

102nd INTELLIGENCE WING

Seagull

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Operation Big Ice | pgs 6-7

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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. 500 word maximum.

The next Seagull deadline is 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009.

DINING HALL MENU

Hours: 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, Feb. 7
 Baked Ham with Raisin Sauce
 Southern Fried Chicken

SUNDAY, Feb. 8
 Stuffed Fish Almondine
 Roast Pork with gravy

SATURDAY, March 7
 Spinach Cheese Ravioli with Sauce
 Roast Pork with gravy

SUNDAY, March 8
 New England Boiled Dinner
 Chicken a la King with noodles

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ON THE COVER >>



Massachusetts Air National Guardsmen assist with the cleanup and recovery efforts as part of Operation BIG ICE after a devastating ice storm left hundreds of thousands of New Englanders without power in December.

U.S. Air Force Photo by 104th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

UPCOMING UTAs >>

UTA duty hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday

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FROM THE DESK OF THE 102 IW VICE COMMANDER

By Col. Christina Stevens

GETTING BACK TO BASICS

How are you doing with your New Year's resolutions? I'm doing great. Of course, as I write this to meet the suspense it's Jan. 13. I also didn't really start until after the break which was Jan. 5. But I have a foolproof method of ensuring success in those well intentioned resolutions. I don't do anything hard. I just don't believe in radical change. So, instead of making a bunch of dramatic fixes, every year I pull out my personal list of items that I consider to be fundamentally important and I review them. I check to make sure that I am not side tracked from any of the principals that I hold important and I vow to keep these in the forefront of my everyday life. This probably sounds easy but with the pace of life today, one can easily get distracted and lose sight of the basics. So I review them once a year just to keep them fresh. New Year's resolution complete.

Here at the 102nd we just experienced radical change. Whether or not we wanted it, we all just experienced the ultimate New Year's make-over. In a relatively short period of time we became something else. Nothing incremental here – no milestones, no baby steps. As we pass the

1-year-anniversary of the last F-15 leaving, we have fully and completely transformed ourselves from a Fighter Wing to an Intelligence Wing. That kind of change doesn't come without monumental effort. We dug in and we did it and we did it quickly. We can certainly look back at the past year and see we worked hard and had tremendous success. All in a very short period of time. New Year's resolution complete.

So, what about our fundamentals? Those operating principals and values we hold most important. Well, maybe we haven't thought about them in awhile because we were so focused on working our transition. Maybe we were TDY or at school and disconnected from our unit or our family. Maybe the pace of life just got in the way of them. Chances are they have been running in the background, but maybe, as we settle into our new mission, we can find a moment to look them over. Consider the things that you maintain are principal to your daily operations both at work and at home. The things that are core values. Are they at the forefront of your daily activities? Do they need to be adjusted? Dusted off? Reworked? Instead of vowing for radical change, make an incremental improvement to a basic. If the fundamentals are improved and polished we affect the kind of slow, controlled change that is truly healthy.

So, with the bulk of the job applications, security clearances, personnel movements, and sign changes behind us – look to the fundamentals. And, if your big resolution has gone out with the Christmas wrapping – the good news is – that's great! Now go back to the easy things – the things you already know and do – refresh them and find a way to do them a little better.

ANNOUNCEMENTS >>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH MILITARY BALL: FEB. 21

Anyone interested in attending the Black History Month Military Ball on Feb. 21 at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood, Mass., please call (508) 233-6767 no later than Feb. 13 to purchase tickets.

COMMISSIONING OPPORTUNITY

One traditional guardsman officer position is available for direct commissioning within the 102nd Intelligence Group in the Distributed Ground Station for the AFSC of 14N3, Intelligence Officer. Any 102nd Intelligence Wing personnel interested in applying for this position should submit an application to the 101st Intelligence Squadron, Attention: Maj. Ken Fragano.

