

December 02, V.38, 12

ENGARDE

174th Fighter Wing

New York Air National Guard, Syracuse



Commonly Asked Deployment Questions

174th Static Display Team



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The EnGarde is a funded Air Force newspaper and is an authorized publication for members of the US military services. Contents of the EnGarde are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or the Air National Guard. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 174th Fighter Wing.

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174th Fighter Wing Vision and Mission Statements



Vision Statement

Our Vision is a world class fighter wing comprised of diverse individuals empowered to meet all challengers, and win. We accept nothing less.

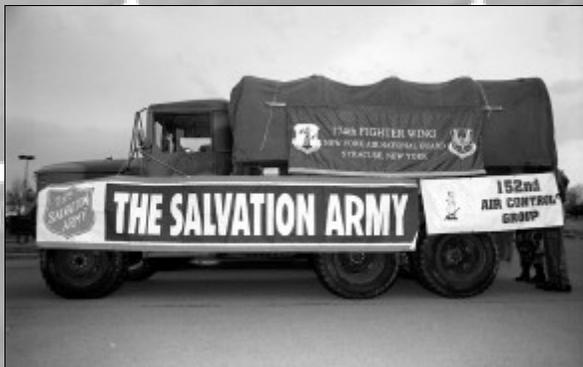
Mission Statement

Provide combat ready personnel, aircraft, and equipment prepared for world wide deployment. To deter or attack and destroy enemy surface and airborne forces in support of joint operations; and to support civil authorities at the direction of the governor.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

With the holiday season upon us, now would be a good time for us all to stop and take stock of what we have to be grateful for. Professionally, I have much to be thankful for. I have the best job in the Air National Guard, working with the best Wing and tenant units in the Guard, on the best base in the Guard, and with the best people in the Guard. Personally, I have been blessed with family, friends and good health. I would expect that many of you have similar reasons to give thanks.

There are many in this community, however, who have less to be thankful for than those of us who receive the *En-Garde*. It's hard to be of cheerful holiday spirit if you are worried about having enough to food to feed your family, or are unable to buy even the simplest toys to give to your children. Fortunately, there are many organizations in the Syracuse area dedicated to serving those among us with fewer means. I am proud the Hancock Field family is closely affiliated with one of those organizations, the Salvation Army. Every December for many years we have participated in two events for the Salvation Army – Drop Off Day and Distribution Day. This year, Drop Off Day will be December 13th at Shoppingtown Mall and Distribution Day will be December 21st at the OnCenter. Both are great opportunities to do some good for the community and to show Syracuse that the Air Guard is engaged and visible. By the time you read this there will be an e-mail circulated through



out the base, with details of how and when to volunteer. I encourage anyone with a desire to help to sign up and come out.

Coincidentally, the 174th will be receiving its long awaited 'Christmas presents' this year. The new Block 30 F-16s are starting to arrive from Sioux City, Iowa, and we are all very grateful. They are in excellent condition, which is a

tribute to the hard work those fine folks put into these jets. The conversion is advancing ahead of schedule, and we anticipate it being completed much earlier than originally anticipated. Meanwhile, it looks like we will receive some other presents in the form of a complete hangar renovation and new weapons release building right around Christmas

time. We must have been very good this year.

On reflection, all of you have been good this year; in fact, very good. You've done all that has been asked of you and more. You've defended America at home and abroad. You've faced multiple challenges and succeeded. Please accept my thanks for all you have done this year, and to each and every one of you, may you have the blessed holiday you wish for.



Colonel Robert Knauff
174th FW, Commander

Happy Holidays

By Chief Master Sgt. Ted Mosley, 174th FW Command Chief



This is the time of year when we should all take the time to look back at what we accomplished and look ahead to what is in front of us. In case you didn't notice, our organizational operations tempo is continuously increasing. From increased training demands, to supporting Homeland Security, from preparation for the upcoming UCI, to yet another aircraft conversion, and so on. At times we tend to lose sight of how many wonderful people we work with that help us accomplish these tasks. The 174th family is very different from the unit it was a few decades ago, but one thing remains the same. Just about everyone that has ever been associated with this unit, will maintain ties or still feel connected to us one form or another. It may be something simple like a getting a warm feeling while reading a newspaper article that mentions the 174th Fighter Wing. Others may be more involved, participating in organizations such as the Alumni Association.

