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 1ST PLACE, NGB MEDIA AWARDS
2ND PLACE, USAF MEDIA AWARDS
2017 2ND PLACE, DEFENSE MEDIA AWARDS

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Fit for the Challenge

By Col. Melinda Sutton
102 MDG/Commander

Welcome Back from the summer break! The beautiful sun-filled days of summer are a wonderful time to connect with family, catch your breath. With so much going on it can be difficult to balance it all. From August to June each year it seems that the unit training assembly weekend comes around very quickly. Whether you are AGR, Traditional or Technician before you know it, the press to get this and that done in order to meet deadlines has begun anew. You get drawn into the hustle and bustle of life. It seems like you blink once, its fall and the leaves are changing. Blink again, the holidays are here. Blink again, snow is falling. Blink yet again and you are in the spring thaw. Before you know it, the June UTA is here. You look back and wonder “Where did the “year” go? I would like to invite you to challenge yourself to have a more balanced year. Do not get me wrong, I fully realize that life is unpredictable. Although some things are beyond our control, there are

matters that we often put on auto pilot instead of making conscious decisions. Author Tuan Ta suggests that there are five “Fs” of life—Faith, Family, Finance, Fun and Fitness. His book is available on Amazon. (Disclaimer: I have no associate with the author.) I would argue there are seven Fs—Faith, Family, Finance, Fun, Fitness, Friends, and Future.

Faith. Whatever your system of belief, throughout civilization religion has proven to be a great source of support and strength. On a daily basis we have faith in our fellow human beings to do the right thing, to show up where they are supposed to be and do what they are supposed to do. Why not exercise faith by renewing your connection with your higher power? If not already a part of a church, consider joining a prayer group or bible study. The Chaplains on base are also available to assist with your spiritual needs.

Family. Let’s make time for our family. Have a date night with your spouse. Have a kid’s night out to give your spouse a break. When is the last time you actually played those board games you have stored up in the closet? (Maybe I’m the only one who play “Life” or “Monopoly”.) When is the last time you saw Aunt Sally or Grandpa? All too often it’s weddings and funerals when we see family. If you are single, keep up with your family members. Why not host a family meal or reach out by face time? No matter how strained the relationship, it’s still family. You’ve got to love them :)

Finance. Are your financial matters in order? (Have you completed your travel vouchers? :)) It’s not IF but WHEN it is going to rain. How is your rainy day fund? In addition to your day to day expenses you have to plan for emergencies and retirement. Did you know that the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has a Roth (After tax) option? Did you know that the TSP allows you to borrow from yourself? Check with family services about financial guidance then check with finance about forms to complete to implement any adjustments.

Fun. Take some time out to enjoy yourself. Bowling, Softball, playing cards, a spa day or whatever interests you should have some of your time to allow you to unwind. Attend a concert, a comedy show or a play. Everyone in the Guard works hard and long hours. Not taking time out to decompress can lead to burn-out.

Fitness. Incorporating exercise into your routine will make it easier to address the required fitness assessment. Physical fitness can be achieved by a variety of means—jogging, kick-boxing, yoga, Zumba, weights, etc. Find a program that works for you. Exercise is not only good for you, it releases natural “feel good” endorphins.

Friends. Nurture your friendships. In those times when it “sucks to be you” these are the folks who are there for you. Some friends are closer than family. They have seen you at your worse and under no obligation to do so, like you anyway.

Future. Where do you want to be next year? In the next three years? In the next five years? Take an honest look at your situation. Are you doing what you need to do to get there? Set goals and hold yourself accountable. Be better than you were last week... last month... last year. Just in case you were wondering, you have always had permission to BE AMAZING. Give it a go, you just may surprise yourself.

By now you are wondering what does all of this have to do with “Fit for the Fight”? The medical group is charged with ensuring a fit and vital force. So much of what makes you fit is beyond what happens at the medical group. Human beings are not robots. You can meet every medical requirement and still not be fit for the fight. I challenge you to find and maintain a life balance that is appropriate for your level of optimal function. It will enhance your physical and mental health so that you will truly be your most FIT FOR THE FIGHT.

DPH: SUPPORTING HEALTH AND READINESS WITH TECH

Ms. Jill Garvin
102nd IW/Director of Psychological Health

I hope everyone had a good summer. September is Suicide Prevention Month. I think as a wing, we do a great job practicing prevention and resiliency year round.

People with severe depression may think about suicide. This is part of depression and there is no shame in having thoughts of suicide. You may have experienced this yourself or someone you love may have.

People have shared with me over the years, that calling or reaching out to someone and telling them they were having the thoughts, made all the difference. Not allowing shame or fear or the loud voice to keep them from telling someone.

People have shared that anticipating these thoughts and feelings plants a very important seed. One suggestion is when you have these thoughts, say no. And then pick up the phone and call someone to tell them you just had that thought. Or seek out one of us from the resiliency team! The Chaplain, Family Readiness, a First Sergeant.

When you plant that seed and nurture it with other practices, like meditation, writing or reading things that lift you up, it has a chance to take root.

So let me help you plant a seed if you struggle during difficult seasons of life, with thoughts of getting a permanent break from the stress and pain.

Say NO to the voice that tells you can't handle it.

You can.

Say NO to the feelings that seem so overwhelming that you want to escape them.

They're temporary, moving through, you need to let them flow so they can move on.

And then KNOW that your next move is to call someone and tell them what you're thinking and experiencing. They will talk you down from the edge

and help you take the next best step. Connect.

If you don't want to call someone you know now, put phone numbers into your phone under the contact name I Need Help or A LIFELINE. Create a group of phone numbers you can access through cloudy vision and depression so that no matter which number you choose, you get through.

Don't call people who aren't sympathetic or empathetic to your feelings. Be choosy in the clear times about who you put on this list.

Who can you add to your lifeline group?

Depression is exacerbated by traumatic and difficult situations and life will continue to be filled with those. And from time to time you will buckle under the weight of it all and you will need help. All of us do, including myself. Again, anticipating this, especially during certain seasons (like northeast winters), anniversaries of loves ones you have lost, or other triggers, it's important to have a self-care plan before these events.

Get in front of yourself. Know yourself well enough to put some things in place you can access when your thinking is scattered. I encourage you to enlarge your spiritual life, interests and hobbies. These are the things we can lean on in times of trouble.

Call somebody and let them help you, hear you, and love you.

I realize not everyone may be comfortable seeing the DPH so I like to remind members that there are many resources available to you. One I would like to highlight is inTransition. It's a free program that assists members in finding a mental health provider during times of transition (discharge, retirement, deployment, return from deployment). Everyone is eligible, no time limit and they are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Change Direction is a great resource with a crisis text line that is anonymous. I have a ton of

resources and if you are not comfortable calling, ask someone to call for you and I will be happy to assist. I thank you for taking care of each other here at the wing.

Changedirection.org Text SIGNS to 741741

800-424-7877 inTransition

800-273-8255 national suicide hotline

508-968-4827 Jill Garvin DPH

508-968-4508 Chaplain White

WING CARE PROVIDERS

This listing was compiled to assist you in caring for your Wingman. Please use this page for your information and as guidance for referral.

DIRECTOR OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

The Psychological Health Program offers free of charge, confidential psychological assessments and brief solution focused coaching, consultations, referrals and case management. [Contact Ms. Jill Garvin, jill.a.garvin.civ@mail.mil, \(P\) 508.968.4827 \(C\) 508.237.6652](#)

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Director of Psychological Health can be the first contact for individuals in suicidal crisis or those having thoughts of suicide. She can advise supervisors and peers regarding support for distressed coworkers, and is Point of Contact for Suicide Prevention Training and Education. [Contact Ms. Jill Garvin, jill.a.garvin.civ@mail.mil \(P\) 508.968.4827 \(C\) 508.237.6652](#)

AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS

The Otis Airman and Family Readiness Office offers a wide variety of services and programs that contribute to the mission readiness, resiliency, and well-being of the Air Force community by taking care of people. A&FR programs are available free of charge to military personnel, DoD civilians, retired military and family members. [Contact Ms. Erin Creighton, erin.k.creighton.civ@mail.mil \(P\) 508.968.4855 \(C\) 774.313.8534](#)

CHAPEL OFFICE

The mission of the Chapel Team is to provide a holistic ministry of presence, care and hope to members of the Wing in a flexible, responsive, and competent way. Private conversations of those seeking the counsel of Chaplain Corps personnel as matters of faith or acts of conscience are strictly privileged communication. [Contact the Chapel Office \(P\) 508.968.4508](#)

VETERAN'S CENTERS

We are the people in the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs who welcome home the war veterans with honor by providing quality readjustment services in a caring manner. We assist veterans and their family members toward a successful postwar adjustment. 1.800.905.4675 (local - Hyannis 508.778.0124)

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATOR (SARC)

Providing private, confidential care for assault victims and assistance with reporting both unrestricted and restricted. [Contact Ms. Robin Mungin, JFHQ SARC at robin.m.mungin.civ@mail.mil, \(O\) 339.202.3118 \(C\) 774.286.1164 SARC Helpline: 508-889-6644](#)

MEDICAL GROUP

A resource for both medical and psychological conditions affecting the wellness of airmen: Provider consultation can be arranged for discussion of these and other conditions by contacting the reception desk or via your Unit Health Monitor. [Contact the Medical Group \(P\) 508.968.4091](#)



By Master Sgt. Kevin Kelley
253rd CEIG & 21 2th EIS/First Sergeant

**Integrity First,
Service Before Self
and Excellence In All
We Do**

We all know these to be the United States Air Force Core Values. That being said, what are core values? What does core values mean? Core values are defined as the fundamental beliefs

of an organization and they are the guiding principles that dictate behavior. Core values also help to determine if an organization is on the right path and fulfilling their goals by creating an unwavering guide. With this as a backdrop I would like to discuss the Air Force Core Values.

