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The AIR NATIONAL GUARD

# Skibird



Magazine of the 109th Airlift Wing, Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, N.Y.

Fall 2008



## Happy Birthday 109th



## Wing receives 8-bladed propellers

By Col. Brian Gomula  
109th Maintenance Group commander

During the last few months, the 109th Airlift Wing has received some interesting new airplane parts. Propellers to be exact. These are not just parts, but are historic in nature. Prior to receiving the new props, this unit was the first to fly the three-bladed and four-bladed propellers. The new one has eight blades. The 109th has been selected to do the operational testing of this eight bladed propeller, the NP2000-11. The propeller was designed and built by Hamilton Sundstrand Propulsion Systems of Massachusetts. We could possibly be the first C-130 unit to receive it once testing is complete.

The NP2000-11 propeller system has been designed to replace the four-bladed, 54H60-91 propeller. It has approximately the same weight and blade diameter and operates similarly to the system it replaces. The NP2000 has increased performance, better reliability and maintainability as compared to the current four-bladed propeller. Also being tested is an Electronic Propeller Control. All functions of the propeller are controlled by this new Electronic Propeller Control. These functions include governing, synchrophasing, beta schedule and the negative torque system.

The NP2000-11 can be maintained more easily resulting from the use of

Line Replaceable Units (LRUs) such as propeller blades, pitch change actuator and hubs. Installation and rigging of the entire propeller has been made easier by using fewer mechanical parts and an automated system calibration that minimizes mechanical rigging procedures.

During the months of August and September, 109th maintainers towed aircraft 30492 (test aircraft) into Hangar 1 and demoded it. They replaced the four-bladed propellers with the new NP2000-11 eight-bladed propellers.

The NP2000 was installed by Hamilton Sundstrand technicians. Once the hardware was installed, engine runs were completed. Then came the Functional Check Flight (FCF). Once this was completed, the aircraft was released to Operations to qualify aircrews on it. Operations will be training during the months of September and October. This is in preparation for the operational testing.

The plan for operational testing will start right here in Schenectady and continue to either Antarctica or Greenland. The tests in Schenectady will include routine takeoffs and landings, windmill taxi starts, airdrops, and combat off-loads. There will also be some long-range flights to measure fuel efficiency. Once all the local requirements are met, testing will begin in Antarctica or Greenland. It will depend on what time of the year we are in. The operational testing



File Photo

in either location will be the same.

Basically, we will be flying our ski mission for the testing. Ski takeoffs and landings will start on prepared skiways and then move to open snow areas. The basic idea is to see if increased thrust generated with the eight-bladed propellers reduces or eliminates the need for assisted take-off rockets (ATO).

The addition of the NP2000-11 propeller to the 109th LC-130H fleet will increase the life of the airplane, reduce noise and vibration to the aircrew, and provide a better/cost effective aircraft to our customer. A total win-win for everybody. And yes, making history being the first!!!!



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ben German



Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

The 109th Airlift Wing was selected to test the eight-bladed propeller, the NP2000-11.

Skier 92 takes off from Stratton Air National Guard Base for the first time with the new eight-bladed propellers on Sept. 16.

### 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing



Commander  
Col. Anthony German  
Vice Commander  
Col. Timothy LaBarge

### The Skibird

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#### On the cover:

The 109th Airlift Wing celebrated 60 years with a Hangar Dance on Oct. 4. The 139th Fighter Squadron was established and federally recognized as a fighter base on Nov. 18, 1948. See Page 10-11 for more Hangar Dance coverage. (Photo illustration by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara)

## Integrity

By CMSgt. Michael Cristiano  
109th AW Command Chief

“Integrity is the willingness to do what is right even when no one is looking.”

This is the answer to one question I have always asked on every promotion or hiring board I have sat on or will sit on. Every member of the Air Force has a requirement to know what integrity is.

Most Airmen have integrity and employ it on a daily basis without thinking about it. Others may have to work at it, and a small minority makes a conscience decision not to employ integrity. This minority jeopardizes the mission and at the extreme the lives of our fellow Airmen. A few of the moral traits of a person with integrity are courage, honesty, accountability and openness. A person with integrity has the courage to do the right thing even if it comes with a personal or financial cost. Does the sergeant who signs off an engine intake inspection without performing it have integrity? Does the child who didn't do his homework and blames the dog have integrity? Is withholding information an act of integrity? The answer to all of these questions is a resounding “No”.

Having integrity may be an elusive concept, not readily apparent because it includes so

many traits. The true basis of integrity is not just knowing what is right, but also having the conviction and courage to act upon that knowledge. If you observe someone doing something wrong and fail to act upon it, you have weakened your integrity. Integrity is a value which requires constant attention. You must continue to reinforce it by having the courage to do what is right all the time.

We are all responsible for each other, and it is vital that we all share a sense of ownership over our Section, Group and Wing. This echoes back to the Guard Family. We should respect each other and make sure we are all doing the right thing when no one is looking.

The Airmen of the Year for their respective groups have been selected. I would like to congratulate the following Airmen:

### Medical Group

Senior Airman Lorenzo Rodriguez

Tech. Sgt. Bonnie Kemble

Master Sgt. Michelle Brunt

### Maintenance Group

Senior Airman Chris Smith

Staff Sgt. Seth Bathrick

Master Sgt. Jeff Archibald

### Support Group

Airman 1st Class Darren Landerway

Tech. Sgt. Lynette Bucci

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Mann

### Operations Group

Senior Airman Corey Shields

Tech. Sgt. Michael Kruzinski

Master Sgt. Glen Preece



File Photo

Congratulations to all of these individuals and good luck on becoming the 109th's Airmen of the Year.

I don't envy the 65th anniversary planning group. It is going to be next to impossible to top the 60th. The 60th had everything a guardsman could want: food, drink, music, old airplanes and good friends. I would like to thank the Schenectady Military Affairs Council (SMAC), the Schenectady County Chamber of Commerce, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadets, Col. (Timothy) LaBarge, Capt. (Dean) Love, Capt. (Ernest) Lancto and all of you who had a hand in making this the best anniversary celebration I have attended.

## Chaplain's Corner

### Engaging the spiritual battle

By Capt. Sung Lee  
Chaplain

Many Christian scholars describe church in different ways, and one of these descriptions is “Church militant.” We are the chosen people of God as the body of Christ to fight the battle in this world, so they say. As much as I am pro-

peace, I must acknowledge that all people of faith who believe in God, regardless of their denominations, are the community in battle. Even peaceful Buddhists acknowledge the battles they are called to fight. It is quite interesting how almost every major religion of the world has this “militant” aspect in their beliefs.

From my basic chaplain

course over the summer, I have learned a lot about the military culture. It would not be wise if I compare everything about the people of faith with the culture of military. However, I have found one primary reason why we are militant.

The soldiers in the battlefield are “mission focused.” In peace time, you can have whatever opinions about the mission; you

can ask for different assignment; you can complain about your boss and argue with your colleagues, but once you are ordered to go, you go.

In the battlefield, you don't think about complaints, arguments or other assignments. That would be a deadly mistake. You go and carry on the mission of your order. Believe it or not, people of faith in the world are in battle. Starting from the battle in my own heart to the battle

See CHAPLAIN, page 7

## 109th AW awarded Spaatz Trophy

The 109th Airlift Wing was awarded the prestigious National Guard Association of the United States' Spaatz Trophy for 2007.

Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, Air National Guard director, presented Col. Anthony German, 109th AW commander, the trophy Sept. 22 during the NGAUS Awards Ceremony in Baltimore.

The Spaatz trophy, named in honor of former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Carl S. Spaatz, is presented to the overall outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard.

“The Wing superbly executed state and national objectives in the Global War on Terrorism, the United States Antarctic Program and other contingency operations,” according to the citation.

As the operator of the Department of Defense's

only ski-equipped LC-130H aircraft, the unit achieved new records for Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica while simultaneously significantly expanding its combat operations.

Notably, the wing volunteered and filled a short notice Operation Enduring Freedom tasking by deploying two aircraft and four crews with associated maintenance and support personnel. This effort required the Wing to stand-up the unit's first C-130 combat capability since the Vietnam War in only nine months. All the while, the 109th AW sustained its exemplary support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, global operations in the War on Terror and Homeland Security priorities including Operation Jump Start.

Throughout 2007, the 109th Airlift Wing deployed a total of 684 personnel serving

more than 19,300 days to support these global missions.

“This wing continues to provide extraordinary service to this state and to this great nation,” Colonel German said. “I am proud of our Airmen for continuing to excel in the performance of their duties, whether it be here at home, in Antarctica, Greenland or in hostile lands supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. This award reflects the dedication given by all to make the 109th Airlift Wing the best in the world.”

Selection is based on overall combat readiness and the unit's performance with respect to all other Air Guard flying units, according to the NGAUS Web site. Factors included in the evaluation are flying safety, aircraft operation readiness, weapons firing, unit alerts, unit manning, skill level



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Girolami

The 109th Airlift Wing was awarded the Spaatz Trophy, which recognizes the best flying unit in the Air National Guard.

qualifications, retention, drill attendance, operational readiness inspections, outstanding accomplishments and special missions and exercises.

## Satellite Noncommissioned Officer Academy comes to Stratton



Courtesy photo

The 109th Airlift Wing is participating in the Satellite Noncommissioned Officer Academy provided by McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Knoxville, Tenn. The academy runs Sept. 4 to Nov. 20. Students take classes here on base Tuesday and Thursday nights from 4 to 10 p.m. and will complete a final 10-day schedule at McGhee Tyson in December. This program allows the students to earn in-residence credit for their Professional Military Education. Congratulations to these fine men and women for taking advantage of this opportunity. Pictured are (top row from left) Tech Sgts. Joshua Muscato, Andrew Stearns, Nicole Della Rocco, David Miller, Jeffery Dorman, and Gary Whitworth. (Bottom row from left) Tech Sgts. Henry Smith, Dennis Berg, Thomas Hegney, Justin Taylor and Kelly Yerg.

# C-5 airlifts C-130 fuselage to Stratton

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt  
Public Affairs

On Sept. 10 a 105th Airlift Wing C-5 Galaxy from Newburgh, N.Y., landed here with precious cargo – a training fuselage of a C-130A that the 143rd AW in Rhode Island no longer needed. It was the first time a non-modified C-5 had carried this cargo.

The fuselage was brought here to provide more training opportunities for guardsmen. Getting the C-130 onto the C-5 was no easy feat; it took more than two years of careful planning to make this happen.

“About two-and-a-half years ago it was mentioned that Rhode Island received their J-models, and that this aircraft was no longer applicable for training their crews,” said Master Sgt. Glen Preece, a loadmaster with the 139th Airlift Squadron here. “Rhode Island checked on a few things and said ‘OK, if you guys can transport it, you can have it.’”

Sergeant Preece began doing the legwork to get things started.

“I was asked to go out and take a look at the trainer to see if I could take the wings off of it,” he said. He and a crew were able to cut the wings off and towed it to Rhode Island’s flightline. He also approached the 105th AW about getting the actual C-5 to transport the training fuselage. The Guard unit agreed to help out.

The most challenging part of the process Sergeant Preece faced was obtaining a certification letter from Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He needed to prove that transporting the C-130 would be possible.

“I explained to them about the hydraulic unit we installed to lower the nose gear to prove that we could raise the mains and deflate the struts to get it to sit low enough,” he said. “And then we had to build a shoring kit which was monstrous.”

Building the shoring kit took about three weeks, and Tech. Sgt. Brian Irvin, another 139th AS loadmaster, helped figure out how they would build the kit.

“I would estimate that the entire shoring kit weighs about 22,000 pounds,” Sergeant Irvin said. “The shoring kit angles and how



Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

A training fuselage from Rhode Island Air National Guard’s 143rd Airlift Wing is unloaded off a C-5 here. This was the first time a C-130 fuselage was transported in a C-5. The C-130 will be used for training here.

we stepped it up was a lot of math and mental work. We had to get the fuselage approaching the C-5 at approximately the same angle as the C-5 floor. With such small clearance, if you’re going in off-angle it’s not going to work. It had to be very precise. We got copies of the flight manuals of the C-5 and we built the shoring kit to match that.”

Sergeant Preece received the OK from Wright-Pat, and all the hard work and preparation was finally tested Sept. 8 when the crew went down to Rhode Island to load the training fuselage.

“It went very smoothly loading the plane,” Sergeant Preece said. “They gave us an eight-hour timeframe, and I think we did the whole thing in four hours.”

“There was a lot of planning, I think we did a very good job anticipating as much as we could possibly ahead of time,” Sergeant Irvin said. “Any time you are loading something that big with a couple inches to spare in clearance, there are going to be things you didn’t think of.

“The shoring kit worked exactly as we wanted it to,” Sergeant Irvin said.

The next step was transporting it here and

unloading it. That ended up being a little more difficult than loading the plane.

“Where the C-5 parked I knew immediately that it wouldn’t work,” Sergeant Preece said. “So we went and walked around and we found a spot that did work. This time it took about six hours to offload.

“Safety and not damaging the C-5 were paramount,” he said. “Once the C-130 got just outside the C-5, there was a ramp made for the nose gear, and getting that to track was a little difficult at first.”

But with the help of guardsmen around the base, they were able to unload the aircraft with no major mishaps.

After maintainers work to get the aircraft up to training standards, many units will be able to use the aircraft at any time for training.

“This is going to be hugely invaluable for the base, it’s going to be used for loadmasters, aeromedics, aerial port, and maintenance will be able to do some OJT on it by just getting it fixed up,” Sergeant Irvin said.

“Some people from outside may not see it, but in the wintertime most of our aircraft

See *FUSELAGE*, page 9

# ODF season gears up

## Wing prepares for 20th year supporting NSF mission

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt  
Public Affairs

The 109th Airlift Wing began its 20th year of Operation Deep Freeze supporting the National Science Foundation in Antarctica with its first flight of the season taking off Oct. 27.

Two LC-130 Hercules, ski-equipped aircraft, took off on Oct. 27, followed by two more LC-130s and a C-5 Galaxy from the 105th AW at Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y., on Oct. 28.

