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ENGARDE

174th Fighter Wing

New York Air National Guard, Syracuse

Patriot Plan To Help Military Families



*Colonel Anthony Basile
Selected to
Command The 174th Fighter Wing*

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174th FW Commander

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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

It should come as no surprise to those of you who have read my Commander's Comments in the past when I confess that, I am no great writer. Still, even for a hack author like me, some of these monthly views are harder to write than others. This month's words will be the toughest of all, because they are the last that I will be addressing to you as the commander of the 174th Fighter Wing.

First, let me start by acknowledging the debt of gratitude I owe the men and women of the 174th for the support I have been given over the past seven years. No commander can automatically assume that he or she will be given unlimited support from their unit solely by virtue of their position, yet the 174th has been generous beyond all bounds in standing up to the challenges I have accepted on its behalf. For that unconditional support I will be forever grateful.

Second, I urge you to continue to support your new commander the way you have been supporting me. Colonel Basile is well known by most of you and is held in high regard both within the Wing and around the Guard. Please give him the respect that he has earned in his years of service to this organization, and that he is due in his new capacity as the Commander.

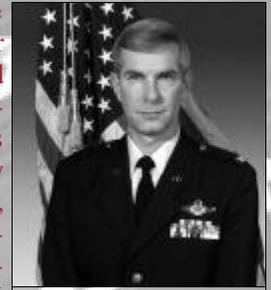
Finally, and most importantly, work at preserving the attitude

of excellence that is the hallmark of the 174th. I am not aware of a single Air Force organization, active duty, Guard or Reserve, that does not claim excellence as its heritage; that they do things better than everyone else, or that they are the 'premiere' unit in the USAF, Department of Defense, or for that matter, the entire world. It's a healthy attitude to have, but you know as well as I do that some are more excellent than others. True excellence is a result of an active pursuit, and the airmen of the 174th are among the few who have engaged in that chase with a passion for over fifty-six years.

That's about it. As I said up front, I wish I were a better writer who could capture seven years of experiences and share them all with you, but that isn't me, so I'll sign off with the title that will mean more to me than any I had before, or any I will ever have again:

**ROBERT A. KNAUFF, COLONEL,
NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD
COMMANDER, 174TH FIGHTER WING**

Thanks.



**Colonel Robert Knauff
174th FW, Commander**

The Enlisted Force

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



For many years here at the 174th, there was a strong organization called the Enlisted Council. This council worked and discussed many issues that involved the enlisted force. After September 11th 2001, the operations tempo surged to the point where people were too busy to attend meetings on the

UTA and subsequently the council fell apart. The Chiefs Council of Hancock Field, with support of all the commanders, would like to rebuild the Enlisted Council. There is still an existing charter that lays out the structure and operating procedures. Some of the objectives in the charter are as follows:

1. Promote professionalism among the enlisted corps by fostering esprit-de-corps within the total force and by promulgating the standards, customs, and traditions of the United States Air Force and Air National Guard.
2. Enhance the prestige of Airman and non commissioned officers and to develop a greater responsibility and leadership ability within the enlisted force.
3. Maintain a liaison with the commanders, Command Chief Master Sergeant and the enlisted force regarding items of

general interest and events concerning the benefits or welfare of all enlisted people.

4. Assist NCOIC's and supervisors in providing mutual support for the common areas of interest concerning enlisted personnel.
5. To provide specific recommendations to the commanders on enlisted policies and procedures, methods of motivating enlisted personnel, and suggesting possible solutions to current issues or problems.

The council should be composed of a cross section of the enlisted force from E-1 to E-8, with an elected president, vice president and secretary. The council could and should include members of the 152nd AOG and the 274th ASOS.

If you are interested in becoming a member of this council, please see your supervisor, first sergeant, or commander so that they can forward your name to me. Please consider being part of the reason that the enlisted force of the United States military is the best enlisted force in the world.



**Command Chief
Master Sgt. Mosley**



Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Maj) Tim Bejian, North Eastern Air Defense Sector



Chaplain Tim Bejian

"A Peaceful Retreat"

Most, if not all, of you have at one time or another seen a Thomas Kinkade painting or print. I have several in my office - unframed at the moment. One of his paintings, which I don't have as of yet, is titled: "A Peaceful Retreat." It shows a log cabin on the edge of the woods next to a mountain stream. Rugged mountains are in the background and two dogs and a hammock are in the yard. The clouds are aflame with the light of the setting sun, while the cabin's windows glow with a warm light from within. A thin wisp of smoke from the chimney hints at a warm fire, or maybe an apple pie baking in the cook stove. If I tried to describe this picture any better, it would take more space than I'm allowed. Also, I don't think I could do it justice.

