

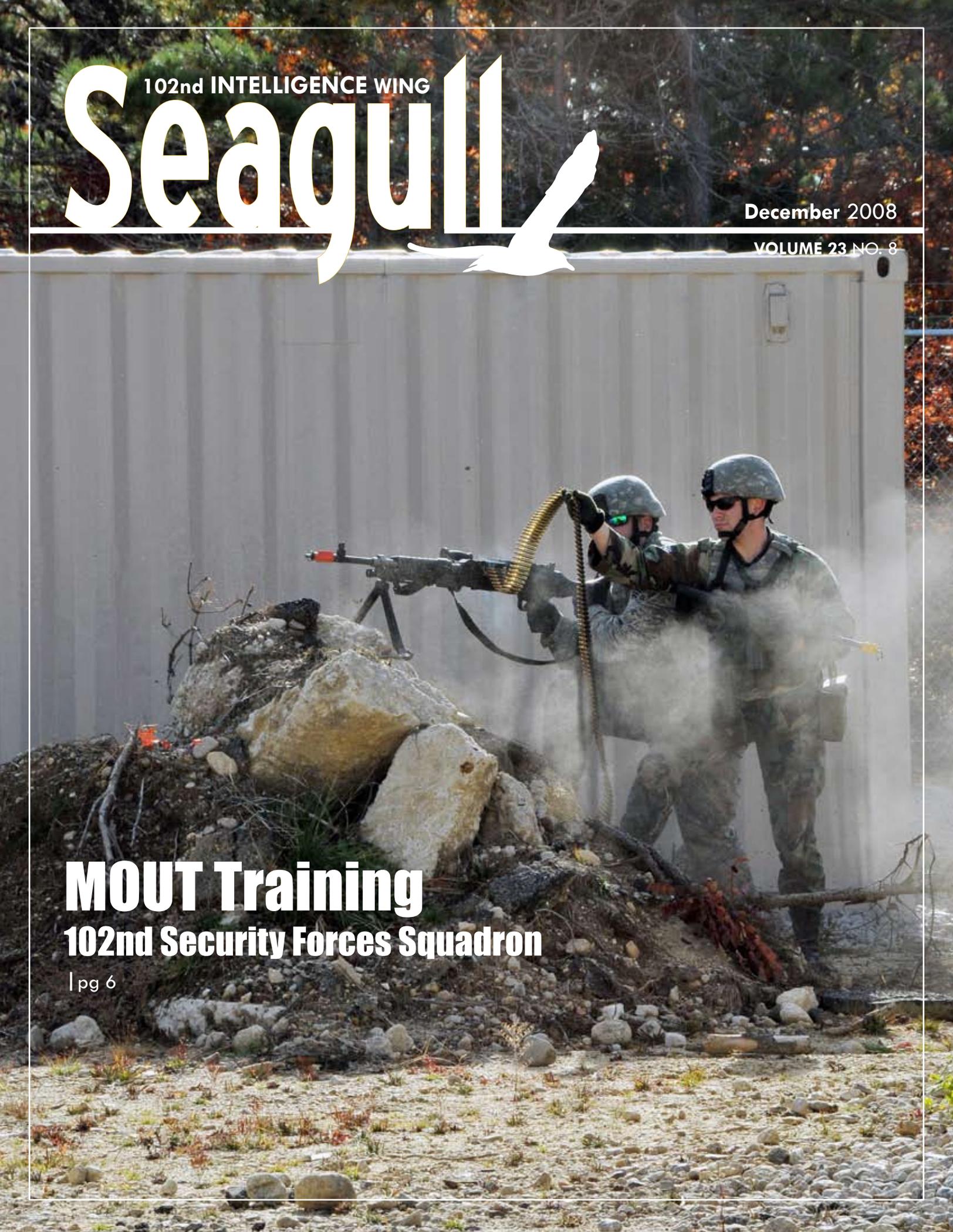
102nd INTELLIGENCE WING

Seagull



December 2008

VOLUME 23 NO. 8



MOUT Training

102nd Security Forces Squadron

| pg 6

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

pg. 3

F-15 STATIC DISPLAY

pg. 4

SECURITY FORCES MOUT TRAINING

pg. 6

HEROES BREAKFAST

pg. 8

SATELLITE NCO ACADEMY

pg. 9

CHAPEL CALL

pg. 11

SEAGULL IDEAS?

