

April 03, V.39, 2

ENGARDE

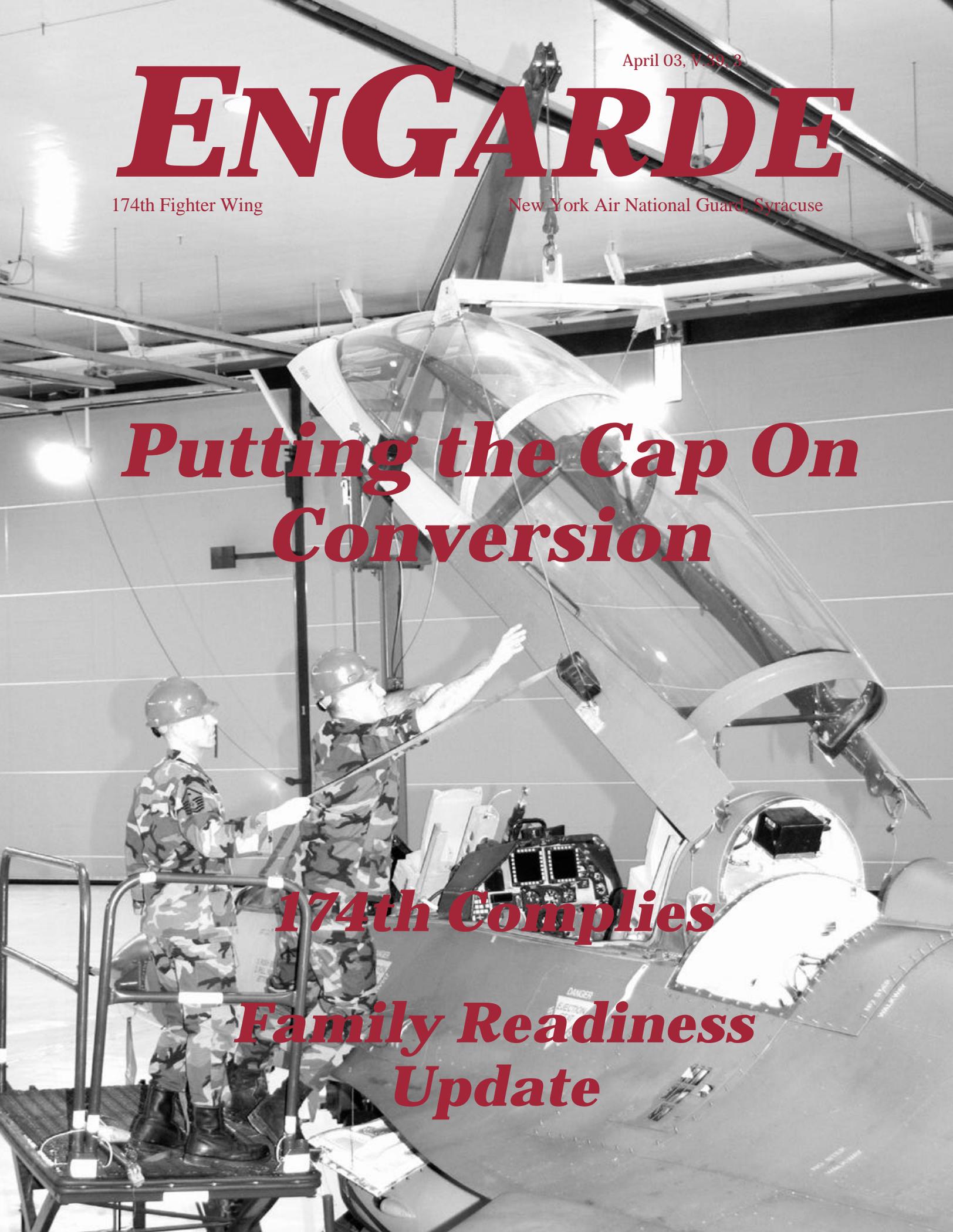
174th Fighter Wing

New York Air National Guard, Syracuse

Putting the Cap On Conversion

174th Complies

***Family Readiness
Update***





Col. Robert A. Knauff
174th FW Commander

Col. Anthony B. Basile
Vice Commander

Chief Master Sgt.
Theodore W. Mosley
Command Chief Master Sgt.

Public Affairs Office
1st Lt. Jeff Brown, PAO
Master Sgt. Jeff Wallace, NCOIC

Editorial Team
Lt.Col. Maryjo Timpano
Senior Master Sgt. Al Nall

Publication Team
Tech. Sgt. Kevin Brody,
(Team Leader)
Master Sgt. Terri Scanlin
Tech. Sgt. Scott Shaffer
Tech. Sgt. JD Martin
Tech. Sgt. Sandi McAllister



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.

