

ONE FIVE



APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2013

**WELCOME TO
BULLDOG COUNTRY**



All records are not meant to be broken. Last year, 349 servicemembers ended their own lives, the most in any given year since records have been kept. Our wing was not immune to this tragedy and we need to do our best to minimize future occurrences. These 349 individuals were talented and motivated enough to finish school, join the military, go through basic training and technical school and serve their country. They leave an untold number of grieving friends and relatives who question why. Surprisingly, there is no correlation between combat duty and suicide risk and many of these individuals can appear to plug along deceptively well while hiding their pain. Most of us cannot comprehend what these service members were thinking before taking their own lives, but then again, we likely have not experienced the black hole of desperation and hopelessness they felt.

What can we as wing members do to help? Survivors of suicide attempts reveal some insight: when people are told they have to be professional and hide their feelings, told they are weak if they consider suicide---you will have people commit the act. The last thing you want to do is inform your supervisor or mental health clinic. They are not going to help you but build a case against you to kick you out of the military. These victims often feel shame and feel they cannot admit their feeling of helplessness, even to friends or co-workers. Furthermore, they often fear retribution from their



Col. Wade A. Lillegard

chain of command or the Air Force and are reluctant to seek help.

As good Wingmen, we need to put aside preconceived notions and judgments and be attuned to warning signs that at-risk members may display: uncharacteristic sadness, loss of interest in previously enjoyable activities, disturbed sleep patterns, significant weight change, poor concentration, irritability, self-criticism/feelings of worthlessness, social withdrawal, unusual apathy or any hint of suicide. The more of these signs and symptoms that are present, the greater the concern. If you are concerned enough you should not be afraid to ask probing questions about the observed behavior(s) and if they are depressed. Ask specifically about suicidal thoughts. If the situation warrants you should physically escort them to a trusted friend, supervisor or family member who in turn can assist in enlisting the help of a chaplain or health care provider.

Commanders need to fully support the individual without instilling fear of retribution. We are obligated to keep the individual in a safe environment, consider arranging for a command directed evaluation (routine or emergent) and follow the situation through until it is resolved. If we strive to make our wing culture one of non-judgmental support for the hurting service member, we may be able to prevent one more tragic event from happening and one more record from falling.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides free and confidential crisis counseling, mental health referrals and additional resources to service members and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. They may be contacted via phone, text or chat. Additional information may be obtained by going to their website at: <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/ActiveDuty.aspx>



ON THE COVER...Members of the 148th Fighter Wing prepare to deploy to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. for training Jan. 26, 2013. (National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka, graphic illustration by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington.)

About the On Five

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Military services. Contents of the ON FIVE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 148th Fighter Wing at Duluth, International Airport, Duluth, MN 55811-5000.

COMMANDER

Col. Frank H. Stokes

VICE COMMANDER

Col. Jon S. Safstrom

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Maj. Julie M. Grandaw

WING EXECUTIVE STAFF OFFICER

Capt. Jodi L. Kiminski

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka, Master Sgt. Jason W. Rolfe, Tech. Sgt. Brett R. Ewald, Tech. Sgt. Margaret R. Engebretson, Tech. Sgt. Amie M. Muller, Tech. Sgt. Julie M. Tomaska, Tech. Sgt. Nancy L. Hanson, Staff Sgt. Donald L. Acton, Senior Airman Sarah C. Hayes.

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Master Sgt. Paula J. Kane

This photo-offset publication subscribes to and uses the services of AFPS, AFNS, and NGAUSPS. Material from other sources will be credited with proper bylines.

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

2013

UTA	SUTA	2013 ORE/ORI
20-21 Apr	None Apr	19 Apr
18-19 May	None May	16-17 May
22-23 June	None June	19-21 June
20-21 July	None July	16-19 July
24-25 Aug	None Aug	20-23 Aug
14-15 Sept	None Sept	
05-06 Oct	None Oct	
16-17 Nov	None Nov	
07-08 Dec	None Dec	



facebook.com/148thfighterwing



[twitter/148FW](https://twitter.com/148FW)

BULLDOG RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

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

Staff Sgt. Amy Ewald was selected as the 2012 Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year for the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region-First Air Force (AF North). First Air Force is one of eight Numbered Air Forces assigned to Air Combat Command (ACC). Previously, she had been selected as the 148th Fighter Wing and the Minnesota Air National Guard's 2012 NCO of the Year. For her, the awarding of this top honor is a source of pride, validation for her hard work and recognition of her accomplishments.