Requirements for the application and to meet the board are:

- Resume
- Personal Data Record Review Rip
- AFOQT scores
- Current Fitness Test Scores
- Bachelor's Degree or higher

Personnel must meet all age requirements for commissioning and be able to obtain a Top Secret Security Clearance (or interim) with SCI before commissioning class begins. Packages must be received no later than close of business, Feb. 20. A board will be held during the March UTA.

102ND INTELLIGENCE WING HUMAN RESOURCE ADVISOR

The 102nd IW Human Resource Advisor, Senior Master Sgt. Michael Poirier, is now located in building 197, co-located with the 102nd IW Military Equal Opportunity Office.

The 102nd IW will offer a three-day Diversity Champions Workshop Course on base, from June 29 to July 1. Seating is limited to 30 personnel, but those interested in attending this dynamic and informative course about the nature of diversity and all it offers should contact Senior Master Sgt. Poirier (e-mail: mpoirier@nrnsd.net) for more information. The deadline for providing your name is March 6.

The next 102nd IW Diversity Council meeting is scheduled to take place Sunday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. in the building 158 band room. All are welcome to attend.

MILITARY HANDBOOKS AVAILABLE

<http://www.militaryhandbooks.com/>

- Guard and Reserve Military Handbook - NEW!
- Base Installation Directory
- United States Military Handbook
- U.S. Military Retired Handbook
- Benefits for Veterans & Dependents
- Veterans Healthcare Handbook
- After the Military Handbook
- Getting Uncle Sam to Pay for Your College Degree
- Children's Scholarship Handbook

BRONZE STAR

*By Tech. Sgt. Aaron Smith
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs*

Otis Airmen formed up on the hangar floor of building 158 as Col. Anthony Schiavi took to the podium, Dec. 23.

They were there to take part in a presentation of the Bronze Star Medal to Chief Master Sgt. Michael Perra, 102nd Civil Engineer Squadron.

Chief Perra earned the Bronze Star Medal for his accomplishments and actions while serving as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) superintendent in Iraq from November 2007 to May 2008.

For those unfamiliar with what EOD does, it is a small and specialized career field that has been in high demand lately. EOD's responsibilities are to locate, identify, render safe and dispose of all forms of ordnance. This includes the well known "Improvised Explosive Device" (IED) that has been the insurgent's weapon of choice in Iraq. Already a career field with lots of pressure and a high stress level, it has become even more so with the increased deployments and operations tempo.

Chief Perra has been involved with EOD for more than 26 years and has gained a vast knowledge of the methods and materials that are used in the field. He put those skills and knowledge to work while serving as an EOD Superintendent in Iraq. From developing counter IED warfare plans, directing base recovery actions on Balad Air Base, or personally serving on 32 EOD combat missions, Perra ingrained his personal high standards for safety and professionalism in the 33 EOD technicians he led, which is reflected in their record.

Chief Perra's teams destroyed 362 IEDs during 1,292 combat missions. They eliminated 126 unexploded ordnance hazards from Balad Air Base. They recovered and destroyed more than 24,000 pieces of ordnance, weighing in at 26,000 pounds. During this time their dedication to safety and to not becoming complacent was evident. Chief Perra's teams suffered zero accidents, injuries, or fatalities while doing a job that confronts one of the enemy's most dangerous weapons.

So as family members looked on and Otis Airmen snapped to attention, giving a serious and respectful air to the ceremony, Chief Perra was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his continuous and meritorious actions in Iraq which prevented injury and loss of life to the more than 41,000 coalition members in his area of responsibility.



Recruiting Success

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Reitano
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

The 102nd Intelligence Wing Recruiting Office exceeded its enlisted recruiting goal for the fourth consecutive year in fiscal 2008 by bringing in 138 Airmen to the wing's ranks.

"We have a highly-motivated team of recruiters who are proud of and believe in what they're doing," said Master Sgt. Galon "Chip" Barlow, 102nd Recruiting Office supervisor. "Their positive attitude allows them to go out every day and make a tremendous effort to keep the wing fully manned."

