

102nd INTELLIGENCE WING

Seagull



www.102iw.ang.af.mil

JUNE/JULY 2014

VOLUME 29 NO. 4



PEDROIA'S PLATOON

Pg. 10



Satellite Airman Leadership School

...see announcement on pg. 13

Contents

- 4** **Commander's Comments**
Brig. Gen. Gary Keefe, Assistant Adjutant General, discusses his experiences at Otis ANGB, his thoughts on its future, and memories of the 102nd IW.
- 5** **Global Lightning**
Twenty Massachusetts Air National Guardsmen from the 102nd Air Operations Group mobilized to Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, for Exercise Global Lightning 14
- 6** **Shaping Future Airmen**
Staff Sgt. Maria Escobar will soon be returning to the 102nd IW as part of the Inspector Generals office, but in the meantime she is training new airmen
- 8** **Junior Enlisted Council**
The Junior Enlisted Council is a way from the lower enlisted ranks to take the future into their own hands and make the changes they want to see.
- 9** **The Voice of Experience**
Col. Virginia Doonan, 102nd IW Vice Commander, shares her thoughts and experiences with the graduating class of Cape Cod Community College as their Commencement speaker.
- 10** **Pedroia's Platoon**
Master Sgt. Joe Pitta travels to Fenway Park to be recognized for his service and be part of "Pedroia's Platoon."



COMMANDER
Col. James M. LeFavor

CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Maj. Robert J. Spierdowis

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF
Master Sgt. Aaron Smith
Tech. Sgt. Kerri Cole
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Bowcock
Staff Sgt. Patrick McKenna
Senior Airman Nikoletta Kanakis

ON THE COVER



The cover photo shows the Master Sgt. Joe Pitta standing on the field of Fenway Park during his time as a guest of Red Sox player Dustin Pedroia. See the full story on page 10.

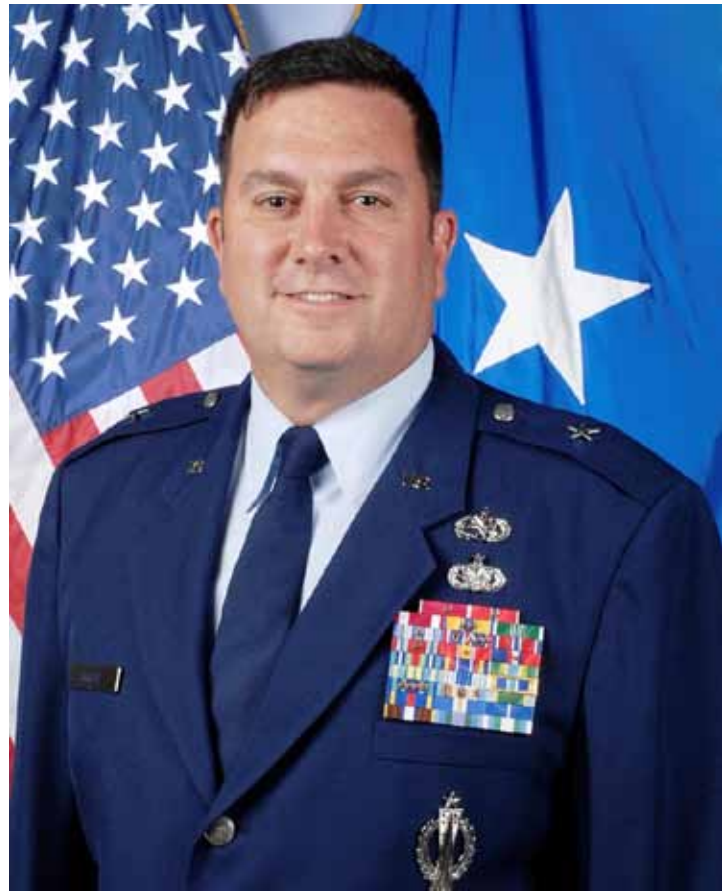
This Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Seagull are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared,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

102ND IW PUBLIC AFFAIRS
156 Reilly Street, Box 60
Otis ANGB, MA
02542-1330
508-968-4516
DSN: 557-4516

Join us on Facebook at
facebook.com/102iw

Watch us on YouTube at
youtube.com/102iw

Follow us on Twitter at
twitter.com/102iw



Message From a Commander

As both my tour as Joint Base Cape Cod Executive Director and Commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard come to an end, I wanted to thank the men and women of the 102nd Intelligence Wing for their hospitality, and for “setting the bar high” for the rest of the Massachusetts National Guard. Clearly the 102nd IW is an organization that understands what is required to remain relevant in today’s Air Force.