Ewald is a full-time Public Health Technician with the Medical Group, 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard, Duluth, Minn. She has worked in her present job for the last two years and has served with the 148th Fighter Wing for six years. She is responsible for five programs along with other duties. The programs are occupational health, food inspection, hearing conservation, deployments and fetal protection. She has been given a lot of support from her co-workers and supervisors. This support has allowed her to take on new roles and responsibilities not traditionally assigned with the position.

The small sized, full-time Medical Group allows her to become close to her co-workers, fosters building teamwork and support for each other and provides the ability to gain an understanding of each other's job. She owes her success to a strong work ethic, networking and to studying applicable Air Force Instructions (AFI's). Ewald continues to be involved with the unit and improves herself through the knowledge gained by the experiences of others. Along the way she has had many good mentors. First Sergeants from the 148th FW have given her valuable support during her time with the unit. The challenge of her job is that it changes every day. But that is good, according to her, because it keeps it from getting boring. There is no typical day at her job. It is ever-changing and dynamic. She is a self-described people person and seeks out and engages with



Staff Sgt. Amy Ewald performs hearing tests as part of her duties as a Public Health Technician at the 148th Fighter Wing. (National Guard Photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka.)

the base populace.

Ewald serves in various roles in many volunteer organizations, both at the 148th Fighter Wing and beyond. Positions held include; the Vice-President of the 148th Fighter Wing Bulldog Enlisted Council, the Board of Governors for the Services Club and she is a member of the Minnesota National Guard Enlisted Association. She likes to participate in functions at the 148th and enjoys networking with members of the unit.

As a Public Health Technician she plans to continue the process of streamlining her job. After two years on the job she possesses a fine understanding of her duties and responsibilities and wants to continue to improve upon them and make them simpler. Her ultimate goals are to someday be selected as a First Sergeant and eventually to become a Chief Master Sergeant.

In 2012 she received a Human Resources Management degree from St. Mary's University, Minneapolis, Minn. Prior to enlisting she worked for a family owned business and performed data entry at United Health Care. Ewald joined the 148th to try something new. Her father served at the 148th during the 1970's, her husband is an F-16 crew chief and she has a brother-in-law that works in the Public Affairs Office, both with the 148th Fighter Wing. Ewald began her military service with the 148th Civil Engineering Squadron.



Staff Sgt. Amy Ewald, a Public Health Technician with the 148th Fighter Wing prepares to inspect food to ensure quality standards are met. (National Guard Photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka.)

TUSKEGEE AIRMAN VISITS THE 148TH



Tuskegee Airman, Lt. Col. Hiram Mann (Ret.) talks with members of the 148th Fighter Wing Feb. 15, 2013. Mann was at the wing to visit and to learn more about the 148th Fighter Wing mission. (National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka)



Col. Nathan Thomas Jr. (Ret.) (bottom left); Tuskegee Airman, Chief Master Sgt. Steve Campos (Ret.) (in suit) Feb. 15, 2013. (National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka)



FIGHTER WING



Tuskegee Airman, Lt. Col. Hiram Mann (Ret.) (center) and (left) pose for a photo with members of the 148th Fighter Wing (right) Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka)

BY MASTER SGT. RALPH J. KAPUSTKA, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

