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TSgt. Aaron Leger salutes Lt. Col. Morgan "Psycho" Davis as he taxis out for the first F-15 flight from Otis since November (Photo by MSgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki)

SEAGULL IDEAS?

Do you have an idea for a Seagull article? Would you like to be the subject of a story? Births, marriages, sympathy notices and other information are always welcome. Let us know what is going on in your section. We have a new e-mail address to submit information to the Seagull Magazine, please use: Seagull@maotis.ang.af.mil

The next Seagull deadline is 2pm Sunday, Mar 2, 2008.

UPCOMING 2008 UTAs >>

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July Drill is scheduled for Fridays Feb. 8 & 29



FROM THE DESK OF THE 102MXG **COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Robert Henry

The Final Days of the "Eagle Era"

It is now the middle of Jan. 2008 and the 102FW is only weeks away from witnessing the last F-15 Eagle depart Otis ANGB. This is an emotional experience for many dedicated professionals of the 102FW. As the BRAC decision was announced and members of the wing were informed, the departure of the airframes has become reality. This is cause for many to look back at their careers and reflect.

During the summer of 1987 many members of the 102MXG attended F-15 technical training. This marked the initial stage of the 102FW's conversion to the F-15 Eagle. MSgt. Conrad Burgess was the ACC F-15 Training Team Chief assigned to Otis to ensure the successful conversion. He was on site to coordinate three months of intensive F-15 training, relying on a team of twelve F-15 technical instructors. In his own words, he described the men and women of the 102FW "We've found the people at Otis are really easier to

train because of their experience and are quite dedicated to doing the job right." The first F-15s arrived at Otis ANGB the fall of 1987.

Fast forward to Dec 1993-May 1994, 150 volunteers deploy to 32 Fighter Group Soesterberg AFB Netherlands to perform inspections and transfer of 20 F-15 Multi-Stage Improvement Eagles. This transfer, just like the original F-15 conversion, provided an increased combat readiness and capability to the ANG and the USAF.

Fast forward to Jan-Jun 2006, 102MXG volunteers deploy to Kadena AB Japan to perform transfer inspections for ten C-model F-15 aircraft. This transfer, just like the previous conversion and transfer increased the combat readiness and capabilities of the ANG and the USAF.

Currently the 102MXG and the 102FW are again preparing aircraft to increase the combat readiness and capabilities of the ANG and the USAF. Since 1987, and between the undertakings described above, the men and women of the 102FW have supported Combat Training Deployments to Savannah Georgia, Davis-Monthan AFB Arizona, Nellis AFB Nevada, Tyndall AFB Florida and Canada. When not accepting aircraft and not performing training deployments/exercises the men and women of the 102FW were supporting national interest and world peace with missions in direct support of Iceland Air Defense, Coronet Nighthawk, Operation Northern Watch, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Iragi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism. Two phenomenal accomplishments of the 102FW were in direct support of the homeland. The first being 11 September 2001 with the 102FW Alert aircraft being the first responders to the attacks on that day.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS >>

102nd MEDICAL GROUP NEEDS FIRST SERGEANT

The 102nd Medical Group has an opening for a First Sergeant. Resumes should be submitted to Command Chief Master Sergeant Wayne Raymondo. He can be contacted at 508-968-4503 or at *wayne.raymondo@maotis.ang.af.mil* no later than the close of business on Sunday, 10 Feb. 08. For a description of duties and responsibilities, see Air Force Instruction 36-2113.

Technical sergeant applicants must be a graduate of an in-residence noncommissioned officer academy and be immediately eligible for promotion to master sergeant. A minimum physical fitness score of 75 also is required. A two week course at Maxwell Air Force Base, is mandatory and must be completed within one year of selection.

102nd SECURITY FORCES SEEKS OPERATIONS OFFICER

Interested candidates can submit packages to Major Christopher Hamilton c/o CMSgt. Wayne Raymondo, 158 Reilly Street, Box 23, Otis, ANGB, MA 02452. Deadline for submission is COB Thursday, 14 February. Packages must contain the following: 1. Resume, 2. RIP, 3. PT Scores, 4. AFOQT Scores. Submission of additional material in support of the package is optional.