From the first day as Executive Director and from my days as “acting” Commander, and eventually appointed Commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard the 102nd Intelligence Wing made me feel like one of their own. The pride, professionalism, creativity, and tenacity continually displayed by the officers, NCOs, airmen, and civilians of the 102nd IW are nothing short of inspirational. Your wing continues to elevate the expectations for every unit within the Massachusetts National Guard. You have successfully and uniquely reinvented yourself as a wing and in doing so have secured a place of leadership within the Air National Guard for many years to come.

The 102nd Intelligence Wing and its units have continuously been praised by the USAF, MAJCOMs, National Guard Bureau, and multiple state legislatures and agencies. You achieved the highest grade recorded for a Unit Compliance Inspection, were praised this past year as the #1 unit in the ANG by the Director of the ANG, Lt. Gen. Sid Clarke, and have been projected, based on performance, to receive new missions to further cement your place as the best Intelligence Wing in the United States Air Force.

When it came time for the Massachusetts Air National Guard to find a proper “home” for the 212th Engineering Installation Squadron, there was only one choice...the 102nd. The multiple missions and multiple MAJCOMs that the wing is responsible to made the 102nd Intelligence Wing the natural fit for the 212th Engineering Squadron. With the addition of the 253rd Combat Communications Group as a numbered group under the command of the 102nd IW, the 253CEIG, 267th CBCS, and 212th EIS quickly became the newest members of the 102IW.

When the 104th Fighter Wing needed a temporary home for the ACA mission for the F-15C aircraft during runway construction, it was the 102nd IW again who opened its doors, ramp, buildings, and infrastructure to the 104th Fighter Wing. This initiative saved the ANG in excess of \$400,000 dollars.

I had more fun at the 102nd Intelligence Wing Dinning In than I had ever had at any “mandatory fun” function in my entire military career. The work hard, play hard personality of the 102nd IW was very evident that night. I was glad I was there that night, and not one of the many who were saying; “I wish I had gone” the next day.

As the Executive Director of Joint Base Cape Cod, the 102nd IW became the foundation for all projects, initiatives, and events that benefitted the military personnel, families, and communities on JBCC and throughout the surrounding communities. Every problem or idea that needed to be handled, I knew I could rely on the talents and dedication of the people who made up the 102nd Mission Support Group.

Once again the 102IW will be faced with new missions, and new challenges. The restructuring of the full time Security Forces Squadron, and change to the 102nd Air Operations Group and 267th Combat Communications Squadron’s missions will certainly test the resolve of the entire wing. I am confident that the strategic vision and leadership of your wing’s commanders, chiefs, and airmen will insure that the 102nd IW once again meets these challenges head on, and once again proves why it is the best unit in the ANG. It is a unit that flourishes when faced with adversity and one that embodies the phrase; “Don’t count us out”.

In closing I just wanted to say thanks, and how proud I was to hear that the 102nd IW had received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. It’s nice to see that the leaders in Washington are now aware of what I have learned over the past few years. The 102nd IW is the unit that is setting the pace, and forging the path for all others to follow. Thanks for making me feel welcome, and letting me be part of your team.

GARY W. KEEFE, Brig Gen, MA ANG
Assistant Adjutant General

GLOBAL LIGHTNING

By Capt. Evan Lagasse, 102nd Air Operations Group



Twenty Massachusetts Air National Guardsmen from the 102nd Air Operations Group mobilized to Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, to support the 608th Air Operations Center during Exercise Global Lightning 14, May 12-16. Global Lightning is an annual U.S. Strategic Command joint exercise for Department of Defense senior leaders to assess joint operational readiness and warfighting processes. USSTRATCOM conducts GL14 to ensure the readiness of its strategic deterrence, space, and cyberspace defense and other assigned forces. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt Sean Martin)

Twenty Massachusetts Air National Guardsmen from the 102nd Air Operations Group mobilized to Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, to support the 608th Air Operations Center during Exercise Global Lightning 14, May 12-16.