Do you have an idea for a Seagull article? Would you like to be the subject of a story? Births, marriages, sympathy notices and other information are always welcome. Let us know what is going on in your section. 500 word maximum.

The next Seagull deadline is 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008.

DINING HALL MENU

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

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

Prime Rib
Pork Loin

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

Pizza
Turkey A La King

SATURDAY, JAN. 10

Tacos
Chicken Wings
(subject to change)

SUNDAY, JAN. 11

Burgers
Grilled Ham and Cheese
(subject to change)

ON THE COVER >>



Senior Airmen Christopher Davis and John McLaughlin, 102nd Security Forces Squadron, defend their position during Military Operations in Urban Terrain training here, Nov. 2.

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

UPCOMING UTAs >>

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

DECEMBER 2008						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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

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

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



FROM THE DESK OF THE 102 IW COMMAND CHIEF

By Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Raymondo

ARE YOU FIT TO FIGHT?

Physical fitness standards have evolved over the years from the old walk/run days. Back then it seemed if you started and finished (if you were tested at all) you passed. AFI 10-248 and ANGI 10-248 are the governing instructions for the current Air Force fitness program. These instructions, currently under review, establish the minimum standards applicable to all Airmen. It is your responsibility to become familiar with these standards to ensure that you are fit to fight. If you need more information, contact your unit fitness monitor or First Sergeant for guidance.

I recently had the opportunity to visit Lackland AFB, Texas. During my five-day class I had the pleasure of sitting down for lunch with a basic trainee. I asked him what advice he would offer to future trainees preparing for Basic Military Training and without hesitation he said, "be in shape." He went on to say that most of the problems encountered by trainees relate to their fitness level; minor injuries, fatigue, dehydration to name a few.

Later that day I met with a military training instructor. I explained to him that our wing has recently started a student

flight program designed to prepare our future Airmen for basic training. He quickly pointed out that any pre-basic training completed at the wing level should focus on physical fitness. A trainee showing up in good physical condition can more effectively cope with the physical and mental demands of Air Force Basic Training.

Chief Master Sgt. Joan Peters, Air National Guard liaison at Lackland, repeated the same message in her briefing to our class. From a week five trainee to a seasoned chief master sergeant the message is clear: be in shape.

Airmen are being called upon in record numbers to deploy overseas and into hostile environments. Imagine being in the AOR, suffering from sleep, food and water deprivation. Your fitness level will directly affect your ability to perform your mission.

It doesn't matter if you are full time or a drill status guardsman; the standard is the same. Your fitness goal shouldn't be to meet the minimum standard. Don't cram for your test, strive to maintain a healthy lifestyle and be in the best shape possible. You've seen the Airmen's Creed, our "mission is to fly, fight and win." Are you fit to fight?

As of this writing I'm wrapping up my first year as your command chief. I can tell you without reservation, this is the best job in the Air Force.

During this holiday season take time to remember there are thousands of service men and women deployed away from their families. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Finally, from my family to your family have a happy and safe holiday season. Thank you for answering our nation's call!

ANNOUNCEMENTS >>

FIRST QUARTER AWARD PACKAGES

Nomination packages for Airman, NCO and Senior NCO of the Quarter for first quarter, fiscal year 2009 are due to the commander's office no later than close of business Dec. 7. Interviews will be held Jan. 10, 2009.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Two forms of identification are now required to add a dependent into DEERS. A marriage certificate, birth certificate, divorce decree, a letter from the college (for students age 21-23), or court document to prove adopted, ward of the court dependents, etc. **AND** a copy of drivers license, social security card, medical insurance card, dental insurance card, passport, or the sponsor's ID card are required.

Notes:

1. Marriage certificate is required to add step-children into DEERS.

2. Social Security cards are not required to add an infant into DEERS, however, a copy should be forwarded to the MPF as soon as received by member. The ID card office is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., by appointment only. Please call (508) 968-4180 to make an appointment. Exception: ID card office will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, 2009.

