

102nd INTELLIGENCE WING

Seagull



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**102nd airman receives
coveted AFISRA Larson
Award for first time in ANG
history | pg.6**



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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

pg. 3

Thrift Savings Plan

pg. 4

102nd ISS airmen places gold

pg. 6

Month in Photos

pg. 8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

pg. 10

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

The next Seagull deadline is Saturday, Jan 7, 2012.



Select stories and news from this publication can also be found online at <http://www.102iw.ang.af.mil> or Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/102IW>

ON THE COVER >>



102nd ISS airman receives coveted AFISRA Larson Gold medal in his career field. This the first time a Guardsman has ever placed as a finalist in the awards' 32-year history.

(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kerri Cole)

UPCOMING UTAs >>

Unit Training Assembly duty hours are 0700-1530 Saturday and Sunday

JANUARY 2012						
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 2012						
			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			

MARCH 2012						
				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

APRIL 2012						
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					



FROM THE DESK OF THE
102d Intel Wing
VICE COMMANDER

By Col. Christina Stevens



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

Welcome to 2012 – a new year and with lots of changes and lots of promise. I hope everybody enjoyed the holiday and had a chance to relax and recharge from our busy 2011. This is a big weekend at the 102nd. Congratulations to Col. LeFavor and Lt. Col. Doonan on their new assignments. I have known both of these officers a long time and the Wing is lucky to have them share their experience and capabilities with us in their new positions. Congratulations also to Lt. Col. McNulty and Lt. Col. D'Alto and best of luck in your new jobs.

This January I had the opportunity to reflect not just on the past year but on the past three years as I move on from my position as the Vice Commander. I can genuinely say it was the best job I have ever had. I recall walking into the front office feeling awkward and unsure of what the challenges were that were ahead. I quickly realized that there was a terrific staff in place and tremendous support from the entire wing and that all of the challenges that would come down would be met head on by the capable and experienced men and women of the 102nd. I really didn't have to do anything! Furthermore, I had the true advantage of learning from the best – Col. "Kimo" Schiavi – and that no matter how hard I would try to screw up he would be there to set things back on course. So with all these great resources, it was really a terrific job to have and a wonderful three years. My experience and background are really the airplane world, so it was a privilege to be around and be part of the Wing's metamorphose to an Intelligence Wing..... to watch the Intel Group execute its mission and effect the global war on terror every day, to see the AOG lean forward and carve out a role and become indispensable to the active Air Force, to see the Staff and the Support Group succeed as they juggled their taxing home station responsibilities and their OEF/OIF deployments, and to drive around on base and see the changes and vast improvements to

our facilities and our physical environment. All of these achievements were validated during the UCI – I cannot tell you what it feels like to witness and affect the recognition of the 102nd as the premier Intelligence Wing in the Air National Guard. It was a long road to get there but a true testament to the men and women of this organization that you did as well as you did on your first major inspection. This Wing has come a long way since 2006 and you should all be very proud of your accomplishments – I am humbled to have been a part of it. I have learned so many lessons in this job, worked with so many outstanding people and had so many great experiences – I thank you for teaching them to me and for the tremendous support this organization has given me over the past years. I know you will continue to do the same for Col. LeFavor.

Best of luck in all that you do in the coming year and from here forward. I know this organization will continue its rise and its commitment to excellence. Thank you again and please keep in touch!



Thrift Savings Plan contribution limits increase in 2012



The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board has announced the 2012 elective deferral limit for regular Thrift Savings Plan contributions has increased from \$16,500 to \$17,000 for 2012, Air Force Personnel Center officials said. The TSP catch-up plan contribution limit will remain at \$5,500.

TSP investments are not limited to stocks: employees can choose government securities or invest in lifecycle funds as well. Regular TSP contributions stop when an employee's contributions reach the annual maximum limit and then automatically resume the next calendar year.

Catch-up contributions are additional tax-deferred contributions separate from regular contributions. Catch-up contributions provide investors a way to secure their retirement, especially for those who begin investing later in their careers.

To be eligible for catch-up contributions, civilian and military employees must be at least 50 years old the year the first deduction from pay occurs. They must also be in a pay status and able to certify they will make (or have made) the maximum regular employee contributions by the end of the year.