I feel the fundamental reason for this connection is the quality of our people. We are a family at its best. We share values that put us above the normal work force. We work, play, and if the need arises, go to war together. This involves a level of trust that you most likely will not find in civilian careers and other organizations. As you can tell, I feel very privileged to be a member of such a distinguished unit. I want to thank you all for being there for your extended family this past year. Happy Holidays to you and your families and best of luck in the New Year.



Command Chief
Master Sgt. Mosley

UCI FEVER, IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, JUST ASK!



Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Decker, 174th FW



Maj. Douglas Decker

This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family. But before they married she learned that she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding. An angel of the Lord came to him. The angel explained to Joseph the mystery of the birth of this child to be born. After Joseph awoke he married as planned. Mary gave birth to her first-born son. Joseph named the child, Jesus. (Matthew 1). This simple and humble story explains the reason for the celebration of Christmas. It is the birthday of Jesus the Christ. Our traditions of the celebration go beyond the humble birth of this child. He is born in the darkest season of the year to be our light. He was born in a stable to show us humility. He was born of poor parents to help us remember the poor. May we bring these

thoughts into our celebrations this year? Not only do Christians celebrate this time of year but also so do our Jewish brothers and sisters. The feast of Hanukkah or the Feast of Lights is a time of remembering and celebration. God has been with them throughout their history. May we be light to one another? Remember especially those who are deployed and their families. In the great words of St. Francis of Assisi "Lord make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Blessings and best wishes of the season from the Chaplain Office staff

Guard Serves in Many Ways

By Major General Raymond F. Rees, Acting Chief, National Guard Bureau

On behalf of the more than 458,000 members of the National Guard, I wish to extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of those victims of the recent shooting incidents in the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia areas. We also wish extend our congratulations and our gratitude to the unified task force -- comprised of federal, state, and local officials -- along with all who are continuing to work in this joint effort to bring those responsible to justice, and to return a sense of safety and security to the community at large. Many police and law enforcement officers still serve their nation in the National Guard while supporting their communities as well. We are proud to count among them the leader of the task force that is even now working to bring this investigation to conclusion -- Police Chief Charles A. Moose, Montgomery

County Maryland. As a Major in the District of Columbia Air National Guard, Chief Moose commands the 113th Security Forces Squadron. Across our country, our National Guard men and women have put their military training to good use for the benefit of their communities and families. Law enforcement is just one example among many where the public has benefited from skills the individual first learned or honed in the armed services. Like Chief Moose, they proudly serve, working daily to assure that our ranks are filled with individuals who have earned the honor of being called citizen-soldiers.



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees

Where in the World is Father Mathis?



Wing Chaplain, Lt. Col. Mathis, being his usual self as he shares a moment with 174th Security Forces personnel at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates.



Chaplain Mathis (Left) in front of the Chapel at Al Dhafra, AB, UAE. He is on a 45-day TDY and should be back in time for the December UTA.

Most Commonly Asked Questions for Deployment

By Capt. Charles "Chuck" Hutson, 174th FW, Comptroller



Capt. Charles Hutson

Lately, a lot of questions have been coming up because people are in the process of deploying. These questions are typically answered in pre-deployment briefings, but sometimes that may be too late. The following are the most common questions--and more importantly, the answers.

(Q) How do I access my Leave and Earnings Statement when deployed?

(A) Employee/Member Self-Service.

Your LES will be sent to your mailing address, wherever you typically have it sent. We haven't deployed anyone in the past year to any location, where they did not have internet access. That makes the internet-based Employee/Member Self-Service the best and fastest way to access your LES information. It is simple to apply for a Personal Identification Code and it will be setup within 3 days of faxing the application to DFAS. Information sheets on how to apply for an E/MSS PIN are available in the Finance Office.