There are two things I want to say about this picture, though. First, there is something missing in this painting. If you look at it, you will soon realize that there is nobody in the scene. This is no accident. Kinkade wants you to place yourself in the picture. He wants to draw you into the dream where your own imagination will take over. If and when that happens, it's no longer a static scene. Now you are able to smell the wood smoke and swing on that hammock while watching the fire in the clouds disappear only to be replaced by bright stars in the heavens.

The second thing I want to say is that Thomas Kinkade's paintings aren't real, they're better than real - BUT THEY ARE NOT REAL. I have been places and seen things in this world that are beyond majestic, but I have never seen anything as beckoning as a Kinkade painting. Our dreams are often like that, aren't they?! We dream dreams, but if you can step back from them and look, you'll see that they just

aren't real. So should we stop dreaming? God forbid!

In the scriptures, God's words are recorded. In Genesis He says: "Let Us make man in Our own image." Before God began the creation, He had a dream of what it would look like. Before He created man and woman, He had a dream of what we would be like. Dare we say that His dream was not real? I won't dare say that! If its not real in my life is it His fault or mine? A dream is a potential of something that can be. That means to me, that for a dream to become reality, somebody's got to do something. And here is the good news. Since we are God's Dream, He is the one who is doing something. His Dream has never changed. His dream is that we reach our fullest potential in Christ. The Apostle Paul says it well in Romans 8:29 - "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son," Are you letting God make His dream for you a reality?

Junior Police Academy of Central New York 2003

By Tech. Sgt. Kyle Laitenberger 174th FW, Combat Arms Program Manager



Tech. Sgt. Kyle Laitenberger

The 174th Security Forces Squadron and the Town of Cicero Police Department will be hosting the fifth annual Junior Police Academy from July 7-18 July 2003.

With a minimal fee of \$25.00, we are looking for young people 13 to 19 years old. Each participant will receive a t-shirt and hands-on training from local law enforcement officials to include the 174th FW Security Forces. Each day's (Mon-Fri) activities will begin at 0800hrs (breakfast every morning) and end at 1600hrs. There will be no activity on the weekends.

Our instructors will teach actual courses and techniques being taught at the Cen-

tral New York Police Academy. Some of these classes are Law Enforcement History, Use of Force, Juvenile/Penal Law, Vehicle Traffic Law, United



States Secret Service and Patrol Procedures. There also will be demonstrations given by the 174th Combat Arms

Section, the Onondaga County Sheriff's K-9 Unit, New York State Troopers Helicopter Unit, the Manlius Police Department Emergency Services Team, and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Explosive Ordinance Section.



We have several field trips planned for our students, including trips to the Auburn Correctional Facility and to different justice courts where the students can listen to actual arraignments. Physical training will take place each morning as we promote good physical health and teamwork. The Academy is structured with a strong sense of team spirit.

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Colonel Anthony Basile Selected As The Next 174th FW Commander

By Master Sgt. Jeff Wallace, 174th Public Affairs, NCOIC

Brigadier General (Select) Robert A. Knauff, 174th Commander, announced that Major General Thomas P. McGuire Jr., NY State Adjutant General, had selected Colonel Anthony B. Basile as the next 174th Wing Commander. "He is a great leader" said Knauff as he stood before the unit's command staff during the April drill. The room exploded with cheers and applause as Col. Basile was named the unit's 10th Commander.

Col. Basile will take command following a formal Change of Command ceremony to be held in the main hangar on Sunday 4 May 2003 at 2 p.m. Brig. Gen. (S) Knauff will start his new position as the next Chief of Staff of the NYANG on 5 May 2003.

Col. Basile joined the 174th in June



Colonel Anthony Basile

1979, and received his wings from Reese Air Force Base, Texas, in Octo-

ber 1981. He has served in many positions at the 174th FW, including Scheduling Officer, Intelligence Officer, Squadron Operations Officer, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, 138th Fighter Squadron Commander, Chief of Safety, and Vice Commander.

A command pilot with over 3000 hours and 7 ocean crossings in the A-10 and F-16, Col. Basile has flown 67 combat missions, including 51 missions during Operation Desert Storm.

