

ON FIVE

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July • August • September



Commander's Column

As we move through 2014, the effort and diligence to keep one another safe is paramount. The reason for this initiative was due to the large increase in safety incidents occurring across the Air National Guard in late 2013 and early 2014. In order to stop, call knock it off, and "Don't Let Your Guard Down," the 148th Fighter Wing held its Wingman Day on May 18th.

As you prepare for Unit training Assemblies, what is your focus? How are you preparing for drill? What's on your mind when you drive through the front gate? Is it prepping your refueler, running your checklist to move the F-16 to the flight line, remembering to log into your computer to certify your orders, what your friends or family will be doing while you're at the base, did you shut the door when you left your residence, etc.? These thought provoking issues are the reasons we need to focus on our fellow WINGMEN and ourselves. Not only does this reflective provide a wingman the necessary opportunity to look into the mirror and see what is going on in their lives, hopefully it gives a person a chance to gather themselves to ensure they are getting their jobs done in a safe manner.

Some of the messages which were presented during this training were as follows:

Sergeant Mark Baker, retired Minnesota State Highway Patrol Officer, provided the wing with an awesome presentation on defensive driving. He discussed the Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths "TZD" campaign and how the four E's of Education, Enforcement, Emergency Services, and Engineering are being combined to make the Minnesota roads safer. Officer Baker talked about his experiences as a highway patrol officer and gave the audience numerous examples on how we can become safer drivers. One of the greatest lessons he brought to our attention was to make the decision on how you are going to get home before you attend a function or social outing involving alcoholic beverages. This is when your solid judgment and the plan you have

implemented will be the best choices. Another interesting fact about driving in Minnesota is that seat belts are required for all people in the vehicle and children require a child safety seat to age eight or shorter than 4' 9".

Lt. Col. Kevin Peterson, 148th Fighter Wing Chief of Safety, provided the Wing with training on the Fundamentals of Risk Management. Risk Management is a fancy way to utilize Common Sense Approaches to the way we make decisions on all the facets of our lives, both on- and off-duty. The Air Force uses an "ABCD" acronym when handling Real Time Risk Management:

Assess means identify and assess hazards.

Balance controls is defined as making risk control decisions to mitigate/eliminate the identified risks.

Communicate refers to discussions with leadership, internal team communication, or an individual internalizing their situation.

Decide/Debrief is making the decision to continue, modify, or abandon the activity based on real-time conditions.

This simple and easy to remember memory jogger provides individuals with a means to evaluate risks and formulate mitigation strategies in a short time and can be easily applied in both on- and off-duty situations.

From the ABCD's, we moved into the 101 Days of Summer which runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. This presentation by Master Sgt. Craig Honkola, 148th Ground Safety NCO, gave great examples for when the time to shed the winter clothes, boots, mittens, and put on our bike helmets, life preservers, and sunblock to enjoy the summer sun. Keep safety at the forefront and live to see the colors of fall when we come to the 102nd day.

Senior Master Sgt. Tana Johnson gave the wing a passionate course of action on resiliency and how



Col. Penny J. Dieryck
Mission Support Group Commander

we can refine our abilities to be more aware of ourselves. She spoke about focus and how to address issues in our lives with a grateful attitude. This process confirms within our brains the goodness of what we are accomplishing. Being able to provide skills which will build upon one another and let events which are negative seem to be easier to accept. Not only can we become more resilient by changing our thought processes, we can also provide ourselves with skills to help others.

One of these programs for helping others is Suicide Prevention. Staff Sgt. Amy Ewald provided the wing with key concepts for knowing the leading elements of Ask, Care, Escort (aka ACE) a person who is struggling to a health care provider, chaplain, mental health counselor, or finding a friend. Be there Wingman and ensure the member is getting the help they need.

The final presenter was Ms. Heather Asleson, a licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor from the Minnesota National Guard Deployment Center. She provided the audience with referral information and how to seek help should they need it.

Please take the time to reflect on its message. Remembering one of these thoughts could save a life of someone you love or yourself!

Military Appreciation

Photos By Tech Sgt. Scott G. Herrington, 148th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



A military child stands with Twins outfielder Sam Fuld during the United States National Anthem at Target Field, July 6, 2014.



148th Fighter Wing member Senior Airman Robert Frey holds a ceremonial American flag in the outfield of Target Field, July 6, 2014.

