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# Skibird

Magazine of the 109th Airlift Wing, Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, N.Y.
Summer 2008

## A bridge to Greenland

# Commander's Call

**By Col. Mary Brandt**
109th Medical Group commander

Yes, I am still here and did not retire! I am very fortunate to have been awarded the opportunity to take command of the 109th Medical Group. As I take on this new challenge, I have taken time to pause and reflect on my military and civilian career, which I would like to share with you.

In 1986, I started my military career as a flight nurse (2nd lieutenant) in the 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. Throughout my 22 years, I had the opportunity to take on and learn many new assignments that included: Basic Flight Nurse, Flight Nurse Instructor and Flight Nurse Evaluator on the flying side. I concluded my flying career with just under 1,500 hours.

In addition to my flying career, I had exposure in the following areas as additional duties: Mobility, Medical Readiness, Aircrew Training, Stan Eval both for the 139th AES then for the 109th Operations Group. In December 2002, I was selected to command the 139th AES.

By March, I was confronted with the task of deciding who would be mobilized to support the war on terrorism in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

From that day, until I relinquished command of the 139th in February 2008, their was only one Guard drill, Christmas of 2005, that I was so grateful to have all my troops home to be with their families -- "this truly was the best gift of all."

I recall the spring of 2005, when we were given the task of filling a deployment in various locations (Flight Crews, Crew Management Cells, Liaison team and Command Cell), and oh by the way, you also need to get through a Health Service Inspection (HSI) and a Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI); yes, we did it all successfully.

It required the teamwork of our Executive Team to brainstorm what the best way was to use our talented Airmen while maximizing our potential.

It has been an awesome experience, and I truly am grateful to have worked side by side with such a professional group of personnel. I will treasure this experience as I move forward with my new (second) family.

While personally and professionally growing in the areas I mentioned above, I decided to professionally challenge myself by completing Squadron Officer School (SOS), Air Command and Staff (ACS) and Air War College (AWC) in correspondence (one evening a week) so I did not take away from my civilian job as the manager of medical programs at Knolls Atomic Power Lab in Niskayuna. This involves overseeing two medical clinics; one in Schenectady and one in West Milton, since 1997.

My deployments over the years included: Desert Shield, 1990 (Flight Crew), Desert Storm, 1991 (Officer in Charge of Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility [MASF]), Oman, 2002 (Flight Crew), Commander of the 455th in Afghanistan, 2005 and Commander of the 791st in Germany in 2007. Yes, this was all part time as I am a traditional guardsman!

In my civilian job, I obtained my RN in 1977, worked in Skilled Nursing, Orthopedics, Obstetrics, Nursery, Neurology and then Neuro Intensive Care before going part time at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory (KAPL, inc.) as an Occupational Health Nurse in 1988.

In addition, I decided to go to school part time for my bachelor's degree in nursing. In 1991, upon returning from Desert Storm, I was offered a full-time position at KAPL and decided to go to school full time to catch up on semesters missed because of my two deployments.

In 1995, I was asked to take on the position of lead nurse and then in 1997, take over as manager of medical programs, which I hold today.

During this time, I took the time necessary to study so I could pass my board in Occupational Health and Case Management.

When all was said and done, from 1988-2006, I may have had a total of two years when I was not enrolled in some type of educational "opportunity."

Since taking over the 109th Medical Group in February, I have worked with my team to understand what "open" concerns my members currently have, what open items we have from our previous HSI (not to mention this team received an Excellent!, so…. there is a "little tweaking" which needs to occur to strive for an Outstanding).

File photo

The 109th Medical Group is currently participating in CERFP (Enhanced Response Force Package) which is a stateside mission.

In addition, we have recently picked up a new Unit Type Code (UTC) from the 139th AES, which is a Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility (MASF).

With this comes buying work stations for our new members and providing an opportunity to train them to give them the necessary assets to succeed.

It is our goal to provide everyone on the base with quality, timely medical care in a manner that makes it convenient for the members and acceptable to management to remain in compliance with Air Force requirements.

Please do not hesitate to make any recommendations that you feel may benefit the Wing to make our services more convenient to you.

In conclusion, continue to challenge yourself, learn as much as you can and then mentor and share what you know with others.

**Deadline Notice**

Articles for the next issue of *the Skibird* are due by **Oct. 5**.

109th Airlift Wing

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The Skibird
Summer 2008
Volume 46, No. 3

# Inside

**Assembly salutes women vets** 5
By Pvt. Rachel Sanzo/42nd Infantry Division

**Wing helps out Greenland school** 6
By Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

**Guard mentors Yates students** 8
By Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

**Base, community honor McNulty** 10
By Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

**Airmen participate in MOBEX** 12
By Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

**Deployed News** 15
379th Air Expeditionary Wing

**Honor Guard 'Best of the Best'** 16-17
By Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

**Guardsmen run for a cause** 24
By Army Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo/42nd Infantry Division

**Plus:**
From the Top **4**
Photo Focus **14, 18-19**
Guard News **20**
Around the World **22**
Alumni News **23**
Recruiting **23**
Awards, Promotions **25**
Who We Are **27**
Water Quality Report **29-31**

**On the cover:**
*Stratton members coordinated a community day for a school in Greenland. Airmen distributed toys, provided lunch and set up an aircraft tour for teachers and students.* ***See Page 6 for more coverage.*** *(Photo illustration by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara)*

# The Guard Family

**By CMSgt. Michael Cristiano**
109th AW Command Chief

Our Guard Family. How many times have you heard that phrase? Is it a feel-good slogan for leadership or is it something which is real to you?

It has been 28 years since I first came to the 109th. I initially was surprised by the variety of occupations of the people who made up the 109th family. There were students, lawyers, laborers, bank presidents, state employees, troopers; it ran the full spectrum.

What made this diverse group of individuals join the 109th? They could continue their military careers with the latitude the Guard provides them to pursue a new occupation.

What was amazing to me was how this group of dissimilar people could come together for one week and fly and fix airplanes at an active-duty base in Greenland with hardly a hitch. Week after week this would occur. People would rotate in and out, and the mission was always completed ahead of time and under budget.

When the 109th took over the Greenland mission, they jumped in full force. The Guard would begin the resupply in March and top off the fuel tanks by May. We would fly a few missions during the summer and return in the fall to complete the mission.

What was the Guard's secret to completing this difficult mission handed over to them? It was the Guard family. We would work together for years. The active duty turnover limited their ability to perform the mission. But in addition to this, we liked the job and each other.

We went out of our way to look out for one another. The operators had dinner with the maintainers. Over a steak or a beer, they would discuss the problems the aircraft encountered that day.

This positive exchange of information corrected the problem the first time. We would talk better and safer ways to complete the mission.

When we were TDY, we took care of each other. When we were home, we would get together for a party. If someone was TDY and their family had a problem, all they had to do was call their Guard family and someone would fix the leak or replace the water heater. This sounds like a family to me.

What we do today in Iraq, Afghanistan, Greenland and Antarctica may not compare to the soldiers of the World War II novel "A Band of Brothers," but most of us today still take care of each other the way those heroes did because we don't want to let our fellow Airmen down.

Today, I believe joining the Guard was one of the most important decisions I made in my life. The Guard has provided me a job (which I still enjoy), the opportunity to travel

File photo

(from one end of the earth to the other), a free college education, a great paycheck and another family which I can count on just as much as my biological family. Thank God for my Guard family.

It is a great honor to have been selected as the senior enlisted member of this world class organization.

I would like to thank Col. (Anthony) German and his commanders for providing me this opportunity.

Chief (Master Sgt. Charlie) Lucia, thank you for your service to the Wing. A sign of success is to leave an organization in a better condition than when you took over. Chief, you accomplished that.

I look forward to serving you as your Command Chief. I hope to meet each of you during the next few months.

# 'Letter to Airmen' recommits to high standards

**By Janie W. Santos**
Air Force News Agency

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) -- In his first Letter to Airmen, the acting secretary of the Air Force focuses on how the Air Force will direct attention to the nuclear mission to overcome cultural, systemic and institutional challenges.

"To begin restoring our inner confidence and credibility, I have directed the establishment of a nuclear task force to examine the nuclear enterprise through the lens of doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities," acting Secretary Michael B. Donley said.

"Recommitting to our own high standards is the foundation for our success in every mission area, not just our nuclear enterprise," he said.

Mr. Donley said that America's Airmen are known worldwide for upholding high standards of excellence from the Berlin Airlift to operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

This Letter to Airmen and other senior leader viewpoints can be found in the Library section of Air Force Link.

File photo





# Assembly salutes National Guard women

**By Pvt. Rachel Sanzo**
42nd Infantry Division Public Affairs

ALBANY, N.Y. -- Female members of the New York Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and women veterans who served in World War II and Korea, were recognized and honored by the New York State Assembly.

A ceremony in their honor was held at the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building in Albany on June 12.

"The Assembly invited women veterans from across New York state to pay tribute and personally thank them for their dedication and service to our country," said Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, Chair of the Assembly Subcommittee on Women Veterans. "Women bring a unique and important perspective to any endeavor, including military service. There can be no doubt that women have the skills, courage, and perseverance to positively influence the modern military. We must work hard to overcome gender stereotypes that attempt to limit what women can achieve."

The servicemembers were present in the rear of the Assembly Chamber during the adoption of two Legislative resolutions honoring female Soldiers and Airmen who have served in combat zones.

One of the resolutions adopted declared June 12, 2008, as "Women Veterans Recognition Day," while the second commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the Women's Armed Service Integration Act.

"The presence of the honorable female veterans here is a testament to the sacrifice they have made over the ages to the service of our country," said Assemblyman Darryl Towns, an Air Force veteran.

"Passing the resolution was extremely important, especially for those who served before me," said Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto, 109th Airlift Wing information manager. "Those women paved the way, and I was proud to be in their presence."

"To witness our senate leaders and legislators putting laws into effect was a true gift," said Tech. Sgt. Grace Varney, 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron information manager. "I was truly inspired to be a part of this remembrance day and came away with a renewed sense of pride for the job that we have chosen to do."