Integrity First

I have always been impressed with the wording of this value. They could have left it with integrity, but they specifically used the phrase 'Integrity FIRST'. Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles and we as airmen must, before all other things, have integrity if the USAF is going to continue to be the premier fighting force in the world. For the junior members of our force they need to be able to trust that their superiors are acting with integrity and that they are doing what is best for the entire group, not just for themselves. Just as important leaders need to be able to trust that subordinates will act with integrity when they are giving them an order.

Service Before Self

I am proud to say that I work in an all-volunteer fighting force. Every man and woman that is a part of the United States

Air Force took a solemn oath to put service to their country as a paramount duty in their lives. But it is more than the fact that we as airmen have taken this oath. It also goes into the deployments that have taken us away from families and holidays missed. It is the long hours we work when in garrison and putting the mission first. Service is the mission and by putting it before ourselves we make sure that we as a wing and as the Air Force as a whole can continue to Fly Fight and Win.

Excellence In All We Do

Of course we saved the best for last. All of the core values are important but to me the final value is the most important. The reason I say that is, if we work with integrity and put service first, we STILL need to strive for excellence in order to be successful. Excellence is what we must strive for every time we put on the uniform (Even when we go to OCP's). We cannot accept less than that or we are doing a disservice to our fellow airmen, and to the legacy of those brave men and women that went before us and paved the way.

Much like the triad of leadership contains the three components of a unit's leadership, the core values are a triad of beliefs that should govern all of our daily operations. Without any of these values the foundation we are built upon would not be able to survive. I hope we can all keep these in mind as we go about our jobs and especially in our decision making process.

**Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence
In All We Do**

If we continue to adhere to these core values, I know that the Air Force I have had the pleasure of being a part of for over 25 years will be in good hands in the years to come.

By Senior Airman Brianna Hogan
102nd FSF/Customer Service

Do you know how important your address is?

A home is where you go to unwind from the day, raise a family, play out in the yard with your dogs and have barbeques with your loved ones. That home that you built with love and hard work needs to be maintained so what if something were to happen to you and you were no longer were able to do that?

You swore an oath with the knowledge that one day, you might have to give your life for this country. If something were to happen to you, how would you want your family to find out? How would your unit know how to get in touch with them? Is the information on your emergency documents accurate?

In this day and age of social media news travels quickly and indiscriminately. Time is of critical essence. With the speed of informal and unofficial information, wouldn't you like to assure that you're loved ones receive upsetting news the right way?

By having your address properly entered on the DD Form 93 (vRed), your family will be quickly and properly notified in the most appropriate way possible.

This is the worst case scenario and hopefully never happens, however you must realize that there is a domino effect when you do not keep your address updated in the system. Old, outdated address information can not only delay notification of family members in times of crisis, it can also delay TDY departures, affect pay and have an adverse effect on a number of actions through your career.

The Force Support Flight hours:

- Monday : Closed
- Tuesday- Friday: 0800-1530

UTA Weekend Hours:

- Saturday: 0900-1500
- Sunday: 1030- 1500

Reminder that ID card appointments are Tuesday and Friday by appointment only, no exceptions.

Make sure your personal data and contact information is up to date. If you or your family members move, update the system right away. Don't delay. Don't plan to take care of it "next week" – do it now!

There are two ways to update your address. You can fill out the address change form if you do not have access to vMPF. Email the completed form to your CSS or to the Force Support Flight.

You can also change it online in vMPF by using the following steps:

1. Log into vMPF which can be accessed on the Air Force Portal
2. Click on 'Self-Service Actions'
3. Click on 'Personal Data'
4. Click on 'Record Review/Update'
5. Click on 'Individual'
6. Once in the 'Individual Information' page, you can update your home address, mailing address, phone number, duty email and other information.

Take a moment and look at the information that is on file. Make sure it is up to date. It really makes the difference when time is of the essence.

Please give us a call at (508) 968-4180 if you have any questions or need assistance.



By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Berube
102nd IW/Chapel

We usually think leadership is for those “in charge;” bosses, parents, and others who run things. But leadership, really, is for all of us. At some point we’re all in charge of something – even if it’s just how we interact and react in our day-to-day world. So, it’s important for all of us to ask ourselves from time to time, “What’s my leadership like,” and to look for ways to strengthen our skills.

I recently reread part of Lincoln on Leadership by Donald T. Phillips. Phillips looks at fifteen leadership principles he sees in Lincoln. What I like about Lincoln’s leadership is that it is elegantly simple. Here are some highlights that struck me this time as most useful in our day-to-day personal leadership encounters:

When it comes to people, “Persuade Rather Than Coerce.” As I listen to current public and personal debates of issues, the art of persuasion seems nearly lost. Most often, the goal seems to be to bludgeon opposing viewpoints into shameful or frustrated submission or withdrawal. This does not engender further dialogue or openness to potential change of opinion. Persuasion, on the other hand, seeks to win understanding from the opponent. At its best, persuasion makes a strong enough case that it moves from understanding to adoption and the opponent becomes a supporter of a new viewpoint. At the least, persuasion leaves the door open for continuing dialogue and ongoing discourse.

In matters of character, “Be a Master of Paradox.” We need to master paradox – outside and within ourselves – to help us lead effectively in the small and large endeavors of our complex lives. One paradox Phillips points to in Lincoln that will serve us well was his ability to be consistent, yet flexible. Consistency allows others to see us as trustworthy, dependable, and predictable – someone who can be counted on as stable and reliable regardless of what’s going on around us. And yet, being flexible at the same time says to those around us we’re not rigid and have room for commonsense, growth-inspiring change in our actions and attitudes.

As relates to our undertakings of work and life, “Lead by Being Led.” There are those of us who maintain if we can’t be good followers we can’t be good leaders. To hear good ideas from those with whom we share leadership and life and incorporate them without feeling threatened is a valuable leadership (and life) skill. Adapting the best outside and inside ideas into a seamless, sensible, working worldview or plan, giving credit where it belongs, and moving the whole enterprise forward in positive ways is one purpose of effective leadership. Part of getting leadership right is sensing when to be out front and when to get in line in that process.

Whether we’re leading organizations, families, relationships, or our own lives, it’s important we do it well. What’s your leadership like these days?

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE RSD

Saturday	
1500 hrs	Roman Catholic Mass, Army Chapel (the white chapel outside the Inner Gate) Building 1201
Sunday	
1030 hrs	Roman Catholic Mass, Building 165, Auditorium
1100 hrs	Christian Worship, Building 330, Conference Room 7
Tuesday	
1130 hrs	Weekly Bible Study, Building 170, Chaplain Office

If you need or want a worship experience other than these, contact us at 508-968-4508. We will be happy to help you.

By Master Sgt. Tabitha Gendreau
Recruiting Office Supervisor

Senior Airman Breanne Callahan is the newest member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard Recruiting Team.

Senior Airman Callahan enlisted in the Massachusetts Air National Guard in 2015 as an Knowledge Operations Management Specialist. She was assigned to the 102nd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group, Commander’s Support Staff. Admin by trade, Airman Callahan was challenged to adapt and learn personnel tasks to ensure that nearly 400 Airmen in Distributed Ground Station-Massachusetts were ready and able to perform their 24/7 reach back intelligence exploitation mission.

During her time with the 102 ISRG, Airman Callahan was put on mission support orders as well as temporary technician assignment to assist in many different ways. Airman Callahan assisted in the management of many high-visibility events such as the 101st Intelligence Squadron centennial celebration, a number of retirement ceremonies, and the 102 IW Command Chief Change of Authority ceremony. She also assisted in a wide range of events with distinguished visitors such as the promotion of USAF Maj. Gen. Thomas Murphy which was held in May, 2018.

Mastering the protocol requirements within her career field, Airman Callahan also took on many personnel tasks such as managing various unit manning documents and handling re-enlistment contracts for the group. According to Airman Callahan, “During my time on orders I was given the opportunity to be a part of the re-enlistment process and ceremony for many. It was an honor to be part of an Airman continuing his/her career. It inspired me to pursue my career with the Massachusetts Air National Guard Recruiting Team.”

In the last year, Airman Callahan served as the President of the Otis ANGB Junior Enlisted Council.



The council’s mission is to better the life of 102nd Intelligence Wing Airmen E-6 and below. Serving as the council’s president allowed Airman Callahan to gain a greater depth and sincere understanding of the different missions and opportunities the 102 IW has to offer. Callahan went on to say, “Working alongside Airmen with different AFSCs gave me a better understanding of what the 102 IW has to offer. We are all unique and it is a rewarding experience to be able to come together and achieve one common goal.”

