

## "Back to School"

Professional Military Education Series

Enlisted Edition | pg. 6

## Seagu

#### VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 8

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Seagull are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 102nd Intelligence Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, 156 Reilly St., Box 60, Otis ANG Base, MA 02542-1330. All photos are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

#### 102nd IW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

156 Reilly Street, Box 60 Otis ANG Base, MA 02542-1330

> (508) 968-4003 DSN: 557-4003

#### **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 organization. (Please limit articles to 500 words.)

The next Seagull deadline is 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

#### 102nd IW COMMANDER

Col. Anthony E. Schiavi

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER Editor 1 st Lt. Evan C. Lagassé

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF Master Sgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki Master Sgt. Aaron Smith Tech. Sgt. Andrew Reitano Staff Sgt. Kerri Cole

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST Evan C. Lagassé

**PROOFREADER** Doris S. Bousquet

#### SEPTEMBER | IN THIS ISSUE >>

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS pg. 3

PRESIDENT OBAMA LANDS AT MMR pg. 4

BACK TO SCHOOL: ENLISTED EDITION

BUILDING A COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PROMOTIONS pg. 10

CHAPEL CALL & UNIT SPOTLIGHT

#### DINING HALL MENU

#### Hours: 10:45 a.m. to12:30 p.m

#### Saturday:

<u>Main Dishes:</u> Chicken Cordon Bleu Yankee Pot Roast

<u>Side Dishes:</u> Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Steamed Rice - Steamed Corn

#### Sunday:

#### **Closed during Family Day celebration**

#### UPCOMING UTAs >>

Unit Training Assembly duty hours are 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2009							
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2009								
				1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2009							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						

DECEMBER 2009							
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			



ON THE COVER >>

Chevrons representing all of the enlisted ranks are pictured on the cover for the first part of a two part series on professional military education. In this issue, enlisted career progression and education opportunities are featured.

U.S. Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. Kerri Cole

Assorted Desserts



FROM THE DESK OF THE 102 IW M VICE COMMANDER

By Col. Christina Stevens



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 102D INTELLIGENCE WING (ACC) MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE MASSACHUSETTS

The last time the 102nd had an exercise scheduled on the calendar it was 2005 and that event never happened. Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and our conversion put inspections and exercises on the back burner. As the new 102nd Intelligence Wing emerged - with the lack of clarity on what those inspections would look like and the different gaining major commands – it was even harder to plan or practice. It's still very fuzzy, but one thing is for certain: we will be held accountable to demonstrate our capabilities and we must continue to prepare our Airmen to respond during times of crisis. So...dust off your appointment letters, find your mobility bag and grab your Airman's Manual. We are back in the exercise game with two exercises planned for next year.

First on the calendar is a phase one mobility exercise scheduled for the May drill. For most unit members, the exercise will kick off when we run the recall roster (so please double check your contact info). We will be setting up a deployment control center, a personnel deployment function and a cargo deployment function. Approximately 75 unit members will be mobilized for CONUS/OCONUS or home station duty. This number is fairly small so we can get comfortable again with our processes and work through the unique issues that our new missions bring to the table. We will also task some equipment but with the loss of our aircraft, the cargo deployment function portion will be much smaller. The overall goal of the exercise is to refresh our memories, see what has changed, and figure out how our new missions impact our old way of doing business. In October 2010, we are scheduled to do a phase two exercise. Planning for this is still in the very early stages but first pass looks like it will be a classic ability to survive and operate event. We are looking at holding it at the Massachusetts Army National Guard's Tactical Training Base Kelley here on the Massachusetts Military Reservation. The main players will be the Medical Group, the Mission Support Group and the Wing staff functions, but anybody who wants to put on some chem gear and dive under desks is welcome to join in. More on this event to follow.