The female military members and veterans later had lunch in the Well of the State Capitol, where they were able to interact and discuss with each other their experiences in the service while at home and overseas.

"Females play a very important role in the military," said Geraldine Rohner, a retired master sergeant of the New York National Guard and Northville, Warren County native. "Women are able to fight right alongside their male counterparts, which I find to be amazing this day in age."

According to the United States Census, there are 1.7 million women veterans. During World War II, over 400,000 women served in uniform. More than 180,000 have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since those wars began.

"I truly enjoyed meeting my senior counterparts and supporting the women veterans," said Capt. Elizabeth Condon, a contract specialist for the Department of Military and Naval Affairs. "It was a true privilege to be able to thank in person those that walked the walk before me, allowing me to have the opportunity to sit where I sit today."

U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Rachel Sanzo

**Above,** Mary Davis, an Army nurse in World War II, poses with a jacket adorned with unit patches of her former patients. **Below,** Female members of the New York Army and Air National Guard and women veterans stand with Assemblyman Darryl Towns, an Air Force veteran, and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Women Veterans, on the steps of the Capitol.

U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Rachel Sanzo

# From Stratton to Greenland

## Wing, community extend reach to school

**By Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt**
Public Affairs

Reaching out to the community is nothing new for the men and women of the 109th Airlift Wing. They have always stepped up to the plate in more ways than one in providing community support over the years. So it should be no surprise that these good deeds would extend and reach all the way to Greenland.

On June 2, Maj. Matt LeClair, of the 139th Airlift Squadron's Greenland shop, and others headed up to visit and drop off needed school items to Qinngulata Atuarfia Elementary School in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. It was one of many trips the unit had arranged over the years while in country performing routine Guard missions. But this day was more special than most for the school; this was the first community day event ever organized.

"This community day was just a natural progression of our involvement and association with the school," Major LeClair said. "We have field trips to the base here that kids really enjoy. They love the airplane tour and the demonstration of the cargo loading and offloading equipment, so it made perfect sense that the kids in Kangerlussuaq would enjoy that as well.

"We also had these donated items we wanted to give them, and we wanted to make it more special than just the normal drop off of supplies."

The day included a tour of the LC-130 aircraft, a K-loader demonstration as well as a barbecue. But for the kids, the surprise was the brand-new toys they would be receiving.

Since the toys were a surprise, it was like Christmas morning for these kids, said Tech. Sgt. Richard Kirker of the 109th Maintenance Group's hydraulics shop.

The toys, still in their boxes, were from Toys R Us and The Dollar Tree. The stores had held toy drives around Christmas and turned to Stratton Air National Guard Base to distribute them.

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

First Lt. John Shakeshaft helps a student buckle her seatbelt on board a 109th Airlift Wing LC-130 Hercules. The kids in Greenland were able to tour the ski-equipped aircraft during a community day.

"We distributed as much as we could to our military families and then sent the large remainder of items to the kids in Greenland," said Joanna Yesse, 109th AW family program coordinator. "The Family Support Group and I believed this was a good use of the toys seeing that many of these kids would never have the opportunity to have brand-new toys like this."

Although the toys were a big hit with the students, the school supplies given to the school throughout the year were a big hit with the teachers.

But the school supplies didn't just come from the base; Major LeClair reached out to the local community for some help, specifically Glencliff Elementary School in Rexford.

"Glencliff was chosen because it was very close to the base, and it's highly impacted by our daily flight operations," Major LeClair said. "So we thought that would be a good choice to strengthen our relationship with the local community and that school."

Glencliff jumped at the chance and used the opportunity to add Greenland to the curriculum. The teachers even contacted the English teacher in Greenland, Elsemarie Asmussen. Soon after, teachers were exchanging e-mails, and students were writing letters back and forth. Meanwhile, parents and children collected playground equipment and school supplies to send to Greenland.

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

Students in Greenland run to the bus that will take them to the flightline to tour a 109th Airlift Wing LC-130 Hercules. The tour was part of a community day 109th AW members organized for the elementary school.

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

Kids wait patiently as Tech. Sgt. Michael Spiak (left) and Master Sgt. Pete Latniak grill some hamburgers during a community day 109th Airlift Wing members organized for the Greenland school.

"This year we had almost $1,000 of donated school supplies and playground equipment from Glencliff Elementary," Major LeClair said.

During the trip to drop off the supplies, Master Sgt. Mike Decker, of the 109th Aerial Port Flight, saw the need for more supplies.

"(Elsemarie) mentioned she had been trying for a few years to get some sports equipment but hadn't been able to," Sergeant Decker said. "I said the aerial port would take care of it."

Sergeant Decker put the word out through the squadron and within two weeks they delivered nearly $500 worth of sports equipment from donations, along with a container to hold the equipment in.

The squadron has collected even more equipment since, which they planned to deliver in July.

Stevens Elementary School and Charlton Heights Elementary School, both in the Burnt Hills School District, also stepped up to the challenge. They were able to collect 10 boxes of books, including two full encyclopedia volumes.

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

Master Sgt. Kelly Archambeault organizes toys donated from Toys R Us. The toys were handed out to students in Greenland.

"It's just a positive experience because they get these toys for recess, so we don't have as many fights," Ms. Asmussen said. "We also got books they can use and look at which will help them further their education. If they learn the English language they (have the opportunity to) get further along than their parents."

And while many guardsmen donated items and cash to help out the school, others donated their time to be with the kids during the community day.

"People jumped at the chance to help," Major LeClair said. "On a day that was supposed to be a light work day with no flying, they came out and really gave of themselves to make the community

*See GREENLAND, page 13*

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

Students in Greenland check out the cockpit of a 109th Airlift Wing LC-130. The tour was part of a community day 109th AW members organized for the elementary school.

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

Maj. Matt LeClair and Lt. Col. Kurt Bedore drop off books to Elsemarie Asmussen, an English teacher at Qinngulata Atuarfia Elementary School in Greenland. Books have been donated by schools in the Scotia area.

# Positive role models needed

## *Guardsmen spend lunch with elementary students*

**By Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt**
Public Affairs

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto talks with students at Yates Elementary School during their lunch.

Students are lined up outside the cafeteria, and you can feel their excitement. Maybe it's because today is pizza day. It could also be because they know summer vacation is right around the corner. But it's probably because they know there are some visitors waiting to spend lunchtime with them.

More than 40 men and women here have taken time out of their busy days to spend time with the students at Yates Elementary School in Schenectady. You can find most of these guardsmen at one of the lunch tables talking with the kids. Afterward, it's off to the playground for the guardsmen to get some good exercise, and for the kids to get another playmate.

Maj. Matt LeClair had contacted the school principal in the beginning of the school year about setting up a tutoring program.

"We already had a lot of tutoring programs, but what we really needed was people to be role models for the kids," said Yates principal Valarie Scott. "Positive role models are so critical. We're a school with high poverty, and we're a school where kids don't always see people doing the right thing, like being respectful … and we're also a school where kids don't get listened to a lot. Some kids are very fortunate; they have lots of people who listen to them. Some kids have nobody who listens to them."

That's exactly what guardsmen have been doing – listening.

"We just strike up a conversation with them," said 1st Lt. Kelly Williams, a flyer with the 139th Airlift Squadron who's been mentoring at the school since September 2007. "Say they have Spiderman on their lunchbox, we ask 'Oh is he your favorite,' and before you know it, you're locked in conversation. So many of them are interested to talk to someone. … We go from table to table to talk to as many as we can."

"I've helped out with the lunch program … pouring some barbecue sauce in their tray, saying hi, sitting down with them to talk while they're eating lunch," said Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Tymula, of the 109th Mission Support Group's contracting office, who actually went to school at Yates Elementary. "A lot of times they lead the conversation by asking what I do. I'll ask them how school's going and what they like to do."

"I try to talk to them about things they are interested in (like) sports, music and other activities they do outside of school; really just about anything.," said Lt. Col. George Alston, the 109th Operations Group training manager. "The big thing to me is that they see and feel the presence of an adult who is interested in spending time with them and in what they have to say,"

"They get to spend time with somebody who listens one-on-one; they just sit and talk to them," said Principal Scott. "Just think how important that is; just to have somebody who opens your milk, listens to you and talks to you."

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

"Chief Master Sgt. Yates" was created by students at Build-A-Bear.

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

First Lt. Kelly Williams gets a group hug from students at Yates Elementary School. The school presented the volunteers with gifts and lunch to say thank you for all the work they've done.





Stratton members haven't only been involved in just the mentoring program; other incentives for the kids have evolved as well.

One of the school's incentive programs is B-Bucks. Students receive these B-Bucks for good behavior, and get to spend them at a makeshift store in the school where tables are filled with toys they can choose from. Many of these toys have been donated from the base.

Earlier in the year, Col. Anthony German, 109th Airlift Wing commander, and some others, went to the school for a game of field hockey.

Lieutenant Williams worked with the kindergarten class in creating a book about penguins.

Recently, Colonel Alston organized a field trip to the base for more than 10 students who were rewarded for their good behavior. Students had lunch, saw the firehouse and got to go inside one of the LC-130s. They even got to challenge some guardsmen to a game of basketball.

And toward the end of the school year, some students even got to go to Build-A-Bear where "Chief Master Sgt. Yates" was created and is now displayed at the front of the school.

"There have been a lot of improvements in behavior (because of Stratton's participation), especially the B-Bucks incentive, the kids really look forward to it," said Tiffany Giardono, an instructional coach at Yates.

Principal Scott said she has also noticed a lot of behavior improvements since the mentoring began.

"Some of the kids who get positive referrals get them because they're turning their behavior around," she said. "One of the children who went on the field trip to the base wrote a two-page letter to his teacher that night. In it, he said things like, 'I see that I should be more responsible, I should have been a better student.'

"This is a child who had been in trouble a lot, so this was just incredible," she said. "This is the kind of impact the volunteers are having, because that's the kind of thing that we can't control. But (we need this) to happen in order to make academic progress. The bad behaviors need to go away for the academics to grow. That day, the difference had to be Stratton."