Callahan says she is excited to begin her career as a Massachusetts Air National Guard Recruiter.

ANNUAL TRAINING: FOOD SAFETY TRAINING WITH SERVICES

Airmen from the 102nd Force Support Flight, Services Section, train on the set up and operation of the Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen, known as the SPEK, which replaced the Mobile Kitchen Trailer. Training was also conducted on safe food handling and preparation procedures as well as proper pantry inventory management.

(Air National Guard photos by Mr. Timothy Sandland)



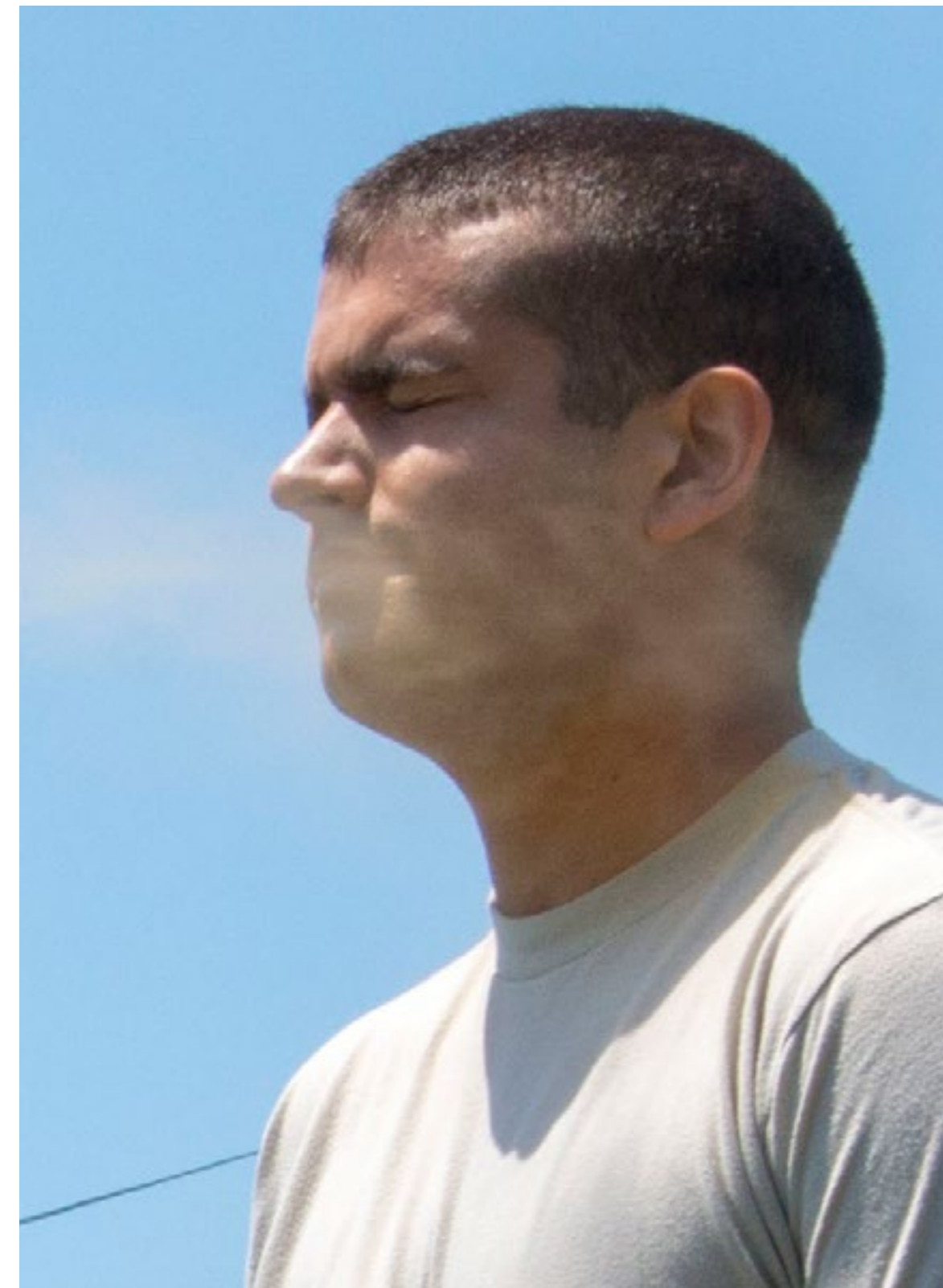
ANNUAL TRAINING: PEPPER SPRAY TRAINING WITH 102 SFS DEFENDERS

Defenders from the 102nd Security Forces Squadron conduct initial pepper spray training at Otis Air National Guard Base on June 7, 2018.

In order to be armed with pepper spray Defenders need to experience the effects of the spray and subdue a mock assailant after being sprayed in the face.

Check out all of the images here: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4459394/102nd-security-forces-defenders-conduct-pepper-spray-training>

(Air National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Thomas Swanson)



102ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON: TOUGH AND PERSEVERANT

By Mr. Timothy Sandland
102 IW/Public Affairs

CAMP KAMASSA, CRYSTAL SPRINGS, MISS. — The 102nd Civil Engineer Squadron recently returned from an Innovative Readiness Training deployment that not only honed their skills as engineers, but provided an opportunity to give back to the community in a unique and rewarding way.

The IRT program began construction of Camp Kamassa in April and during the multi-year mission, will build the first special needs camp in Crystal Springs for the Mississippi's Toughest Kids Foundation. The IRT mission brings together service members from the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard to train on mission-essential tasks, including construction, dirt work, engineering, plumbing and pest management.

Building Camp Kamassa provides the military hands-on, multi-trade construction experience, while simultaneously creating an opportunity for children with special needs to experience summer camp.

Kamassa, a Choctaw word meaning “tough and perseverant,” describes the ones the camp serves—children living with disabilities, life-threatening illnesses, or other hardships. “We envisioned a year-round camp facility with activities like horseback riding, a ropes

course, and canoeing that would be handicap-accessible,” said Mrs. Mary Kitchens, MTK’s co-founder and director.

Kitchens wanted to build a permanent camp that was accessible to her target audience and had specialized medical facilities. “Without the IRT program, we could not afford to build the camp,” said Mrs. Kitchens, “thanks to the IRT program, thousands of children will have a camp designed to meet their unique medical needs while giving them a camp experience filled with fun, adventure, and discovery.”

The contingent of Airmen from the 102nd Intelligence Wing was primarily made up of members of the 102 CES, but also included personnel from the 102nd Medical Group and 102nd Force Support Flight, who provided support for the engineers.

Work included the completion of a pole barn roof and structural cross bracing, surveying and installation of concrete drainage pipe, maintenance and installation of a silt fence and general road repair and grading. The transportation of both excavated material and material in from off site, vegetation clearing, widening and filling the main maintenance road and surveying and preparing the area for

an open air recreation building foundation rounded out the primary projects for the team of dedicated and skilled Airmen.

As part of a project to build a barn, the structures team installed 4,800 square feet of metal roofing, 100 feet of ridge cap and 192 linear feet of steel cross bracing cable. Engineering surveyed, staked and leveled 8,344 square feet for an open air recreation area as well as surveying the elevation and staking of areas for cabins and a baseball field. Heavy equipment operators performed the leveling and compacting of these spaces, moving nearly 1300 cubic yards of fill, 732 tons of aggregate and excavated approximately 12,744 cubic yards of soil for the installation of water drainage pipe.

With high-humidity and temperatures approaching triple digits regularly, the HVAC team maintained cooling for the tent city and assisted with the swap out of generators to ensure continuity of power for the air conditioning system. Electricians and the power production team assisted with heavy equipment operators in the clearing of trees in preparation for electrical power installations and serviced and maintained generators at a local Army National Guard Armory.

All throughout, the medical team supported the workers providing medical response oversight for the crew’s safety — they ensured everyone remained hydrated and healthy, providing daily safety briefings regarding heat, water consumption and rest cycles.

In all, the team worked hard on projects every single day, but that didn’t stop some from participating in other great events as well, such as the annual Crystal Springs Tomato Festival 5K Road Race.

Work down South was hot, dirty and taxing but all involved were rewarded knowing they were there supporting the children of Camp Kamassa — work that allowed the 102nd Civil Engineer Squadron to fulfill the mission of the National Guard by providing a well-trained and well-equipped capable force.

Helping the children of Camp Kamassa is a wonderful effect of programs like Innovative Readiness Training. Helping communities in need and improving the quality of life for our citizens makes all the difference. Contributions of citizen Airmen, like those of the Massachusetts National Guard, play an important role in the betterment of our country.



I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN: MASTER SGT. DENNIS MILLS

By Airman 1st Class Junhao Yu
102nd IW/ Public Affairs

OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mass. — When a student graduates from high school, he or she faces the difficult task of deciding a career path. For Master Sgt. Dennis P. Mills, a production controller assigned to the 102nd Civil Engineer Squadron at Otis Air National Guard Base, his senior year was relatively hassle-free because he had enlisted in the Air Force through the Delayed Enlistment Program.