ON FIVE

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UTA SCHEDULE

UTA	SUTA
16-17 AUGUST	02-03 AUGUST
13-14 SEPTEMBER	None SEPTEMBER
04-05 OCTOBER	18-19 OCTOBER
01-02 NOVEMBER	15-16 NOVEMBER
06-07 DECEMBER	None DECEMBER

ON THE COVER



148th Fighter Wing members Master Sgt. Bryan Druar (right) and Master Sgt. Jeremy Hill (third from right) stand at parade rest along the third base line at Target Field, July 6, 2014 during the Twins Military Appreciation Day. Members of all branches of the military took part in a ceremony honoring fallen Servicemembers during a pre-game ceremony. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington)

Thracian Star

By Capt. Jodi L. Kiminski, 148th Fighter Wing Executive Officer

Graff Ignatievo Air Force Base, Bulgaria -- Members of the 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard joined forces with military partners overseas and successfully completed several multi-lateral total force exercises to include Thracian Star, BALTOPS and Saber Strike.

Thracian Star, organized by the Bulgarian Air Force, took place between May 25 and June 4 at Graff Ignatievo Air Force Base, Bulgaria.

Exercise participants include Bulgaria, Hellenic and Romanian Air Forces, along with the Minnesota and Tennessee Air National Guard. The purpose of the training event is to enhance interoperability with the Bulgarian, Hellenic, and Romanian Air Forces to bolster readiness to conduct combined air operations.

"Exercises like this are a fantastic way to come together with our NATO partners and share our ways of operating," said Col. Jon Safstrom, Vice-Commander, 148th Fighter Wing. "It allows everybody to see the way others operate, we can ask questions and hopefully walk away with a better understanding and a better way forward."

During the exercise, American forces worked directly with their Bulgarian counterparts on the ground and in the air. Bulgaria's current fighter fleet is comprised of MiG-29s, the 148th Fighter Wing (FW) sent F-16 Block 50s, and the 134th Air Refueling Wing, Tennessee provides refueling support with a KC-135.

The event is a yearly Bulgarian exercise that has been held since 2005; training includes interception and air combat. Bulgaria joined NATO in 2004. This year the exercise expanded to include neighboring countries as well as the United States.

"Exercises like this give pilots the ability to work on tactics and techniques that they wouldn't get in day-to-day training missions," said Gen. Gorenc, Commander of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe. "The Bulgarian contribution to air policing has been effective and steady, and it's



Members of the 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard joined the Thracian Star 2014 multilateral total force exercise taking place between May 25 and June 4 in Bulgaria. The 148th FW sent an 8-ship of F-16 Block 50's along with 120 Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Jodi L. Kiminski)



A 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard F-16 prepares to take flight during Thracian Star 2014. Exercise participants include Bulgaria, Hellenic and Romanian Air Forces, along with the Minnesota and Tennessee Air National Guard. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Jodi Kiminski)

Members of the 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard joined the Thracian Star 2014 multi-lateral total force exercise taking place May 25-June 4 in Bulgaria. The 148th FW sent an 8-ship of F-16 Block 50s along with 120 Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Jodi Kiminski)



needed to maintain the sovereignty of NATO airspace."

The 148th FW sent an 8-ship of F-16s along with 120 Airmen, comprised of 20 different career fields to include Operations, Maintenance, Security, Intelligence, Logistics and Communication.

"The experience has been great," said Chief Master Sgt. Paul Poppenberg, 148th Aircraft Maintenance Superintendent. "Being able to work one-on-one with your foreign counterpart, there's a lot of good training going on for both sides. Communication and language can be a barrier at times, but you work through it."

Following Thracian Star, members of the 148th FW traveled to Amari Air Base, Estonia to participate in joint training exercises BALTOPS and Saber Strike, which ran concurrently June 9-20. Saber Strike facilitates cooperation between the United States, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia while BALTOPS is a joint exercise to enhance multinational maritime capabilities and interoperability, and improve involvement in the larger Baltic region Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) strategy.

Saber Strike is a long-standing U.S. Army Europe-led training exercise held annually since 2011.

Additional nations participating include Denmark, Finland, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Throughout Saber Strike, the 148th provided close air support with partner nation ground forces.

Twelve countries participated in the 42nd annual BALTOPS exercise: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. U.S. Naval Forces-Europe was the lead component for BALTOPS. The 148FW provided maritime interdiction and dissimilar air combat training. Approximately 1,300 U.S. servicemembers participated in the exercise.