Col. Alston said he has noticed changes since becoming a mentor.

"The big change I've seen is their comfort level with us," he said. "It is great to see the huge smiles and outreached arms when we walk into the lunchroom or onto the playground. As excited as all of the mentors are to visit Yates, the students are even more so."

"Seeing people in uniform, I think, has had a stronger impact on the kids," said Ms. Giardono. "I think it's more of a respect and curiosity."

"These students are a major investment in the future of Schenectady," Colonel Alston said. "When we help children, we don't just help the child; we help everyone in his or her family, their friends, their neighbors, really the entire community. Many of these particular children come from difficult circumstances, so the positive role models from the 109th serve as an even stronger influence in their lives. Today's children are tomorrow's leaders, and these future leaders are in our own backyard."

The mentoring program will continue next year, and Principal

*See MENTORS, page 13*

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Tymula is chased by students as he volunteers his time to spend with students at Yates Elementary School in Schenectady.

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

**From left,** Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Tymula, 1st Lt. Kelly Williams and Maj. Matt LeClair cut into the cake given to them by the staff and students at Yates Elementary School. Dawn Cagnina, who is in charge of the lunch program and has seen the effect the mentors have had on the kids, made the guardsmen a lasagna lunch to thank them for their time with the kids.

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

Maj. Mark Armstrong helps a student across the monkey bars as another girl waits her turn. Guardsmen volunteer to spend lunch with students at Yates Elementary School.

# McNulty honored at base

## Congressman thanks vets for their service

**By Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt**
Public Affairs

Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

Rep. Michael McNulty was honored by the 109th Airlift Wing and the community during a breakfast ceremony here May 29.

Rep. Michael McNulty, D-21st Congressional District, was honored during a visit here May 29 during a breakfast hosted by the Schenectady Chamber and the Schenectady Military Affairs Council. About 70 community and military leaders attended the event at the base dining facility.

The congressman has been in public service for nearly 40 years and was elected to Congress in 1988. His current district includes all of Albany, Montgomery, Schenectady and Schoharie Counties, and portions of Fulton, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties.

Congressman McNulty has served on numerous committees, including the Armed Services Committee.

"We're very fortunate in this community to have great support among our business community, our business partners (and) the members of our organization," said Charles Steiner, Chamber president. "They support our community in so many fashions. They certainly support the 109th here at the base … and the military in general across our great county of Schenectady."

"It's our pleasure to host this breakfast for Congressman McNulty," said Col. Anthony German, 109th Airlift Wing commander.

Colonel German welcomed the congressman and then gave a briefing on the base and its effect on the local community. He also talked about the base's missions to resupply the National Science Foundation in Antarctica and Greenland along with the wing's wartime role.

"The congressman has always been there for us," Colonel German said. More specifically, the congressman played a role in a mission the wing took part in almost 10 years ago.

In 1999, the wing helped 21-year-old Kevin Bates who had severe internal bleeding in the abdomen from hemophilia. The only way to save him was to get him to Sweden for a medical procedure.

"Congressman McNulty's behind-the-scenes work to get that mission done and save that young man's life was instrumental in the work here at the base," Colonel German said.

"One of the things I'm a little jealous of the congressman is that he got to go to Antarctica and I only got as far as Greenland before I retired," joked Roger Hannay, SMAC chairman. "But I still got to see the real passion of this unit at work and the way they work together as a team.

Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

**From left,** Roger Hannay, SMAC chairman; Maj. Gen. Robert Knauff, NYANG commander; Col. Anthony German, 109th AW commander; and Rep. Michael McNulty attended a breakfast here honoring McNulty.

"When it comes to the military I'm unequivocal in my praise for Mike and his effort," he continued. "One of the things that I learned in my very short military career in Vietnam for two years … also my business life of 40-some years is showing up has great value. Showing up, being on time, being ready to fight. (McNulty) shows up for us, whether he shows up physically here or … in Washington and that really counts. And he shows up for other military interests in this area."

As military and community leaders praised the congressman for his work over the years, Congressman McNulty was sure to praise the servicemembers for the sacrifices they have made throughout the years.

Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

Col. Anthony German presents Rep. Michael McNulty with a photo of the base's LC-130 aircraft during a breakfast ceremony here. McNulty represents the 21st Congressional District.

"As I reflect on things that happen to you in life, it's kind of neat when you get into a situation where people are thanking you for things that they did. And that's the way I look at my situation today," Congressman McNulty said. "I have enormous respect and admiration for the people in this room, for their service, for their sacrifice, for the sacrifice of their families, for what they've meant to this community and its economy."

The congressman recounted some remarkable efforts made by the wing, including the story of Dr. Jerry Nielsen's battle with breast cancer in Antarctica during the off-season.

"She was in trouble," Congressman McNulty said. "And our folks went in there on a very dangerous mission. They very strategically dropped supplies that they were able to recover and bring inside the dome so that she could have some treatment before they were able to get her out. She survived, she's out living her life, and the folks at this base saved her life.

"Working with all of you has just been a tremendous joy for me because I've seen what you have done in your regular missions and what you have done above and beyond the call of duty," he said. "And I also want to say to the people in uniform … thank you for your service."

The congressman also talked about the great freedom the U.S. is able to enjoy because of the military.

"What I work on mostly today is trying to keep my priorities straight," the congressman said. "Part of that for me is that if it had not been for all of the men and women who served in the United States military through the years, the rest of us wouldn't be able to go around bragging, as I often do, about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on earth.

"Freedom isn't free," he continued. "We have paid a tremendous price for it. And I don't let a day go by without remembering the deepest gratitude of all of those, who like my own brother, Bill, made the supreme sacrifice. And all those, like some of those I'm looking at in this room today, who went to far-off places, put their lives on the line for us, thankfully came back home, rendered outstanding service to the community … these are things I'm most grateful for today."

Congressman McNulty noted the changes he has seen throughout the world during his time in Congress and credits the U.S. military for making those changes.

"The spring of 1990, I went to Berlin to visit the troops," he said. "I'm standing at the Berlin Wall with the people who are out there with their hammers and chisels tearing the thing down.

"I went over to East Berlin and talked to the East Berliners just amazed at the wonderful things they were saying about our country, especially our soldiers. And when I was greeted the next day by our commanding general in Berlin, I couldn't stop talking … about all my experiences. Then he said to me when I was finished, 'Mike, I wish you could've been there the first day we opened free access through Checkpoint Charlie. We had a receiving line on our side and as the people came through … one by one they came up to me and said, "You tell your government, especially you tell your soldiers, how grateful we are for their vigilance through the years. It is because of that vigilance that we are enjoying this new freedom today."' At that moment I was never more proud to be an American.

"(Those of you who have served in the military through the years) are responsible not just for the great blessings that we have all enjoyed and our families have all enjoyed, you are responsible for the freedom and democracy of hundreds of millions of other people all around the world," Congressman McNulty said.

"And that's why when I get up in the morning, the first two things I do are to thank God for my life and veterans for my way of life."

Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

The Schenectady Military Affairs Council presented Rep. Michael McNulty with this model LC-130 aircraft. McNulty, who represents the 21st Congressional District, was honored during a breakfast here May 29.

# READY TO GO

## Airmen participate in base mobility exercise

**By Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt**
Public Affairs

Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

More than 160 Airmen processed through the mobility line during a base exercise in May.

Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

Airmen carry their gear after going through the mobility line during an exercise in May. The base was evaluated on how well it responded to a deployment tasking.

The Deployment Control Center (DCC) was activated and more than 160 Airmen and 21 short tons of cargo were tasked to deploy during the May Unit Training Assembly. Airmen and cargo were tasked to deploy to three locations: Southwest Asia, Greenland and New York City. In the dining facility, Airmen worked their way through the mobility line, got their gear and were ready to go. But they didn't actually have to go anywhere – it was just an exercise.

As the dining facility filled with Airmen, over in the Logistics Readiness section the DCC stayed on top of it all, ensuring that the mobilization process was running smoothly.

"Every section on base is represented in the DCC," said Lt. Col. Ron Ankabrandt, the deployment officer for the exercise. "We all interact very closely with each other, which is mandatory in this type of situation." Once the mobilization tasking came down to the DCC, they had 72 hours to get people and cargo out.

"Our cargo deployment function makes sure that all cargo has the appropriate documentation, hazards, air worthiness, so it can be transported on any aircraft to any location in the world," said Senior Master Sgt. Guy Yesse, the deployment NCO for the exercise. "As for our personnel, we're ensuring that they're able to deploy and forward-deploy to any location." The DCC looked chaotic, but according to Sergeant Yesse, was running very smoothly.

"This is actually well-controlled chaos," he said. "Right now the DCC knows exactly where all the equipment is and its current status. It knows exactly where all the people are and their current status. And we track it through a system called LogMod."

The system was placed on the center's wall, so everyone was able to see what was going on. The DCC watched closely as constant updates were made to the system. "Our main purpose is to get the right people to the right place with the right equipment at the right time," Sergeant Yesse said.

As the DCC moved forward, and Airmen loaded cargo to be shipped as other Airmen filled the dining facility-turned mobility line, exercise evaluation team members lingered about, ensuring everything was going as it should. The key components being evaluated were aircraft generation, command and control, the DCC, PDF, CDF, Intel, weapons processing, mobility bag processing, life support and aircrew deployment support.

"The purpose of this exercise was to ensure we are maintaining our ability to keep the mobility machine operational," said Lt. Col. Steve Fukino, EET leader. "We succeeded in that, and in doing so the mobility machine worked well. However, we can improve in a lot of things. But we did meet our goal. We are always prepared to send our weapons systems to war at a moment's notice."





**Greenland**, from page 7

day a wonderful event for everybody."

For the volunteers, it wasn't considered work.

"It was a lot of fun," Sergeant Kirker said. "It was like we were all kids, too. It was actually a really nice break from the work we do up there."

"I never had any interaction with the locals up there before this, so it was really nice," said Master Sgt. Kelly Archambeault of the 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron. "(The kids) were so excited. ... There were footballs and basketballs flying everywhere."