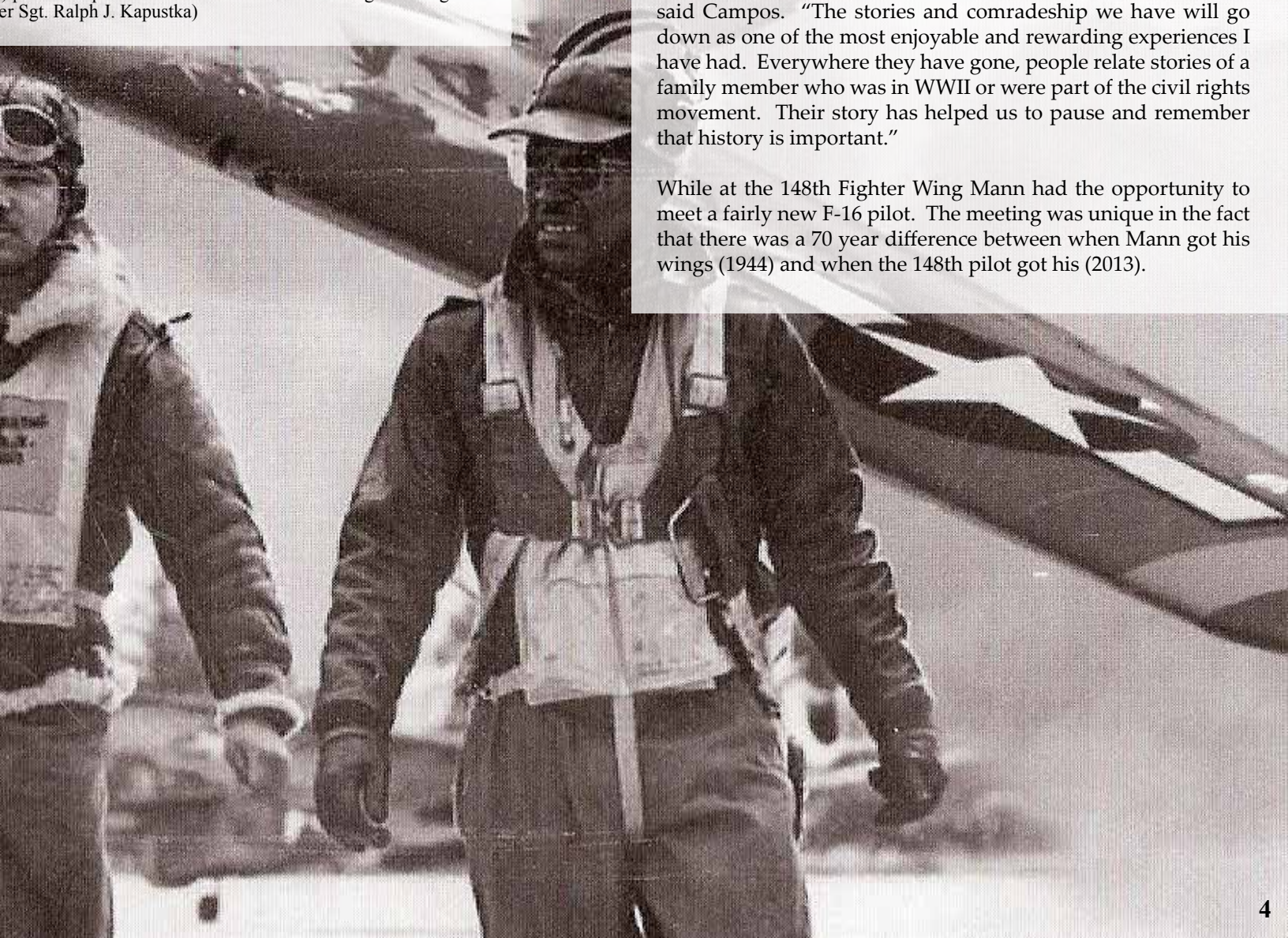
Col. Nathan Thomas (Ret.) and Chief Master Sgt. Steve Campos (Ret.) along with Tuskegee Airman, Lt. Col. Hiram Mann (Ret.) visited the 148th Fighter Wing Feb. 15, 2013. The visit to the 148th was for Lt. Col. Mann to meet Minnesota's F-16 pilots and visit Duluth's Tuskegee Airman, Maj. Joseph Gomer. While at the wing, the retirees had a meet and greet with F-16 pilots and learned more about the wing through a mission brief by the Vice Wing Commander, Col. Jon S. Safstrom.

Mann flew combat missions in the P-51 "Mustang" aircraft with the 332nd Fighter Group (The Red Tail Angels) in the European-African theater of operations during WWII. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces.

"Both have been friends and mentors to me since 2003. We planned a reunion and decided to include visits to agencies and schools while they stayed in Minnesota," said Campos. The visit to Federal Agencies came from the involvement with the Federal Executive Board Diversity Council celebrating Black History Month.

"Escorting Mann and Thomas has been an amazing opportunity," said Campos. "The stories and comradeship we have will go down as one of the most enjoyable and rewarding experiences I have had. Everywhere they have gone, people relate stories of a family member who was in WWII or were part of the civil rights movement. Their story has helped us to pause and remember that history is important."