Of the 138 recruits, 85 of them are prior service who wanted to make a move to the Air National Guard. "The goal of recruiting is to find quality men and women who have the right skills at the

We have a highly-motivated team of recruiters who are proud of and believe in what they're doing.

-Master Sgt. "Chip" Barlow

right time to continue the mission of the wing," said Barlow. Although recruiting exceeded its goal, it's still looking to fill more slots, especially in the intelligence areas. According to Barlow, the intelligence career field is one of the biggest reasons for people wanting to come to Otis, but is also one of the career fields that has the most vacancies to fill.

The Air National Guard continues to attract quality men and women who are not only interested in the benefits the Guard offers, but the training and experience. "Every year it seems the aptitude of the recruits is higher," said Barlow. "The outstanding math and (language) skills the recruits possess is commensurate of the higher caliber, more academic-oriented individuals who want to join the Air National Guard."

Now that the Recruiting Office is operating in high-gear, there isn't going to be any room for taking it easy. "We have to continue to position ourselves as a viable employer in the region," said Barlow. "We can't afford to sit in our offices. We must always be proactive and be in the public eye."

Operation

BIG ICE

*By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs*



“ So many calls came in through the FEMA process that they couldn't get to all of them -- they counted on us to 'put out the fires' that came up.

”

-Lt. Col. Steve Demianczyk

Photos: page 6
(Above, L to R) Master Sgt. Guy Chioocchio, Tech. Sgt. Kyle Songer, Senior Airman Bill Greenwood, Senior Airman Andrew Pierce, Senior Airman Pete Conley, Tech. Sgt. Sean Italiane, Senior Airman Jeff Bowman, Senior Airman Elizabeth Rodriguez, Staff Sgt. Stephanie Wohlens, Tech. Sgt. Jim Roderick

(Left) Massachusetts Air National Guardsmen Senior Airman Elizabeth Rodriguez, Tech. Sgt. Kyle Songer, and (Right) Master Sgt. Guy Chioocchio provide assistance to towns in western Massachusetts recovering from a December ice storm.

Photos: page 7
(Top) Massachusetts Air National Guardsmen Master Sgt. Varoan Garabedian, (Bottom, L to R) Staff Sgt. Bill Martel, Master Sgt. Brian Kirby, and Staff Sgt. Christian Zuniga clear debris left in the aftermath of a devastating ice storm.



As the devastating effects of the December ice storm were beginning to be fully realized throughout parts of New England, units of the Massachusetts National Guard were already mobilizing and poised to respond.

Along with Airmen of the 104th Fighter Wing from Barnes Air National Guard Base and Soldiers of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, 28 Airmen from the 102nd Civil Engineer Squadron were dispatched to nine towns over a four-day span.

The objective of the joint operation was to assist local emergency managers in the affected towns by restoring road access, electricity and emergency communications towers. The scope of the ice storm was unprecedented and 102nd Guardsmen played an integral role in the relief and clean up efforts officially dubbed Operation BIG ICE.

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Demianczyk was the commander for the 104th and 102nd civil engineers as well as elements of the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

"We were the tiger teams. As I understand it, big Army units were in place at one location for the week. However, so many calls came in through the MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) process that they couldn't get to all of them and they counted on us to 'put out the fires' that came up," said Demianczyk.

The towns of Rutland, Phillipston, Warwick, Washington, Becket, Otis, Monterey, Sandisfield, New Marlborough and Tolland were all assisted by Demianczyk's team.

"Some places were untouched and others devastated. You couldn't tell because we would drive through one town and it would be fine and go to another town with a higher elevation and trees and power lines were down. It was interesting to see the difference in damage between the towns," Demianczyk said. "It was important for residents to see us – part of our mission was to show what we can do and assist the local towns."

The team's headquarters was located at Westover ARB and the accommodations allowed the personnel to get a good night's sleep. Every morning the teams would be assigned two or three different tasking orders.