Many of the Airmen agree that not only is this a good show of community support, it also helps the 109th AW's mission in Greenland.

"Kids are so innocent that they have no judgment of us; now they (see us in a positive light), and their parents will see that," Sergeant Kirker said.

Both Sergeants Kirker and Archambeault said they saw an immediate difference after spending time with the kids.

"They never had any interaction with us before," Sergeant Archambeault said. "But now, when we're walking to and from work, the kids come up and talk to you and thank you and give you hugs.

"They loved having us there," she said. "They see us up there all the time, so now they know who we are and a little bit of what we're doing up there."

Major LeClair said it's extremely important for the mission, as well as the kids, to reach out to the community.

"The goal is that these children will better their language skills which will broaden their educational experience," he said. "Going forward, these particular children who come in contact with the 109th will be more competitive than their counterparts throughout Greenland and will succeed in high-level jobs. Hopefully they will remember their experiences with the 109th and that will strengthen our relationship (in the future)."

Many of the volunteers are ready to go back again.

"I'm already planning on going back," said Airman 1st Class Joshua Eldredge. "And if I have the chance to, I'd love to be a part of the next community day."

Major LeClair said he plans to make community day an annual event. He said Airmen can help out in many ways to make it even more successful than this year.

"Because of the weather and time of year, the community day will be fairly firm in the schedule of late May, early June," he said. "If people want to participate, they can select to go up to Greenland during that time.

"Furthermore, they can check with their own child's school and see if they would be interested in a fundraising collection of donated specific items that are requested by the school in Kangerlussuaq. Any member of the 109th with the proper direction can go out into their local community and school (to collect items).

"We can continue to make it better each year," he said. "Perhaps there's potential that we can go to other communities in Greenland."

Major LeClair said many people were instrumental in making this a success. Just a few of those people include: Chief Master Sgt. Mark Schaible, Senior Master Sgt. Marty Herzog and Sergeant Decker, all from the 109th APF; Senior Master Sgt. Fred Bochenek and Master Sgt. Jim Hanaway and from the 109th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgts. Pete Latniak and Archambeault from the 109th LRS; and Maj. Jeff Smith of the 139th AS.

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

Master Sgt. Kelly Archambeault hands out toys to students in Greenland. The toys were donated to Stratton from Toys R Us.

Photo by 1st Lt. John Shakeshaft

## Truesdell in Greenland

*Maj. Matt LeClair presents John Truesdell with a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Truesdell took a flight with the 109th Airlift Wing to Greenland in June. He is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Reserve Affairs.*

**Mentors**, from page 9

Scott said she hopes even more programs evolve with that. A trip to the VA is already planned for November.

And volunteers are always needed. "A lot of us are flyers, so we're not here a lot, and that's too bad because the kids really deserve someone there at least every week," Lieutenant Williams said.

"There is a great sense of satisfaction that what we do really makes a difference in these children's lives," Colonel Alston said. "It's also a nice chance to take a break from the office and have fun playing in the middle of the day. … This is an important program that provides great personal rewards for the children and mentors alike."

"The kids need (this program)," Sergeant Tymula said. "A lot of them are probably coming from families that have tough times. I've heard a lot of these students really need some direction, some friends just to talk to; just someone to pay attention to them and have a good time with.

"The kids enjoy anyone's company," he said. "They want to tell you stories, they want to hear stories from you. It's just a good feeling."

If you'd like to get involved in the Yates mentoring program, contact Major LeClair at 344-2648 or e-mail him at matthew.leclair@nyscot.ang.af.mil.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Ben German

Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

## Ski showcase

**Above,** *109th Airlift Wing members transport a ski from a Stratton Air National Guard Base LC-130 to Proctors in Schenectady.* **Left,** *the ski is part of a display in the theater. Nearly 200 people attended the family day Aug. 3 at the theater. Attendees were able to see the 109th Airlift Wing display as well as view the premiere of the film "Antarctica." The event celebrated the new partnership between the wing and the theater. Proctors Education will also offer "Access Antarctica" workshops all year for school groups.*

Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Girolami

## 'Man on the stand'

*Tech. Sgt. Eric Carlo checks compression leaks on the No. 1 Engine of Skier 92 during a temporary duty in Greenland. He is a maintainer with the 109th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's engine shop.*

Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Girolami

## Lunch is served

*Tech. Sgts. Eric Johnson and Aletha Della Rocco serve lunch to children Aug. 8. More than 40 109th Airlift Wing members volunteered their time to help out with the Schenectady Inner City Ministry Summer Lunch Program.*

Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

## Employers' flight

*Master Sgt. William Hanrahan explains the LC-130's capabilities to members of the NYS Park Police. Sergeant Hanrahan was one of about 15 109th AW members who invited their full-time employers on an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve flight Aug. 6.*





# 8th EAMS moves personnel, cargo

**By Senior Airman Carolyn Viss**
379th AEW Public Affairs

**Editor's Note: Airman 1st Class Zachary Weakley is one of many 109th Airlift Wing Airmen deployed to Southwest Asia. He is currently serving with the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron.*

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- A squadron of 255 Air Mobility Command Airmen in Southwest Asia works around the clock to ensure passengers and cargo move in and out of the U.S. Air Forces Central area of responsibility, proudly proclaiming, "You need it, we move it."

The 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron, a tenant unit of one of the largest, most diverse expeditionary wings in the Air Force, is composed of a group of Airmen from 13 career fields who do everything from tracking missions and communicating with aircrew to cleaning the bathrooms in the passenger terminal.

"Last year, we transported 270,000 passengers and 94,000 tons of cargo," said Capt. Robert Corley, director of operations.

Earlier this year, the runway at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, was shut down for repairs for 30 days, and the 8th EAMS team here readily stepped in to take on all of the Operation Iraqi Freedom workload Incirlik passed on.

"All of their normal sorties were flying out of here," Captain Corley said. "We took 4,600 pallets of cargo into Iraq that month."

The team of C-17 maintainers, aerial port personnel, command and control specialists, communications/navigation and mission systems journeymen, and supply troops work together as one squadron, to take on a work load comparable to that at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, but with one-third the number of Airmen Ramstein's squadron has.

"It's been rewarding to get to work as a team and learn each other's jobs," said Senior Airman Jon Houston, a communication and navigation journeyman from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

"The crew here is very capable," he said. "Pretty much everyone has the attitude, 'send it our way, we'll get the job done.'" From every noncommissioned officer to every Airman, "they accomplish the mission and accomplish it well."

Even though he's only been in the Air Force for two years, Airman Houston is responsible for maintaining all the radios and navigation equipment aboard the C-17 Globemaster IIIs here. The equipment allows pilots to speak to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

"I like the complexity of the job," he said. "It always makes me feel like I just did something worthwhile."

Earlier this year, Airman Houston deployed to Africa to provide presidential support for Air Force One and Air Force Two.

But not everyone in the squadron has a "glamorous" job that gets a lot of recognition.

Airman 1st Class Veasna Suong is an air transportation specialist who works with the passengers who flow in and out of the terminal here every day. His job includes taking passenger accountability, building and palletizing baggage and even cleaning the bathrooms.

"Sometimes people are a bit irritable," he admitted, "but I always try to have a positive attitude. They don't always realize it's not my fault when a plane is late or has to skip a leg, so I put on a smile and try to explain as best I can."

Photo by Senior Airman Domonique Simmons

Airman 1st Class Zachary Weakley, 8th EAMS, helps a wingman guide a pallet mounted forklift onto a carrier for loading. Airman Weakley is deployed from the 109th Aerial Port Flight.

Airman Suong joined the Air Force to see the world and said what he likes most about interacting with all the passengers is hearing the stories of what they've done and where they've been.

Palletizing bags isn't quite as much fun.

"We're in the sun all the time," Airman Suong said. "It takes a lot of time and effort because each person brings two to three bags each."

Also combating the heat and sun are the air transportation specialists in charge of air freight on the ramp. Staging and uploading cargo, stock, and anything that has to go into the area of responsibility and ensuring it's tied down properly for airlift and airdrop is backbreaking work, but Airman 1st Class Zachary Weakley is happy to do it.

"I've always liked using 'top heavy' equipment like K-loaders and forklifts," he said. "At the end of the day, I'm tired but relieved. If we didn't move this cargo, troops down range couldn't stay safe and do their job, so my job is very important."

Eighth EAMS controllers also stay busy, constantly monitoring radio calls, sometimes on as many as three to four missions at a time. Each mission is tracked to ensure everyone who needs to meet the incoming aircraft is in place when it lands. Last year alone, the squadron handled 15,000 missions.

As the director of operations, Captain Corley sees these career fields work together daily and never miss a beat.

"This is one of the best jobs I've ever had and one of the best deployments I've ever been on," he said. "It's unique because I get to see the full spectrum of operations - from maintainers fixing aircraft to aerial port specialists loading them to controllers launching and receiving them. Everyone has a vital role, and each piece affects the others. It's a superior squadron of highly motivated, professional Airmen who get the job done from start to finish."

# Best of the Best

## Honor Guard ensures fallen veterans receive honor, dignity

**By Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt**
Public Affairs

Their boots are always polished, and their uniforms always look crisp. They walk around the base with pride in who they are and what they do. They give fallen veterans the utmost respect. When they're out in the community, people look at them with admiration. They are the members of the Stratton Base Honor Guard.

Nearly 30 Airmen here comprise the honor guard. Many got interested in volunteering when they heard about it from someone else.

Master Sgt. Kerry Booth, a full-time honor guard member, was pulled aside years ago by Chief Master Sgt. Michael Delgiacco. He was on his way to an honor guard meeting and told her it was something she might be interested in. She attended the meeting, and once she heard what it was all about, she was sold.

"It was a great way to get that sense of patriotism and sense of pride," she said. "I had just come off active duty, which had tended to be a little bit more regimented. Having loved active duty, this was a way for me to get back to those roots. … The high standards of the honor guard gave me something to aspire to, and it was a way to give back."