RETRACTION OF MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL OFFICER OPENING

Due to BRAC/TFI, the 102nd Mission Support Group will not be accepting applications for a traditional officer position in the Military Personnel Flight (MPF). We regret any inconvenience this may cause. Questions may be directed to Lt. Col. Christina Stevens at \times 4032.

AFFORDABLE DENTAL CARE IS NOW AVAILABLE

Tricare Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) is now offering one of the few affordable, comprehensive dental benefit programs available to members of the National Guard who have transferred to Retired Reserve status. Optimal benefits are available to enrollees who choose a dentist from the Delta Dental Select and Delta Dental PPO participating TRDP networks located in over 100,000 locations nationwide. For further information, call 1-888-838-8737 or logon to www. trdp.org



By TSgt. Aaron Smith 102nd FW Public Affairs

Most National Guard and Reservist families live in civilian communities and not on a military base. When a National Guard or Air Force Reserve member who is living in a civilian community becomes mobilized, it's not only their status that changes. Their children suddenly become "military kids." These children now have unique problems and a need for special support and services, even though they still "look the same" to their friends and community. Their lives are turned upside down.

The unique and often overlooked needs of young people whose military parents have been deployed far from home is the focus of Operation Military Kids (OMK). The mission of OMK is to support the children of deployed Guard, Reserve and Active Duty military families across the country by creating support for "suddenly military" children and youth where they live. They deliver recreational, social and educational programs and also acknowledge the sacrifices of military kids on the home front everyday as they cope with the stress of knowing their deployed parents may be in harm's way.

On Dec. 12 2007, at Otis Memorial School, OMK's Cape Cod team honored the sacrifices of three local children. Each has a parent who is currently deployed or who is leaving soon for Iraq: Colleen Gorden whose father Joe Gorden, a member of the U.S. Navy Reserves, is already deployed to Iraq. Also honored, eight-year-old Santana Parks, son of SMSqt. Monica Parks, from the 102nd Medical Group, and eight-year-old Jaymee Burns, son of SSgt. Stefanie Pickering, from the 6th Space Warning Squadron, Cape Cod. All three were recognized as "heroes" for the sacrifices that they and their families are making. They were given a "Hero Back Pack" which is filled with toys and a variety of items like a journal, phone cards, and a camera which

will help them stay in touch with their deployed parent.

With the help of Veterans Organizations, Schools, 4-H programs, boys and girls clubs, businesses, child care providers, and other community groups, OMK has touched 65,000 military youth and provided information to 7200 community members across the United States. They are reaching out to military kids...before, during and after their parents are deployed and ensuring that Massachusetts military youth are safe, healthy, and supported. To learn more about Operation Military Kids or to get involved go to http://www. operationmilitarykids.org or contact Kerry Bickford at kbickford@umext.umass.edu or (508) 375-6695

>> Below, SMSgt. Monica Parks of the 102nd Medical Group stands with her 8-year-old son, Santana Parks. He was one of three children honored as a "hero" through "Operation Military Kids" at Otis Memorial School on Dec. 12.







Applications for two \$500 scholarships that will be awarded by the Chief's Council Annual Scholarship Awards are now being accepted until the close of the June 2008 UTA. One will be awarded to a member of the 102nd Fighter Wing, 253rd Combat Communications Group, or the 267th Combat Communications Squadron, and one will be awarded to a child of a member of one of the units. Applications are available on the Chief's Council page of the Wing Intranet under other

groups. An official high school and/or college transcript must accompany the application.

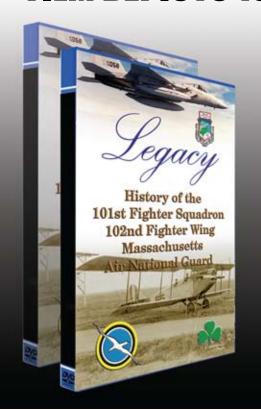
Mail or deliver the completed, signed application to: 102nd FW/CCM, 158 Reilly Street, Box 3, Otis ANG Base MA 02542. Attention: Chief's Council Scholarship Fund.