"We would meet with the town or emergency manager in each town and get a sense of their expectations so I could send out the appropriate crew sizes," said Demianczyk.

Many of the towns visited by the Guardsmen had no power. "The first town we visited, Warwick, was pretty much cut off. Some of the cell towers used for the state police and fire department had less than a day's worth

of fuel before they would shut down," he recalled. "We didn't have any tracked vehicles and had to climb a few treacherous mountain roads so they could refuel. It was rough terrain and we did most of the mission on foot."

Coordinating the different groups and maintaining contact with the town managers posed a challenge but was overcome with the active support of assisting units.

"The 26th EOC and MEB provided excellent support and were very responsive. They allowed us to do our job to our potential," said Demianczyk.

Seamless integration between the Air and Army components was critical to the success of the mission. "It was an excellent joint operation. At one point we had four humvees of Soldiers assisting us. I was thankful for the Army support," he said.

Operation Big Ice achieved mission success and allowed Guardsmen to provide support here in the Commonwealth.

"Our unit has been all over the world in the last five years and it was good to help people right here in Massachusetts," said Demianczyk.





HONOR GUARD



By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Reitano
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

They march with precision, their faces expressionless, their uniforms a perfect fit.

They provide the final honor for the fallen men and women who served their country.

The 102nd Intelligence Wing Honor Guard is a selectively manned unit with more than 20 members whose primary mission is to render military honors to servicemembers and their families during funeral services at the Massachusetts National Cemetery or other burial ground. The Honor Guard also conducts military ceremonies at various other venues.

"Being in the Honor Guard provides a deeper perspective to service," said Staff Sgt. Maria Escobar, a 4-year member of the Honor Guard. "It's a genuine opportunity for Airmen to demonstrate a greater respect for those who have served before them."

The Honor Guard consists of three main elements – the color guard, which handles various responsibilities affiliated with the United States, Air Force and state flags; the body bearers who escort and carry the remains to burial sites and fold the flag for presentation to the next-of-kin; and the firing party, which consists of a 7-person team who performs the firing of three volleys to honor the fallen. Although each unit performs a specific function at ceremonies and funerals, all members of the 102nd Honor Guard are proficient in all areas.

Since Congress mandated in 2000 that every veteran is entitled to a military honor guard at their funeral, the 102nd Honor Guard has been averaging about 30 funerals a month on top of the various other ceremonies it conducts.

"Because we have a different mission than any other unit in the wing, our scheduling can be unique and challenging," said Escobar. "Although several of our taskings are manned by personnel on orders, many of our community requests such as parades and flag ceremonies are fulfilled by Honor Guard members on a volunteer basis without pay."

According to Escobar, whether it's mornings or evenings, rain or shine, time and weather have never had an impact on Honor Guard members being available or performing their duties to the highest standards.

"We always strive to go above and beyond doing the best we can because we are rendering honors to a fallen comrade and we are the face of the Air Force to either a grieving family or another audience," said Escobar.

While the job has many challenges and requires dedication and hard work, it is also filled with rewards and personal satisfaction.

"Being a member of the Honor Guard requires a lot of training and discipline," said Escobar. "It's not a job for everyone, but for those who understand the magnitude of taking care of others and recognizing their service."

"Being in the Honor Guard provides a deeper perspective to service." Staff Sgt. Maria Escobar

House fire heroics

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Reitano
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

What began as a scenic bike ride through the suburbs of San Angelo, TX, turned into a daring rescue on the evening of June 24, 2008 for MSgt. Anne Ward, 101st Intelligence Squadron.

Ward was approaching the end of her ride when she noticed gray smoke in the air not too far from where she had parked her car.

"I knew something wasn't right and didn't think it was a controlled burn, so I got into my car and drove to the smoke cloud," said Ward.

