

## OCT/NOV/DEC 2012

# BULLDOGS DEPLOY TO AFGHANISTAN







It is Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012. Eleven years have passed since the terrorist attacks on New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. I am sitting in the Reno-Sparks Convention Center at the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)

Conference listening to speakers and hearing reports by the NGAUS leadership. When I left the hotel this morning, the national news networks were reflecting back on 9-11-01. It was extremely moving and difficult to leave the room and the pictures and stories from that day. However, I knew the messages I would hear at the conference were words to take the Army and Air National Guard into the future.

The first guest speaker was Gen. Mark Welsh, Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. He spoke about the relevance of the Air National Guard to the Total Force of the United States; Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. Gen. Welsh talked about the way the National Guard makes the connection with its federal, state, and community missions, both at home and abroad. He specifically told the story about the preparation for the attack on Libya back in 2011.



Col. Penny J. Dieryck

How the volunteer force of the Air National Guard (ANG) is ready and able to deploy in less than 24 hours. He took away from the experience how the command and control of the refueling force for the mission was brought together under the command of an ANG leader, and the way the ANG is integral to the success of any combat campaign.

As I listened and heard the words of Gen. Welsh, I thought about the future of the 148th Fighter Wing. In the next year, we'll train for and successfully complete our Operational Readiness Inspection. We will also have active duty Air Force personnel join the Bulldog team. To continue our "Legacy of Excellence," we'll need to communicate, have transparency between the Air National Guard and Air Force personnel, and continue to support the Wing and local communities.

These factors will be the backbone of the transition to an Active Associate Wing and strive to add the value to the United States of America that our country needs, "Always Ready, and Always There!"



**ON THE COVER...** Approximately 150 members of the 148th Fighter Wing board an aircraft to Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan on Saturday Aug. 11, 2012. (National Guard photo and graphic illustration by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington.)

#### About the On Five

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Year 2012 and 2013 Unit Training Assembly (UTA) and other training schedules for the 148th Fighter Wing and all subordinate units:

2012	SUTA	2013	SUTA
UTA		UTA	
20-21 Oct	27-28 Oct	12-13 Jan	26-27 Jan
17-18 Nov	03-04 Nov	09-10 Feb	23-24 Feb
01-02 Dec	None Dec	16-17 Mar	30-31 Mar
		20-21 Apr	None Apr
		18-19 May	None May
		22-23 June	None June
		20-21 July	None July
		24-25 Aug	None Aug
		14-15 Sept	None Sept
		05-06 Oct	None Oct
		16-17 Nov	None Nov
		07-08 Dec	None Dec
<b>2013 ORE/ORI</b>			
19 Apr			
16-17 May			
19-21 June			
16-19 July			
20-23 Aug			

## BULLDOGS EARN THIRD AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION AWARD

BY MAJ. AUDRA FLANAGAN

On Sept. 17, 2012, a group of Bulldogs from the 148th Fighter Wing accepted the Air Force Association's 2012 Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit Award at the 2012 Air and Space Conference in National Harbor, Md.

Airman First Class Peter Erdahl, the newest Airman representing the 148th, was selected to receive the award. "I was speechless" said Erdahl, "I wasn't expecting to receive the award for the Wing." Erdahl also stated he learned a great deal about many Air Force units and their missions around the world while at the Air and Space Conference.

148th Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Mark Rukavina said "it was an awesome experience to be among so many great units and personnel who were also receiving recognition."

The 148th was selected for the Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit Award for their accomplishments in 2011. This award is presented to the overall best Air National Guard Flying Unit.

In 2011, the 148th completed a major aircraft conversion to the Block 50 F-16, flew 2,047 accident-free sorties, while

simultaneously supporting all Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) missions, and executing three intense training deployments. The Bulldogs deployed 73 members to 12 countries in support of contingency operations, supported four State Active Duty missions for fires and floods, and was the first Air Force unit (Guard, Reserve or active duty) to receive OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program Star Status re-certification. In June, the 148th earned a "NORAD Mission Ready" rating after a no-notice Alert Force Evaluation (AFE), and successfully accomplished an Air Traffic System Evaluation (ATSE) in August which assessed air traffic systems that support flying operations at the 148th. The 148th maintained a 91.87% retention rate and a 106% strength rate during this period of time. The 148th was previously selected for this award in 2006 and 2009.