The aircraft is carrying maintenance equipment, such as engines and propellers. Crews will spend a few days in New Zealand setting up their base of operations and then head down to McMurdo Station in Antarctica to get things going there, said Tech. Sgt. Joe Axe, a loadmaster with the 139th Airlift Squadron who works in the Antarctic Operations Office.

“Once we’re established in Antarctica, the first mission

**Chaplain**, from page 4

against evil systems of the world (such as exploitation of children in some countries and starving people of the world), we are engaged in the spiritual battle.

As a person of Christian faith, I believe God has finished the war against evil and Satan through life, death and resurrection of Christ. Truly the spiritual war is over and victory earned, but we still have battles to fight.

From this perspective of

we’ll do is to open the South Pole,” Sergeant Axe said. “We’ll take about 50 people. That first day will be about three or four trips just to get the South Pole going.”

This season, financial challenges have lessened the missions required for the unit.

“This season we’re doing about two-thirds of what we usually do; we’re only doing five (sorties) a day vs. eight,” Sergeant Axe said. “I’m hoping to get somewhere around 8 million pounds of cargo moved at a minimum. Our best season was 14 million.”

Another change this season has to do with the new eight-bladed propellers. That aircraft will be going to Antarctica as part of a test program. Once tests are done, and everything checks out OK, the aircraft will be added to the rotation.

“We’re hoping the tests go well and get done fast and it



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Girolami

Staff Sgt. Les Gould taxis in an LC-130 at Willie Field, Antarctica, during the 2007/08 Operation Deep Freeze season. He is a crew chief with the 109th Airlift Wing.

can be proven that the aircraft is more fuel-efficient,” Sergeant Axe said. “During the testing phase, it will be flying its own separate missions taking a little bit of cargo and increasing that each time.”

Crews have been preparing for this season even before last season was finished. Feedback is gathered and sent up the chain so improvements can be made for the next season.

“As we enter our 20th year supporting Operation Deep Freeze the one constant in an ever-changing environment is the attitude of our Airmen and their dedication to completing the mission,” said Col. Anthony German, 109th AW

commander.

“The work ethic required to be successful in the environments we work in is the defining characteristic that led us to being selected as the best flying unit in the Air National Guard. Each season has its own challenges, and this season the challenge will be financial in nature. We will fly less missions, deploy less people and consolidate jobs in a number of areas, but in the end we will continue to serve the National Science Foundation in the same professional manner they are accustomed to. I look forward to the upcoming season with great confidence in all of our Airmen to make this yet another successful season.”

in their prayers.

As long as we are in the Air National Guard, we will be directly and indirectly engaged in the battles. And every time some of my brothers and sisters are going into harm’s way, my heart aches and my prayers will continue. Every time they come back safely and reunite with their family, my heart rejoices and I shed tears of joy.

It is important that we

efficiently carry on our mission in this physical battle against the terrorists and insurgents, but it is equally important that we fight the spiritual battle against powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12). The battles will be tough, but I am confident, because (as little boy David claimed) the battle belongs to the Lord.

## Base firefighters respond to aircraft crash

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt  
Public Affairs

Firefighters stationed here were the first to respond to an aircraft crash across the flightline at Schenectady County Airport on Sept. 23 at about 3 p.m.

The team was on scene within two minutes of the call. They quickly extinguished the fire and worked to get the man out of the aircraft.

The aircraft was described as an experimental plane built to look like a World War II-era P-51 fighter plane.

An Empire State Aerosciences Museum employee told the Times Union the pilot lost control at the end of the runway during takeoff, hit some trees and landed upside-down.

The crew said when they arrived on scene it was "controlled chaos."

"There was heavy smoke and fire," said Firefighter Scott DeHart. "Everyone was yelling; the pilot was still in the airplane."

DeHart and Fire Station Capt. Daniel Trask were the first on the scene with their truck to extinguish the fire. Firefighter Brian Kissinger was right behind

them to try and remove the pilot from the aircraft.

"I went to check on him to see if he was conscience, and at the time he was semi-conscious," he said.

The way the plane had landed, there was only a small space to get into, so the firefighters had to figure out a way to make the opening larger to get the pilot out.

"There was a moment where I had to stop and think, 'How am I going to get this guy out without making the injuries worse?'" Kissinger said. "My concern was to get him out as quickly as possible but not make his injuries worse."

"We airbagged the left wing up to gain better access," Kissinger said. "We then ended up airbagging the tail to pull the fuselage off (the pilot)."

After about 35 minutes, firefighters were able to free the pilot. He was then taken to Ellis Hospital and soon after transported to Albany Medical Hospital.

A few days later, the pilot succumbed to his severe injuries and passed away.



Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

(From left) Jim Barnes, Tom Kennedy, Daniel Trask, Scott DeHart and Brian Kissinger were part of the crew that responded to an aircraft crash at Schenectady County Airport on Sept. 23. They are all Stratton Air National Guard firefighters.

"We all tried our best to save his life," Kissinger said.

"Our response was partially from training and partially just acting," said Jim Barnes. "The biggest thing is that you get the training so that when you are acting, you're acting the correct way."

Other volunteer firefighters were also on scene from Thomas Corners, Alplaus and East

Glenville.

"It was a team effort," Kissinger said. "It wasn't just us; with the manpower we had, we couldn't have done it."

The Stratton crew on scene included DeHart, Trask, Kissinger, Barnes, Chief Master Sgt. James Acors, Fire Station Chief Tom Kennedy and Staff Sgt. Chris Menge. David Vadney was the dispatcher.

**911 IS NOW ON BASE**  
**ATTENTION ALL BASE PERSONNEL:**  
If you have a Fire / EMS emergency you now dial 911 on all "base" phones

**Deadline Notice**  
Articles for the next issue of *the Skibird* are due by **Jan. 11.**

## Wing launches new, improved public Web site

The 109th Airlift Wing's public Web site is now up and running. The Air National Guard recently joined the Air Force is consolidating its public Web sites under one network, the Air Force Public Web.

The 109th AW site ([www.109aw.ang.af.mil](http://www.109aw.ang.af.mil)) now has the same look and feel that other Air Force Web sites currently have.

Creating a standard template for Air Force Web sites was one of the main goals of the AFPW program.

"AFPW has standardized the appearance of public Web sites across the Air Force by giving

content providers one Web publishing tool, AFPIMS, for all to use," said Joe Bela, chief of AFPW at the Air Force News Agency in San Antonio. "Having a consistent Web page format allows visitors to easily find what they are looking for, no matter which Air Force site they visit."

"The program improves security and performance while decreasing infrastructure, manpower and operating costs -- more than \$30 million annually according to a 2006 cost analysis," he said. "Bringing the Guard under our umbrella is the last major project we face before we can truly say AFPW supports the

Total Force."

Some of the features the new site includes are local news, photos, video, senior leader biographies, a history page as well as a recruiting page. More features will be included within the next months.

The Web site is aimed at providing the public current information about the Wing, its people and its operations.

If you have any suggestions on information you feel the site should include, feel free to contact Master Sgt. Willie Gizara or Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt at 344-2423.

### Fuselage, from page 6

are deployed," said Sergeant Preece. (The 109th Airlift Wing is home to the LC-130s, ski-equipped aircraft to aid in the unit's arctic missions.) "The aircraft that aren't deployed in the winter are really tied up in maintenance. So there's no aircraft availability sometimes; this will be available 365 days a year, 24/7 for anybody that needs it."

