

ONE FIVE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2011





Bulldogs,

I'm writing this column from an austere location, as I've been displaced by the UCI team. I can't say I was happy about being moved from my comfortable office for five days, but I was very proud to present the Ops building's upper floor to the team.

Giving them full access to such a beautiful facility was symbolic of how I felt on giving the inspection team full access to Ops Group personnel. I was very proud to give them a chance to see what a capable, professional, and prepared group of warriors I work with every day.

I'm a 'garage-logic' style of thinker...common sense goes a long way with me...and it seems to me that it's been our reputation as a stellar 'go-to' organization that has brought us better and better equipment (Block-25C+ and now Block-50s). Hand-in-hand with this equipment comes more complex missions, more responsibility to safeguard, and more demands on our time. We'll need to deploy to exercise locations at least a handful of times just to emerge from conversion; we'll need to travel for training much more often once out of conversion, and we'll most likely deploy to the 'hottest' locations.

My simple brain's justification: "If they're going to give us the Gucci equipment, they're going to require us to step up to the plate extremely well prepared, and often. If we don't step up, the investment made in us won't be worth the cost." My wife Heather, a former active-duty Army Chaplain, cut to the chase when I explained my tailgate philosophy of why we work so hard

and put in such long hours. She said my verbose explanation is summed up in Luke 12:48, "To whom much is given, from them much will be required." I told her I could've written that.

Regardless of your spiritual tradition, it's hard to argue with the logic of the statement. The 148th Fighter Wing has been given a complex mission and a complex aircraft. Headquarters Air Force and Air Combat Command are watching us to see if we handle this increased intensity with the same tradition of excellence they've become accustomed to seeing from us. I'm

betting that we'll rise to the new challenge, but it'll take some hard work and changes in paradigms to get there. Security has taken on a whole new level of importance. As the world demands instant accessibility and full disclosure (Facebook, Twitter, Wikileaks, instant texts, cameras on everything), our mission demands information disclosure only on a very strict 'need to know' basis. The clash between those two realities could be best described as an epic battle, and it's a battle we must win. At the risk of beating a lifeless horse, the continuation of the 148th Fighter Wing as an F-16 flying unit rests squarely on the shoulders of us winning that battle... if we handle our security responsibilities as professionals, we'll continue in our mission. If not, we stand to lose everything. Demand the best of yourself and those around you...your job depends on it.



Col Gerald R. Ostern

I won't know the results of the inspection prior to submitting this little diatribe to the On-Five publishers, but if I was a betting man I'd wager that we did pretty well. Remember that 'pretty well' to a Scandinavian means we 'knocked their socks off.' Northerners don't normally show much emotion...much to my wife's 'amusement.'

RETIRED PAY POINT OF CONTACT

Who do I contact with Retired and/or Annuitant Pay questions?

ARPC or DFAS Contact ARPC using the Total Force Toll Free number: 1-800-525-0102

You may also contact DFAS Retired Pay for all branches of service at: 1-800-321-1080

Another option is to submit your Retired Pay inquiry through the web. Use the following address to access the customer inquiry form: <https://ca.dtic.mil/dfas/s-retired/ret-pay.htm>.

Visit the DFAS Retired and Annuitant Home Page at: <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredpay.html> for more information.

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Year 2011 Unit Training Assembly (UTA) and other training schedules for the 148th Fighter Wing and all subordinate units:

UTA	SUTA
08-09 Jan	
29-30 Jan	
26-27 Feb	
19-20 Mar	
16-17 Apr	09-10 Apr
21-22 May	07-08 May
Jul None	
11-12 Jun	25-26 Jun
06-07 Aug	27-28 Aug

ON THE COVER...The Minnesota Vikings honored all service members during the Salute to the Military event before the Viking's game with the Arizona Cardinals Nov. 7, 2010. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett Ewald. Graphic Illustration by Tech. Sgt. Julie M. Tomaska.



twitter/148FW

148TH FIREFIGHTER NAMED AIR GUARD'S BEST

BY 2ND LT. JODI L. KIMINSKI



Master Sgt. Mark Watzak, a 20 year veteran of the 148th Fighter Wing, was recently recognized as Military Fire Fighter of the Year and presented with The Chief Albert Fitzpatrick Award.; Photo by Senior Airman Sarah Hayes.

Master Sgt. Mark W. Watzak is still modest about the high honor he just recently received. But those that work with him say his commitment to excellence and willingness to go above and beyond is just two of the reasons he was named Military Fire Fighter of the Year by the Air National Guard Fire Chief's Association.