Mills' father passed away when he was still young, he explained, so his mother had to work hard and saved up some money hoping he would use it towards education.

“A lot of my friends were off to college,” said Mills. “I was more focused on partying and fun without any real goals. The way my life was going back then I'd probably end up wasting her money and fail out of school.”

To Mills, he knew he needed a sense of direction in life so he looked to his friend who had two family members in the Air Force.

“They retired from the military and went on to work as contractors.” Mills sipped from his coffee mug as he continued, “They told me the Air Force is the best because it takes care of its own, so I joined and went to basic training the September of '82.”

Mills said he liked the training and the discipline he'd get from the military, though his mother had reservations about his decision, he was happy to do something that was bigger than himself.

Fast forward to when Mills arrived at his technical training school at the now closed Chanute AFB, IL, where he started to work on the F-100 engines that propelled the F-15 Eagles. According to Mills, back in the early 1980's the F-100 engines were still relatively new, so none were available at the schools, and training material was still being revised. Mills faced his first real challenge when he had to navigate his way through the confusing instruction manuals.

While the demand of on-the-job training and career

development created a lot of pressure on Mills, he said he still loved his early days in the Air Force.

“The beaches were beautiful,” Mills reminisced as he thought back to his time at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. “There were dolphins and pelicans everywhere. It was so vast and gorgeous.”

Mills' Air Force career eventually led him to an assignment in Germany, which according to him came with its own kind of loneliness.

“You are thousands of miles away from your friends and family back home,” said Mills. “While I was in Germany I loved the comradery. The older guys who were married would invite us to their house for a family cook-out. Especially around the holidays when you get really homesick, and they would always step-up for us.”

Mills still keeps in touch with some of his old friends from his deployments because it was such a tight-knit group; he believes it's not something easily found in the civilian world.

When Mills finally decided to bring his career closer to home, he settled at Otis Air National Guard Base where he and his family continued their connection to the Air Force.

“My son got me to join the Civil Air Patrol with him,” said Mills. “Somedays they would practice marching here at Otis and I could hear them from my office.”

Still today Mills is an active member of the CAP where he helps instruct cadets on aviation and youth development.

After decades of service Mills has no plans to stop and hopes to continue at OANGB for the foreseeable future. His advice for young Airmen of today is to be patient and understand that things do change in their favor in the long run, so he thinks it's important to always be prepared and keep up with the training.

“Have your stripes waiting for you,” said Mills. “Not the other way around.”



HADDON TAKES COMMAND OF THE 102ND COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT



Col. Christopher Hurley, 102nd Mission Support Group commander, Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass., presided over the change of command ceremony for the 102nd Communications Flight on June 8, 2018. Maj. Kristina Handley relinquished command of the Air National Guard communications unit to Maj. Richard Haddon. In his previous position, Maj. Haddon was the 102nd Intelligence Wing Director of Inspections for the wing Inspector General's office. Click here for more images: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4463973/102nd-communications-flight-gets-new-commander>

(Air National Guard Photos by Mr. Timothy Sandland)



BREAKING BARRIERS: CAPTAIN NORMA PARSONS

By Mr. Timothy Sandland
102nd IW/ Public Affairs

There were a number of ‘firsts’ in the Air Force during the year of 1956.

In April, an F-104 Starfighter piloted by Lockheed Test Pilot Joe Ozier exceeded Mach 2 for the first time, becoming the first production fighter jet to reach that speed. In May, a B-52 Stratofortress dropped a 3.75 megaton hydrogen bomb on Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. It was the first air drop of a hydrogen bomb. In November the Convair XB-58, prototype of the world’s first supersonic bomber, made its first flight.

These were all significant milestones, but none would have the lasting impact as an event that took place at a small Air National Guard installation in Brooklyn, New York on August 1, 1956.

That would be the commissioning of Captain Norma Parsons.

After World War II, the National Guard reorganized its units and because of its dual missions, Federal and state, there was no central authority to allow for women to join.

Around the mid-1950s, some medical units requested permission from the National Guard Bureau to employ female augmentees from the Air Force Reserve to work within their units. This allowed commissioned female officers to train in stateside ANG medical facilities. This was helpful, however if an ANG unit was mobilized, the women would need to return to their Reserve unit. This ultimately would affect the ANG’s readiness as these officers could not be counted on for mobilization purposes.

In order to preserve the ANG’s readiness and support its Federal mission, things needed to change. It was no longer a question of ‘if’, but ‘when’ women would be allowed to serve directly as members of the National Guard.

Lawmakers, after much debate in Congress, enacted Public Law 845 which allowed women to join the National Guard. Restrictions to their participation were still present, as women could only be commissioned and only serve as nurses or in other medical-related fields, however the door had finally been opened.

The act, dated July 30, 1956 stated, “To authorize female Reserve officers of the Army or Air Force appointed as nurses or women medical specialists to be members of the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, as appropriate.”

Just two days later, on August 1, at Floyd Bennett Field in New York, Norma Parsons was commissioned a captain and became the first woman to join the National Guard. She was sworn in as a nurse with the 106th Tactical Hospital in the New York Air National Guard.

After being promoted to major in 1958, Parsons started a program of specialized nursing training that was adopted, in part, by other Air Force medical evacuation units.

Parsons would go on to enjoy a full career, retiring as a Lt. Col. in 1968. Previous to her service with the ANG, Parsons had been on active duty with the Air Force, serving in the China-Burma-India Theater during World War II as well as in-theater during the Korean Conflict. At the time of her retirement, Col. Parsons had accumulated 3,000 hours as a flight nurse.

By the end of 1957 the Air Guard had 42 female nurses on its rolls.

In October 1961, then President John Kennedy mobilized the National Guard in response to the Berlin crisis. Included in this mobilization were women nurses - the first time National Guard women were mobilized in our Nation’s history. Throughout most of the 1960s almost all of the jobs open to military women were in the medical field, and still only to officers.

It wasn’t until 1967 that Congress further amended the law, when on November 8 of that year, Public Law 90-130 authorized the enlistment of women in the National Guard.

Starting with a few nurse-officers in the 1950s, the number of women in the National Guard has increased at a steady and consistent pace. The female Airmen of today’s Air National Guard have opportunities in all career fields and at all levels of leadership; enlisted and commissioned.

It all started with Captain Norma Parsons, the very first woman National Guardsman; an Airman.



THE PURPLE HEART: HOW IT HAS CHANGED OVER TIME

By Katie Lange

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

[August 7] is Purple Heart Day, when we honor United States military members who received the Purple Heart after being wounded or killed in service to our country.

There are a lot of service medals out there, and sometimes they can get confusing. But did you know the Purple Heart is the only award service members are entitled to (if they meet the requirements, of course) as opposed to being recommended for?

Whether you knew that or not, here are some other some facts about the Purple Heart, which is awarded in the name of the president to any member of the armed services who was wounded, killed or may die of wounds inflicted while serving after April 5, 1917.

Origins: The award was established under Gen. George Washington on Aug. 7, 1782, originally just for the Army. It was called the Badge of Military Merit then and was awarded for “any singularly meritorious action” by enlisted men and noncommissioned officers in the lower ranks.

First recipients: In 1783, three Revolutionary War volunteers were awarded the badge, which was the “figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding.” The names of others who received it were to be kept in a “Book of Merit,” but according to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, that book has never been recovered.

Forgotten, but not forever: The award was mostly forgotten after the revolution. It wasn’t reinstated until 1932, the bicentennial of Washington’s birth, when War Department Secretary Douglas MacArthur announced it would have a new name — the Purple Heart — as well as a new design and purpose.

New look: The design then became what it is today — a purple enameled heart within a bronze border and a profile of Washington in Continental Army uniform. It includes Washington’s family coat of arms, as well as

“For Military Merit” inscribe in the heart, with space for the recipient’s engraved name. The medal is suspended by a vertical purple band with white borders.

Eligibility: This also changed. When the Legion of Merit was created in 1942, the Purple Heart was no longer necessary for meritorious service, so the requirement of being wounded or killed fell into place.

The Purple Heart was originally only for Army personnel, but after Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt extended it to members of all other armed services. He also made the award available posthumously to any service member killed on or after that date (Dec. 7, 1942). President Harry Truman furthered that in 1952 by making it retroactive to April 5, 1917, so service members from World War I would be eligible.

POWs included: Prisoners of war have been eligible to receive the Purple Heart since 1962, but for many decades, that policy wasn’t retroactive, meaning wounded vets in conflicts prior to that date weren’t eligible. The National Defense Authorization Act changed that in 1996, giving World War II and Korean War vets a chance to apply, as long as they had supporting documentation, such as copies of their repatriation medical reports or a witness statement.

The Purple Heart, which is the oldest U.S. military award given to its members, is ranked behind the Bronze Star in order of precedence. Because consistent records have not been kept since the medal was established, it’s hard to tell how many people have been awarded it; however, the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor estimates that 1.8 million service members are recipients.

So now you’re up on the history. If you know someone who has earned a Purple Heart, whether they’re still with us or not, make sure to send them a big “thank you” today. They certainly earned it!