"(Transporting a C-130 on a C-5) has never been done before, so the fact that it was done safely without any major mishaps was an accomplishment in itself," said Master Sgt. Michael Peck, another 139th AS loadmaster who was part of the crew that transported the fuselage. "The teamwork from all the units and from everyone here was remarkable."

"It was just a remarkable job done by everyone," said Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Morgan, loadmaster superintendent with the 139th AS. "We had a lot of people involved, to include ops and maintenance. The support was outstanding. We couldn't have done it without the 105th at Stewart. They were outstanding to work with. It was really a joint Guard effort."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ty Moore



Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

Guardsmen help push a C-130 fuselage out of a C-5 here. The training fuselage was transported from the Rhode Island Air National Guard. Loadmasters, aeromedics and aerial port personnel will now be able to train at any time.

# Celebrating 60 Years

## 109th AW reflects back on wing's history during Hangar Dance

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt  
Public Affairs

About 800 Airmen and guests filled Hangar 8 to celebrate the 109th Airlift Wing's 60th Anniversary on Oct. 4.

The night started with a quick video about the wing being the recent recipient of the Spaatz Trophy, an award recognizing the 109th Airlift Wing as the Air National Guard's most outstanding flying unit for 2007.

Also on screen was Lt. Matt Ruper who spoke about his time serving during World War II; he flew the wing's first aircraft, the P-47 Thunderbolt.

Various restaurants provided buffet-style meals, and entertainment included The Swing Docs and the Liberty Belles.

Airmen and guests dressed up in military uniforms, suits and cocktail

dresses that represented eras dating back to the late 1940s all the way through 2008.

World War II vintage aircraft (the P-47, B-17, B-24 and B-25) were lined up outside the hangar next to the wing's LC-130 Hercules. Guests were able to go on the flightline to see the planes up close.

"It was a great time," said Master Sgt. Christine Wood. "To see how the hangar was set up really brought to life the wing's heritage."

"The whole setup was great as was the organization that went into the event," said Master Sgt. Joseph Archambeault. "The static displays of the old aircraft were also great to see. My wife and I had a really nice time."

"Best ever," "Best I have ever been too," and "Best military function ever," were just some of the comments Col. Timothy LaBarge

said he heard throughout the night.

"I am glad everyone was having a good time and that they were witnessing the results of teamwork in action," said Colonel LaBarge, 109th AW vice commander and chairman of the 60th Anniversary planning committee. "This anniversary celebration was the result of months of planning, fundraising, negotiating and coordinating by a dedicated team of 109th members in conjunction with some of our community and civilian leaders.

"The exceptional finished product was evidence of what can be accomplished when you pool your talents, resources, energies and ideas and focus it toward an end goal," he said.

"The night was obviously a huge success," said Capt. Matt Sala, who was part of the planning committee.



Airmen, guests and the Liberty Belles, celebrate the 109th Airlift Wing's 60 years at the Hangar Dance on Oct. 4. Vintage World War II aircraft were on display on the flightline during the event.



The Liberty Belles, a USO-style group and part of the entertainment for the night, sing the National Anthem at the base's 60th Anniversary Hangar Dance on Oct. 4.



The Stratton Base Honor Guard starts off the 60th Anniversary celebration Oct. 4.

### Happy Birthday, 109th!

On Nov. 18, 1948 the 139th Fighter Squadron was established and federally recognized as a fighter base. A group of 22 officers and 43 Airmen, mostly World War II veterans, mustered in the Naval Training Center at the Scotia Naval Supply Depot.

"The company grade officers were proud to help support the event."

Colonel LaBarge agreed that the night was a true success.

"We wanted to celebrate our 60 years of tradition and history, set the tone for our next 60 years and simply thank all of the 109th unit members, past and present, for all that we have collectively achieved. If we did that in some small way than I think we can call the night a success."

Photos by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara



Staff Sgt. Abraham Gadway and his fiancée, Emily Luxford.



Master Sgt. Bev Schoeffler and her husband, retired Master Sgt. Charlie Schoeffler



Senior Master Sgt. Andy Kennedy and his wife, Denise.



Megan Albright and her fiancé, Justin Barkevich.



Capt. Matt Sala and his wife, Carie



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jared Semerad

A crew from the 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was called to provide relief in Texas for Hurricane Ike. Here, they wait by their LC-130 Hercules in Beaumont, Texas until they are given access to one of the Texas Air National Guard aircraft.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jared Semerad

Master Sgt. Jennifer Ray helps load a patient onto a C-130 in Beaumont, Texas. The 139th AES had three air evac crews deploy to evacuate patients and passengers affected by Hurricane Ike.

## 139th AES provides Hurricane Ike relief



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jared Semerad

Master Sgt. James Welch helps secure people on a C-130 for transport to College Station, Texas.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jared Semerad

(Right) A Texas Air National Guard C-130 carries patients and passengers from Beaumont, Texas, to College Station, Texas on Sept. 11. 139th AES personnel were called to provide Hurricane Ike relief. More than 400 people were evacuated from Beaumont.



Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

Airmen with the 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron return to Stratton Air National Guard Base after providing Hurricane Ike relief in Texas.

## Airmen welcomed home with open arms

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt  
Public Affairs

Family, friends and co-workers welcomed back nearly 30 security forces Airmen to the 109th Airlift Wing after a six-month deployment to Southwest Asia.

The troops arrived via an LC-130 Hercules that picked the Airmen up at Baltimore-Washington International Airport and brought them back to Stratton Air National Guard Base.

Families waited with anticipation to see their loved ones. Miranda Crisalli held her 5-week-old son who hadn't ever met his father. Samantha Quigan waited with her baby girl, whom her husband had only seen once. And Miranda Lynn Noll waited with excitement to see her boyfriend, who unbeknownst to her, would be her fiancé in a matter of minutes.

Miranda Crisalli found out she was pregnant right before her husband, Senior Airman Michael Crisalli, left for his deployment. They'd been apart before, but this time was different. "This time he's been away a little bit longer and since I was pregnant, it's been a little bit harder and a lot more emotional," she said as she held Michael Jr. close to her.

Samantha Quigan gave birth to her little girl, 11-week-old Ellie, prematurely. Her husband, Staff Sgt. Donald Quigan, came back for two weeks when she was born, but had to leave to return to his deployment. "It was very hard without him here," Samantha said. "But I am so excited right now to see him again."

Across the world, Senior Airman Carlton Kuhlmeier had made an important decision about his girlfriend, Miranda Lynn

Noll. He would propose to her moments after he stepped off the plane.

"Since I've been gone, our relationship has been wonderful," he said. "It's been rough on both of us of course, but we both have fought through the rough times and have been there for each other even though we were miles apart. We talked every day by phone, e-mail, webcam, and she's written me a letter for every day I've been gone."

Miranda wasn't the only one waiting for Airman Kuhlmeier, his mother, father, stepmother and other family members couldn't wait to see him either. "I'm excited he's coming home," said his father, Tom Kuhlmeier. "I couldn't be any more proud of him."

As the Airmen began to deboard the aircraft, families rushed on the flightline to greet their loved ones.