The EnGarde
174th Fighter Wing
6001 East Molloy Road
Hancock Field
Syracuse, New York, 13211-7099
Comm: (315) 454-6651
DSN: 489-9651
FAX: (315) 454-6145
DSN: 489-9145

Table of Contents

- 3 **Commander's Comments**
- 4 **Chaplain's Corner**
Blue Star Service Banner
- 5 **Our People**
- 6 **Wing Maintainers Convert in Record Time**
- 8 **It's Family Time Update**
- 9 **Base Announcements**
- 10 **DOD News**
National Strategy for Combating Terrorism
- 11 **Alumni News**

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

In case you hadn't heard, the Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) visit from the Air Combat Command Inspector General is over and done. And in case you weren't aware, the 174th did well; in fact, we did exceptionally well. The final report is out on the base shared network, and I encourage everyone to take a look at it sometime this weekend, but let me summarize the overall score for you. There were 484 overall areas inspected; in the past three years since ACC started giving the UCI only two bases, Holloman and Mountain Home AFB, were inspected with more areas, and both were active duty composite wings with between four and six times the base population, multiple flying squadrons, numerous tenants, etc. Of the inspected areas 84% were in full compliance, 14% complied with comments, and 2% were not in compliance with guidance and directives. Of all the UCIs given, only one had more 'Complies' and fewer 'Does not Complies', and that base was an active duty installation in the Azores that doesn't own or operate aircraft!

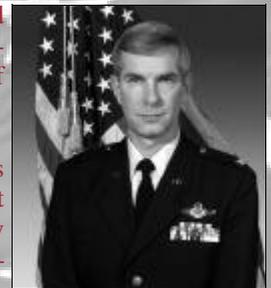
There were numerous areas that did exceptionally well, and numerous areas that despite less than perfect scores did better than anyone else in the USAF. There were two documented 'Best Practices' (both at the Ft Drum Range), and many, many compliments from the inspectors regarding areas that had noteworthy strengths. The phrase 'best seen to date in the ANG' was heard frequently in the outbrief. In short, this inspection was a homerun for the Wing. My thanks to everyone who worked long and hard to pull everything together, and but especially to those who interacted directly with the IG team and correctly left them with the strong impression that this base is made up of professionals who

care about their work, who are dedicated to the success of the Wing's many missions, and most importantly, take care of each other.

What's next? Coming off of the success of the UCI, it would be natural to expect that we could pull back a little and enjoy some of the fruits of our labors. Unfortunately, world events conspire against that luxury.

I'm writing this column two weeks before the drill, and by the time you read this it seems likely that events in the Gulf will have come to crisis. Even if no further mobilizations or deployments take place, we will be busy supporting our deployed people and working to keep people and equipment ready to go on short notice. The world isn't likely to become a kinder and gentler place anytime soon, and we all need to be ready for the unexpected.

Although it doesn't rise to the level of world crisis, the UCI, or even the unexpected, I believe that by this UTA the Adjutant General will have selected my replacement as the Wing Commander of the 174th, and hope to make the announcement by the drill, if not sooner. Once the announcement is public we will work on the date for the change of command. I'll save whatever comments I might have concerning this change until then. In the meantime, stay focused on the job at hand – our state and nation will be counting on us.



Colonel Robert Knauff
174th FW, Commander

Suggestion and Concerns Program

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Ted Mosley



Several years ago, the 174th Chief's Council put together a suggestion/concern program for all unit members. The program is simple and easy to use.

Outside most Chief Master Sergeant's door to his or her office you will find a box that contains a form that can be utilized by anyone that has a question, concern, or a recommendation. The form does not have to be signed unless you would like a personal response and have checked the box. The Chief's box you leave it in has to take action on your suggestion/concern if it is in their authority.

Over the years many good suggestions and concerns surfaced and were handled quickly. Some were concerns over the anthrax pro-

gram, some were about unit hats, and some were about promotion policy. Bottom line is, if you have anything that is about a suggestion/concern your supervisor can't handle, this program is for you.

If the Chief's can't get answers at our level, we will take it to the section Commander, or to the Wing Commander if necessary. So don't let good ideas stay silent. Do not let questions or concerns eat at you. We are at your service. If you have submitted one and didn't get a requested response, please call me at extension 454-6102 on UTA's or 454-6459 during the week.



Command Chief
Master Sgt. Mosley



Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Maj) Douglas Decker, 174th FW Chaplain 's Office



Chaplain (Maj) Douglas Decker

A Season of Renewal

I am certain that most of us are weary of the snow, the wind, and the lack of sunshine. To our dismay this is a necessary part of nature as it takes its annual 'winter rest'. We, too, have need for a 'winter rest'...a time of refec-tion which gives way to renewed life and hope.

In his book *Renewed for Life*, author and theologian, Henri Nouwen states, and I paraphrased, "A person with hope does not get tangled up with the concerns of this world. He or she expresses an unlimited faith in God as they pray for hope. A faith prayer for hope has no guaran-tees, no conditions and no proofs. Ones hope and renewed life comes from being open to God, with Him determining the out-come".

This year, during the month of April, faith traditions across the world celebrate feasts of hope and new life. The Jewish people celebrate Passover and the Christians celebrate Easter.