"Sgt. Watzak takes the utmost pride in providing the highest quality service to the Duluth Air National Guard," wrote Col. Penny J. Dieryck, 148th Mission Support Group Commander, in the award nomination letter. "Everyday his service to the nation, state, and his community is evident from his commitment to excel in all he does."

A 20 year veteran of the 148th Fighter Wing, Sgt. Watzak's bravery and skill is apparent in all that he does. "The 148th Fire Department consistently excels because of the leadership and guidance of Sgt. Watzak," stated Col. Dieryck.

During the 2009 Operational Readiness Inspections, Sgt. Watzak was recognized as having an "Excellent" command presence and working knowledge of the Incident Command System. He also serves as the 148th Fire Protection's fitness monitor, leading the department by receiving the maximum 100 points on his fitness evaluation and encouraging others, resulting in 25 percent scoring 90 points or higher and 12 percent scoring 100.

In addition to his duties at the 148th Fighter Wing, Master Sgt. Watzak serves as a full-time firefighter for the city of Richfield, Minn. Sgt. Watzak was recognized by the city of Richfield Fire Department for his bravery in saving the life of a trapped woman in a burning vehicle. During the Nov. 29, 2009 incident, Sgt. Watzak selflessly entered the burning, smoke filled vehicle, using his body to shield her unconscious body from the flames while freeing her from her seatbelt and rescuing her from the car. Because of his life-saving efforts, Sgt. Watzak was awarded a Meritorious Service Award.

"Being recognized is definitely an honor," said Sgt. Watzak. "But it's not just about me. It's about my crew and about my unit. It's our job and we do the best we can do."

148TH SECURITY FORCES MEMBER EARNS HIGH HONOR

BY TECH. SGT. SCOTT G. HERRINGTON



Master Sgt. William Hawley, member of the 148th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron, is the winner of the 2010 Air National Guard Security Forces Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; Photo by Tech. Sgt. Amie M. Dahl.

Master Sgt. William J. Hawley maintains that his 2010 Air National Guard Security Forces Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award has more to do with his peers than about him in particular. "It's about all of us, not one person," said Sgt. Hawley, a 148th Fighter Wing Security Forces member. Despite his selfless attitude, Sgt. Hawley was nominated for this award by Maj. Tyler T. Rule, the security forces squadron commander, for many reasons.

"He is a proven leader and lives up to the 148th Fighter Wing standards of "Expect, Provide, and Be the Best," wrote Maj. Rule in the award nomination letter. Sgt. Hawley has spent the past five and a half years making his presence felt through his leadership, personal involvement and dedication to his unit and Wing. "He is a selfless leader, wanting more for his unit than he does for himself," stated Maj. Rule. "He continually strives to instill the Air Force core values in his troops and is a stellar role model."

Sgt. Hawley was selected as the 2010 148th Fighter Wing and Minnesota Air National Guard's Senior NCO of the Year for his accomplishments in 2009. Physical fitness is not a once a year test for Sgt. Hawley—he has completed the Grandma's Gary Bjorkland Half Marathon twice, and completed two triathlons this year.

When he isn't setting an example at the 148th Fighter Wing, Sgt. Hawley is a police officer for the city of Ely, Minn. In the past year, more than 80 hours were devoted as a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E) Instructor, along with many hours spent assisting his local VFW Post.

"I'm honored and appreciative," said Sgt. Hawley. "This award reflects on the support of my family and the families of the unit during the times we are away. I joined due to my commitment to my country—it's above and beyond pay and benefits. It means something to be a part of our nation's defense."

AIRMAN'S BEST FRIEND

BY TECH. SGT. SCOTT G. HERRINGTON

While stationed in Kuwait, Staff Sgt. Wayne Jenderny, a fire fighter from the 148th Fighter Wing, made a friend. Sophie, a collie mix, had been tugging at the heart strings of Sgt. Jenderny and his co-workers while she made a habit of visiting their fire hall.

Many of the firemen deployed to Kuwait had dogs back home, and having Sophie around their fire hall was a familiar, much needed comfort. The culture in Kuwait does not treat dogs as pets--they are wild, living on the streets and prone to disease.

The deciding factor regarding Sophie's adoption took place after a night of adventure. The fire hall that Sgt. Jenderny had been working out of needed to be closed, and the firemen along with their trucks were to be moved to a different hall, three miles across base. At this point in time, it had been determined by airfield management that Sophie had grown too curious in her explorations of the ramp, and that she needed to be captured and euthanized, or relocated.