In one area, Airman Crisalli held his son for the first time. "It's amazing," he said. "This feels awesome."

Across the flightline, Sergeant Quigan was getting a look at his baby girl who was only 2 weeks old the last time he saw her. "I'm



Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

Senior Airman Carlton Kuhlmeier hugs Miranda Lynn Noll after she accepts his marriage proposal.



Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

Families and friends wait for their loved ones to return from a six-month deployment to Southwest Asia. The 109th Security Forces Squadron Airmen returned home Sept. 16.

elated, that's all I wanted to be - here with them," he said.

As families welcomed home their Airmen with hugs and kisses, Airman Kuhlmeier got on one knee and asked his girlfriend to marry him. She, of course, said yes, as their families cheered for the good news. Airman Kuhlmeier had been planning this moment for months, with the help of both their families.

Along with all the greetings from families, other Airmen were

also on the flightline to welcome home their co-workers and thank them for their service.

"The wing's getting ready for Deep Freeze, but we have to remember that there are other Airmen on the base out there serving our country, and we need to go ahead and recognize our people coming back from the desert," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Cristiano, 109th AW command chief. "We're all just so happy they're home."



Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

Staff Sgt. Donald Quigan says hello to his 11-week-old daughter, Ellie, as his wife, Samantha, holds her. Sergeant Quigan returned home with other 109th Security Forces Airmen from a six-month deployment.

# Local employer receives Freedom Award

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – State Farm was among 15 employers who accepted a Defense Department award Sept. 18 for their exceptional financial and emotional support of National Guard and Reserve members on their payroll.

Lt. Col. Ted Kobierski, a guardsman with the 109th Operations Support Flight here, nominated his employer, State Farm, for the prestigious 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award for their continued support of his military career.

Colonel Kobierski had only been working at State Farm for about a year before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, and when his deployments began.

“I had deployed four times (three to the Middle East), and each time I was greeted back with open arms and no disruption to my job or work relations,” he said.

“After my latest deployment to Afghanistan, I was amazed at how I was welcomed back to work at State Farm,” Colonel Kobierski said. “My normal workload was split among other employees, my position was secure, and I was greeted

with a homecoming party/luncheon by my fellow employees and management. I felt so moved I submitted State Farm for the Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve Program.”

The nation’s top automobile and home insurer frequently participates in military job fairs and actively recruits military personnel for employment.

The company also created the Military Affinity Group, a forum for employees to look at how military core values and perspectives can be used to positively affect and achieve business goals.

The group promotes military support and awareness within State Farm and the community by publishing a support group guide with links supporting the citizen-soldiers and their families with deployments.

The group’s adopt-a-soldier program gives deployed employees and family members a “little bit of home” as State Farm frequently sends care packages to them.

Additionally, 3,200 specially designed State Farm phone cards have been sent to servicemembers to help defray the cost of calling home.

While employees are deployed or on active-duty status, the company pays the difference between their State Farm salary and base military pay. For employees whose military service comes to an end, the company offers a reintegration program that assists employees in transitioning between military and civilian life, and participates in community troop-support activities.

“State Farm and all its associates can take pride in

this national recognition,” Ed Rust Jr., chief executive officer and chairman, said in a statement published on the company’s Web site. “But the real salute goes to our colleagues who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, and especially those dozens from across the country and across the company who are on active duty this very day.”

“In the military, the best leaders are those who always take care of their people, and it is no different in the civilian workplace,” said Gordon Sumner, executive director of the Defense Department’s National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

“State Farm has shown that it, too, takes care of its people. Its employees, who are also Reserve and Guard members, know the company is helping take care of their families while they are away serving this country.”

Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon R. England greeted the ESGR award recipients at the Pentagon.

England, who held top positions in the private sector prior to his tenure in public service, told awardees their efforts, in part, are responsible for improving the economic health of Iraq.

Delivering the keynote speech at the award ceremony was Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, director of the Air National Guard.

“Without your support, these young men and women could not keep their lives in balance,” he told the employers of their commitment. “Because when you’re a reservist or a member of the (National Guard), you have three great stressors.

“You have your family, and they should always come first ... They have their jobs -- you are their employers -- they have to make sure that they keep that in balance,” he said.

“And then we ask so much of the young men and women who take the oath of enlistment, that if they keep those things in balance, we will continue to serve the United States of America.”

*(This article is a combination of American Forces Press Service stories)*



DOD photo by John J. Krizel

Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs; Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, director of the Air National Guard; and David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, prepare to present the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award at the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve ceremony Sept. 18 in Washington, D.C.

# Tricare takes aim at childhood obesity

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) -- October is Children’s Health Month and Tricare has launched a new Web page at [www.tricare.mil/getfit](http://www.tricare.mil/getfit) to promote a healthy lifestyle partnership aimed at military families. The new page serves as campaign headquarters.

The target? Childhood obesity. Tricare is partnering with the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), Military OneSource and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) to raise awareness of childhood overweight and obesity issues. The “Healthy Youth for a Healthy Future” initiative was launched by the United States Department of Health

and Human Services (HHS). Traditionally the first Monday in October, Children’s Health Month includes National Child Health Day on Oct. 6. This year’s focus is on childhood obesity.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, obese children are more likely than children of normal weight to become overweight or obese adults.

Overweight or obese adults are more at risk for several health problems, including heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, stroke, several types of cancer and osteoarthritis.

The “Healthy Youth for a Healthy Future” campaign supports the Surgeon General’s efforts to encourage children to

stay active, have healthy eating habits and make healthy choices.

The campaign is geared toward ongoing efforts to raise awareness of childhood obesity and encourage children to eat right and exercise, and information about those efforts is available on the new page.

From articles and video messages, to links, games and “widgets,” there is something for users of all ages at [www.tricare.mil/getfit](http://www.tricare.mil/getfit).

Partner initiatives include a special childhood obesity “Dietitian’s Voice” column at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com). Military families can also get additional information on losing weight, getting in shape and

maintaining good health at the DeCA Web site, including advice-packed columns, recipes and an open question and answer forum.

AAFES is also encouraging healthy food choices in its food courts and plans to keep the effort going in November through special coupon offers in shopper circulars.

Resources to better educate and assist parents in the battle against obesity are available on [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

Also visit [www.surgeongeneral.gov/obesityprevention/](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/obesityprevention/) to get information and “Take the Pledge” to help prevent childhood obesity. For more on Child Health Day visit <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/childhealthday/>.