"This is a professional dream come true. My family and I are very excited about this opportunity" Basile said.

Col Basile is married to Carol Basile and they have three daughters; Lindsay, Meghan, and Jordan.

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The last two days of the Academy will be spent with the cadets actually role-playing as police officers. There will be several stations set up for them to work through police related issues such as a domestic dispute, a drunk driving situation, a homicide, and a firearms simulator to test their ability to decide quickly when to discharge their service weapon



(shoot don't shoot scenarios).

The academy will be conducted in the new small arms range complex on base. If you are interested or want to know more about how your son or daughter can be a part of this year's Academy, please contact Tech. Sgt. Kyle Laitenberger at 454-6558 or email him at k.laitenberger@nysyra.ang.af.mil for an application.



Patriot Plan Unveiled by Governor Pataki

By Lt. Jeff Brown, 174 FW Public Affairs Officer and New York State Assemblyman

On 4 March, I was proud to stand with Governor George E. Pataki, Adjutant General Major General Thomas P. Maguire, Jr. and my fellow Assembly Republicans to unveil the "Patriot Plan" -- a comprehensive package of bills and administrative measures that will provide a wide array of new benefits and protections for New York's servicemen and women.

The "Patriot Plan" will assist troops and their families who face potential added expenses and disruptions caused by being called to active duty in the nation's ongoing war against terrorism and possible military action in Iraq.

Governor Pataki told the assembled crowd at the 4 March unveiling that "New York's military servicemen and women play a vital role in keeping our nation safe, strong and free, particularly as we work to protect our homeland and fight the ongoing war against terrorism. The sacrifices our military men and women make while serving on active duty should not be compounded by their families having to make additional sacrifices at home. This comprehensive

package will provide new and enhanced benefits to our military personnel, so that they and their families will get the support and protections they need and deserve."

America's fighting forces comprise 2.5 million members -- half of whom serve in Reserves, the National

The 174th Fighter Wing knows firsthand that in recent years, our nation has turned increasingly to the citizen-soldiers who make up our Guard, Reserves and militia to help in the fight for freedom around the world and right here at home. Yet benefits, pay and laws that protect the rights of these

servicemen and women and their families have not kept pace with this dramatic shift.

The new, comprehensive package of bills and administrative measures unveiled by Governor Pataki and Assembly Republicans includes a wide array of new initiatives to assist New York's servicemen and women and their families. They include:



Lt. Jeff Brown, 174th FW Public Affairs Officer and a member of the New York State Assembly, speaks at an Albany press conference introducing the Patriot Plan. Governor Pataki, Assembly Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt and the NY State Adjutant General, MG Thomas McGuire look on.

Supplemental Military Leave:

Expands the supplemental military leave program established after September 11, 2001, to ensure that all state officers and employees called to active duty in the war against terror and possible military action in Iraq suffer no loss of salary as a result.

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Family Readiness Corner

By Christy Muszynski, 174th FW, Family Readiness Coordinator

Family Chat

A recent e-mail from the Department of Defense stated "to bolster force protection, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to service members forward unless you are a family member, loved one or personal friend."

"On Oct 30, 2002, the DOD suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Service member" mail programs due to force protection concerns. Although these programs provide an excellent means of support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources. Unsolicited mail, packages and donations from organizations and individuals also compete for limited airlift space to transport supplies, war-fighting material and mail from family and loved ones." To show support to troops overseas, the following is rec-

ommended:

- Log on to the following Web sites to show support, send virtual Thank You cards and make a calling card donation to help troops stay in contact with loved ones or co-workers:
http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html
<http://www.usocares.org/home.htm>
<http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html>
- Visit our local Department of Veterans Affairs hospital. Volunteer your services to honor veterans who served in past conflicts.
- Mail and packages from family members and loved ones has always been encouraged and the military mail system will continue to work very hard to get the mail and packages to service members overseas.

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Educational Military Leave of Absence and Tuition Relief: Requires colleges and universities to provide an educational military leave of absence for students called to active duty, which would require the institution to restore the student to his or her previous educational status upon return from military service without any loss of credits earned, scholarships or grants, or other fees paid prior to commencement of military duty.

Protection Against Military Status Discrimination: Expands the protections of the Human Rights Law to military personnel to ensure they are not discriminated against regarding housing, employment, education, public accommodations, and credit applications.