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN

TSP FOR MILITARY MEMBERS

Military members can contribute any whole percentage up to 92 percent of basic pay, as long as the annual total does not exceed \$17,000 for 2012. If contributing from basic pay, Airmen may also invest all or part of their bonuses, special pay, or incentive pay.

Those serving in tax-free combat zones may contribute up to \$50,000 in annual contributions for 2012, which total includes tax-exempt combat zone contributions and regular deferred contributions. There are monthly contribution limits,

though. Military members can call TSP officials at 877-968-3778 for more information.

To make contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest money among the investment funds) military members can go to www.tsp.gov [<http://www.tsp.gov/>], and use their personal identification number and password to access their TSP account. Contribution allocations can also be made via the Thrift Line (877-968-3778). For general TSP questions, call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 (press 1 and then press 6).

TSP FOR CIVILIANS

Civilians can contribute any whole percentage of their basic pay or a whole dollar amount each pay period to a regular TSP account. This amount is subject to the \$17,000 annual maximum for 2012.

Air Force-serviced civilians may submit regular TSP enrollment elections or changes at any time. Contributions will automatically continue into 2012 for those already in TSP; so, it is not necessary for employees to submit an election unless they wish to change the amount of their bi-weekly contributions. The Jan. 6 contribution will apply toward the 2012 annual maximum.

Employees who are covered by the Federal Employees' Retirement System must contribute at least 5 percent of their basic pay every pay period in order to receive maximum agency matching contributions throughout the entire year. Once the maximum contribution limit of \$17,000 is reached, employee contributions and agency matching contributions will be suspended for the remainder of the year.

Air Force-serviced civilians submit contribution elections via the Employee Benefits Information System online application or through the automated phone system. EBIS is accessible on the Air Force Portal and through the Air Force Personnel Services secure site.

To reach EBIS via phone, dial 800-525-0102. When the phone system answers, press 2 for civilian employees, and 2 again for benefits and entitlements services. Then follow the prompts. Employees in foreign areas should call the toll-free AT&T direct access number for the country they are in, and then dial 800-525-0102. For AT&T direct access numbers, go to www.usa.att.com/traveler/index.jsp [<http://www.usa.att.com/traveler/index.jsp>].

For more information about TSP, go to www.tsp.gov [<http://www.tsp.gov/>]. Click on "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan" located under civilian or uniformed services TSP Forms and Publications. For more information about other personnel issues, visit the Air Force Personnel Services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil> [<https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/>].

Airman in the Spotlight



Airman 1st Class Juliann McEachern

Airman 1st Class McEachern has been a member of the 102nd Intelligence Wing since 2010 and she currently works as a traditional Guardsman in the 102nd Comptroller Flight in the Finance office. She describes her position in the Finance office as "a great source of knowledge and incredible personal experience for life".

Background: Airman McEachern was born in Wrentham, Mass., where she resides with her family, and is currently enrolled at UMass Amherst, attending her sophomore year of Psychology studies. One of her goals is to apply her future degree and background skills toward a Commissioned Officer position in the Air National Guard, such as a Counselor or Mental Health Specialist. Airman McEachern describes her enlistment in the

Air National Guard as one of the best decisions of her life, and she is very glad to be part of the 102nd Family. At first, she joined the 102nd Intelligence Wing because of the benefits, but after going through Basic Training and Technical training, she understands and values being a part of the military and the true commitment it takes to serve with the Air Guard. "My whole family has been in the Military, and I believe it is in my blood to carry on this tradition. I love being here and I definitely see my future as continuing my career in the Air National Guard".

For fun: In her free time, Airman McEachern likes to play volleyball and softball. She also works as a radio show DJ for 91.1 WUMA, UMass Amherst, Mass. She likes listening to music and everything related to the music industry.

Her favorite travel spot: Airman McEachern's favorite place to visit is Europe.

*By Airman 1st Class Luiz Vicentini
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs*

If you would like to nominate a 102nd Intelligence Wing member for the monthly "Airman in the Spotlight" feature, contact Maj. Nicole Ivers at (508) 968-4664 or e-mail 102iw.pa@ang.af.mil.

Winter Survival-- for your vehicle!

*By Staff Sgt. Laura-Anne Debiase
102nd Intelligence Wing Emergency Management*



We all know how important it is to be prepared for any type of emergency— it can mean the difference between surviving and not. However, when people think of preparing for an emergency or a natural disaster they usually only think of creating an emergency kit for the home. Yet, the average American spends up to five hours a day driving. Some may even say their car is their second home. With this in mind, it should be coming readily apparent that an emergency kit for your vehicle is also essential.

