102nd INTELLIGENCE WING

Seagull

DECEMBER 2009

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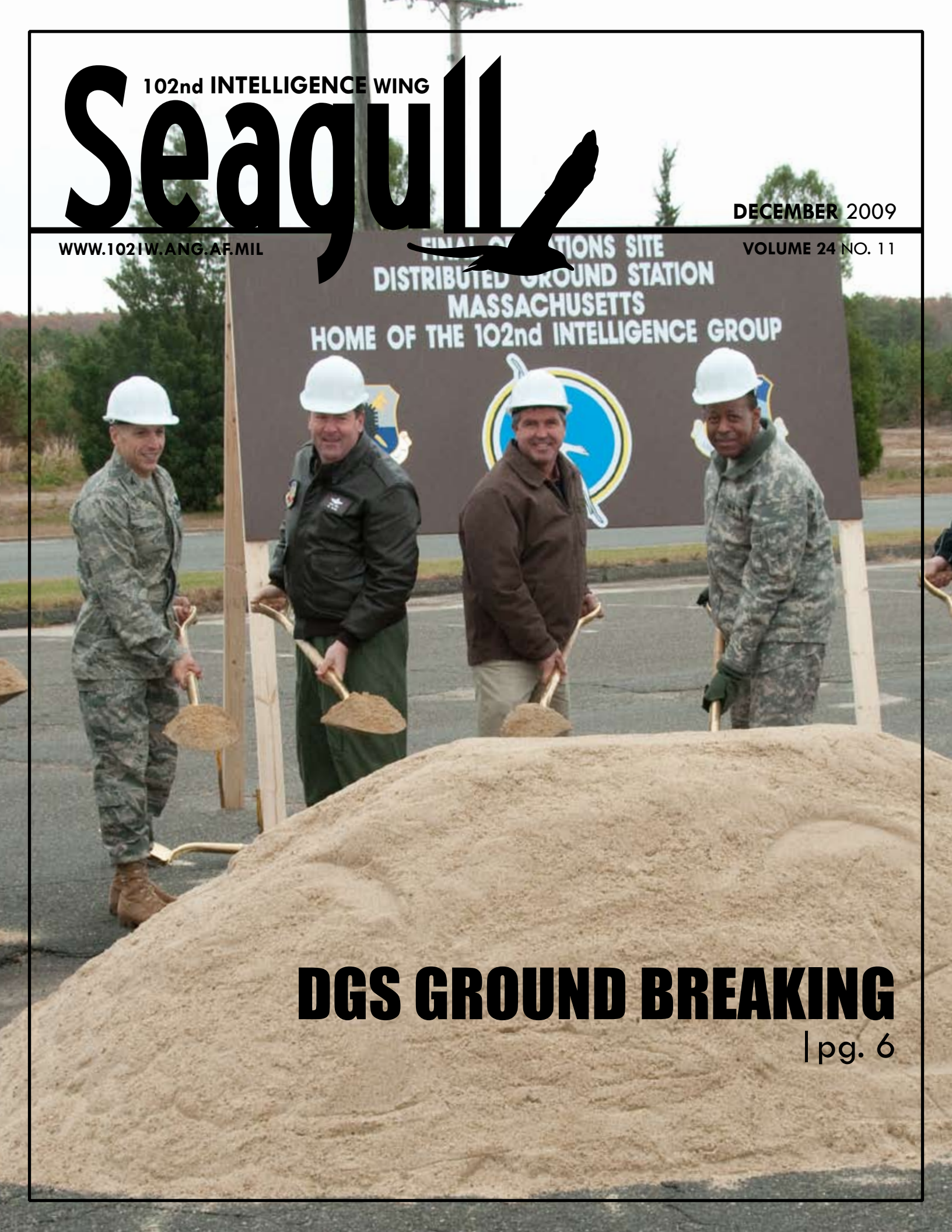
VOLUME 24 NO. 11



DGS GROUND BREAKING

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Seagull

VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 11

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

The next Seagull deadline is noon Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009.

DINING HALL MENU | Hours: 10:45 a.m. to12:30 p.m.