Scholarships are available to members and children of members in good standing of the above units. Eligible applicants must attend an accredited school, either full or part-time, in order to receive the scholarship.

The full scholarship will be awarded to the student after receipt of the following semester tuition bill and the previous semester's transcript showing a minimum passing grade of 70 percent in all classes during the previous semester. Both the next semester bill and a college transcript for the previous semester must be mailed to the address above.

IN THE NEWS >>

FILM DEPICTS 102nd FIGHTER WING HISTORY

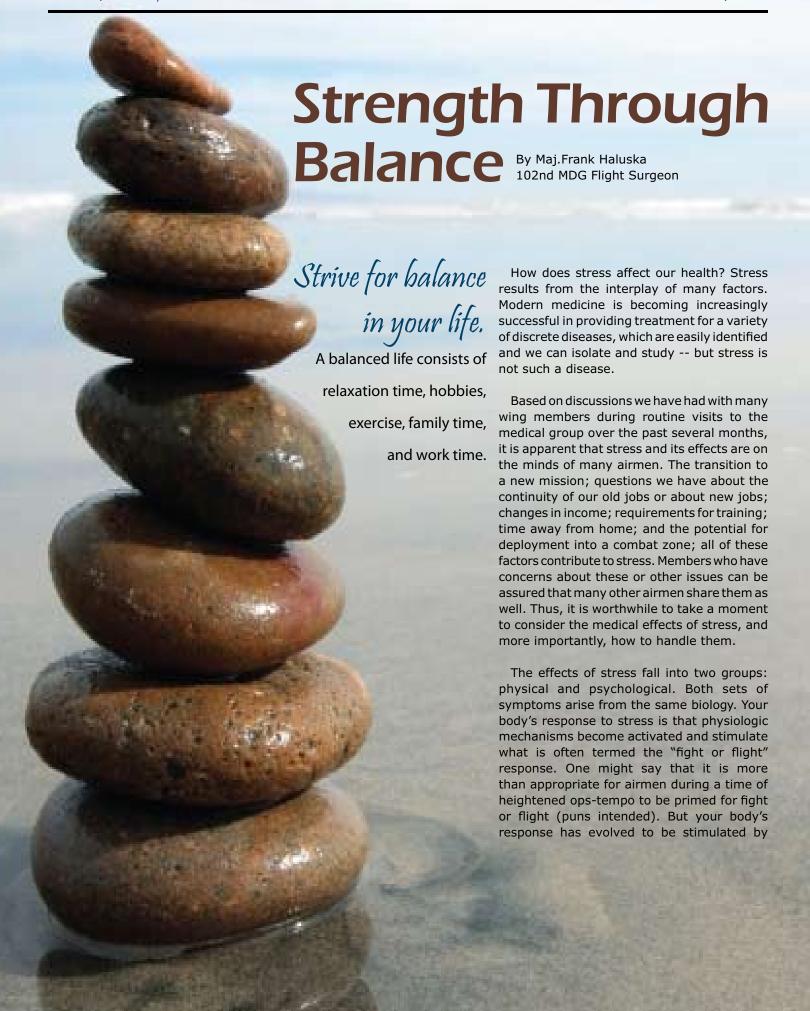


A documentary film "Legacy" the History of the 102nd Fighter Wing and the 101st Fighter Squadron, is available for sale.

The film contains actual footage and numerous photographs of personnel and aircraft from the inception of the 101st in the early 1900s through the establishment of the wing after World War II right up to the present day activities involving 9/11/2001 and current deployments. It is a valuable piece of history that each wing member may want to possess.

One copy of "Legacy" will be sent for each \$25 donation to the museum. Send a check or money order payable to: "Mass. ANG Historical Association" and mail it to:

Mr. Spence Bridgman 25 Spruce Hill Ave Florence, MA 01062-3414



stress to either defend itself or flee. When stress primes the body at the wrong time, disease can result.