The Air Force Association (AFA) is a non-profit, independent, professional military and aerospace education association promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. More information on the AFA can be found at [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org).



148th Fighter Wing members accept the Air Force Association's 2012 Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit Award at the 2012 Air and Space Conference in National Harbor, MD. Pictured are Air Force Association Chairman of the Board, S. Sandford Schlitt, Sr. Master Sgt. Matt Wolff, Col. Frank Stokes, Chief Master Sgt. Mark Rukavina, Airman First Class Peter Erdahl, Master Sgt. Cynthia Wahl, Lt. Will Carr and Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt. (Courtesy Photo)



# ANSWERING THE CALL

BY TECH. SGT. SCOTT G. HERRINGTON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS





The 148th Fighter Wing deployed approximately 300 members to Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan Aug. 5 through Aug. 11 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The two month deployment marks the 148th's first mission with the Block 50 F-16, as well as the first aviation package deployment to Afghanistan.

"The 148th Fighter Wing has recently completed an intense, focused training program designed to prepare them for assigned operations while in Afghanistan," said 148th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Frank H. Stokes. "This training included all requirements leveled from the combatant command, as well as abilities specific to the mission they expect to perform. The Bulldogs are the most prepared, best equipped, and most highly trained unit I have ever had the privilege to witness. They will undoubtedly carry the legacy of the Minnesota National Guard forward for the region's commanders to take notice."

The Bulldogs are slated to provide Close Air Support (CAS), which entails protecting coalition ground forces. According to 148th Fighter Wing Vice Wing Commander Lt. Col. Jon S. Safstrom, the pilots and aircraft support personnel have undergone intense training focused on CAS for the past six months, which he believes has put the Bulldogs in a position to succeed.

"They're ready," said Safstrom. "I have every confidence in the Bulldogs ability to perform the mission. They will arrive in Afghanistan ready to perform for the ground commanders fully trained and full of professionalism."

The aviation package, which has deployed to Joint Base Balad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005, 2007 and 2008, consists of aircraft, pilots, aircraft maintenance personnel, and support personnel. Most personnel will deploy for two months.

The 148th began the conversion process to the Block 50 F-16 in April 2010, and declared the conversion completed April 1, 2012. The conversion required pilots and aircraft maintenance personnel to attend formal training in addition to simulations and on-the-job training. Aircraft maintenance personnel performed 18,495 hours of acceptance inspections on the Block 50 aircraft upon receiving the jets.

"I feel this unit has consistently proven we can accomplish any mission or tasking we receive," said 148th Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Rukavina. "I think this deployment is no different. We have outstanding people to fill key leadership roles and all members are committed to do the best job possible. We have already seen this as the members have prepared to deploy. From all the maintenance personnel getting

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Members of the 148th Fighter Wing visit with friends and family prior to deploying to Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan on Saturday Aug. 11, 2012. (National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington.)





Airmen from the Minnesota Air National Guard disembark a C-17 on the ramp at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on Aug. 10, 2012. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Stephen Hudson, 169th Fighter Wing/Public Affairs.)

the jets ready, pilots getting qualified and trained, and the support personnel making sure every deployer and family has all necessary items. It is truly a team effort."

The Bulldogs deployed to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. three times for advanced aerial combat training exercises in 2011 and 2012, culminating in the February to March 2012 Red Flag exercise, where the Bulldogs' Suppression of Enemy Air

Defense (SEAD) capability was tested and evaluated.

"I think they will once again prove that we can get the mission done," said Rukavina.



Members of the 148th Fighter Wing begin their in-processing paperwork at the PAX terminal at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 10, 2012. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Stephen Hudson, 169th Fighter Wing/Public Affairs.)