Interest Rate Cap on Installment Loans: Caps rates of interest on installment loans at 6 percent while the individual is engaged in State active duty. This provision provides the same protection for personnel called to active duty by the Governor that federal law provides to personnel called to active duty by the President.

Health Insurance Benefits: Directs the Insurance Department to protect the rights of military personnel to continue, suspend or convert health insurance benefits

as at State university campuses to family members of activated troops for the purpose of communicating with their loved ones.



Lt. Col. Maryjo Timpano and Lt. Col. Paul Mathis look on as Chris Muszynski, 174th Family Readiness Coordinator, shares important information with more than 40 family members who attended Governor Pataki's press conference announcing the 'Patriot Plan'; which is aimed at supporting deployed family members across New York State.

Patriot Discount Program: Establishes a voluntary state-sponsored program for merchants who agree to provide reduced price discounts for merchandise and services for all military personnel. Participating merchants are eligible for the proposed "NY-USA Proud" recognition program.

Free Hunting & Fishing Licenses: Provides free hunting and fishing licenses for members of the Guard, Reserve and state militia.

Free "Empire Passport" to State Parks: Provides free admission for Reserve, National Guard and state militia troops and their families to the State parks and beaches.

Use of Retirees as Temporary Substitutes: Allows local governments to hire back retired workers to temporarily replace employees called to active duty. These workers would not face any loss of pension benefits as a result of this service.

during times of active duty.

License Extensions: Provides automatic extensions for emergency medical technician licenses, drivers' licenses, vehicle registration and vehicle inspections while military personnel are engaged in active duty.

Free High-Speed Internet: Provides free high-speed Internet access at places such

members.

Many 174th members joined our families to provide support for our families. If you would like to volunteer for a future event, please contact the 174th Family Support office at 454-6577.

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Easter Time Family Night

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It was Easter Night with the families recently at St. Margaret's School in Mattydale. The Easter Bunny visited the children and parents of deployed members of the 174th, 152nd, 274th, and various military units in our community. It was a heartwarming event filled with fun, surprises raffles/prizes, pizza, excitement, and creating Easter cards with a Polaroid picture, taken that night, put inside the cards. All the special cards will be sent to our deployed



Syracuse Naval Reserve Commander, Lt. Cmdr. John Wilshusen looks around for his people as he arrives at the Easter Family Time event. The 174th family support team recently hosted a great evening of fun, food and Easter activities for family members of deployed personnel from the 174th, 152nd and Naval Reserves.

DoD Approves Expanded Health Coverage for Reserve Family Members

By Kathleen T. Rhem American Forces Press

Two major changes effective immediately will make it easier for reserve component family members to receive health care coverage from the Defense Department when their sponsor is activated, the department's top doc said.

The first change shortens the time reservists and Guardsmen must be activated -- from 179 to 30 days -- for their family members to be eligible for enrollment in TRICARE Prime, the military's most comprehensive health care option. Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said department officials were "pleased and delighted" to make the changes. "We realize that reserve members and their families have a need for health care when reservists are called up for active duty," he said. "We wanted to make the use of that benefit easier and more comprehensive."

Officials noted that family members are eligible for coverage as soon as their sponsor is activated as long as that activation will exceed 30 days.

The second important change has to do with a program called TRI-

CARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members. Under the program, families of military members stationed in areas far from military medical care still receive the same level of treatment at comparable cost. Typically, recruiters and ROTC cadre and their families use this benefit if they're located at least 50



miles from a military clinic or hospital.

Previous wording in the rules covering this benefit stated family members must live with their sponsor in an area not covered by a military medical treatment facility.

This created a problem for reserve families whose sponsors were activated. If reservists are activated, chances are they've been sent away from their homes. Obviously, family members can't move with activated re-

servists in most cases, so this led to many being denied enrollment in Prime Remote.

"There was a clause in the law that said that the family must reside with the active duty ... member. There was some confusion and some difficulty in coming to a clearer definition of that," Winkenwerder explained. "Reading it one way meant it would have been very difficult for those family members to use the benefit, because they would have had to follow the service member."

The new wording clarifies that regardless of where reserve-component members are deployed, their families are eligible for coverage under this program if the military members' regular home is in a covered location.

"What we've made clear is that wherever that service member was living with his or her family, (the family members) are eligible right then and there," Winkenwerder said.

He said the two changes have been "very well received" in the reserve community. "And we're very glad we're able to do this," he added.