Bulldogs Repair Runway, Cement Reputation

By Airman 1st Class Bobby Cummings, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Airmen from the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron and the 577th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineer Squadron completed flight line repairs to Bagram Airfield's main runway June 9, 2014.

The undertaking tasked Airmen to repair four sets of Ultra High Molecular Weight polyethylene panels. The panels are located underneath aircraft arresting system cables on Bagram's Airfield. The panels prevent the arresting cable, when rolled over, from eroding grooves in the underlying pavement, which prevent prolonged runway closures and expensive repairs in the future.

Large bolts hold down each poly panel. The repairs included testing each of the 992 bolts and extracting any that failed to meet a specified torque requirement. Among the 992 bolts, 502 failed the test and were replaced.

"It was the epitome of teamwork and self-sacrifice that returned Bagram's main runway back to full operational capability," said Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Ion, 455 ECES project non-commissioned officer in charge, and a native of Duluth, Minnesota who is deployed from the 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minnesota. "The barrier arresting kits have been repaired providing another fail-safe for landing aircraft." Each Airman involved with the project performed above and beyond our expectations."

The project was scheduled to occur throughout June, but was completed early.

"Initial plans for the project were for the entire month of June," said Maj. Ryan Kaspari, 455th ECES operations chief, a native of Duluth, Minnesota deployed from the 148th FW. "We were permitted 16 outages throughout the month to complete the project. I estimated it would require 12 days, but we finished in eight."

Prior to the endeavor, the planning was very detailed. Leadership organized Airmen into specific groups to complete different



Maj. Ryan Kaspari (left) 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron operations chief, and Master Sgt. Jeremiah Graves, 455th ECES NCO in charge of operations, conduct repairs on the main runway at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan June 9th, 2014. Kaspari and Graves are natives of Duluth, Minnesota and are deployed from the Air National guards' 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minnesota. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Bobby Cummings)



Master Sgt. Joshua Graves (left), 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron superintendent, and Master Sgt. Jeremiah Graves, 455th ECES non-commissioned officer in charge of operations, conduct repairs on the main runway at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan June 9th, 2014. Joshua and Jeremiah, two brothers from Duluth, Minnesota are deployed from the Air National guards' 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minnesota. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Bobby Cummings)



Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Ion, 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron project non-commissioned officer in charge, uses a power planer to remove poly panel material to prevent potential aircraft mishaps on the flightline at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan June 9th, 2014. Ion is a native of Duluth, Minnesota and is deployed from the Air National Guards' 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minnesota. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Bobby Cummings)

tasks. Testing and training were conducted, while concept drills were rehearsed and materials gathered. Experts spent many hours studying manufacturer's instructions and conversing with the Air Force Civil Engineer Center.

"This project was the most well planned, and well executed project I've ever been a part of," said Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Gilbert, 455th ECES chief enlisted manager, a native of Portland, Oregon deployed from the Air National Guard 142nd FW, Portland, Oregon. "The creativity and ingenuity of our Airmen played a crucial role in the completion of

the assignment."

According to Lt. Col. Jason Lay, 455 ECES commander, a native of Portland, Oregon, by the end of the project the Airmen were producing higher levels of proficiency and productivity.

Bagram is the busiest military airfield in Afghanistan and even in the entire Department of Defense; it serves as the hub for several airframes to include the C-130 J Super Hercules, A-10 Thunderbolt II, EC-130 Compass Call, HH-60 Pave Hawk, MQ-9 Reaper, MQ-1B Predator, MC-12W Liberty and the F-16 Fighting

Falcon.

"Our Airmen understood the importance of this mission," said Lay, who is deployed from the 142nd FW. "This project will likely be the most important task our Airmen complete while deployed. It is unlikely another project will have as much impact on the mission as this one. Because of the dedication and effort of every Airman from both squadrons we are handing over a completely operational airfield several days, even weeks, ahead of schedule."

