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The **AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

Skibird



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Fall / Winter 2014

Community Family Mission



"I think I'm an inclusive leader. I want to get as many people involved in solving problems as possible; I want to hear what people have to say. A leader has to make decisions, but I don't want to make decisions in a vacuum. I want to know what people think."

— Lt. Col. Alan Ross, 109th Airlift Wing Vice Commander

Ross selected as Vice Commander

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Alan Ross, a nearly 30-year veteran who most recently served as the Wing chief of staff, was selected as the 109th Airlift Wing Vice Commander.

Ross joined the Wing in 1998 as an LC-130 pilot with the 139th Airlift Squadron. Before joining the Wing, he worked as a special agent with the FBI and before that served in the U.S. Navy flying helicopters.

"I saw articles about the 109th becoming involved in the Antarctic mission," he said. "I knew they were ramping up and looking for people to come into the unit for this mission, and I'd always wanted to fly a larger fixed-wing aircraft. As a Navy helicopter pilot I flew a number of small fixed-wing aircraft, but never anything as big as a C-130. I thought it would be a great challenge, and it was something I'd always wanted to do."

A little less than 10 years later, during his time as Chief of Wing Plans, Ross had the opportunity to deploy for the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission in Iraq, flying RC-26 aircraft.

"There was a need, and I thought that I should do my part," he said. "It gave me a totally different perspective. I was the Chief of Wing Plans at the time, so I was used to helping people get out the door and get to theater, but I didn't know what it was like myself—I wanted to get that first-hand experience. I wanted to see what they did and what they went through and also do my part for the war efforts."

Ross said it's important for Airmen to come out of their comfort zones as he did and try new things to get a broader perspective.

"I think just working here at Wing staff has given me a much broader sense of what happens in the Wing. There are so many

things going on that just aren't obvious to people when they're in their sections. One thing we're working on is to get people into different areas on the base and encourage them to try new things, fostering growth in new areas and helping them understand how other units work. This will help improve communication and understanding basewide," he said.

During his 16 years with the Wing, Ross said he has witnessed many changes, including the obvious changes after 9/11 with ops tempo, deployments and training. He also said that the amount of young people joining the unit is a lot different than when he first arrived.

"In the last five years or so, it seems like we've had a huge influx of young people," he said. "It's really neat to see, because when I came here it seemed like a lieutenant was an anomaly, something that you just didn't see very often. But now, we have a lot of young officers and a lot of young Airmen, and you see these people taking on responsibilities at a lower rank than maybe we had before. ... It's been a good change. We need those next generations to come through the door with new and different ideas. It allows us to grow."

Ross said as Vice Commander he will be focusing on strategic planning, both short and long term, with the Group Commanders. "Our strategy and what we want to accomplish in the long run is to keep this place ready and relevant in the future so that people who are just coming in the door can look forward to a successful 20- or 30-year career here without worrying about us going away."

He said he also wants the Wing to focus on the Inspector General office.

"There was a good focus on it for the (Unit Effectiveness Inspection), and after the UEI, I think people got the idea that they could let the air out and get back to business as usual, but it's a new business as usual. It's continuous.



File Photo

We have to make sure that we're ready and we're compliant. And it really is a good way to make sure that we stay ahead of the game and focus on that readiness and compliance."

As the Vice Commander, Ross said people can expect him to do the best he can every day for the Wing.

"I will work as hard as anyone here to make sure that our folks have what they need to accomplish the mission," he said. "I like the motto, 'Mission first, people always.' The mission is our No. 1 priority, but without the people, we can't accomplish the mission. We want to take care of our people to the maximum extent possible. We want to give them opportunities and benefits, but we can't do that at the sacrifice of the mission because the mission is why we're here and what we're for."

"I want to continue to move the unit forward in a positive direction," he said. "To get out and talk to people as much as possible, listen to people, find out what their thoughts are, what their goals are, what their aspirations are, and how we can make this a better unit for everyone. How to make it a place where people are happy to come to work and want to do the best job they can."

109th Airlift Wing



Commander

Col. Shawn Clouthier

Vice Commander

Lt. Col. Alan Ross

Command Chief

Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto

The Skibird

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On the cover:

A collage of what the 109th Airlift Wing has been up to the last six months. (Graphic by Master Sgt. William Gizara.)

Focusing on the positive

By Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto
109th AW Command Chief

Every day we find something to be proud about, and in this issue I would like to focus on the “wins” throughout the Wing.

The 109th is taking the lead in developing our Airmen. This year, about 120 members went through the new Leadership Development Course; 11 Airmen are currently going through the first Satellite Airman Leadership School held here; 11 technical sergeants attended the TIME Workshop in Massachusetts; Five noncommissioned officers attended the Fort Ticonderoga War College; 30 members attended the State Command Chief’s Enlisted Call at the Saratoga Battlefield/Military Museum, and the list goes on.

Senior enlisted members and company grade officers have been busy working together to create further professional development throughout the wing. Thirty

staff sergeants and above participated in a leadership development staff ride to Concord, Massachusetts, which focused on ethic in leadership. Most recently, 20 senior airmen and below participated in a staff ride to the Saratoga Battlefield where they learned about the decision making process.

The 109th moves forward with the revamped ANG Ancillary Training Program which has proven to be a huge success. We had an 83-percent completion rate for October. We are off to a great start!

The 109th keeps moving forward with future initiatives. Your senior enlisted is forming a Top 3 Association and will be formalizing the bi-laws and will have elections very soon. One of their first initiatives is to sponsor/create the new Enlisted Development Course for staff sergeants and below. A first for the 109th! Sign up through your first sergeant – the first class is scheduled for January.

All of these things I have mentioned are positive. Sometimes we get caught up in



File Photo

the mistakes or things that are wrong. We can always turn those around and learn from it. Acknowledge the small steps toward success, and one day you will look back and see just how much progress you’ve made.

To the members of the 109th, as always, thank you for everything you do! I wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season.

Statewide enlisted call

Photos by Staff Sgt. Benjamin German



Airmen from Air National Guard units throughout New York attended the fourth annual NYANG Command Chief Enlisted Development Call on June 11-13, 2014, this year hosted by the 109th Airlift Wing. The three-day event included a tour of the Eastern Air Defense Sector, the Saratoga Military Museum and the Saratoga National Battlefield. Airmen also got to learn more about the different Wings and their missions. (Above) Brig. Gen. Anthony German, NYANG chief of staff, addresses the attendees at the museum. (Left) Airmen get a guided tour of the Saratoga National Battlefield.

Support Group welcomes new commander

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hedges assumed command of the 109th Mission Support Group during a change of command ceremony here Sept. 13.

Hedges, previous 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, assumed command from Col. Walter Wintsch in a ceremony officiated by Col. Shawn Clouthier, 109th Airlift Wing commander. Changes of command are a military tradition representing the transfer of responsibilities from the presiding official to the upcoming official.

“What the Support Group is getting is a man with a lot of experience, a man who’s already shown how he cares for you by the community events he’s set up to Gettysburg and Massachusetts, and his day in and day out operations down in LRS,” Clouthier said to the audience. “He’s done a super job, and we’re going to expect a lot more out of him as the Support Group commander.”

Wintsch spoke to the audience and said that the ceremony wasn’t so much about him, as it was for Hedges. He thanked the Wing members for the support they had given him over the years.

“The last couple of years as the Support Group commander have probably been the most rewarding couple of years I’ve ever had in my life on the professional side,” said Wintsch. “To all the officers, senior NCOs and Airmen, you’re the ones who really make it happen in the Support Group. You push hard every day, and I really appreciate that. Thank you all for a great run as your Support Group commander. And to Colonel Hedges, I’m excited for you. I know you’re going to take the Support Group to the next level.”

After the Mission Support Group guidon was passed to Hedges, he addressed the audience. Hedges thanked the LRS for all they had done, as well as many others throughout the Wing and his family for their support. He also spoke about the importance of three familiar symbols to the 109th AW’s members – the LC-130, the U.S. Flag, and the U.S. Air Force uniform. Hedges then



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hedges (right) assumes command of the 109th Mission Support Group from Col. Shawn Clouthier (center), 109th Airlift Wing commander, during a change of command ceremony Sept. 13, 2014. Col. Walter Wintsch (left) relinquished command during the ceremony. Hedges served as the 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander before taking the position as MSG commander.

turned his attention to Wintsch.