While at the 148th Fighter Wing Mann had the opportunity to meet a fairly new F-16 pilot. The meeting was unique in the fact that there was a 70 year difference between when Mann got his wings (1944) and when the 148th pilot got his (2013).





Jennifer Peterson, Diana McFadden and William Spence pose for a photo with the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Award April 4, 2013. Peterson, a 148th Fighter Wing member and Minnesota Power employee, nominated McFadden and Minnesota Power for the award for the incredible support she received before and during her deployment. Spence, an ESGR representative, presented the award to McFadden. (Courtesy Photo)



Minnesota Congressman Rick Nolan visits with 148th Fighter Wing leadership while touring the base March 2, 2013. Nolan was at the base to visit the wing and to learn more about the 148th mission. (National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka)



Members of the 148th Fighter Wing return from their Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. training deployment Feb. 9, 2013. (National Guard photo by Senior Airman Sarah C. Hayes)

Members of the 148th Fighter Wing train at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Feb. 1, 2013. (National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Stacey LaCoursiere.)

RED FLAG DEPLOYMENT



Members of the 148th Fighter Wing load cargo for their training deployment to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. at the 148th Fighter Wing Jan. 26, 2013. (National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka)



VETERANS EMPLOYMENT EVENT HELD IN DULUTH

BY LT. COL. AUDRA FLANAGAN, FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Representatives from 40 local area businesses gathered with staff from the Department of Military Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs, the Minnesota Workforce Center, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and the Minnesota National Guard to discuss hiring veterans.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, 41,000 Minnesota veterans have supported Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom according to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. Currently veterans in Minnesota have an 8 percent unemployment rate which is higher than the state average 5.7 percent unemployment rate according to Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's November 2012 statistics.

Lt. Gov. Yvonne Prettner Solon opened the Veterans Employment Event held at the College of Saint Scholastica on Friday, Jan. 11, 2013. The lieutenant governor stated she and Gov. Dayton "believe hiring veterans is one of the best investments employers can make and that Minnesota strives to be the most military and veteran friendly state in the union."

Attendees of the Veterans' Employment Event met in small groups to discuss the challenges preventing them from hiring veterans. The most common challenges included:

1. Skills translation: Employers don't always understand how military technical training and leadership training transfers to the civilian community.
2. Military Jargon: Employers cannot understand the military terminology used by veterans during interviews and how it translates to the job they are applying for.
3. Access to veterans: Employers have difficulty reaching out to veterans and credible veterans organizations.

Employers were advised by the Director of Women Veteran and



Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Yvonne Prettner Solon addresses Northeastern Minnesota employers during a veteran employment seminar held at the College of Saint Scholastica in Duluth, Minn. on Jan. 11, 2013. The seminar was held to discuss barriers and possible solutions to hiring and retaining veterans. (National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka) (Released)

Employment Initiatives, from the Department of Military Affairs, Lt. Col. Lori O'Reilly (Ret.) to post jobs to www.minnesotaworks.net and to contact local area Minnesota Veterans Employment representatives located in the Minnesota Workforce Center. Likewise, veterans were encouraged to contact their Minnesota Veterans Employment Representative and post their resume to www.minnesotaworks.net.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar wrapped up the Veterans' Employment Event stating that "American veterans know what it means to stand up for something larger than themselves" and "they make terrific employees."

Additional information for employers and veterans can be found at www.positivelyminnesota.com/veterans

SHORT SHOTS

Col. Gerald Ostern (middle), Operations Group Commander relinquishes command to Col. Frank Stokes (left), 148th Fighter Wing Commander during a change of command ceremony Feb. 10, 2013. Col. Brad Jackson (right) accepted command of the Operations Group during the ceremony held at the 148th Fighter Wing. (National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett R. Ewald.)



Members of the 148th Fighter Wing participate in Warrior Weekend, a full day of training at St. Scholastica, in place of individual training spread out throughout a year. (National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett R. Ewald.)



AIR FORCE LT. GEN. STANLEY E. CLARKE OFFICIALLY ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITIES AS AIR GUARD DIRECTOR

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JON SOUCY, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. (3/22/13) – Air Force Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III assumed the duties and responsibilities of director, Air National Guard in a ceremony here today at the Air National Guard Readiness Center.