So what can you do to get ready for these events? Check your own readiness – does the unit know how to reach you? Is your Personnel Readiness Folder, Servicemember Group Life Insurance and dependent care up to date? Also, if you have previous experience as an augmentee, let your squadron commander know. If you have responsibility for a functional area, look over the current regulations and guidance to see what has changed and start thinking about an execution plan. Finally, bring your questions, concerns and great ideas to the Exercise Evaluation Team Chief, Lt. Col. Eric Carlson, so we can get them addressed early. As we head into the fall, May might seem like a long time away, but it will be here before we know it.



## **PRESIDENT LANDS AT MMR ENROUTE TO VINEYARD**

U.S. Air Force Photos/Master Sgt. Aaron Smith







President Barack Obama and The First Family landed at the Massachusetts Military Reservation, Aug. 23, in Air Force One and within minutes boarded Marine One headed for a week-long vacation on Martha's Vineyard. Visit www.102iw.ang.af.mil for more photos.



## **ENJOYING A SUMMER JOB AT THE 102nd**

By Staff Sgt. Kerri Cole

The Title V Student Temporary Employment Program, also known as STEP, is an opportunity for high school and college students to experience a summer job like no other. While other students may just "kick back" during the summer, STEP employees are given the opportunity to work beside Massachusetts Air National Guardsmen. Whether it's a position as an office aide or general laborer, the students perform their jobs in this unique and diverse environment.

"STEP employees gain marketable skills and earn money while enjoying their summer vacation, as well as get an introduction into what our Intelligence Wing is all about," said Kimberly Scudder, 102nd Intelligence Wing director of civilian personnel.

The STEP employees are thoroughly briefed on their job as well as the overall purpose and management of the Intelligence Wing.

Rylan Richard, 16, son of Lt. Col. Martin Richard, 102nd Air Operations Group, was part of the Pavement and Grounds team for the first time this summer. He says about his experience, "You just can't beat it: the pay, being outdoors all the time and also being able to support the troops in any way, even if it is just cutting the grass, has been an invaluable experience for me." Rylan is entering his junior year at Pope John Paul II High School in Hyannis.

Derek Goulet, who also worked with Pavement and Grounds for the first time this year, said, "It's better than sitting around all summer not getting paid. I also appreciate the opportunity; even summer jobs were hard to find this year." Derek heard about the STEP program from his uncle, Jeff Risley, 102nd Civil Engineer Squadron. Rylan and Derek's supervisor, Bill Ringwood, said in appreciation, "They've been a tremendous help. There's a lot of ground to cover here and I don't know what I would have done without them."

This year the 102nd Intelligence Wing hired eight students; seven worked as laborers and one worked as an administrative clerk. Overall the students have greatly enjoyed their work experience here and look forward to coming back again.



Rylan Richard, 16, prepares to trim the curb side grass outside Building 158 as a Pavement and Grounds summer hire. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. Kerri Cole)

## **102nd AOC REMAINS ON TARGET**

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti

102nd Air Operations Group Unit Public Affairs Representative

The rhythm of an Air Operations Center (AOC) has been compared to that of an orchestra. Each member performing their respective task, playing individual notes while simultaneously working in concert with one another. After two years of growth and development, while earning accolades from the parent unit at Barksdale AFB, La., the 102nd AOC is beginning to play harmonious music.

Master Sgt. Keith Johnson is an integral member of the AOC at the 102nd and wears many hats. Chief among them is his responsibility as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of the C15 section within the unit. His calm demeanor and attention to detail honed during a career on the flight line, make him perfectly suited for the job.

Sergeant Johnson's Air Force career has spanned over 20 years and several continents. Unit patches and emblems displayed in his office offer a glimpse of a career that has taken him from the Cold War intrigue of Bitburg AB Germany to the hostile, arid climate of the Middle East.

Sergeant Johnson embodies the spirit of the unit and provides an ideal example of a successful transition to the intelligence field from a more traditional Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC). Faced with the reality of the mission shift, he took the lessons learned from a career in maintenance and inspection and applied them with vigor to the new mission with the AOC.