VICTIM ADVOCATE TRAINING HELD

The Sexual Assault Program Manager for Massachusetts, Ms. Robin Mungin, recently held a training for victim advocates at Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass. The forty hour class taught volunteers the importance of their role as advocates in helping people heal after an assault. Victim advocates assist people going thru extremely difficult situations, and assist them by providing information and access resources to help them to move forward.

Ms. Mungin stressed the importance of privacy in the Sexual Assault Prevention & Response program and encourages anyone who has ever been affected by a sexual assault

at any point in their life to call the sexual assault helpline, anytime 24/7, to discuss their situation in complete confidentiality. You can also call to help others who may be suffering. The telephone number for the Massachusetts National Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) 24/7 helpline is 508-889-6644.

See more here: <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/614059/victim-advocate-training-joint-base-cape-cod>

(Air National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Thomas Swanson)



WING WINS RED CROSS COMMUNITY AWARD

The 102nd Intelligence Wing received the 2018 Community Service Award from the American Red Cross; Cape, Islands and Southeast Massachusetts Chapter.

This award recognizes the wing's contributions to the community and is a reflection of the incredible efforts of our Airmen, in being great neighbors in our local communities. *(Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Junhao Yu)*



IS YOUR DRINKING WATER SAFE?

By Colonel Virginia I. Doonan
102nd IW/ Commander

Now that I have your attention, the answer is YES. There have been a lot of articles discussing water quality issues on Cape Cod recently as it relates to ground water sampling on Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) and the surrounding area regarding newly identified contaminants by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This may lead to confusion regarding the quality of the drinking water on JBCC itself and in this article I hope to de- mystify some of the information.

JBCC's water system is a centralized water system that is tested regularly by Bio-environmental Engineering at the 102nd Intelligence Wing. These tests are conducted based on a schedule set by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). Mass DEP and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provide the testing parameters for contaminants or chemicals with safe limits for each. All areas we've tested have no harmful contaminants, or are well below Mass DEP and EPA standards.

A water quality report is published by annually and this report is available to any who may want to review it. The JBCC drinking water originates as well water and is treated with potassium carbonate, sodium fluoride, and sodium hypochlorite. Potassium carbonate is used to

buffer the water to as close to a neutral pH as possible. At the request of the U.S. Coast Guard, which is the owner and operator of the family housing area, sodium fluoride is also added to the water. This compound has proven effective in strengthening teeth. Finally, sodium hypochlorite is used to disinfect the water supply by killing bacteria.

The drinking water supply is provided entirely by groundwater. J-well, located on Herbert Road on JBCC is the primary pumping station and we also connect to the Upper Cape Regional Water Supply Cooperative. This cooperative supplies drinking water from three wells located in the Northeastern corner of JBCC. All the water supply for JBCC is drawn from the "Sagamore Lens" which is a sole-source aquifer on Cape Cod that runs from the Cape Cod Canal eastward to Bass River in the town of Yarmouth.

Switching gears back to the recent articles about emerging contaminants, the term emerging contaminants has been used for substances that may pose a risk to human health and the environment but are not yet fully understood. In some cases, they were undetectable in the past. Due to improvements in technology, substances were measured previously in parts per million; recent technology has allowed measurements in the parts per

TRILLION, allowing for substances undetected in the past to be identified.

The EPA included PFOS and PFOA for monitoring under the Safe Drinking Water Act and has issued a health advisory. PFOS and PFOA are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as per and poly fluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). PFASs have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. They have been used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease or stains. They are also used for firefighting at airfields and in a number of industrial processes.

Because they have been used and are still being used in some cases at airfields for firefighting, there are a number of sites on JBCC where they were used and are affecting wells in the local area as these substances migrate through ground water.

The Air Force Civil Engineering Center (AFCEC) already has a significant presence on JBCC for environmental cleanup due in large part to old or legacy contaminants from past military practices. AFCEC is sampling private and public water supply wells. Where those wells are impacted by PFASs, they are mitigating those risks by either providing bottled water, installing filtration systems, connecting the residences to municipal water or installing wellhead treatment.

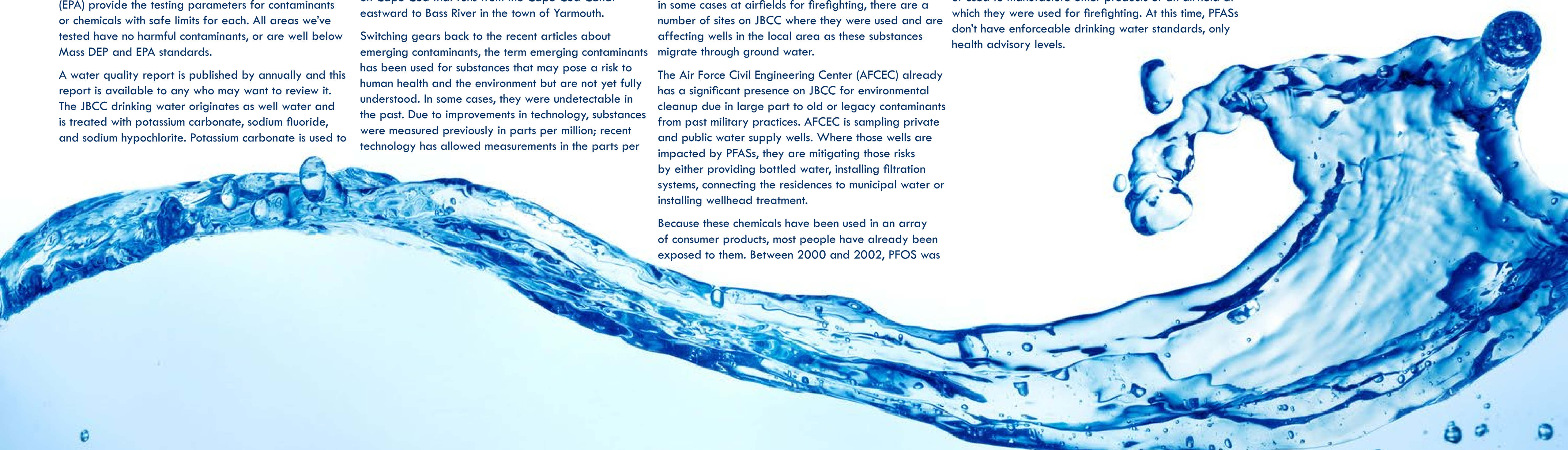
Because these chemicals have been used in an array of consumer products, most people have already been exposed to them. Between 2000 and 2002, PFOS was

voluntarily phased out of production in the U.S. by its primary manufacturer. In 2006, eight major companies voluntarily agreed to phase out their global production of PFAS-related chemicals, although there are a limited number of ongoing uses.

Scientists have found PFASs in the blood of nearly everyone they have tested, however these studies show that the levels of PFASs in blood have been decreasing. While consumer products and food are a large source of exposure to these substances for most people, drinking water can be an additional source in some communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an industrial facility where these chemicals were produced or used to manufacture other products or an airfield at which they were used for firefighting. At this time, PFASs don't have enforceable drinking water standards, only health advisory levels.

The Air Force and Air National Guard have confirmed the presence of PFASs at a number of bases. Nationally, AFCEC has done preliminary assessments, sampled groundwater by drilling wells, sampled drinking water and now locally are investigating groundwater contamination where it is found.

Although there is a lot of concerning information, the good news is that JBCC has a world class process in place with our local AFCEC specialists and are addressing this contamination for nearby towns that have been affected. We have leaders both military and political committed to ensuring Cape Cod water near JBCC is clean and safe. On JBCC, we are focused on ensuring the base drinking water remains safe for consumption and meets the highest standards.





267TH CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

Current and former Airmen of the 267th Intelligence Squadron joined together with leadership from both the wing and Joint Force Headquarters to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the organization. The ceremony celebrated the unit's longstanding mission as a combat communications squadron, as well as its new role in cyber Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. (Air National Guard photos by Mr. Timothy Sandland)

Check out additional photos here: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4480982/267th-intelligence-squadron-celebrates-70th-anniversary>