“Colonel Wintsch said that the change of command ceremony really wasn’t about him, it was about me. But that’s not true. In most cases it would be, but not today,” he said. “Because no matter what I say, my words are simply going to be in the shadow of everything you have done, Sir. So on behalf of the 109th Airlift Wing, thank you for leading so many, so well, for so long.”

Following the ceremony, Wintsch officially retired after serving for nearly 40 years in the military; almost 30 of those years with the 109th Airlift Wing.

(Right) Col. Walter Wintsch retired in a ceremony after relinquishing command of the 109th Mission Support Group. Wintsch retired with nearly 40 years of service.



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

The aircrew heads out to an LC-130 Hercules that will begin its journey to the South Pole. The LC-130 and crew with the 109th Airlift Wing took off from Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, New York, on Oct. 17, 2014. The aircraft is headed to Antarctica for the Wing's 27th year participating in Operation Deep Freeze in support of the National Science Foundation.

Airmen, aircraft start 27th year of ODF

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

The first LC-130 Hercules aircraft took off for Antarctica Oct. 17, marking the 27th season the 109th Airlift Wing has supported the National Science Foundation with Operation Deep Freeze.

This season is expected to be the biggest yet, with more than 350 missions planned and nearly 3,000 hours expected to be flown. Crews plan to deliver 5.4 million pounds of fuel and cargo and nearly 4,500 passengers. About 120 Airmen will be deployed to the ice at any one time, and a total of eight LC-130s will be deployed throughout the season

which will run through about March.

The unique capabilities of the ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft make it the only one of its kind in the U.S. military, able to land on snow and ice. The primary mission of the 109th AW is to provide airlift within Antarctica, flying to various remote locations from McMurdo Station.

"We transport scientists, support personnel, fuel, supplies, medical supplies

– basically anything we can fit on the back of the plane," said Maj. Steve Cousineau, 139th Airlift Squadron navigator who left with the first plane.

"It's like being part of a team. We practice all year to do this. It's a good job, and it's rewarding. We're making a contribution to science."

Maj. Steve Cousineau
139th Airlift Squadron navigator

Along with their primary mission of transporting people and supplies, crews will also be flying IcePod missions this

year.

"IcePod focuses on the development of an integrated ice imaging system that can measure in detail both the ice surface and

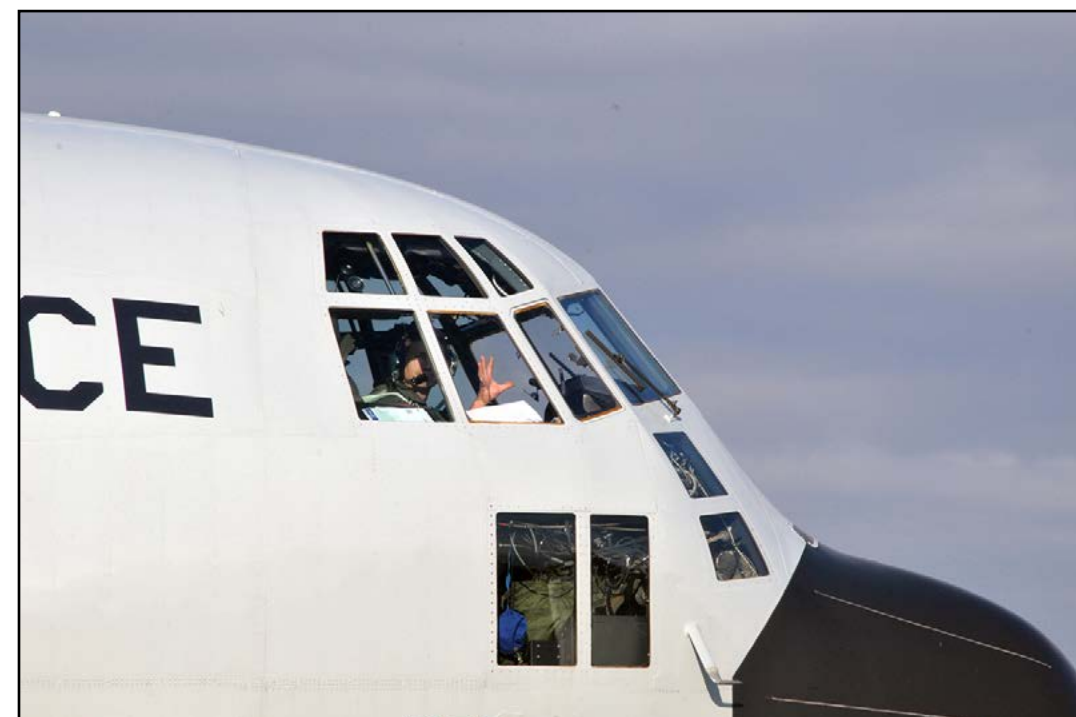


Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

(Left) Maj. Joshua Hicks, co-pilot, waves goodbye from inside the cockpit of an LC-130 Hercules headed for Antarctica. The 109th Airlift Wing aircraft and crew took off from Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, New York, on Oct. 17, 2014.

(Below) An LC-130 Hercules takes off for Antarctica on Oct. 17, 2014, for the Wing's 27th year participating in Operation Deep Freeze in support of the National Science Foundation. The 109th AW boasts the U.S. military's only ski-equipped aircraft, which has been supporting the NSF's South Pole research since 1988.

the ice bed, helping in the understanding of why ice sheets are changing at such a rapid rate," said Lt. Col. Blair Herdrick, chief of Antarctic Operations at the 109th. "The system will be enclosed in a Common Science Support Pod (CSSP) mounted on the rear troop door of the LC-130. This will be the first operational use of the CSSP."

Two aircraft will also be outfitted with an Airborne Data Collection System (ADCS) for testing.

"The integrated Iridium-based communication and position reporting system will improve in-flight communications for mission reporting, weather updates, and air traffic control instructions. It will also dramatically improve search and rescue response," Herdrick said.

Planning is a huge role everyone plays. Lt. Col. Martha Wadsworth, 139th Airlift Squadron commander, said the squadron is ready to start their annual mission.

"We need to make sure we have the right manpower and equipment to survive in the austere environment," she said. "Also the training to use that equipment properly, and the expertise to fly the airplane safely."

The biggest challenge for not only the Airmen, but also the aircraft in Antarctica, has always been the weather.

"The planes have to get acclimated to the

(environment)," said Lt. Col. Chris Sander, aircraft commander. "But we're constantly watching the weather."

While weather is a constant challenge, the other is Airmen leaving their families behind.

"Being away from the family is always tough – that never gets easy," Cousineau said. "But once we're there, we're a big family."

"I've been going twice a year for 20 years," he said. "It's like being part of a team. We practice all year to do this. It's a good job, and it's rewarding. We're making a contribution to science."

The 109th AW has been supporting the NSF's South Pole research since 1988. Since 1999, the unit has been the sole provider of this type of airlift to the NSF and U.S. Antarctic research efforts.



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Distinguished Visitors

Retired CMSAF gives motivating speech to Airmen

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

“Some of you are about to launch out of here for a place called Antarctica. When you come back, do you feel good? I hope so. You deserve to. Think of the contribution you’re making. Think of what it is that you’re doing. Think of the uniqueness of it. Think of the opportunity you never dreamt of when you were a little kid that someday you would go to Antarctica to perform duty. You think of it in those terms, you think, ‘Wow, when’s the plane leaving?’ And you put up with the separation and the luxury of life because of the feelings you get from what it is you’re doing.”

Retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Robert D. Gaylor spoke these words and many more to a room full of enlisted Airmen during a visit here Sept. 25. This was the third visit to the 109th Airlift Wing for the now 84-year-old. The 109th AW Chief’s Council invited him to be the guest speaker at the annual Senior Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony, and the retired chief took some time a few hours before the ceremony to talk to the enlisted personnel on the base.

Gaylor enlisted in the Air Force 66 years ago – September 1948 – in the security police career field. In 1957 he served as a military training instructor until 1962. He became the fifth chief master sgt. of the Air Force

in 1977 and retired in 1979. Since then, he visits Airmen throughout the world to talk about his time in the Air Force, how the Air Force has evolved throughout the years, and gives some insight into how to be motivated Airmen.

Gaylor said one of the most popular questions he gets is how the Air Force has changed in the last 66 years. He sums it up with “the four T’s” – training, technology, tribe (family), and what he says may be the most important, trust.

“It might be the most important T of all to me, because I entered an Air Force where it wasn’t there,” Gaylor said. “I joined an Air Force where there was no trust. Enlisted people were in no way trusted. The belief was we had to be watched every minute.”