Exodus chapter 14 is the story of God's people being slaves to

Pharaoh, the Egyptian ruler. As their representative, Moses, asked Pharaoh to set them free from slavery. Pharaoh refused this request many times. It was not until the angel of death passed over the land of Egypt that the great Pharaoh gave them freedom. Once freed, Moses led the people through the Red Sea in a jour-ney to the promised land. This is a tremendous story of faith and courage.

The Red Sea serves as a symbol of water Baptism for the Chris-tian people. The waters of the Red Sea represents, as Baptism does, a new beginning for God's children. The Christian churches celebrate initiation during this season of Easter. Easter is a season of God's new life and God's amazing hope. It is really the 'spring of our spiritual life'.

As nature moves to spring, so do we in our spiritual lives. Soon new growth and new life will be all around us. As God's people let's breath in that new life and the new hope...hope eternal.

In closing a prayer from Henri Nouwen we read... "Lord, the life you have given me is new life. You have won for me the treas-ures that will never decay Help me to appreciate new life and new hope today and always..."

Blue Star Service Banner



The Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Cap-tain Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry who had two sons serving on the front lines. It quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service.

On Sept. 24, 1917, an Ohio congressman read the following into the Congressional Record: "...The mayor of Cleveland, the Chamber of Commerce and the governor of Ohio have adopted this service flag. The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother - their children."

During World War II, the Department of War issued specifica-tions on the manufacture of the banner as well as guidelines indi-cating when, and by whom, the Service flag could be flown or the Service Lapel button could be worn. The banner can be seen hanging in the front window of Mrs. Ryan's house in the movie *Saving Private Ryan*.

The Blue Star Service Banner is an 8 by 16-inch white field with a blue star(s) sewn onto a red banner. Today, Blue Star Service Banners are displayed by families who have a loved one serving in the armed forces, including activated members of the National Guard and Reserves, whether the family member is a son, daugh-ter, brother, sister, wife, husband, cousin, grandchild, etc. The banner displayed in the front window of a home, to shows a fam-ily's pride in their loved one serving in the military, and reminds others that preserving America's freedom demands much.



The blue star represents one family member serving in the armed forces. A banner can have up to five stars, signifying that five members of that family are currently in military uniform on active duty.

A gold star replaced the blue star if that relative was killed or died in service. If more than one star appears on the flag, the gold star takes the place of honor nearest the staff.

Blue Star Mothers and Gold Star Mothers organizations were es-tablished during World War I and remain active today, although with a reduced membership.

Blue Star Service Banners, while widely used across America during World Wars I and II, were not embraced during the Korean or Vietnam wars with nearly the same enthusiasm.

Like the American Legion, the members of Chapter 50 of the Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer Academy Graduate Association, is working to rekindle the tradition and spirit of pride in our military men and women following the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

If you have a family member currently serving and defending our country, purchase a "Blue Star Banner," and display it proudly in your window. "Blue Star Banners" are available in the Chapter 50 Gift Shop, located in building 641, Room 115.

Our People

By Chief Master Sgt. Of The Air Force, Gerald R. Murray, Command Chief of the Air Force

As units throughout our Air Force deploy, posture for deployment, or ramp up for accelerated operations at home, it's important to know that senior leaders are aware of how hard each of you is working, and that they are grateful for your dedication to the mission.

Nowhere is that appreciation more evident than in the President's 2004 budget proposal, which was unveiled last week. In that proposal, the largest chunk of Air Force money is focused on you – our greatest asset. People and quality-of-life initiatives make up 34 percent of the \$93.5 billion in Air Force money.

The most tangible part of that budget for most of us is the proposed pay raise, which ranges from 2 percent for our E-1s to 6.25 percent for our most senior NCOs. I want to take a moment and explain the “why’s” behind this proposal, and what it means to you as an enlisted airman.

We have enjoyed several targeted pay raises in the past four years in a concerted effort to bring our military pay into a comparable scale with that of our private sector counterparts with the same level of education and experience. We have been very successful in doing that for the majority of our junior ranks—the compensation for an airman entering the Air Force out of high school is better than 85 percent of their former classmates who chose to go to work in the private sector. That does not take into consideration enlistment bonuses, or other special and incentive pays the Air Force provides to some skills.

However, the gap between civilian and military pay widens at the

NCO and Senior NCO ranks, with our senior NCOs in some cases earning only half of what their civilian counterparts with the same skills, education and experience level earn. The 2004 targeted pay raise proposal will continue to address that gap, giving an average pay raise of 4.6 – 4.8 percent to NCOs, and between 5 percent to 6.25 percent for senior NCOs.



Chief Master Sgt.
Gerald R. Murray

Another factor considered in setting this proposal was the time a person spends in a particular grade. E-1s are in a transitional phase of their career. By the time an airman completes basic training and technical school, most are already E-2s and E-3s. The high promotion rates of the past few years have also driven average sew-on times down; the average time for promotion to staff sergeant is now 4.6 years, significantly less than years past. Those same E-1s coming in now with a 2 percent pay raise will enjoy the benefits of the NCO targeted pay raises much sooner than in the past.