Staff Sgt. Jared Semerad and Senior Airman Greg McMullen, both full-time honor guard members, were also referred by someone they worked with.

Before joining, Sergeant Semerad had seen the honor guard at a few funerals. It was then that he knew it was something he wanted to do.

"As soon as you're done (with the funeral detail) you've realized that you've secured that finalization for the family," he said. "We'll get cards sent back to us saying 'Seeing that presented was closure for us.' And you do it for that reason alone."

Airman McMullen agreed that helping the family receive a sense of closure is one of the most rewarding factors of the job.

Chief Master Sgt. Denny Richardson, base honor guard program manager, has been part of the honor guard for about 17 years and first got involved while on active duty after attending an event.

**'When we go out and perform, we have to be the best of the best. The veteran deserves that, and so do the family members.'**

**Chief Master Sgt. Denny Richardson**
**Base Honor Guard program manager**

"I was actually able to see the effect the honor guard had on the family members (of the deceased veteran)," he said. "It touched me; it made me want to be a part of that fraternity.

"It's really a rewarding yet humbling experience to be part of the base honor guard," Chief Richardson said. "We make sure that the veterans that came before us who fought for our freedom and fought for our rights … receive a small token of our appreciation by giving him or her the correct funeral honors and sending them off with the dignity and honor that they deserve."

While the honor guard's main mission is to provide funeral support, the color detail is also out in the community and around base for occasions such as parades.

"When we do color detail, it's usually the same reaction everywhere we go," Chief Richardson said. "The community feels a sense of protection and pride knowing that we're there serving and we're there to protect and fight for their rights. When you go out on an event like that, you're constantly having folks come up to you to thank you for your service and thank you for what you do.

"Members of the base honor guard don't need that thank you; we do it not because we have to do it, we do it because we want to do it, because it's the right thing to do," Chief Richardson said.

"But hearing that thank you from the community makes it that much more special and that much more important."

Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Girolami

**From left,** Senior Airman Greg McMullen, Staff Sgt. Jared Semerad and Master Sgt. Kerry Booth were part of a color detail during a Memorial Day parade. They are all full-time members of the Stratton Base Honor Guard

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

**Above,** Lt. Col. Fabio Ritmo presents the flag to a fallen veteran's next-of-kin. "As soon as you're done (with the funeral detail) you've realized that you've secured that finalization for the family," said Staff Sgt. Jared Semerad.

### Becoming part of the honor guard

The honor guard is always taking in volunteers. Formal training takes place at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington D.C.

"We look for people who are disciplined, who display professionalism, have a sharp uniform, Air Force core values are always on display and a person who leads by example," Chief Richardson said. "When we go out and perform, we have to be the best of the best. The veteran deserves that, and so do the family members. We're not only representing ourselves, we're representing the base honor guard, our unit and the Air Force worldwide."

Since the honor guard must perform with such precision, training is vital.

"We have an open door policy for training for the volunteers," Sergeant Booth said. "We need to help them help us, so we're very flexible."

"For volunteers, if they can give us one detail per month, that would be great," Chief Richardson said. "We have some members come out four to six times a month to do details, but if we have each volunteer do one detail per month, that would be greatly appreciated."

And what's the benefit of becoming part of the base honor guard?

"To be a part of this unique fraternity is a great reward," Chief Richardson said. "They would get so much more satisfaction out of volunteering than any other facet of their career. There's no other feeling like rendering funeral honors and being a part of something so special."

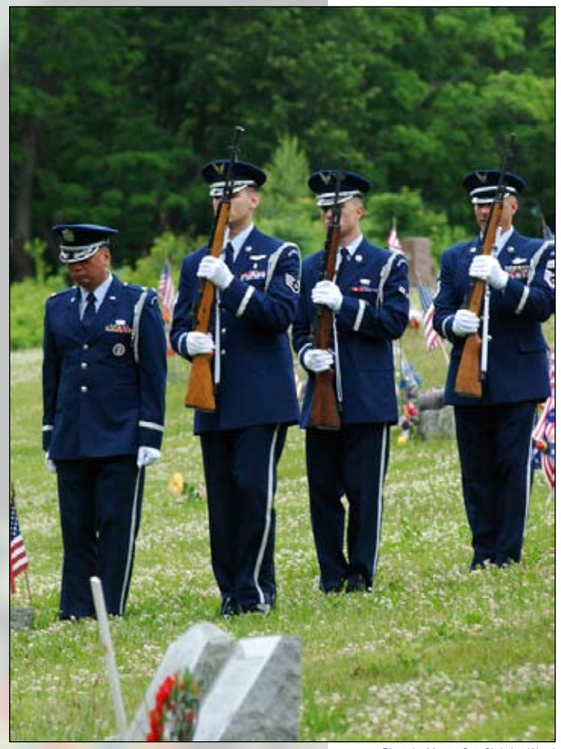

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

**From left,** Maj. Benson Louie, Staff Sgt. Jared Semerad, Airman 1st Class Anastasios Mantzouris and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Delgiacco were part of the firing party for a retiree's funeral.

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

Stratton Base Honor Guard members fold a flag that will be presented to the next-of-kin of a fallen veteran. The honor guard's main function is to support military funerals.

**Above,** Lt. Col. John Russo gets instruction from Stratton Fire Station Capt. David Manning on proper turrent operations. **Right,** 109th firefighters establish a rescue path to assist in the emergency evacuation of possible trapped personnel during a recent training exercise. The firefighters went to Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., to conduct the exercise.

# On Fire

## *Stratton firefighters train at Westover ARB, Mass.*

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Ty Moore

**Right,** 109th firefighters prepare to enter an aircraft during recent training at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.

**Above,** A 109th firefighter begins his approach to a simulated aircraft fire during recent recertification training. **Left,** A firefighter applies agents to extinguish an interior aircraft fire during a recent training evaluation.

# Kool School

## *109th Airmen brave Greenland's ice cap*

Photos by Staff Sgt. Stephen Girolami

**Left,** Airman 1st Class Josh Eldredge crawls through a fighter trench tunnel.

"Kool School" members construct a paradome. The snow structure is a shelter to help keep people warm from the cold weather.

109th Airlift Wing members make the blocks that will be used to construct other wind breaks.

The abandoned DYE II site is located near the school area.

Tech. Sgt. Tim Anders, a Kool School instructor, overlooks progress as students build a snow shelter.

# Gates recommends McKinley to be Guard's first four-star general

**By Jim Garamone**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has recommended the Air National Guard's director for a promotion that would make him the first four-star general in National Guard history.

McKinley

Pending nomination by President Bush and confirmation by the Senate, Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley would become the chief of the National Guard Bureau.

General McKinley would succeed Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum. Secretary Gates has recommended that the president nominate General Blum to be deputy commander of U.S. Northern Command.

"General McKinley is well qualified for this important and historic assignment," Secretary Gates said during a news conference in the Pentagon on July 16. "He has held command positions at every level of the Air Force in his 34 years of military service."

As director of the Air Guard, he has been responsible for overseeing all policies, plans and programs affecting more than 104,000 guardsmen in 88 flying units and 200 geographically separated bases in the United States and its territories, Secretary Gates said.

General Blum has served as the chief of the National Guard Bureau for five years. It has been a time of wrenching change for guardsmen, Secretary Gates said, and General Blum has pushed for better training, equipment and support for the demanding range of missions the Guard has taken on since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

The independent Commission on the National Guard and Reserves recommended the chief of the National Guard Bureau be a four-star position. Congress agreed and made the recommendation law as part of the fiscal 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.

"The elevation of the National Guard chief to four stars recognizes the enhanced importance of the Guard to America's overall national defense," Secretary Gates said. "In recent years, ... the National Guard has transformed from an often neglected strategic reserve to a force that is an indispensable component of the operational military."

The promotion also recognizes that the chief will serve as a bridge for the states to the federal government and the active components of the military.

General McKinley "will provide the leadership that will take the National Guard to the next level," General Blum said in a written message to Guard units. "He is a competent, caring, and proven leader."

The transition to General McKinley will be seamless.

"I am confident Craig's nomination will posture our joint organizations, the Army National Guard and Air National Guard units, to remain ready, reliable, accessible and essential to our nation," General Blum wrote.

# Illinois ANG gathers to help save town

**By Staff Sgt. Patrick Brown**
Air Force News Agency

PLEASANT HILL, Ill. (AFPN) -- More than 300 Air National Guardsmen from across Illinois gathered June 19 to help save a small farming community from the swelling Mississippi River here.

A collective group from the 126th Air Refueling Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., the 183rd Fighter Squadron at Springfield, Ill., and the 182nd Airlift Wing in Peoria, Ill., worked with locals to spread 40-foot-wide plastic sheets along 23 miles of levees holding the Mississippi River from pouring into the almost 70,000 acres of farmland, businesses and homes that make up Pleasant Hill.

Locals worked June 18 and 19 to raise the levees four-feet higher as flood levels rose more than expected, said Mike Collard, a resident of Clarksville Missouri, just across the river from Pleasant Hill.

Mr. Collins has family who lives and owns farmland in Pleasant Hill and owns a hotel there himself only seven miles from where he and other locals were working.

"The water is expected to crest Saturday morning at 30 feet, but the forecast

*See FLOOD, page 26*

Photo by Master Sgt. Jack Braden

Master Sgts. Brexton Hall (right) and Paul Butts unload sand bags used to hold large sheets of plastic in place on the reinforced levees along the Mississippi River June 19 near Pleasant Hill, Ill. Sergeants Brexton and Butts are both Air National Guardsman assigned to the 183rd Fighter Wing in Springfield, Ill.



## Checked baggage guidelines for military personnel

***American Airlines Travelers:***
U.S. "military personnel" are defined as active United States of America military personnel traveling to or from duty stations. Military identification and travel orders must be presented. Traveling in uniform is not required.

Military exemptions include:
* One bag up to 100 pounds and 115 total linear inches may be substituted for one 62 linear inch bag.
* The first and second checked bags (up to 70 pounds each) are not subject to the checked baggage fees.

Carry-on baggage for OCONUS (Qantas) is defined as 15 pounds and one personal item.
Note: A woman's handbag is considered a carry-on.