(Q) Do I need a Power of Attorney?

(A) Depends.

A general power of attorney will allow the designee access to pay information only--not pay changes. The same pay information is available via E/MSS. For AGR members, a special power of attorney will allow the designee to start, stop, or change allotments. The special power of attorney must specifically state the authority to establish, change, or stop allotments.

(Q) My civilian employer makes up the difference between my military pay and civilian pay. How do I give my employer access to my pay information?

(A) Sign a Release.

The best way to do this is sign the release roster during your pre-deployment briefing. The statement at the top of the roster states "I release information regarding my pay and entitlements to my employer." We will maintain the release rosters on file in the event your employer contacts us regarding pay information.

(Q) Can I have allotments established out of my military pay?

(A) Generally the answer is no.

Everyone except AGRs are paid out of the Reserve Component Pay System. A serious limitation of the Reserve Pay System is that allotments cannot be established. Permanent AGR employees are paid out of the Active-Duty Pay System and may establish allotments.

(Q) I think I need a little bit of cash to travel in case of an emergency. How do I get a travel advance?

(A) Cash advance via Government Travel Card (GTC).

You are authorized a travel advance by using your GTC at an ATM within 3 days of beginning TDY. Your travel advance cannot exceed 80% of your travel entitlement. Typically, your entitlement for the first month is per diem for your travel days. So 80% of that amount is usually in the \$100-\$150 range.

(Q) OK, I take the travel advance on my GTC, but who is going to pay the Bank of America bill while I'm deployed?

(A) Interim Vouchers and Split-Disbursement.

Whenever you are TDY 30 days or more, you should mail or fax interim travel vouchers to 174th Finance. If you've used your GTC for a travel advance or expenses while travelling,

indicate that amount to be split-disbursed to your GTC account. That amount will be sent directly to Bank of America and any entitlement leftover will be sent to your personal bank account.

(Q) I'm serving in an area designated Combat Zone Tax Exclusion, but taxes are deducted every paycheck. Why?

(A) This is another limitation of the Reserve Component Pay System.

Unlike the active-duty pay system, your taxes will be deducted for your pay each month. But the amount of the taxes will be refunded to you every other month. This is unlike the active-duty pay system which does not deduct taxes in a CZTE area.

(Q) How do I get cash at my deployed location?

(A) Checks written from your personal checking account.

You need to take blank personal checks when you deploy. Typically, the servicing finance office will allow you to cash \$100-\$200 per month. While that doesn't sound like a lot of money, you probably won't have many opportunities to spend it, other than the BX.



Still Here, There...and Everywhere

By Staff Sgt. Tracy Schroeder NCOIC Stand/Eval, 174th Security Forces Squadron



Staff Sgt. Tracy Schroeder

One of the most obvious signs that things here at Hancock Field have changed since the attacks of 9/11 would be the increased presence of Security Forces. It was about one year ago that a group of

Security Forces members deployed on short notice to a classified location in the Middle East was featured in the *En-Garde*. They all returned home, safe and sound in March of '02, but what most don't realize is that group was just one of many being deployed to various locations in the middle east. In addition, many of the members of that first deployment are currently on their second deployment or are scheduled to deploy again.

Continuous deployments are just part of the drastic changes in the lives of the members of the 174th Security Forces Squadron. When members are not deployed they are working here at Hancock Field on 12-hour shifts. The 174th Security Forces Squadron provides security for the base, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, 365-days a year. In addition, every Security Forces unit member was required to spend an intense two-weeks in Nevada for desert warfare training.

The second year of activation means another year away from civilian jobs and for many members it means a considerable amount of time spent away from their families. Those who live outside of the commuting distance stay in hotels during their work week and only

see their families on their off days.

SSgt. James Troch is one of several unit members preparing to spend his second holiday season away from his family. "It's tough." He says, "My daughter and fiancée understand why it has to be this way and that it's only temporary. But, my daughter is just a kid and these are times we won't get back."

Chris Muszynski from the Family Support office has been a tremendous help, putting together care packages for deployed members and providing support for families who have had some major adjusting to do. "Times like these can be very stressful for the families." Chris said during one of her

on the great food and goodies offered at such events.

