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Skibird



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Summer 2010



LaBarge takes command of 109th Airlift Wing



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

10 June 2010

Colonel Anthony B. Basile
Chief of Staff
HQ NYANG//MNAF/CS
330 Old Niskayuna Road
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To The Outstanding Men and Women of the New York Air National Guard

Writing these words, I am brought back to when I went away to college back in the late '80s...OK, OK, so it was the early '70s. Anyways, I remember the empty, lonely feeling I felt as my family dropped me off in a strange environment to begin a new, intimidating phase of my life. Gone was the comfort zone of familiar surroundings and people who cared about me. And while I knew that I would see my family again, I didn't know when that would be, and I didn't know what would happen to me between now and then.

Well, after a few months, I did see my family again, and the comfort zone I knew as a teenager growing up in central New York was replaced by various other comfort zones, and eventually by one that spanned 31 years in a blue [on Mondays] uniform. But once more, I find myself in unfamiliar surroundings, saying goodbye to family, not knowing when I'll see you again. History, however, has taught me that I WILL see you again, and I know that I will certainly be following what happens to you and this great organization.

I have often told young people at career fairs that if you can look back at the end of your career and honestly say that you would choose the same occupation, you are probably in a small percentage of our society. Yet, that's exactly how I feel today. I suspect, and certainly hope, that many of you feel the same way about your choice. There have been other opportunities along the way, but none that could have reached through my skin and seized my soul as my military career has.

I know I am very fortunate to have an exciting new opportunity waiting for me as I conclude these last couple weeks in uniform. That being said, I am quite certain that no matter what I do professionally with the rest of my life, I will never be more proud of what I have done in the last 31 years, nor who I have done it with. Thank you for being the best America has to offer. Thank you for the outstanding service you provide the NYANG, your communities, and our nation. It has been an honor and privilege to have served with you all. My heartfelt best wishes to you in the future.

Sincerely

ANTHONY B. BASILE, Colonel, NYANG

109th Airlift Wing



Commander
Col. Timothy LaBarge
Vice Commander
Col. John Russo

The Skibird

Summer 2010
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On the cover:

Army Brig. Gen. Patrick Murphy passes command of the 109th Airlift Wing to Col. Timothy LaBarge during a ceremony here June 12. General Murphy is the Adjutant General of New York State. (Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara) **Full coverage on Page 10**

Happy Homecoming

Photos by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara



The crew who was deployed to Afghanistan for 60 days returns home to their family and friends July 26.



The crew returning home from a 60-day deployment to Afghanistan does a flyover before landing here July 26.



Capt. Dan Marchegiani's family welcomes him home after returning from a 60-day deployment to Afghanistan.



Lt. Col. Tom Esposito's daughter holds up the sign she made to welcome home her father. The crew returned home July 26 after being in Afghanistan for two months.



Capt. Dan Marchegiani hugs his wife, Marissa, after returning home from a 60-day deployment to Afghanistan.

News

Online personnel services available

There are many personnel actions Airmen can now perform online instead of having to wait in line at their military personnel office. For Air National Guardsmen, the virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve (vPC-GR), the virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF), and the Personnel Record Display Application (PRDA) are all online services and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Awards and Decorations

Airmen can now view/print a visual display of their Federal awards and decorations using vMPF. Supervisors can log on to vPC-GR to initiate and process decoration nominations such as Meritorious Service Medals, Air Force Commendation Medals and Air Force Achievement Medals.

Retirement/Voluntary Separations or Discharge

Airmen who are retiring or separating can start the process online. Go to vPC-GR to submit a voluntary separation discharge/resignation or retirement application.

Proof of Service Letter/20 Year Letter

When purchasing a new home, refinancing, applying for a new job or preparing for retirement, a Proof of Service Letter or a 20-Year Letter may be required. The Proof of Service Letter can be obtained on vMPF, and a 20-Year Letter is available on vPC-GR. Air National Guard unit members can apply for retirement using

vPC-GR, and Statutory Tour members can apply through vMPF.

Evaluations, Evaluations

Through vPC-GR supervisors are able to write, sign and submit evaluations, including Letters of Evaluation (LOEs). Copies of previous EPR/OPR forms can also be requested online. If needed, Airmen can view their evaluation data, to include reporting official information, on vMPF.

Electronic Military Personnel Records

Electronic military personnel records are now available online. Airmen can use the Personnel Record Display Application (PRDA) to view and/or print forms from their official military personnel records.

Duty History

Airmen can use vMPF to view duty history and request a correction or change to it. Airmen can also request corrections to duty history from vPC-GR as well.

EPR/OPRs Records Copy

Applying for a Technician or Statutory Tour position or just need a copy of your current or past Enlisted/Officer Performance Records (EPR/OPRs)? The information is just a click away! You can use virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve (vPC-GR) to request a copy be sent to you from the Total Force Service Center-Denver or use the Personnel Record Display Application (PRDA) to view and/or print a copy.