He believes the main obstacle for airmen considering a career in this field is the fear of the unknown.

"The last tech school that I went to was in 1989. Not having been to a tech school for so long, it was intimidating at first but once you start getting into the material it gets easier," said Sergeant Johnson.

He recently returned from AOC School at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

"It is a different mind set from the aircraft maintenance career field. Knowing how the air battle works is most important. The course is fast paced but the instructors are very helpful," he said.

The course was comprised of 130 officer and enlisted personnel that are attached to different sections which include offensive operations, combat plans, combat operations, intelligence and communications. Students are separated in groups and are taught in a classroom environment. Classes begin at 6 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m.

"There are three tests and three practical evaluations that are divided into blocks similar to tech school," he said.

"None of the material is overwhelming and the instructors do everything they can to assist you. As long as you take the time to study the material, you will have no problems," said Johnson. The subject matter expert (SME) of the unit is Staff Sgt. Tony

Santiago. He bristles at the designation of SME but the scope and breadth of his real world experience invariably make him the point man in matters pertaining to the C15 career field. H a v i n g served

i n

Iraq as an active duty member gives Sergeant Santiago a perspective that few can match.

"Nothing is better than experience. You can train all day in the classroom but I believe that you learn as much doing the job," he earnestly noted.

"We just had a few guys come back and they are looking forward to starting the mission. I tell them to take all the information that you learned and keep it in your hip pocket. It is important to keep an open mind, be flexible and adapt to changing conditions," advised Sergeant Santiago.

The camaraderie in the unit is akin to a forward deployed component and despite distinct backgrounds, members work well together.

"Going from active duty to Guard can be tough but Sergeant Johnson has been awesome," said the highly decorated Santiago. "He is very motivated and takes his job seriously, he wants us to do well," he added. "We all have a vision and are ready to go."

A recent graduate of the C15 course at Keesler AFB, Miss., Senior Airman Dave Cox conquered the fear of the unknown and is glad that he joined the unit. A postman in civilian life, Cox took a leap of faith by enlisting after a 17-year break in service and was motivated by a desire to serve once again.

"I had been out for a while and felt anxious about going to school. One of my chief concerns was being able to keep up with the technical and computer aspects of the course," he recalled.

"Also, I knew that my customs and courtesies were a little rusty and that I would be older than my classmates -- they were all factors," he said. "It wasn't bad at all, the classes were small and I didn't mind studying the material. If you commit to studying every night, you will be fine," said Airman Cox.

Being a more mature student was advantageous in some respects. "The pipeline students' attention was pulled in several directions, they were worried about room inspections and flight duties and I was free to focus on the coursework," said Cox.

Although he lamented missing the first two rounds of the National Hockey League playoffs, Cox was gratified to successfully complete the course.

"After going to school you gain a better understanding of the importance of the mission," he observed. "An air traffic controller is responsible for the taking off and landing, we are responsible for the operations in between -- I am looking forward to getting started."

Airmen considering a switch to the Air Operations Center should not hesitate to contact Master Sgt. Keith Johnson or Col. Frank Aflague.

Sergeant Johnson's advice to prospective candidates: "Keep an open mind and don't let the unknown intimidate you; everyone is willing to help. I didn't realize it at first coming out of aircraft maintenance but this is a great career field."

## **"Back to School"** Professional Military Education Series

**Enlisted Edition** 

The Massachusetts Air National Guard realizes that it must educate its enlisted members to be effective leaders, supervisors, and managers. It is not enough for enlisted members to master their specialty; they must also influence their subordinates to uphold the standards, customs, and courtesies of the military profession. For this reason, the Air Force established the enlisted Professional Military Education (PME) program. The program is administered by The College for Enlisted Professional Military Education (CEPME), located at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, and is part of the Air University system.