Members of ESGR have also been an incredible resource in assisting the activated members. ESGR has stepped in many times to remind civilian employers of the rights provided to National Guard and Reservists under the Soldiers and Sailors Act. ESGR also sponsors programs such as Boss Lift that invites employers out to the base to see what their employees are doing out here and to thank them for their support.

"This activation is unlike anything else we've ever experienced." Said MSgt. Mike Ramsey who was one of four unit members called to Lackland



Many unit members who spent the holidays away from home in 2001 are deployed again during the 2002 holiday season in Southwest Asia.

AFB in Texas where they spent six months instructing at the Air Force Security Police Academy. "We couldn't have done it without the augmentees." Augmentees are members of other squadrons who volunteer to go through a Security Forces training class and supplement Security Forces manning here at Hancock Field. MSgt. Marsha Rowe, the Augmentee Program Manager has been instrumental in supplementing the home station forces. "We can't thank them enough." MSgt.

many after-hours visits to the squadron. "Especially those who live a good distance from the base and for those who are experiencing a reduction in income. Not knowing when it will all end is probably the worst part for the families." Special base events designed to say thank you to the families of unit members often means additional manning is required from Security Forces. Chris takes the time to make sure posted troops who can't attend don't miss out

Ramsey says.

Even though everyone would be happy to get back to their regular lives, they all understand what they are doing here and see the big picture. "I couldn't ask for a better group." Captain Dix, commander for the 174th Security Forces Squadron comments. "This is an incredibly stressful, unpredictable time for everyone and like always they are coming through with flying colors."

Family Support Chat

By Chris Muszynski 174th FW, Family Readiness Program Coordinator

Happy Holidays to all and a very special thank you to everyone who provided support to the Family Support Office throughout this year. In recognition of the increased role of the military family in the changes in the world events, many activities/events are happening in the month of December and many are continuing into next year.

Active-duty military members and activated reservists and Guard are eligible for 50 percent discounts at selected Disney World resorts most nights Oct 2 – Dec 25 2002 excluding Nov 26-29. Rooms are limited and additional charges apply if there are more than two adults per room. Active Duty personnel must present proper identification upon check-in. National Guard and Reservists must show active-duty orders. For more information or to make a reservation, call (407) WDISNEY 404-934-7639 and mention code CNL.

The Military Salute 2002 for AmeriSuites and Country Inn/Suites-2 Brand new Resorts located near Walt Disney World are available for only \$59.00 during Oct 1 – Dec 21, 2002.

For a variety of military discount information and as a “Thank You”, please check out this website www.military.com/ or stop by the Family Support Office

November was the Month of the Military Family. Armed Services YMCA, an organization providing information, rec-

reational events, facilities and services to military members and their families, is promoting an art contest, and scholarship essay contest for elementary school aged military dependents. All information regarding these exciting art and essay contests can be found on the ASYMCA website at www.asymca.org.

The art contest for 2003 will award six students from military families (ages kindergarten through six grade) a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond. Seven contestants will receive honorable mention and a \$100 bond. Entries must be postmarked by Jan 27, 2003. The Essay Contest 2003 is a contest where you tell the Armed Services YMCA why you like to read. Children and teens of military families are eligible to participate. \$5,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds will be awarded to winning essays from 1st to 12th grade with top prizes of \$1,000 and \$500 for grade categories. More information or access to the entries forms are available in the Family Support office located in the Medical Squadron or by contacting me at 454-6577.

National Guard and Reserve families are invited to participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade. This year the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committees (ESGR) in conjunction with Defense of Freedom Foundation have secured a spot in this year's parade for an all military service Component float titled, “Freedom to Dream”. This float will feature the men

and women who protect America along with the families and Employers who support them. The float committee is in search of the model military family to feature on this float and will go hand in hand with the Rose Parade's theme of Children's Dreams, Wishes and Imagination. To underwrite the expenses of this project a commemorative “Freedom to Dream” Rose Parade Float has been designed and can be obtained for a minimum donation of \$5.00. You can learn more about this project and this beautiful collectors item online at www.freedomtodream.org or contact the Family Support Office.