A full-page photograph of a pilot in flight gear standing next to the open canopy of a fighter jet at night. The pilot is smiling and looking towards the camera. The jet's canopy is brightly lit from within, creating a strong contrast with the dark background. The pilot is wearing a flight suit and a harness. The jet's canopy is open, revealing the cockpit interior. The pilot is standing on the ground, next to the jet. The background is dark, suggesting a night scene. The overall mood is one of confidence and readiness.

# I have every confidence in the Bulldogs ability to perform the mission.

-Lt. Col. Jon S. Safstrom

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A 148th Fighter  
Wing pilot smiles  
as he prepares  
to deploy to  
Afghanistan  
Aug. 11, 2012.  
(National Guard  
photo by Tech.  
Sgt. Brett Ewald.)



# ANSWERING THE CALL







A 148th Fighter  
Wing Block 50  
F-16 Fighting  
Falcon is readied  
for deployment  
Aug. 11, 2012.  
(National Guard  
photo by Tech  
Sgt. Brett Ewald.)



# BULLDOGS EMBODY SERVICE BEFORE SELF

BY 1ST LT. JODI L. KIMINSKI, PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Sounds of hammers, nail guns, power saws and laughter filled the air on a hot Saturday afternoon in Superior, Wis. as members of the 148th Fighter Wing traded in their hats and combat boots for construction belts and gloves.

"What a perfect way for members of the unit to give back to the community," said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Rukavina, 148th Fighter Wing Command Chief. "With all the support the community gives us, it's great to be able to give back and say thanks."

As sweat glistened off his forehead, Tech. Sgt. Ryan Ostrofsky securely placed shingle after shingle on the roof, knowing that the only payment for his time was the reward of knowing he was helping a family in need.

About a dozen members of the 148th Fighter Wing teamed up with Western Lake Superior Habitat for Humanity, a service group aimed at offering low-cost homes for families in need. "As a military person, you are used to being

part of a mission, you are used to serving," said Ostrofsky, a member of the 148th Fighter Wing. "It's about community, it's not about self. That's why I wanted to get involved and why I knew my fellow Bulldogs would be there to help."

Ostrofsky, the owner of Rymel Construction, often partners with Habitat for Humanity on projects. When he realized the size of this project and the need for additional help, he looked to his fellow Airmen for help.

"Ryan brought the idea to volunteer for the Habitat house to the Bulldog Enlisted Council meeting," said Chief Master Sgt. Gary Luke, 148th Fighter Wing. "The counsel talked about it, agreed it was something they wanted to do, and brought it to the attention of the commanders for approval."

"We are humbled and honored to be working with these Servicemembers," said Susan Marks, Habitat for Humanity Volunteer

Coordinator. "Our motto is neighbors helping neighbors. I was not surprised at all to find out that members of the 148th wanted to help out."

"This community has given a lot to us," said Ostrofsky as he caught his breath. "We just wanted to be able to give back. I am so proud to be a member of such a great team."

"It is just terrific these individuals have come out to help us keep our build schedule on time," said Marks. "They are already serving their country and many of them are giving up their free time to come out and lend a hand."

"It feels good to do this work," said Master Sgt. Cynthia Wahl, 148th Fighter Wing. "Plus, it's the right thing to do."

Members of the 148th Fighter Wing pose for a photo while volunteering to help Habitat for Humanity remodel a house in Superior Wis., Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012. (National Guard photo by Tech Sgt. Scott G. Herrington.)





148th Fighter Wing member Tech. Sgt. Jon Clauson nails a strip of shingles to the roof of a home in Superior, Wis. Saturday Aug. 4, 2012 in an effort to assist Western Lake Superior Habitat for Humanity. Clauson was one of approximately 12 Airmen to volunteer. (National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington.)



148th Fighter Wing member and owner of Rymel Construction Tech. Sgt. Ryan Ostrofsky unpackages shingles alongside Western Lake Superior Habitat for Humanity Executive Director, Daryl Yankee Saturday Aug. 4, 2012 at a home in Superior Wis. (National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington.)