While we know we can never pay you enough for the sacrifices you and your families make for our country, targeted pay raises are a good way for us to reward the skill and experience of our retention-based force while giving our young airmen motivation to advance as they look up the pay scale.

In today's environment of high operations tempo, deployments and demanding missions, every member of our force is an integral part of the team, and we will continue to seek adequate pay and compensation for all you do. The Air Force needs each one of you to understand the immense value you are to the organization and to continue to carry your weight every day. Thank you for your dedicated service, and what you do for our Great Nation.



Recently activated and deployed to Southeast Asia are members of the 152nd Air Control Group.

‘Wing Maintainers Convert in Record Time

By Lt. Col. Chuck Dorsey, 174th FW, Logistics Group Commander



Lt.Col. Chuck Dorsey

The 174th Fighter Wing is flying higher and faster, thanks to the recent conversion to 17 newer F-16 fighter jets with more powerful engines. What’s more, the conversion from Block 25 to Block 30 F-16 aircraft took place weeks ahead of schedule. “I don’t think there has been another aircraft conversion done in less time, ever,” said

Maj. John Balbierer, Aircraft Generation Squadron Commander.

The conversion is not as simple as receiving a new fleet of aircraft to replace the older Block 25 F-16s. Before being pressed into service, each plane is thoroughly inspected from nose to tail: more than 160 areas on the F-16 are painstakingly checked, one at a time, from the engine to the ejection, fuel, hydraulic and electrical systems. Any discrepancies, anything not up to specification, any leaks and cracks are fixed on the spot by the maintenance crews (maintainers). “The aggressive work of the Wing’s maintainers has given us a combat-ready force weeks before anybody expected us to be ready,” noted Col. Robert Knauff, 174 Fighter Wing Commander. “During these days of high demand, we are again prepared for whatever is required of us.” The conversion was originally scheduled to be completed by April, but the wing seized an opportunity to accelerate the process, completing it by the end of February on all but one aircraft. That 18th jet will be delivered later in the year.

The wing was able to obtain the newer jets through the efforts



From L to R: Staff Sgt. John Smith, Tech Sgt. Mike Mullen, Master Sgt Marsha Rowe, and Engine Shop Supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Phil Greenwood, discuss management activities of the Pratt and Whitney to the General Electric engine conversion. There were six major programs had to be completed in the engine switch, 1500 hundred Block 25 equipment items had to be shipped out, 389 new additional equipment items had to be installed and inspected, and the Consolidated Toll Kit Program had to be overhauled in order to be re-instituted and compliant. SMSgt. Greenwood said, “all the engine folks did great as we did not shut down one day for UCI preparation or miss one sortie in the process”.

of Congressman James Walsh. They came from the 185th Fighter Wing in Sioux City, IA. The older jets were transferred to the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, MN. Because of many upgrades over the past few years, the Block 25 and Block 30 F-16 aircraft are nearly identical in their electronic mission systems. The Block 30 has two major advantages: fewer total flying hours and a different engine with more thrust. The extra thrust means the 174th pilots will be able to fly higher and faster with the same combat load, thus reducing the chance of being hit by enemy Surface to Air Missiles (SAMs) and Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA). The new aircraft average about 600 fewer flight hours than the previous fleet, translating into approximately three extra years of service life.

Getting a squadron of complex aircraft ready for transfer to another unit while receiving a new fleet places an immense workload on the wing’s maintenance troops. While all sections have put in extra effort, the Engine Shop, Egress, Plans and Scheduling have been heaviest hit. The Engine Shop, led by Senior Master Sgt. Phil Greenwood, is midway through a months long process of retraining every worker, reorganizing every tool and publication, all while inspecting and repairing the new engines that arrived. The Egress Shop has removed and reinstalled every ejection seat



and canopy, needing half a day per plane to check the integrity of the explosive systems that allow a pilot to eject should that become necessary.

With Tech. Sgt. Tom Nabinger as the only full-time egress technician, the help of Staff Sgt. Nicole Fasteneau-Perry has been critical in this high-priority work. Tech. Sgt. Robert Drapikowski, of the Fabrication Shop, led the effort to repaint every tail with the Syracuse logo. Master Sgt. Harry Artemisio and Master Sgt. Ed Monnin in Life Support and Survival Equipment had to repack every parachute, drogue chute, and survival kit. Plans/Scheduling loaded all necessary data on all aircraft into the computer database that tracks all aircraft maintenance. Master Sgt. Jim Davison, Tech. Sgt. Bruce Oaks and Tech. Sgt. Rick Lamarre have labored for weeks to load thousands of items per aircraft. Master Sgt. Marsha Rowe and Master Sgt. Marilyn White did the same for the 21 new General Electric engines (including spares).