Bulldogs Near and Far



1st Lt. Katelyn Blazeovic, a member of the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, shakes hands with President Barack Obama May 25, 2014. (Courtesy Photo)



148th Fighter Wing Mission Support Group Commander Col. Penny Dieryck poses for a photo with members of the Norwegian military during a visit to the 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn. June 24, 2014. 2014 marks the 41st anniversary of the Norwegian-American military exchange (NOREX). (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett R. Ewald)

Col. David Hamlar poses for a photo with a 148th Fighter Wing pilot June 28, 2014. Hamlar, the Minnesota National Guard Air Surgeon General, received a flight in a Block 50 F-16 while visiting the 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Brett R. Ewald)



Tech. Sgt. Christopher Armstrong gives Marney Gellner of Fox Sports North a tour of a Block 50 F-16 at the 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn. June 24, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ralph J. Kapustka)



Minnesota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen arrive in Norway June 18, 2014 to participate in the 41st U.S./Norway Reciprocal Troop Exchange. For two weeks these troops trained alongside the Norwegian Army sharing military tactics, techniques and procedures as well as cultural experiences. (Courtesy photo)



Running for a Good Cause

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

The 148th Fighter Wing Bulldog Enlisted Council (BEC) held the Fifth Annual Meatball 5K Walk/Run, May 18, 2014. Why is it called the Meatball 5K Walk/Run, you ask? The Meatball 5K use to be held in April, the same month as the 148th Fighter Wing's Annual Spaghetti Feed. Since both events were held during the same weekend Guard drill, the decision was made to call it the Meatball 5K keeping with the spaghetti theme. However, in recent years the run had to be moved to May due to extended winters.

The year's event generated 76 participants with some of our members posting some pretty impressive times. The top finisher for the men posted a time of 21:43 and the top finisher for the women came in at 22:58.

The Meatball Run serves a dual purpose. It motivates members to start thinking about fitness after a long winter and 90 percent of the proceeds from the event go to the Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank, located in Duluth, Minn.

"I was really excited to see that 20 of the 76 participants were Rookie Ranks members," (future Airmen that have yet to go to basic training) said Senior Master Sgt. Mark Wasserbauer, 148th Fighter Wing BEC member and event organizer. One of our BEC goals for this event is to help create a positive life-style change in our members so the younger they start the better. Plus being able to raise over \$600.00 for the Second Harvest Food Bank was icing on the cake. It was great to see and we hope to continue to build on this success," said Wasserbauer.

The Second Harvest Food Bank is a nonprofit organization and the sole distributor of surplus food products to over 120 charitable food programs, including the region's soup kitchens, food shelves and shelters. As a food bank, their primary role is to provide food to the front-line charitable agencies that offer meals to the hungry. In addition, they provide food to over 1,500 people per month as part of their own direct service programming. There are four ways



Master Sgt. Mark Wasserbauer and Staff Sgt. Amy Ewald, 148th Fighter Wing, Base Enlisted Council (BEC) pose for a picture with Shaye Moris, Executive Director of the Second Harvest Food Bank, May 29, 2014. The 148th Fighter Wing members presented Moris with a donation of over \$600.00 to help in the fight against hunger. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph Kapustka)



148th Fighter Wing members take off from the starting line while participating in the Fifth Annual 5K Meatball Run, 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn., May 18, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Donald Acton)

in which you can help: donate money, food, volunteer or be an advocate for hunger relief.

The BEC plans to hold the event again next year with the continuing

goal of educating the wing on the benefits of staying active through exercise, promoting a healthy life-style and building camaraderie amongst wing members.

Climbing Stairs for Charity

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

Seven firefighters from the 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn. participated in the fifth annual Big Climb-Minneapolis, April 5, 2014. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) held the event to raise lifesaving funds for blood cancer research and help patients live better, longer lives.

The climb was held at the Capella Tower and consisted of 47 stories worth of stairs. The stair climb encompassed a full range of people; from the casual walker to those that wanted to "race to the top." Needless to say, since firefighters are all about competition they decided to race to the top. "This was a difficult challenge that was made even more difficult by wearing 60 pounds worth of firefighting gear," said Senior Airman Joel Waters. "We all worked as a team to raise as much money as we could for the event and also motivated each other during the event so we would all complete the climb and not leave an Airman behind."

The 148th firefighters came in third overall, with the top four individual times being averaged for top team honors. Out of 275 climbers the 148th FW had four climbers in the top 20, with Senior Master Sgt. Mark Watczak posting the best time for the 148th FW at nine minutes and twenty-seven seconds. Watczak's time was good for fifth overall in the individual competition.