# YOUR PET'S IMPACT ON FAMILY HEALTH

BY LT. COL. CHARLES MOBERG, MEDICAL SQUADRON

Those of us who own pets understand that pets help to enrich our lives by giving us their love and attention. There are, however, other not so pleasant things our pets can give us in the form of zoonotic disease. Zoonotic diseases are diseases caused by infectious agents which can be transmitted between (or shared by) animals and humans. These infectious agents can be viruses, bacteria, protozoa (single celled organisms), fungus, nematodes (example: intestinal worms), or insects (example: mange mites). They can cause disease on our skin, in our digestive tract, or inside our bodies. Some of these zoonotic agents can in some cases be quite debilitating or rarely be the cause death (example: rabies). In this article we will look at some of those organisms which can cause disease in our digestive tract or inside our bodies.

Rabies is a viral disease of mammals most often transmitted by the bite of a rabid animal. The vast majority of rabies cases reported occur in wild animals such as skunks, raccoons, bats, and foxes. This disease can be passed directly to humans or indirectly through our pets (if the pet is first bitten by a rabid animal then becoming rabid consequently biting the owner) via the bite of an infected animal. In Minnesota skunks are considered to be the primary reservoir. The rabies virus infects the central nervous system following it to the brain where it causes neurologic disease and ultimately death. This disease is preventable for both people and our pets though vaccination of our pets (dogs, cats, ferrets, and horses) and avoidance of wild and stray animals as well as the reporting of those animals to animal control or conservation officers. It should be noted that there are rabies vaccines approved for humans, but is usually only given to those at a high risk of exposure like veterinarians. In the event an individual is bitten by a wild animal or a domestic animal that is a stray, has unknown vaccination status, and/or is also exhibiting unusual behavior or neurologic symptoms, a prophylactic dose of immunoglobulin followed by a series of vaccinations as soon as possible is 100% effective.

There are a number of bacteria which infect the intestinal tract of dogs and cats that usually results in diarrhea, dehydration, fever, and general malaise which can be passed on to people through inadequate hand sanitation or contact with contaminated surfaces to include the infected pet. Some of the bacteria which cause such disease are: Salmonella and Campylobacter. You can easily prevent transmission to people through good hand washing practices. Observe pets on a routine basis and make an appointment to have your pet seen by your veterinarian, if needed, so they can receive the appropriate exam and treatment. You should also be aware that Salmonella and Campylobacter among others are also implicated as food-borne pathogens and appropriate measures (thorough cooking) should always be observed when preparing foods.

Cat Scratch Disease is caused by a bacteria known as Bartonella henselae and is more of a concern in children due to less developed immune systems. The infection is introduced through a scratch or bite (usually kittens as they are more playful and tend to bite and scratch more) in the skin and can induce prolonged fevers, fevers of unknown origin, and/or spread to specific tissue and organs such as abdominal lymph nodes, liver, spleen, and bones.

Another organism which can cause severe gastrointestinal disease resulting in diarrhea is a protozoan named Cryptosporidium parvum. The infection occurs by ingestion of oocysts excreted in the feces of animals or other humans. Although cats and dogs are one source of infection, cattle appear to be the primary reservoir. The organism is also found in a preponderance of lakes and rivers. The oocysts (which are egg-like structures) contain sporozoites (immature organisms) which are released in the gastrointestinal tract and initiate infection. These organisms will produce new oocysts which will be shed in the feces. While normally self-limiting, it can be life threatening to those with naïve or weakened immune systems. Prevention of infection can



Air Force Master Sgt. Robert Disney and his wife, Tess, gather their dogs, Sasha, Minnie and Wall-E, for a photo at their home, Feb. 24, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jamal D. Sutter.)

be increased through good hand washing and boiling/filtering drinking water.