Sophie had taken to lying under a particular fire truck, and was frequently spotted lounging while the firemen went about their duties. On the last day that Sgt. Jenderny's fire hall was in use, a cage was placed with food in it, in an effort to capture Sophie. Rather than take the free meal, Sophie went on a three mile journey across the base during the night. The next morning, she was found lying under the same truck.

The Army K-9 unit on base had a veterinarian on hand, and after explaining the situation, he agreed to do a complete work-up



Staff Sgt. Wayne Jenderny of the 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard visits with Sophie at her home in Eyota, Minn. Staff Sgt. Jenderny, along with other members of the 148th Fighter Wing, helped rescue Sophie from Kuwait and found her a new home in the United States. Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Wayne Jenderny.

on Sophie in his spare time. This included quarantining Sophie, the operation required to spay her, a microchip, and a complete battery of vaccinations.

Sgt. Jenderny then got in contact with a veterinarian in Rochester, Minn., and told him about Sophie's situation. Sophie would require a home outside of the city, away from traffic, and for the sake of safety, a family without small children. Not long after, Sgt. Jenderny was notified that a family had been found for Sophie, and the plan to get Sophie stateside was set in motion.

Over the course of a week, Sgt. Jenderny and his coworkers took turns housebreaking and leash training Sophie, making her as close to domesticated as possible prior to sending her to America.

A commercial flight to America was to be Sophie's ticket to a better life and Sgt. Jenderny, along with his coworkers, pooled enough money to purchase her plane ticket. Nearly \$1,300 later, Sophie arrived in America on Sept. 11, 2010--a day normally associated with far darker implications.

Sophie's new home is in Eyota, Minn., a farming community east of Rochester. Her new family already has two rescued dogs and one of Sophie's new owners works in the pediatric section of the Mayo Clinic, specifically in the therapy dog program. Sophie is enrolled in the year long therapy dog course, and if all goes well, will be improving the lives of hospitalized children.

PROMOTIONS

OCTOBER

LEE, DANIEL, HQ, A1C
 BARTLETT, ANTHONY, CES, SRA
 DODGE, RYAN, CF, SRA
 BUSAM, ANDREW, CF, SRA
 MILLER, JARED, AMXS, SRA
 JOHNSON, ROBERT, MXS, SRA
 ELLISON, NATHAN, MXS, SRA
 NELSON, JOSHUA, SFS, SRA
 PRITCHARD, SAMANTHA, LRS, SRA
 LILJEGREN, BRYAN, CES, SSGT
 JOHNSON, BRIAN, CES, SSGT
 NIEMI, JOSHUA, CES, SSGT
 STODOLA, TYLER, CF, SSGT
 HEMSWORTH, CHELSEY, OSF, SSGT
 JONES, MEGAN, MOF, SSGT
 KIRCHNER, CRYSTAL, LRS, SSGT
 HINZ, AARON, SFS, SSGT
 NESSETH, ANNA, MXS, SSGT
 HOSTETTER, TANA, SFS, TSGT
 HILL, JEREMY, SFS, MSGT

NOVEMBER

VANDEHAAR, STEPHANIE, HQ, TSGT
 LILLIBERG, KELSI, LRS, SSGT
 JUREK, SARAH, LRS, MSGT
 KREAGER, JEFFERY, SFS, MSGT
 TUOHY, STEPHEN, SFS, MSGT
 GRAVES, MARK, HQ, SMSGT
 BRENNING, ANTHONY, MDG, MSGT
 REGAN, LAURA, MOF, MSGT

DECEMBER

ST JOHN, MICHAEL, AMXS, A1C
 RATKOVICH, KATE, MXS, SRA
 KERIAN, ALEXANDER, AMXS, SSGT
 LEVANDER, NICHOLA, SFS, SSGT
 YEAKEL, RAINI, CES, TSGT
 BECKWITH, ERIK, AMXS, TSGT
 SKADSBURG, ADAM, AMXS, TSGT
 ARMSTRONG, CHRISTOPHER, AMXS, TSGT
 WILSON, JEFFERY, AMXS, TSGT
 EWALD, RYAN, MXS, TSGT

KEPPELER, CALEB, AMXS, TSGT
 MERRIFIELD, ROCHELLE, MXS, SRA
 SEELAND, DEREK, MXS, SRA
 OSTOFSKY, RYAN, MXS, TSGT
 KOOLMO, LINDSAY, MXS, TSGT
 CANNON, ROBERT, MXS, TSGT
 PERKINS, KRISOTPHER, CF, TSGT
 ARRIGO, ANDREW, AMXS, MSGT
 BENNETT, STEPHEN, AMXS, MSGT
 SWANSON, CHRISTOPHER, AMXS, MSGT
 SWOR, JASON, AMXS, MSGT
 TEACHWORTH, WAYNE, AMXS, MSGT
 WOLFE, ROBERT, AMXS, MSGT