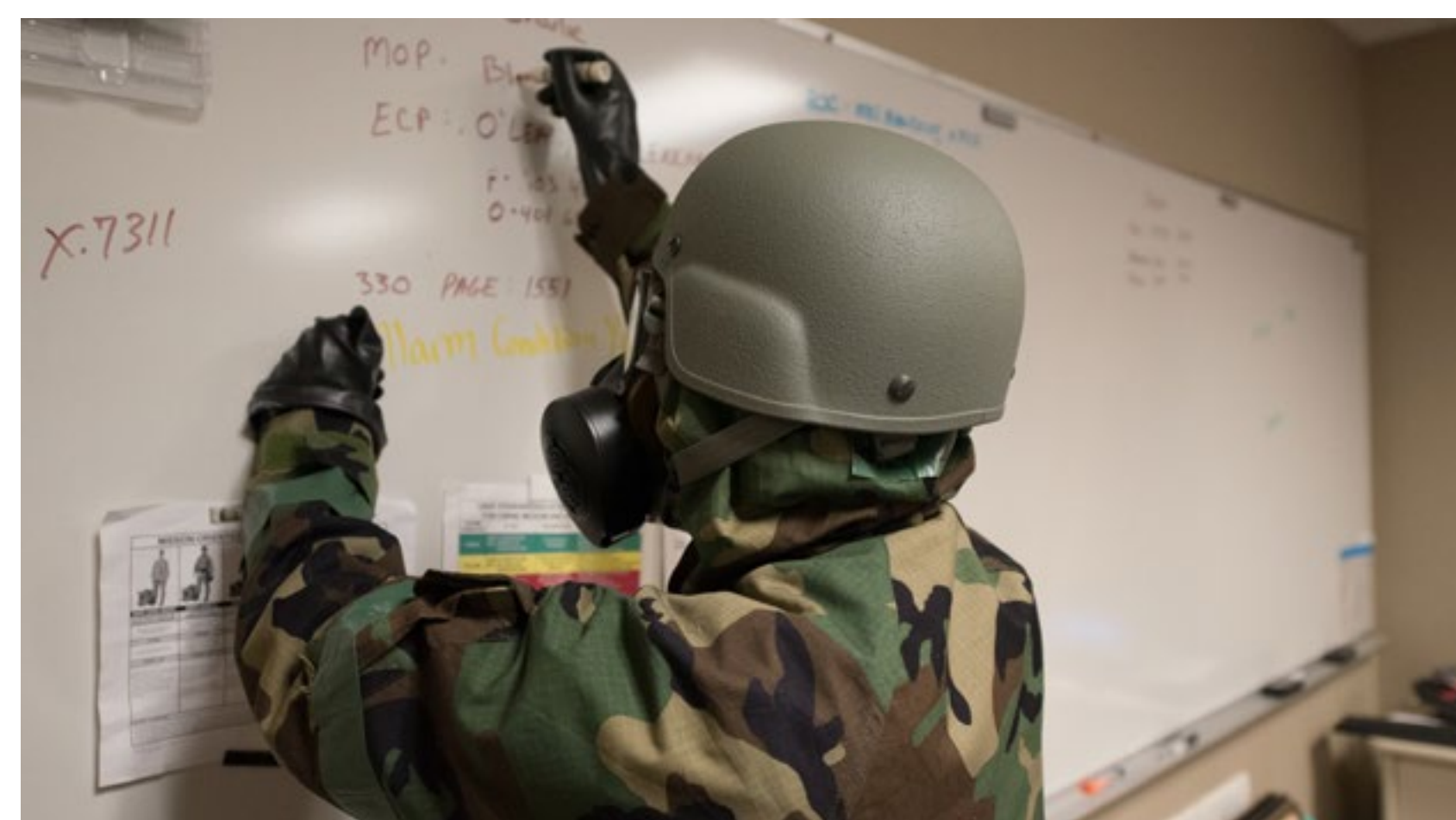


SWAMP FOXES

Crew and helicopters from “The World Famous Swamp Foxes” HSM-74 stationed at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida, arrived at Joint Base Cape Cod to conduct training on June 14, 2018. (Air National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Thomas Swanson)

Click here for more: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4485912/swamp-foxes-arrive-joint-base-cape-cod>





'18 AFT CBRNE EXERCISE

Airmen of the 102nd Intelligence Wing conducted an exercise to train on skills required to survive during CBRNE operations during their two-week Annual Field Training. CBRNE consists of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive environments. This training ensures Airmen are prepared to operate during these conditions. Check out all of the photos at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4462650/102nd-intelligence-wing-conducts-cbrne-exercise>
(Air National Guard photos by Mr. Timothy Sandland)



ESGR EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY AT JBCC

By Mr. Timothy Sandland
102nd IW/ Public Affairs

JOINT BASE CAPE COD, Mass. — Over 30 civilian employers of National Guard and Reserve service members participated in an employer appreciation event organized by the Massachusetts contingent of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves organization, on Friday July 13, 2018.

The ESGR is a Department of Defense program, established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component service members and their civilian employers, and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

The event began on Camp Edwards, the largest military training area in the Northeast. Its 15,000-acre training area hosts units from Massachusetts and throughout the region.

Employers traveled to the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 3-126th Aviation Battalion for a briefing on that unit's mission, including an aerial tour of the Upper Cape on board Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

Regardless of their reservist status, Army National Guard helicopter pilots are required to maintain the same credentials as their active duty counterparts, which means many hours of continuing training and qualification flights. It's more than the two days a month and two weeks a year commitment that is commonly thought about when the term "Guardsmen" is considered.

Commitment, along with integrity, loyalty, dedication and dependability — all qualities that the military reinforces in service members; all qualities that civilian employers look for in their own employees.

On employing guard and reserve members, Mr. Gordon Souza of East Boston Savings Bank said, "You get employees who are responsible, who are loyal — with leadership abilities — those are the types of skill-sets and benefits that any employer would take advantage of."

Next on the agenda was a visit to Tactical Training Base Kelley, a facility designed to train service members that is named for Army Sgt. Michael J. Kelley, a Massachusetts Army National Guardsman who was killed in 2005 while serving in Afghanistan.

TTB Kelley is a military "city" that exists within Camp Edwards itself and is largely made up of staged military camps and open field space. Soldiers live in tents with modular units provided for shower and sink facilities. The base is surrounded by barriers filled with dirt and barbed wire, entry control points and guard towers and is part of a larger concept called theater immersion training. The training places units into an environment comparable to the one that they will encounter in combat and uses a multilevel approach that provides a combat training center-like experience that replicates conditions in the theater of operation.

At mid-day, the group had lunch at the Falcon Golf Course on the U.S. Coast Guard's Base Cape Cod and then were bused to Otis Air National Guard Base to visit and learn about the varied missions and responsibilities of the 102nd Intelligence Wing.

Employers learned about the wing's 24/7 mission of Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance where Airmen perform near-real-time intelligence processing, exploitation and dissemination by analyzing and interpreting information from manned and unmanned reconnaissance aircraft. This information is then transformed into decision quality and actionable intelligence which is disseminated across the globe for use in the planning and execution of military operations.

Additionally, the group learned about the wing's cyber ISR mission which provides collaborative, all-source analysis, fused intelligence, and cross-domain capabilities to enable all aspects of cyberspace operations. These operations encompass the people, personas, sensors, and

logical and physical network characteristics of an adversary's information systems in cyberspace.

They were also briefed on the wing's communications engineering and installation mission that represents the capability of planning, designing and installing critical communication infrastructure anywhere in the world. From installing fiber optic and copper cable, to implementing wireless and satellite communications networks, this capability ensures critical command and control infrastructure and information is available 24/7 to the war-fighter wherever and whenever needed.

Support missions and domestic operations such as civil engineering, air base ground defense and expeditionary medical response make the 102nd Intelligence Wing a fully-capable and mission-ready organization that is prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century and beyond.

The event concluded with the visit to the 102nd Intelligence Wing and participants were notably impressed with all they had seen throughout the day.

Of the experience, Benjamin Lin, a senior business consultant with Liberty Mutual Insurance in Boston said, "It's really important to impart to people who are employers of guard and reserves personnel — what the different types of challenges they deal with — getting support from their employers in terms of being more lenient with time to allow the guard or reserve member to fulfill their military obligation is important."

ESGR events, such as this one, serve to inform and educate employers on the important roles their uniformed employees contribute in support of state and federal missions. It is also an opportunity to recognize and appreciate employers who actively and diligently support their employees who serve.

The tour was both informative and interesting — something that really put into perspective the critical job that reservists play in the defense of the commonwealth and Nation.

(Air National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Thomas Swanson. View additional images of this event at <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4564616/esgr-tours-joint-base-cape-cod>)



CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT KAREN COZZA RETIRES

Members of the 102nd Intelligence Wing present an American flag to Chief Master Sgt. Karen Cozza during a retirement ceremony held on June 9, 2018 at Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass. Cozza served as an Airman for 36 years with distinction and was awarded the Legion of Merit at the ceremony.

(Air National Guard Photos by Airman 1st Class Junhao Yu)

More at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4468770/chief-master-sgt-karen-cozza-retires-after-36-years-service>



THE JISCC PROVIDES COMMUNICATIONS AT THE ESPLANADE

By Tech. Sgt. Keith Robbins
102nd CF/JISCC NCOIC

BOSTON, Mass. — You may have heard the term “JISCC” over the years and wondered what that meant. You might have also asked yourself what that newly placed green node is along Izzea Street on your way to and from Building 158. JISCC is the acronym for Joint Incident Site Communications Capability and that green node, once it's equipped with stable power and HVAC, will be its new permanent home.

The JISCC is a domestic operations asset that provides communication capabilities to Command and Control elements and Incident Commanders in emergency situations. On September 11, 2001 and the days that followed, local police, fire, EMS, emergency management personnel, state and Federal agencies and the National Guard lacked the means to communicate with one another due to the use of different processes and radio frequencies. On September 11, 2001, cellular networks were immediately oversaturated and unusable as calls were made requesting help from people trying to locate their missing loved ones or trying to call friends and family to let them know they were okay. As a result of this disconnect and loss of communications capability, the JISCC was born!