TRAUMATIC SERVICEMEMBER'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

Traumatic Servicemember's Group Life Insurance covers members of the Armed Forces for a traumatic injury. Examples include, but are not limited to, loss of vision, hearing, speech, fingers, etc. This coverage is year round, retroactive back to Oct. 7, 2001 if you were deployed and injured overseas and Dec. 1, 2005 for all other traumatic injuries. If you have Servicemember's Group Life Insurance, regardless of the coverage, you are automatically enrolled in the Traumatic Servicemember's Group Life Insurance program and are paying \$1 a month. If you were injured overseas from Oct. 7, 2001 or stateside after Dec. 1, 2005 and would like to submit a claim, please see Senior Master Sgt. Julie Munson or Senior Airman Jenniffer Vaughn in the Personnel Section or call (508) 968-4182.

COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS

College Transcripts are required to update personnel records. If you have received a degree and have not brought your official transcript to the Base Education and Training Office in building 158, please do so. If you have any questions, please call (508) 968-4189 or (508) 968-4187.

F-15 static display marks legacy of 102nd Fighter Wing

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

It required countless hours of exhaustive labor and painstaking detail, but two former 102nd crew chiefs, Master Sgt. Pat Ryan and Tech. Sgt. Brian Savage, were finally able to view the finished product of their industrious efforts. On the morning of Oct. 24, a restored F-15 was carefully wheeled down Generals Blvd. and positioned prominently at the 102nd Intelligence Wing's I Gate -- symbolizing the legacy of the 102nd Fighter Wing.

The luminous, fully refurbished shell of the F-15 is a testament to the hard work of the two longtime Airmen who embody the spirit of the 102nd. The day was gratifying for the pair in many ways, not least of which was a sense of vindication after weathering a fair amount of skepticism regarding the feasibility of their project. Through improvisation, perseverance and about 1,400 man-hours, the sergeants were able to realize their vision of a tangible landmark to the heritage of the fighter mission.

As the intelligence mission surges forward and the wing's previous duty fades in the rear view mirror, the fighter mission will always be recalled with a sense of pride and accomplishment by members of the 102nd who contributed to the success of the fighter wing for so many years.

"Pat and I volunteered to pull this plane out that was parked at the far end of the runway. We felt that we needed to leave the unit with a proper display to symbolize the fact that we flew F-15s for 20 years and 87,000 hours," said Sergeant Savage. "We pulled it out of the woods and cleaned out



U.S. Air Force Photos by Master Sgt. Sandra Niedzwiecki

A refurbished F-15 is towed to its final resting place, in front of the 102nd Intelligence Wing I gate, where it will be a tangible reminder of the 102nd Fighter Wing's legacy.



about 400 pounds of bird nest--it was sitting out there for about 14 years--sealed it and painted it."

"It was a mess when we got it. Mold, panels missing, bird nests -- it really stunk up the hangar," said Sergeant Ryan. "We discussed it previously and just went out and grabbed it one day. We had some down time and felt that it was a good opportunity to start the project."

The concept demanded creative initiative and improvisation. Akin to a life-size model airplane, the F-15 is simulated to resemble the original F-15s at Otis. The plane is weather-proofed and sealed. "If you flipped it over in the water, it would probably float," said Sergeant Ryan.

The infrastructure for the static display was designed by Bob Blair, chief engineer for design and construction, and the assembly was supervised by Tech. Sgt. Tom Jones, an Otis Guardsman working as a Title 5 civilian with the 102nd Civil Engineer Squadron. The structure includes 300 cement blocks, 50 tons of crushed seashell and about 20 tons of crushed stone for drain purposes. "We have been working out here for about three weeks," said Jones.

Mr. Blair was pleased with the result. "We want to make it look as nice as we can. It is our legacy and these guys have done an outstanding job," he said. "It is important to note that this project is a 102nd project, entirely in house. A lot of planning was involved and senior command was very interested in getting this done."

It was satisfying for everyone involved to complete the display at the I Gate. "When you look back at the 102nd Fighter Wing's record, we were the best in the business," stated Sergeant Ryan.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Pat Ryan

Tech. Sgt. Brian Savage, former 102nd crew chief, uses a spray gun to paint the plugs in the engines. The plugs were inserted to prevent birds from nesting in the airplane.