Besides the competition, the primary reason the 148th FW firefighters participated was to raise money for a great cause. "The charity did play a big role in our department's participation but I think it played an even bigger part for me," said Staff Sgt. Nathan Brown. "My wife has been battling cancer for four years now and I know the importance and significance of these fundraisers and the public's attention to this disease. My wife is not battling Lymphoma or Leukemia but it is still extremely important to support people and groups that are battling cancer. Cancer should not be a burden carried by one person; it should be carried by many to lighten the load. Needless to say, we have been on an emotional



Staff Sgt. Nathan Brown, 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn. climbs stairs for charity April 5, 2014. Staff Sgt. Brown and other 148th Fighter Wing firefighters participated in Big Climb-Minneapolis to help raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. (Courtesy Photo)

rollercoaster and when I see people donating money and time like this it does nothing but make us feel better due to having such a tremendous support system."

The competition also provided a great way for the firefighters to spend time together and boost morale. "Once we got to the top you can imagine how tired we were but as soon as you got there, teammates were greeting you and helping you take your gear off, giving you water and a congratulatory slap on

the back," said Brown. "Plus, it feels great to be able to raise money for such a great cause and really opens your eyes to how many people out there need your help know matter how small or insignificant the gesture seems."

"I have a lot of family and friends that suffer from cancer," said Staff Sgt. Brad Richgels. "This was my way to help raise money for cancer research." The 148 FW fire department raised over \$2,100 for the LLS.

A Letter Home

It began in 2013 when we were tasked for our unit's next deployment. So now we had to get prepared for our new adventure with the 148th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron. It would be a new direction for most of us on this deployment since it would be our first deployment as a team for many of us and as a member of the Guard. Through it all we will have each other to survive this new adventure in our lives.

It all started in mid-January 2014 when we began our pre-deployment training at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. During our training we got acquainted with troops from the other units that would be deploying with us. The training was long and at times very stressful but, it was nice to be in sunny Florida during the very cold winter months back home even though we really didn't get to enjoy it.

After the pre-deployment training we returned home to spend time with our families and friends till we departed. Then we left our loved ones to begin our adventure by arriving at Norfolk, Va. where we did some sightseeing and relaxing until our departure for our destination. Once we left Norfolk it was a very long flight with some unplanned stops to make it even longer and more stressful as well as very tiring. Upon our arrival at our deployed location, we were assigned our sleeping quarters which was a welcoming sight even though it was a pod all we wanted to do was sleep. We were introduced to many changes to how we were going to live for the next few months such as not having a shower or bathroom and no TV or cable in our pods. These changes were going to be hard to get use to. Along with these changes is all the sand that is here. Being from Minnesota this is very different than green grass and trees every day or snow.

It was tough at first, but we have adjusted to it very well. As with any deployment we provide security for the base performing the same duties as we would back home as well as additional duties that we normally don't do. Although it has been challenging we have been blessed with new friends from all walks of life. It was definitely a slow embrace at first, tentative, and unsure of what to expect from our new location. But somewhere along the line we choose to see the bigger picture. And with that one bad day turned better then led to another better day.

The living conditions and amenities offered here are great. The dining hall offers a wide variety of very good food for us on and off duty. When not working we have a small BX with limited items. So receiving packages from home are very helpful in getting items we don't have here and are a joy to receive. We have a coffee shop that is very good and is a very popular place to go. There are lots of activities provided here for all to do. Many of us spend our free time in the gym (another very popular place) playing cards, volleyball or a great game of basketball. With all these activities it helps to keep your mind off things like missing loved ones. Staying in touch with loved ones back home has been pretty easy as well with Wi-Fi being provided.

With all the amenities, activities and contact with home the transition to our new adventure has been fairly easy even with the new changes we had to make. It is going to be much easier returning home to our loved ones than it was leaving them. But one thing for sure we all look forward to returning home soon to our loved ones.

Tech Sgt. Elizabeth Lindstrom
148th Fighter Wing Security Forces

Chief's Corner

By Chief Master Sgt. John R. Sorensen, 148th Fighter Wing

The 148th FW was fortunate to have ANG Command Chief James Hotaling visit in April. He met with many of the wing's Airman informing them of the issues facing our Air National Guard today. The wing presented this past year's accomplishments and its plans and goals for the future. Last September, I was fortunate enough to attend the Chiefs Executive Course at the ANG Readiness center. CCM Hotaling spoke to those in attendance and impressed upon us his three key focus areas, or his AIM Points:

- 1) Renewing Our Commitment to the Profession of Arms
- 2) Health of the Force
- 3) Recognizing and Embracing our Accomplishments

Chief's Gunderson and Erikson told you about two of his focus areas in the previous Chief's corners and I will attempt to relate his third point, "Recognize and Embrace our Accomplishments."