With winter upon us, now is a great time to prepare an emergency kit for your vehicle. As events in Upstate NY showed last week where motorists along I-90 were stranded for up to 14-hours, even in this day and age, snow events can still derail travel for long periods of time.

That event in NY could easily have happened here in New England as well, so start preparing now while our roads are still dry.

Here is a list of some important items that can be helpful in many situations:

- First Aid Kit
- Weather Radio
- Water
- Blankets
- Bag of kitty litter or a bag of sand in the trunk
- Extra Gloves
- Shovel
- Scarf
- Extra clothing
- Booster Cables
- Brightly colored object
- Flashlight

Emergency kits for vehicles are also available for purchase from many retailers. Just be sure that it's fully winterized before you place it in your vehicle.

Stay safe and warm this winter!
Laura.debiase@ang.af.mil



Air Guardsman receives coveted AFISRA Larson Award for the first time in its 32-year history





Staff Sgt. Justin Thomas of the 102nd Intelligence Support Squadron receives a gold medal from Air Force ISR Agency Commander, Maj. Gen. Bob Otto Oct. 27, during the Maj. Gen. Doyle E. Larson Awards banquet at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The coveted competition identifies, recognizes and honors the "Best of the Best" performers in 25 job specialties found at cryptologically-linked and administratively supported units from active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserves and Air National Guard. Out of over 600 other competitors, Staff Sgt. Thomas was the only Guardsman to place as a finalist, taking home a Gold medal in the Client Systems career field (3D1X1). (U.S. Air Force photos by Mr. William Belcher/Released)

By Tech. Sgt. Kerri Cole
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

Seventy-two of the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency's best and brightest airmen were honored at the 32nd Maj. Gen. Doyle Larson Awards Banquet at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas on October 27, 2011. Among the honorees was Staff Sgt. Justin Thomas of the 102nd Intelligence Support Squadron, Otis Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts.

The coveted competition, formerly titled *Sensor Olympics*, identifies, recognizes and honors the "best of the best" performers in 25 job specialties found at cryptologically-linked and administratively supported Active Duty, Air Force Reserves and Air National Guard units. Since ISR units are relatively new to the Air Guard, this was the first year they have participated in the competition, according to AFISRA. The 72 finalists were awarded gold, silver or bronze medals in their respective career fields, but they didn't know what medal they got until it was announced at the banquet.

Out of more than 8,500 Air Force technicians that test at the unit level, followed by more than 600 who test at the AFISRA level, Staff Sgt. Thomas

was the only Guardsman to place as a finalist, taking home the Gold medal in the Client Systems career field (3D1X1).

"After it was announced, the banquet attendees knew the Guard was there representing because our small table of people stood up and yelled 'Go Guard!'" said Lt. Col. David Bascom, 102nd Intelligence Support Squadron commander.

The tests are 3 phases of 100 multiple choice questions each, which consist of moderate to in-depth technical knowledge and practical skills. All eligible ISR units conduct annual preliminary testing, or alternative selection methods, to determine who qualifies for agency-level testing. The tests are administered in the summer months by unit test proctors.

Staff Sgt. Thomas joined the 102nd Fighter Wing in 2001 as an Aircraft Armament Systems specialist for the F-15 Eagle in the former 102nd Maintenance Squadron Weapons Shop, and was also part of the Alert Force as a fire guard. When the wing was redesignated as the 102nd Intelligence Wing in 2008, Thomas cross-trained into the Client Systems career field and became part of the new Intelligence

Support Squadron, where he is currently a full-time technician.

"When I first joined the Guard in 2001, I tried to get into any computer-based position in the 267th Combat Communications Squadron but there were no openings at the time," Thomas said, "but now I am right where I want to be: working on and maintaining computer systems."

The Maj. Gen. Doyle Larson Awards program originated in 1979, the year the general assumed command of the United States Air Force Security Service, which then became the Electronic Security Command, both predecessor organizations of the agency.

Coupling his vision and technical ability, General Larson improved the performance of the organizations global cryptological mission, setting the foundation for what the Air Force ISR Agency has become today.