Clarke took over as director from Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry “Bud” Wyatt, who retired.

A command pilot with more than 4000 hours—including more than 100 combat hours— in the A-10 Thunderbolt II and F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft, Clarke assumed his current position after serving as commander of 1st Air Force and Continental U.S. North America Aerospace Defense Command.

“The opportunity to watch (Clarke) at 1st Air Force was tremendous for me to learn his great capabilities,” said Army Gen. Frank Grass, chief, National Guard Bureau, during the ceremony.

And because of his background, Clarke was uniquely positioned and had the right skill set to take on the duties of director, said Grass.

“An Alabama Air Guardsman who served as the assistant adjutant general for air, an A-10 and F-16 pilot who commanded a squadron, wing and expeditionary wing, all of that prepared him for this job and to represent everyone in this building and all those in the Air National Guard across the map in the 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia,” said Grass.

And Clarke has been busy as he settles into his new role.

“There’s a lot to learn,” said Clarke. “But, I’ve hit the ground running and am drinking from the fire hose. I have already been on the hill seven times and testified twice.”

However, he said his new role is a humbling one.

“This is quite an honor and I am humbled at the opportunity to serve (those in the Air Guard),” said Clarke.



Air Force Lt. Gen. Stanley Clarke III, right, the director of the Air National Guard, receives the organizational colors of the Air National Guard from Army Gen. Frank Grass, chief, National Guard Bureau, during a ceremony at the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Joint Base Andrews, Md., where Clarke assumed the responsibilities of his current position, Friday, March 22, 2013. Clarke takes over the duties of director from Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry “Bud” Wyatt, who retired. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy) (Released)

And, as Clarke takes the reins as director, he said he sees tremendous opportunities despite recent budget cutbacks.

“I’ve arrived in a time of budget turmoil and uncertainty, but I view this as a time of opportunity as well,” he said, adding that his focus and commitment is clear.

“My commitment to the (Airmen) and the adjutants general is clear,” he said. “We will do everything within our authority to ensure our Airmen have clear policies, equipment, training and resources to accomplish assigned missions. We remain community based, team oriented and experienced.”

And Clarke is ready to face those challenges, said Grass.

“(He) has stepped up to the challenge,” said Grass. “And I can tell you I’ve already watched him as he’s taken on that challenge.”



148th Fighter Wing members Lt. Col. Audra Flanagan, Master Sgt. Troy Skorich and Tech. Sgt. Gretchen Lundberg pose for a photo with Minnesota Sen. Researcher Trevor Roy at Duluth and St. Louis County at the Capitol Days at the State Capitol, Feb. 13, 2013. (National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Don A. Acton)





CHIEF'S CORNER

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. WILLIAM J. MCRAE

On the day I was promoted to chief master sergeant, my first supervisor at the 148th and good friend, whispered into my ear, "don't forget where you came from, kid." Looking back over the years, I am proud to know this is the way I've tried to live, work, teach, train and play every day. I also had amazing supervisors who were willing to mentor me along the way.

From the very beginning, my parents and grandparents taught me the standard of how I did things and treated other people. They said, "live by the golden rule and always treat others as you want to be treated. Be honest, straight forward, know your facts, help out when you can, and pay attention to what's going on around you." I find I have gained more trust and respect from others by following these simple guidelines.

Remember the phrase "elbow grease?" Meaning, to get in there and help out. Just because I've earned the rank or I have a much higher level of job duties, does not mean I can't help out and do certain tasks that need to be done in my shop, like shovel the sidewalk, sweep and mops floors, take out the garbage or clean windows. Many have said, "You're the supervisor, so supervise." Airmen are all highly trained in these areas, because we've been doing them since we first joined the military. Your troops need to see you in the shop supporting them and working alongside

them. You will earn great respect from those you supervise because they see you know how to and are willing to do the job too. What a morale booster (for me) working right alongside my troops!

Be active outside the shop. Volunteer, join different organizations, and get involved. Each of us brings something different to the table. We all have talents that can be utilized. We have several organizations here on the base that could always accept additional membership or help. We have the Bulldog Enlisted Council (BEC), the All Ranks Club, and many types of councils. Each of these organizations also assists or helps out local communities. Don't be a guard bum, where all you do is come and do your time. Before you know it, your retirement will be right around the corner, so have fun while you can, and help others out. You will reap the benefits from being there giving a hand.