Gaylor said the trust Airmen enjoy today wasn’t earned overnight. He said he and others who served years before, earned it by showing they could handle it.

“You better not screw it up,” he told the Airmen in the audience. “You have a right to do a lot of things, but you do not have the right to violate the trust that we worked hard to earn over the years. You make sure that you take that trust that’s been invested in you and use it appropriately in a positive way.”

For anyone who is familiar with Gaylor’s speeches, they are more than likely familiar with his popular phrase, “My name is



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Robert D. Gaylor speaks at the 109th Airlift Wing’s Senior Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony at Schenectady County Community College, Schenectady, New York, on Sept. 25, 2014. Gaylor visited Stratton Air National Guard Base earlier in the day to speak to a group of enlisted Airmen as well.

on the mailbox,” and his motto, “People like hot french fries”.

When Gaylor says “my name is on the mailbox” he’s talking about ownership and accountability and how that alone is what improves motivation.

“I assume your name is on the 109th mailbox,” he said. “If it isn’t, your motivation level is probably 40-50 percent. Only when you feel that ownership, that accountability does motivation go up. Believe me, they’re connected. ... There is no substitute for a feeling of achievement, contribution, accountability.”

His motto he uses is about passion. Gaylor told a story about a visit to a small hamburger stand and a young delivery boy who worked there. When the boy received an order, “The kid took off running, and I have to

emphasize running. Young kid with a sack of food running full speed down the street.” He said the boy came running back at the same speed. “I had to figure out what stirred him up.” So Gaylor talked to him.

“I said ‘You were really running!’ He said, ‘I always do.’ ‘Every order?’ ‘Yes, Sir.’ ‘There and back?’ ‘Yes, Sir.’ ‘That fast?’ ‘Yes, Sir.’

‘Why?’ ‘People like hot french fries.’ And I said, ‘You’re probably right.’”

Gaylor said later on he thought about what the boy said, and asked the audience, “Do you deliver hot fries? I know someone who does. Me.

“I have all kinds of passion. I have a passion for my country, my city, my Air Force. I have an abundance of passion – I deliver hot fries.”

Distinguished Visitors



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

Command Chief meets 109th Airmen

Command Chief Master Sgt. of the Air National Guard James Hotaling held an enlisted town hall meeting during a visit Sept. 30, 2014. Before his meeting, Hotaling spent the morning visiting Airmen at their sections, including new Security Forces Airmen (pictured). He was at the base in preparation for a trip to Antarctica with the 109th Airlift Wing in support of Operation Deep Freeze – his first trip to the ice.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin German

Preparing to board

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, 111th District, and Amy Amoroso, New York State Director of Veterans Business Outreach, stand outside of an LC-130 Skibird during a base tour Aug. 9, 2014. The two got to see the inside of the aircraft and also learned about the 109th's unique mission.



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Sitting in the pilot's seat

Col. Shawn Clouthier (right), 109th Airlift Wing commander, and Lt. Col. Alan Ross, then 109th AW chief of staff, give Moran Banai, military legislative assistant to Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, an inside look of an LC-130. Banai came to the base Aug. 27, 2014, to learn more about the 109th's unique mission and tour an LC-130 aircraft.

Airmen support state preparedness mission

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

Four Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing have been part of a statewide program to help provide citizens the tools they would need to aid their families and neighbors in a disaster situation.

In February, Gov. Andrew Cuomo launched the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program to “provide residents with the knowledge and tools to prepare for emergencies and disasters, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions,” according to the program’s fact sheet.

New York National Guardsmen work with experts from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and local emergency

management personnel to hold classes across the state. The classes cover a broad range of emergency preparedness topics like developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies, the program’s fact sheet stated.

Headquartered at the Division of Military and Naval Affairs in Latham, New York, the corps has Airmen and Soldiers located in eight different areas throughout New York. As of Oct. 2, 2014, the teams have held 146 events, training 20,512 citizens across the state. 109th Airlift Wing members Chief Master Sgt. Mark Mann, Master Sgt. Daniel Price, Staff Sgt. Megan Lane and Senior Airman Nicholas Mancuso have all had a part in helping to make the program successful.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
Master Sgt. Daniel Price trains citizens during a session of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program at Schenectady County Community College in Schenectady, New York, on Sept. 27, 2014. As of Oct. 2, 2014, New York National Guard troops have given disaster and emergency training to more than 20,500 citizens across New York. Price is an instructor with the preparedness program as well as the Air Terminal Operations Center NCOIC with the 109th Small Air Terminal.

“The concept behind the program is to start discussion with family members to see what type of disasters may be in

your region, how it may directly impact you and your family and neighborhood, and then make plans around how you’re going to sustain yourself and your family through those events,” said Price, an instructor who works out of the Saratoga office. As a traditional guardsman, he is the Air Terminal Operations Center noncommissioned officer in charge with the 109th Small Air Terminal.

Events can be as small as 40 people to a large executive chamber-sponsored event. On average, Price said events usually have about 150-200 citizens in attendance.

Mancuso, who works as a technical adviser with the program at DMNA, said he has had a lot of hands-on experience in disaster situations both as a chaplain’s assistant with the 109th AW as well as a New York state hazardous materials technician. He said he’s noticed a difference in how communities



U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta/New York Army National Guard
Senior Airman Nicholas Mancuso (left) registers Christine Cha for a session of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program at the United Nations International School in New York City on Aug. 12, 2014. New York National Guard troops gave disaster and emergency training to about 300 people who attended the event. Mancuso is a technical adviser with the preparedness program as well as a chaplain’s assistant with the 109th Airlift Wing.

IG office focused on Wing mission accomplishment

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

While it may seem that the 109th Inspector General Office has gone through a lot of changes over the past year, its philosophy stays the same - the right information at the right time, identifying areas of improvement, and focusing on limited resources to ensure mission accomplishment.

The 109th Airlift Wing was the first Air National Guard unit to undergo the Unit Effectiveness Inspection under the new inspection process in March and came out on top. Since then, numerous units have reached out to the 109th AW for their expertise. The IG team has also made visits to other units to share their experiences and how the team has been working within the unit.

Although the goal is the same, the office has undergone some changes, including new personnel as well as a more streamlined inspection process, making it simpler for the base as a whole.

“We have more guidance and more clarification on what pertains to us (as the Air National Guard),” said Senior Airman Brittany Rankin, the office’s admin.

“There are different checklists being uploaded to MICT (Management Internal Control Toolset),” said Lt. Col. Ronald Ankabrandt, 109th Inspector General. “MICT has evolved and expectations are much more manageable.”

MICT is a self-inspection tool each area is able to execute in order to maintain compliance. Each area’s self-assessment manager is responsible for uploading the checklist that particular section will need. Air Mobility Command has visibility of this website and is able to see what is being reported. MICT, along with the entire inspection program, is done on a continuous basis.

The Wing is graded on four major areas – managing resources, improving the unit, leading people and executing the mission – in the most efficient way possible. Along with MICT, the IG office, with the help of the Wing Inspection Team members, will hold exercises to demonstrate the base’s ability in these areas. “We are the eyes and ears of the Wing commander,” Ankabrandt said.

“Some sections will go through inspections (not initiated by the Wing), and we can use those results,” Ankabrandt said. “They should make sure to get us a copy of

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Self-Assessment Program
and MICT Manager

Senior Airman Brittany Rankin
109th Inspection Team Admin

the report. We want to eliminate redundant inspections.”

They stressed that sections should report discrepancies. “If discrepancies are highlighted then it’s possible we could get funding for needed resources to correct those discrepancies.”

One of the biggest points Ankabrandt wanted 109th Airmen to know is that, “We are here to help, not look for mistakes.”

STATE PREPAREDNESS MISSION

respond in different areas, stressing the importance of this program.

“When I responded to Hurricane Sandy we went to two different locations. (In one location) I noticed a lot of people didn’t know how to take care of themselves,” he said. “I’m very familiar with emergency disaster and response. ... By in large they seemed to not have the skill-set or the knowledge to take care of themselves. (At another location) they banded together as a community and they took charge.

“We can’t supply them with what they need to survive – that’s just logistically impossible, so what we do is we teach them how to do that themselves, how to stock up on water and food, how to be mentally and physically prepared for a disaster ahead of time,” Mancuso said.

“It’s very important for families to have that discussion before an emergency occurs,” Price said. “That way if they have that discussion within their family first, they’re not caught off guard when a disaster actually occurs.”