BULLDOG ENLISTED COUNCIL COMPASS

BY TECH. SGT. ADAM WABROWETZ

Two years ago I was inquiring around on how I could become more involved on base. I had just moved to Duluth and did not have many friends or much of a social network. Being a weekend warrior sometimes makes it difficult getting to know people and learning the ropes. A friend suggested that I check out the new Bulldog Enlisted Council (BEC) Chief Master Sgt. Jodi Stauber was setting up. So I did, and after expressing my profound interest in the council, I was lucky enough to be chosen to sit on the first board. My goal was simply to be part of something bigger than me that I could contribute to. I never imagined I would become the president of that council. It was a great honor and the first time I held such a position. I knew it would take a lot of work to get BEC off on the right track, so with the help of everyone in BEC, we got it

to where it is today. Now it's time for new leaders, a group of Airmen who can share, strengthen and pass on the vision Chief Stauber had for the enlisted council and the 148th Fighter Wing, as it so states in the BEC Charter.

In our Airman's Creed it says, "I am an American Airman. My mission is to fly, fight and win." How connected do you feel to our mission as Airmen of the greatest Air Force of all time? Do you question sometimes why you are here? We are all here for various reasons, but we all have the same mission – to win. Whether it's to win the battle, win the UCI, the ORI or to win at life. We are here for a purpose and it's up to you how you plan on winning. Are you along for the ride? Or are you helping win the fight. BEC is a great way to help you win and succeed both in the Guard and at life. But don't take my word for it, check it out for yourself and see the difference you can make.

MNGEA MEMBERSHIP KICK-OFF BEGINS FOR 2011

The Minnesota National Guard Enlisted Association (MNGEA) Chapter 48 is kicking off its membership drive for 2011. By becoming a member of MNGEA, you also gain membership at the National level (EANGUS). These organizations fight very hard both at the local and national legislative levels to maintain many of the benefits we currently have (tuition reimbursement, GI Bill, pay raises, hunting & fishing licenses) and fight for future quality of life issues and benefits for both active and retired Minnesota National Guardsmen.

If you become a member by Feb. 28, 2011, *your name will be put in a drawing for a Best Buy gift card.* Strength in numbers (memberships) greatly increases our ability to be effective with state and national legislators. Please consider joining today!!! For more information, please contact Master Sgt. Mark Wasserbauer or Master Sgt. Steve Gerads at 218-788-7352.

A LIVING MEMORIAL: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. JONATHAN BESSLER

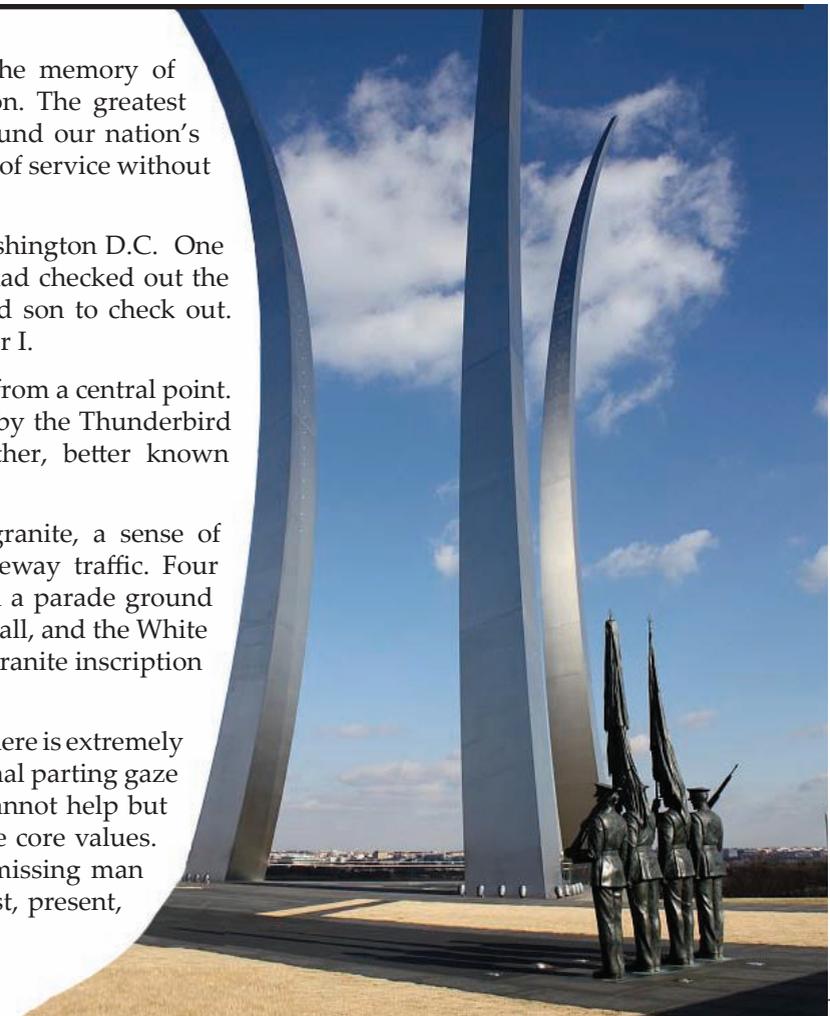
A memorial, by definition, is intended to celebrate or honor the memory of a person or an event. Memorials can be seen all over the nation. The greatest collection of memorials in one location can be found in and around our nation's capital. Until relatively recently, the Air Force was the only branch of service without any significant memorial to its members.