Enlisted airmen have four levels of Professional Military Education, with graduation from in-residence PME required for promotion to certain ranks:

<u>Airman Leadership School</u> for promotion to staff sergeant <u>NCO Academy</u> for promotion to master sergeant <u>Senior NCO Academy</u> for promotion to chief master sergeant Chief Master Sergeant Leadership Course

A new Massachusetts Air National Guard supplement pertaining to professional military education is effective Sept. 1. All airmen are expected to read the following policy and supplement: ANGI 36-2301, MA ANG Supplement 2. Contact Base Education and Training (508-968-4189) for more information.



#### AIRMAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

The first level of enlisted PME, *Airman Leadership School*, (ALS) consists of 192 curriculum hours conducted over 24 academic days. The primary instructional methodology is the guided discussion. Instruction covers three broad academic areas: profession of arms, communication skills and leadership. Students learn to appreciate their role as supervisors and how they contribute to the overall goals and mission of the Air Guard. Students are senior airmen with 48 months time in service and six months retainability in the Air Guard upon graduation. (Note: Senior Airmen must complete ALS to assume the rank of staff sergeant.)

Airman Leadership School for the Air National Guard is conducted at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.; however there are opportunities to go to an active duty ALS.

ALS is also offered as a self-study distance learning satellite course developed and managed by the Educational Programs Cadre (EPC), College for Enlisted Professional Military Education (CEPME). Enlisted PME distance learning courses are designed to provide professional development to enlisted military members at specific and critical points in their career. Stop by the education office in Building 158 if you have any questions.



#### NCO ACADEMY

Students at the *NCO Academy* (NCOA) are technical sergeants with six months of retainability upon completion of the course. Students must complete the NCOA before they assume the grade of master sergeant. The NCO Academy's 223-hour curriculum consists of three academic areas — profession of arms, communication skills, and leadership. The principal method of instruction is the guided discussion.

NCO Academy for the Air National Guard is conducted at McGhee-Tyson ANG Base, Tenn.; however there are opportunities to go to an active duty base for the training.



#### SENIOR NCO ACADEMY

The Air Force Senior NCO Academy is located at Air University at Maxwell AFB, Ala. The seven-week course is intended to prepare master sergeants and senior master sergeants for the increased leadership and management responsibilities of chief master sergeant. Graduation in-residence is mandatory before promotion to Chief, so any senior master sergeant on the Chief's list who has not attended gets priority. But every NCO selected for promotion to Master Sergeant also has the opportunity to enroll in the Senior NCO Academy correspondence course. Approximately 70 percent of inresidence students are master sergeants. With the creation of the Chief Master Sergeant Leadership Course in 2004, the Air Force's goal is to reach 100 percent Senior NCO Academy attendance opportunity for master sergeants in the future.



#### CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT LEADERSHIP COURSE

Created in 2004, the Chief Master Sergeant Leadership Course is intended to provide new chief master sergeants with foundational strategic-level leadership knowledge considered invaluable to the employment of air and space forces in support of national security. The course, consisting of 69.5 academic hours spread over eight days, is conducted at the Senior NCO Academy and includes formal lecture, informal lecture, guided discussion, question and answer sessions, panel discussions, and guided activity. Active duty chief master sergeant selects with at least six months retainability may attend. Chiefs selected for promotion are not required to complete CLC prior to pin-on, but with few exceptions, will attend within the year selected.



# OPERATIONAL SECURITY

*By 2nd Lt. Jean Riordan 102nd Antiterrorism Officer* 

What is OPSEC? OPSEC is short for Operational Security which has been around for years and has been used to describe the protection of valued assets. While many of us know what OPSEC means, we may not clearly understand what an acceptable boundary is that allows us to safely practice good OPSEC.

Recently, this subject matter has come to light during several local shopping mall kiosk situations. There have been cases reported throughout the United States, including Massachusetts, that have involved cells of young Israeli intelligence operatives that openly solicit relationships with U.S. military personnel, according to an informed source.