Finally, the 2003 Commissary Scholarship for Military Children program begins Nov 1 and the essay topic is “how has being the child of a military service member influenced your educational goals? The nonprofit Fisher House Foundation administers these \$1,500 scholarships, which is best known for building family comfort homes near military medical facilities. Applications can be downloaded from <http://www.commissaries.com> or <http://www.fisherhouse.org> or be picked up at any commissary. The deadline for returning applications by hand or mail to a commissary is Feb 21, 2003.



Chris Muszynski



Col Knauff presents 174th Fighter Wing hats to Mr. David McLaughlin and Ms. Marci Henderson, Executive Director, Onondaga/Oswego Chapter of the American Red Cross.



Family Day 2002 Tug of War Champions-Civil Engineering Squadron.

Military to Receive Pay Increase

President Bush on Wednesday signed into law a bill that gives him the tools he wants to wage an expensive, no-end-in-sight global fight against terror and possibly Saddam Hussein. "Our nation faces grave new dangers, and our nation must fully support the men and women of our military who confront these dangers on our behalf," Mr. Bush said before signing the \$355.4 billion defense-spending measure. "The bill says America is determined and resolute to not only defend our freedom but to defend freedom around the world, that we're determined and resolute to answer the call to history and that we will defeat terror," the president told a Rose Garden audience of mostly uniformed military personnel, along with a handful of lawmakers. The Pentagon money bill hikes spending by 11 percent overall – the biggest jump since Ronald Reagan was president. It funds a 4 percent pay raise for



President Bush with Vice President Cheney and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

military personnel, construction of expensive new warships and the next phase of Mr. Bush's missile defense plan. The president sought \$367 billion, but ran into bipartisan resistance to his proposal for a \$10 billion fund he could tap without congressional input for combating terrorists overseas. "Any time the United States of America sends our youngsters into harm's way they deserve the best pay the best training and the best possible equipment.. With the military moving toward a war footing with Iraq, the defense measure increases spending in almost every area, from weapons procurement to payroll. It includes a 4.1 percent pay raise for military personnel and almost all the \$7.4 billion Mr. Bush requested to keep developing a national missile defense system.

174th Static Display Team

By Senior Master Sgt. Mark R. Shearer, 174th FW, Accessories Element Supervisor

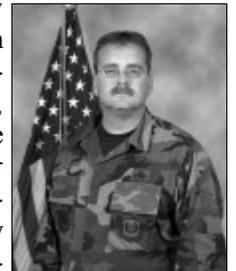
Another year of quiet wing support goes by. The 174th Static Display Team spent the past year setting up and tearing down the largest and most impressive display our wing has to offer. For the past few years the team has deployed our display aircraft to various locations throughout the state such



174th FW Static Display Team at P&C Stadium. From L to R Front Row:, TSgt Bill Hartung and Staff Sgt. Dave LeClair. Back row: Tech. Sgt. Gary Lagoe, SMSgt. Mark Shearer, SrA Eric Lent, TSgt Dave Tripepi and TSgt Dave Roe.

as: Armed Forces Day at P&C Stadium, The Boy Power Dinner at the Syracuse OnCenter, The Jazz Fest at Onondaga Community College, Watkins Glen International Speedway and the New York State Fair. The main focus for the display is to bring attention to the wing, provide community support and