You can also view your evaluation data to include reporting official information online by accessing virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF).

Updating your Personnel Information

Have you recently had a change in your status? Did you get promoted, re-enlist, married, divorced, move into a new home/apartment, have an addition or reduction to your household or send a child off to college?

If any of the circumstances mentioned above or any others have occurred in your life, submit the required supporting documentation to correct or update your personnel data. You can review and update some of your personal data online using virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF) or contact your servicing Commander's Support Staff or Military Personnel Section.

The Personnel Record Display Application (PRDA) allows you to view and print forms from your official military personnel record.

Airmen can access vPC-GR, vMPF and PRDA from the AF Portal, www.my.af.mil, under the Top Portal Links section.

The Total Force Service Center is also available for customer support and provides processing for online services. Contact the Total Force Service Center (TFSC) at (800) 525-0102 if assistance is needed. *(Article courtesy of National Guard Bureau)*

Cadet donation

Master Sgt. Robert McCormick, 109th All Ranks Club treasurer, and Capt. Ernest Lancto, club board member, present Maj. Frederick Fuerer of the 73rd Civil Air Patrol with a check for \$600. The All Ranks Club's donation was made to help off-set some of the costs of the Civil Air Patrol's yearly encampment here. The club also sponsored two top CAP cadets to attend two National CAP conferences.



Courtesy photo

Chief encourages Guard participation in Don't Ask, Don't Tell survey

By Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke
National Guard Bureau

A R L I N G T O N , Va. -- Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard should share their views of the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law by filling out a survey, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said on July 16. "Your inputs will be instrumental in shaping the implementation of any change to the law that may occur," said Gen. Craig R. McKinley.

On July 8, the Department of Defense e-mailed surveys to 400,000 servicemembers as part of a special review to prepare the military for a potential repeal of the law that bans gays and

lesbians from openly serving.

Half of the surveys went to active-duty servicemembers and half went to reservists. Troops who received the surveys were selected based on age, rank, service, component, military specialties, education, marital status and other factors to ensure broad and thorough feedback on a potential repeal.

DoD officials hope that the surveys will be submitted within 45 days of receipt.

For those who did not receive a survey via e-mail, an online inbox is also available at www.defense.gov/dadt. A common access card is required to provide input. The site is not confidential; however, directions from the site, as well as in the survey,

are provided for members who wish to continue a "confidential dialogue" with non-DoD members of the working group.

Once servicemembers enter that confidential site, they will be given an untraceable PIN number they then can use to log on from any computer.

Army Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe, and Jeh Johnson, the Pentagon's top lawyer, head the Comprehensive Review Working Group that is assessing the current law.

General McKinley said the working group is making a concerted effort to include National Guardsmen in its review.

"The CRWG will hold a number of engagements over the

next three months where they will meet with guardsmen to get their input," General McKinley said. "Because the CRWG will not be able to interact with every National Guard member personally, your input is needed and can be submitted online."

DoD has also contracted with Westat to conduct an independent survey of servicemembers, including 80,000 reserve component members. Technical support for the survey is available from Westat via phone at (888) 491-2083 or via email at support@militarysurveys.org.

The working group's final report is due to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates by Dec. 1.

McKinley tells Guard enlisted force to prepare for prolonged overseas role

By Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

ST. LOUIS -- The National Guard likely will continue to play a significant role in overseas contingency operations for the foreseeable future, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said here Aug. 9.

"Just like we have in Kosovo for 14 years and the Sinai [and] the Horn of Africa, I think the National Guard will be asked to stay longer ... and give [our] civilian-acquired skills to ... emerging government," Gen. Craig McKinley told about 1,800 guardsmen attending the 39th annual conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS).

The Guard already is making a significant military-to-civilian contribution through the agribusiness development teams on the ground in Afghanistan - a program born in Missouri.

"The things that we bring from our civilian occupations will mean that the National Guard will be in huge demand for years to come," General McKinley said.

During a July visit to Iraq and Afghanistan, General McKinley said he was struck by the contrast between the two countries.

"What I ... felt in Iraq ... is the Iraqis are [on] the verge of taking control of their own destiny and their own country by forming a government and moving out," he said.

This time, as General McKinley rode from the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad to the airport, something had changed from previous visits: Security along a route once infamous for violence

was provided entirely by the Iraqi military.

"It gave me a sense of hope that ... this country has the potential to turn a corner and to make a stand on its own and to determine its own destination," he said.

In Afghanistan, General McKinley found a hot war - and a surge in which the Army National Guard is playing a key role.

"There's going to be some pretty rough days and months ahead," he said. "Two vastly different theaters, but similar circumstances in which the men and women who make up our National Guard are contributing greatly on the battlefield."

General McKinley's recent trip in theater ended with a visit with wounded warriors at Landstuhl, Germany - a visit that underlined the true sacrifices guardsmen are making.