Physical effects of stress can be mistakenly attributed to other causes. Examples include what we call constitutional symptoms, such as fatigue, loss of appetite, weight loss, and insomnia. Stress can cause headaches, difficulty with vision, or gastrointestinal symptoms such as heartburn. Psychological effects can be more subtle. They can include impaired concentration, memory disturbances, and effects on mood. In its most extreme manifestation, such as in post-traumatic stress disorder, the combination of physical and mental consequences of stress can be disabling.

The most important aspect of the treatment of stress is its early recognition. We can prescribe pain medicines, antacids, and sleep medicines, but these will fail if the causes of stress are not addressed. Most relevant for the 102d at this time is that all of us understand that a number of factors together contribute to an increased level of stress. In many cases, developing a perspective that is forward-looking and optimistic can help alleviate anxiety.

The best treatment medicine can offer, after recognition of the causes of stress, is to ensure communication to address the underlying issues. Stressors will not disappear, but the wing medical staff can evaluate any symptoms that might be present, help shed light on those factors that might be contributing, and offer recommendations to facilitate therapy.

Manage Your Time Effectively:

Keep a to do list or daily planner and make sure to include time for yourself. Give priority to the most important activities and do those first.

Get Some Exercise:

Regular physical activity is one of the best ways to deal with stress. It releases endorphins and gives you a natural "high."

Avoid Using Drugs or Alcohol to Deal with your Stress:

These things will only mask the symptoms of stress and when you stop using them, the stress will return.

Put Stressful Situations in Perspective:

Will it matter a month from now? What about a year from now?

Get Enough Sleep:

Most people need between 6-9 hours, but most people give up sleep when they're under stress to finish more work.

(Courtesy of the Pittsburgh Student Health Service)

F-15 Returns to Flying By TSgt. Aaron Smith

It was a normal November day in the skies over Missouri and Maj. Stephen Stilwell was flying a routine training mission. When suddenly his F-15C aircraft started to break apart in flight. A structural flaw with the aircraft's longerons, 4 horizontal metal bars around the fuselage that hold it together and serve as part of the spine of the aircraft, led to this catastrophic accident. While in a turn, one of the longerons failed, causing the other three to subsequently fail and allowed Maj. Stilwell's fuselage to tear free from the rest of his aircraft. The fuselage was sent hurtling, with Maj. Stilwell inside, through the air. He managed to eject and despite suffering a broken arm, dislocated shoulder and a host of other cuts and bruises, he survived. Soon after the Air Force grounded all of its F-15s — nearly 700 worldwide and since then bases have waited patiently for some answer as to when they could fly again.

During this down time Otis maintainers have kept continuously busy with inspecting and re-inspecting all of the aircraft on base. The first inspections ordered were visual checks of the inside and outside of the area that failed. These inspections were conducted by the

sheet metal section. Soon the inspections increased in scope to include a dye penetrant inspection, in which a dye is applied that shows structural flaws when viewed under a black light, then ultrasound inspections. Both of which were performed by the NDI section.

On January 11th 2008, Otis was released to fly again. Although seven aircraft are still grounded due to ongoing testing, the remaining planes have been cleared for flight. So, on that day three F-15 pilots started their engines and taxied out for take off, marking an end to the grounding. "This has given us the chance to really think about what it means to be able to fly the F-15, just how awesome our job is" said Lt. Col. Morgan "Psycho" Davis.

With this return to normal flight operations, comes an opportunity for many on base to finish things that might have gone undone. For pilots who are retiring or transitioning to the new mission, many will have the chance to have their final flight (a.k.a. fini-flight) in an F-15. An occasion where friends and family come out to celebrate the pilots career and service, usually by dousing them with champagne. For pilots continuing to fly at Barnes it's a chance to regain their flying currency before heading to their new base. Lastly, for those who have worked on and around these aircraft for years, a chance to serve out the final days of the 102nd Fighter Wing hearing the roar of an F-15 engine instead of a quiet breeze.