perhaps even get the attention of some new recruits. During the past year the team spent countless hours preparing aircraft 79-0337 for this formidable task. Aircraft 337, an "A" model operational aircraft from the 174th during the early F-16 days, flew over 50 combat missions in Desert Storm. Aircraft 337 provided the wing with exemplary service and continues to do so in its retirement years. Aircraft 337 doesn't serve these days without a great deal of support from a dedicated team of maintainers and volunteers. If you see any of the following troops on base, please thank them for their help during this past year. Without their assistance this program could not happen. Team Chief Tech.Sgt. William Hartung, Tech.Sgt. Gary Lagoe, Tech. Sgt. Jim MacCormac, Tech. Sgt. Keith Flurry, Staff Sgt. Tad Kalahar, Staff Sgt. David LeClair, Staff Sgt. Jeff Tyler, Staff Sgt. Nicole Perry, Senior Airman Susan South, Staff Sgt. William Clochessy, Staff Sgt Kirk Wilson, Staff Sgt Mark MacConaghy, Master Sgt Gregg Pardee, Tech.Sgt Dennis Fisher, Tech Sgt Lyle Sharkey, Master Sgt Dennis Reinhard and last but not least 1st Lt. Nicholas Lotito. Also thank Chief Master Sgt. Dale Cuny and the motor pool staff as well as Brian Eveleigh and the Structural Shop for all their support in transporting and maintaining the display.



SMSgt. Mark Shearer

"ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT"

Children's Christmas Party

This year's Children's Christmas Party will be held on 15 December 2002 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the 174th FW Dining Hall. Children up to age 12 are invited. Santa Claus will be visiting with the children and presenting them a gift. There will be various activities and we will offer the children some goodies to eat. Cost per child is \$7.50. The deadline for sign-up is December 8th. No late sign-ups will be taken due to the preparation required, so please be sure to sign up early. This year we will have to limit the number of guests that escort the children. Due to limited space, two adults per family will be allowed in the party. We regret that older children cannot attend. Point of contact: Master Sgt Terri Scanlin, 454-6149. See sign-up sheet posted on the back page of this EnGarde.

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN OPEN SEASON

TSP open season for AGR's and Traditional Guardsmen is 15-Oct-02 thru 31 Dec-02. The maximum contribution has increased from 7% to 8% of a member's base pay. Members may enroll by completing a TSP U-1 form which can be found on the TSP website at (<http://www.tsp.gov>). When completed the original form goes to the MPF customer service section and a copy goes to Military Pay to be processed. Once a member has established their account, they can use the My Pay (formerly E/MSS) website to maintain their plan, as well as access many other personal finance functions.

**DECEMBER
MENU**

**174th Fighter Wing
Dining Facility Hours**

1030 – 1300

Please see OPORD for menu

December USA

Pay Date:

18 December 2002

Next USA

11–12 January 2003



D O D N E W S

**Scholarships for Military Children
Program Opens Nov. 1**

The 2003 Scholarships for Military Children program opens for business Nov. 1, with the essay topic "How has being the child of a military service member influenced your educational goals?" The Scholarships for Military Children program is administered by the nonprofit Fisher House Foundation, best known for building family comfort homes near military medical facilities. The program has awarded 920 scholarships and nearly \$1.5 million in its first two years. Applications for the 2003 program can be downloaded from <http://www.commissaries.com> or <http://www.fisherhouse.org> starting Nov. 1. They can also be picked up at any commissary. The deadline for returning applications by hand or mail to a commissary is Feb. 21, 2003. The scholarship program is open to dependent unmarried children (under the age of 23) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2003.

**Free Letters Home for "Enduring Freedom"
Servicemembers**

The US Postal Service reminds Americans in the U.S. military who are serving in the Persian Gulf-Afghanistan region as part of "Operation Enduring Freedom" that they can send mail to home for free during the holidays. For more information, please use the following charts. Formore details on recommended mailing deadlines, parcel insurance and other instructions, see <http://www.usps.com/holidaytips/ourpart.htm>

GI Bill Benefits Increase

As of October 1, Montgomery GI Bill benefits have increased for active duty and selected reserve members. Service members can now receive up to \$900 a month (up from the previous \$800) in education benefits with at least three years of active duty experience. Selected Reserve members saw a slight increase in benefits, from \$272 a month to \$276 a month. The next scheduled increase in GI Bill payments will take place on October 1, 2003, when maximum payment will be increased to \$985 a month. For more information on the GI Bill and how to take advantage of it, see http://www.military.com/Education/Content?file=gi_bill_benefits.htm