This summer, my family and I made a week long vacation to Washington D.C. One stop on our list of places to visit was the Air Force Memorial. I had checked out the website and thought it would be a neat place for my 15-year-old son to check out. In after thought, I don't know who was more overwhelmed, him or I.

Soaring 270' into the air, three stainless steel spires arc into the air from a central point. The spires are suggestive of the precision maneuvers performed by the Thunderbird Demonstration Team. It can easily be picked out amongst other, better known memorials such as the Washington Monument and the Pentagon.

Walking down the cobblestone pavers bordered by polished granite, a sense of tranquility slowly fills the senses drowning out the nearby freeway traffic. Four eight foot tall bronze honor guards stoically stand at attention in a parade ground overlooking Arlington Cemetery, the Pentagon, the Washington Mall, and the White House. Each end of the parade ground is framed by ten foot tall granite inscription walls honoring valiant Airmen of past conflicts and tragedies.

We made a total of two trips to the Air Force Memorial. The atmosphere is extremely conducive to reflecting upon past friends and compatriots. On a final parting gaze looking up from the center of the gallantly soaring spires, one cannot help but realize the significance of that number to the Air Force. The three core values. The Air Force total force: active, guard, and reserve. And the missing man formation. All significant to the history and vision of Airmen past, present, and future.





1



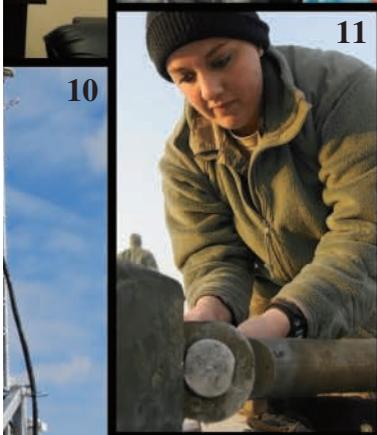
5



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1. Tom Johnson talks with reporters after a Major Accident Response Exercise (MARE) of a commercial airliner crash (photo by Master Sgt. Jason Rolfe), 2. Command Chief of authority ceremony (photo by Staff Sgt. Donald Acton), 3. Civil Engineering members deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan pose for a photo during a floor hockey tournament (photo by Master Sgt. Jason Rolfe), 5. Staff Sgt. Charles Thurber stands by as the last Block 25 F-16 prepares for its final departure flight (Master Sgt. Ralph Kapustka), 6. Col. Frank Storker arrives home (photo by Master Sgt. Jason Rolfe), 8. The 148th Fighter Wing receives the DoD Family Readiness Award at a Pentagon ceremony, 9. Aaron Nelson and Jeff Lanska operate the Remote Communications Platform in Moorehead (l-r) Army Staff Sgt. Troy Tretter, Master Sgt. Bryan Druar and Staff Sgt. Jeff Lanska. 11. Senior Airman Charles Thurber applies new decals to the tail of an F-16 while at Hickam Air Force Base (photo by Staff Sgt. Donald L. Acton). 13. Three F-16C Block 50 Fighting Falcons from Spangdahlem Air Base



1. Chief Master Sgt. Michael Layman (left) accepts the 148th Fighter Wing's Command Chief plaque from retiring Command Chief Master Sgt. Jodi Stauber during a transfer key tournament, 4. Chief Master Sgt. Susan Ksicinski is greeted by wing leadership as she gets off a plane after a six-month deployment in southwest Asia (photo by Master Sgt. Mark Stokes and MN Congressman Jim Oberstar in front of the prized Raytheon Corporation Trophy, 7. Senior Master Sgt. James Picconatto embraces his three daughters as they arrive home, 8. Master Sgt. James and Tech. Sgt. Nick Downs fight a fire during a Major Accident Response Exercise (photo by Master Sgt. Jason Rolfe), 10. MN National Guard members deploy to operate the 148th Fighter Wing (photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross), 12. Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Dieryck and Tech. Sgt. Craig Norrel apply the 148th Fighter Wing's bulldog logo to the tail of an F-16 fighter jet at Ramstein Air Base, Germany arrive at the 148th Fighter Wing (photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett Ewald).