Lt. Col. Bascom said "This competition was a great way to showcase our talents in the Air Guard— Sgt. Thomas represented the 102nd Intelligence Wing well and has made us and the Air Guard proud by taking home first place in a very difficult competition; he is truly a stand-out individual."

Local Masonic lodge donates Christmas Trees to airmen and their families

Airman First Class Michael Servis of the 102nd Intelligence Wing receives a Christmas tree donated by the Mt. Horeb Masonic Lodge from Dennis, Massachusetts. A total 11 trees were donated to the 102nd on December 4, 2011.

(National Guard photo by Senior Airman Jeremy Bowcock/Released)



Chief's Council Scholarship winners announced



On December 3, 2011, Edwin Bennett Jr., Senior Airman Zackery Benton and Jonathan Bodeau each receive a 500 dollar scholarship from the Chief's Council during a ceremony at Arnold Hall. The scholarship is awarded annually to chosen airmen and families of the 102nd Intelligence Wing based on nomination packages.

(National Guard photos by Senior Airman Jeremy Bowcock/Released)



102nd Security Forces Defenders Conduct MOUT Training

Photos and story by Staff Sgt. Johnny Grullon
102nd Security Forces Squadron



Pictured above: Staff Sgt. Adam Sassone familiarizes Defenders with key areas of the MOUT village and concept of operations for the TCP exercise.



Pictured above: 102nd Security Forces Defenders conduct Traffic Control Point operations. Tech. Sgt. Rich Conners and Tech. Sgt. Paul Stewart provide additional instructions.

On October 30, 2011 the 102nd Security Forces Defenders sharpened and reinforced their skills at the "Military Operations in Urban Terrain" exercise at the Camp Edwards Army National Guard Training Site Calero MOUT training area on Connery Ave. during the November UTA. The training area is designed to look and feel like "Anytown, Iraq."

Defenders were challenged on several areas but none harsher than the weather. Despite the difficult weather conditions, Defenders had to deal with irritated "Contractors", curious "local nationals" as well as "insurgents" trying to infiltrate their Traffic Control Point (TCP) with Vehicle Borne IEDs as well as concealed weapons.

Defenders also worked on improving communications skills, small unit and squad tactics, close quarters combat skills, as well as searching vehicles and personnel searches, equally important learning to operate in a constantly changing battle space.

The instructors remarked on the rapid improvement of

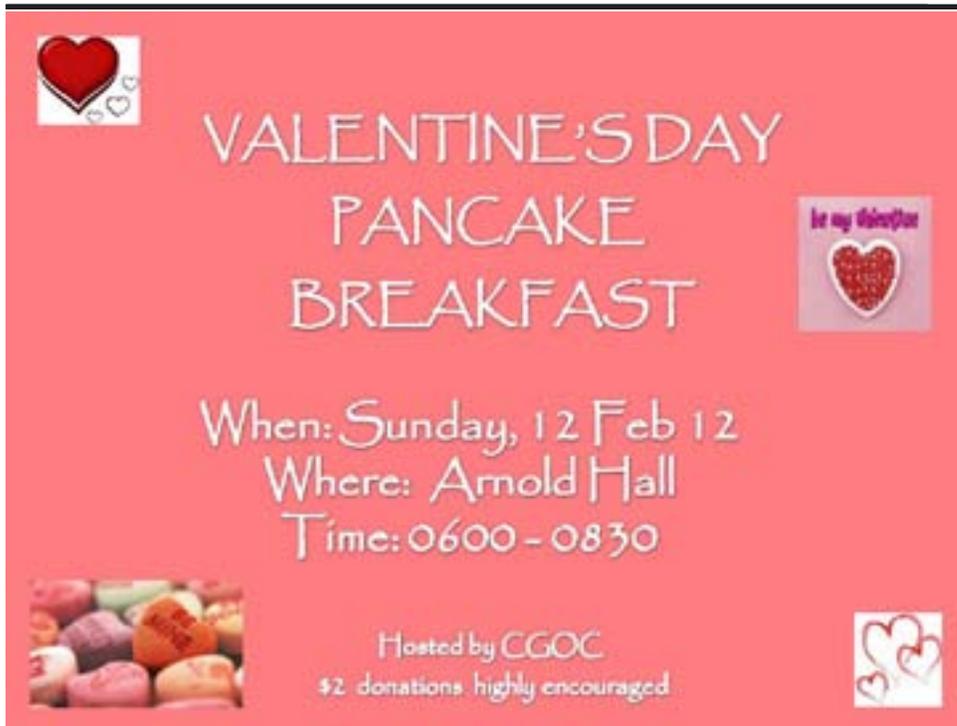
Defenders in adapting to the changing dynamics of the battle space. This is a critical element in the non-linear battle spaces we face today. Adapting Security Forces methodology from ECP (Entry Control Point) to TCP operations is not as easy as it sounds. Situational awareness, always important, becomes absolutely critical in a Traffic Control Point. The input of all members is as integral to survivability of the team, as the team leaders. All members must adapt simultaneously, without direct orders, but through a synergistic approach to managing each situation. Planning, preparation, training and above all communication, are the keys to a successful mission and most importantly, survivability.

