 is still below that of the deadliest U.S. city New Orleans, which had about 95 killings per 100,000 inhabitants in 2007.

Officials estimate that more than 5,300 people died across Mexico in organized crime-related slayings in the first 11 months of 2008.

Still want to go there for Spring Break?

This information was released by the FBI at the January 2009 Anti-Terrorism meeting in Her-

mantown, Minn. Department of Defense recommends all military members and their dependants attend a Level 1 Anti-Terrorism briefing prior to traveling outside of the United States. The Anti-Terrorism Office offers this briefing as well as information on your destination.

Some websites to check for travel information are www.osac.gov/Regions/country and www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook.

First 148th pilot to reach 3,000 hours

By Staff Sgt. Donald L. Acton

Lt. Col. Brad Jackson, a full-time pilot from the 148th Fighter Wing, surpassed the distinctive 3,000 flight hours mark in an F-16 C+ Fighting Falcon on Feb. 7, 2009, an accomplishment achieved by less than 200 F-16 pilots worldwide, according to www.f-16.net!

Upon landing, he received a warm welcome from his friends and fellow Airmen. Col. Frank Stokes, 148th Fighter Wing Commander, awarded Jackson with his distinctive 3,000 Flight Hours patch and gave him a friendly punch on the shoulder to secure it on his flight suit. After a quick

photo shoot on the blustery tarmac, everyone went inside to the Operations building for a small celebration.

Stokes was very proud of his fellow pilot and noted that Jackson's accomplishment also reflected the overall level of dedication and experience of our members of the 148th Fighter Wing of the Minnesota Air Na-



Lt. Col. Reed Bowman presents a sign to Lt. Col. Brad Jackson for surpassing 3000 flight hours in an F-16 on Feb. 7, 2009. Photo by Staff Sgt. Donald L. Acton.

Hockey Day Minnesota

Members of the 148th Fighter Wing participated in Hockey Day Minnesota on Jan. 17, 2009 while deployed to Balad, Iraq. The members competed against members from the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade in a game of floor hockey. The Bulldogs defeated the Skaters by a score of 4-2. The game was held in conjunction with Fox SportsNet North's Minnesota Hockey Day coverage. Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Peterson.



Check out the 148th Fighter Wing website at www.148FW.ang.af.mil

News around base

148th Fighter Wing Retirees' Meeting Minutes

Mar. 22, 2009

The meeting opened at 1:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes from the December 2008 meeting were approved as printed in the On Five. Treasurer reported \$618.11 in checking. No activity since the 60th Anniversary. The report was approved.

Jim Armstrong reported that two retirees passed away since the last meeting: Gary C. Cornelison and William J. Simon.

Wes Berntson thought more retired members would attend meetings if there was better publicity; mainly through a better use of e-mail. The On Five going from every other month to quarterly will not help the problem. Suggestions included news media notices and personal invitations to meetings.

The next meeting is breakfast on June 18, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. Election of President and Secretary will occur during that meeting. Other issues to be decided include

reinitiating the August picnic at Driftwood Estates, a change of the Bylaws to eliminate the March meeting and how to improve retirees' communications. Please remember to RSVP by June 10, 2009 to make sure there is enough food. Spread the word!

Concerns were expressed that the National Guard was not mentioned in the Department Of Defense Quadrennial Review of Military roles and missions and also that the Federal Budget includes large cuts for Defense. The 148th is at risk!

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. to the main hangar for the Change of Command ceremony.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Burda, acting president, acting vice-president, acting secretary and treasurer.
RSVP # is 218-343-0980
or ljburda@aol.com
Or Tom Sinnott 218-729-9239
or tomandbarb4251@msn.com.

5th Annual Retirees

Breakfast

June 18, 2009

Great Lakes Inn
(Dining Hall)

8:00 a.m. – Registration

9:00 a.m. – Breakfast

Cost is \$5.00 per person

RSVPs go to:

Larry Burda
218-343-0980

or

Tom Sinnott
218-729-9239

Calling all campers!

Driftwood Estates at Fish Lake is offering four temporary seasonal sites. Are you interested? Deadline for these four sites is April 30, 2009. You must be an eligible paid club member. The fee for a seasonal site is \$400.00 which includes your Driftwood Estates dues. Questions? or Interested? Contact Stephanie LaFleur at 218-348-2692, as soon as possible. Sites Available May 1-Sept 30, 2009. If more than four are interested, a lottery will be done.

Is your boat safe? Time to get it inspected!

The 148th Fighter Wing Safety Shop is sponsoring Coast Guard approved boat inspections, provided by the Duluth Sail and Power Squadron, Friday, May 8, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on base at the Motor pool wash rack. Inspections take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Call Lt. Col. Charlie Nelson or Senior Master Sgt. Zimmer at 218-788-7263 or 218-788-7286 for a timeslot.



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Charlie Nelson.

BulldogBits

By Col. Penny J. Dieryck

March has come and winter is still here. I could not believe we had -30 degree weather on the 11th of the month as a group of us prepared to travel to Langley Air Force Base and meet with the Air Combat Command inspectors. We got to travel first class on Navy Air. What a great ride: smooth, great flight attendants, and a superior landing! We got off the aircraft and the temperature was 77 above. A difference of almost 100 degrees to our Minnesota bodies.

While we met with the Inspector General, the professionalism of the 148th Wing members was noteworthy. Each person did a great job representing their sections and subordinates. Questions were asked, answers were graciously received and ground rules were formulated for the assessment to be held in August. The 148th Wing members will now take these rules and practice in March through July to ensure we're all playing flicker ball using the same set of instructions. It will be more fun than playing in the Super Bowl!

Although we visited the Inspectors to discuss our Phase II Operation Readiness Inspection, we can not forget our Phase I results. All of our members contributed to our success and this will be true for the Phase II. However, I need to take this time to thank a few people for their Phase I work because they will be retired prior to our Phase II. Without them I know the Wing would not have done as well as we did. They are Chief Master Sgt. Richard Long, Master Sgt. Cheryl Bijold and Master Sgt. Deana Wolff. The Main Hangar will miss their smiling faces, gentle laughter, and friendly willingness to always go the extra mile no matter the task placed before them. Best of everything in their future endeavors.

Ok, now I need to go back to one last weather related incident which took place at Langley Air Force Base. The weather service was contacted to confirm the sighting of a typhoon. Yes, the Emergency Management Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC) responded to a toilet paper typhoon just off the coast of Langley Bay. Long sheets of Charmin were swirling through the air. Rumor has it the typhoon

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was taped via cell phone camera and can be viewed on UTube.com. Take a look!

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