Chief Hotaling tells us to "Focus on the importance of what we do; ensure we let our Airmen know how well they accomplish what we ask of them, and how each of us fits into the mission of our Air National Guard at home and abroad." He wants us to boldly "Tell Your Story." Be proud of what you and the wing have accomplished. Remember, not everyone knows what we have done. Periodically I run into someone that doesn't even know the wing exists up here on the hill. The 148th FW is known for its large number of volunteer hours and community support, the financial impact on the community, highly trained community members as well as the excellent job we do every day in support of our nation.

"Recognize your people both informal and formal." How often has someone given you feedback and you felt good about knowing where you stand? Probably not as often as you would like. Feedback is integral to creating common ground from which a person can grow and improve. A pat on the back is needed and appreciated but giving honest feedback, both up and down the chain

is key to making improvements and growth. Ultimately, supervisors and leaders need to show their appreciation for the jobs that our Airmen do; you will both benefit.



ANG Command Chief James Hotaling

Each of you fit into the mission. "It is very important that the lowest ranking Airman understands what his or her responsibility is," said Hotaling, "and why we are the most dominating Air Force in the world." How does this relate to you? How do you fit into the role of this wing? Our wing has a mission and your group or squadron is tasked to support that mission. Your role in this task is important and people rely on you to do your part. Think of the wing as a large puzzle, each of us representing a piece of that puzzle. When all of the pieces are in their place, things look pretty good and we can see the whole picture. However, you can spot that missing piece or pieces pretty fast, can't you? Well the wing operates like that puzzle. Each of us has a piece or a part in the mission. I don't know what prompted you to join the ANG, but when I joined the ANG long ago, I wanted to be in a position that made a difference, as if my job was the most important job there was. It wasn't long before I realized just how important every job is here in the wing. Can we get on base without the roads cleared of snow? If the Logistics Readiness Squadron isn't here to supply the

parts we need to do our job, we would be standing still. I bet most of you wouldn't come here if you weren't financially compensated. We all have an integral part in the success of meeting our mission, each reliant on the whole of the wing to succeed. So how do you fit into the mission? Knowing your job and training to be good at it and then training others to do the same. This is part of why we in the ANG are so good at our jobs. The experience level is impressive. In the Maintenance organization for example, the average years of experience of the typical 7 level Craftsman is 17.7 years. The active duty in comparison I am told is 8.9 years. They wish they had our experience! I challenge you to learn more than what is required and strive to become that "subject matter expert." Your knowledge and experience will enhance the capability of your work center, your squadron and the 148th Fighter Wing.

Ultimately, Chief Hotaling's third point of "Recognizing and Embracing our Accomplishments" rely on you and your supervision to be successful. The 148th FW contributes tremendously to the local area, the wing, the state, and nation. You are an integral part of that contribution. Recognize the accomplishments of our wing and your own areas and work to improve every day. Second, take the time to ensure you are recognizing your people for the job they do. Don't just assume they know how you feel. Feedback is a key part of a successful organization.

Lastly, I believe all of you joined the Air National Guard to be part of something bigger than yourselves, be it supporting our nation, following in the footsteps of a family member, getting an education or just to be a part of the military, it is incumbent on you to know your job, to know your mission and to know how you fulfill your part in the overall mission.

Remember, each of us could be that final piece that you place on the table to make the picture complete!

DRIFTWOOD ESTATES

5500 DRIFTWOOD ESTATES RD (END OF W. LISMORE RD.)

SEASON: MAY 1 – OCTOBER 30

FACILITIES

- PAVILION WITH FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHEN AND DINING AREA, COMMONS AREA WITH LARGE FIREPLACE, BIG SCREEN TV
- SHOWER AND WOOD FIRED SAUNA BLDG
- COVERED PICNIC FACILITY WITH TABLES, BBQ GRILLS, ELECTRICITY AND LIGHTING

AMENITIES

- 42 CAMP SITES, ALL WITH TABLE & 30 AMP ELECTRICITY
- DESIGNATED SWIM AREA WITH WATERSLIDE AND RAFT
- PLAYGROUND
- TWO LANE BOAT LAUNCH WITH DOCKAGE
- THREE 40 FOOT FISHING DOCKS