Both Price and Mancuso said they have received positive feedback on the events from those in attendance.

“A lot of people usually come up and share stories afterward about their past experiences and that they’re grateful these type of events are taking place,” Price said. “They said they never would’ve thought of having documents like insurance or where to obtain additional information like county wide emergency management or how to get information from FEMA.”

Mann, the program’s chief, said everyone in the program has been doing a great job in their respective roles, from administrative and technical roles to being an instructor.

“It takes a lot of confidence to be an instructor,” Mann said. “You really have to believe in what you’re doing.”

Along with Saratoga County, two-person teams are also located in the New York City region, Rochester, Syracuse and Westchester areas.

The meaning of our patch



Aircraft rising off the snow (slipstream)

Flying Squadron & Support Squadron (they are equal)

Sky Blue

Wreath is for peace

Under and over the arrow;
Guard is there to support peace
or enforce action.

Arrow

Our local Indian heritage

Arrow Head

Futuristic arrow head means
Communication, Flight
and the Future in Aerospace.
Inspired by Roger Ram Jet
"To future & beyond"

**Blue and Gold
are New York
State colors
used as outline**



3 Portions of Mission:
Cargo People Med Evac

NYNG pays tribute to President Arthur

Photos by Master Sgt. William Gizara

The New York National Guard honored Chester A. Arthur, 21st president of the United States, with a formal wreath laying at his grave at Albany Rural Cemetery on Oct. 5, 2014, the 185th anniversary of his birth.



Remembrance



Lt. Col. Frederick J. Zilly Jr.
Base Commander
1950-1962

Courtesy photos

Remembrance



Retired Col. Frederick J. Zilly Jr., a decorated World War II fighter pilot, was base commander from 1950-1962. Two years before he took over as commander, the 139th Fighter Squadron was established. During his time as commander, the squadron grew to about 350 men, including 35 pilots to fly the F-51s; the mission was Air Defense and Tactical Support. In 1957, the 139th Fighter Squadron was redesignated as an Air Tactical Flying Squadron and converted to tanker missions. A few years later, in 1960, the 109th was on its way to the global transport business as the first C-97 arrived at Schenectady County Airport. While commander, Zilly also established the base bagpipe band. Zilly retired in 1978 to Sarasota, Florida. In December of 2013, Zilly passed away, leaving behind three daughters, two grandsons and two nephews. On Oct. 18, 2014, his ashes were interred alongside his beloved wife, Virginia Brooks Zilly, at the Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Schenectady. The Base Honor Guard gave him military honors; Chaplain (Maj.) Jacob Marvel officiated the service; and Lt. Col. Alan Ross, 109th Vice Commander, attended, as well as 109th alumni, to pay their respects to the 109th's second commander.



Photos by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Retired Col. Frederick J. Zilly Jr.
Dec. 31, 1919 - Dec. 1, 2013



NSF support continues in Greenland

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

KANGERLUSSUAQ, Greenland – Every year a group of Airmen and a few ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft head for the Arctic region to support the National Science Foundation and get some real-world training out of their base at Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. This year the Greenland mission was in full swing with 70 Airmen and two LC-130 aircraft completing the fourth rotation of the season June 27-30, before the final two rotations brought the 2014 season to a close.

The Airmen and aircraft are with the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing based out of Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, New York. During the U.S. winter season, the 109th AW is supporting Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica, and in the summer months, the unit flies to Greenland to not only continue their support for NSF but to also train for ODF.

"The overall mission here is two-fold," said Capt. Rachel Leimbach, the supervisor of flying (SOF) for the fourth rotation. "Our primary mission is in support of the NSF and CPS (CH2M Hill Polar Services). We fly missions to (forward-deployed locations) for the enhancement of science – similar to what we do in Antarctica."

The LC-130s are the only aircraft of its kind in the military, able to land on snow and ice and fly supply and refueling missions to the different camps NSF works out of, both in Greenland and Antarctica.

"The other part of our mission is training out of Raven Camp," she said. "There is minimal science that we do at Raven, making it primarily a training site, which is how we get the crews ready for Antarctica."

Greenland makes for a much safer environment to train aircrews for the ODF season, she said.

Besides the aircrews, deployments to Greenland also consist of maintainers to tend to the aircraft, Airmen with the Small Air Terminal to handle the cargo and passengers, the first sergeant, and various other support staff to help keep the mission going.

"We have about 40 maintainers here this rotation," said Master Sgt. Joseph Deamer of the 109th Maintenance Group who has taken the trip to Greenland about 15 times since joining the unit in 1996. "Our primary mission is to fix the aircraft so they fly their missions while here."

Master Sgt. Scott Molyneaux of the Small Air Terminal has also been up numerous times. "My first time here was in 2003, and since

then I've been up at least once a year."

Each year maintenance and weather delays and cancellations are pretty typical, but Molyneaux said his section and everyone else still push on to complete the mission. "We have a great working relationship with the CPS civilians and the research staff that goes up to the camps. I think that helps us get our work done because it's their cargo that we're moving."

Tech. Sgt. Amie Moore is also with the Small Air Terminal. In March she returned from a six-month deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, with other members of the 109th Small Air Terminal, making it clear the Airmen at the 109th AW can do it all.

"I feel like this mission allows us more ownership," she said. "I'm very proud that we're the only ones who do it."

Master Sgt. Michael Lazzari was the first sergeant for the rotation and said this was his first trip to Greenland.

"It's quite a unique mission up here, and the roles of the first sergeant are very extensive," he said. His role as first sergeant is to take care of everyone deployed and their needs in all areas. "It can be hectic, but it's still a lot of fun."

Lazzari said he spoke to the first sergeants who had been up to Greenland before him to better prepare for the deployment. "I felt great coming into it for the first time and had a good idea of what to expect. Everyone here was a great help. This isn't the first trip for a lot of people, so I relied on their experience to help me do my job well."

Typical rotations in Greenland last about two weeks and consist of an average of three to five aircraft. The season starts in the March/April timeframe and comes to a close in August; however, there's not much downtime for those supporting the Greenland mission.

"We have our Greenland planning conference in October to start preparing," Leimbach said. "It's a lot of preparation to get ready."

While they start their planning in October, Airmen and the ski-equipped aircraft are on their way to Antarctica for Operation Deep Freeze.

Whether they're in Greenland training, in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, in New York supporting the state mission or in Antarctica supporting the National Science Foundation, the members of the 109th Airlift Wing are ready for whatever mission comes their way.

An LC-130 Skibird with the 109th Airlift Wing from Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, New York, takes off from Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, on June 29, 2014, for Summit Camp. The unit flies supply and refueling missions to various camps in support of the National Science Foundation and also trains for the Operation Deep Freeze mission in Antarctica.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin German



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Maj. Joshua Hicks, deployed commander for the most recent Greenland rotation, goes over flight planning with aircrew members at Kangerlussuaq, Greenland on June 28, 2014.



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Staff Sgt. Christopher Smith, 109th Maintenance Group, works on a propeller of an LC-130 Skibird at Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, on June 29, 2014.

(Background photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin German) An LC-130 Skibird with the 109th Airlift Wing from Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, New York, takes off from Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, on June 29, 2014, for Summit Camp.



Airmen, families enjoy day of fun

Photos by Master Sgt. William Gizara

About 3,000 people attended the 109th Airlift Wing's Family Day at Stratton Air National Guard Base, New York, on Sept. 14, 2014. The day included food, music, games, static displays and much more for Airmen and their families.



Family Matters Group connects base, families

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

“**S**he encourages me to do what’s best for me.”

“He takes good care of my children.”

“She protects us as a family unit.”

“He is my best friend, and I can tell him anything.”

“When I deploy, she deploys too – just differently.”

These are just a few of the descriptions of what a military spouse means to some of the Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing.

Many will agree that families are the backbone of any military member. That’s no exception for the 109th AW Airmen. With drill weekends, annual training and deployments, whether members are full-timers or traditional guardsmen, the military lifestyle can be tough on loved ones.

That’s where the 109th AW Family Matters Group comes in. The all-volunteer group of family members is the communication link between what’s going on at the base and the families at home. Their biggest role is planning social activities for members and their families, and reaching out to families of those Airmen who are deployed.

“We want to make sure they know they are still part of the 109th even though their family member is away,” said Lindsay Knott, the group’s lead.