Toxoplasmosis is an infection caused by the organism Toxoplasma gondii. People can develop this infection through ingestion of a form of the organism in under-cooked meat, but also from ingesting the mature oocysts shed from cat feces. An acute infection can cause fever, malaise (general feeling of illness), enlarged lymphnodes, enlarged liver, and inflammation of the retina of the eyes leading to compromised vision. The consequences are much more grave for pregnant women (and those becoming pregnant). 33% of pregnant women who are infected will pass it on to the fetus resulting in spontaneous abortion, blindness, enlarged fluid filled skullcap, epilepsy, retardation, and paralysis. The good news is that you can virtually eliminate the risk of infection by following a few simple rules: properly cook meat and wash hands after handling raw meat, wear gloves when gardening or coming in contact with soil, thoroughly wash fresh vegetables, remove feces from litter daily and sanitize box, avoid litter boxes and gardening during and just prior to pregnancy, don't feed cats raw meat, keep cats indoors, and keep cats out of livestock barns.

Larva Migrans is a condition in which the egg of a round worm, a parasite of either dogs or cats, is ingested by a human. As in dogs and cats, the egg will mature into the larval stage and begin its journey through the soft tissues of the body. Because the organism does not recognize the human as the proper host (dog or cat) they will start to wander into tissues not associated with its normal cycle. Because of the fecal oral nature of infection this is commonly associated with young children and poor hygiene practices due to infected soil or soil/feces contaminated food or play things. In Visceral larva migrans, the larva migrates through tissues of the abdominal region causing damage and inflammation. It is characterized by fever, malaise, wheezing, and hepatomegally. In Ocular larva migrans the larva migrate to the eyes posterior or rear chamber causing inflammatory processes in the eye leading to blindness. This condition has been confused with a form of eye cancer resulting in an eye being needlessly removed through misdiagnosis. These infections can be easily prevented by ensuring proper handwashing, sanitation of outside play equipment, keeping animals out of play area, and routine de-worming and/or fecal screening of pets.

## Family Day and Fall Festival

Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Located in the 148th FW Load Barn, Corrosion Control and Dining Hall



# FILLING THE RED SOLO CUP!

BY CHAPLAIN THOMAS J. FOSTER

An elderly friend of mine often greets me with the phrase, "Well, what have you discovered?" An early discovery in my life was that I not only needed, but also wanted to change the amount of time and energy I was investing in the lives of my family members. Since making some changes, there have been other great discoveries. My nieces and nephews have helped me to make many pleasant discoveries. I am so grateful that they are tech savvy; they've helped this old dog learn so many new things from GPS to iPod to electronic programming. And to think I thought when I graduated from high school I could solve most problems with a slide ruler. Yet I know that I can help them to make discoveries in their lives also.

Recently my four year old nephew Nick thought I needed to update my games and music on my iPod with some of his favorites. With agile little fingers the task was quickly accomplished. We quickly played a game to make sure that it had in fact been properly updated. But before listening to the new songs I asked him to sing one of the songs. Putting the buds in his ears he stood up on the sofa cushions and quickly started singing "Red Solo Cup, I fill you, let's have a party, let's have a party, I love you, red solo cup, I lift you up, proceed to party, proceed to party..." Some of the words he struggled with, and he soon had me laughing. I ended the performance by thanking Nick for filling my red solo cup. He stopped and looked at me and with a serious look on his face questioned, "You have a red solo cup?"

Yup! We all have a red solo cup and we all need others to fill it up. Most discover they have a red solo cup, likewise that the cup can be empty, and unfortunately not everyone discovers what they really need their cup filled with to be able to enjoy life.

Events in the recent past within the military have prompted the rollout of various programs and campaigns to address pressing issues. One issue is that of suicides. According to the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention, in 2011, the national suicide rate was 12 per 100,000 people, compared with 13 for 100,000 Airmen. Every one hits us in the