As she approached the smoke, she noticed it got thicker and blacker. By the time she arrived on scene 10 minutes later she noticed the roof of a house engulfed in flames. While another individual who had also arrived on scene called 911, Ward ran into the house to ensure no one was inside.

"It was evident that the three people in the house appeared to be overwhelmed by the situation surrounding them and didn't realize the severity of the situation," said Ward.

Immediately, Ward's military training and instincts kicked into high gear, took charge of the situation and successfully organized evacuation of the family members and their valuable possessions including five dogs.

"I knew that once the fire department arrived, no

one would be allowed into the house and that all of the family's belongings would be damaged or destroyed," said Ward. By the time the fire department arrived, Ward had managed to safely make at least six trips into the house to instruct the family and local neighbors on what items to remove from the house.

Although the house was uninsured and totally destroyed by the fire, the family was grateful for everything Ward had done for them during the horrific ordeal.

"She was very effective and precise, remained calm and collected during this ordeal," said Richard and Suzanne Dorris, the home owners. "[Ward's] efforts resulted in saving many valuable possessions and no harm to anyone. Due to her quick thinking and organizing, she is truly a hero to the Dorris family."

In addition to her rescue efforts during the fire, Ward followed up twice the next day with the family. She was also able to raise more than \$300 during a fund raiser she organized at her technical school to benefit the Dorris'.

Ironically, Ward wasn't supposed to be at technical school until August, but someone in her unit wasn't able to keep his class date and she was asked to take his slot. Also, it was Ward's first time on that particular bike path. It seems that destiny put her in the right place at the right time.

Guardisman exemplifies selfless service

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Military members are accustomed to volunteering for the greater good. Technical Sergeant Paul Riordan, a nine-year member of the 102nd Intelligence Wing, embodies that spirit of selfless service.

Riordan agreed to donate his bone marrow to a 56-year old individual who he does not yet know.

As a regular blood donor, Riordan was notified in November that he was the best possible match for a patient. Typical of a Guardisman, after discovering that he was the best match, Riordan quickly agreed to help.

Several steps are involved in becoming a donor and the process requires a physical, emotional and time commitment. Certain phases of the donation can be uncomfortable including the blood tests, injections and side effects from the collection procedure. Despite the requirements, Riordan was undaunted and elected to travel to Washington, D.C., for the procedure.

Marrow donation is a surgical procedure that takes place in the operating room in a medical office building.

"Most people think that they still take marrow from your hip but that is no longer the case," explained Riordan. "The

process is much less invasive. They give you injections for five days, the side effects are minimal and the marrow is replenished within a few days."

The Plymouth, Mass., resident has served in the military for 21 years and has been a member of the 102nd since 2000.

The National Marrow Donor Program encourages a caretaker for each donor allowing Riordan to bring his 13-year-old daughter, Maureen, with him to Washington, D.C., for the procedure and to act as his caregiver for the week. Maureen recently donated her hair for a cancer program called "Locks of Love."

"My daughter was a big help," Riordan said. "We also got the chance to see

Washington and check out all the sights."

Riordan currently serves as a member of the 102nd Intelligence Support Squadron and was proud to assist in this endeavor.

"I think most people in the Guard look to help people when they can," he said. "I hope I was able to help."

The patient's identity is confidential and it is unclear whether Riordan will have the opportunity to meet him in the future.



THE AIRMAN'S CREED

I am an American Airman.
I am a Warrior.
I have answered my Nation's call.

I am an American Airman.
My mission is to Fly, Fight, and Win.
I am faithful to a Proud Heritage,
A Tradition of Honor,
And a Legacy of Valor.

I am an American Airman.
Guardian of Freedom and Justice,
My Nation's Sword and Shield,
Its Sentry and Avenger.
I defend my Country with my Life.

I am an American Airman.
Wingman, Leader, Warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter,
And I will not fail.