RATES

- SEASONAL - \$700 (INCLUDES ELECT.)
- ANNUAL - \$100 (\$400 WITH ELECT.)
- NIGHTLY - \$10 (\$15 WITH ELECT.)
- NIGHTLY ELECT. - \$5

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: TECH. SGT. ANDY ARRIGO (218) 788-7332 OR (715) 580-0762
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HELP SAVE LIVES AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We invite past and present guard members to donate blood and socialize at these upcoming blood drives at the Minnesota Air National Guard Fire Hall:

Wednesday, July 16, 2014
7:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Monday, Nov. 10, 2014
7:30 AM – 10:30 AM

*Fact: Every
2 seconds
someone special
needs blood.*

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12th Annual Commander's Golf Scramble

Sept. 15, 2014
Enger Golf Course
Duluth, Minn.

10:00 a.m. shotgun Start

\$60 per person, 4 golfers per team,
Includes Golf, Cart, Dinner & Prizes

Send team entries to:
Steve Samuelson, (218) 788-7877 or
steven.samuelson@ang.af.mil by
September 8th. \$70 per person if paid after
September 8th. No exceptions

Silent Auction for the
Minnesota Assistance Council for
Veterans (MACV) and the Minnesota National
Guard Enlisted Association (MNGEA)



Col. Penny Dieryck of the 148th Fighter Wing addresses retirees at a retiree breakfast held at the 148th Fighter Wing Great Lakes Inn, June 12, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka)



PROMOTIONS

APRIL

Berglund, Dylan, CES, AMN
Jollymore, Kyle, MXS, SRA
Larson, Adam, MXS, SRA
Larson, Chelsie, SFS, SRA
Levandroski, Arick, FSS, SRA
Schemenauer, Breanna, FSS, SRA
Smith, Mark, AMXS, SRA
Wedan, Blake, AMXS, SRA
Driscoll, Joseph, FSS, SSGT
Grytdahl, Eric, SFS, SSGT
Johnson, Alexis, AMXS, SSGT
Jones, Clinton, SFS, SSGT
Messina, Matthew, AMXS, SSGT
Peterson, Anthony, CES, SSGT
Okstad, Vance, MXS, MSGT
Zimmerman, Corey, MGF, MSGT
Graves, Mark, HQ, CMSGT

MAY

Bourgeault, Zachery, MXS, AIC
Lehto, Megan, STU FLT, AIC
Lunemann, Forest, STU FLT, AIC
Race, Hannah, STU FLT, AIC
Schaumburg, Zachariah, STU FLT, AIC
Johnson, Abigail, LRS, SRA
Strabley, Colton, MXS, SRA
Chadbourne, Jason, MXS, SSGT
LaFave, Jacqueline, CF, SSGT
Jones, Kevin, CES, SSGT
Miller, Garrett, MXS, SSGT
Radosevich, Jason, CF, TSGT
Shimon, James, MXS, TSGT
Skahl, Rachel, FSS, TSGT
Sorensen, Matthew, MXS, TSGT
Bergman, Joseph, SFS, MSGT
Wilson, Jeffery, AMXS, MSGT
Haupt, Dale, FSS, SMSGT
Marple, Ryan, CES, SMSGT
Hawkinson, Michael, SFS, CMSGT

JUNE

Beckwith, Tanner, STU FLT, AIC
Behrman, Jessa, STU FLT, AIC
Buttke, Christopher, STU FLT, AIC
Carlson, Brady, STU FLT, AIC
Clancey, Jeffrey, STU FLT, AIC
Erickson, Matthew, STU FLT, AIC
Gemuenden, Jack, STU FLT, AIC
Jones, Jacob, STU FLT, AIC
Kidd, Jacob, STU FLT, AIC
Kunst, Calie, STU FLT, AIC
O'Shaughnessy, Matthew, STU FLT, AIC
Sedor, Melissa, STU FLT, AIC
Wasbotten, Scott, STU FLT, AIC
Davis, Alexander, CES, SRA
Homer, Justin, MXS, SRA
Lindbeck, Hayley, MXS, SRA
Snyder, Riley, MXS, SRA
Blazevic, Rory, LRS, SSGT
Durbin, Jeffrey, STU FLT, SSGT
Goplin, Nichole, MGF, SSGT
Gudmundson, Nolan, STU FLT, SSGT
Ewald, Amy, MGF, TSGT
Lundberg, Gretchen, FSS, MSGT
Stanislaus Jr., Rickard, MXS, MSGT

TWIN PORTS RETIREMENT APPRECIATION DAYS (RAD)

Lake Superior Chapter 119 of the Retired Enlisted Association will be having their annual "Retirement Appreciation Days," (RAD) on Friday, Sept. 26, 2014 at the Black Bear Casino Convention Center. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the RAD begins at 9:00 a.m. The RAD is for retirees from Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

There will be a presentation with a question and answer period. Pre-registration may be done by calling Butch Liebaert at (715) 398-3152 or by completing and mailing the form below to Butch Liebaert, 4221 E. 2nd St., Superior, WI 54880.