"We're going to be at this for a very, very long time," General McKinley told conferees from an association of more than 85,000 members, which promotes the status, welfare and professionalism of the enlisted personnel of the Army and Air National Guard.

"The only thing that can take this nation down is [loss of] our will to fight and to remain free and to remain strong. ... Do not give in to those who would say that the American will to stay free and remain the beacon of hope is waning, to those who say that the era of American independence and potentially our role in the world as the world's superpower is waning.

"Because on those young men and women's shoulders rest our hopes and our future, and I have a great deal confidence in

them that we will get it right."

All guardsmen - from General McKinley to the newest enlistee - stand on the shoulders of our predecessors and mentors, the 26th chief of the National Guard Bureau said.

"None of us go this route alone," he said. Each state and territory and the District of Columbia, "For decades - for centuries - have given their young men and women for service to their state and to their nation."

General McKinley said the time he spends with enlisted Soldiers and Airmen is inspiring.

"For anyone who doubts that this nation is committed to remaining strong and being the beacon of hope for the rest of the world, all you have to do is look in the faces of these young men and women," he said.

The National Guard is at a historic peak of excellence, he said.

"With the leadership of the adjutants general - working for the governors we have the finest, most talented, most capable,

most resilient, most battle-tested National Guard, arguably, in the history of the United States of America," he said. "One of the finest, most well-trained, most well-led, most inspired forces that we could ask for."

Because when the nation calls out the Guard, it calls out America. "Much of the reason this nation is so strongly behind its armed forces and what it is doing is because we've called out the Guard, General McKinley said. "We've involved all of our 3,300 communities around our states and territories and the District, and citizens understand what's at stake."

Recognition of servicemembers' sacrifices - regardless of politics - is in stark contrast to the Vietnam era, General McKinley said, and the implementation of the Total Force concept is one reason why.

"It's a different Guard," he said. "The National Guard had a different role.... 'One weekend a month. Two weekends in the summer.' How distant and remote those phrases are, but, for many of us, that was our National Guard.

"We had underutilized equipment, equipment that was old, not serviceable. We weren't able to give to the Soldiers and Airmen the kinds of training that made them full-up. But today ... our voices are heard not only in the Pentagon but in the White House, and that's a significant achievement that we can all be very, very proud of."

A newly formed council of governors has amplified the Guard's voice among elected and appointed civilian leaders.

"What's at stake very simply is the quality of life, the liberty and freedom that we all enjoy, that which many of us have given our finest hours to," General McKinley said.

"Less than one percent of the American population serves in uniform and so when you look at the 460,000 National Guard men and women and see them at the gas station, you see them at the shopping mall, you have to say that this conflict - ... the struggle against radical extremism - is going to be fought and won on the backs of young men and women who are firmly supported by the citizens of their communities."

NYACK Graduation



Courtesy photo

Chief Master Sgt. Doug Miller (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Bill Nolin were inducted into the Omnicron PSI Honor Society in a private ceremony with the NYACK staff May 7. Chiefs Nolin and Miller were also given the honor of being flag bearers for the official graduation ceremony.



Courtesy photo

(From left) Chief Master Sgt. Doug Miller, Chief Master Sgt. Bill Nolin, Master Sgt. Mary Alice Rebis and retired Master Sgt. Amy Palmer graduated from NYACK college May 8. They all received their Bachelor of Science Degrees in Organizational Management at the West Chester County Center. It was a common wish among the graduates to express to the younger generation at the 109th that it is never too late to set the bar high and work hard to achieve your personal goals.

109th AW Presents the

Full Timer's Cookout

Rubbin' Butts Bar-B Q

Date & Time: 17SEP10 • 1200 - 1600

Tickets: \$12/Person

POC: OPS: Jason Bull (344-2627)

Kevin Gifford (344-2596)

MENU

Pulled Pork

Sausages

¼ Barbeque

Chicken

Potato Salad

Macaroni Salad

Baked Potatoes

Coleslaw

Baked Beans

Corn Bread

Slider Rolls

Beer
Soda
50/50 Raffle
Volleyball
Kickball

Summer in Greenland

Photos by Staff Sgt. Stephen Girolami



Staff Sgt. Carroll Bass de-ices Aircraft 96 with a brush before a mission.



Students with Kool School walk from Kanger to Lake Fergie while waiting for a flight to Kool School. The class was delayed a few days due to an Icelandic volcano eruption.



Master Sgt. Kevin Hubbley helps load a JATO bottle onto an LC-130 prior to a mission.



Airman 1st Class Ariel Reed guides Airman 1st Class Kimberly Decker as she loads cargo onto an aircraft.



Airman 1st Class Kimberly Decker brings up cargo to an LC-130 as Airman 1st Class Ariel Reed waits to load the pallet.

109th AW changes hands

Colonel LaBarge takes command of wing

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
Public Affairs

109th Airlift Wing members attended the Change of Command ceremony between Col. Anthony German and Col. Timothy LaBarge on June 12. (Photo by Senior Airman Ben German)

Col. Timothy J. LaBarge took command of the 109th Airlift Wing from Col. Anthony German during a change of command ceremony here June 12 with nearly all of the wing's members present along with families and distinguished visitors.