Saturday:
Prime Rib, Turkey Breast, Rice, Squash, Baby Carrots, Mixed Vegetables, Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes, Stuffing

Sunday:
Lemon-Herb Chicken, Beef Stroganoff, Scalloped Potatoes, Egg Noodles, Steamed Corn, Spinach

ON THE COVER >>

U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Andrew V. Reitano

Col. Anthony Schiavi, 102nd Intelligence Wing commander; Maj. Gen. Michael Akey, Massachusetts Air National Guard commander; Bill Cabral, construction superintendent; and Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter, Massachusetts National Guard adjutant general, break ground for a new intelligence facility.

UPCOMING UTAs >>

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

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FROM THE DESK OF THE 102 WING COMMANDER

By Col. Anthony Schiavi

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

Mentoring has always played an important role within military organizations, including the 102nd. Today there is renewed interest and emphasis on mentoring in the Massachusetts National Guard. It is a high visibility item from our senior leadership and if you've been paying attention at Commanders Calls and Officers Calls, you already know that I fully support it.

I'm sure everybody has a slightly different idea of what mentoring is really about, but hopefully each and every one of you is already practicing or receiving it in one form or another. My definition of mentoring is this: guiding and growing members of the organization to reach their full potential. Sometimes we do this formally but more often we do this informally. Any of us can look back over our careers and name co-workers that we looked up to or trusted for guidance. Conversely, we all give out advice – even if it's standing by the water cooler - and we all shape and guide our subordinates just by doing our daily jobs.

Recently, I asked the Wing Group, Squadron, Flight Commanders and senior enlisted leaders to formalize the mentoring program here at Otis by identifying a junior unit member – either officer or enlisted - to mentor. In most cases this won't change things much here at the Wing. We have always had senior leaders who are actively involved in the careers of junior members and we have always enjoyed a constructive and positive atmosphere where unit members are free to seek guidance and advice throughout all levels of the organization. However, by formalizing the program we can be sure that there are no gaps in our guidance and there exists an easy way for our members to seek answers.

I encourage all unit members to consider who and how they mentor in the 102nd – add a few names if need be, let them know you are available to them, and start paying a little closer attention to the particulars of their career. Share with them your lessons and encourage them to gain experiences that you know will be tools they can use throughout the coming years. Equally, consider who has guided you (they might not even know they are doing it) and look for ways to learn and grow from the advice and example they provide. Don't wait for them to find you - spend a few minutes with that person asking them if you are on the right track with your professional direction. Ask their opinion of decisions you are making.

The benefits of mentoring are boundless – we share our knowledge, our experience and help others to learn from our mistakes. We grow our younger members and grow our organization. We nurture individual strengths. We help make sure the people we put into positions in our Wing have all the tools they need to succeed in that job.

That said, there are a few important rules I want to make clear as we build our mentoring program. Mentoring is not a substitution for hard work and doing things the right way. It's not a program intended to foster favoritism or provide unequal access to the organization for any one individual or group of individuals. In fact, if you are looking out into the organization for members to guide, I would challenge you to look toward those members who, for one reason or another, seem to have the least opportunity. Secondly, a good mentor provides lots of feedback, even if it's negative. Constructive criticism is an integral part of good mentoring. We often can't see our own weaknesses and if they are not pointed out to us we may never have the opportunity to improve upon them. If we don't give our folks corrective feedback, we are not helping them reach their full potential.

I don't plan to build a cumbersome mentoring program in the Wing, but I do plan to build strong mentors. I don't expect a checklist or an Operating Instruction but I do expect every member of the organization to think about those they influence – either through a supervisory role or something less formal – and review the guidance they are providing. If you have any questions or concerns about how this should be implemented, by all means stop in and ask.

Lastly, we are approaching the holiday season which is a time of much joy, excitement and time spent with those most important to us. Let us all remember those who are deployed that won't have the same type of holiday season we are fortunate to have. Let us remember the families of all deployed service members, especially those who have lost a loved one, and take special cause to reach out to them to make sure they have everything they need; not only during this holiday season, but always. Enjoy the holidays, and please be safe in your travels and other activities.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT SQUADRON OFFICER SCHOOL

By Capt. Michael Clifford
102nd Air Operations Group

Since 1954, one of the most recognized "rights of passage" for an active-duty, Reserve or Air National Guard officer has been the Squadron Officer School (SOS) experience. As Air Force Professional Military Education (PME) has evolved, nearly every company grade officer has been required to complete SOS as a captain, before selection to major, regardless of their Air Force Specialty Code or current duty.