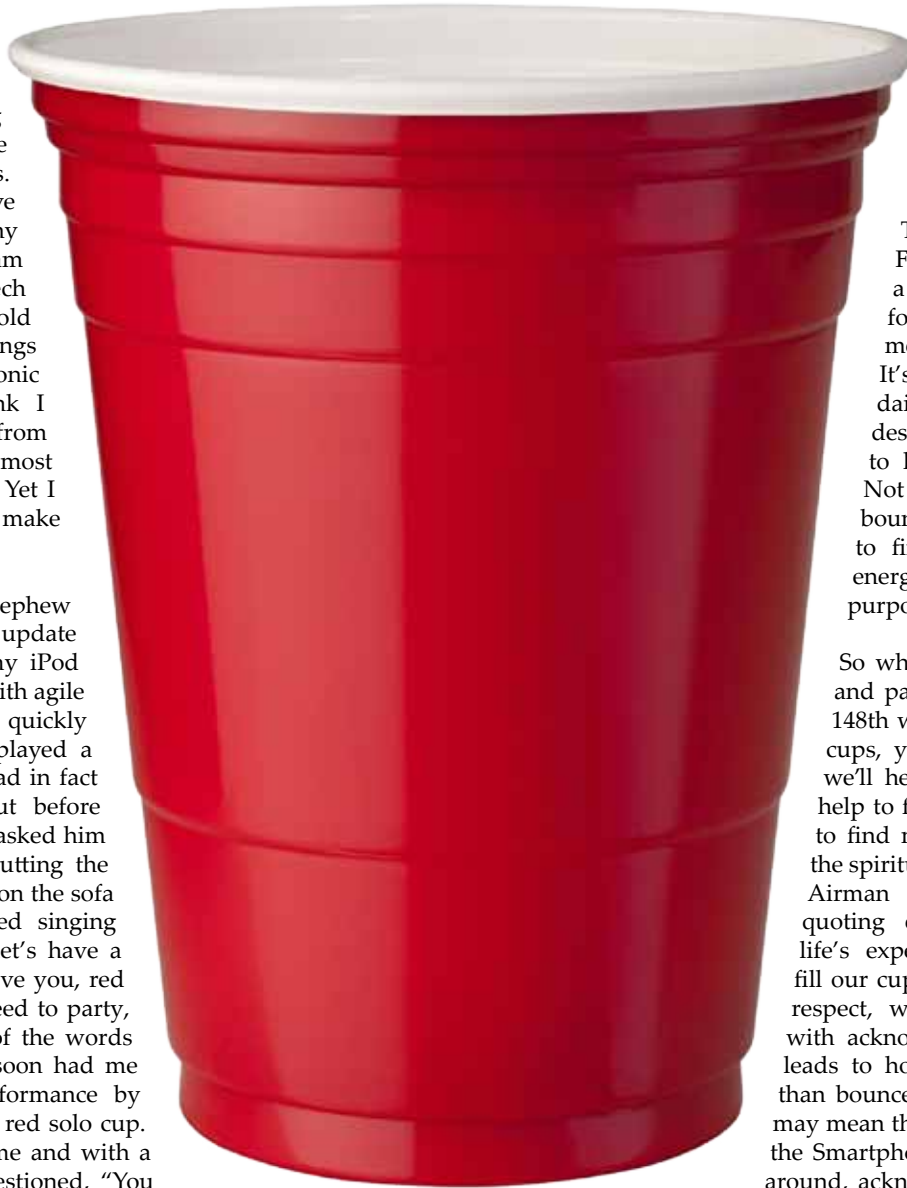
heart and every single one matters. As Airmen we are trained to watch for signs that can lead to suicide. We know that we need to do more to be vigilant Wingmen watching for those red flags.

The Comprehensive Airman Fitness program, although not a suicide prevention program, focuses on physical, social, mental and spiritual fitness. It's designed to help combat daily stresses that often lead to destructive behavior. The goal is to help improve our resiliency. Not just helping someone to bounce back to a pre-crisis, rather to find a way of using painful energy to cultivate meaning and purpose in life, once again.

So what about those red solo cups and partying? The Chaplains at the 148th won't be handing out red solo cups, you already have one. If lost we'll help you find yours and even help to fill it with what will help you to find meaning and purpose. That's the spiritual part of the Comprehensive Airman Fitness program. Without quoting experts, but drawing from life's experiences when other people fill our cup with words and gestures of respect, with genuine encouragement, with acknowledgement and worth that leads to hope we are able to do more than bounce back. To fill someone's cup may mean that you will have to put down the Smartphone, power off the iPad, look around, acknowledge the cues of distress, and personally interact with that person in

a positive way. I think most of us forget from time to time the important things to share in life. Sometimes for me I tell myself that it's been so long I've forgot how, or that it's such a small gesture it doesn't matter. If forgotten, revive; and if you think it doesn't matter, it does. Help fill someone's cup and discover the difference.