Upon taking command, Colonel LaBarge spoke about the great relationship that was formed in 1996 between the wing and the National Science Foundation and how this partnership has worked so well over the years. He also spoke about how the wing can attain long-term success.

"In order to be successful over the long term, we must have a corporate vision, and all of us must strive to be visionaries," he said. "This is truly where the great organizations find their life blood."

Colonel LaBarge spoke about the New York Air National Guard's success throughout the years and how leaders throughout the state ensured its success, including Gen. Stanley Hemstreet who had the vision to pursue the polar airlift mission, among many other leaders and groups throughout the wing.

"We have a bright future here at the 109th; it is not one however that is devoid of peril," Colonel LaBarge said. "The challenges are significant – resource constrained environment, troubled economy, extraordinarily high ops tempo fueled by persistent deployments to the polar regions supplemented by opportunistic deployments to the CENTCOM theater. How we approach these challenges is up to us.

"We need all of you here to come to work every day looking for new ideas," he continued. "New ways of approaching the problems – don't just show up and steal someone's oxygen – we need your ideas to retain our vitality and viability."

Colonel LaBarge went on to talk about how ideas and visions have already come to be at the wing. Some examples include the NP 2000 propeller system, the crevasse detection radar systems, and Airmen who are now deploying to support operations

Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. And even more visions that came from members of the Wing are beginning to take shape.

"In addition to asking for your ideas and visions, we are going to continue to ask for you to develop, train and mentor the next generation of workers and leaders here at the 109th," he said. "Training your potential replacements is one of the most important tasks that you will have and will do more to ensuring our continued viability than anything else that you will do. Because as Pulitzer Prize Winning Author Walter Lippman stated: 'The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men and women the conviction and the will to carry on.'"

"I am extremely proud to be selected as your wing commander. It is an honor and privilege to serve with everyone in this room today," he said. "With regards to our challenges and initiatives, I am certain that we will not fail because if I have learned anything here at the 109th it is that you all do not know how to fail. As a result of the previous truth, I am positive that the hours that follow are going to be our finest hours."

Before taking command of the 109th Airlift Wing, Colonel LaBarge served as the wing vice commander since 2008. He also previously served as the Director of Staff - Air Component, Headquarters, New York Air National Guard. As the DS, Col LaBarge was the principal adviser to the Adjutant General and/or Assistant Adjutant on a broad range of matters concerning the United States Air Force and Air National Guard.

Colonel LaBarge received his Air Force commission through Officer Training School program in 1983 and joined the New York Air National Guard in 1992 where he served as Instructor/Examiner Pilot, Squadron Operations Officer, Chief, Standardization / Evaluation and Chief, Wing Command Post. Colonel LaBarge is a command pilot with more than 5,500 hours in the T-37, T-38 and C-5 and has flown combat and combat support missions in Operations Desert Shield / Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom

Wing Airmen graduate Satellite NCO Academy

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
Public Affairs

The 109th Airlift Wing graduated their third Satellite Noncommissioned Officer Academy class at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn., on June 29, wrapping up 14 weeks of training both at home and in Tennessee.

A distance learning version of the NCO Academy, the satellite program was specifically designed for Airmen who cannot attend the six-week program for whatever reason, but still want the education,

experience and credit of attending the course in-residence.

The two-phase program began here March 22, with students attending classes Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 10 p.m. After 12 weeks of classes on base, students finished up the last two weeks of classes at McGhee Tyson. Along with the 109th AW, 14 other Air National Guard units participated in this course, making up Class 10-6.

Airmen who are interested in taking the Satellite NCOA can call the Base Training office at 344-2406 or 344-2107 for information on future classes.



Photo by Master Sgt. Kurt Skoglund

Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing took part in the Satellite Noncommissioned Officer Academy Course, Class 10-6. Pictured are: (Back row, from left) Tech. Sgt. Thomas Heyman, Tech. Sgt. Glenn Mitchell, Staff Sgt. Robert Traina and Tech. Sgt. Charles Hatch. (Front row, from left) Tech. Sgt. Adam Rinaldi, Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt, Tech. Sgt. Allen Moon, Staff Sgt. Stephen Coonrad and Tech. Sgt. Michael Riggins.

Work-related ergonomics risks explained

By Maj. Ben Louie
Bioenvironmental Engineering Officer

This is a first in a series of informational articles on ergonomics and how they may relate to your occupation. This first article will define and identify ergonomic risk factors.

Before we get into the details, you may ask why ergonomic risk factors are important to know. Work Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WRMD) are the most prevalent cause of lost-time injury and illness in almost every industry. Many injuries that involve the back are costly to remediate. Of course, WRMD can cause a great deal of pain and suffering and may lower productivity and the quality of the product or service produced by the individual.