The group, which is command-sponsored, started as a way to improve communication with families. “If we hear from families about hardships or if things aren’t working right,

we’ll pass that information on to command and the Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager,” Knott said.

Some of the events the Family Matters Group plans include Fall Fest, the Children’s Holiday Party, and most recently the first Spouse and Partner Appreciation luncheon. The group hopes to make the luncheon an annual event.

“The event turned out wonderful,” Knott said. “Our whole goal was to say thank you to the spouses, the partners, kids – everyone – for all they do for the Wing.”

The group is already making plans for future events, such as starting a contact group within the base to improve communication even more, and they are also talking about hosting a children’s summer event at the base.

Their work hasn’t gone unnoticed. During the luncheon, held May 18, Knott was presented the award for the 2013 New York Air National Guard Key Volunteer.

“The 109th Airlift Wing is indebted to the exceptional level of support Lindsay, and the entire Family Matters Group, have provided the Wing,” said Col. John Russo, 109th AW vice commander. “Lindsay has been instrumental in standing up the Family Matters Group and development of a long-term plan to increase the group’s outreach and support of all the Wing’s Airmen and families. We are fortunate to have her.”

The Family Matters Group isn’t the typical “enlisted wives

club” that many remember. The group can include spouses, partners, Airmen and even their children. While Knott’s husband is enlisted, Kristen Rinaldi, who is the group’s co-lead, is married to an officer, and Betty Cristiano, the group’s treasurer, is the wife of a retiree.

Rinaldi said it’s been very rewarding for her since joining. “It’s been a good learning experience for me – I’ve learned so much about the base, and I’ve been able to help others because of it.”

Besides planning events, just having a network of other military families can be helpful. Non-military families sometimes don’t understand what goes along with that role.

“‘It must be so hard for you’ ‘How do you handle it?’ ‘How can you live without him for that long?’ You hear a lot of that from other spouses who don’t know much about the military,” Rinaldi said. “It’s nice to have a network of people who understand what we go through as a military spouse.”

“We’ve all been there,” Knott said. “We’ve been through deployments, through training, through drill weekends.”

“It’s just rewarding knowing that you’re able to help one other spouse who’s been in your shoes,” Rinaldi said. “Someone who’s had the same hardships. It’s about being able to connect people with each other, making sure they know there are others like them, and making sure families in general are part of the base.”

“For us, families come first,” Knott said.

Knott and Rinaldi said volunteers are only required to give as much time as they are able – whether it’s 20 minutes or 10 hours. The group is always looking for volunteers to help plan events. If you’d like to volunteer, or to just be part of the 109th military family network, you can contact them through their Facebook page at “109th Airlift Family Matters Group) or request to be part of their email distribution list by emailing 109FMG@gmail.com.

109th AW Children’s Christmas Party “Frosty & Rudolph”

Dec. 14th, 2014

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Main Dining Hall

Special Guest: Santa

[Click here to see the e-vite and to
RSVP by Dec. 10th, 2014.](#)

Airmen hand out free lunches to Schenectady youth

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

Children at Steinmetz Park in Schenectady waited in line anxiously for lunch to be served. In July, the children not only got a free lunch, but they also got to meet Airmen from the 109th Airlift Wing. The Airmen had been there all week serving lunch as part of the Schenectady Inner City Ministry's Free Summer Lunch Program.

This year was the ministry's 20th year offering free lunches to children throughout the entire city of Schenectady. About 30 Airmen volunteered their time July 20-25 to help out once again.

Many of the volunteers who came out throughout the week agreed that the program was very important for the youth in Schenectady.

"This may be the only meal some of the kids get each day," said Senior Master Sgt. Deborah Gardner, 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron, who has been volunteering for the program for years.

The ministry has 25 sites they provide lunches at during the summer, with additional mobile sites throughout the city.

"Schenectady City School District provides free lunches during the school year, and this program allows the kids to continue to receive those free meals," said Erin Thiessen, site supervisor for the lunch program at Steinmetz.

"I like seeing what a difference this makes for the kids," Gardner said. "They are always happy to see us. Being that I have been doing this for a few years has given me the opportunity to see the kids get older. Over the years I have seen many of the same kids at the Summer Lunch Program that I do during the Yates Reading Program. You get a look at lives that you would otherwise not see. It gives me an appreciation for what I have and a sense of civic pride."

Not only do the children benefit from the free lunches, but they also get to meet the Airmen and see that the military is there to help.

"(The children) are very excited about having the military here," Thiessen said. "And they behave a lot better when they are here, too."

"In my experience of walking about the community in uniform, a lot of people have preconceived notions of what the military actually does, especially kids," said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Hayes, 109th Airlift Wing staff. "I thought this would be a great opportunity to support the community by interacting with some local kids. I still remember when the fire department showed up to have lunch with us in preschool – I'm hoping this will stick with them forever as well."

"This is a good opportunity to help the community and show



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing hand out lunches to youth at Steinmetz Park in Schenectady, New York, July 25, 2014. About 30 Airmen from the 109th Airlift Wing volunteered throughout the week to help with Schenectady Inner City Ministry's Summer Lunch Program. The ministry has been providing free lunches to youth throughout Schenectady for 20 years.

them that we are here for them," said Tech. Sgt. Sara Eldred, 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Gardner said it's very important for the 109th AW to have a presence in the surrounding communities.

"I think there is a stereotype most civilians have that anyone in uniform is regular military that goes away to war," Gardner said. "Many do not know that the National Guard is here, first and foremost, for the state, the counties, the towns and villages. The local community will better learn and know what we do through contact with

109th members. With military downsizing and bases being closed, the community needs to have a positive opinion of us. The best way for that is through personal interaction."

Capt. Ashley FitzGibbon, 109th AW community manager, said the Airmen here are always more than willing to help out with community events.

"For a weeklong event, we had no problem finding volunteers to support this important program every day," said FitzGibbon. "I'd like to thank the volunteers and the base for their continued support for all the community events that we participate in."

In the Community



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

VFW sends 'cool' gifts

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 358 in Ballston Spa, New York, donated \$6,000 worth of goods for Airmen deployed to Antarctica supporting Operation Deep Freeze. Care packages included hygiene products, magazines, pillows and more. Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing collected the care packages Oct. 8, 2014, to go on aircraft headed for the ice.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

Airmen read for the record

(From left) 1st Lt. Jared Semerad, Tech. Sgt. Brittany Rinaldi and Airman 1st Class Justin Tobin read to preschoolers at Howe Early Childhood Education Center in Schenectady, New York, on Oct. 21, 2014. Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing and other community members read to children throughout the school as part of Howe's participation in Jumpstart's national campaign of "Read for the Record".

109th AW, VA celebrate Air Force's 67th birthday



Courtesy photos

Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing went to the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany, New York, on Sept. 18, 2014 to celebrate the Air Force's 67th birthday with hospitalized veterans.



Airmen clean up community

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

More than 30 Airmen came together Aug. 10 to clean up the community, thanks to the efforts of the 109th Airlift Wing First Six Council and their initiative with the Adopt-A-Highway Program.

The First Six Council represents the junior enlisted of the Wing at Stratton Air National Guard Base. The council's president, Senior Airman James Comstock, has been planning the Wing's involvement with Adopt-A-Highway for a little more than a year.

"We really want to get Airmen involved in portraying that the Air National Guard is here to support and help the community," he said. "What better way to do that than to have a bunch of us in ABUs cleaning up the streets."

According to its website, the Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway Program was formalized in 1990 to

"encourage individuals or groups to clean up highway roadsides and to recognize those volunteers who do. Participation in the program also fosters a sense of community ownership of the roadway as well as a sense of pride in the appearance."

Comstock got the idea for this program even before he was elected the council's president, and said he just ran with it. "As I started getting more and more people involved, the word got out and it kind of just snowballed from there."

Volunteers lined Freeman's Bridge Road, picking up trash and debris as they went along. With the large number of volunteers, from junior enlisted to wing leadership, the

job didn't take long to do at all.

"This is a great way for us to do community outreach," said Tech. Sgt. John Albert, 109th Maintenance Group. "And it feels good to be out here doing this."

"This is a huge event for us," said Col. Shawn Clouthier, 109th AW commander. "It shows that we are part of the community that we're out in every day, and that we live in. We want the community to be a good place for everyone to live, and our Airmen out there cleaning up the highway is a good way to show support for the community. (The First Six Council) is doing great work for us as well as Schenectady and Scotia-Glenville."