No training exercise is complete without conducting an After Action/ Lessons Learned session which was headed by the MA Army National Guard Instructors. This was conducted in an open forum in which all members are encouraged to share ideas to enhance future training exercises.



A group of 102nd airmen attended the Enlisted Leadership Symposium from 30 Oct. to 2 Nov., at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. The ELS featured leadership development training, sessions on the current state and future state of the Air National Guard Enlisted Corps, and the benefits of an Air National Guard career. The symposium culminated with a formal banquet.

Pictured L-R: Senior Airman Andrew Hill, Tech. Sgt. Jason McGarrahan, Master Sgt. Carlos Alicea, Senior Airman Nicole Gossic, Staff Sgt. Samuel Brown and Tech. Sgt. James Waters.



**VALENTINE'S DAY
PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

When: Sunday, 12 Feb 12
Where: Arnold Hall
Time: 0600 - 0830

Hosted by CGOC
\$2 donations highly encouraged



Mr. Steve Shrader of the Air Force Association, Chapter 166, donates \$1,500 in Roache Bros. gift cards to the 102nd on Nov. 16 here at Otis Air National Guard Base. The AFA contributed \$1,000 and Roache Bros. donated \$500. The gift cards were distributed to randomly selected E-1 through E-4 unit members during the December UTA as part of the Chief's Council annual holiday giveaway. (National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Kerri Cole/Released)

PROMOTIONS >>



Brig. Gen. Gary W. Keefe, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Joint Force Headquarters, Massachusetts National Guard, stands at attention while his father, retired Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. George W. Keefe and MG Joseph C. Carter, The Adjutant General, Massachusetts National Guard, pin on the rank of brigadier general during Keefe's promotion ceremony, Nov. 3, 2011, in Milford, Mass. Keefe received his commission in 1986 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Norwich University and served in the Active Duty Air Force until he joined the Massachusetts Air National Guard in 1992. (National Guard photo by Sgt. Jeremiah J. Clark/Released)

Technical Sgt.

Michael E. Reilly

Staff Sgt.

Nicole B. Voas

Senior Airman

Anthony E. Lee
David C. Combs
Luke R. Visconti
Joseph J. Andrews
Marc C. Brown
Douglas M. Trude

Michael P. Albert
Matthew C. Brouillard
Benjamin Stanley
Torrey C. Cox
Elizabeth A. Heilig

ANNOUNCEMENTS >>

OFFICER (04-05) VACANCY

JFHQ Milford is looking for a Maj-LtCol to fill a Cyber Policy and Communications Resources Director position. This position is a Traditional Guardsmen Tour at JFHQ-MA. Must possess a fully qualified Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) 17DXX. For full application and job requirements please contact your commander for the official announcement. Closeout date: 15 Feb., 2012.

SNCO STAT TOUR VACANCY

Open to E-7/E-8: "FORCE DEVELOPMENT/ NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM". This position is a Headquarters ANG Title 10, 1-3 year Statutory Tour at NGB/ANGRC (Joint Base Andrews, MD). Must possess a fully qualified Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC). This position is open to all Air Force Specialty Codes. Each State is allocated 1 slot for a SNCO to perform a 1-3 year tour at NGB within the ANG or in a joint NGB position. Until now Massachusetts has not utilized its allocated NCO position. Contact your commander or first sergeant for the full vacancy announcement. Closeout Date: 15 March, 2012.