# Pay & Personnel

2009 Guard and Reserve Monthly Drill Pay Charts																			
3.9% Pay Increase Effective Jan. 1, 2009																			
<b>Commissioned Officers</b>																			
Pay Grade	Years of Service	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	30	34	38
O-7		\$1,007	\$1,054	\$1,076	\$1,093	\$1,124	\$1,155	\$1,190	\$1,226	\$1,261	\$1,373	\$1,468	\$1,468	\$1,468	\$1,468	\$1,475	\$1,505	\$1,505	\$1,505
O-6		\$746	\$820	\$874	\$874	\$877	\$915	\$920	\$920	\$972	\$1,064	\$1,119	\$1,173	\$1,204	\$1,235	\$1,296	\$1,321	\$1,321	\$1,321
O-5		\$622	\$701	\$750	\$759	\$789	\$807	\$847	\$876	\$914	\$972	\$999	\$1,026	\$1,057	\$1,057	\$1,057	\$1,057	\$1,057	\$1,057
O-4		\$537	\$622	\$663	\$672	\$711	\$752	\$803	\$843	\$871	\$887	\$896	\$896	\$896	\$896	\$896	\$896	\$896	\$896
O-3		\$472	\$535	\$578	\$630	\$660	\$693	\$714	\$750	\$768	\$768	\$768	\$768	\$768	\$768	\$768	\$768	\$768	\$768
O-2		\$408	\$465	\$535	\$553	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564
O-1		\$354	\$368	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445
<b>Commissioned Officers: with more than 4 years Active Service as an Enlisted member or Warrant Officer</b>																			
O-3E					\$630	\$660	\$693	\$714	\$750	\$779	\$796	\$820	\$820	\$820	\$820	\$820	\$820	\$820	\$820
O-2E				\$553	\$564	\$582	\$613	\$636	\$654	\$654	\$654	\$654	\$654	\$654	\$654	\$654	\$654	\$654	\$654
O-1E				\$445	\$476	\$493	\$511	\$529	\$553	\$553	\$553	\$553	\$553	\$553	\$553	\$553	\$553	\$553	\$553
<b>Enlisted Servicemembers</b>																			
E-9								\$389	\$603	\$620	\$639	\$659	\$691	\$718	\$747	\$790	\$830	\$871	\$915
E-8							\$482	\$504	\$517	\$533	\$550	\$581	\$597	\$623	\$638	\$675	\$688	\$688	\$688
E-7		\$335	\$366	\$380	\$399	\$413	\$438	\$452	\$477	\$498	\$512	\$527	\$533	\$552	\$563	\$603	\$603	\$603	\$603
E-6		\$290	\$319	\$333	\$347	\$361	\$393	\$406	\$430	\$438	\$443	\$449	\$449	\$449	\$449	\$449	\$449	\$449	\$449
E-5		\$266	\$284	\$297	\$311	\$333	\$356	\$375	\$377	\$377	\$377	\$377	\$377	\$377	\$377	\$377	\$377	\$377	\$377
E-4		\$244	\$256	\$270	\$284	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296
E-3		\$220	\$234	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248	\$248
E-2		\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209	\$209
E-1		\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187	\$187
E-1 with less than 4 months of service		\$173																	

### MPF Hours of Operation

Mon: 0800-1530  
 Tues: 0800-1530  
 Wed: 0800-1530  
 Thurs: 0800-1530  
 Friday: 0800-1530

### ID CARDS:

By appointment, but we will accommodate walk-ins, time permitting.

Mon: 0800-1100  
 1200-1500  
 Tues: 0800-1100  
 1200-1500  
 Wed: 0800-1100  
 1200-1500  
 Thurs: 0800-1100  
 1200-1500

No ID Cards Friday except for emergencies.

### UTA HOURS:

\*Sat: 0730-1500  
 \*Sun: 0730-1500  
 CSS training from 1200-1300 on Sunday

By Retired Lt. Col. Tom Noel  
Alumni Representative

The 109th Airlift Wing celebrated its 60th Anniversary by having a Hangar Dance at Stratton Air National Guard Base on Oct. 4. It was a wonderful event; approximately 800 personnel attended this celebration.

New Props Improve Antarctic Hercules: The 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard has begun operating a ski-equipped Lockheed Martin LC-130H Hercules with new Hamilton Sundstrand NP2000 propellers, the first of 12 to be retrofitted to improve support for remote deep-field camps in Antarctica.

Flight tests of the eight-blade composite propellers on the C-130 were conducted earlier this year at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., on a Wyoming ANG C-130 aircraft, demonstrating increased performance and reliability, and reduced noise, vibration and fuel consumption, the company says.

The composite-blade-outfitted NP2000s, already used on the U.S. Navy's carrier-based Northrop Grumman E-2C Hawkeyes, replace the original four-blade metal units and increase thrust, thus improving takeoff performance. Hamilton Sundstrand helped fund flight tests, but the Defense Department is paying for the retrofits.

The retrofitted LC-130 will begin testing in Antarctica or Greenland once it meets all local requirements. The new propellers are expected to reduce the need to use jet assisted take off (JATO) rockets for takeoff from ice-and snow-covered runways at deep-field sites.

The wing was awarded the prestigious National Guard Association of the United States Spaatz Trophy for 2007, an award recognizing the best flying unit in the Air National Guard. For the full story, see Page 5.

The members of the 109th Airlift Wing Alumni Association would like to send their condolences to the family of Wayne Ralph Peterson, 62. He passed away on Sept. 4. Wayne Peterson was born in Gloversville,

N.Y., and moved to The Villages from Ballston Spa, N.Y., in 2004. He retired from the 109th Airlift Wing as a traffic manager at Stratton Air National Guard Base, and he was also a U.S. Navy veteran, a member of St. George Episcopal Church, The Villages; American Legion Post 347; and his hobbies were baseball, golfing, learning to play string instruments and genealogy. Our thoughts and prayers are with Wayne and his family; he will be missed greatly.

The Annual Holiday Christmas party, which is always one of our premier events of the year, will be held at the Rotterdam Elks Club Lodge, 1152 Curry Road, Schenectady, N.Y. on Wednesday, Dec. 17. Looking forward to seeing many old and new members of the 109th Airlift Wing at this annual event.

Until the next quarterly issue of this Skibird Magazine publication, hope you all had a wonderful and safe autumn/fall. Stay Happy, Healthy, Safe, Prosperous and "Think Winter."

## Antiterrorism

By Lt. Col. Sharon Stepp  
Antiterrorism Officer

As the newly appointed Antiterrorism Officer at the 109th Airlift Wing, I will be serving as the Wing Commander's expert authority on all matters related to Antiterrorism Force Protection.

Many of you may wonder what does an Antiterrorism Officer (ATO), not to be confused with JATO, do. The ATO develops a comprehensive Antiterrorism Program to include Antiterrorism and Force Plan along with the Installation Security Plan and with local community support, ensures immediate response and deterrence to any potential terrorist threats. A well organized and effective program will ensure the protection of installation personnel and assets.

To intervene at all levels of the

wing requires assistance from the commanders and personnel from squadrons and flights.

The ATO coordinates quarterly meetings to include: Antiterrorism Executive Council, Antiterrorism Working Group and Installation Security Council, Threat Working Group, and Unit Antiterrorism Advisors Group. The ATO also serves on the Exercise Evaluation Team and actively networks with local, state and federal agencies on base exercises, resources and in-depth terrorist threats.

Daily, the ATO integrates and executes a local Random Antiterrorism Measure (RAM) process by fully incorporating all wing organizations.

The ATO aggressively coordinates the mitigation of wing vulnerabilities and seeks out funding for crucial projects while ensuring currency of Level I Force Protection training and

tracking all wing personnel. The ATO skillfully manages the wing AT program and maintains wing vulnerability and project information in the Consolidated Vulnerability Assessment Management Program (CVAMP).