One caveat. Because musculoskeletal disorders can be caused by associated non-work activities (sports) and/or medical conditions (i.e. rheumatoid arthritis), it is difficult to determine the proportion of the disorder solely due to occupational events. So let's get down to some basics.

Ergonomic risk factors are indicators or flags that assist industrial hygienists in recognizing potential ergonomic hazards. While it is possible to measure how much of a chemical an individual is exposed to, ergonomic hazard exposure is more difficult to measure. Further, while it is not possible to measure "stress dose", it is possible to identify ergonomic hazards. These hazards do not positively state an injury will occur but the likelihood of injury is possible. There are specific workplace risk factors which are known to increase the potential for WRMDs. This article will briefly explain the risk factors of repetition, awkward or static postures, forceful exertion, contact stress, temperature, and vibration. Repetition is the act of performing the same activity more than once. When combined with other risk factors, exposure to repetitive motion can increase the risk of ergonomic injury. Repetitive motion becomes a problem when tissues are not given adequate time to heal. Continued repetitive

motion See ERGO, Page 13

Security Forces exercise

Photos by Senior Airman Ben German



Airmen with the 109th Security Forces Squadron prepare to clear a training building during an exercise here. The squadron spent two weeks performing combat training on base.



Airmen with the 109th Security Forces Squadron patrol the area during an exercise here June 11. The squadron took part in an exercise to test their combat skills.



Tech. Sgts. Marlene Frankovic (left) and George Robinson prepare to lead an assault on training buildings during an exercise here.

Ergo, from page 12

without sufficient rest can lead to muscle fatigue and strain.

An awkward posture is a joint angle (position) outside neutral position and/or extreme end ranges of normal range of motion. Neutral posture is typically considered to be close to zero degrees joint angle. (Exceptions: elbow at 90 degrees is considered normal for hand activities, knees at 90 degrees are considered neutral for sitting activities.)

The word static gives people the impression of an object being at rest. When we hold a particular position for a continuous length of time, we are placing a strain on our body. For example, a

sitting dental hygienist bent over a patient can potentially increase their risk of an ergonomic (back) injury. Heavy physical work can be defined as work that has high energy demands or requires some measure of physical strength. A situation where a task requires an increasing force to be used resulting in an increase stress placed on the muscles, tendons, and ligaments and joints. This may result in an immediate injury, but often produces a subtle, "nagging" injury that does not heal or does not heal properly or fully because there has been inadequate time for damaged tissues to repair.

Contact stress is direct pressure on soft tissue from an external surface. Repeated or continuous

contact with a hard object may create pressure over one area of the body, which can inhibit nerve function or blood flow. An example could be the handle of a screwdriver that digs into the palm of the hand thereby stressing the nerves and tendons beneath the skin surface.

Exposure to whole-body vibration (driving-tractor/large vehicles) has been linked to degenerative changes in the spine, arthritic back pain, intestinal ailments, prostate trouble, and hemorrhoids. The "reflex" constriction of muscles on blood vessels associated with localized vibration can severely reduce blood flow in the subject limb. Hand-arm syndrome (Raynaud's

Syndrome) has been linked to degenerative changes in hand and arm joints and tendons. Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome is a gradual progressive process that may involve years of exposure to hand-arm vibration.

Non-physical risk factors such as work pressures in the form of deadlines or job uncertainty affect us mentally. These pressures can influence the worker's applied force and speed of motions by increasing the force and the pace of work. The extent of risk is dependent upon the individual – taking into account their personality, past experiences, and the social climate at the workplace.

The next article will discuss workplace survey/analysis.

Firehouse Facts

Fire Department celebrates 20 years

By John Saupp
Base Firehouse

This past spring, the Stratton Air National Guard Base Fire Department marked its 20th anniversary as a fulltime career fire department. During the winter/spring of 1990 the fulltime fire department was created and authorized by New York state. Fulltime firefighters were hired and brought on board during the springtime of 1990, and here we are 20 years later.

The Fire Department has 24 fulltime members who staff two 24-hour shifts 365 days a year. The department handles aircraft incidents for the base and the Schenectady County Airport, structural alarms and fires, hazardous materials, technical/rope rescues and medical emergencies. Firefighters are highly trained in various emergency response operations.

The Fire Department now responds to an average of 200 calls a year. In the early 90s it was under 50 calls a year. The Stratton ANGB Fire Department is also part of the Schenectady County mutual aid plan and routinely responds off base to assist with fire/rescue operations in the local communities.

The department has responded to a number of major incidents throughout the past 20 years both off base as well as here at the 109th. The Fire Department also is heavily involved in building fire inspections, base/ flightline fire extinguisher training and maintenance and fire safety education.