The other night nephew Nick asked me to sing Red Solo Cup with him. I discovered two things: I don't sing all that well, and as Nick told me, "uncle Tom, you crack me up, you fill my cup."



**Decorate a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch**

**Family pictures by a fall scene and pictures in an F-16**

**B&B burgers, Kona shaved ice, caramel apple sundaes and more concessions**

**Carnival games, bounce houses, speed pitch**

**ing Hall**

**Resource and information tables • Mascot races • Music by Matt Wahl**

# PAYING TRIBUTE

Master Sgt. Glen Flanagan, 148th Fighter Wing joined Mike Ehredt, Project Run America, Part II for 18 miles of Ehredt's 26 mile run into Hermantown, Minn. on Aug. 30, 2012. Ehredt's run started on the northern border of Minnesota and he plans to run a marathon a day for 11 straight weeks to pay tribute to Americans who served and died in Afghanistan. He will finish his 2,100 mile odyssey outside of Galveston, Texas on Veteran's Day.



## PROMOTIONS

### JULY

GOORHOUSE, KATLYN, MXS, A1C  
 AKERVIK, DAVID, MXS, SRA  
 ERSPAMER, KYLE, AMXS, SRA  
 OLSON, BRENT, AMXS, SRA  
 SANTIKKO, MACKENZIE, MXS, SRA  
 HOLTE, JEREMY, MXS, TSgt  
 JOHNSON, KARI, 179TH, TSgt  
 LIIMATTA, JASON, FSS, MSGT  
 RUNIONS, NEIL, LRS, MSGT  
 SIMMONDS, THOMAS, CES, MSGT  
 SPEED, SHAWN, MXS, MSGT  
 HIGH, ANDREW, CES, SMSGT  
 MCRAE, WILLIAM, LRS, CMSGT

### AUGUST

AMSELL, ERIN, MXS, SRA  
 CHRISTENSON, DANIEL, AMXS, SRA  
 JENNES, ALICIA, MXS, SRA  
 MCEWEN, MATTHEW, MXS, SRA  
 CARLSON, KARA, MXS, SSGT  
 GOORHOUSE, KAYLA, FSS, SSGT  
 FLYNN, STEPHANIE, OSF, TSgt  
 HUBBARD, JEFFREY, AMXS, TSgt  
 SUONVIERI, GEORGE, AMXS, TSgt  
 ZINTER, DANIEL, LRS, TSgt  
 KOLKIND, JOSHUA, MDG, MSGT  
 LANTHIER, RICHARD, MXS, MSGT  
 LAWLER, PATRICK, AMXS, MSGT  
 MERTES, DANIEL, LRS, MSGT  
 LARSON, KENT, AMXS, SMSGT  
 REINARTZ, BARRY, LRS, CMSGT

### SEPTEMBER

NESS, MARSHALL, MXS, SRA  
 BECKWITH, LUKE, AMXS, SSGT  
 FREDERICK, ASHLEY, FSS, SSGT  
 JULIE, MORTON, MOF, SSGT  
 RONNING, ERIC, CF, SSGT  
 DYTE, BEAU, AMXS, TSgt  
 BEATREZ, ANTHONY, OG, CMSGT



# PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. TODD A. ZINMER, MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



I am thankful for the opportunities and experiences that I have had over my 28 year military career, and yes I realize that many of our members are not even 28 years old. During my career I have been fortunate to have learned from a number of outstanding mentors that have had a positive impact on my career. I encourage those in their early to mid career to seek out individuals who can help guide your path. For those of us in the final stages of service we need to ask ourselves what we are doing to prepare the next generation of Airmen.