Winter Driving and Safety Training

By Chief Master Sgt. Dave Heckman, 174th FW, Ground Safety NCOIC

It is that time of year again when drivers will be experiencing ice and snow covered roads as part of their regular travel. Winter driving exposes employees to hazardous conditions and requires vehicle operators to be especially cautious and use defensive driving techniques to avoid mishaps. Two of the most effective techniques you can use to keep yourself safe during the winter are to slow down and increase following distances. Your stopping distance increases dramatically when the roads become snow covered and slippery. Another defensive technique that can be used when winter weather conditions create potential hazards is trip planning. Some of the main points of trip planning would include the following; decide if

the trip is necessary, check your local forecast and road conditions, and ensure you have emergency supplies available in your vehicle. Also, having the availability of a cellular phone would be an

additional safety feature one could use when traveling during winter weather. These tips come from the Defensive Drivers Course training offered by the Wing safety office.



Chief Master Sergeant Dave Heckman

Safety training is a major part of a units mishap prevention program. All employees must receive initial job safety training prior to potential exposures of hazardous work assignments. This training is specific to the workplace and accomplished via the AF Form 55 and the unit's briefing guide. All units need to accomplish this training on an annual basis, please contact the Wing Safety office for more information.

Reserve Component Preventive Health Assessment

By Lt. Col. Reid T. Muller, 174th FW, Medical Squadron Commander



Lt. Col Reid T. Muller

What is the RCPHA? RCPHA is the Reserve Component Preventive Health Assessment. It is the program and the process by which the Medical Service will perform medical monitoring of the force in the future, and it is coming to a

squadron near you. It is based on the active duty PHA program, but adjusted to the needs and requirements of the ANG. It will no longer focus on rote head-to-toe exams every few years, but

will be based on recommended guidelines for both general and occupational health screening, and based on age and gender.

The cornerstone to the program is the annual PHA questionnaire. This will be distributed annually at the unit level. It is a detailed questionnaire, designed to help identify areas or issues requiring further evaluation. It will be combined with focused additional evaluations that are based on national guidelines as well as occupationally required assessments. In some years for example, you may only need to complete the questionnaire, whereas on another occasion, an EKG might be needed, or evidence of a dental

exam, or PAP exam provided. Personnel on flying status will still meet with the flight surgeon on an annual basis.

The RCPHA process should allow us to truly focus on preventing illness and injury, avoid examination processes that provide little added value, and streamline the entire medical monitoring process for Base personnel. The key however is your accurate and timely completion of the questionnaire. Starting in December, the Medical Squadron will begin migrating into the RCPHA process. While any new system can be challenging, I think everyone will ultimately find this a better, more efficient, and more valuable approach to maintaining the health of our personnel.

New Members for August, September, October 2002

A1C Joshua Terry, AGS
TSgt David Marinkov, DET 1
SRA Thomas Moade, LGS
A1C Brian James, STUFLT
A1C Pamela Williams, STUFLT
A1C Jay Bicknell, STUFLT
A1C Kiara Sligh, STUFLT

SRA Matthew Tracy, MDS
A1C Clifford Fallico, STUFLT
A1C Renee Homer, STUFLT
A1C James, Marasia, STUFLT
A1C Cheryl Strong, STUFLT
A1C Ryan Paul, STUFLT
A1C Marshall Riopelle, SFS

SRA David May, MAI
SSgt David Cook, 274TH
SSgt Theodore Daly, CES
Capt Michael Arnold, CES

Welcome!

Election

You're probably getting tired of hearing about election results, but this time it's about our organization and not the mid term election we recently suffered through. We would have told you about this last month, but was unable to because the deadline for the November EnGarde was the 4th of October and our election wasn't until the 17th. Fortunately, or unfortunately, however you want to view it, our slate of Officers and Board members didn't change all that much after the last vote was tallied. Jim Monroe remains President, Jim Shanahan is our new Vice President, Gary Berberich is our new Secretary, Jon LeFeber will continue as Treasurer, and Don Whiting is our Chaplain. Board members that were re-elected for another two years were Ralph Brooks and Don Cook. Newly elected Board members are Paul Jennings and Henry Weyer. Two other Board members that were not up for re-election that night were Bob Musengo and Mel Denny.