The JISCC can provide different types of communications capabilities to first responders and command and control elements within 90 minutes once it arrives to its site of operation. Our six person JISCC support team consists of Airmen from the Radio Frequency Transmissions, Network Operations and Network Infrastructure Air Force career fields. The JISCC is brought to life through the use of a self-sustaining satellite communications link that is powered by a portable power generator. Commercial Internet and Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network connectivity is also available either through direct-wire or wireless access points depending on the needs of the customer.

The JISCC also has the capability to provide Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and Defense Switched Network phone call capabilities to assist and support civilian agencies and military organizations. The need to communicate to various agencies over different radio networks has been an issue in the past that is now easily solved with the JISCC and its ability to cross-band and allow different agencies on different radio networks to talk to each other. Network printing, file sharing and the ability to support video teleconference closes out the capabilities of the JISCC providing an invaluable communications resource during any type of domestic operation.

JISCC team members from the 102nd Intelligence Wing and 104th Fighter Wing recently braved the sweltering heat and deployed the 102 IW JISCC package to aid in the security efforts during the Fourth of July Celebration on the Esplanade in Boston from 3-5 July. The JISCC successfully delivered commercial internet services and VOIP capability to the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 211 Military Police Battalion's Tactical Operations Center. Through the use of the JISCC, Military Police were able to monitor the footprint of the celebration while keeping track of and deploying their assets and personnel as needed.

This three-day operation was a huge success and tested the skills and abilities of our team. This was our first real-world event and it was great to be able to deploy services and apply what we've learned in our previous exercises and evaluations. Each time we go out, we learn something new and improve our services and support to the customer. It is of vital importance to operate this system as often as possible to properly prepare for communications needs, any time and any where.



RETENTION NEWS

By Master Sgt. David Rogissart
102nd IW/ Recruiting and Retention Manager

Major Changes to your Post 911 G.I. Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill has gone through some changes over the past few years. Some of the changes are minor while others could have life altering affects. Recently, the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1341.13 incorporated CHANGE 1 effecting future Transfer of Educational Benefits (TEB). So, what does this mean to you?

Change 1 will take affect 11 July 2019. Members who have the Post-9/11 GI Bill and intend to transfer their educational benefits to a dependent, must have at least 6 years of military service but no more than 16 years by pay date. The change limits the time allowed to 10 years for transfer. Members must be eligible to be retained for 4 years from the TEB application date. If a member is involved in a Medical Evaluation Board, Physical Evaluation Board, or Disability Evaluation System must wait until the process is complete before applying and only if found fit for duty. If a member who surpasses 16 years of service while going through the process of a medical evaluation, they will be allowed to transfer benefits provided the member applies within 90 days of being informed they are fit for duty and can serve for an additional 4 years.

Effective 12 July 2018: All approvals for transferability of Post-9/11 GI Bill will continue to require a four-year commitment in the Armed Forces and, more importantly, the member must be eligible to be retained for four (4) years from the date of election, and not be precluded from serving for four more years prior to approval of their election by either standard policy (Department or Uniformed Service) or statute. Translation: if you are older than 56 years of age, you are no longer eligible to transfer educational benefits.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE TRANSFERRED THEIR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS PRIOR TO 12 JULY 2018 ARE UNAFFECTED.

Here are some highlighted changes put forth through the Forever GI Bill - Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act. Please pay attention changes and effective dates.

Effective immediately

The law removes the time limitation for the use of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for individuals whose last discharge or release from active duty is on or after January 1, 2013, children of deceased Service members who first become entitled to Post-9/11 GI Bill program benefits on or after January 1, 2013

Reserve Duty That Counts Toward Post-9/11 Eligibility

The time that a Reservist was ordered to active duty to receive authorized medical care, be medically evaluated for disability, or complete a Department of Defense (DoD) health care study on or after September 11, 2001, now counts as active duty toward eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill program. An individual may use this entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

The law authorizes service by Guard and Reserve members under 10 U.S.C 12304a (When A Governor requests Federal Assistance in responding to a major disaster or emergency) and 12304b (When the Secretary of a military department determines that it is necessary to augment the active forces for a preplanned mission in support of a combatant command) to receive Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. An individual entitled to educational assistance as a result of this section may use such entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance: Individuals who first use Post-9/11 GI Bill program on or after January 1, 2018 will receive monthly housing allowance based on DoD's reduced basic housing allowance (BAH) for monthly housing rates. Those that began using benefits prior to January 1, 2018 will continue to receive a higher monthly housing rate based in the non-adjusted BAH rates

Effective in the near future

More Benefits for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Programs

VA will provide up to nine months of additional Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to certain eligible individuals who have or will



soon exhaust entitlement of Post-9/11 GI Bill program.

*Apply for assistance, and are enrolled in a program of education leading to a post-secondary degree that, in accordance with the guidelines of the applicable regional or national accrediting agency, requires more than the standard 128 semester (or 192 quarter) credit hours for completion in a standard, undergraduate college degree in biological or biomedical science; physical science; science technologies or technicians; computer and information science and support services; mathematics or statistics; engineering; engineering technologies or an engineering-related field; a health profession or related program; a medical residency program; an agriculture science program or natural resources science program; or other subjects and fields identified by VA as meeting national needs.

*Has completed at least 60 standard semester (or 90 quarter) credit hours in a field listed above, or has earned a post-secondary degree in one of these fields and is enrolled in a program of education leading to a teaching certification.

Priority would be given to individuals who are entitled to 100 percent of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and to those that require the most credit hours.

VA can pay each eligible individual the benefits for up to nine additional months, but the total may not exceed

\$30,000. VA will not be authorized to issue any Yellow Ribbon payments.

These additional benefits cannot be transferred to dependents.

This expansion becomes effective on August 1, 2019.

Consolidation of Benefit Levels: Eliminates the 40-percent benefit level and expands the 60-percent benefit level under the Post 9/11 GI Bill program. An individual with aggregate service of 90 days but less than six months of active-duty service (excluding entry and skill training) now qualifies at the 50-percent benefit level. An individual with aggregate service of at least six months but less than eighteen months of active-duty service (excluding entry and skill training) now qualifies at the 60-percent benefit level. This removes the 40-percent benefit level. This section will take effect on August 1, 2020.

For a complete listing of all of the listed in the Forever GI Bill, use the link below:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/FGIBSummaries.asp#108>

AROUND OTIS

(top left) Newly promoted Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Sylvia gets her new stripes stuck to her uniform by her daughters (bottom left) U-2 Dragonlady pilot Major Kris "Judge" Duckett briefs members of the 102nd Intelligence Wing at Otis Air National Guard Base. (top right) Newly promoted Chief Master Sergeant Christopher Hirl is congratulated by family upon his ascension to the highest enlisted rank. (bottom right) Randy Bonneau gets some help updating his uniform upon his promotion to Major.



AMAZING RACE

Airmen of the 102nd Intelligence Wing 'raced' around the base in a spinoff of the Amazing Race, "Otis Style". Faced with a number of challenges, including a scavenger hunt; the race was a great event that reinforced teamwork and esprit de corps.



OTIS IN THE COMMUNITY

(top, bottom left) The Massachusetts Air National Guard recruiting team participated in the Run to Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital program, dedicated to healing the invisible wounds for veterans, service members and their families through world-class clinical care, wellness, education and research. (top, bottom right) Defenders with the 102nd Security Forces Squadron participated in a 'Touch a Truck' event held in Brockton. Organized by the Massasoit Community College Campus Police Department, the event provided an opportunity for young people to meet first responders and check out some cool vehicles.



PROMOTIONS

SENIOR AIRMAN

Joshua Canarelli
Shawn Keene
Jose Barada
Tea Moulton-Childs
Emmanuel Joseph
Christine Cassille
Heather Pernock
Richard Shaw
Kevin Dutremble

STAFF SERGEANT

Jamie Keating
Mark Robbins
Lauren Nadeau
Nicole Robaina Santiago
Luis Recci-Martinez
Molly Rosen
Brenden Sullivan
Charles Carriere
John Sullivan
Colin Doherty
Joshua Perez

PERFECT PT SCORE

Congratulations to the following Airmen on achieving 100% on their PT tests.

Lt. Col. Chad Forrest
Capt. Elise Galvanin Ellsworth
Senior Master Sgt. Calvin Melvin
Tech. Sgt. Michael Callahan
Tech. Sgt. Regina Bean
Airman 1st Class Nathan Joy

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Shavonne Hinds
Chelsea LaViolette
Keith Robbins
Moses Ssemugenyi
Joel Carveiro
Kuma Kumsa
Wilson Tai
Sean Lindsey
Jacob White
Steven Pelletier
Bradley Sylvia
Andrew Cavanaugh
Matthew Penney

MASTER SERGEANT

Katherine Dias
Alex Mojica
Mark Radwich

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Nicholas Giammarco
Roger Chouinard
Tracy Sylvia

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

Christopher Hirl

CAPTAIN

Christopher Bonzagni

MAJOR

Matthew Cusack
Randy Bonneau
Robert Blanchette

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Michael Kelley

PRESCRIPTIONS REMINDER

IAW AFI 48-123 chap 10, each ANG member is responsible for promptly (within 72 hours) reporting an illness, injury, disease, operative procedure or hospitalization to include MEDICATIONS to the Medical Group. Members who refuse to comply with requests for medical information are considered medically unfit for continued military duty and are referred to their immediate commander for administrative discharge processing IAW AFI 36-3209. Documentation may be faxed to (508) 968-4061, emailed to MSgt Amy McNeill, amy.t.mcneill2.mil@mail.mil or hand carried on Saturday mornings of each RSD.