The 109th Fire Protection sections' traditional guardsmen have also had a busy and interesting past 20 years. 109th guardsmen have been deployed for Operations Desert Shield/ Desert Storm, Operation Joint Endeavor, 9/11 attacks, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Members have deployed numerous times to various Air Force bases both CONUS and overseas for annual training requirements. 109th members continue to be highly trained fire protection specialists ready to perform their duties whether here or aboard. In addition, scheduled UCI and IGX inspections were performed. A new fire station and new equipment have been a major event during the last two decades. The new fire station was built and occupied in 1996. A new rescue truck, two crash fire vehicles, pumper, and two command and control vehicles highlight the department's vehicle updates. New personnel protective

equipment, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and fire/rescue equipment were all purchased. A fire training center and confined space rescue trainer were all built and are still in operation today. These trainers are used regularly by both the Stratton FD and many outside fire and emergency services organizations to conduct realistic emergency response scenarios.

Congratulations to Joseph Flagler on his recent promotion to senior master sergeant and as the new Deputy Fire Chief for the 109th. We would also like to congratulate three firefighters who have recently retired. First is Master Sgt. Thomas Miter. Sergeant Miter retires as the Deputy Fire Chief and was a member of the 109th for more than 20 years. He continues on with his fulltime job as a captain with the City of Troy Fire Department. On the fulltime side, firefighters David Vadney and Scott Dehart have both retired after 20 years with the base fire department. We wish all these gentlemen and their families the best and thank them for their service. It is hard to summarize 20 years of history and events into one article. Some words which could describe the past two decades ... challenging, tragic, busy, rewarding, fulfilling, and of course interesting.

Education

DANTES testing undergoes changes

By Capt. Shane Gernand
Public Affairs

Officials at the Defense Activity for Non Traditional Educational Support (DANTES), the organization responsible for managing the examination program for college level courses for military members, have made several changes in testing policy.

The 109th was until recently a stocking site where a collection of popular exams were maintained on base for Airmen to take at any time. This type of testing is no longer available to military testing sites. In its place are the National Testing Centers program and limited by-request on-site (base) paper based testing.

The NTC program will allow any member

with a military ID to test at a local college or university at no charge to the member. However, this option is limited to those institutions that participate in the program and is limited to the testing schedule the college establishes.

At this time the 109th is working with State University of New York (SUNY), Hudson Valley Community Center (HVCC) and Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) to solicit participation to partake in this important program. Once this process is complete, all members interested in taking computer-based exams will be able to do so at any of the participating institutions.

A limited selection of tests will be available from DANTES on a four-week advance notice basis that will allow some paper-based testing to occur at various military bases to

include Stratton. This will be used on a very limited basis. It is highly recommended that the member use the NTC program offering a computer-based test which results in the immediate notification of an exam score upon completion. The NTC program is scheduled to be available by Aug. 30.

Because of the upcoming IGX and the summer break there are no scheduled exam dates through November; however, if a member wants to take an exam, please e-mail Master Sgt. Mark Rising and copy Senior Master Sgt. Penny Sheedy indicating what exam you would like to take. They will then work with the Test Control Officers to schedule an exam if it is available from DANTES.

For more information, e-mail Sergeant Rising.

SMAC

SMAC's role: Ensure success of 109th AW

By Robin Granger
Vice President of Communications & Member Relations
The Chamber of Schenectady County

The Schenectady Military Affairs Council (SMAC) is a program of The Chamber of Schenectady County. Run by a group of community volunteers and administered by the Chamber, SMAC values the importance of the 109th Airlift Wing and Stratton Air National Guard Base to the overall well-being of the Capital Region's economy and quality of life and strives to let others know of the importance of both.

SMAC's mission is two-fold: to expand public awareness of the importance of the 109th and Stratton ANGB and to engage political leaders to support the unit and its missions. SMAC's No. 1 goal is to ensure the long-term viability and success of the 109th. Council members strive to facilitate a symbiotic partnership between the community and the military.

In 2005, when Stratton Air National Guard Base was placed on the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRACC) list, SMAC brought together community leaders and citizens to rally and protect the base – and the local economy – from the devastating effects of lost jobs or complete closure of the base. SMAC leaders made presentations to government officials, business associations and service groups to heighten the awareness of the threat to the community if the base were to be closed. Funds were raised via grants and corporate and private contributions to support the campaign. As we all know, the efforts ultimately paid off. In effect, SMAC supporters served as "Minutemen" protecting the base and its people.

The SMAC Minutemen stand ready to show their support. The group has assisted the Wing with many events and initiatives, including:

-- Helping coordinate Civic Leader Tours to familiarize elected

officials and business leaders with the missions and contributions of the 109th Airlift Wing

-- Donating funds and supplies to assist family members of deployed Wing members

-- Supporting the Base's 60th Anniversary Party

-- Obtaining sponsorships and coordinating activities for Family Day

-- Producing the now annual "To Honor and Serve" Veterans' Day breakfast

Have You Seen This Man on Base?

Roger Hannay has been the Chairman of SMAC since its inception in 2004. A Vietnam veteran, Mr. Hannay served in the U.S. Army as a lieutenant for two years.