Intelligence mission moves forward

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

As the wing embarks on establishing a new tradition of excellence at Otis, 13 members of the 102nd Intelligence Wing recently returned from training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, sporting hard earned intelligence badges.

They completed their career development courses in short order and are now deployed to Alabama for 90 days of specialized training and certification.

"They have completed 6 months of training at Goodfellow AFB and are supporting U.S. Central Command (from) Alabama," said Master Sgt. Ed Veneto, intelligence flight supervisor. Sergeant Veneto graduated from Goodfellow AFB and is an electronic systems analyst.

"The training is commensurate with an Airman going overseas," said Sergeant Veneto. The members are tasked in an air and space expeditionary force rotation with a unit line number.

"Even though they are going to a stateside base to do a manning assist and get some certifications from the 117th Intelligence Squadron in Alabama, they are technically supporting a (U.S. Central Command Air Forces) pre-deployment. They have to be 100 percent overseas deployable to take these ULNs. They technically could be forward deployed from that location," said Sergeant Veneto.

Lt. Col. Dave McNulty, 101st Intelligence Squadron commander, described the training process as a journey and is proud of their performance thus far.

"Colonel Schiavi handed out 17 coins last month to our honor graduates," said Colonel McNulty. "Five different

specialties are awarded at Goodfellow AFB and we have had at least one distinguished graduate from each of those courses."

McNulty is impressed with the commitment of the group.

"They returned from Goodfellow AFB, cranked out their CDCs within 60 days and headed down to Alabama," he said.

The deployed Airmen faced additional challenges due to the fact that their coursework is classified; forcing them to study at the vault at Otis or go to Hanscom AFB to study at a sensitive compartmentalized information facility.

During the first 30 days, Airmen take open and closed book tests and a "check ride" with the mission examiner.

"The process is similar to a pilot going through his or her training -- you have to know your academics as well as be able to demonstrate proficiency in the actual task," explained Colonel McNulty.

The deployment requires each individual to be title 10 active duty as they will be making "kill chain" decisions. The 13 Otis Airmen are embedded as members of the 117th Intelligence Squadron for the 90 day duration of their training.

Colonel McNulty is mindful of the diligent efforts of the newly minted intelligence Airmen as well as the sacrifices of their families.

"We know family members are putting up with a lot with these deployments and we appreciate their support," said Colonel McNulty.

"It's a team effort. The logistics readiness folks, Senior Master Sgt. Joann Letourneau and 2nd Lt. Jenn O'Connell, have done an outstanding job," said Colonel McNulty.

As the mission moves forward, Otis Airmen continue to excel in their training and are poised for this vital undertaking.

"It is great to see people showing up with their intelligence badges. They have worked hard getting through Goodfellow AFB, completing their CDCs and going to a formal training unit," said Colonel McNulty. "It is fantastic to see it taking shape."

ORDER OF THE SWORD

OFFICIAL PARTY

Airman Kelsey Ivers, 102nd Intelligence Wing, was the most junior Airman out of 550 attendees at the Order of the Sword, held at McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn., and was therefore a member of the official party.

(Pictured from left to right)

Chief Master Sgt. Chris Munci, Ohio ANG command chief; Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley; Chief Master Sgt. Joan Peters, ANG Liaison - Lackland AFB, Texas; Chief Master Sgt. Dick Smith, ANG command chief; Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, ANG director; Airman Kelsey Ivers; Chief Master Sgt. Susan Shonker; Chief Master Sgt. Tim Dieker, ANG Readiness Center Superintendent; Chief Master Sgt. W. Allen Usry, 1st Air Force, command chief.



102nd Security Forces: MOUT training

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Street vendors approach a squad of Air Force Security Forces as they enter a small village somewhere in hostile territory. The vendors aggressively push their wares on the Airmen. One becomes belligerent and yells, 'Go home, American!' The Airmen remain composed. The squad leader takes charge and calmly but firmly addresses the agitated individual subsequently quelling a possible confrontation.