"This is just another way our junior enlisted are making it happen," said Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto, 109th AW command chief. "It's another way for the entire Wing to show our support for the community, who consistently show their support for us."

Comstock said this will be an ongoing event and he and other volunteers will be out four times a year.

"As long as the garbage keeps piling up, we'll be here," he said.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt



Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program in Schenectady, New York, on Aug. 10, 2014. The First Six Council planned the event to clean up the Wing's neighboring community and will be out four times a year.

Council donates to family in need

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt



The 109th Airlift Wing's First Six Council donated \$500 to the LeClaire family Oct. 5, 2014. Their 22-month-old daughter, Sophia, has cerebral palsy. The council raised the money during the Wing's Family Day with a dunk booth. The donated money will go toward Sophia's medical expenses.



Gene LeClaire holds his 22-month-old daughter, Sophia, during a visit to the base Oct. 5, 2014. The First Six Council raised \$500 during the 109th Airlift Wing Family Day to donate to the LeClaire family for medical expenses for Sophia who has cerebral palsy.



Senior Airman James Comstock (left) and Staff Sgt. Jason Stark (right) presented a check of \$500 on behalf of the 109th Airlift Wing's First Six Council to the LeClaire family, Gene, Dena and 22-month-old Sophia. Sophia has cerebral palsy, and the council raised money to help with her medical expenses during the wing's recent Family Day.

**First Six Council
Meetings
UTA Saturdays
11 a.m.
Locations TBD**

**Council updates can be
found on both SharePoint
and Facebook.**

SharePoint
Wing Programs-Special Programs and Councils-First Six Council
Facebook Group
109th 1st 6 Council

Evolution of Honor

By Master Sgt. Allen P. Moon
109th Base Honor Guard Superintendent

Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Honor Guard

To say the Stratton Base Honor Guard has gone through some changes over the years would be a gross understatement. In the early 1980s, members of the Maintenance Squadron noticed there were no dedicated personnel rendering honors to veterans in the area. There were a few American Legion and VFW posts that had color guards, but nothing in the way of a structured, military team. These first members of the Stratton Base Honor Guard were volunteers in the truest form. They filled the void that existed in rendering honors to our local veterans...all without full-time personnel, budgets, office space, assigned vehicles or much protocol guidance.

During the late 1990s the team was given funding for full-time positions, guidance and training from the 66th Services Flight's Base Honor Guard at Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts. Across the Air Force, active duty installations are assigned an area of responsibility (AOR) to perform Military Funeral Honors. Installations, like Hanscom AFB (Stratton's AOR/HQ), utilize Air Reserve Component wings to "extend their reach" in completing assigned honors within their AOR. Tech. Sgt. Jason Jernigan, NCOIC of the 66th Patriot Honor Guard states that, "We are the second largest program in the Air Force, completing 7 percent of the more than 38,000 Military Funeral Honors the Air Force rendered in 2013." He goes on to state that, "ARC Base Honor Guard teams render 79 percent of the Military Funeral Honors in this AOR."

Today, the Stratton Base Honor Guard is manned by five full-time ceremonial guardsmen and 15 volunteers. The full-time

Fall/Winter 2014



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Staff Sgt. Megan Lane (above) and Staff Sgt. Michael Ignecia (left page) are part of the Stratton Base Honor Guard and were assigned to the detail that attended retired Col. Frederick Zilly's interment of ashes in Schenectady, New York, on Oct. 18, 2014. Lane is assigned to the 109th Medical Group, and Ignecia is with the 109th Force Support Squadron.

staff's priority is the completion of Military Funeral Honors and reports to the 66th SVF/BHG. Additionally, they must train, equip, and manage the volunteer corps, as well as, develop relations with the local community. The team is routinely responsible for rendering honors over an 11,000-square-mile area, covering 21 counties in New York, Vermont and Massachusetts. Since November of 2012 the Stratton BHG has traveled more than 38,000 miles to perform over 525 Military Funeral Honors and is the second most cost-effective team in Hanscom's AOR.

Rendering honors is a 24/7/365 endeavor that involves long days, weekend duty and road trips that often result in missing time with family and work. Committing to honor our nation's fallen, as a representative of the Air Force, also means standing sharp, crisp and motionless in all weather and conditions. The Stratton



File photo

The Stratton Base Honor Guard is manned by five full-time ceremonial guardsmen and 15 volunteers. The full-time staff's priority is the completion of Military Funeral Honors.

Base Honor Guard continues its proud legacy and rich heritage by constantly developing and improving the means to honor each veteran with dignity. If you would like information on joining the team, please contact Master Sgt. Jennifer Dippo at 344-2586.



Fight, flight or friendly?

By Chaplain (Maj.) Jacob Marvel
109th AW Chaplain

I've been watching the news and feeling a little helpless lately about increased violence in the world. And also, as a chaplain, upset that religion seems to fuel so many battles. Sometimes when cultures and religions meet, there is arguing and conflict, as we are often seeing in the news. Religion can lead us to fight.

I'm also aware that even in my neighborhood, families who have moved from the Middle East are sometimes regarded with suspicion or confusion. We aren't arguing with our neighbors, but maybe we tend to avoid talking with them. My grandmother's advice sometimes rings in my ears: "In polite company, don't talk about religion." Spiritual beliefs can be something we flee from talking about with others.

As a chaplain, I don't think that religious differences necessarily lead to conflict; neither do I think they need to be ignored. Rather, if we approach someone who is different with curiosity and respect, we are better neighbors. I think there are other

options than "fight or flight" when we meet someone different.

I have two civilian colleagues who live and work in the Middle East, in communities in which they are the religious minority. They have both shared in the past several weeks how much they value being engaged in conversation and relationship with Muslims.

They tell stories of when they first moved into a different community and felt very much like outsiders. In time, as their neighbors initiated conversations and invited them to community events, they felt less like outsiders.

One man in particular tells of being invited recently to a neighbor's party to celebrate their son's graduation; he was introduced as a "friend." His neighbors and their extended family were curious and respectful about his religious beliefs; different beliefs did not lead to arguments, nor did they need to be ignored. He now feels more genuinely welcome because he and his neighbors share the values of respect and curiosity, even if they don't share the same religion.

SAVE THE DATES

*Feb. 13-15: Valentine's Weekend
Couple's Getaway*

April 10-12: Single Airmen Weekend

*June 12-14 (or June 26-28):
Family Weekend Retreat*

*Sept. 19-21:
Couple's Getaway
Weekend*

I encourage you, as you have opportunity, to consider other people's differences, even their faith differences, as opportunities to be friendly and welcoming. Spiritual beliefs don't need to be reasons for conflict or something to be ignored.

They can also be ways to interact with others and deepen relationships with our neighbors.



Courtesy photo

The Worship Band plays during the Chaplain's Protestant Service on Sundays of UTAs. Protestant Services are held at 7:45 a.m. in the Main Dining Hall; Catholic Services are also held at 7:45 a.m. on Sundays of UTAs, but in the B Dining Hall.

Wing aims for Net Zero status

By **Kimberly Kotkoskie**
109th CES
Environmental Manager

On Nov. 1, the 109th Airlift Wing made another step toward being a Net Zero Air Force facility. If you ate lunch at the dining facility during November drill, then you were part of this new thinking. The food and paper waste associated with 350 lunchtime meals was separated to allow for composting. Why is composting important? In June 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency published statistics showing as much as 40 percent of food produced in America is thrown away, amounting to \$400 per person per year. This waste adds up to 31 million tons of food added to landfills each year. Instead of filling landfills, the better solution is to compost. When food waste is composted it is mixed with other organic wastes (leaves, plant material, etc.), rainwater, and air to allow for decomposition over several weeks and months. The result is a rich and reusable soil amendment that naturally boosts the nutrient value of our yards and gardens.

Now, thinking forward toward being a "Net Zero Air Force Installation" – is that a good thing? In June 2012 the Air Force released a "Net Zero" Energy, Water and Waste Policy. A "Net Zero" waste policy is defined as reducing the disposal

of waste in all its forms through the application of pollution prevention in order to maximize recycling and avoid landfilling. Eliminating waste from the outset requires everyone's involvement. Our dining facility will soon be replacing items such as disposable cups with reusable cups; Styrofoam bowls with reusable bowls; and salad dressing packets with bulk dressing containers. It is a "change" and a different way of thinking. Please take this way of thinking back to your work areas. It can be applied to EVERYTHING you do.