Global Lightning is an annual U.S. Strategic Command joint exercise for Department of Defense senior leaders to assess joint operational readiness and warfighting processes. USSTRATCOM conducts GL14 to ensure the readiness of its strategic deterrence, space, and cyberspace defense and other assigned forces.

“This exercise provides unique training opportunities to incorporate the most current technology and techniques in support of our mission. Continued focus and investment in our strategic capabilities allow USSTRATCOM to deter, dissuade, and defeat current and future threats to the U.S. and our allies,” said Adm. Cecil Haney, commander, U.S. Strategic Command, in a May 11 press release.

The Massachusetts Guardsmen, ranging in job specialization from command and control to intelligence, assisted the active duty members of the 608th AOC conducting 24/7 operations during the week-long exercise.

Col. Thomas Lennon, commander, 608th Air Operations Center said, “The support provided by the 102nd Air Operations Group is critical to ensure our ability to sustain 24-hour operations for an extended period of time. Additionally, the personal and professional expertise provided by the 102nd is invaluable to the young group of Airmen I currently command in the 608th. I am extremely appreciative of their unmatched professionalism

and dedication to mission accomplishment, and tremendous commitment to the mission of the 608th and USSTRATCOM. In addition to their expertise, they bring crucial continuity the active duty and this mission desperately need.”

Participating in the annual exercise provided the men and women of the 102nd AOG with a prime opportunity to continue strengthening their partnership with the 608th AOC team while performing the skills they have been honing over the past six years since the unit’s inception in 2008.

“We have supported five Global Lightning exercises since the beginning of the 102nd AOG and with each passing exercise the integration with our teammates at the 608th AOC improves. It is a privilege to assist the 608th AOC with their mission of planning, directing, and assessing daily operations employing global, kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities in order to deliver strategic effects for the USSTRATCOM commander,” said Lt. Col. Lee DeWald, strategy plans chief, 102nd AOG.

Along with the more seasoned members of the 102nd AOG, GL14 provided an opportunity for the newest members of the unit to receive hands-on experience in their Air Force specialty.

“Global Lightning opened my eyes to the bigger Air Force picture. Working alongside my active duty intelligence counterparts will go a long way in my development as an intelligence professional. I look forward to providing continued support to USSTRATCOM and the 608th Air Operations Center,” said Airman 1st Class Robert Burnett, intelligence analyst, 102nd AOG.

SHAPING FUTURE AIRMEN

By Tech. Sgt. David Eichaker, National Guard Bureau



The Air Force basic military training instructor is vital to the development of making future Airmen, and the Air National Guard plays a relevant role in that process. Air National Guard members who submit an application for MTI duty and are accepted carry out a four-year assignment before returning to their home units.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Maria Escobar is one of those Guard members and left her human resources specialist job at the 102nd Intelligence Wing at Otis Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts, to begin her MTI tour at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, in 2010.

Escobar said that her own basic training experiences encouraged her to pursue her current path, that has ultimately taken her back to where it all began for her when she was just a trainee herself.

"My military training instructor inspired me to become an MTI," Escobar said. "She was a great leader and mentor, and she exemplified what a true Airman needed to be."

Escobar said her experiences of being on the 102nd IW base honor guard, along with working in personnel, have had a positive effect on her MTI assignment. Although the two duties might not seem conducive to being an MTI, she said the honor guard gave her training in drill movements while her personnel job contributed to successful record keeping — two essential skills when working with trainees.

"I also wanted to give back to the Air Force," she said. "I love to teach and mentor," adding that as an MTI, she is able to accomplish both.

Despite the long hours and grueling schedule MTIs face every day, the responsibility of transforming civilian trainees to Airmen can be exceptionally rewarding.