This type of scene occurs on a frequent basis in Iraq and Afghanistan, but this exchange actually unfolded here at the Massachusetts Military Reservation during a "Military Operations in Urban Terrain" exercise at the Camp Edwards Army National Guard Training Site, Calero MOUT training area, Nov. 1 - 2. The training area is designed to look and feel like "Anytown, Iraq."

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Hamilton, 102nd Security Forces Squadron commander, feels that this training is invaluable for his troops, particularly members new to the squadron.

"We have a fair number of new troops and it is a great experience for them. The training section has done a lot of research on things that are happening in Afghanistan and Iraq and we base our training scenarios on the latest intelligence and apply them here. If the enemy changes tactics we will know as soon as possible and our troops can adapt," said Colonel Hamilton.

Hierarchy of response based on the threat, perceived or otherwise, is important. Gauging the appropriate amount of force each Airmen should exercise is the objective.

"This is the place to learn these lessons and allow them to hone their tactics for the next opportunity," Colonel Hamilton said.

Today's era of asymmetric warfare requires that American service members make sound, on the spot judgments when interfacing with a civilian populace in forward deployed locations. Determining if an individual is hostile, non-hostile, or non-compliant, and employing the appropriate use of force, is an essential component of every Airman's skill set.

The two-day exercise tested the Airmen's ability to operate effectively in a simulated foreign environment. The exercise covered several tasks including presence patrolling, interaction with civilian populace, tactical movement to target and building entry, search and clear.

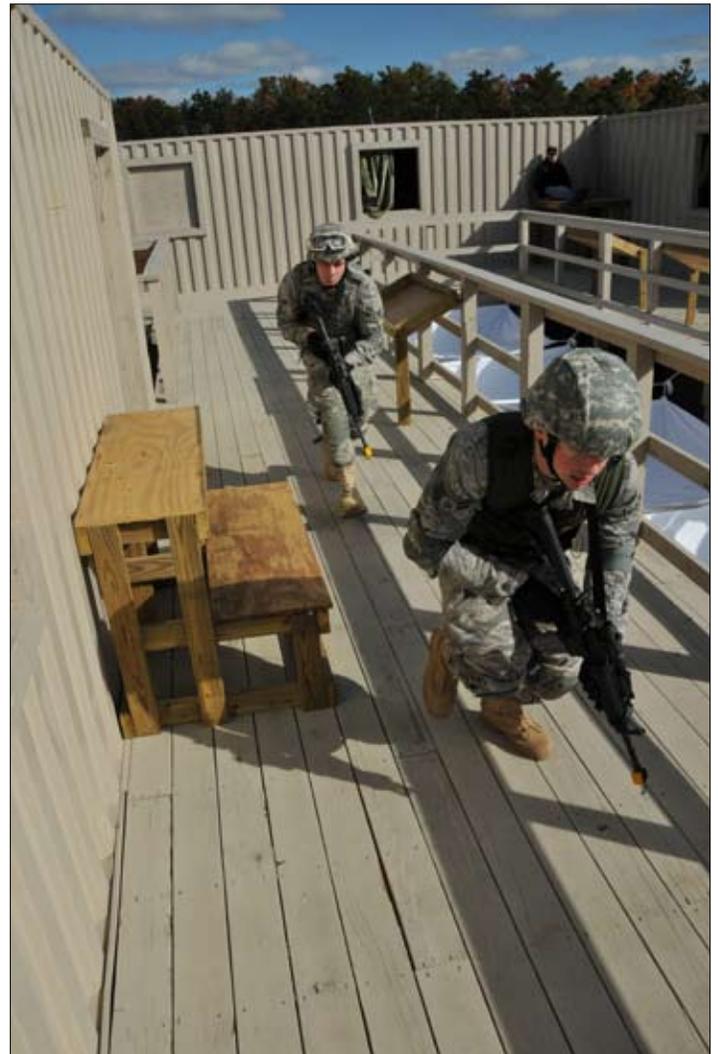
After observing a sequence involving a Quick Reaction Force (QRF), Master Sgt. Marc Vercellone, 102nd Security Forces training NCO, is able to assess their progress by evaluating how they listen to the squad leader, the level of radio communication and positioning of machine guns.