Also remember our installation has Single Stream Recycling available. Every break room and building should have multiple recycle containers that are collecting not only plastic soda bottles, but other items such as rinsed yogurt cups, paperboard cereal boxes, newspapers, glass, rinsed milk cartons, etc. They can all be mixed in the same recycle bin. The Thursday curbside pickup should be overflowing!

Air Force activities are focused on sustainability, referring to the capacity to continue the mission without compromise and to operate into the future without decline – either in the mission, or the natural and man-made systems that support it. The Air Force has realized "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

Have you?

Winter safety driving tips

109th AW Safety Office

- * Make sure your car is prepared for cold temperatures and wintery conditions like snow and ice.
- * Keep your equipment properly maintained and include a winter survival kit in your vehicle: an ice scraper, snow shovel and sand/salt. Jumper cables are also a good idea since batteries are prone to failure during cold weather.
- * Clear snow and ice off your vehicle prior to operation.
- * Drive with your headlights on, and be sure to keep them clean to improve visibility.
- * Use caution when snow banks limit your view of oncoming traffic.
- * Avoid using cruise control in snowy or icy conditions.
- * Know how to brake on slippery surfaces. Vehicles with anti-lock brakes operate much differently from those that do not have anti-lock brakes.
- * Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season. This helps ensure you have a source of heat if you are stuck or stranded.
- * If you do venture out or are unexpectedly caught in a snowstorm and encounter problems, stay in your car and wait for help. You can run the car heater to stay warm for 10 minutes every hour, but make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow.
- * Keep your windshield washer reservoir full, and make sure your car has wiper blades that are in good condition.
- * Remember that speed limits are meant for dry roads, not roads covered in snow and ice. You should reduce your speed and increase your following distance as road conditions and visibility worsen.
- * Be cautious on bridges and overpasses as they are commonly the first areas to become icy.
- * Avoid passing snow plows and sand trucks. The drivers can have limited visibility, and the road in front of them could be worse than the road behind.
- * Monitor road and weather conditions by checking local news stations or Internet traffic and weather sites.
- * If you must travel during a snowstorm or in blizzard conditions, be sure to let a relative, friend or co-worker know where you are headed and your expected arrival time. Avoid the temptation to check or be on your phone while driving as all of your attention should be on arriving safely.

Respecting faith, ideals, other's culture part of our standards, discipline

By Master Sgt. Ottavio LoPiccolo
109th AW Chaplain's Assistant

I'd like to share an event that happened to me when I was a young Airman. I was a 23-year-old senior airman and working as a graphic artist in the audiovisual field at the time. My job was making posters, signs, etc., for Air Force commanders.

There was a technical sergeant who used to come over my design table and talk to me about his faith and how great it was. But then he would say negative and offensive things about my own Catholic faith. In fact, he tried to convince me to switch, because according to him I was doomed!

I felt offended and humiliated, but I didn't do anything about it. I was afraid of the rank and I was unsure who to turn to.

I forced myself to listen to his put down "sermons." I just didn't know how to respond. I was afraid and honestly, I was intimidated by the rank.

I'm also sure others have found themselves in similar situations, or may experience a similar incident in the future.

What would you do in a situation like this? We all understand that an NCO, or an officer, has no right to degrade another's faith, culture, nationality, gender or sexual orientation. It is part of our military culture, ingrained from our first days in uniform.

What that technical sergeant did was wrong, to say the least. He abused his rank and his authority. But at the time, in my youth and with my own inexperience, I didn't know any better.

Don't be afraid when you see something

Alumni News: New year, new faces

By Retired Chief Master Sgt.
Bill McBride
Alumni Secretary

Your Alumni is looking forward to another successful year and more new members.

Once again, we had a good Summer Wednesday Lunch Program. Our goal was to turn out a good product at a reasonable price. We think we succeeded. We had a great team of volunteers there getting it done every week. We wish to thank everyone that supported our weekly lunches at the All Ranks Club.

A bit about whom we are:

The 109th Alumni was formed back in the early 1980s as a support organization for the 109th Airlift Wing. The Alumni, since its existence, has been involved with and has supported Wing Family Days, Full-timers' Picnics, All Ranks Club events and Wing Anniversary celebrations. The Alumni has donated benches for the Base Flagpole area and bicycles to local schools for merit programs. Our Alumni also provides tuition funds to send Junior Class Boys to the American Legion Boys State Program every June.

Alumni Membership is open to any former 109th member. You do not have to be retired to belong to the Alumni. At this time we have about 90 members on our membership rolls. We would like to see that number get bigger. Our dues are just \$15 per

wrong. We are all responsible to take corrective action. We all have a right to our individual dignity, and it is protected within our force through enforcing standards and discipline.

Whether you are an airman first class or a senior master sergeant, know what right looks like. Know that you can take corrective action, either on-the-spot or through your unit chaplaincy.

If a supervisor or boss is part of the problem or doesn't take action, go see your chaplain or you can also talk to the Inspector General.

As a military force, we respect all of our

calendar year. And newly discharged 109th members also get the balance of their first year free.

Applications are available in the All Ranks Club and all meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the All Ranks Club in Bldg. 24 at Stratton Air National Guard Base. We always look forward to seeing new faces at our meetings.

Alumni Election of Officers will be held at the January 2015 monthly Alumni meeting. (You just may recognize some of these people).

The Alumni Officers for 2014 were:

President – John Ryan
Vice President – Milt Terwilliger
Secretary – Bill McBride
Treasurer – Ken Bliss
Board of Director Members – Bill Pickney, Howard Ray, Charlie Shatley and Annette Briggs

The 109th Airlift Wing Alumni Association Summer Picnic was held on Saturday afternoon Aug. 2 at the picnic area. We had 85 people at that one. Great time!

We also have a swell Christmas party every year. The party is always held on our December meeting night. The last two of these were held in the dining hall and were catered by the Turf Tavern from Scotia and were wonderful events. We hope to see you at the next one.

Until the next issue of this Skibird Magazine Alumni News, stay happy, healthy, safe and enjoy Fall and Winter and think Spring.

members and protect their individuality. It is fundamental to building great teams and achieving great tasks. It is what right looks like.

In conclusion, let me add the following. If anyone, no matter their rank, says and/or does anything to you that offends you, puts down your faith and/or your culture (country, place of birth, traditions, etc.), and/or makes sarcastic remarks (laughs at you, and makes others laugh, makes unwanted sexual remarks and/or actions) – know that this behavior is morally wrong. The person who acts disrespectfully – it doesn't matter whether NCO, or officer – is in fact abusing



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Kurt Bedore has been with the 109th Airlift Wing since 1996, around the same time the unit took over the Operation Deep Freeze mission from the U.S. Navy. He will be retiring in 2015 after nearly 30 years of service and said he has many memorable moments with the Wing.

Before joining the New York Air National Guard, Bedore served on active duty as a B-52 Instructor Electronic Warfare Officer. After separating, he spent a few years out of the military before coming into the unit as a navigator. He has been a traditional guardsman ever since.

On the civilian side, Bedore has been a licensed Professional (Civil and Environmental) Engineer in private practice providing services such as house, foundation and addition plans, site plans, subdivisions, utility design and more.

He said the flexibility he has had in living so close to the base has allowed him to be the "go-to, on-call" nav the Wing has needed from time to time. "Service before self has always been important to me," he said.

Bedore said some of the highlights throughout his career included being on the backup crew for Dr. Nielson's South Pole rescue mission in 1999, providing tactical airlift in the Joint Forge (Bosnia) theater, and numerous humanitarian and MEDEVAC missions.

The unique mission of the 109th AW will always stay with him.

"Like many of my squadron-mates, we spent a great deal of time and effort over 10 years bringing the parts of the new South Pole station to the Pole, 13 tons at a time, piece by piece. Of course, the challenging missions we routinely do in the polar regions have always been great to be a part of. I will especially miss that and the unit camaraderie. We really do have a special unit and mission that I feel honored to have been a part of for so many years."

RESPECTING FAITH, IDEALS

his/her authority, breaking the law, and hurting us and/or others. They are betraying our trust, and putting our unit, our nation down. If you find yourself in such a situation, don't be afraid to get assistance, talk to someone you trust and can help you, so that the negative/

destructive/offensive behavior can be corrected – before it gets out of control and ruins your career and/or your life.

We can all make mistakes sometimes – no one is perfect – but we should never abuse our authority and trust. We must remember to respect others as



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Senior Airman Nicholas Mancuso is a chaplain's assistant with the 109th Airlift Wing. Full time, he is on a state active duty tour as a technical adviser with the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program.