He is president of Hannay Reels, a family-owned hose reel business founded in 1933 in Westerlo, N.Y. Hannay's hose reels are shipped all over the world; in fact, the 109th even carried one to the South Pole! Hannay Reels is known for its family culture, quality products and accountability. The company's benchmark for quality is listening to each customer's unique needs and delivering a customized solution that exceeds expectations every time. Mr. Hannay exhibits that same benchmark in his leadership of SMAC by going above and beyond the call of duty to support the men and women of the 109th Airlift Wing and to show his appreciation for their service every day. He is well-known for looking to the sky each time a C-130 flies overhead and saying, "That's the sound of freedom." Should you run into Mr. Hannay on base sometime, be sure to stop him and say hello!



Courtesy photo
Roger Hannay
SMAC Chairman

David Stott Scholarship

TSgt David Stott was a member of the 139AES as well as the 109 MDG who passed away 13 Jan 03 following a short illness.

TSgt Stott's parents continue to carry on his memory by offering a scholarship in his name each year.

The scholarship is worth \$1,500.

All 109th AW members, any career field, Officer or Enlisted, pursuing a medically related degree are eligible to apply.

Applications should be made through your respective 1st Sgt on a standard AF form 1206.

Submissions will be due to your respective 1st Sgt by close of business Saturday of the October UTA

FALL FEST 2010

Oct. 23 at 4 p.m.
Stratton ANG Base

CHILI COOKOFF

PIE BAKING CONTEST

HAY RIDES

COSTUMES WELCOME

AND MUCH MORE!!!

More information and registration
forms for contests available soon!

*RSVP on the
109th Airlift Wing Family Programs
Facebook page*

Family Programs

Military kids spend week on base



Children who participated in Galaxy Camp 2010 got a chance to climb a rockwall provided by Counterdrug. About 50 kids participated in the week-long camp held on base this year.



About 50 children of military members participated in Galaxy Camp 2010 here July 19-23. This year, the group went on field trips to the local animal shelter and took a tour of Albany with the Albany Aqua Ducks.



About 50 children graduated from Galaxy Camp 2010 on July 23. Each year, the Airman and Family Readiness Program Office puts together the camp to give 109th kids a better understanding of what their parents do in the military. Along with field trips, kids took tours of the LC-130 Skibird, the base firehouse and the Life Support section.

Photos by Senior Airman Ben German



The Airman and Family Readiness Program office is now on Facebook! On it, you'll find pictures, news and events going on at the 109th. Become a fan! Visit www.facebook.com and search for 109th Airlift Wing Family Programs.

Summer picnic just around the corner

By Retired Lt. Col. Tom Noel
Alumni Representative

The 109th Airlift Wing Alumni Association's Annual Summer Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 21, at the Pavilion at Stratton Air National Guard Base. Lunch will be served noon to 3 p.m. The lunch menu includes: hot dogs, manburgers, corn on the cob, clams (both steamed and raw), clam chowder, baked beans, salad, and chips and dips. Dinner is scheduled to be served around 5 p.m. The dinner menu includes: shrimp, steak, salads, corn on the cob, coffee and dessert. Beer, wine and soda will be available throughout the day. Our Wednesday (which might change to Tuesday) Lunch Enterprise at the base allowed us to keep the cost to \$10; additional guests are \$20 each. Make checks out to the 109th Alumni Association and forward to Ken Bliss, 365 Wolf Hollow Road, Scotia, NY, 12302. Any questions, call Bob Buzior at (518) 372-5135.

The Old Antarctic Explorers Association (OAEA) fifth National Reunion for 2010 is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 3, through Friday, Nov. 5, in San Antonio. If anybody is interested in attending, the information will be available on the bulletin board located in The All Ranks Club.

The Antarctic Deep Freeze Association (ADFA) Reunion for 2011 is scheduled for June 21 -23, 2011 in Gettysburg, Pa. If anybody is interested in attending, the information will also be available on the bulletin board located in The All Ranks Club.

The 109th Airlift Wing at Stratton Air National Guard Base is sponsoring "Family Day" on Sunday, Aug. 15, from noon to 5 p.m. There will be food and drinks, aircraft static displays, car and motorcycle show, live band, state police and a bouncy bounce.

New USAF dining program opens doors for retirees. Thanks to the Air force's Food Transformation Initiative, retirees at six bases will soon be able to use military food service establishments previously reserved for active-duty Airmen. Retirees will pay the same market price as everyone else, and there will not be an added surcharge on top of the menu price. The six Air force bases participating are Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Patrick AFB, Fla.; MacDill AFB, Fla.; Fairchild AFB, Wash.; Little Rock AFB, Ark.; and Travis AFB, Calif.

All veterans can now salute the U.S. Flag without being in uniform. At their meetings, other veterans' organizations are citing this new law and encouraging their members to render the right hand salute to the U.S. Flag when not in uniform. Per H.R.4986 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 signed by the President on Jan. 28, 2008, to become Public Law No. 110-181. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the "military salute." All other persons present should face the U.S. flag and stand at attention with their right hand over their heart.