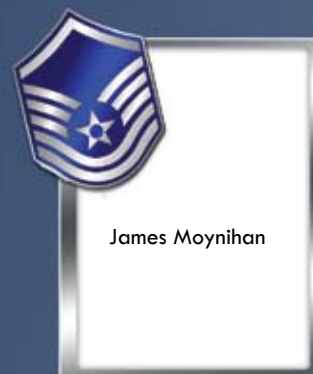
INTEGRITY FIRST • SERVICE BEFORE SELF • EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

HONORS >>

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE

Tech. Sgt. Richard Evers	<i>1N131 Course</i>
Senior Airman Michael MacRae	<i>1N131 Course</i>
Airman 1st Class Alex Sullivan	<i>3P031 Course</i>

PROMOTIONS >>



CHAPEL CALL

By Chaplain (Maj.) David G. Berube
102nd Intelligence Wing Chaplain

“A new year, a new perspective”

I’ve been thinking lately about how perspective really colors our reality. How we look at life heavily influences how we engage it. Someone once said that perceived reality is more important than actual reality, because we tend to live our lives based upon our perceptions.

I’ve been thinking about this because I’ve been reminded how easy it is to live from a negative perspective. We seem to have a culturally ingrained default to search for the problems and negatives in any situation, rather than the blessings. I’ve noticed even when we find ourselves in a situation with no obvious problems (AKA good news) we often cynically dismiss it because we don’t trust it or we ignore it.

The new year is traditionally a time to re-evaluate and refocus our lives. As you read this we’re about a month into implementing all those resolutions we committed to as we hung the new calendar. As you continue to work on those life improvements I invite you to consider one more – join me in a positive perspective reorientation.

I’m not suggesting we all put on our rose colored glasses, click our heels three times, and pretend everything’s fine. A positive perspective reorientation will take real effort in our real lives. We’ll need to discipline ourselves to search for the good news in each day we face, each story we hear, and each challenge we’re offered. We’ll have to push ourselves to find something

positive even as we legitimately search for the problems that need to be solved. We’ll be on a program of retraining our life outlook the way getting back in physical shape retrains our bodies.

In future issues of the *Seagull*, Chaplain Scheer and I will offer different ways to go about this reorientation. For now, I offer some basic stretching exercises to get us started:

1. Start every day in a positive frame of mind – before you get drawn into the stream of life take a few minutes to be aware of at least one good thing. If you’re a person of faith you might use this time for prayer or personal worship. Consciously consider blessings rather than list complaints. If you’re not a person of faith, take some quiet time to reflect on life and find a piece of good news to focus upon.
2. Journey through every day looking for something good – expect that at least one thing will go right today. When you’re feeling strong, expect more than that.
3. Provide something good for someone else – commit yourself to be good news for at least one other person each day. Who knows, you could be their one right thing today and help with their positive orientation.

NEW CHIEF MASTER SERGEANTS >>



(U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Matthew Benedetti)

On Saturday, Jan. 10, in a ceremony not often seen, the 253rd Combat Communications Group promoted not one, but two of its Airmen to chief master sergeant. Senior Master Sgts. Arthur Odum, Jr. and Anthony Dicarolo, who have been with the unit for more than a decade, stood in front of the crowd as Col. Donald Mofford, 253rd Combat Communications Group commander, spoke to the audience. “...From this moment on, they will no longer be known as ‘Artie’ or ‘Tony’ ...or ‘Sergeant’, they will be known by and only answer to ‘Chief.’” With the state Command Chief Master Sgt. and other distinguished guests looking on, Senior Master Sgts. Odum and Dicarolo were officially promoted to chief master sergeant.





The 102nd Intelligence Wing has a new public Web site!
<http://www.102iw.ang.af.mil>

This Web site can be viewed on any computer with internet access, on or off base. The most recent edition of the Seagull magazine will always be posted on the home page in the far right column. Simply click the picture of the magazine and it will open in a new window.

Your feedback is welcome and should be emailed to public.affairs@maotis.ang.af.mil.
Be sure to save the Web address in your 'favorites' list.



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