With a mission to "Educate, motivate, and mentor captains as current and future Air Force leaders," the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala., offers two study options for these aspiring majors: in-residence and distance. The first option, a five week in-residence program of instruction at "Air University," has historically been very competitive and limited in size as it is tailored primarily to the active force. Most recently, increased wartime contributions by the Reserve and Air Guard has generated PME changes that highly encourage – and may soon require – completion of SOS in-residence in most officer specialty codes.

For the captains who are not required to attend in-residence, or have been waived from it, a second option is offered: Air University online. This new, Web-based correspondence curriculum replaces the old post-mail correspondence option and must be successfully completed within 18 months.

Of the seven in-residence classes offered annually at the Air University campus at Maxwell AFB, each SOS class is consistently filled to a capacity of 400 students. Occasionally, a few officers are unable to attend because of last minute emergencies, but those empty spaces are almost always filled within 24-hours by officers on a wait-list. Although those students usually experience an average wait time of four to six months before stepping in to the classroom, they are destined for a nasty surprise if their Physical Training (PT) test scores only satisfy the Air Force PT standard on the first day's PT test.

Mixed in with five weeks of readings, mock briefings, exams and research papers, is a 21-station leadership obstacle course that gives every student the opportunity to lead and direct problem solving sets. This physically demanding and timed event is the main reason SOS has become known for sending students packing for home – on just the second day – if the students' initial PT test scores only satisfy the Air Force PT minimums.

A cautionary note: Some SOS graduates have seen the "thinning of the herd" as PT scores fail to meet SOS expectations. Every candidate should take several months (if possible) to build some extra muscle and endurance. It's even a good idea for many candidates to purchase an inexpensive blood pressure testing machine at their local drugstore. Consult with a medical professional and find out if you have any potential problems. You just might graduate with perfect blood pressure and a Body Mass Index of 26!

Regardless of gender or age group, SOS has set a minimum male/female PT test run time of 18:30, and a no-tolerance policy for students arriving with a PT profile. For some Reservist and Guard officers, this has proven a challenge if their PT is only marginal at their home unit.

With some solid preparation, physical and intellectual, Squadron Officer School will definitely prove a career building experience – and one that will inspire greater involvement in the Air Force.

Note: Capt. Michael Clifford recently returned from Squadron Officer School in-residence.

WWII HERO'S FAMILY VISITS OTIS

U.S. Air Force photo/Evan Lagasse

Maj. Raymond S. Wetmore's daughter, Dona Rae Van Dyke (left), and grandson, Blue Van Dyke (right), pose for a photograph with Col. Anthony Schiavi (center), 102nd Intelligence Wing commander, during their visit to Otis Air National Guard Base, Oct. 28, 2009.

Maj. Wetmore was an Air Force fighter pilot who recorded more than 25 kills in WWII and perished at the age of 27, while stationed at then Otis Air Force Base, when the F-86 Sabre jet he was flying crashed in Sandwich, Mass., Feb. 14, 1951. Maj. Wetmore was posthumously promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Dona and Blue Van Dyke travelled to Cape Cod from their home state of Arizona to visit the crash site for the first time; after years of research led them to the property's owner.

INTEL SQUADRON RAISES $3,000 FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

By Staff Sgt. Kevin Teves
101st Intelligence Squadron

On a cool, drizzly morning in downtown Birmingham, Ala., five members of the Massachusetts Air National Guard's 101st Intelligence Squadron woke up bright and early on their day off to participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

The group consisted of Tech. Sgt. Miguel Menendez, Staff Sgts. Meghan Gehl, Phil Dehnick, and Kevin Teves, Senior Airman Nicole Obidinski, and Obidinski's mother, Melissa Voas.

The event, which took place Oct. 10, was the 18th Annual Race for the Cure. The Susan G. Komen Foundation holds similar fundraisers in dozens of cities across the country to help raise money for breast cancer research and provide free mammograms and treatment for women battling the disease. More than 12,000 men, women and children participated in the event; a record for Birmingham, which raised nearly $1 million.

The idea for the walk came from Gehl and Obidinski, who also headed up the fundraising. After registering for the event, individuals were able to set up a Web site where those wishing to contribute could sponsor them and track their progress. With help from family and friends, the Airmen raised more than $3,000 for the cause in the days leading up to the walk. The group also auctioned off a pair of concert tickets won during a trivia night at a local restaurant and donated the money to the fundraising effort. Everyone agreed it felt good to get involved in the local community. The Guardsmen have been TDY to Birmingham between four months and 20 months.