"They are doing well. It's two long days but they like it. They become more comfortable working with each other during each scenario," said Sergeant Vercellone.

Airmen also engage the opposition force (OPFOR), testing their situational awareness and tactical ability. Technical Sgt. Ted Whitney, 102nd Security Forces assistant training NCO, observed the squad use cover and concealment to assault the makeshift marketplace while taking fire. "They are moving well -- a lot of good communication," said Sergeant Whitney.

Volunteers from the 102nd participated in the exercise and enjoyed playing the role of civilians. Clad in native garb, they harassed the Airmen to test their response. At one point, Tech. Sgt. Paul Riordan, 102nd Intelligence Support Squadron, retrieved a discarded weapon and began firing blanks at the troops. Airmen returned fire and the engagement lasted several minutes. "It is great to be able to assist with this exercise," said Sergeant Riordan.

Master Sgt. Mike Gormley, assistant squad leader, found the training to be extremely helpful. "They are getting used to each other and the squad leader. They are getting practice in tactics, patrolling and clearing buildings. This training is as close as you get to a real world scenario," said Sergeant Gormley.



U.S. Air Force Photos by Staff Sgt. Kerri Cole
(Above and Right)
102nd Security Forces Airmen participate in Military Operations in Urban Terrain training here, Nov. 1 - 2.



Deployed Airmen receive recognition

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

Twenty-five members of the 102nd Intelligence Wing were treated to homemade waffles Nov. 1 during a welcome home breakfast at the Eagles Nest.

The event was sponsored by the Family Readiness Office to welcome back deployed Airmen and to honor them for their dedication and service.

Representatives from Family Readiness, the wing chaplain's office and the Veterans Administration provided the deployed members with information and services they may need to readjust to life back home.

"No one who sees a disaster or is involved in a conflict is untouched by it," said Dan Tarpley, Hyannis Vet Center readjustment counselor. "Many of these Airmen were deployed to dangerous areas with high stress levels and maybe faced traumatizing events."

During the event, attendees shared the highlights, rewards and experiences of their deployments. "It's never easy being away from home and my family, but knowing that I was making a difference in another part of the world helped to sustain me during my deployment," said an Airman wishing to remain anonymous. Many of the Airmen served at bases in the Middle East and Afghanistan.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Reitano

Col. Anthony Schiavi, 102nd Intelligence Wing commander, talks with deployed members of the wing during the Heroes Breakfast.

Colonel Anthony Schiavi, 102nd Intelligence Wing commander, was on hand during the event to thank the Airmen for their efforts and to distribute certificates of appreciation.

"It's important to not only thank our Airmen for the work they have done," said Colonel Schiavi, "but to provide the support they may need to get reacquainted with the life they unselfishly put on hold to further serve their country."

WWII veteran visits Otis, shares war story with Airmen

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

A Reader's Theatre Presentation of "Ciao, Francesco" was held in the Operations Building here, Nov. 2.

The presentation is based on the book by Francis X. Medina and the production was written and directed by his daughter, Karen Slagle. The cast is comprised of six members, including Col. Mark Zechman, Massachusetts Air National Guard.

The premise of the story is based on the real life experience of Medina, a 20 year-old staff sergeant and B-24 tail gunner who after being shot down over Northern Italy during World War II, evaded the enemy for eight months while secretly living with two families of the Italian Resistance.

Both Slagle and Medina were pleased to perform at the base in front of an Air Force audience. "My father said the connection was more profound sharing with Air Force personnel. Kind of like a mutual understanding of the circumstances of war. It simply felt different than sharing it with the general public," Slagle observed.

Slagle was also impressed with the interest level at Otis. "The people in attendance seemed not only interested in my Dad's story but in WWII in general. The men and women were all very gracious hosts. In particular, Col.



Col. Anthony Schiavi, 102nd IW commander, presents Francis Medina, WWII veteran, with a wing commander's coin for sharing his personal WWII experience with a group of 102nd Airmen here Nov. 2.

(Anthony) Schiavi took some time afterwards to speak to my Mom and Dad. It made it more personal," she said.