The airlines continue to institute new charges related to checked baggage. Exceptions for military personnel and DOD civilians vary from airline to airline. All exemptions listed include first and second bag.

| **Airline** | **Checked Bag Fees:** | | **Exemption:** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | First | Second | Military | DOD civilians |
| American Airlines | $15 | $25 | X | X |
| United Airlines | $15 | $25 | X | |
| US Airways | $15 | $25 | X | |
| Continental | $0 | $25 | X | |
| Delta | $0 | $25 | X | |
| AirTran Airways | $0 | $10 | | |
| Northwest | $0 | $25 | X | X |
| Southwest | $0 | $0 | | |

All passengers traveling on Official Duty should be prepared to show Military/DOD ID Card and travel orders. Military personnel traveling on government leisure travel should also be prepared to show military ID.

Checking with the airline concerned prior to the beginning of travel is a good rule of thumb. Effective June 1, 2008, the Joint Federal Travel Regulations, U3015-B, and Joint Travel Regulations, C2302 B... states ... "The traveler should be financially prepared to pay for excess accompanied baggage while traveling." Additionally, travelers should keep all receipts and file for reimbursement when processing their travel voucher. Orders Approving/ Authorizing Officials can make the process smoother by authorizing any "excess accompanied baggage" in the orders or travel authorization prior to the travel (Reference AFI65-103/Temporary Duty Orders). PCS travelers should confer with their PCS/ Relocation Office.

Courtesy photo

## Wreath bearing

*Staff Sgt. Allen Moon carries a wreath during a Memorial Day celebration in Southwest Asia. He is deployed to the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron from the 109th SFS here.*

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Allen

## Follow the leader

*Master Sgt. John Lawlor clears the area as an L-100 aircraft is towed April 1 at Baghdad International Airport. The aircraft rolled past the runway, and Airmen from Sather Air Base prepared it for towing. Sergeant Lawlor was deployed with the 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron and is permanently assigned to the 109th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.*

Courtesy photo

## Greetings from Iraq

***From left,** Staff Sgt. Nichole Strachan, Lt. Col. Alan Ross, Lt. Col. Timothy Thomson, Senior Master Sgt. Guy Yesse and Tech. Sgt. Jethro Byron pose for a picture at their deployed location in Balad, Iraq. Sergeant Yesse is permanently assigned to the 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and the other Airmen are assigned to the 139th Airlift Squadron here.*

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Eric Carlo

## On display

*Skier 94, an LC-130 from the 109th Airlift Wing, was on display at the 2008 Danish Airshow on June 8. Spectators were able to see the ski-equipped aircraft up close.*





# Hangar Dance, OAEA reunion around the corner

**By Retired Lt. Col. Tom Noel**
Alumni Representative

A Hangar Dance celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the 109th Airlift Wing will be held Saturday, Oct. 4, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, N.Y.

There will be a cocktail hour with complimentary drinks and a cash bar there after. The event will feature multiple food stations with several food styles, live entertainment (USO-style show, DJ, dancing WWII theme). Dress is military service dress or civilian coat and tie from any era (1948 to 2008); female equivalent attire. A prize will be awarded for the most authentic attire from 40s, 50s and 60s. Transportation will also be provided to local hotels.

Ticket prices for retirees are $10. For a complete list of prices and contact information, see Page 28. This will be a great event and celebration; try not to miss it. Hope to see you all there!

"Veterans, Troops Can Always Salute." A change to Section 9 of the U.S. Flag Code written into the Defense Authorization Act this year now gives veterans and members of the U.S. Armed Forces the authority to render a salute to the American Grand Old Flag, whether or not they are in uniform or wearing identifying veteran apparel, such as an American Legion cap. All others present should remove any headwear, face the flag and place their right hand over their heart. Headwear should be held to the left shoulder, leaving the right hand over the heart. These acts are to be conducted anytime there is a hoisting or lowering of the U.S. Flag, whenever it passes. Citizens of foreign countries should stand at attention.

The Old Antarctic Explorers Association (OAEA) will be holding their 4th National Reunion at Pensacola, Fla., from Nov. 5-7. The Gulf Coast Group (GCG) of the OAEA cordially invites its members to join them for the 4th National OAEA Reunion. They are confident that they have chosen the premier place to stay in the Pensacola area - The Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front Hotel. Their first priority is to ensure that each member's visit will be a memorable, safe, and a happy one.

**Registration fee:** $135 per person.

**Point of Contact:** Les Liptak, (850) 492-1666 or leliptak@cox.net.

**Mailing address:** OAEA 2008 Reunion, 5220 Choctaw Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32507.

A few 109th AW members and retirees already belong to The Old Antarctic Explorers Association. If you are interested in joining the OAEA and attending the reunion, applications for membership in the OAEA, Inc. are located on the bulletin board along with registration forms for the 4th National Reunion at The All Ranks Club. It would be great to have many members of the 109th AW attend this great and very interesting Operation Deep Freeze and Antarctic organization.

The OAEA is a tax exempt charitable organization chartered under the U.S. Code 501(c)3 and is dedicated to establishing and perpetuating public awareness of the Courage, Sacrifice and Devotion its members exhibit while supporting Antarctic Research. Another goal is to unify efforts to obtain, preserve and display Operation Deep Freeze artifacts and memorabilia in a centralized location in addition to identifying those artifacts that are already in place at various locals.

The 109th Airlift Wing Alumni Association Annual Summer Picnic, which is another one of our premier events of the year, was held Aug. 2 at the Guan Ho Ha Fish and Game Club on Rector Road, Glenville Hills, N.Y. Lunch was from noon until 3 p.m. Hot dogs, hamburgers, corn on the cob, clams (steamed and raw), clam chowder, baked beans, salad, and chips and dips were served. Dinner was served at 5 p.m. and included shrimp, steak, salads and corn on the cob. Coffee and dessert was also served. Reservation deadline was July 19, 2008. Our Wednesday Lunch Enterprise at the Base allows us to keep the cost at $10 per member. Members were allowed one guest

*See ALUMNI, page 26*



**ByMaster Sgt. Kim Bowman**
Recruiting Office Supervisor

Thank you for all of your assistance with events, referrals, and getting the 109th word out. Recruiting has been renovated and retention is now co-located with us. Stop by and see the changes. All of our numbers have remained the same. We appreciate your support.

I am moving on to a title 10 job working for the Air Force Recruiting Information Support System (AFRISS) at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, mid-August and just wanted everyone to know I will miss the 109th but I'm just a phone call or e-mail away - kimberly.bowman@us.af.mil.

If you are interested in officer opportunities, please stop by recruiting and they will be happy to answer all your questions.

Officer Vacancy Announcements are e-mailed to all personnel whenever an opening exists here at the 109th. You must prepare a commissioning package with the particular requirements based on the job. The DMNA Web site lists all Air Guard officer vacancy announcements for New York state at www.dmna.state.ny.us/jobs.

Unit Referrals remain the best way for us to fill our vacancies with great applicants. Mainly because our unit members have known the people for quite some time and can give us a good idea what to expect when we meet the referrals. We always appreciate the chance to share the same opportunities with new members, whether it's career training, travel, or the educational benefits. Contact us with your referrals!

How can you earn $2k for an enlistment? Answer: G-RAP! For more information go to www.guardrecruitingassistant.com and get started in the program.

*See RECRUIT, page 26*

# Guard, community race into action

## 5k fundraiser to benefit guardsmen, families

**By Army Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo**
42nd Infantry Division Public Affairs

COLONIE, N.Y. -- Fifteen-year-old Michela Silver competed in her first five kilometer (5K) race when she joined her mother, Senior Master Sgt. Penny Sheedy and nearly 200 capital region residents, New York National Guardsmen and family members, for the "Hometown Heroes Run," on June 14.

"I really enjoyed it and plan to do more," said Silver, adding, "This is a great way to show support and raise funds for military families." Her mother, Sergeant Sheedy, is a training manager at the 109th Airlift Wing. The fundraising event, coordinated by the New York National Guard Family Readiness Council, took place at Crossings Park in the Town of Colonie and also included a one-mile Fun Run for Kids.

The New York National Guard Family Readiness Council is a 501c (3) nonprofit organization created earlier this year to benefit the families of National Guard servicemembers across the state. Members of the National Guard come under unique pressures when they are activated for federal or state duty in times of emergency. Unlike active duty military members, "Citizen Soldiers" do not live on or near military bases that can provide the range of support services to families during periods of separation.

The Council helps fill the financial void that is often created during periods of service deployments or separations for Citizen Soldiers. Military personnel are routinely supported by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs Family Program; however, they are prohibited from soliciting donations.

"The Council stepped in and bridged the gap between what we can't do as a state agency and what they can do as a not-for-profit organization," said Beverly Keating, State Family Program Director. "We serve as the conduit between families in need and the Council." All proceeds from the fund raising event go directly to the Council to benefit military families.

"This is a great opportunity for our communities to interact with and support our military personnel," said Susan Taluto, President of the New York National Guard Family Readiness Council. "We've had a great turn out, a lot of enthusiasm and we look forward to expanding the run in the future."

The New York National Guard currently has more than 2,500 Soldiers and Airmen mobilized for active duty and deployed or preparing to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as homeland security duties throughout New York State. The Family Readiness Council provides direct and indirect assistance to the family members of the New York Organized Militia through grant programs, family readiness workshops and education events as well as through family readiness outreach programs.

The 2008 "Hometown Heroes Run" was the first fundraising event for the new organization, drawing donations and support from runners, local veterans' organizations and the Association of the U.S. Army Capital District Chapter. The fundraiser garnered more than $4,000, which will be used to help military families throughout the state.

U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo

Children of New York National Guard personnel participated in a 1K run during the National Guard's Family Readiness Council "Hometown Heroes 5K Run," June 14. Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey started the race, held in Colonie, N.Y.