"The changes are amazing and it is not only noticeable by the instructors, but also their families," said Escobar, adding that her biggest reward from being an MTI is the pride she feels in knowing she had a role in making Airmen.

With almost four years of MTI duty on her resume, Escobar reflected on one of her most-treasured moments — where she gives trainees their graduation coins during the BMT graduation retreat ceremony.

"The retreat ceremony is when they get promoted to Airmen," said Escobar. "I (know) at that moment that the Airmen standing there (are) a representation of all the hard work and dedication that we achieved as a team."

Escobar said that while serving as an MTI, she was also placed on a special team to evaluate other basic training squadrons for compliance, which in turn gave her a larger understanding of Air Force policies and procedures. She said this has advanced her career and provided more opportunities at her home unit.

"Due to my current assignment as an MTI, it helped me get a new job at the 102nd IW as an inspector general assistant," she said.

And those she works with have no doubt she'll succeed in her new position.

"Staff Sgt. Escobar is truly a consummate professional and outstanding (noncommissioned officer)," said Air Force Master Sgt. Troy Moore, Escobar's supervisor at the 737th Training Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. "She is considered one of the elite among the instructor force and she is also a leader among other MTIs."

Moore added that her crowning achievement while assigned to BMT was when she received her master military training instructor distinction and earned the right to don the blue rope on her uniform.

"(The) blue rope is a master military training instructor that is considered the 'best of the best' of the MTI corps ... and so is Staff Sgt. Escobar," said Moore.

JOIN

Have an Idea? Want to help others? Do you want to make a difference? You can! The 102nd Junior Enlisted Council (JEC) is your avenue.

Simply put, we are a organization under the Command Chief. We are comprised of Otis Air National Guard Base members, ranging in rank from E-1 thru E-6, and we work together to help solve junior-enlisted issues, promote mentorship, help raise Spirit de Corp, and encourage volunteering on the base and in the local community.

Some of the things our council is actively involved in are: keeping a good rapport with both the Chief's and the First Sergeant's Councils, having mentorship sessions with influential military enlisted and officer personnel, volunteering opportunities for base activities as well as local community, and the ability to strengthen leadership skills.

One way these leadership skills are built is having a provided First Sergeant tasked to sit in on meetings. These First Sergeants are a valuable tool helping us to get the word out on activities, helping with coordination of events, and providing members an experienced view on how to approach a topic. Though these First Sergeants help us during meetings, they are not required to be present and may be excused if a member would like to bring up a topic not comfortable in front of a Senior Enlisted member.

We have recently incorporated a mentorship session to our agenda. Our senior leaders have a lot of experience dealing with a wide variety of topics, both personally as well as professionally, and are a great resource for any junior-enlisted person wishing to add breadth and experience to their military careers. During a recent Unit Training Assemblies, the council had sessions from key speakers like the 102nd Intelligence Wing Commander, Col. James LeFavor; State Command Chief, CCMSgt. Richard MacDonald; and the 102nd Intelligence Wing's Command Chief, CCMSgt. Karen Cozza.

Through our efforts in the JEC, we can forward sound thoughts and ideas up the Chain of Command to find new ways to problem-solve issues affecting our junior enlisted force, raise moral, help airmen in need, or safely complete our mission while cutting financial costs. Our council, your council, is that venue to speak and be heard, to make a difference not just for one person, but for all persons. Without your voice and efforts nothing is accomplished. A single person can make a small difference, but many people can make a huge difference, on the base and in the local community.

Be an Airman of Action, Gain knowledge, Build professional skills, Practice your Core Values, and join the 102d Junior Enlisted Council!



By Steven Capone - JEC President

JUNIOR ENLISTED COUNCIL



The Voice of Experience

By Master. Sgt. Aaron Smith

Hundreds of students from Cape Cod Community College (CCCC) gathered on May 22nd at the Cape Cod Melody Tent in Hyannis, Mass. to take part in the college's 52nd commencement ceremony. Along with CCCC professors and student-leaders, Col Virginia Doonan, 102nd Intelligence Wing Vice Commander, was also on stage to deliver the commencement address.