In addition, some 160 items have to be examined on each aircraft by a variety of shops, requiring the assigned crew chiefs to open panels for each item, calling for the right specialist to examine the part or system, reinstall each panel after inspection, then document all of it before moving to the next item on the list. This process can reveal discrepancies that have to be fixed before the jet is ready for flight. The extreme cold weather added additional work to an already hectic schedule as hydraulic lines and actuators, fuel systems, and anything else that can spring a leak or crack did so with regularity. The Accessories Shop, led by Senior Master Sgt. Mark Shearer, responsible for fuel, hydraulic and electrical systems, was kept busy fixing many discrepancies found during the acceptance process.

Lastly, the crew chiefs run the aircraft to check the major systems before the first flight here at Syracuse.. All of the above



Staff Sgt. Scott Battmen (center), assisted by Staff Sgt. Tim Hudson (left), and Airmen First Class Scott Priett, are performing receiving inspection requirements on one of the 21 General Electric engines which will be installed in the new Block 30 aircraft.



Looking over some final details, members of the Aircraft Electric and Environmental Shop (LGMCE) lighten things up after an high-tempo period with Conversion and UCI Inspection preparation. From left to right are Master Sgt. Joe Brown, Staff Sgt. Ryan Thauvette, Master Sgt. Cris Renne, Staff Sgt. Mark Macconaghy, Staff Sgt. Dave LeClair, Staff Sgt. Jeff Tyler, Master Sgt. Dennis Reinhard, Staff Sgt. Chris Tallant and Staff Sgt. Gary Scofield.

actions represent a huge effort for the maintainers even with nothing else demanding their attention. However, UCI preparation has been ongoing within the Logistics Group despite the conversion. Also, maintenance functions have moved in or out of their work areas due to facility construction work over the past year. The Weapons Element just completed a move into a new building, the Wing just got the big hangar floor back in January, and the Fuel Cell shop is in the middle of renovation on its building. The Logistic Group set a goal to continue limited flying for training throughout the conversion. There was not a single day without at least four sorties planned. For a pilot, there's no such thing as enough flying, but we were very pleased to have at least a few sorties every day to train," noted Lt. Col. Tom Owens, 138th Fighter Squadron commander. "The last time the wing converted, we didn't turn a wheel for almost three months. With the possible tasking that could come up, we don't have the luxury to stop training, then start all over again with qualifications and requirements. Every sortie counts." With the conversion to Block 30 F-16s, the 174th Fighter Wing is now equipped with more capable fighter aircraft that have at least three years of additional life over the older Block 25s.

"I am very proud of this organization for the tremendous effort and efficiency shown while blazing through this conversion in record time. The next time you see maintainer's at the chow hall, thank them for a big job well done."

Lt. Col. Chuck Dorsey, Logistics Group commander



It's Family Time Update

By Chris Muszynski, 174th FW, Family Readiness and Support Coordinator



Pass A Dish Family Night

Members of the Family Support team, Father Mathis and Lt. Col. Timpano hosted a family "Pass A Dish" night on February 21, 2003. Families of our 174FW Security Forces,

152nd and 274th deployed members attended this event. The families shared a meal with our unit members, comprised of personnel and squadron commanders from all sections on the base. Also in attendance were members from the Red Cross, March of Dimes, Crouse Hospital, teachers and various other members from the Syracuse community. Chaplain Mathis requested everyone to pray for our unit members and families. Lt. Col. Timpano provided an overview of our family program services and requested families continue to contact key personnel for support and assistance. Family members mingled and shared their concerns.

The purpose of this event was to provide a supportive climate for the children and their families in these unsettled times. A special "Thanks" is extended to Tech. Sgt. Melinda Haines and her Services staff, and as well as Security Forces, for their outstanding support of our night with the families.

Did You Know?

If an emergency arises and you need to

communicate with a family member in the military, your local American Red Cross Chapter is the first contact agency you should try. The American Red Cross provides an exclusive worldwide communications and support network that serves as a lifeline between military service members and their families. Your Red Cross Chapter is the connection to home in the event of a family crisis, a death in the family, a financial emergency, or the announcement of a joyous birth.

Upon contacting the Red Cross, please have your service member's name, rank, branch of service, social security number, military address of deployment or home



Five year old Robert and eight year old Nikole, son and daughter of Tech. Sgt. Peter Metz, 174th Security Forces having a great time at the recent "Pass A Dish Family Night" held at the Base dining hall. Fun was had all as the dinner was a big success.

base unit address. If you have a deployed family member you should always have Red Cross contact information with you at all times.

Are you Ready?

If you were called to active duty today would you be ready? Preparation is the key! Usually when the call occurs, most time is spent at the unit preparing for departure. This does not give you much time for personal matters that your unit has requested you keep in order at all time.