TERRORISTS “LIKE” YOUR STATUS

BY TECH. SGT. SCOTT G. HERRINGTON



“Wow, I am really looking forward to deploying with my 30 best buddies to **** for six months!” Twenty people “like” this status; however, operational security does not.

Operational security has a new enemy in the form of social media. With the recent on-base accessibility of Facebook, Bulldogs now run the risk of posting potentially damaging information on a very public forum—their Facebook wall.

Social media sites have become integral to the way that more than 500 million people interact on a daily basis. Businesses use social media to connect with potential customers, musicians connect with their fan base, and organizations are able to espouse their messages. However, our enemies are also logging on and are perusing these sites in search of sensitive information. While Facebook is one of the more popular sites, it isn't alone—Twitter and MySpace are also potential pitfalls for Airmen.

“Previously, we had programs in place to prevent users from posting to ‘online bulletin boards’—that’s how old the regulations are, they refer to them as ‘bulletin boards,’” said Master Sgt. Richard Kaufman, a network administrator in the base network control center at the 148th Fighter Wing. “Unblocking Facebook has created a direct pipeline to the biggest ‘bulletin board’ of them all.”

According to Sgt. Kaufman, network bandwidth has been allocated to allow this unofficial traffic—30% of the entire bandwidth is being used at present. This affects more than just the unclassified network—command and control networks are also affected, said Sgt. Kaufman.

Wing related missions, exercises and deployments are topics that should not be posted under any circumstances. Anything on Facebook is considered public information and is easily monitored. Security clearances have been revoked due to an individual having foreign contacts on their “friends” list, so it’s important for members to be aware of not only what they are posting, but with whom they are communicating.

Despite security concerns, social media benefits military members while overseas. Deployed members are able to stay in touch with their families while in theater and keep abreast of events going on back home. Photos are shared, instant message chats allow for easy communication, and morale in general is boosted as a result. This ease of staying connected needs to be enjoyed in moderation and with good common sense to prevent potential malicious intrusion resulting in negative consequences for not only the individual, but the military in general.

Social media is only as dangerous as its users let it become. The military didn’t stop using email when the first email virus was spread—security measures were increased along with awareness and improved best practices. Through common sense and forethought, members of the 148th Fighter Wing can continue using Facebook in positive, non harmful ways while remaining cognizant of the dangers inherent in public communication.

Social Media Do's and Don'ts

Do:

- **Use privacy settings on social networking sites so posted personal information and photos can be viewed only by “friends.”**
- **Recognize that social network “friends” and “followers” could affect determinations in background investigations for security clearances.**
- **Review accounts daily for possible use or changes by unauthorized users and install/maintain current anti-virus and anti-spyware software on personal computers.**
- **Responsibly engage in unofficial internet posts about the National Guard.**
- **Adhere to federal laws, National Guard regulations and governing policies when making unofficial Internet posts. You are personally responsible/ liable for all content you publish on social networking sites, blogs or other websites.**
- **Avoid offensive and inappropriate behavior that could bring discredit upon yourself and the National Guard.**

Don't:

- **Post information that would infringe upon the privacy, proprietary or personal rights of others or use any words, logos or other marks that would infringe upon the trademark, service mark, certification mark, or other intellectual property rights of the owners of such marks without the permission of the owners.**
- **Release personal identifiable information, such as social security number, home address or driver's license number that could be used to distinguish your identity or that of another Guardsman.**
- **Post internal documents or information that the National Guard has not officially released to the public.**
- **Release National Guard e-mail addresses, telephone numbers or fax numbers not already authorized for public release.**

SENIOR AIRMAN Alice Nephew

WHY I SERVE:

"After my time in the Army, I missed being in the service, and it allowed me to persue my education."