Pictured from left to right are (front row) Staff Sgts. Philip Dehnick and Meghan Gehl, Tech. Sgt. Miguel Menendez, (back row) Melissa Voas, Senior Airman Nicole Obidinski, and Staff Sgt. Kevin Teves

OTIS EMPLOYEE SHOWCASES GIS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By William Stirling
102nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Kevin Bartsch, 102nd Civil Engineer Squadron Geographic Information System (GIS) manager, presented the methodology he used to create a utility GIS at the annual Northeast Arc Users Group Conference (NEARC) in Nashua, N.H., Oct. 4 - 7.

A GIS captures, stores, analyzes, manages, and presents data that is linked to location. It is a database that includes mapping software and integrates Computer Aided Drafting and Design (CAD), remote sensing, land surveying, aerial photography, mathematics, and geography. A GIS provides tools that allow users to create interactive queries (user created searches), edit data, compose maps, and display the results in a meaningful way. One of the most important benefits of a GIS is the ability to analyze spatial information. An example of this would be determining a suitable location for a new facility based on space requirements, relative location to other facilities, topography, utility availability, and impact on environmental features.

The conference was a gathering of GIS professionals from New Jersey to Maine that provided a forum for GIS training for novice to expert. It is an opportunity to exchange ideas and see the latest trends in GIS application and technology. NEARC attracts attendees from municipalities, public safety, military groups, commercial utilities, and academia.

Mr. Bartsch's presentation demonstrated the data development project for the utility systems at the MMR. Although there are several agencies represented at the MMR, the 102nd Civil Engineer Squadron owns and maintains the water, wastewater, and electric utilities. Most other Air National Guard bases are tenants that receive utility services from providers.

Mr. Bartsch's presentation outlined the process of gathering the utility data with existing documentation and Global Positioning System (GPS). He illustrated techniques for maximizing the accuracy of the data and provided tips for streamlining the process of converting the utility data to a GIS. This project documents the utility system in a GIS that can be used for inventory, asset management, and utility capacity analysis.

The GIS significantly enhances the base maintenance and operations with countless routine functions like isolating water leaks. The GIS also helps senior leaders make informed planning decisions and provides information for reports to National Guard Bureau and environmental regulators.

Distributed Ground Station

Ribbon cutting & Ground breaking ceremonies

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Reitano

The 102nd Intelligence Wing officially marked the initial operating capability (IOC) of the intelligence group's $1.8 million facility with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 6.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter, Massachusetts National Guard adjutant general, presided over the event which included Maj. Gen. Michael Akey, Massachusetts Air National Guard commander, Col. Anthony Schiavi, 102nd Intelligence Wing commander, and Col. David DeNofrio, 950th Electronic Systems Group commander.

"With each change in unit designation and mission, and the arrival of new and more advanced aircraft; in each era of its existence, Otis Air National Guard Base has been on the cutting edge of America's air defense system," said Carter. "So it's really not remarkable that we gather here today to acknowledge the beginning of a new mission for Otis and a new era for the 102nd Intelligence Wing."

The intelligence facility is part of the Air Force's larger network-centric Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS) of ground stations, distributed sites, collaborative work centers, and remote sites that produce strategic, operational, and tactical intelligence supporting combat operations.

"This interim facility will allow intelligence analysts to execute their wartime mission while awaiting construction of the new facility," said Col. James LeFavor, 102nd Intelligence Group commander. The permanent, $14.4 million, 33,000 square-foot facility is scheduled to be operational in late 2011 and will allow the intelligence group to perform the full range of its mission.

The Air Force DGS is a weapon system that provides multi-discipline Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) decision superiority information to U.S., allied, coalition military forces, government agencies, and emergency first-responders.

"This is a world-class weapon system," said DeNofrio. "There is no other air force, service or combat support agency that has anything that can hold a candle to what is in front of you."

The 950th ELSG, based at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, Mass., was responsible for developing, acquiring, and integrating the highly-classified technologies behind the weapon system.

Otis intelligence analysts have been performing the DGS mission at other locations worldwide since 2008. With the addition of this facility, those same Guardsmen will now be able to serve in the local area while still supporting combat operations overseas.