CHIEFS COUNCIL CORNER

102nd Intelligence Wing Outdoor Recreation offers the area’s best prices on boat, camper and trailer storage, with a secure on-base location to serve you. New customers are welcome now! Fees and charges are \$125.00 per calendar year. Please take a look at us, located inside the I-Gate next to Eagles Nest. We currently have nine slots open with plans to add additional spots this summer. E-mail Chief Walsh for terms and conditions at: michael.p.walsh6.mil@mail.mil or call 508-968-4380.

MASSACHUSETTS TUITION AND FEES WAIVER

Eligibility for the Massachusetts Tuition and Fees Waiver Certificate for state schools is determined by your status as a member of the 102nd Intelligence Wing. Members are eligible for the benefit the day they enlist or are appointed with the Massachusetts Air National Guard. The benefit may be used at any point during your membership with the 102nd IW. Contact the Base Training Office for more information at 508-968-4189.

HONOR GUARD OPENINGS

The 102 IW Honor Guard is seeking motivated airman of any rank to fill volunteer rolls in the Base Honor Guard. This is a rewarding opportunity that will allow you to show your dedication the Air Force and your strong military bearing. Honor Guard members are required to participate in a minimum of four details per year. These details include military funeral honors as well as wing and community colors events. While the Honor Guard would be glad to have you participate anytime of the month, if you can only participate on drill weekends that is acceptable as we are currently working on having at least 2 members from each squadron train to do retirements and special occasion events . Please stop by or call 968-4431 and see an Honor Guard member and inquire about this rewarding all volunteer force opportunity.

DEFENSE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT OFFICE NEWSLETTER

The Defense Travel Management Office is pleased to publish the fall edition of our quarterly newsletter, The Dispatch. Recognizing the need for better communication between the Defense Travel Management Office and the travel community, The Dispatch aims to provide timely travel-related news and updates. To view, go to: http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/Dispatch/Defense_Travel_Dispatch_Fall_2017.pdf

MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Massachusetts Air National Guard Historical Association’s mission is to preserve the history of the Air National Guard in Massachusetts. Check out their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pg/MassANGHA>

The 102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs Office welcomes your feedback and submissions. Got a great story idea? Is your unit or shop doing something impressive? We welcome articles written by unit members on topics of interest to the wing and its personnel.

WRITTEN STORY SUBMISSIONS

If you like to write and would like to submit a full article for publishing in the Seagull, we would be happy to take a look at it. Typically written stories are between 500-800 words and are formatted in the Associated Press (AP) format. Stories should have some relevance to the wing, its mission or its people. We reserve the right to review and edit your piece but will talk any edits over with you.

TELL US YOUR STORY IDEA

If you aren't interested in writing your own story but would still like to call attention to someone or something great happening in the wing, contact wing PA. Give us some background details and we will take it from there!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Got something to say that doesn't warrant a full article? Send us your announcements and we will include them in the appropriate section of the Seagull. Please limit your message to a short paragraph or less.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Did you capture some great shots while training on a cool piece of equipment at some obscure training site out in the woods? Maybe you went to a great going away luncheon or a promotion ceremony. Perhaps you snapped a picture of you and your team working hard and building camaraderie. Send us your shots! Public Affairs can't always be there but we still want to share those moments with the wing. For submissions, just give us a few lines about what was going on, where the photo was taken, who is in it and who took the photo. We might be able to get them in the Around Otis section of the Seagull and possibly on our Facebook page.

FIND US

Public Affairs can be reached at x4516 or x4003, via email at usaf.ma.102-iw.mbx.pa@mail.mil or by simply dropping by our office in Bldg 170, Room 219. For official portraits and studio photography, we take appointments for Tues-Thurs from 0730-1130 or walk-ins on RSD Sundays from 0800-0900.

Typically, 10 issues of the Seagull are published annually. Below you will find the deadlines for submission of content for each issue. The basic guidelines for submissions can be found on the left side of this page. Although Public Affairs makes every effort to accept your stories and images, we cannot guarantee content received after the submission deadline will make it in.

ISSUE SUBMISSION DEADLINE	
OCTOBER	1 Oct 2018
NOVEMBER	22 Oct 2018
DECEMBER	19 Nov 2018
JANUARY	24 Dec 2019
FEBRUARY	28 Jan 2019
MARCH	18 Feb 2019
APRIL	25 Mar 2019
MAY	22 Apr 2019
JUNE / JULY	20 May 2019
AUGUST / SEPTEMBER	12 Aug 2019



THE 102D INTELLIGENCE WING SMART PHONE APP

Available at an app store near you is the official smart phone app for the wing. With it, you will be able to access commonly used phone numbers, check on events happening in the wing, and find useful applications such as fitness, commonly used instructions and checklists, as well as the latest news from the wing.

GET IT TODAY!





BONFIRE

August 25, 2018

Eagle's Nest

**** Date Changed - now RSD Sunday ****



**American
Red Cross**

102nd Intelligence Wing
Blood Drive

Where:

Bldg 158
First Tier
Third Floor

When:

Sun., 26 Aug 2018
0900-1400



Parting Shot

In what looks like a scene straight out of *The Matrix*, Airman 1st Class Sam McNulty (in the role of 'Neo') responds to receiving a blast of pepper spray by Tech. Sgt. Sean Foote's 'Agent Smith' at pepper spray training during the June Annual Training. Airman 1st Class Jesse Narcizo looks on with approval.

Defenders with the 102nd Security Forces Squadron receive practical, hands-on training with this non-lethal law enforcement tool in order to understand its effects and learn how to deal with them should they, themselves be sprayed by an attacker.

(Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Swanson)



WOMEN'S EQUALITY ♀ DAY

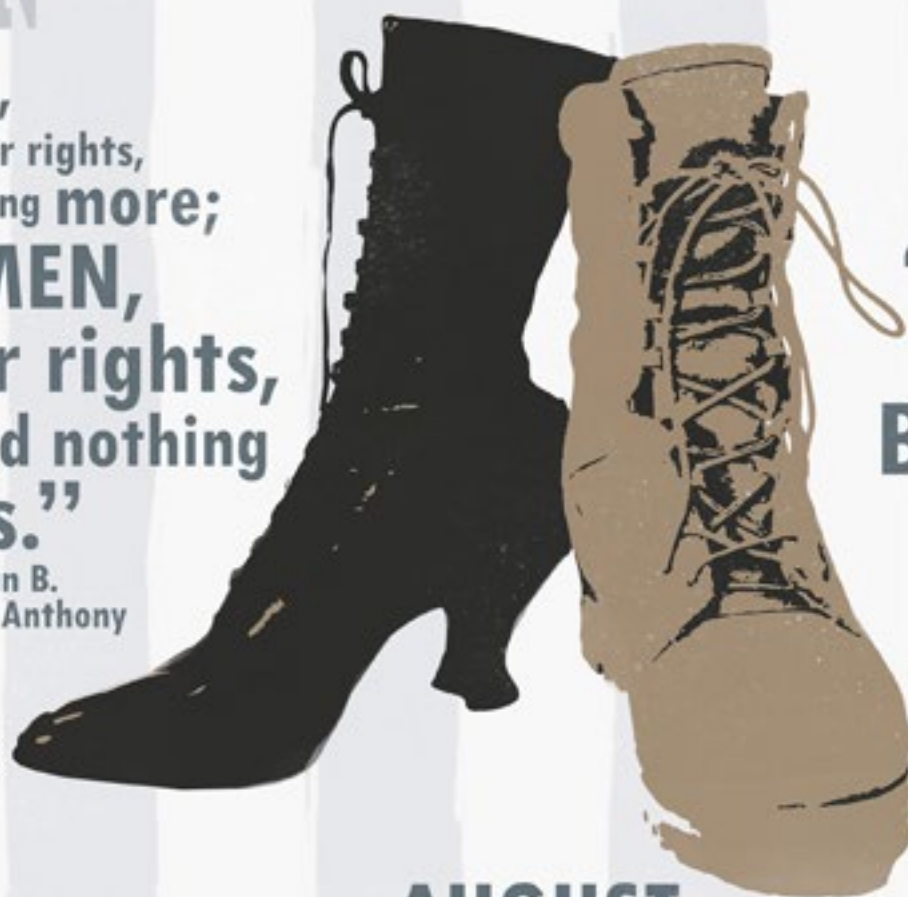


THEN

"Men,
their rights,
and nothing more;
WOMEN,
their rights,
and nothing
less."

Susan B.
Anthony

1868



NOW

"I decided
to **make**
BELIEVERS
out of the
unbelievers."

General
Ann Dunwoody

2016

AUGUST
26
2018



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