PA JOURNALIST VACANCY

Do you like to talk to people? How about write news stories and take photos? The 102nd Public Affairs Office has a Journalist (3N0X1) vacancy. This is a traditional/part-time position for E-6 and below. Interested personnel should contact Maj. Nicole Ivers at 508-968-4664 or email nicole.ivers@ang.af.mil.

"LEGACY" DVD



A documentary film "Legacy", the history of the 102nd Fighter Wing and the 101st Fighter Squadron is available for sale. You may obtain a copy by making a minimum \$25 contribution to the Massachusetts Air

National Guard Historical Association Museum. (Check payable to: "MA ANG Historical Association", 331 Sandwich Rd, East Falmouth, MA 02536)



CHAPEL CALL

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Berube
102nd Intelligence Wing Chaplain

"Hope"

The turn of a New Year is a good time to take a look at all that has changed and been accomplished in the previous twelve months. It is traditionally a time when people make resolutions and look forward to the next piece of life's journey. It is a time of great hope.

Think for a moment about the hope that resides in change and the future. Career transitions hold within them the hope of new challenges, responsibilities, and opportunities. Completed tasks open up time and energy that will hopefully be invested in fulfilling new tasks or restful breaks from work (at least small breaks). Change and the New Year can be times to dream big dreams, turn them into plans, and begin to strive toward their fulfillment.

Change and the future can also be times of difficulty. The tiredness that comes from struggling through change or hard tasks can leave us feeling a little depleted. We can feel a little like spawning salmon – at our

destination, but kind of beat up and out of breath. It can be a little hard to feel the hope when the tiredness (physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual) is deep and profound. When challenges are great our coping skills and strength may be pushed to their limits. When that happens, it can become easier to lose sight of hope in the dark of our depletion.

Hope can be found, however, even in the dark winter of difficulty. Writer Anne Lamott said, "Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come." We know from experience that at the end of every dark night is a sunrise; at the end of every winter is a spring. The key is to stubbornly hold to that hope and continue to do the right thing, even in the dark. But what is "the right thing?"

Here is my partial list of "right thing" elements that will help us maintain hope through whatever ups and downs we

face in the New Year –

- o Expect the positive and nurture the positive in yourself and others. Strive to see and believe the best in your personal and professional life. Give others the benefit of the doubt.

- o Believe that the future will be an improvement on the past. Work toward this in your personal future and our corporate human future.

- o Remember that challenge, change, difficulty, and pain do not last forever. All struggle is temporary, and shared struggle can help manage the pain. Seek help when you need it and offer help when others around you are struggling.

I'm not sure exactly what the New Year is going to bring our way. I do know, however, that if we head into it with an attitude of hope we will be in a better position to receive it. And that can't help but make whatever comes to us better.

SGLI & FSGLI

SGLI is a program of low cost group life insurance available in \$50,000 increments up to the maximum of \$400,000. SGLI premiums are currently \$.065 per \$1,000 of insurance. There's an online insurance needs calculator available to assist members in determining their insurance needs: <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/calculator/LifeIns101.htm>

Traumatic Injury Protection Under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI) is a rider to Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI). The TSGLI rider provides for payment to Servicemembers who are severely injured (on or off duty) as the result of a traumatic event and suffer a loss that qualifies for payment under TSGLI. Every member who has SGLI also has Traumatic SGLI coverage. This benefit is also provided retroactively for members who incurred severe losses as a result of a traumatic injury between October 7, 2001 and December 1, 2005 if the loss was the direct result of injuries incurred in Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

The SGLI and VGLI programs offer an accelerated benefits option to terminally ill policyholders. An policyholder is considered to be terminally ill if he or she has a written medical prognosis of 9 months or less to live. All terminally ill policyholders are eligible to take up to 50% of their SGLI or VGLI coverage in a lump sum. Many commercial life insurance companies offer accelerated benefits in their policies. Accelerated benefits, paid prior to death, are, of course, not available for payment to survivors.

Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) is a program extended to the spouses and dependent children of members insured under the SGLI program. FSGLI provides up to a maximum of \$100,000 of insurance coverage for spouses, not to exceed the amount of SGLI the insured member has in force, and \$10,000 for dependent children. Spousal coverage is issued in increments of \$10,000.

Updates at 5 a.m. • Check on work
delays or cancellations

Wing Information Line

(508) 968-4433



Select stories and news from this publication can also be found online at
<http://www.102iw.ang.af.mil> or Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/102IW>



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