RAD REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ GUEST NAME _____

RANK/RATE _____ SERVICE _____ TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE () _____ EMAIL _____

148th Fighter Wing
Minnesota Air National Guard
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By Col. Penny J. Dieryck

Many exciting events and activities taking place this next six months at the 148th Fighter Wing. It's hard to believe when we say it will be a quiet summer in 2014 after the Readiness Inspection of 2013. Although for many members it will be a short downtime because the vast majority of the wing is involved with deployments to Europe, Japan, and Southwest Asia. From May 21st through July 6th, over 250 wing personnel will be traveling across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Where will these members be working, you may ask? I'll tell you.

The aviation package will be deploying to Bulgaria for two weeks and then more forward to Estonia. What an opportunity to showcase the Block 50's of the 148th in the Eastern European Theatre. This is our first deployment to Europe with wing aircraft since we completed Zulu alert at Ramstein Air Base, Germany in 1986. The mission will be to fly against the air forces of those countries and increase our experience in the air against other country's resources. The interaction with USAFE for this exercise has been awesome. Not only is the Wing able to provide training for the pilots, it also gives our Cargo Deployment Function hands-on experience with prepping cargo for movement, Force Support Squadron and Medical Group training to ensure our personnel are medically and personally prepared to deploy, and our families to learn to take care of our homes and themselves in their loved ones absence. The other deployments include the countries of Norway, Croatia, and Japan. Yes, 10 of our Airmen from the ranks of Airman First Class to Captain will be traveling to northern Norway from June 17th to July 2nd. The sun will be up for 24 hours, and the exchange will provide the participants with survival skills above the Arctic Circle, to include swatting mosquitos and black flies and watching the lemmings run to the ocean. The 2014 NOREX cycle is the first time the Minnesota Army and Air National Guard have conducted this exchange in the summer months. Instead of skiing, the Airmen/Soldiers will be swimming, camping outdoors and eating reindeer. Walt Disney World is offering tours to Norway this year as a spin off from the movie "Frozen"! These folks will get this same opportunity with Olive, the other reindeer and get paid.

The other European trip is a Deployed Field Training project to Croatia. The 148th Civil Engineer Squadron has worked with their 133rd Airlift Wing counterparts to build a construction project at a school in Croatia, out sister state in the State Partnership Program (SPP). This will provide our CES skilled crafts men and women with a real world, nail driving, wood cutting, measure twice and cut once work. This training is a great way to build international relationships. It also fills five and seven level career field requirements. The Chief of Defense of Croatia (equal to the United States Secretary of Defense) is very excited about this project because it is happening in his home town.

The last development is for our 148th Communications Flight members were granted an opportunity to head to the Far East. They'll take off in a C-130 and stop along the way in Alaska and Hawaii. Their work at Yakota Air Base, Japan brought their experience level to a higher grade of Cyber fighter.

The last group of deployers is the 148th Civil Engineers who are stationed in Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. These key individuals are busy taking care of facilities, resources, equipment, and armed forces members stationed in the heart of Operation Enduring Freedom. Their security forces peers are deployed providing safety to the service members at a location in Southeast Asia. My hat goes off to these keepers of the peace. We'll celebrate Memorial Day and 4th of July with the deployers in our thoughts and prayers.

I'll conclude this month with a brief reminder about safety. Our deployers, their loved ones, their friends are in 101 critical days of summer. The wing kicked off this time frame with a Wingman Day on Sunday, May 18th. Please keep an eye on one another. Offer to be the Designated Driver for a social event, wear your helmet and reflective vest if you're driving a motorcycle, wear proper foot gear when mowing the lawn, please do not text and drive, etc. These small reminders will ensure each and every one of us has a safe, happy, blessed, and hopefully sunny warm summer!

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