Although a mentor can help guide you with specific advice, I offer the following general guidelines:

**Be flexible** – I encourage you to be open to career opportunities on base. If you see a bottleneck ahead of you in your shop, don't be afraid to retrain into another position. The experience that you gain will make you a better-rounded asset.

**Be prepared** – Be prepared for the next rank as early as possible. An unexpected move from a co-worker could put you in a promotable spot well before you thought you would be eligible. Make sure that you have all your upgrade training and professional military training (PME) complete as soon as possible so that you're ready when it becomes available. If you don't have a Community College of the Air Force degree, now is the time to start actively pursuing one.

**Be a problem solver** – Our former Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Layman, often spoke about "not delegating up." That is, ensuring you're not just bringing

problems to your supervisor for him or her to fix. It is good to identify problems, but you also need to put some thought into how those problems can be solved. Those closest to the problem are in the best position to make a positive change. This will also show your supervisor that you want to be part of the solution.

**Be involved** – The Wing has a number of outstanding opportunities that you can take part in. The Bulldog Enlisted Council (BEC) is a great example of this. If you haven't attended, they meet at 9 a.m. on drill Sundays. The location rotates between the MXG Conference Room and the CE classroom, so check the Weekend News for the current location. If you can't make the meeting because of other commitments, you can review their minutes on the BEC SharePoint page to find out about events that you can become involved in.

Regardless of where you are in your career, I hope that you will:

Be flexible

Be prepared

Be a problem solver and

Be involved



## Oktoberfest 2012

- Food by the 148th Chiefs Council!
- Drink beer free from 4:30-6:30 p.m. with purchase of \$15 Mug, available now from your BOG member!
- Music provided by JA Entertainment!
- Questions? Call Steve Gerads at (218) 788-7477

## October 20, 2012



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## BulldogBits



By Col. Penny J. Dieryck

Another year has flown by. The Wing had over seven audits/assessments to include successfully accomplishing our Health Services Inspection receiving a rating of "Excellent," an Information Assurance Awareness Program evaluation, the only Guard, Reserve or active duty to receive re-certification of OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program "Star" rating, and a "NORAD Mission Ready" rating after a no-notice Alert Force Evaluation (AFE) to name a few. The financial books were closed, annual field training days (AFT) orders were finalized, and the last few pennies left in the coffers were spent. It was an awesome year where the Wing, once again, pulled itself together and made a huge impact in the National Guard, the United States Air Force, and the State of Minnesota. Evidence of these accomplishments was the recognition of the 148th Fighter Wing at two national conferences. The first one was the award of the Winston P. Wilson Trophy presented at the National Guard Association of the United States officers conference in Reno, Nev. The second one was the Air Force Association's 2012 Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit Award at the 2012 Air and Space Conference in National Harbor, Md.

Along with these awards/assessments, the Wing deployed for almost three months to Afghanistan. I want to add a small thank you to all the 148th Airmen who volunteered to deploy with the jets. Their work and melding with the Misawa Air Base personnel was extremely effective in supporting the "Troops in Contact" on the ground. I need to say 'Thanks' to their families, employers, and friends for providing these deployers and our Exceptional Combat Support deployers with their backing.

Speaking of backing, I need to go back and correct a few comments I made in the July-September Bulldog Bits column. The first female Chief Master Sergeant of the 148th Fighter Wing was Chief Master Sgt. Mary Ceryes of Services. The first female First Sergeant was Master Sgt. Barbara Herrington back in the early 1980s. I realize how instrumental these women were to laying the foundation for those of us who followed them, and I wanted to correct the record and say "Thank You" to them.

Another way we will be able to thank our community for its constant giving to the Wing is by paying it forward. On Friday Nov. 23, 2012 (yes, Black Friday) prior to the UMD Bulldog Men's Hockey game against the St. Cloud State Huskies at the Amsoil Arena, volunteers will be collecting toys for the Northland's Toyland Express. We will also have a collection trunk outside the Great Lakes Inn during the November and December UTAs where toys can be donated. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated by local children and teens on Christmas morning.

Finally, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to your family and you. Thanks for continuing to make the 148th Fighter Wing the growing organization with its "Legacy of Excellence!"



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