HOMETOWN:

Duluth, MN

AFSC:

MPS Personnelist

RECENT ACHIEVEMENT:

2010 UCI Superior Performer



FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Amie M. Dahl
Graphic Illustration by Tech. Sgt. Julie M. Tomaska

148th Fighter Wing Outstanding Airman of the Year



L to R: First Sergeant of the Year Master Sgt. Jeremiah Graves, Senior Non Commissioned Officer of the Year Master Sgt. Christian Beckstrom, Non Commissioned Officer of the Year Tech. Sgt. Frank Bucar, and Airman of the Year Senior Airman Andrew Ames.

Master Sgt. Jeremiah Graves was selected as the 148th Fighter Wing 2011 First Sergeant of the Year for his accomplishments in 2010. During this period, Sgt. Graves deployed to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan as a Civil Engineer responsible for runway and ramp maintenance at a high volume military airfield.

Master Sgt. Christian Beckstrom, an Aircraft Armament Specialist was selected as the 2011 148th Fighter Wing Senior Non Commissioned Officer (Sr. NCO) of the Year for his accomplishments in 2010. During this period, Sgt. Beckstrom continued to excel as an Armament Specialist, served as a mentor for junior airman, and volunteered his time by marching in two parades and participating in the 148th Adopt a Highway Program.

Tech. Sgt. Frank Bucar, a Supply Management Specialist, was selected as the 148th Fighter Wing 2011 Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year for his accomplishments in 2010. During this

period, Sgt. Bucar processed nearly 11,000 receipts of incoming Air Force property, represented the 148th Fighter Wing at multiple parades and served on the Wing's recognition committee.

Senior Airman Andrew Ames, an Aerospace Medical Services Journeyman was selected as the 148th Fighter Wing's 2011 Airman of the Year for his accomplishments in 2010. During this period, Airman Ames balanced college classes, work and volunteerism all while also supporting his duties with the 148th Fighter Wing. As a Medical Services Journeyman, he administers immunizations, checks vital signs and assists military personnel preparing to deploy.

READING & RESPONDING TO THE ROAD SIGNS OF LIFE

BY CHAPLAIN TOM FOSTER

We all have voices from the past that come to the forefront to guide as well as sometimes haunt us. One voice that surfaces in my life is Mr. Osborn, my high school drivers' instructor. I took instruction in the middle of winter and the first time I drove with him my knuckles were the same color as the snow piled along the roads. Between sips of coffee and drags on his cigarette he would call attention to traffic, road conditions, and old political billboards. He contended if you drove attentively and skillfully you could safely navigate Minnesota's winter roads on bald tires. Now that's advice I've never tried. However, the other foot stumper advice was, "drive according to prevailing conditions." That's advice I've used often not only for driving but also in the journey of life.

As we journey in life it is good to stop and review our responses and choices, and with honesty acknowledge if they were the best responses to the prevailing conditions around us. The Air National Guard leadership and its Chaplaincy Corp have offered various programs and resources to help us make good choices to make the best of the challenging events that prevail upon us. Yet sometimes at best we collect the skills and acknowledge the resources but don't apply them. When that happens the results are like the skunk that was hit by a car at the entrance of our base at the beginning of September drill. The smell lingered even after it was removed during the October drill. Only now after snow plowing and sanding is the dark spot on the tar beginning to wear away.

While we may hope that the unpleasant events of life would go away simply with the passing of time or we would grow accustomed to the discomfort allowing it to become the new norm, it is not the case. When we do the result is worse than the smell that lingered at the entrance of our base. When traveling along

the road of life and we begin to read signs of poor choices or the effects of traumatic events in life, it is then that we need to make good choices or else we'll merger down or get stranded. If we are going to get back on the road of life, then we need to response to the prevailing conditions with good life skills and resources. Such as those given and refined in the Guards' Strong Bonds program. My old high school drivers' instructor would coach and encourage myself and other awkward novice drivers when and how to apply the knowledge and abilities so that we could drive forward and enjoy the excitement of life. Sometimes we need a trusted person to help us reach our goal of success. That's another expression being a Wingman.

Working with Guard Family Network Chaplaincy plans to continue to provide refine some of those life skills. In mid-February we will be offering another Strong Bonds Weekend. Responding to some of our Guard members, Chaplaincy will offer a series of Dave Ramsey financial management sessions beginning mid-winter. In these economically challenging times we can't just leave the dead skunk stinking in the middle of the road! We know that finances are one of the leading factors contributing to the breakdown of marriage relationships. We also know that it is a pressing issue for many of our younger Airmen, an issue we often try to cover up or avoid dealing with. Watch for more details and prepare for success. Your chaplains section is starting to put together training for area clergy, pastoral counselors/caregivers and spiritual leaders regarding post-deployment awareness and support.