Always remember, treat others as you want to be treated. If you can help mentor in all respects to the work area and everyday life, the 148th will get more out of our future leaders, both officer and enlisted.

10TH ANNUAL 148TH RETIREEES' BREAKFAST

JUNE 20, 2013 GREAT LAKES INN (DINING HALL)

8 A.M. COFFEE & SOCIAL

9 A.M. BREAKFAST & CURRENT AFFAIRS BRIEF

COST: \$6.00

RSVP (PLEASE)

LARRY BURDA (218) 343-0980 OR

TOM SINNOTT (218) 729-9239

MNGEA NEWS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Minnesota National Guard Enlisted Association (MNGEA), Chapter 48, will be hosting their 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner at the American Legion, Post 71, on Wednesday, May 22, 2013, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Food will be served from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. with a silent auction and drawings for prizes! Kids 10 years of age and under eat for FREE! Tickets are \$10 per ticket and can be purchased from Corrine Sager, Corrine.sager@ang.af.mil; Kelly Hraban, (218) 788-7313 or Kelly.Hraban@ang.af.mil; or Alice Nephew (218) 788-7423 or Alice.Nephew@ang.af.mil.

44TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Minnesota National Guard Enlisted Association (MNGEA) will host its 2013 (44th) General Membership Conference in Alexandria Minn., April 26–27, 2013.

This is our chance to vote on legislative issues using OUR (DIRECT) ENLISTED VOICE and as always there are STRENGTH IN NUMBERS! The more MNGEA members we have in attendance, the more votes we get! With so many of our benefits at risk, our votes are needed more than ever to get passed to the national level then on to Congress. Don't forget to make your hotel reservations right away so you will secure a room if you plan on staying overnight (information is on registration form). If you have any questions or would like a registration form, please contact Deana Wolff (deana.Wolff@ang.af.mil), Kelly Hraban (Kelly.hraban@ang.af.mil), or Scott Twining (scott.twining@ang.af.mil).

If you do plan on attending, please contact Scott Twining as he is the POC for Chapter 48 state conference attendees. He will be keeping track of Chapter 48 attendees so we can provide you with information as needed regarding the conference.

Thanks so much and hope to see you at the Conference!



PROMOTIONS

JANUARY

SMART, JESSICA, FSS, AMN
FLEISSNER, SARAH, FSS, A1C
CRAWFORD, SCOTT, AMXS, SRA
HENRICH, MARKOUS, LRS, SRA
HOEFFLING, DION, MXS, SRA
LAVASSEUR, CORY, LRS, SRA
MUSOLF, ANGELA, FSS, SRA
REED, BRANDON, AMXS, SRA
RUOTSALAINEN, JODY, MXS, SRA
SHEARER, DUSTIN, AMXS, SRA
BARTLETT, ANTHONY, CES, SSGT
FLANNIGAN, BRADLEE, AMXS, SSGT
HINKS, JARED, MXS, SSGT
HOLT, JONATHAN, MXS, SSGT
SKOG, JEREMY, AMXS, SSGT
STONE, COURTNEY, AMXS, SSGT
BOISJOLI, KYLE, MOF, TSGT
HAKES, PATRICK, SFS, TSGT
KLIBER, BRADLEY, MDG, TSGT
PALKIE, RAYMOND, SFS, TSGT
TAMMI, BRIAN, CES, TSGT
WEISS, NICHOLAS, SFS, TSGT
PATTERSON, JOEL, MXS, MSGT
PETERSON, NICHOLAS, MXG, MSGT
SCHANDER, LANCE, MXS, MSGT
ERIKSON, LISA, MDG, CMSGT

FEBRUARY

MALVICK, BRITTANY, LRS, AMN
SCHRECENGOST, DEREK, LRS, A1C
ADAMS, CHRISTOPHER, MXS, SRA
LAFAVE, DANIELLE, MXS, SRA
GRASKEY, SEAN, AMXS, SSGT
O'BRIEN, JOHN, AMXS, SSGT
JACKSON, KEVIN, FSS, TSGT
JOHNSON, DOUGLAS, MXS, TSGT
LILLIBERG, KELSI, LRS, TSGT
MERRIFIELD, JEFFREY, CF, TSGT
MYHRE, BRIAN, CES, TSGT
O'NEIL, ERIC, MDG, TSGT
SAGER, CORRINE, TSGT
WALDORF, PETER, MXS, TSGT
HAAPALA, JILL, FSS, MSGT
JOHNSON, BRAD, MXS, MSGT
JOHNSON, RANDY, MXS, MSGT
MICHON, TIMOTHY, LRS, MSGT
WILLECK, ALLEN, CES, MSGT
DAHL, PAUL, OSF, SMSGT
PERSCH, DUANE, LRS, SMSGT