On Sept. 10, 2014, Mancuso came across a three-car motor vehicle accident, immediately exited his vehicle and rendered aide to a civilian motorist who fell out of a vehicle. He then began checking the other two vehicles when he noticed one of the drivers was still in her vehicle. Mancuso saw that the front compartment was filling up with smoke, immediately checked the driver for injury, spoke with her and helped her out of the vehicle. He went back to the vehicle, noticed it was in gear, put the vehicle in park and shut off the ignition.

Mancuso's training as a volunteer firefighter, his military training, and his genuine caring demeanor played a very important role in his heroic actions.

want to be treated yourself! We must be kind and considerate of others, no matter who they are, and/or their rank.

Being appreciated and respected (cared for and loved) is the only way we can be happy, accomplish our mission and protect our country.



Courtesy photo

Second Lt. Matthew Begin coins his father, Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Begin, with the Silver Dollar during his commissioning ceremony Oct. 10, 2014 at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., as Chief Begin was the first enlisted member to salute his newly commissioned son. Lieutenant Begin is the budget officer with the 109th Comptroller Flight, and Chief Begin is the airfield manager with the 109th Operations Support Flight.

Officer Promotions

Colonel
Maureen Murphy – JFHQ

Lieutenant Colonel
William L. Carraher – AS
Benson Louie – MDG
Jason C. Reape – AS

Major
Mark J. Jacobson – AS
David L. Zielinski – AS

Captain
Diane Precil – JFHQ
Joseph M. Shanahan – AS
Robert J. Smith – AS

First Lieutenant
Stephanie M. Burwell – MDG
Sanning M. Pingitore – FSS
Adam D. Rinaldi – MXM
Jared N. Semerad – LRS
Julie R. Taylor – AW

Second Lieutenant
Brian D. Alexander – CF
Gregory I. Durrant – SFS

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Col. Stephen Maher - JFHQ
Lt. Col. Brian Backus - AES
Lt. Col. Christine Lennard - FSS
Chief Master Sgt. Tammy King - MXG
Chief Master Sgt. Mary Alice Rebis - AW
Chief Master Sgt. Michelle Shafer - FSS
Master Sgt. Diane Power - MXG
Tech. Sgt. John Flanigan - MXM

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. Sean Wettig - AW
Senior Master Sgt. Kelly Eustis - SFS
Master Sgt. Michael Cousineau - AS
Master Sgt. Kyle Defeo - SFS
Master Sgt. Jim DuPuis - SFS
Master Sgt. Raymond Roberts - SFS
Tech. Sgt. Shawn Keating - FSS
Tech. Sgt. Miguel Torres - SFS
Staff Sgt. Damon George - SFS
Staff Sgt. Andrew Menard - SFS
Staff Sgt. Aaron Muha - MXM

Aerial Achievement Medal

Capt. Jennifer Seney - AES
Master Sgt. Jennifer Dippo - AES
Tech. Sgt. Dale Catlett - AES
Tech. Sgt. Robert Madison - AES

Air Force Achievement Medal

Master Sgt. Brandon Rowback - CES
Tech. Sgt. Todd Howard - LRS
Staff Sgt. Sabrena Healey - AS
Staff Sgt. Robert Sardinia - SFS
Senior Airman Michael Perez - OSS
Senior Airman Ronald Solis - OSS
Senior Airman Carl Williams - MDG

May 2, 2014 - Nov. 1, 2014

Enlisted Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant
Jacqueline Sweet-McNeill – MDG

Senior Master Sergeant
John W. Bartow – AS
Karl E. Burghart – MXM
Christopher A. Orth – SFS
Michael A. Pingitore – LRS
Kathleen A. Reilly – MSG
Patrick J. Reimann – CF

Master Sergeant
Michael J. Albright – LRS
Joshua D. Claus – MXM
Eric W. Fuller – MXG
Jodi L. Habbinger – CF
Kristofer M. Kamburelis – MXG
Darci H. Novak – FSS
Erik J. Peters – SFS
Brian L. Pritchard – AMXS
Stephen R. Radz – MXG
Michael J. Stark – SFS

Technical Sergeant
Hillary R. Bennett – MDG
Patrick A. Bruder – MXM
Michael J. Byerwalters – LRS
Joshua Christensen – MXM
Michael J. Crisalli – SFS
Christian L. Echipare – JFHQ
Sara M. Eldred – AES
Jonathan M. Lewis – MXM
Elizabeth H. Mahan – MDG
Donald T. Quigan – SFS
Brittany N. Rinaldi – FSS
Kristen N. Roberts – MDG
Raymond M. Roberts – SFS
David D. Sullivan – FSS
Christopher W. Wren – MXG

Staff Sergeant
Caleb R. Bagwell – MXM
Tyler G. Briscoe – MDG
Nicole L. Cotugno – AES
Edvin O. Donis – OSS
William D. Green – MXM
Frankie L. Houghtaling – SFS
Travis R. Inman – OSS

Bilal N. Kimble – LRS
Christopher M. Meyer – CES
Matthew T. Murray – AES
Christopher T. Olden – AES
Nicholas A. O’Neil – AS
Jeremy T. O’Neil-Hopkins – MXM
Eric M. Palmatier – AS
Devin D. Reilly – CES
Julian D. Rodriguez – MDG
Brandon M. Rowback – CES
Timothy R. Schmitt – AMXS
Theodore J. Stickney – AS
Brianna M. Tator – CES
Stephen N. Thomas – MXM
Daniel M. White – FSS

Senior Airman
Andrew T. Archambeault – MXM
Aaron F. Bagwell – AS
Karl R. Burghart – LRS
Ryan A. Burkhardt – AMXS
Jason W. Burr – MXM
John A. Burrow – MXM
Nicholas G. Burrow – MXM
Isaiah F. Burton – SFS
Joshua A. Byerwalters – LRS
David C. Crandall – CES
Collin J. Eustis – CF
Steven V. Galante – MXM
Brett S. Giaconia – AS
Elizabeth M. Hanrahan – MDG
Nathan T. Hayden – LRS
Patrick A. Irwin – CES
Zachery G. Lettko – AMXS
Dallas A. Mesick – MXM
Lisa M. Mierek – LRS
Adam M. Militar – MXM
Lauren C. Minholz – MXG
Esmeralda A. Monteparo – MXM
Blake E. Pasquarella – MXM
Derek T. Peschieri – AMXS
Stacey J. Ranagan – MDG
Kevin M. Rice – MXM
Anthony R. Rituno – SFS
Siaianne J. Roberts – MDG
Christopher M. Rogan – SFS
Christopher M. Schermerhorn – CES
Samantha A. Sherman – LRS
James A. Staines – MXM

Airman 1st Class
Alexandra S. Babcock – STUF
Austin S. Dean – STUF
Gregory M. Discipio – STUF
Matthew P. Disorbo – STUF
Jarrod M. Dolan – LRS
Bryan J. Fidd – STUF
Bianca M. Ford – STUF
Daniel C. Guthrie – STUF
Rebekah E. Hentnik – STUF
Austin R. Ingalls – STUF
Zackery J. Karl – STUF
Christen D. Kubernach – STUF
Paul H. Lambert – STUF
Jaclyn M. Lavin – STUF
Alex N. Listing – STUF
Jason S. Malm – STUF
Sean F. McClendon – STUF
Gerald M. Mesick – LRS
Angelo M. Messineo – STUF
Krista J. Nuite – STUF
Matthew J. Paparella – STUF
Stephanie J. Preble – STUF
David P. Reedy – STUF
Andrea M. Rivera – STUF
Charles Rumfelt – STUF
Cody B. Russell – STUF
Josana K. Stone – STUF
Caitlin M. Sutliff – STUF
Justin A. Tobin – FSS

Airman Basic
Bianca D. Bustamante – STUF
James W. McPartlin – STUF

MEDICAL GROUP NOTE:

Members on AGR status, please be aware you are now required to have your annual dental exam performed at NSA Saratoga Springs. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any concerns or questions related to your dental care, please feel free to contact us.

May 2, 2014 - Nov. 1, 2014

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



File Photo illustration

Mission statement

The 109th Airlift Wing employs the Department of Defense's only ski-equipped aircraft to conduct operations in remote Polar Regions. We train, equip and deploy premier, combat-ready Airmen to support state and national objectives.

Vision statement

Unparalleled tactical airlift to remote polar environments, propelled by highly trained, combat-ready Airmen.