The DGS at Otis is now the eleventh location to commence operations – joining five active duty and five Air National Guard sites within the Air Force. Once the permanent facility is completed, Otis will become the third site, after Kansas and Indiana, to operate a full range DGS.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, the official party and more than 100 Otis personnel attended a ground breaking ceremony at the future site of the permanent DGS facility.

"With the support of our federal and state civilian and military leadership, we were fortunate to secure the funding to build this state-of-the-art intelligence facility," said Schiavi. The new facility will be energy efficient and environmentally compliant.

In an effort to facilitate the construction process, Schiavi, a licensed heavy equipment operator, climbed into an excavator and began demolishing the old security forces operations center where the new intelligence center will be located.

FINAL OPERATIONS SITE
DISTRIBUTED GROUND STATION
MASSACHUSETTS
HOME OF THE 102nd INTELLIGENCE GROUP

NOVEMBER 6, 2009

MEDICAL RECRUITING IS THE DOCTOR'S ORDERS

By Master Sgt. Kevin Eccleston
102nd Intelligence Wing Recruiting & Retention

It was a Monday morning in April 1997 when I started my new position as a member of the 102nd Fighter Wing Recruiting Office. I had just traded in my 12 years of life support experience for a whirl in an exciting and challenging career field that many wouldn't dare be a part of for whatever reason. Little did I know that almost 13 years later, the recruiting badge which I have worn with pride would still be as shiny and new as the first day I put it on my blues at my technical school graduation.

Over these 12 plus years, I have had the pleasure of enlisting more than 400 of the finest men and women the Wing could ask for, but I couldn't have done it alone. Through the years, my fellow members at Otis Air National Guard Base have afforded me the opportunity to work with and enlist their sons, daughters, relatives and friends. The trust they put in me made me the recruiter I am today.

On Oct. 1, a new door opened promising another challenging and rewarding opportunity. Chief Master Sgt. Peter Johnson appointed me as the first Health Professions Recruiter for the Massachusetts Air National Guard. The new position places me in uncharted waters, yet also provides an opportunity to experience a new level in my career. Once again, I am reaching out to my fellow members of the Wing to help me find professional medical personnel to fill critical career fields at the 102nd Medical Group. At one time or another, we all come in contact with doctors, dentists, optometrists and nurses. I challenge all of you to spread the word about the "best kept secret" within the Armed Forces that we have all benefited from so greatly - the Air National Guard.

Should you speak with a health professional who may show interest in the Massachusetts ANG, please have them contact me directly at (774) 836-0649 or via e-mail at: kevin.eccleston@ang.af.mil. Remember that the G-RAP program (www.guardrecruitingassistance.com) pays $4,000 for commissioned officers.

The list below is the vacancies that we have at the medical group. I'm confident that with your help, I will be able to bring quality health care professionals onto our team. Thank you for your continued support!

There are vacancies in the following medical career fields:

Clinical Nurse -- Critical Care Nurse -- Physician -- Optometrist -- Flight Surgeon -- Aerospace Medicine -- Health Services Officer

The Air National Guard needs YOU...contact a recruiter TODAY!

(U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Aaron Smith)

A Massachusetts Air National Guardsman receives a dental examination from Master Sgt. Byron Hernandez, 102nd Medical Group, during the November unit training assembly weekend. The 102nd Medical Group needs professionals in the Clinical Nurse, Critical Care Nurse, Physician, Optometrist, Flight Surgeon, Aerospace Medicine and Health Services Officer career fields to ensure 102nd Intelligence Wing personnel are medically fit and mission capable.

TITLE 10 HONOR GUARD JOB OPPORTUNITY

There is one vacant 139/179-day (renewable) Title 10 MPA Honor Guard enlisted position. This is a temporary active duty tour starting on or about Dec. 15, 2009.

All applicants must submit a one page resume to Col. Christopher Faux, 102nd Mission Support Group commander, no later than Dec. 6, 2009.

This position may be terminated at any time due to budgeting and funding constraints. Further questions may be addressed to Master Sgt. John Mallard at John.Mallard@ang.af.mil.