FROM THE DESK OF THE 102MXG COMMANDER >> continued from pg. 3

Men and women of the 102FW supported around the clock operations for the next couple months then settled in to scheduled and NORAD initiated Combat Air Patrols. Again during September 2005, men and women of the 102FW stood up a 72 hour operation in direct support of Task Force Yankee to provide relief and assistance to Hurricane Katrina victims. In a three day period of September 2005 the men and women of the 102FW deployed 186 short tons of cargo, 484 personnel with zero safety incidents. In your spare time; while not performing acceptance inspections, combat training, combat deployments and home station alert, you excelled with ESOH Camp, UCI, ORE, ORI, and four straight Alert Force Evaluations (AFE) rated "Outstanding". This AFE accomplishment is record setting and a challenge for all who continue with an Alert mission.

You, the men and women of the 102FW, have made your own personal and professional contributions to the legacy of the wing. The "Eagle Era", 1987 to 2008, set the bar extremely high with inspection, training, and combat accomplishments. This chapter of the 102MXG and 102FW will close with the fact that you delivered over 80,000 mishap free F-15 flying hours in direct support of national defense. The legacy you leave behind has been documented by your accomplishments as a "phenomenal commitment to excel-

lence". Your accomplishments continue to challenge those who remain in the flying business. As MSgt. Burgess stated back in 1987 and I have witnessed over the past twenty years, you are extremely experienced and your commitment to doing the job the right way will be the driving force that ensures you will excel in the transition to the new mission. Your contributions during the "Eagle Era" will be "memorialized" at the entrance to the 102 Intelligence Wing with a static display F-15 aircraft, the final challenging undertaking of the 102MXG.

It is an honor to have served with you during the "Eagle Era."



4th Annual 102nd Poster Contest "Farewell to Flying"

By Erin Creighton

Help celebrate the 102FW's history of flying. Help celebrate how the unit started and progressed, some of our unit highlights and the various aircraft used at Otis in defense of our country. Use your own spin to honor the years of flying and give a big farewell!!!

Poster Instructions:

Poster entries should be drawn on 8 1/2 x 11 inch white, unlined paper.

Vertical drawings preferred.

Color drawings preferred.

Crayons, markers, colored pencils, watercolors, etc. accepted.

Artwork must be mailed flat.

All entries must be artist's original work.

An Entry information must accompany each entry.

Participants may enter as many times as they like but will receive only one prize.

Entries must follow rules specified for this contest.



102nd AIRMAN'S COUNCIL SELECTS NEW OFFICERS FOR 2008

By SSgt. Bill Alexson, Airmen's Council President

I am pleased to announce that the Airmen's Council has selected the slate of officers for 2008. Please join me in congratulating TSgt. Celeste Trepanier as president, TSgt. Sueann Costa as Vice President and TSgt. Aaron Leger as Secretary. Over the past year, the Airmen's Council has continued to achieve significant accomplishments on behalf of the enlisted members of the wing.

The Council developed and created the "Airmen's Coin" as an instrument to allow Airmen to recognize their fellow wing members who have excelled in their duties. The Council has also facilitated discussions relative to the new mission here on base. The Airmen's Council has been recognized and called upon by state and wing leadership regarding a host of issues pertaining to base realignment.

Moving forward, the council is seeking new members to participate in the council and work to enhance the quality of life for enlisted members of the wing. Meetings are held every Saturday of the UTA at 1300. If you are interested in participating in the Council, do not hesitate to contact TSgt. Trepanier @ 4134.

I am glad to have served as President for the past year and look forward to working with the Council in the coming year.



From left to right: CMSgt. Wayne Raymondo, Command Chief, TSgt. Aaron Leger, Secretary, TSgt. Sueann Costa, Vice-President Elect, TSgt. Celeste Trepanier, President Elect, SSgt. Bill Alexson, President

SECOND QUARTER AWARD WINNERS >>

SENIOR NCO MSgt. Lane Philbeck 102 MXM



NCO SSgt. Kerri Cole 102 Public Affairs



AIRMANSrA. James Hightower
102 SFS



SCHOOL Achievements >>

AB Kelsey Ivers 102nd LRS

Earned a Physical Fitness Excellence Award at Basic Training, Lackland Air Force Base, TX.