Here are some suggested actions to take now to be ready: Draw or update a Will Provide access to checking and savings accounts to your primary family member. Identify location of emergency cash or credit accounts. Verify all necessary military documents, complete all necessary house repairs and maintenance. Complete

all necessary car maintenance, including expiration dates for all automobiles and drivers licenses. Provide arrangements for storage and maintenance of recreational vehicles. Prepare a list of contacts for emergencies and repairs Discuss health benefits and Tricare issues with your family. Discuss the possibility of deployment with your primary family members and children. Discuss communication methods and plan activities while you are delayed (Check into international phone plans and computer accessibility for our families). Plan and spend time with your family.

A note of 'thanks'

Please extend a big 174th and Hancock Field 'thanks' for the following members of our community for supporting our recent "Pass The Dish Family Nite" held for all family members of deployed personnel: Nina Albino- Executive Director, Syracuse Chapter of the March of Dimes and family members Irene Albino, Mary-Anne and Albert Cutri, Joanne Catanzarita, teacher at the Crouse School of Nursing, Terry Campagna, teacher at Le-Moyne Elementary School, Barbara Ehlers and Joyce Wassel, Red Cross Volunteers.

Next Family Night

Our next event is tentatively scheduled for March 27th at the dining hall. We will have an Easter egg hunt and egg coloring contest. We plan to prepare Easter cards and presents to send in care packages overseas. All details, location, and dates are subject to change based upon world events and base security conditions.

If you have an idea for a future event, please contact Lt. Col. Timpano at 454-6139, Chaplain Mathis at 454-6642 or myself. We are always looking for new event ideas for our unit members and their families.

Just in Case

As the Family Support Coordinator I am available to assist all unit member and their families with problems that may arise. I can be contacted by 315 454-6577 or 78, or by cell phone at (315) 952-7497, or you can stop by the Family Support Office located at the entrance of the medical building.



Staff Sgt Ray O'Connor Jr., his wife Elizabeth, son Raymond III and daughter Elizabeth say good-bye as dad deployed to Southeast Asia.

Information Assurance Awareness Campaign Emission Security

By Tech Sgt. Trinette N. Seburn, 174 FW, Information Assurance Office

Emission Security (EMSEC) is a critical piece of the Information Assurance program. However, it seldom receives the attention needed to ensure success. Recently, ANG/IA received an email from one of the communications and information inspectors on the ACC/IG team. In his email, the inspector outlined some serious trends that he has seen in his past inspections of ACC-gained ANG units. Included is EMSEC. The following is a brief synopsis:

And I quote, *“negative trend in ANG communication flights. This negative trend involves emission security (EMSEC), more specifically, units are not completing EMSEC assessments prior to accreditation of their classified information systems and/or networks”*.

The protection of our classified systems and the information they carry is of vital concern. Because of this, the ANG is emphasizing EMSEC throughout ANG. March 2003 is designated as EMSEC awareness month. We will be forwarding more information to base personnel to provide an increase awareness of this security discipline.

In closing, if your organization has classified systems and you are not aware of an EMSEC assessment being completed, please contact Information Awareness Office at 454.6452.

The Most Important Pay Preparation for Deployment

By Capt. Chuck Hutson, 174th FW, Comptroller

You need to sign-up for a MYPAY personal identification number (PIN) several weeks BEFORE you deploy. MYPAY, formerly Employee/Member Self-Service (E/MSS), may be your only source of LES information while you're deployed. MYPAY is easy and simple to use and allows you to control many pay actions through the internet:

1. View, print, and save LES 2. View and print tax statements 3. Change federal and state withholdings 4. Make address changes 5. Update EFT information 6. Turn on/off hard copy mailing of LES 7. Manage allotments—civilian only 8. Purchases US Savings Bonds—civilian only 9. Control TSP enrollment—civilian only

Log on at mypay.dfas.mil and click on “need new PIN”. You will receive your PIN via mail to your HOME ADDRESS. Obviously, if you are processing for deployment, you are too late to request a PIN to be sent to your home. That is why it is absolutely critical to sign up ASAP. Depending on your deployment location, it may be your only source of LES information. In all cases, it is the easiest way to access your LES information. **SIGN UP FOR MYPAY TODAY!**

ComRel Speaker for April



Mr. Michael Aikey

Michael Aikey is currently the director of the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs, NY. He has been with the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs for the past seven years serving successively as the Director of the New York State Military History Task Force, Librarian/Archivist, Deputy Director and last year moving to the directorship of the Museum/Research Center. A graduate of the State University of New York at Albany's School of Information Science and Policy, he has worked in both public and academic libraries before coming to DMNA. Active in history, Mr. Aikey was a founding member of the Capital District Civil War Round Table, published several articles on military history, guest curated museum exhibits and worked as an NEA grant consultant. He lectures on New York State military history and the Civil War. His spare time is frequently involved with a couple of British Automobile clubs and researching early sports car racing in New York State.

Doors open at 11:30, Wednesday April 30, 2003, at the 174th Dining Hall. A buffet lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Lunch cost \$7.50 per person, proceeds will go to support the Syracuse Rescue Mission. Hope to see you there.