Read the signs along your road of life and let us help you respond to the prevailing conditions that cause delays and frustrations. It's not just a shallow wish for your peace and wellbeing that we offer to you at this time of year, rather it's a reality that we hope to help you to achieve in this coming year.

148th Fighter Wing Military Ball

“Celebrating Our Proud Past & Promising Future”

Saturday, March 19, 2011

Greysolon Ballroom

227 East Superior St. Duluth MN.

Hotel rooms are available at the Sheraton 218-733-5660.

Ask for the 148th Military Ball room rate when making reservations.

Before January 24, 2011:

Officers – \$40.00

E7-E9 – \$35.00

E5-E6 – \$30.00

E1-E4 – \$20.00



After January 24, 2011:

Officers – \$45.00

E7-E9 – \$40.00

E5-E6 – \$35.00

E1-E4 – \$25.00

Retiree – The rank you retired with

Guest – Equivalent to military member

1730 Registration Begins

1800 Social Hour

1900 Formal Program & Dinner

2030 Music and Dancing

2200 End of Program

Meal Choices

Champagne Chicken or Black Woods Mahi Mahi

(Meals served with house salad, bakery fresh bread, fresh seasonal vegetables, butter and chive whipped Yukon gold potatoes, dessert, coffee, tea or milk.)

Evening attire:

Military – Semi-Formal or Mess Dress

Civilian – Business Suit or Formal Dress

I plan to attend the 148th FW Military Ball

Please indicate the number of each entree(s) you would like:

Champagne Chicken _____

Mahi Mahi _____

Rank & Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Amount to remit (see rank prices above):

of tickets @ _____ ea \$ _____

of tickets @ _____ ea \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Total \$ _____
148FW BEC

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE IN NLT March 1st!
NO REFUNDS AFTER March 1st!

Mail To: Military Ball Committee
Attn: TSgt Jon Clauson
4680 Viper Street
Duluth, MN 55811-6032

148th Fighter Wing
Minnesota Air National Guard
4680 Viper Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55811-6031

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BulldogBits

By Col. Penny J. Dieryck

It's Friday Dec. 3, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.; we have received and have in briefed the Air Combat Command Inspector General (IG) Team. They are now on the way to their hotels and are getting ready to have a nice dinner. They will be back in the morning to start the 148th Fighter Wing's Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI). The UCI will take place over the course of the next five days. The inspectors look at more than 650 items and provide feedback through the educate, motivate and independently evaluate process. There is no longer an overall rating for this type of inspection as there used to be. The report will be briefed back to Col. Frank Stokes, 148th Fighter Wing Commander, and the Wing will be asked to have a game plan to fix any items found to have deficiencies. This is a huge change from the big dog and pony shows with music and photos for the out brief. I know we're going to hit this one off the snowbank!

As I prepare for the UCI and the next five days, I begin to reflect back on the Management Effective Inspection/Unit Compliance Inspections of old. As a prior Wing Executive Officer, I remember the slide show being built with hand cut plastic acetate sheets and taped to a white frame border. A person would stand in the projection room in the back of Operation's briefing room and have to hand-turn the slides. Now we have Power Point, projection systems, and public address speakers. The IG Work Center staff can contact one another via cellular phones and texting. Truly no runners are needed to run paper documents from building to building. The IG team can access its data files from Langley Air Force Base via a wireless communication network. I am sure as we begin this journey, an Airman is checking their Facebook or other social network page to find out the plans for the evening they have with their Wingman. Technology is truly amazing.

The New Year will give the Wing an opportunity to travel to sunny Florida and Nevada with the F-16s, Italy for the Communication folks, Alaska for the Civil Engineers, and Germany for the Medical Group and Southwest Asia for personnel volunteering to support Air Expeditionary Force positions for the USAF. These deployments will include personnel and aircraft for the aircraft deployment to the specific specialties and skills from the respective Groups for their trips. It should be a fun year for traveling after the major inspection and a time to learn from our active duty counterparts. Pack your bags, here we go!!

COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SGT. DENISE JELINSKI-HALL VISITS THE 148TH FIGHTER WING



National Guard Bureau Command Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall arrives at the 148th Fighter Wing (photo by Staff Sgt. Donald Acton).

BUILDING AFGHANISTAN'S SECURITY



Vice Chief of Staff, Col. Paul Cummings (4th from right) poses with the NATO Training Mission Afghanistan Police Advisory Group made up of US Army, US Air Force, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Italian Carabinieri, and London Police personnel. (Submitted-National Guard Photo).

Visit our webpage - www.148fw.ang.af.mil - for more on this story


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