U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo

Donald Bowman, of Niverville, N.Y., completes the Family Readiness Council 5K "Hometown Heroes Run" on June 14. Bowman is the spouse of Master Sgt. Kimberly Bowman, a recruiting supervisor with the 109th Airlift Wing. The couple participated in the run to help raise awareness and funds to support families of deployed troops.





*April 5 through Aug. 4*

**Air Medal**
Lt Col Ross – AS
Lt Col Thomson – AS
Capt Shad – AS
SSgt Semerad – AES

**Meritorious Service Medal**
Lt Col Alston – OSF
Lt Col Lincoln – AS
Lt Col Esposito – OG
Lt Col Fifield – AS
Lt Col Lecours – AS
Lt Col Phillips – AS
Maj Crane – LRS
Maj Falvo – AS
Maj McNulty – AS
Maj Murray – MG
CMSgt Lucia – AW
SMSgt Olena – AS

**Air Force Commendation Medal**
Lt Col Noxon – MG
Maj Howard – MG
Maj Streeter – MG
MSgt Gardner – AS
MSgt Fresina – MSF
MSgt Kerssemakers – MG
MSgt McCabe – MG
MSgt O'Connor – MG
MSgt Roe – MSF
MSgt Spiak – MG
TSgt Gifford – MSF
TSgt Graham – MG
TSgt Reis – MG
TSgt Sweet-McNeill – MG
TSgt Taylor – AS

*AF Achievement medal recipients on Page 26*

## *Promotions*

**Colonel**
Gary James – OG
Stephen Maher – JFHQ

**Lieutenant Colonel**
Todd Luce – AW

**Major**
Bridget Crouch – LRS
Marc McKeon – AS
Christine Relyea – MG

**Captain**
Jeannine Rother – MG
Daniel Urband – AS

**First Lieutenant**
Bradley Mesh - SFS

**Chief Master Sergeant**
Douglas Miller – CF
Deodato Proietti – MSF

**Senior Master Sergeant**
Ronald Barnes – AS
Amy Giaquinto – AW

**Master Sergeant**
William Hanrahan – AS
Michael Papasso – LRS
Louis Pasacreta – MXM
Jennifer Ray – AES
Scott Seeberger – AS
Andrew Westling – AES

**Technical Sergeant**
Joshua Claus – MXM
Eric Johnson – AS
James Schidzick – LRS

**Staff Sergeant**
Seth Caldon – MXM
Joshua Fisher – AS
Stephen Girolami – AMXS
Travis Hadcock – MXM
Dorothy Koryto – MXM
Brian Rulison – AMXS
Kristina Russo – MXM
Steven Silver – CES
Raymond Smith – CES
Patrick Tanella – SFS
Jessica Tomlinson – LRS
Slade Tulip – LRS

**Senior Airman**
Andre Noel – SFS
Zachary Weakley – LRS

**Airman First Class**
Justin Carkner – Stu Flt
Nicholas Campese – Stu Flt
Jennifer Collins – Stu Flt
Ryan Fortune – Stu Flt
Daniel Marchand – Stu Flt
Vincent Pricolo – Stu Flt
Jacqueline Reed – Stu Flt
Brian Reith – Stu Flt

**Aerial Achievement Medal**

Col German – AW
Lt Col Alston – ISF
Lt Col Brew – AS
Lt Col East – AS
Lt Col Esposito – OG
Lt Col Fifield – AS
Lt Col Gadarowski – AS
Lt Col Hathaway – OSF
Lt Col Jones – AS
Lt Col Koltermann – AS
Lt Col Lecours – AS
Lt Col Phillips – AS
Lt Col Ritmo – AS
Lt Col Salvaggio – AS
Lt Col Thalheimer – AS
Lt Col Thomson – AS
Lt Col Zotto – OG
Maj Armstrong – CF
Maj Bernasconi – AS
Maj Barrows – AS
Maj Brew – AS
Maj Dallemagne – AS
Maj Deconno – AS
Maj Elsworth – AS
Maj Falvo – AS
Maj Green – AS
Maj D Johnson – AS
Maj Kinlocke – AS
Maj Lafrance – AS
Maj Leclair – AS
Maj McKeon – AS
Maj Mendicino – AS
Maj Niles – AS
Maj Norman – AS
Maj Powell – AS
Maj Souza – AS
Maj Steindl – AS
Maj Wadsworth – AS
Maj Yandik – AS
Capt Brown – AS
Capt Cousineau – AS
Capt Davey – AS
Capt M Johnson – AS
Capt Novak – AS
Capt Sala – AS
Capt Schongalla – AS
Capt Shad – AS
Capt J Smith – AS
Capt Srokowski – AS
2nd Lt Benintende – AS
CMSgt Cristiano – AS
CMSgt D Morgan – AS
CMSgt R Morgan – OG
CMSgt Nolin – AS
SMSgt Garrison – AS
SMSgt Gifford – AS
SMSgt Gray – AS
SMSgt Morrell – AS
SMSgt Rumfelt – AS
SMSgt Williams – AS
MSgt Alix – AS
MSgt Apanasewicz – AS
MSgt Ardrey – AS
MSgt Czwakiel – AS
MSgt Davidson – AS
MSgt Gardner – AS
MSgt Hill – AS
MSgt Huard – AS
MSgt Janey – AS
MSgt Mascolo – AS
MSgt Messineo – AS
MSgt Miller – AS
MSgt Modesto – AS
MSgt G Peck – AS
MSgt M Peck – AS
MSgt Thorpe – AS
MSgt Vesper – AS
MSgt Zimolka – AS
TSgt Axe – AS
TSgt Backus – AS
TSgt Bartow – AS
TSgt Bennett – AS
TSgt Bull – AS
TSgt Cerrone – AS
TSgt Collins – AS
TSgt Cousineau – AS
TSgt Irvin – AS
TSgt Lucier – AS
TSgt Macaulay – AS
TSgt Neale – AS
TSgt Powell – AS
TSgt Powers – AS
TSgt Seeberger – AS
TSgt Spiak – AS
TSgt Swatling – AS
TSgt Taylor – AS
TSgt Zenner
SSgt E Johnson – AS
SSgt Semerad – AES
SrA Fisher – AS
SrA Shields – AS

Courtesy Photo

The 109th Alumni Association Annual Summer Picnic was held Aug. 2 at Guan Ho Ha Fish and Game Club.

**Alumni**, from page 23

at $10; additional guests were $20 each. A wonderful time was had by all and it was great to see many new faces that we haven't seen in a long time. Thanks for all the great help from our volunteer members who helped make it a wonderful social get-together function.

There have been a lot of 109th AW people who have retired in the last few months. If you know of any of them, please bring them to our third Wednesday of each month meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. Their first year membership dues are free.

The members of the 109th AW Alumni Association would like to send their condolences to the family of Terrence J. Mahar, 73. He passed away June 30 as a result of an auto accident in Greenport. He was born Aug. 17, 1934, in Broadalbin and was the son of the late Ray and Ruth (Woodruff) Mahar. Terrence served in the U.S. Air Force for nine years on active duty and a total of 20 years with the 109th AW. After retiring from the Air National Guard, he worked as a flight engineer with FedEX at JFK International Airport. Our thoughts and prayers are with Terrence and his family; he will be missed greatly.

Until the next quarterly issue of this Skibird Magazine publication, hope you all had a wonderful and safe 4th of July. Stay Happy, Healthy, Safe, Prosperous and "Think Summer."

**Awards**, from page 25

**Air Force**
**Achievement Medal**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2nd Lt Caldon – AES | TSgt Fitzgerald – LRS |
| SMSgt Barnes – AS | TSgt Kruzinski – AS |
| MSgt Boehlke – CF | TSgt MacDonald – LRS |
| MSgt Buehler – LRS | TSgt Scholl – CF |
| MSgt Decker – LRS | SSgt Babiarz – LRS |
| MSgt Graham – AS | SSgt Christman – AS |
| MSgt Kerssemakers – MG | SSgt Florio – LRS |
| MSgt Spiak – MG | SSgt Gifford – LRS |
| MSgt Trasky – CF | SSgt McCarthy – LRS |
| MSgt Walker – CF | SSgt Mitchell – LRS |
| TSgt Anderson – CF | SSgt Pierce – LRS |
| TSgt Bartow – AS | SSgt Price – LRS |
| TSgt Berg – LRS | SSgt Rulison – LRS |
| TSgt Byerwalters – LRS | SrA Roth – LRS |

## Recruiting Staff

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www.GoANG.com

**Recruit**, from page 23

ALL RETRAINING ACTIONS must be coordinated with the new Retention Office Manager, Tech. Sgt. Drew Stearns. One reason for this requirement is that a member who is an incentive program participant may be faced with recoupment of bonus money if voluntarily retraining to a non-bonus AFSC. For information about retraining opportunities, or to coordinate a retraining action, contact Sergeant Stearns at 344-2315. There are many retraining opportunities throughout the base.

LONG AND SUCCESSFUL CAREERS in the Air National Guard often begin with a simple call to our Recruiting Office at (518) 344-2454 or (800) 524-5070.

**Flood**, from page 20

changes every day, so we need to get this done as soon as we can," Mr. Collins said.

With the water still rising, and only feet from the top of the levees, crews worked swiftly to lay the plastic to prevent the flowing water from eroding the freshly laid sand.

Teams placed thousands of sandbags, filled by local volunteers and Army and Air National Guard units, over the plastic to keep it in place.

The Airmen are billeted in cramped quarters, many sleeping in cots on the gym floor at Quincy University and working tirelessly in near 90-degree heat, but none are complaining.

"Morale is high and everyone is happy to be here," said Capt. Sean Heup, a personnel officer with the 183rd FW. "I'm losing a weekend, maybe a few more days, but these people could lose everything."

Staff Sgt. Haley Windling, also a personnelist from the 183rd, said it was interesting to work with Airmen from different units.

"You always hear about people from other units," she said. "It's good to put faces to the names."

Sergeant Windling said she also has a cousin here who is a member of the local police department and that gives her a greater sense of connection with the community.

"It feels good to get out and do what you can for the people."