Eligibility:

- Any enlisted member of the 102nd Intelligence Wing
- Member in good standing within his/her organization (no profiles)
- Have Unit Commander's approval
- Any Enlisted AFSC

Requirements:

- Maintain the highest standards in Dress & Appearance, Military Bearing and Professionalism
- Provide and assist in the rendering of Military Funeral Honors
- Conduct and assist in the training of fellow guardsmen
- Assist with the management of the Base Honor Guard program
- Represent the Wing, ANG, and the United States Air Force at installation events, community and civic functions
- Hours sometimes will include evenings and weekends
- UTAs will be performed with unit
- Tour will not exceed 350 days – member is required to perform 15 days of annual training

NATIVE AMERICANS' VITAL ROLE IN NATIONAL DEFENSE

By Senior Master Sgt. Mike Poirier
102nd Intelligence Wing HRA

From the Revolutionary War to the present, Native Americans have served in the U.S. military in a variety of roles. During the Revolutionary War, some Native Americans aided the British, while others rallied to the American cause. Native Americans also fought on both sides in the War of 1812 as well as during the Civil War.

During the postwar reorganization of the U.S. Army in 1866, Congress authorized the enlistment of Native Americans as "scouts," which reached as many as 1,500 in some decades, and won high praise from generals for their horsemanship, tracking, and fighting ability.

Between the two World Wars, more than 35,000 Native Americans served in the military with one the most famous Native American groups being the Navajo Code Talkers. These groups of men worked behind enemy lines in the Pacific Theater and sent radio messages on enemy troop movements in the Navajo language, thus avoiding the need for mechanical decoding equipment, while at the same time baffling the Japanese.

It was a Native American Marine, Ira Hayes, a full-blooded member of the small Pima tribe in Arizona, who emerged as the most famous Indian of the war as he was one of the six Marines and Navy Corpsmen who were photographed raising the flag atop Mt. Suribachi. After the Battle of Iwo Jima, Hayes became a special celebrity used to demonstrate wartime unity.

Immediately following World War II, many Native American veterans benefitted from the G.I. Bill, while some took a lead in battling for full civil rights and a better life. In 1947, they led a successful campaign for the vote in Arizona and New Mexico and in the early 1950s rallied against federal efforts to liquidate reservations and divide tribal assets.

More than 25,000 Native Americans also served in Korea and Vietnam, causing Native American Vietnam veterans to begin to reexamine their situation in American society. By the 1990s, about 10,000 Indians served, and estimates from Veterans Administration and Census Bureau suggest there were 160,000 living Native American veterans in the 1990s. This represented nearly 10 percent of all living Indians, confirming once again the important roles Native Americans continue to play in the U.S. military.

In May of 2008, President Obama visited the Crow Tribe in Montana, and was adopted into the Crow Nation as Awe Kooda bilaxpak Kuuzshish, which means, one who helps people throughout the land. President Obama told those gathered he would acknowledge the "tragic history" of Native Americans over the past three centuries, and deliver to them promises of treaty obligations made by their forebears.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER JOB OPPORTUNITY

The 101st Intelligence Squadron has a commissioning opportunity for an Intelligence officer.

One traditional guardsman officer position is available for direct commissioning within the 101st Intelligence Squadron in the Distributed Ground Station for Air Force Specialty Code 14N3, Intelligence Officer.

Any 102nd Intelligence Wing personnel interested in applying for this position should submit an application package to the 101st Intelligence Squadron, Attn.: Maj. Ken Fragano (kenneth.fragano@ang.af.mil).

Requirements for the application package and to meet the board are:

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

Applicants must meet all age requirements for commissioning and be able to obtain a Top Secret Security Clearance (or interim) with SCI before a commissioning class begins.

Application packages must be received no later than the close of business, Jan. 2, 2010.

A board will be held during the January UTA, Jan. 9 - 10. Qualified applicants will be notified of date and time for board.

HEROES BREAKFAST | NOVEMBER UTA >>

(U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Aaron Smith)

Chaplain (Capt.) Mary Scheer addresses members of the 102nd Intelligence Wing, Nov. 7, who deployed during the past year. The annual Heroes Breakfast is one way the Wing thanks its airmen for their dedicated service overseas.

PROMOTION TO CHIEF | NOVEMBER UTA >>

(U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki)

Chief Master Sgt. Deb Cho, 102nd Communications Flight, is all smiles as she poses with her family shortly after her parents pinned on her chief stripes, Nov. 8.