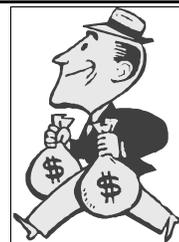


**174th Fighter Wing
Dining Facility Hours
1030 – 1300
Please see OPORD for menu**



**April UTA Pay Date:
16 Apr 03**

**Next UTA
3 & 4 May 03**



Recently more than 90 members of the 174th Fighter Wing and their families attended the 2nd Annual 174th Crunch Hockey Night. With last years event included, almost 140 people have attended the 174th Crunch night. Picture above are members of the 174th Security Forces Squadron. From left to right: Master Sgt. Joel Graham, Tech Sgt. Bill Schroeder, Senior Airmen Jim Schulshy, Tech. Sgt. Haley Holcomb, and Staff Sgt. Tracy Schroeder with her son Zachary.

Air Force Revises Body Modification, Mutilation Guidance

Air Force Print News reports that the Air Force has revised personal appearance guidelines in response to a trend involving extreme body modification and mutilation that is becoming common among a small, yet growing segment of the population, according to personnel officials. This change is in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel. It prohibits airmen from intentionally altering or modifying their bodies in order to achieve a visible effect that disfigures, deforms or otherwise detracts from a professional military image, said Lt. Col. Frank Pombar, chief of the Air Force quality of life programs and uniform branch at the Pentagon. For more details on the change, see

http://www.military.com/NewsContent?file=usaf1_022003

Deployment Tax Reminders

Air Force Print News reminds Reservists deploying overseas that they are not automatically excused from filing their federal income tax return, according to Air Force Reserve Command staff judge advocate officials. Deploying Reservists have four options when it comes to filing taxes. They can file before they leave, authorize a spouse or trusted friend to sign and file for them, have a non-military or non-deploying spouse sign and file a joint tax return on their behalf, or use an extension if authorized. If reservists have not received their Form W-2 in the mail before deploying, they can access it online by using a personal identification number via "My Pay" on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Website at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>. For help on taxes and a military tax guide, see

<http://www.military.com/Finance/Taxes/1,13397,82,00.html>.

Bill Offers Tax Relief to Service Members

Stars and Stripes reports that the Senate Finance Committee has given a thumbs up to a bill that offers several tax breaks to service members. The proposed Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act of 2003 is written to improve equity for military personnel, senators said. Included are provisions that would help service members who own homes, reservists and National Guard members who must travel overnight for training, and another that would make death benefit payments 100 percent tax-free. The bill, S289, now goes to the full Senate for approval. For a run-down of the tax changes proposed in the bill, see

<http://www.stripes.osd.mil/article.asp?section=104&article=1295>

DOD Tests Space-Available Travel Privileges for Dependents within the CONUS

The Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Transportation Policy) has approved a one-year test to evaluate the expansion of space-available privileges for dependents traveling within the Continental United States (CONUS). The test will allow dependents of active duty and retired Uniformed Services members to travel within the CONUS when accompanied by their sponsors. The test is scheduled to begin 1 April 2003 and will end 1 April 2004.

Dependents will assume the same category of travel as their sponsor. Space-available sign up for this program will be effective 1 April 2003. Retired members may sign up 60 days in advance but no earlier than 1 April 2003.

Active duty Uniformed Services members must be in a leave or pass status to register for space-available travel, remain in a leave or pass status while awaiting travel, and be in a leave or pass status the entire period of travel.

For additional information concerning space-available travel and sign-up procedures please review the Air Mobility Command public web site at

<http://amcpublic.scott.af.mil/Spacea/spacea.htm>
or contact the servicing DOD air terminal of interest.

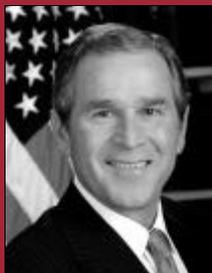
National Strategy for Combating Terrorism

Today I am pleased to issue the National Strategy for Combating Terrorism. This strategy outlines the effort our nation is making to win the war against global terror.

The strategy compliments important elements of the National Security Strategy, as well as our National Strategies for: Homeland Security, to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction, to Secure Cyberspace, for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Key Assets, and the National Drug Control Strategy. Together these efforts establish critical goals for strengthening America's security against the threats of the 21st century.

The United States' strategy for combating terrorism focuses on taking the fight to the terrorists themselves. We are using all elements of our national power and international influence to attack terror networks; reduce their ability to communicate and coordinate their plans; isolate them from potential allies and from

each other; and identify and disrupt their plots before they attack. Our country works closely with every nation committed to this fight, and we will continue to help our allies and friends improve their ability to fight terror.



The war against global terror will be hard and long. Today, terror cells exist on nearly every continent and in dozens of countries, including our own. Victory will depend on the courage, strength, and fortitude of America's people and our partners around the world. It will be measured through the steady, patient work of dismantling terror networks and bringing terrorists to justice, oftentimes one by one.

Our Nation is unalterably committed to protecting our citizens, routing terror wherever it exists, and building a safer, better world of greater opportunity and freedom for all peoples. We will not rest until we succeed.