Despite the grey and rainy weather, the mood at the ceremony was celebratory. Friends and family members filled the circular Melody Tent as students anxiously waited for the ceremony to start, many proudly wearing graduation caps decorated with emblems of their degree-concentration, personal sayings, or mottos.

As the ceremony began, many of the student-speakers and professors acknowledged that CCCC wasn't a traditional large college. Many of the students that attend CCCC aren't straight out of high school, often they are currently working, raising a family, or returning to college after a long break. With seventy-two percent of its spring 2014 semester students being part time, a traditional speech about students going forth and "starting their lives" could have failed to connect.

Fortunately, Col Doonan experiences and speech were well-tailored to the CCCC students. "Like many of you today, I was not a student that entered college directly after high school and began a 4 year journey," Col Doonan admitted. She went on to say that, shortly after enlisting in the Air Force, community

colleges were there for her and helped start her on the path towards a degree.

Throughout her speech, Col Doonan pulled on experiences from her 28 years in the military. She urged the graduates to push themselves out of their "comfort-zone", to strive for balance in their lives, and to learn what they could from the Air Force core-values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. After sharing her knowledge and experiences, she also told students to stop and recognize this milestone, saying, "Enjoy this moment of triumph. You earned it! And, take some time over the next few days to truly celebrate your accomplishment and thank those around you that have helped you on this journey. After you've done celebrating, run towards the next goal and strive for excellence!"



PEDROIA'S PLATOON

By Master Sgt. Weston Smith

Early in the afternoon on Friday, May 30th, Master Sgt. Joseph Pitta drove off of Cape Cod, heading towards Boston and Fenway Park. Master Sgt. Pitta, who is a member of the 102nd Intelligence Wing, was going to the ballpark as a guest of Red Sox player Dustin Pedroia and a participant in a program that recognizes military members for their service.

The program, known as Pedroia's Platoon, accepts applications from military members who are nominated by their leadership for outstanding performance. It is an opportunity for these baseball fans to meet with one of the star players of the Boston Red Sox. The experience doesn't stop there though, the service-member is allowed to bring three guests and is given four tickets for seats near home plate. This was a perfect opportunity for Sgt. Pitta, who is a life-long Red Sox fan. The distinct achievements of Sgt. Pitta led to his application package being chosen over fifty others

that were sent in to the program.

During his time at Otis Air National Guard Base, and while stationed overseas, Sgt. Pitta has stood out as a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer. In the past, Sgt. Pitta has consistently shown dedication to the 102nd Intelligence Wing's mission by volunteering multiple times to go into harm's way and be away from his home and family. Most recently, Master Sgt. Pitta deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. After six months abroad, he returned home to his wife and three young sons in early April.

Fenway Park was busy with activity as Sgt. Pitta walked up to the historic stadium's entrance. When Sgt. Pitta and his guests, three of his fellow airmen, arrived at the Fenway Park Gate they were met by a Fenway Park Ambassador who escorted them to the Red Sox dugout. While relaxing in in

the warm-up area behind the home team dugout the group met with Dustin Pedroia, Jonny Gomes (Outfielder), and David Ross (Catcher) for more than 30 minutes. "Just hanging out with those guys was really cool. They were extremely welcoming and laid-back and just good guys to chat with," Sgt. Pitta said.

During the visit Sgt. Pitta presented Pedroia with 102nd IW and 101st Intelligence Squadron coins. He also gave him a 101st IS patch and t-shirt. Pedroia returned the favor, and more, giving Sgt. Pitta a signed Red Sox jersey, one of his custom-made bats, and a bag filled with Red Sox and New Balance gear.

After the meeting, it was time for the players to start batting practice and get ready for the game. The Red Sox players, Sgt. Pitta, and his guests walked out to the field together. Sgt.

Pitta received his tickets for the game against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, just rows behind home plate. "They were great seats! It was a good game the whole way through, the rain didn't dampen our spirits; we chipped away at it and won in the end," Sgt. Pitta recalled. The Red Sox defeated the Rays, 3-2, in the 10th inning with a walk off hit by A.J. Pierzynski (Catcher). That hit drove in Johnny Gomes with the winning run.