MARCH

PROUTY, SEAN, MDG, AMN
DERESCHUK, SHANE, CF, A1C
LIEN, CHELSEA, AMXS, SRA
DAVIDSON, SARAH, FSS, SSGT
EICHER, TERI, CES, SSGT
TROLSON, TED, CES, SSGT
GLAVAN, MICHAEL, AMXS, TSGT
LASKY, SAMUEL, HQ, TSGT
LINDSTROM, ELIZABETH, SFS, TSGT
SALO, CHRISTOPHER, SGS, TSGT
STARKEN, JENNIFER, AMXS, TSGT
WOLDEN JR., DAVID, SFS, TSGT
WIITA, BRIANA, LRS, MSGT
SORENSEN, JOHN, MOF, CMSGT

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

**Pre-Sorted STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Duluth, MN
Permit No. 1003**

BulldogBits

By Col. Penny J. Dieryck



The year is 2013. Our lives are constantly being challenged and changed due to information technology. We have gone from manual technical orders to electric notebooks carried out to the aircraft to do work. In June, automated time cards will be the method for paying technicians. Virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF) records for the military and technician staff are accessed via a desktop, laptop, or even Smart Phone. Just think, the Social Security Administration has required people to use electronic deposits or a cash card to receive their payments. No more paper checks coming through the mail. Sometimes I'm not sure if I'm on paper or keyboard (used to be we'd say foot or horseback).

The stories of the 148th Fighter Wing are constantly posted on the 148th Facebook and public website. The Public Affairs staff diligently work to ensure they are keeping the world aware of the various wing accomplishments. Social media is a vital method to connect with people from across the globe. Some of the stories on the site as of March 11, 2013 included 8th District Congressional Representative Rick Nolan's visit to the wing, and the selection of Staff Sgt. Amy Ewald as the First Air Force Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. Visit the web site: www.148fw.ang.af.mil. This is another way for our retirees, families, friends and community to stay connected to the wing.

Another topic near and dear to the Wing is the Environmental Health and Safety Compliance (ESHOCAMP) Assessment April 3-10, 2013. The inspection team will walk through the base, visit shops, review safety standards, environmental compliance and health initiatives. This team provides the Wing with their assessment of how well all of us are taking care of our work spaces and one another. These visits are indicative of how well the current work force will leave this place for generations to come.

As we prepare for the ESHOCAMP, we are also getting ready for an Air Combat Command Readiness Inspection (RI). The RI will be held August 20-25, 2013. Due to the federal government's struggle with budgetary constraints and sequestration, the details of the inspection are currently being negotiated with the Inspector General Team. Exercises are scheduled for the April, May, June and July Unit Training Assemblies. We ask families and employers to have patience with their 148th personnel as they prepare for this assessment. At times things may seem dysfunctional, however, we all must be aware that the uncertainty of the budget could create last minute changes. We know the Bulldogs will come through this RI with flying colors and continue our Legacy of Excellence!

Finally, it is once again time for me to say good-bye to one of our full-time technicians, Senior Master Sgt. Lynn Jackson. I first saw Lynn when I was a second grade student at Stowe Elementary School. She was invited to come to the school and show the elementary students her skills with percussion instruments. I'll never forget how mesmerized I was as she played Flight of the Bumblebee on the xylophone. To watch her move up and down the bars of the instrument with flair and the light touch like a bumblebee's wings was so impressive. Then I followed Senior Master Sgt. Jackson to Morgan Park High School where we were Wildcats together. Now I'll get to say my farewells to her as she leaves her Legacy of Excellence as a Bulldog. Senior Master Sgt. Jackson, thanks for taking care of the Wing in all the jobs you have held across the base.

**To connect to the 148th Fighter Wing
website, scan this tag with your smart
phone or visit www.148fw.ang.af.mil**