Proposed By-laws

If you remember, in last month's Alumni News we mentioned that a proposal would be introduced during the February meeting that would allow active 174th FW personnel, those with over 20 years of military service, to join our Association as regular members. We stated that if approved, this change would give these individuals the same rights and privileges, to include holding office and voting on Alumni business, that are enjoyed by all Alumni members. As predicted, a formal proposal was made and seconded and is now scheduled for further discussion and vote, by the full membership, on 15 May 2003, which is our regular monthly meeting night. Because this is an important issue, we are encouraging as many members as possible to attend this meeting. There are differing views regarding this change, so it is imperative that we have both your input and your vote on this issue.

Life Memberships

We've received a number of inquiries recently asking about our Life Membership program and how does one become a Life Member. When the idea first surfaced, the granting of a Life Membership was limited to only those members who had reached their 80th birthday. Since then we have also issued Life Memberships to anyone who chose to pay his or her dues up to their 80th birthday. Right now we have 75 members who have been issued Life Membership Cards. If you think you would like to join the ranks of our Life Members, and wish to know how much it will cost, just use our current dues structure (1 year for \$5.00 or 5 years for \$20.00) and multiply the number of years remaining before you reach 80 years of age. There is no special rate or discount. We're not encouraging people to become a Life Member, as there is no special benefit other than to not have to worry about paying your dues. If you have any questions, give John Terry or Jim Monroe a call at (315) 478-0115, or (315) 635-5402 respectively.

Memorial Day Observance

It is all tentative right now, but the Chapter 50 Club and the Base Honor Guard is planning to have their 4th Annual Memorial Day Observance at Alumni Park on the 30th of May 2003. As in the past,

Alumni members are invited to attend, along with the families of the deceased members being honored. The exact time for the ceremony has yet to be determined, but will most likely be some time between 11:00 - 11:30 in the morning. Following the ceremony, plans are being made to have a small buffet or picnic style luncheon either in Alumni Park or at the All Service Club. A lot depends on the weather, and who is doing what, so be sure to check your May issue of the En-Garde for the final word on when and where it will all happen.

Base Security

For those of you that have been on the base in recent weeks, you know from personal experience that Base security is a lot tighter now than it has ever been. There



Desert Storm 1991 L to R: Neal Harris, Larry Macner, Louie Reese, Dave Kline.

has even been an occasion or two where Alumni members have been denied access because the Base was on a high state of alert and only essential military personnel were admitted. This tightened security will continue for the foreseeable future, so if on occasion you are asked to show some ID, have your vehicle searched, or denied entry, please accept that it is necessary and not just to inconvenience you or anyone else. Normally entering the base is not a problem, but to ensure you will have little or no difficulty, we suggest you and your passengers have proper identification. A picture ID such as your military retirement card, or driver's license is preferred.

Taps

Richard D. Keeling, 61, died 7 Feb 2003. Unfortunately we have no record of Richard being with us in the 174th, so if you can shed some light on when and where he was assigned we will make note of it in

next month's Alumni News.

George E. Londhair, 77, died 18 Dec 02. George was a WWII and Korean War veteran, serving in the US Navy. While with us, George was in the 108th and 174th as a Transportation Specialist.

Raymond Wilson, 67, died 30 Jan 2003. While assigned to the 174th, Ray served in the Weapons Section as a Munitions Specialist. He accumulated over 27 years of military service prior to his retirement.

New Member:

Mike Silkworth

More News & Trivia

Another date to mark on your calendar is 2 Aug 03, for on that day we will be having our annual Alumni picnic at the All Services Club. As usual there will be plenty of food, drink and entertainment for all.

We have approximately 37 members who have yet to pay their annual dues and are in the process of being dropped from our mailing list. If you think you are one of these individuals and want to continue your membership, just send your check, (1 year - \$5.00, or 5 years for \$20.00), to "174th Alumni Association Inc., 6001 E. Molloy Rd., Syracuse, NY 13211-7099".

Have any of you wondered what has happened to our old friend Andy Butler. Well it seems he has been called up one more time to serve his country. His exact location is unknown, but if you would like to send him an e-mail, his address is: anders.butler@auab.aorcentaf.af.mil

You probably didn't know it, but our first Alumni President, Thurlow Diller recently celebrated his 92nd birthday. We not only want to congratulate him on his longevity, but thank him for all that he has done for his country, the 174th Fighter Wing, and this Association.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17, 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.

Inspector General Outbrief 2003



It doesn't get any better, as the 174th scores big on its recent UCI Inspection. According to Col. Joseph Kahoe, Inspection Team Chief, the 174th had a **98% Compliance Rate** and it was the IG Inspectors "**Best Seen ANG Unit to Date**". Sixty-eight Superior Performers, twenty-two Superior Teams and Two ACC 'Best Practices', both from Det 1, were also announced. With the UCI over and the F-16 Aircraft Conversion complete, the Wing is poised for any mission...any where.

ENGARDE

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