Looking back on the experience Sgt. Pitta said that Dustin Pedroia and the Boston Red Sox organization at Fenway Park put together an exciting and memorable experience for him. "Everyone in the Red Sox organization, and the players, were great to us, it was just a good time," Sgt. Pitta said. His guests agreed and said that being part of the Pedroia's Platoon is not something they will ever forget.



Oct. - Jan. Promotions



JARED BAIN
NY VONGKAYSONE
JUSTIN THOMAS



STEPHEN WARREN
KEVIN RYAN
LIAM GRANBERY
JOHN GASQUE
ASHLEE DAVIS
ALAN CHARDONEAU
CHRISTOPHER BARRY



VALDIR SILVA
MICHELLE MCKEEN
ALEXANDRIA FRANCO
ADAM SOUZA
JAIRO FLORES
DEREK LAFONTAINE
ALEXANDER DUFF

THIS MONTH: Security Forces Training



SEAGULL IDEAS?

Do you have an idea for a *Seagull* article? Is your unit or shop doing something impressive? Is there something on base you don't think gets enough attention? Or do you simply have an announcement? Stories and ideas are always welcome. Email us at 102iw.pa@ang.af.mil (Please limit articles to 500 words.)

The next *Seagull* deadline is Monday, July 7, 2014.

Announcements



Eagle's Nest - Burger Burn

On Saturday, June 7th, at 5:30 in the afternoon, the Eagles Nest is hosting a Burger Burn to show its appreciation to new and existing club members. If you're an existing club member, or start a membership that night, you eat for free! There will be plenty of the standard BBQ menu on-hand, hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, and chips. For all others, it's \$3 for entry and \$5 for the meal.

Click [HERE](#) to view the flyer!



Hero Triathlon

The Hero Triathlon is looking for service-members and veterans that would like to compete in the event which is conveniently located on the "Upper Cape." Teams consist of 2-3 person relay teams. Entry fees will be waived for Active/Guard/Reserve/Retired personnel 2-3 person teams. The goal is to provide a fun, athletic experience for the relay teams. The deadline to sign up is June 15th, contact bill@streamlineevents.com for more information. The event will be held on June 22, 2014.

Click [HERE](#) to view the flyer!



Junior Enlisted Council

There is an open invitation to all E-6's and below to the next Junior Enlisted Council Meeting. Be an Airman of Action, Gain knowledge, Build professional skills, Practice your Core Values, and join the 102d Junior Enlisted Council!

Contact Tech. Sgt. Steven Capone at stephen.capone@ang.af.mil for more information.



Satellite ALS

There is an upcoming opportunity to complete your Airman Leadership School at Otis Air National Guard Base starting 25 October, 2014! The Fall Satellite ALS Class (Class 15-2) starts on 25 October 2014 and goes to 23 November 2014 (5 Weeks). This is considered Phase 1 of the course that meets on the weekends; (usually 0830-1800, Saturday & Sunday) at Otis ANGB. The students then continue on to McGhee Tyson, TN for Phase 2 (2.5 Weeks) which starts on 3 December 2014 with a Graduation Date of 18 December 2014. Click [HERE](#) for more information! For Satellite NCO information [HERE](#).



Family Day

The 102 IW Family Day will be held during the October UTA on Sunday, Oct. 5, 2014. Festivities will begin with a Wing formation where families will be formally thanked for their unwavering support, the Wing's accomplishments will be recounted and various awards will be presented. Following the ceremony, food will be served and children will enjoy face painting and rides to include an inflatable moonwalk, obstacle course, flying elephants and a 52-foot chair swing! Please begin getting a head count of how many family and friends you plan to invite so you can acquire the appropriate number of base access passes from your First Sergeant during the August UTA. If you have any questions, please contact Capt Dennis Swift or Capt Evan Lagasse.



Free Tuition and Fees

The website utilized for the State Tuition and Fees Reimbursement Certificate lists TSgt John Westgate as the program POC. TSgt Westgate has retired and I am the POC for the 102nd. Unfortunately funding is unavailable at this time to pay the vendor that developed the website to correct the erroneous information. Please direct all inquiries to douglas.shvonski@ang.af.mil