Successful Antiterrorism measures require everyone to be Eagle Eyes. Whether on base or in your local community it takes a team effort to protect our country. Many tips by civilians observing suspicious items or acts since 9/11 has provided authorities the much-needed information to prevent catastrophes. Being vigilant and applying situational awareness is vital in our daily lives. Commanders encouraging participation at the meetings and actively supporting the daily RAM program is one simple way of providing the leadership and emphasis needed for success.



File Photo

Victorious Antiterrorism measures require Wing leadership's involvement and will immensely contribute to a first-rate Antiterrorism/Force Protection Program. But everyone's support is needed to observe their surroundings and report concerns.

## Who We Are

Maj. Rob Donaldson  
12M3B-Navigator

Major Rob Donaldson started his military career 17 years ago in the active duty Air Force where he served as an airborne communications systems operator. After spending time at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., and Offutt AFB, Neb., on the E-4B and EC-135 airborne platforms, he learned about an opportunity to join the Air National Guard.

"There was an opportunity to leave the active duty force under a program called Palace Chase," Major Donaldson said. "In my case, the Palace Chase program allowed me to serve out the last two years of my active duty commitment, with the New York Air National Guard, so long as I enlisted for four years with the part-time service. I made that choice, and 17 years later I'm still at Stratton ANGB."

Major Donaldson came to Stratton as an enlisted aeromedical evacuation technician and flew with the 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron for about seven years. Meanwhile, he finished his civil engineering degree at Union College and went on to the Academy of Military Science and graduated

with honors. He then attended Navigator school and graduated at the top of his Air Force class. He received the Commander's Trophy from the commanding eschelon at Randolph AFB, Texas. Major Donaldson continues to fly with the 139th Airlift Squadron as a Navigator on the LC-130 aircraft.

His education didn't stop there; he earned his law degree from Albany Law School.

"Upon graduating from law school, I went to work in a very big personal injury law firm in Albany and worked there for approximately six years," Major Donaldson said. "Recently, I left that firm, and started my own law firm and currently practice in Clifton Park. My firm handles all personal injury matters to include the motor vehicle, motorcycle, construction yard, and slip and fall accidents. Additionally, my firm is also representing those unfortunate victims suffering from asbestos related exposures, which would include mesothelioma and asbestosis."

Although he stays busy with his law firm, he appreciates his "part-time job" with the Air National Guard.

"My most satisfying experience as a guardsman is knowing that I am part of the



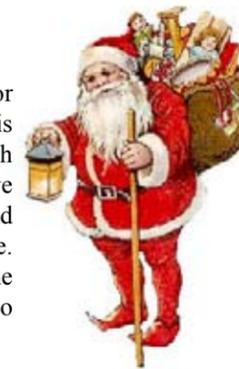
Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

most elite team of professionals in the entire military," he said. "A team composed of experienced, hard working and dedicated personnel who are capable of climbing into an airplane, flying half a world away, and performing at a level that most people never achieve. I am happy that I can be part of the Stratton team and truly appreciate my 'military family.'"

## Family Support Center

### 109th Children's Christmas Party

The Annual 109th Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Dining Hall. This event is free and open to children and grandchildren of 109th servicemembers and alumni. Children will get to meet and have their pictures taken with Santa and participate in holiday crafts and games. Lunch will be provided. Cookies and desserts are welcome. Please RSVP by Dec. 10 to allow for planning of activities for the children. For more information and to RSVP, contact Alicia Russo at familymatters109th@mac.com or 518-812-8000.



### Christmas Toy Donations

Operation HomeFront and local Dollar Tree Stores are collaborating to bring toy donations to military bases. Stop by the Civil Engineering Training Room Dec. 18 and 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. to pick out some toys and stocking stuffers!

### Golden Corral Military Appreciation Dinner

The 2008 Military Appreciation Monday dinner will be held Nov. 17 from 5 to 9 p.m. in all Golden Corral Restaurants. This free "thank you" dinner is available to any person who has ever served in the U.S. military.

*The Family Support Group meets the first Wednesday of each month from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Civil Engineering Training Room. Come join us! Find out more and help plan upcoming events! Attending a meeting does not imply a commitment to volunteer.*

**By Master Sgt. John Saupp**  
Base Firehouse

It has been a while since the last Firehouse Facts, so we will cover a lot in this article. First off, we would like to welcome back our returning firefighters who were deployed to the Mid-East supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The 109th Fire Protection team was stationed overseas at an active Air Force base and kept busy performing various emergency services operations. They also accomplished numerous Air Force CDCs while deployed. We are glad they are now back safe and sound with us.

We would like to welcome back from Fire Protection Tech School Airmen 1st Class Ryan Hogancamp, Stephen West,

Josh Myers and Chris Meyer. Congratulations on the recent promotions to staff sergeant of Raymond Smith and Steve Silver.

We continue to train and prepare for the upcoming UCI. During the September UTA, and a week of active duty afterward, firefighters had hands-on training in vehicle extrication and patient care utilizing donated junk cars. This allowed for real world experience and training using our special rescue tools. Also, live structure fire training was accomplished at the Saratoga County Fire Training Center. Firefighters with the 109th performed fire attack, search and rescue and ventilation operations under realistic fire ground conditions. A special thank you goes out to the Union Fire Company of Ballston Spa for their tremendous assistance

during our day-long training session.

A New York State Flammable and Combustible Liquids class was held here at the base. The state fire instructor covered various emergency responses to include fuel tankers and our own POL fuel facility. This two-day class was very educational and related to our mission. Also C-130 familiarization classes and walkthroughs were held and hazardous material technician skills were reviewed and practiced. As you see, it was a very busy time but numerous valuable training activities were covered.

Throughout the summer and early fall, Stratton firefighters responded to numerous alarms, aircraft incidents, medical calls and mutual aid responses. On Sept. 23 at about 3:05 p.m. an emergency call was received

of a small plane crash on the county side of the airport. Stratton firefighters responded and were the first to arrive at the horrific crash site. A replica P-51 Mustang had crashed upon takeoff. The plane was upside down and on fire. Stratton crews quickly extinguished the fire and along with our mutual aid fire departments began to disentangle the aircraft and extricate the severely injured pilot. By using teamwork and special rescue tools and equipment, the difficult extrication was completed and the pilot was turned over for advanced medical treatment and transport to the hospital. Unfortunately, the pilot succumbed to his serve injuries a few days later. Stratton firefighters, local fire departments and emergency response agencies did a great job at this tragic accident scene.

# Recruiting

**By Tech. Sgt. Drew Stearns**  
Recruiting Office

**A**FOQT-This should help clarify the Air Force Officer's Qualification Test (AFOQT) process. The recruiting office schedules all Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) testing.

If you are close to obtaining your bachelor's degree and wish to take the AFOQT, please call recruiting and speak with Tech. Sgt. Joanna Walters, the 109th Officer Recruiter at 344-2491. We must input your information into our Air Force Recruiting Information System (AFRISS) and schedule it the week prior to taking the test. Our Albany MEPS offers the test twice a month the first and third Tuesday in the morning.

Please note: You are only

allowed to take the AFOQT twice in your lifetime, so please review the study guide and be prepared.

If you have taken the test, you may review your results at the Web site - <https://w20.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afoqtsnet20/Default.aspx>.

There are minimum scores noted in the officer accession regulation, ANGI 36-2005, table 3.4.