Slagle was pleased with Col. Zechman's performance. "Colonel Zechman's daughter was my third grade student last year. I invited "Zeke" to read "Ciao, Francesco" and that led to his involvement as a reader. He did a great job performing!"

For Slagle it was a labor of love collaborating with her father and presenting his story to military personnel. "It was truly a rewarding experience to step back in time through my Dad's words and bring his story to life."

Satellite NCO Academy offers alternative

By Tech. Sgt. Alicen Hogan
Contributing Writer

The Air National Guard takes the development of its Airmen's management skills as a top priority. However, attending a remote school for six straight weeks on top of normal duty deployments causes some to put off attending the Non Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA). In an effort to facilitate Airmen who wish to continue their professional development while being able to stay close to home, the Massachusetts Air National Guard offers Satellite NCOA.

The Satellite NCOA fills the professional development requirement to be eligible to sew on master sergeant. For a period of three months, Otis Airmen attend night courses two nights a week at Massachusetts Guard State Headquarters in Milford. Instructors based at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn., interact with students at 18 other remote classes via satellite television feed. In the final two weeks of the course, all the students fly to McGhee Tyson to complete their training, test out, and graduate.

"I was all for it," said Tech. Sgt. Dean Shaw, graduate of the Satellite NCOA. "Back when I did my academy, Linda, my wife, was pregnant. For me, at the time, shooting up to Milford and being able to go home at night and then go to work the next day was the better way."

Satellite NCOA acts as a middle ground between the NCOA career development course and the in residence course. Some would say that it's the best of both worlds. As a facilitator at the Milford campus, Master Sgt. Stephen Briggs is a strong proponent of the satellite NCOA. "It's better than the CDC because it makes you interact with people. It gets people thinking and talking and that's what it's all about."

While the overall feedback from satellite NCOA attendees is positive, there are some points that must be given serious consideration. "Long days are a drawback," said Tech. Sgt. Scott Coppinger, a current Satellite NCOA attendee. "You get up at 5 a.m. and don't get home to bed until 11:30 p.m."

Airmen who cannot avail themselves of the government vehicle carpool from Otis to Milford are not reimbursed for personally owned vehicle transportation. Guardsmen in a traditional status earn military pay for attending school, however AGR members do not.

"In cases like that, you hope that the supervisor works with the individual and helps them out as much as possible," said Sergeant Briggs.

Still, the benefit of staying home while fulfilling the education requirement outweighs these concerns for Sergeant Coppinger. "I've already deployed seven months out of this year. If I can further my career while being with my family, great!" he said. "Plus the facilitators are great, keeping in touch with you via e-mail between classes."

There are many factors to take into account when choosing to attend NCOA in residence or to pursue the Satellite NCOA. Otis Airmen must choose one or the other in order to progress professionally. Leadership hopes that the flexibility to attend in state will help lessen the strain for members who struggle with balancing home and military commitments.

"I think it's a fantastic avenue," affirmed Sergeant Shaw.

Safety first when winter driving

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Winter weather will soon arrive in Massachusetts. By mid-January in most years we are accustomed to driving in inclement and slippery weather. In order to prepare for that inevitable weather, we all must become reacquainted with hazardous winter driving, particularly on Cape Cod.

Slick, icy roads that can contribute to black ice must always be considered when traveling. It is important to leave a reasonable amount of space between your vehicle and others to ensure proper reaction time in case of a mishap. As well, speeds should be reduced during any precipitation or visibility restrictions, such as fog.

Like the old recruiting slogan, it is necessary to "be prepared" for any contingency on the road. Here are a few suggestions to make your journey less stressful:

- check tire tread and ensure tires are inflated to suggested levels
- ensure your battery has enough voltage, cold weather drains energy rapidly
- check hoses and belts for cracks
- check windshield wipers and fluid levels
- check heating and defrosting systems
- always tell someone your travel plans
- thoroughly scrape windows of frost

Hopefully this winter season will spare us the worst, but if history is any guide, we will experience severe weather. You cannot prepare for every event but using sound judgment when on the road will allow you to deal with any problems that may emerge.