## Airman 1st Class Nicole Wasileski
### Retail Sales

"My father was the one who got me interested in becoming a Guard member here at Stratton. He became a member of the military over 20 years ago; first in the Air Force and then in the New York Air National Guard in Newburgh as a civil service technician," said Airman 1st Class Nicole Wasileski, of the 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron. "He had high praise for the military and thought I should join the Guard because of all of the opportunities that would be made available to me."

Photo by Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

A typical "girly-girl," Airman Wasileski said she didn't think she'd be able to make it through Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

"My father said I could do anything I set my mind to and that I would do just fine. He also said he knew tons of 'girly-girls' in the Air Force.

"He took me and my cousin to Scotia for a visit to show us what the Guard was all about," she said. "That visit was all it took; my cousin and I both decided to join that day."

About a year ago, Airman Wasileski and her cousin joined together and were even in the same flight and tech school class. Her cousin, Airman 1st Class Erin McDonough, is also assigned to the 109th LRS.

"I think that being together the whole time made it a lot easier to be away from home, because it was like a little piece of home was right there with me," Airman Wasileski said. "We were able to lean on each other during the tough times and give each other a lot of support."

Airman Wasileski, 19, is a graduate of Columbia High School in East Greenbush. She's attended college at SUNY-Oneonta as well as Hudson Valley Community College. Currently, along with being a traditional guardsman here, she works part time at Panera Bread in East Greenbush as an associate trainer.

Airman Wasileski has also been busy trying to get others to join the 109th Airlift Wing.

"I'm in the process of getting my boyfriend and his best friend to join; they have already taken their ASVABs.

"I think the Air National Guard is a very good thing for people; it teaches you a lot about yourself. Graduating basic training was one of the most gratifying feelings I have ever felt, and I believe that I am a different person because of it.

"Basic training is something that I never want to do again, but at the same time, I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

"I am really glad I joined this unit, and I want other people to feel the same way."

## Airman 1st Class Ben German
### Base Photographer

Airman 1st Class Ben German is no stranger to the military. So it's no surprise to many that as soon as he was old enough he joined the Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing – the same wing his father, Col. Anthony German, commands.

"I've known about the Guard for a while since my dad and my brother are both in," he said. "So naturally I went and talked to a recruiter just to check it out. I found out they had a photography slot open. Since it was the job I wanted anyway, I took it."

He finished technical school at Fort Meade, Md., in June. Soon after, he was in the Public Affairs-Multimedia section here taking pictures of events going on around base.

Photography isn't only a job for Airman German; it's also one of his hobbies. But his interests don't stop there. When he has time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and other outdoor sports. In the fall, he'll start college at SUNY-Cobleskill with a major in fisheries and aqua culture.

So far, Airman German said graduating tech school has been his most satisfying experience in the military. "It really gave me a sense of accomplishment."

Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

# Water Quality Report

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2007
Town of Glenville
18 Glenridge Road Glenville, New York 12302
(Public Water Supply ED# 460009)
www.townofglenville.org

To comply with State regulations, The Town of Glenville annually issues a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Mr. Roger Harrison, Plant Operator at (518) 382-1410 (rharrison@townofglenville.org) or Richard LeClair, Commissioner of Public Works at (518) 382-1406. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Glenville Municipal Center, 18 Glenridge Road.

**WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source is located west of the Village of Scotia between New York State Route 5 and the Mohawk River, actually a little west of the Route 5 and Van Buren Lane intersection. The Glenville water supply is taken form the Great Flats Aquifer (also known as the Schenectady Aquifer) through four drilled wells approximately 50-feet deep. The Great Flats Aquifer is one of the most productive in the State of New York and supplies the nearby Village of Scotia wells, the City of Schenectady well field, and the Town of Rotterdam wells. The aquifer is an extensive bed of sands and gravel underlying the Mohawk River channel. The Great Flats Aquifer produces clear, clean water without any major chemical constituents except the hardness.

During 2007, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. Prior to distribution the well water is pumped into a clear well where it is given a disinfecting treatment with chlorine before being pumped into the transmission and distribution mains. A chlorine residual of 0.2 is maintained throughout the distribution system as required by New York State Department of Health Regulations as continuing insurance against any bacterial growth occurring within the system.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. The section of the report entitled, "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" provides a list of the contaminants that have been detected. As mentioned earlier in this report, our drinking water is derived from 4-drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having an elevated susceptibility. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer and the overlying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area can be obtained by contacting us, as noted below.

While the source water assessment rates our well(s) as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

The Glenville Water District #11 recognizes the importance of watershed protection by implementing Watershed Rules and Regulations along with zoning restrictions. In 2004, many of the water related sites in the Town of Glenville were fenced off and alarm systems added for increased security.

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves approximately 15,000 people through 5,950 service connections. The total water produced in 2007 was 756.3 million gallons. The daily average of water t4reated and pumped into the distribution system is 2,072,231 gallons per day. Our highest single day in 2007 was 3,795,000 gallons on June 26. The amount of water delivered to customers was 711.893.343 gallons. The 44.5 million gallon difference is water that was used for firefighting, hydrant flushing and leaks in the system. In 2007, water customer charges were a minimum of $40 for water usage of up to 30,000 gallons. Water usage above 30,000 gallons is charged $2.35 per 1,000 gallons of water.

**ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. There were 180 microbiological samples taken throughout the system. We are

*See WATER, page 30*

**Water**, from page 29

required to collect 15 samples every month that are tested for coliform bacteria and chlorine residual. Ninety-two elements consisting of Synthetic-Organic Chemicals, Principal Organic Chemicals, Total Trihalomethanes and Primary Inorganic Chemicals were tested for in 2004. Nitrate was also included in those tests. Any parameters at detectable levels will appear are in the following table. Radiological tests for three parameters were done in 2001. The results for all three tests were at a detectable level so they appear in the following table. The test results from 2001 also included 12 elements that are presently unregulated by the state with the results showing an undetectable level for all twelve.

In 2005, the town conducted sampling at 30 sites for lead. The 90th percentile for the lead tests was 3.0 ug/l. The sample results ranged from <1 ug/l to 95 ug/l. We comply with the state because less than 5 percent of the samples exceeded the 15 ug/l Action Level. In 2005, the town also conducted sampling at 30 sites for copper. The 90th percentile for the copper tests was 0.14 mg/l. The sample results ranged from <0.001 mg/l to .220 mg/l. The Action Level for copper is >1.3 mg/l. In 2008, we will again test for lead and copper in our system. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain a least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Schenectady County Health Department at (518) 386-2818.

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

**IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2007, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

| Parameter | Sample Date | Violation (Y/N) | Level Detected | Units | MCL | MCLG | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Radiological | | | | | | | |
| Gross Alpha | 11/01 | N | 0.3 | pCi/L | 15 | 0 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Radium 226 | 11/01 | N | 0.1 | pCi/L | Combined level for 226 & 228 is 5.0 | 0 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Radium 228 | 11/01 | N | 0.3 | pCi/L | | | |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | |
| Nitrate | 12/07 | N | 0.778 | mg/l | 10 | 10 | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Secondary Inorganic Standards | | | | | | | |
| Hardness (CaCo3) | 6/04 | N | 256.5/15gr. | mg/l | N/A | N/A | |
| Sodium | 5/01 | N | 50 | mg/ | N/A see note (1) | N/A | Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste |
| Fluoride | 8/05 | N | 0.027 | mg/l | 2.2 | N/A | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes healthy teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Chloride | 5/01 | N | 32 | mg/l | 250 | N/A | Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination. |
| Sulfate | 5/01 | N | 23 | mg/l | 250 | N/A | Naturally occurring |
| Miscellaneous Parameters | | | | | | | |
| Alkalinity | 5/01 | N | 140 | mg/l | N/A | N/A | |
| Synthetic Organic Chemicals | | | | | | | |
| 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane | 12/06 | N | <0.0002 | mg/l | 0.2 | 0 | |
| Disinfection Byproducts | | | | | | | |
| Total Trihalomethanes | 9/07 | N | 21.1 | ug/l | 80 | N/A | By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter. |
| Total HAA5's | 9/07 | N | <3.00 | ug/l | 60 | N/A | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

(1) Water containing more than 20 mg/l sodium should not be used for drinking water by people on severely restricted sodium diets.





**Definitions:**

***Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):*** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

***Maximum contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):*** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

***Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):*** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

***Maximum Residual disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):*** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

***Action Level (AL)***: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

***Treatment Technique (TT):*** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

***Non-Detects (ND):*** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

***Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):*** A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

***Milligrams per liter (mg/l):*** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million – ppm).

***Micrograms per liter (ug/l):*** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion – ppb).

***Nanograms per liter (ng/l):*** Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (arts per trillion – ppt).

***Picograms per liter (pg/l):*** Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

***Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):*** A measure of the radioactivity in water.

***Millirems per year (mrem/yr):*** A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

***Million Fibers per Liter (MFL):*** A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can particularity at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporiduim, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?**

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

-- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;

-- Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and

-- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions sot he essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

-- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.

-- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.

-- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.

-- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

-- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.

**SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

In 2006, the construction began for the expansion of the water treatment facility. The start up date for this project was June 5, 2007. The expansion doubles the production capacity of the facility while increasing dependability with backup power capability for use during power failures. The town continues to study the issue of hardness reduction for the water treatment plant. Because the state does not require us to soften the water, we are looking at the most cost effective solution.

The town also is upgrading our meter reading and billing procedures. With these changes, we will be able to use exterior touch pads or radio transceivers to collect meter readings. We will then download them into the billing program, which reduces time and the potential for error when entering readings.

**CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office (518) 688-1217 if you have questions.

**109th Airlift Wing**
1 Air National Guard Road
Scotia, NY 12302-9752

**PRSRT STD**
**US POSTAGE PAID**
**PERMIT NO. 47**
**Schenectady, NY**

Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Brett Bouchard

## *Mission statement*

*Provide the most professional theatre combat forces, ready to rapidly deploy statewide, worldwide and pole to pole.*

## *Vision statement*

*A united military organization of empowered individuals building on our proud tradition of serving country, state and community; leaning forward, ready to meet combat and peacetime challenges throughout the world.*