On the night of the election, there was an oversight that wasn't discovered until the next day when it was realized that we should have elected 4 Board members instead of 3. The problem was created when Gary Berberich was elected as Secretary. That left us with a Board position that had a year remaining and should have been filled. To preclude having to run the election all over again, the Board of Directors decided that the candidate that received the next highest number of votes during the election should fill the position. That individual was Henry Weyer. Henry will fill the position for one year then he will have to be re-elected, if he so chooses to run. We want to thank everyone that participated in this election, especially those that showed a willingness to run for office. Without such individuals it would be impossible to keep the Association as viable as it currently is.

A Special Thanks

Most of you probably realized that there was one name missing from those re-

elected this year, but if you didn't, it was Ted Scheirer. Ted has been our Vice President for many years, but this year, because of personal reasons he decided that it was best that he step down and let someone else carry the baton for a while. It goes without saying we're going to miss Ted, for he has not only been an avid supporter, but a good friend and valued comrade. Our words cannot describe all that Ted has done for us, and we can't thank him enough for the service he has provided. However, we can wish him, and his wife Harriet, the very best for the coming years, and express our hope that they will continue to participate with us at all future functions.



Sondrastrom, Greenland, November 1961. Left to Right: Roy Bingham, Bill Dix, Jim Shanahan, Bob Laird, and George Schutz.

Thanksgiving Party

Our Thanksgiving party was scheduled to take place on the 20th of November, which was too late for this issue of the EnGarde. We will let you know how it all turned out in month's issue of the Alumni News.

We Goofed

In last month's issue of the Alumni News we mistakenly reported that there would be a regular monthly meeting on the 21st of November at the All Service Club. If you showed up for that meeting you now know there was none, because it was held the night before at the Cicero American Legion Post. If you did show for that meeting, we are truly sorry for any inconvenience that it may have caused you.

Taps

Joseph F. Holt, died on 26 October 2002 at the age of 80. Joe was a traditional guardsman and one of the first members to join the Alumni. He was assigned to Base Supply until he left the unit in January of 1953.

Gary C. Knapp, died 27 October 2002 at the age of 66. He was assigned to the 138th Fighter Interceptor Squadron until his discharge in August 1955.

Sick List

We have received word that Ken Burdick, Mary Kendrick, and Harriet Scheirer were recently hospitalized for unknown health reasons. Our thoughts and our prayers go out to them; with the hope that each of them will be well on the road to recovery by the time you received this issue of the EnGarde.

Dues

On December 31, 2002 we will have approximately 94 members that will need to renew their membership. To determine if you are one of them, check either your membership card, or the mailing label on this issue of the EnGarde for your expiration date. If you need to renew your membership, payment can be made by sending a check to the 174th Alumni Association, 6001 East Molloy Road, Syracuse, NY 13221-7099. The cost for renewal is still only \$5.00 a year or \$20.00 for five years.

Season Greetings

The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and the best of health and happiness throughout the coming year.

Next Meeting

Don't forget that there will be no Alumni meeting in December. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2003 at 7:00 PM in the Base All Service Club. Liquid refreshments will be served. Come on out, we'd love to see you.



Annual Children's Christmas Party

*(For all children up to age 12)
(Due to limited space, there will be a limit of 2 adults per family to join in the celebration. Please do not bring children over 12. Thank you!)*

*Sunday, December 15, 2002
1 to 3 PM
174th FW Dining Hall*



Please return to MSG Scanlin, 174 MSF/DPMA, 6001 E. Molloy Rd, Syracuse, NY 13211-7099

Deadline: December 8 (No late sign-ups will be accepted.)

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: M F

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: M F

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: M F

Member's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Cost: \$7.50 per child Amount Enclosed: _____

Method of Payment: Cash Check Make check payable to: MWR Fund

ENGARDE

174th Fighter Wing
New York Air National Guard
Headquarters
6001 East Molloy Rd.
Hancock Field
Syracuse, New York, 13211-7099