CAPT. ERIC JONES | FALLEN MARINE >>

(U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki)

On Nov. 4, 2009, unit members formed up to salute the motorcade transfer of fallen Marine Capt. Eric Jones, 29, of Mashpee, Mass. Capt. Jones was one of four Marines killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan on Oct. 26, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS >>

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

The Otis Air National Guard Base Combined Federal Campaign, with a goal of raising $12,000, is scheduled to end Dec. 15. Please contact Capt. Nicole Ivers for a donation form: (508) 968-4664, nicole.ivers@ang.af.mil or visit Building 158, Room 230. The Combined Federal Campaign is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign. Thank you for your generosity!

FOOD DRIVE SPONSORED BY THE AIRMAN'S COUNCIL

The Airman's Council is sponsoring a food drive that will benefit the Mashpee Food Pantry. Drop boxes will be located in the entrance lobbies of Building 158 and Combat Communications until Dec. 7. Donated items must be non-perishable such as canned goods, peanut butter, dried rice and pasta mixes. For questions please contact Tech. Sgt. Janet McCarthy at (508) 968-4091.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Children's Christmas Party for children of 102nd Intelligence Wing members is scheduled for Dec. 12. The event will be held in the Aerospace Dining Facility from noon - 3 p.m.

Sign up your child by Dec. 6 with Tech. Sgt. Dawn Deacon, (508) 968-4896 or Dawn.Deacon@ang.af.mil. Parents will need to drop off a wrapped present for each of their children with the child's name on it (please try to keep it around $10) to Sergeant Deacon by Dec. 9 in Building 165, Room 138.

102ND IW HOLIDAY PARTY

The 102nd Intelligence Wing Hawaiian Holiday Party is scheduled for Dec. 18 in Building 158. Appropriate Hawaiian dress is encouraged and prizes will be awarded for the Top 3 'best dressed.' Please bring nonperishable goods to donate for the Food Drive that will benefit local food pantries. The Buffet Menu includes: cheese and crackers, vegetables, shrimp and cocktail sauce, caesar salad, chicken and broccoli ziti, baked stuffed ziti, chicken wings, Italian meatballs and assorted desserts. Tickets cost $10 and will be on sale from Nov. 30 - Dec. 11. Please see the following ticket sales representatives: SMSgt. John Noland, MSgt. Kimberly Brown, MSgt. Andrea Burgo, TSgt. Dawn Deacon or Mr. Archie Eddleston.

CHAPEL CALL

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

I'm just about halfway through my deployment to the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Being deployed at Dover is an up close and intimate experience with our fallen brothers and sisters. No matter how many fallen heroes are on each flight or how many family members come through the gate, they each somehow impact me individually.

My primary responsibility on the Chaplain Corps Team is with families. While they are at Dover AFB for their loved one's dignified transfer, I support them along with a chaplain assistant, a mortuary affairs representative, and a mental health specialist. My mission is to help explain the process and provide pastoral care as we walk through the event. Support in this context can be anything from a listening ear, to a soothing word or prayer, to a literal shoulder to cry on or physical support to help them stand. How I touch and am touched by each person is different because each person's grief is deeply personal. I consider each encounter a sacred moment, and each has imprinted itself on my soul in ways that I know will impact the rest of my life.

This mission is hard, sometimes heartbreaking work. There are days when I am exhausted physically and emotionally. And still I feel blessed to be part of our nation's sacred commitment to provide dignity, honor, and respect to the fallen; care, service, and support to their families.

(U.S. Air Force photo/Roland Balik)

An Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center carry team transfers the remains of an airman from an aircraft at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

UNIT SPOTLIGHT

102nd Security Forces Squadron

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

During the November UTA, the 102nd Security Forces Squadron conducted the first practical training exercise for the 102nd Security Forces squads that are scheduled to deploy to Iraq next spring. The training was a "squad-level, patrol operations based-land navigation exercise" conducted on a land navigation course designed and built within the 102nd Intelligence Wing area.

The Otis Heritage Park project has begun.
Order your engraved bricks now to become a part of Otis' Legacy!

Please call for an order form:

Tech. Sgt. Celeste Trepanier (508) 968-4134

Airman 1st Class Kelsey Ivers (508) 968-4663

Seagull

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158 Reilly Street, Box 60
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