One such case involved two military members from Schriever Air Force Base, Colo. These members were reportedly approached at two different malls in town by Israeli women selling cosmetic products. The kiosk workers asked the two individuals specific questions about the Air Force. As military members, this situation should set off the "OPSEC alarm" that we must have internally programmed.

So the question remains, 'What would be an appropriate way of handling this type of situation?'

One great practice is to keep your answer generic, focusing on the boring aspects of your job but remember never to lie. Then you can politely change the conversation to a different subject material. Your response may seem insignificant to you, but it may be just the piece the terrorist needs to finish his or her surveillance or attack plan.

As always, make yourself a hard target and send the information seekers elsewhere. When they have to work harder for the information, they take bigger risks, and it is easier for us to catch them. Terrorists have shown us that if we can throw them a curve ball, be unpredictable and mess up their plan, they'll abandon the target.

## **BUILDING A COMMUNITY – THE OTIS FAMILY READINESS GROUP**

By Master Sgt. Aaron Smith

#### **Volunteers:**

Whether you are looking to volunteer a lot of your time or just a little, FRGs have a place for you!

#### **Leadership Team:**

The leadership team includes the specific roles of:

- Chair & Co-chairs
- Treasurer
- Youth Coordinators

#### **Key Volunteer Positions:**

- Secretary
- Telephone Tree
- Newsletter
- Family Sponsorship
- Fundraising
- Family Socials

If you have any questions about volunteer opportunities or would like to participate in the Otis Family Readiness Group, please contact the 102nd Family Program Office:

#### Erin Creighton

Wing Family Program Coordinator 102nd IW/FPO 156 Reilly St., Box 70 Otis ANG Base, MA 02542

Phone: (508) 968-4855 Fax: (508) 968-4846 Cell: (774) 313-8534 erin.creighton@ang.af.mil

#### SPOUSES • PARENTS • SIBLINGS • CHILDREN • IN-LAWS • GIRL/BOYFRIENDS FRIENDS • SERVICE MEMBERS • RETIREES • COMMUNITY MEMBERS

#### Be part of:

- Empowering families to become more knowledgeable and self-reliant
- Promoting more efficient use of community resources
- Helping family members develop a positive attitude toward themselves, the unit, deployments and the military

#### Join in this:

- Source of social support and group activities
- Welcoming organization (for new or incoming families)
- Self help, referral organization

#### Serving the Families of the:

- 102nd Intelligence Wing
- 253rd Combat Communications Group
- 267th Combat Communications Squadron

#### THE OTIS AIR GUARD COMMUNITY IS FOCUSED ON REIGNITING OUR VOLUNTEER FORCE AND <u>WE NEED YOUR HELP!</u>



### **SUMMER CONCERT TOUR**

By Staff Sgt. Joseph Larosa Air National Guard Band of the Northeast



 $B_{\rm Northeast's}$  (ANGBNE) recent summer concert tour was a tremendous success. Under the musical direction of Senior Master Sgt. Bill Drury, the unit was well-received during its nine performances in Massachusetts and Connecticut from July 2-11.

The nine-city tour began with an indoor performance by "Sounds in Blue," the unit's concert band, in the Roxy Theatre on the Massachusetts Military Reservation. Next, the band dodged raindrops and performed to a near-capacity indoor crowd in Eastham, Mass.

The concert band's program this year featured Charles Ives' boisterous Country Band March; the Artie Shaw Clarinet Concerto featuring principal clarinetist Staff Sgt. Michele Spinelli; pieces featuring vocalists Master Sgt. Tony Cyrus, Staff Sgt. Ruth Petkaitis, Staff Sgt. Jody Langellotti and Staff Sgt. Jamie Hibbert; and a host of patriotic selections.