Capt. Daniel Wittmer 101st FS

Graduated from Fighter Weapons School, Nellis Air Force Base, NV.

MILESTONES >>





CHAPEL CALL

BY CHAPLAIN DAVID G. BERUBE

I once came across the following story about two boys named Ripley. The older, Will, left home to fight in the Union Army about two years before Gettysburg. The younger, Dan stayed at home. Will was even-tempered and thoughtful while Dan was high-strung, impulsive, and outspoken. Tension in the house began to build until, finally, it spilled over in a dramatic way. One night, Dan's dog, Jack, snapped and stampeded the family's sheep. In an instant, the animal went from protector to predator.

The next day, while Dan was away and without his knowledge, his father killed and buried the dog. He felt it was the best way to prevent another attack and get this done with less pain to Dan. He was wrong.

Dan was furious. He hid out behind the barn. He wouldn't talk. He wouldn't eat. That night, he grabbed some food and left. He was determined to never come back and never

forgive his father. Eventually, Dan became exhausted and fell into an agonizing sleep.

Dan woke the next morning when he was almost stepped on by a man out for a walk. Their introduction was awkward, but each soon realized the other was bothered by something. After a while, the man encouraged Dan to tell his story. All the rage and fury came out as he explained how he would never forgive his father.

The man told Dan he was right to hold the grudge. He explained also that Dan should never forget either – under one condition. The man said Dan should also never forget all the good, kind, loving things his father had done.

As it turned out, the man was actually President Lincoln. He was out walking because he was on the verge of signing an execution order for some deserters. They decided to forgive and, in parting, Lincoln said, "Be merciful and God will remember. Someday you'll need mercy, too."

The start of a new year is traditionally a time for taking stock and making plans. I invite you to join me this year in talking about people or situations like the one in that story that are part of our lives. Maybe there are places for us where mercy is appropriate.

IN EVERY ISSUE >>

SUNDAY INTERVIEW WITH STA. MATT BENEDETTI

MSgt. Wes Smith, a 12 year veteran of the 102nd, recently graduated from the operations intelligence course at Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, TX. He successfully completed the challenging curriculum, earning accolades as a distinguished honor graduate. MSgt. Smith looks forward to performing his duties here at the 102nd. A native of Yarmouth, MSgt. Smith has been a member of the 102nd for 12 years and has served in multimedia and the 102nd Honor Guard in previous assignments.

How do you feel about being involved with the new mission?

I enjoy working at the 102nd and the operations intelligence position appeared to be an exciting opportunity for me to contribute to the wing. I look forward to starting in my new position on a full-time basis.

What advice would you give to a candidate heading to the intelligence school at Goodfellow AFB in Texas?

The course was challenging but interesting. I would advise students to study hard and remain focused while in school. The standards are not easy and require a full commitment. However, it is also important to relax when you get an opportunity. My course was comprised of 15 blocks of instruction. Each block would build on the next one and we learned an awful lot. I would recommend that students work hard and do the best job that they are capable of doing and it will probably work out.

How was life on the base?

Goodfellow AFB is a joint military training environment that also has international students from foreign military services. It is an inactive flying base and is small compared to other bases. It does have a BX, gym and all the other services of a regular military installation.

What is your proudest moment in the Guard?

Serving as a member of the 102nd Honor Guard was a great experience. Representing the Air Force in this capacity allowed me to gain a better understanding of the enduring importance of service to country. The job required a steadfast approach and it was important to remain disciplined as well as keep a stoic demeanor while presenting at a service. At times that was difficult due to the emotional setting and grief of the family but we always maintained our military bearing. It was always gratifying to hear people thank us for our presence. Also, I enjoyed working with MSgt. Mallard and learned a lot from him.







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