If you are interested in officer opportunities, please stop by the recruiting office and they will be happy to answer all your questions.

**O f f i c e r V a c a n c y** Announcements are e-mailed to all personnel whenever an opening exists here at the 109th. You must prepare a commissioning package with the particular requirements

based on the job. The DMNA Web site lists all Air Guard officer vacancy announcements for New York state at [www.dmna.state.ny.us/jobs/jobs.php?id=airoff](http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/jobs/jobs.php?id=airoff).

Unit Referrals remain the best way for us to fill our vacancies with great applicants. Mainly because our unit members have known the people for quite some time and can give us a good idea what to expect when we meet the referrals. We always appreciate the chance to share the same opportunities with new members, whether it's career training, travel, or the educational benefits. Contact us with your referrals!

How can you earn \$2k for an enlistment? Answer: G-RAP! For more information go to [www.guardrecruitingassistant.com](http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com) and get started today!

**A L L R E T R A I N I N G** ACTIONS must be coordinated with the new Retention Office Manager, Tech. Sgt. Drew Stearns. One reason for this requirement is that a member who is an incentive program participant may be faced with recoupment of bonus money if voluntarily retraining to a non-bonus AFSC. For information about retraining opportunities, or to coordinate a retraining action, contact Sergeant Stearns at 344-2315. There are many retraining opportunities throughout the base.

**LONG AND SUCCESSFUL** CAREERS in the Air National Guard often begin with a simple call to our Recruiting Office at (518) 344-2454 or 1-800-524-5070.

## Officer Promotions

### Lieutenant Colonel

John Bradley – AS  
John Panoski – AS

### Major

Robert Donaldson – AS

### Captain

Sung Lee – AW

### First Lieutenant

Justin Bowen – Stu Flt  
Jeffrey Burns – AES  
Melissa Caldon – AES  
Ryan Giaconia – AS

## Enlisted Promotions

### Chief Master Sergeant

Donald Morrell – AS

### Senior Master Sergeant

David Archambeault – MXG  
Michael Trefzger – MXS

### Master Sergeant

Michael Kruzinski – AS  
Roy Powers – AS  
Jacqueline Sweet McNeill – MG  
Steven Tansey – MXS

### Technical Sergeant

John Blackburn – MSF  
Isaiah Gibbs – MXS  
Bonnie Kemble – MG  
Michael Lazzari – CES  
Colette Martin – MXS  
Lance Martineau – MXS  
Thomas McCauley – MXS  
Catharine Schmidt – AW  
Jared Semerad – AES  
Daniel Spiewak – AMXS

### Staff Sergeant

Beth Davis – SVF  
Brian Empett – MXS  
Francis Johnson – AS  
Erin Labate – AW  
Jason Robelotto – AES  
William Roy – LRS

### Airman First Class

Robert Sardinia – Stu Flt

## Meritorious Service Medal

Maj Darin Dennis – AS  
Maj Christopher Niles – AS  
Maj William Smith – AS  
CMSgt Paul Terpening – Retired  
SMSgt Edward Lambert – MXS  
MSgt Keith Ardrey – AS  
MSgt Deborah Foster – MSF  
TSgt Michael Spiak – AS



## Air Medal

Lt Col Alan Ross – AS  
Lt Col Timothy Thomson – AS  
MSgt Matthew Ausfeld – AES



## Air Force Commendation Medal

Lt Col Cheryl East – AS  
MSgt Kimberly Bowman – MSF  
MSgt Michael Richards – MXS  
TSgt Jason Moore – CES  
TSgt Charles Powers – CES



## Army Commendation Medal

CMSgt Donald Hudson – SFS  
MSgt Patrick Hart – SFS  
MSgt Douglas Kimmel – SFS  
TSgt Thomas Feeley – SFS



## Air Force Achievement Medal

1st Lt Kelly Williams – AS  
TSgt Jason Gardiner – MOF  
SSgt Isaiah Gibbs – MXS



## Army Achievement Medal

SrA Carlton Kuhlmeier – SFS  
A1C Steven Taber – SFS



## Air Force Combat Action Medal

Lt Col Vance Bateman – JGHQ



## Aerial Achievement Medal



Col Gary James – OG  
Lt Col Cheryl East – AS  
Lt Col Ernest Grey – AS  
Lt Col Bruce Jones – AMXS  
Lt Col Frederick McKeown – AS  
Lt Col Charles Trawick – AS  
Maj William Carraher – AS  
Maj Paul Dallemagne – AS  
Maj Joseph Deconno – AS  
Maj Andy Fitorre – AS  
Maj Dean Johnson – AS  
Maj Leroy Kinlocke – AS  
Maj Matthew LeClair – AS  
Maj Marc McKeon – AS  
Maj Frank Mendicino – AS  
Maj Joshua Nielson – AS  
Maj Christopher Niles – AS  
Maj James Powell – AS  
Maj Roger Shapiro – AS  
Maj Michael Steindl – AW  
Maj Martha Wadsworth – AS  
Maj Wilson Alvinzo – AS  
Maj Stephen Yandik – AS  
Capt Steven Cousineau – AS  
Capt Matthew Johnson – AS  
Capt Aaron Lancaster – AS  
Capt Eric Wood – AS  
Capt David Zielinski – AS  
Capt Mario Zocchi – AS  
1st Lt Kelly Williams – AS  
CMSgt William Nolin – AS  
CMSgt Jason Taylor – AS  
SMSgt Kurt Garrison – AS  
SMSgt Elliot McGuigan – AS  
SMSgt – Randy Williams – AS

MSgt Daniel Apanasewicz – AS  
MSgt Keith Ardrey – AS  
MSgt Jean Booth – AS  
MSgt Michael Davidson – AS  
MSgt Jason Deluca – AS  
MSgt Michael Goldman – AS  
MSgt Carl Hilbert – AS  
MSgt Maurice Huard – AS  
MSgt Kevin Hubble – AS  
MSgt Mark Janey – AS  
MSgt Ugo Mascolo – AS  
MSgt Carmelo Modesto – AS  
MSgt Gregory Peck – AS  
MSgt Michael Peck – AS  
MSgt Joseph Thorpe – AS  
TSgt Joseph Axe – AS  
TSgt John Bartow – AS  
TSgt Trent Bennett – AS  
TSgt Jason Bull – AS  
TSgt Geoff Cerrone – AS  
TSgt Christopher Collins – AS  
TSgt Michael Cousineau – AS  
TSgt Brian Irvin – AS  
TSgt Timothy Lucier – AS  
TSgt Timothy Macaulay – AS  
TSgt Donald Partridge – AS  
TSgt Randy Powell – AS  
TSgt Roy Powers – AS  
TSgt Timothy Putman – AS  
TSgt Michael Spiak – AS  
TSgt Daniel Swatling – AS  
TSgt Justin Taylor – AS  
SSgt Patrick Newton – AS  
SSgt David Rodriguez – AS

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Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Brett Bouchard

### ***Mission statement***

*Provide the most professional theatre combat forces, ready to rapidly deploy statewide, worldwide and pole to pole.*

### ***Vision statement***

*A united military organization of empowered individuals building on our proud tradition of serving country, state and community; leaning forward, ready to meet combat and peacetime challenges throughout the world.*