As is the case every year, Independence Day saw the unit perform double duty. Drum Major Matt Makara led the band in a stirring morning parade through Buzzard's Bay. Later that evening, "Sounds in Blue" performed for nearly 30,000 people in Pilgrim Memorial Park in historic Plymouth, Mass., prior to the annual fireworks display. The performance proved to be a memorable one as retiring Plymouth High School Band Director Jonathan Porter, father of the unit's tubist, Adam Porter, conducted the band in the premiere of "Them Bones," a march composed by clarinetist Staff Sgt. Joseph LaRosa.

July 5 saw the unit travel to Patton Park in Hamilton, Mass.,

where the unit's 16-piece Jazz Ambassadors ensemble under the direction of Tech. Sgt. Erik Fecke, opened the program. The concert band then concluded the performance for an audience that included members of the late General George Patton's family. "My father was decorated by General Patton during World War II," said Master Sgt. Elaine D'Allesandro. "It was very exciting for me to meet members of his family," the French horn player added.

The band then traveled south to Connecticut for performances in Norwalk and Brookfield sandwiched around an evening performance in Boston's Seaport District in conjunction with Sailfest Boston.

The tour concluded with "Sounds in Blue" performing July 11 in Gardner, Mass., the hometown of long-time band member Tech. Sgt. Ed Stromski. The crowd's roaring applause was a perfect end to a successful summer concert tour. The performance also marked the final summer tour for pianist Staff Sgt. Raul Santiago of New York City who will be retiring from the unit shortly.

The Air National Guard Band of the Northeast is a 100 percent traditional guard unit located at Joint Force Headquarters in Milford, Mass. The band's area of responsibility includes all of New England and New York. The members of the band are professional Air National Guard musicians working in support of U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard recruiting and community relations objectives. For more information, visit the band's Web site, www.bandofthenortheast.ang.af.mil.

#### CHIEF MASTER SGT. REGINALD GRAHAM >>



Congratulations to newly-selected Chief Master Sgt. Reggie Graham. He was surprised on Aug. 22 by his well-deserved STEP Promotion.

Pictured left to right are Command Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Raymondo, Chief Graham's wife and daughter, and Chief Graham.

#### 8TH AIR FORCE VISITS AIR OPERATIONS GROUP >>



Maj. Gen. Floyd Carpenter, 8th Air Force commander, visited the 102nd Air Operations Group Aug. 21-22. Pictured above, General Carpenter is greeted by Lt. Col. Richard Sweeten, 102nd Air Operations Group commander. The general was given a briefing on the AOG's mission that supports the 608th Air and Space Operations Center at Barksdale AFB, La., and then a tour of the facilities. Carpenter said that with cuts to active duty manning, he needs Otis now more than ever to support his command and control requirements for the Global Strike mission. General Carpenter is also the Joint Functional Component Commander for Global Strike, United States Strategic Command.

#### **PROMOTIONS** >>



#### ANNOUNCEMENTS >>

#### EFFECTIVE SEPT. 1

A new Massachusetts Air National Guard supplement pertaining to professional military education is effective Sept. 1. Every Airman is expected to read the following policy and supplement: ANGI 36-2301, MA ANG Sup. 2. Contact the Base Education and Training Office (508-968-4189) if you have any questions.

#### FAMILY DAY: SEPT. 13

The uniform of the day is BDU's/ ABU's/flightsuits and there will be a no hat policy on the flight line after the formation is complete. Members bringing family can report to work at 9 a.m. Members not bringing family are to report at 8 a.m. The formal events will begin at 10 a.m. in hangar 158. Squadrons must be formed up by 9:45 a.m. Squadron commanders and guideons must be in place to practice Sept. 12 at 9 a.m. in hangar 158.

#### OFFICER BOARD UPDATE

The 102nd Air Operations Group officer board scheduled for the August Drill has been rescheduled for the October Drill. Submit packages to Lt. Col. Martin Richard, 165 Izzea St. Box 25, Otis ANGB, MA 02542.