CONGRATULATIONS COLONEL JAMES "FLAV" LeFAVOR >>



Col. Anthony Schiavi addresses the audience at Col. James LeFavor's promotion, Nov. 1.



Col. James LeFavor's family pins brand new colonel insignia on his uniform, Nov. 1.

SCHOOL HONORS >>

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Smith

ACADEMIC HONORS

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Smith

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Senior Airman Jason Rothwell

HONOR GUARD >>



Otis Honor Guard Airmen prior to posting the colors at the Boston Celtics' 2008 season opener against the Cleveland Cavaliers, Oct. 28.



Otis Honor Guard Airmen post the colors prior to kickoff of the New England Patriots' Monday Night Football game against the Denver Broncos, Oct. 20.

PROMOTIONS >>



Senior Airman

Kevin DaSilva
Marc McAndrew



Staff Sergeant

Ryan Beliveau
Anthony Capilli
Gregory Gresham
Christopher Hope
Michael Reilly



Master Sergeant

Joey Johansen
Keith Johnson



Senior Master Sgt

Michael Walsh

CHAPEL CALL

By Chaplain (Capt.) Mary Scheer
102nd Intelligence Wing Chaplain

A study conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, released in June 2006, revealed that Americans have less people they can confide in than past generations. In 1985, the average American had three people in whom to confide matters that were important to them. In 2004, that number dropped to two. Perhaps even more striking, the number of Americans with no close friends rose from 10 percent in 1985 to 24.6 percent in 2004. (Janet Kornblum, "Study: 25 Percent of Americans Have No One to Confide In," USA Today (6-23-06).

Recently, I was sitting with my daughter looking into the front of her computer so we could talk by video with one of my other daughters who is away at college. It's amazing to me the ways that technology has increased our ability to stay connected with each other through things like MySpace, Facebook, Instant Messenger, Email and cell phones. But I wonder how this is affecting our friendships and the quality of our relational life.

Every year in December, my family, like so many others, gathers to watch again, Frank Capra's 1946 Christmas classic, *It's A Wonderful Life*. In a Time Magazine essay, (Sometimes It's a wonderful Life, Dec. 11, 2000) Roger Rosenblatt pondered the film's

"A Wonderful Life"

continuing appeal and concluded that the story is really about friendship. "That may be part of why we often feel choked up as we watch George Bailey's family and friends rally around him in his time of greatest needs," said Rosenblatt. "Just when George thinks he's alone in the world, the world shows up to declare its love for him... this is what the picture is about -- the subtle and casual surprise of friendship."

While economists predict a less than inspiring gift giving season, there is one gift that we can freely give and that's the gift of genuine friendship. It's the gift that will make a difference, last longer than most material things and is an investment that will generate an increase over the years, for "no man is poor who has friends." As Harry Bailey toasts, "to my brother George, the richest man in town."

"Two are better than one; because they have a good return for their work. If they fall down, they can help each other up. But pity those who fall and have no one to help them up!" (Ecc 4:9-10).

"A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure." (Sirach 6:14).

102nd Security Forces Airmen deploy to southwest Asia

May we remember all uniformed personnel serving overseas...

during this holiday season!



102nd Security Forces Airmen in full "battle rattle" during Combat Skills Training at Fort Bliss, Texas. The Airmen attended the Combat Skills Training course to prepare for their current six month deployment to southwest Asia.



102nd Security Forces Airmen in the Wing Conference Room here after their final outprocessing. The Airmen are on a six month deployment to southwest Asia providing security services in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



U.S. AIR FORCE
EagleEyes
WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

The Eagle Eyes program is an Air Force anti-terrorism initiative that enlists the eyes and ears of Air Force members and citizens in the war on terror. Eagle Eyes teaches people about the typical activities terrorists engage in to plan their attacks. Armed with this information, anyone can recognize elements of potential terror planning when they see it. The program provides a network of local, 24-hour phone numbers to call whenever a suspicious activity is observed. You and your family are encouraged to learn the categories of suspicious behavior and stay attuned to your surroundings. If you observe something suspicious, call your base's law enforcement desk, or alert local authorities.

To learn about the categories of suspicious behavior, please visit:
<http://www.osi.andrews.af.mil/eagleeyes/index.asp>



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