The members of the 109th Airlift Wing Alumni Association would like to send their condolences and prayers to the families of

the following individuals who have passed away over the last few months:

Marshall J. Knapik, 66 years old of Cranes Hollow Road, died suddenly from a heart attack on Thursday, April 15, at St. Mary's Hospital after being stricken at home. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Upon his honorable discharge in 1967, he enlisted in the 109th Airlift Wing New York Air National Guard where he achieved the rank of master sergeant and worked there until retiring in 1997.

Master Sgt. Frank Cardamone's mother passed away in June. He is the Aircraft Maintenance Fuel Shop Chief of the 109th Airlift Wing.

The 109th Airlift Wing Alumni Association members would like to welcome home members of the 109th Airlift Wing who spent many weeks deployed in Afghanistan this year.

There have been individuals who have retired in the past few months. If you know any of them, please invite them to our meeting the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., at The All Ranks Club. It would be good to have them as new members. Their first year of membership of the Alumni Association is "free." We always look forward to seeing new faces and new members at our meetings.

Until the next quarterly issue of the Skibird Magazine publication, you all have a wonderful and cool summer vacation and stay Happy, Healthy, Safe, Prosperous and "Think Fall."

Deadline Notice

Articles for the next issue of *the Skibird* are due by Sept. 12.



Officer Promotions

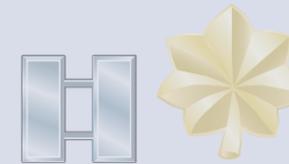
Brigadier General
Anthony German - JFHQ

Lieutenant Colonel
Sharon Weinlein - MDS
Sharon Westbrook - AES

Captain
Melissa Caldon - AES
Daniel Godfrey - AS
Lynda Hirata - AES
Maureen Moffett - AES
Patrick Newton - AS

First Lieutenant
Drew Brewer - AS
Dannielle Flanigan - MDS
Shawn Griffin - AES
Jason Grupp - STUF
Bonnie Kemble - AES
Zachery McCreary - STUF
Kerry Walker - MXS
Bernadette Weaver - AES
Michael Wiwczar - STUF

Second Lieutenant
Joshua German - AW
James Vanwormer - CES



Enlisted Promotions

Master Sergeant
Brian Hanus - MXG
Timothy Putman - AS

Technical Sergeant
Jason R. Belknap - LRS
Thomas N. Cronce - MXS
Zachery Falle - LRS
Matthew Kergel - AMXS
Michael Stark - SFS
Jay D. Wilson - FSS

Staff Sergeant
Shane G. Barker - MXS
Dennis P. Jr, Dauphin - MXS
Matthew P. Clancy - LRS
Matthew B. Cotter - OG
Joshua Fisher - AS
James E. Lance III - CES
Andrea J. Noel - SFS
Andrew R. Nowacki - MXS
Andrew P. Rought - AS
Sam Webster - AES

Senior Airman
Anthony J. Amico - CF
Jonathan M. Colon - STUF
Christine M. Davila - AMXS
Brandon D. Deming - STUF
Jamie L. Davis - SFS
Christopher Dumond - AMXS
Sarah M. Etzel - AES
Sabrena L. Healey - OG
Jide D. Osipitan - SFS
Joshua T. Myers - CES
Patrick C. Nowacki - MXS
Timothy R. Schmitt - STUF
Francisco Soler - MSF
Stephen R. West - CES

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal
Lt Col Thomas Mason - JFHQ
Maj Judith Maloney - LRS
CMSgt Dennis Morgan - OSF
CMSgt Michelle Morgan - OSF
MSgt David Trasky - CF
MSgt Kenneth Voelker - MXM

Air Force Achievement Medal
MSgt Norman Martin - MXM
MSgt Donna Torres - JFHQ
MSgt Greg Mihalko - CF
TSgt Jodi Habbinger - CF
SSgt Eric Rising - CF

Air Force Commendation Medal

Maj Allen Styno - AES
MSgt Keith Boehlke - CF
MSgt Richard Felton - OSF
MSgt Kim McDonnell - CF
MSgt Anthony Morabito - FSS
MSgt Jonathan Michael - AS
MSgt Christina Perrigo - OSF
MSgt John Rayome - AES

TSgt Chad Conti - AS
TSgt John Hayden Jr. - AES
TSgt Michael Hojnicky - OSF
TSgt Michael Lewis - MDG
TSgt Pedro Negron - CF
TSgt Kenneth Scholl - CF
SrA Michael Miller - AS



Photo by Master Sgt. Christine Wood

(Left) Brig. Gen. Anthony German (right) was given his first star during a promotion ceremony here June 13 with Retired Maj. Gen. Robert Knauff present. General German now serves as the New York Air National Guard Chief of Staff.

109th Airlift Wing
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Scotia, NY 12302-9752

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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.