Deadline for submission is Sept. 28. Packages must contain the following: Military resume is required / civilian resume optional, RIP, PT scores, AFOQT scores, Copy of college transcript.

- This is a traditional position - AFSC: 14N

- The board is scheduled for Oct. 3 in the AOG Commander's Conference Room (building 165).

#### **BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**

Heather Marie Mullins, daughter of Master Sgt. Shawn Mullins, 101st Intelligence Squadron, gave birth to Layla Rae Mullins, 7 pounds, 13 ounces, Aug. 10 at 12:14 p.m. at Falmouth Hospital. Proud Grandfather Master Sgt. Mullins was deployed to Alabama at the time and was in contact with his daughter during the birth using modern technology.

"Fortunately I got a lot of pictures emailed to me and I was able to Skype live on my computer after work to the hospital with my daughter on her laptop," said Sergeant Mullins.

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

A woman answered her door and found a man who asked if she would pay him for doing odd jobs around her house. She asked him if he could paint.

The man said he could. She gave him a can of green paint and a new brush. "Go around back," she said, "and you'll see a porch that needs repainting. Be very careful. When you're done, I'll look it over and pay you what it's worth."

About an hour later the man knocked on the door again and said he was finished.

"Did you do a good job?" the woman asked.

"Yes. But Lady, there's one thing I'd like to point out to you. That's not a Porsche back there. That's a Mercedes." (Humor for Preaching and Teaching, Christianity Today, Inc., 1996)

Communication is critical in human relationships. It is most critical in our vital relationships. In marriage, good communication is one foundation of health and wellness. Good communication helps good marriages get better, and helps build the resiliency needed to deal with problems and issues that arise.

This summer I was a presenter at a Strong Bonds marriage workshop for the first time. Strong Bonds is a weekend program offered by the National Guard as part of deployment cycle support. There is no cost to couples and, in fact, spouses can be placed on travel orders. Military members can attend as a duty function as well. Family Support organizes these events and the Chaplain's Office provides instructors.



"STRONG BONDS"

A Strong Bonds weekend consists of presentations on common marriage issues and pitfalls, keys to healthy marriage, and a simple communication tool to assist couples in their work of building a stronger marriage. It isn't group therapy, doesn't imply the couples attending have marital problems, and, while everyone is encouraged to participate in discussions, sharing is not required. The goal is to provide military couples some assistance in dealing with the unique challenges we face.

On my Strong Bonds weekend we stayed at the CapeCodder in Hyannis. Along with the presentations, our leadership team left plenty of time for couples to do their "homework" of being together exploring the area and reconnecting with each other. The atmosphere was informal, people shared at their comfort level, there was a fair amount of laughter, and I think we all walked away with some new insights.

I believe strong marriages are the foundation of strong families and help produce strong people. Strong people keep our nation, and its defense, sound. I encourage all couples to consider attending a Strong Bonds weekend. I believe it can help in the foundational work of your marriage. You can get more information and upcoming dates from Family Support or the Chaplain's Office.

# Image: Structure <th





The Education and Training Flight provides quality educational and training opportunities in support of mission readiness, and professional and personal development for both the civilian and military populations. The office is located on the second floor of building 158 and offers a variety of educational services and programs for Air Guard personnel. The Education Services staff provides counseling services on military academic planning, Community College of the Air Force, tuition assistance, commissioning programs, Air Force Institute of Technology, high school diploma or equivalency certificate, military correspondence courses, vocational training, veteran's educational benefits, and testing and professional military education, which includes Air War College and Air Command and Staff College seminars. The Education and Training Flight encourages your participation in the academic arena, to broaden your horizons through education. The staff is very knowledgeable on the educational programs and services available to you and stands ready to assist.





Public Affairs Office 158 Reilly Street, Box 60 Otis ANG Base, MA 02542-1330 FIRST CLASS MAIL U.S. POSTAGE PAID OTIS ANG BASE, MA Permit No. 101