A NOTE OF THANKS

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The next time you see the following individuals around the base or you visit these organizations in your community, please extend a thank you for their outstanding support of our recent Family Easter Event.

A huge thank you to

Easter Bunny
Lt. Col. Timpano
Chaplain Mathis
Master Sgt. Dave Moskwa
Master Sgt. Marie Nowlin
Tech Sgt. Karl Vonknoblauch
Staff Sgt. Deona Whitmore
St Margaret School-Mattydale
Big Lots Store - Mattydale
Sams Club Store - Erie Blvd, Syracuse
Pizza Hut-Mattydale
Nina Albino : March of Dimes

Tech Sgt. Michele Brody
Master Sgt. James Hiltbrand
Master Sgt. Mike Ramsey
Master Sgt. Rita Scheirer
Tech Sgt. Kevin Brody
Terry Campagna
Tech Sgt. Mike Richards

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Air Force Implements Stop-Loss

The assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs has authorized the use of Stop-Loss to retain specific skills needed to meet national security objectives. Effective May 2, 43 officer and 56 enlisted specialties will be affected by Stop-Loss. "We do not take this action lightly," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche. "Stop-Loss is designed to preserve critical skills essential to supporting the global war on terrorism, while ensuring we're prepared to meet other contingencies." Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper said, "We've implemented Stop-Loss to ensure we have the necessary skilled personnel to conduct operations. We'll use it only as long as necessary to accomplish our mission." For more information about the Stop-Loss, contact your local military personnel flight or the Air Force Personnel Center's Stop-Loss Control Center at (210) 565-2374 or DSN 665-2374.

Committee Approves Recommendations For VA FY 2004 Budget

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has approved a report to the Budget Committee recommending changes to the Administration's budget proposal for fiscal year 2004.

Among the Committee's major recommendations are increased funding for veterans' health care, a renewed commitment to older veterans requiring long term care, expanded programs for homeless veterans, and a new initiative to restore national cemeteries to honor departed veterans. For more details, see <http://veterans.house.gov/spotlight/fy04budgetreport.html>

Tax Reminders for Deployed Servicemembers

Soldiers deployed to Kuwait, Afghanistan and other countries in that theater, along with those in the Balkans, will be allowed extra time to file and pay their income taxes this year. Soldiers will have at least 180 days after they redeploy home to file their federal tax returns, and no penalty or interest will accrue during this period. Deployed civilian employees, though, do not have this automatic deferral. They must pay penalties on any owed taxes, even if they file a request for an extension of time to file, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

The automatic extension of time for soldiers to file their taxes is based on service in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area. Afghanistan has been considered a combat zone since Sept. 19, 2001. Jordan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgystan and Uzbekistan have also been designated as areas in direct support of combat for Enduring Freedom. Kuwait was declared a combat zone in 1991, and that designation has never been lifted. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Kosovo are considered hazardous duty areas and soldiers serving there receive the same deferral on their taxes as those in combat zones, according to IRS rules. For more on tax laws and useful resources, see <http://www.military.com/Finance/Taxes/1,13397,82,00.html>

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One of the biggest challenges in our effort to support families is that they are widely geographically dispersed. There are several ways in which we are trying to meet this challenge and many other special needs. The Family Support Office has readiness workbooks, checklists, stationery kits, deployment calendars for children/teens of all ages and coloring books for

the younger children. There is a wealth of information on a variety of topics including deployments, financial management, stress, security issues, school support, adopting a family that lives close to you and listings of human service agencies. We have a master listing of unit volunteers willing to assist families during emergencies and listing of businesses that provide their services at a discount.



Let the Family Readiness Support office be your link of communication between the service members and families by calling 454-6577 or 454-6578, or by e-mailing me at christy.muszynski@nysyr.af.mil. In case of an emergency or for after hours calling, please dial **1-800-982-3696**.

We would love to have you volunteer your time and talent. We can help you find a special way to help our deployed family members.

Come visit us, we are located in the Medical Sq. building.

BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Change of Command Ceremony

Sunday May 4, 2003 at 2 p.m.
In The Main Hangar
All Personnel Report at 1330

Uniform Of The Day

All Squadron Commander's - Service Dress
All Chiefs and First Sgt's. - Service Dress
All other Officer's and Enlisted Personnel
Blues, Short Sleeve/Open Collar

POC: Chief Master Sgt. Ted Mosley
At 454-6459, or 454-6102

174th Fighter Wing *Dining Facility Hours*

1030 – 1300

Please see OPORD for Menu



May UTA Pay Date:
15 May 2003

Next UTA
7 & 8 June 2003



SHAH Scholarship Announcement

It is time for the annual SHAH Scholarship announcement and application. Brigadier General & Mrs. SHAH have again generously granted two scholarships this year, each for \$1000.00. The scholarship is for undergraduate degrees **only**.

The application for the 2003-2004 academic year can be obtained at the 174th FW Retention Office. Deadline for the applications are due to the Judge Advocate Office, HQ NYANG no later than 30 May 2003.

Any questions or concerns call Master Sgt. Mary Gilchrist, at 454.6161.

New York Educational Incentive Program

The 174th Retention Office now has Educational Incentive Program Applications for the fall 2003 semester. Applications will be accepted until 10 Aug 2003.

Additional paperwork needed:

- Full time students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aide (FAFSA). A copy of the FAFSA application must be submitted along with the DMNA 96-1 at time of application.
- Part time students must complete the Aide for Part Time study (APTS). A copy of the APTS application must be submitted along with the DMNA 96-1 at time of application.
- Student Aide Report (SAR): When your FAFSA is processed successfully, you will receive a SAR. You must bring a copy of the SAR to the Retention Office.
- TAP Award Certificate: When your FAFSA is processed successfully, you will also receive a TAP Award Certificate. You must bring a copy of your TAP Certificate to the Retention office.

When all the required paperwork (listed above) is submitted, the approved list of names will be forwarded to the appropriate schools on the 1st and 15th of each month. Please follow up to ensure your paperwork is complete. If you have any questions, please call Master Sgt. Mary Gilchrist at 454-6161.

Thrift Savings Plan Open Season

The next Thrift Savings Plan open seasons is open through June 30, 2003. During this open season, FERS employees may elect to contribute up to 13% of the basic pay, CSRS employees may contribute up to 8% of the basic pay. TSP forms are available at www.tsp.gov. If you need further assistance please contact Staff Sgt. Chikena Rivers at 454-6141.

In last month's Alumni News, we mentioned that during our next membership meeting, we would be voting on a proposed Constitutional amendment that if approved, will allow active members of the 174th FW, those with over 20 years military service, to join our Association as a Regular member. That is still our plan, so if you have any interest in seeing this proposal either passed or defeated, it behooves you to attend this meeting. The meeting will be held at the All Services Club on 15 May 03, beginning at 7:00PM. As we stated last month, there are differing views and strong sentiment regarding this issue. Be sure to make this meeting so that your voice can be heard and your vote counted.

Don't forget the Memorial Day Observance, which will be held on the 30th of May 2003 at Alumni Memorial Park. All Alumni members and their families are invited to attend. The ceremony will begin at approximately 11:30AM, and will last for about 30 minutes. This will be the 4th year in a row that the Base Honor Guard has performed this ceremony to honor our departed comrades. It has always been a very solemn occasion and one worth attending. After the ceremony, there will be a luncheon held at either the All Services Club or in Alumni Park for those individuals that attend this event. The exact location for the luncheon has yet to be determined. We will make an announcement following the Memorial Service.

About this time last year, we told you about a reunion that was going to be held in St. Louis Missouri for U.S. Military personnel that were stationed at Phalsbourg AB, France, sometime during their military career. The invitation was extended to Air Force, Air Force National Guard, and Air Reserve personnel. Just recently, we received word that they are going to have another reunion again this year, but instead of St. Louis, it is being held in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is scheduled for the 3rd and 4th

of October, and is being held at the Main Street Station Hotel and Casino. If you think you would be interested in going and want to know more about it, contact Bob or Mary Sprenger at (702) 644-4354, or e-mail them at rob-spre@aol.com.

We want to extend our apology to those individuals who tried to attend the March meeting, only to find out that it was cancelled due to the heightened security and the restriction that only personnel with a military ID would be allowed to enter the Base. Unfortunately, we received relatively short notice, so it was near impossible to notify everyone that we had cancelled the meeting. We called a few people and sent out an e-

He was a Alumni member since May 1990.

New Members

John Evans, Bob Hillick, Denny Lombard, Bill Martin, Lloyd Steele, Steven Thomas

More News & Trivia

Once again, we want to let you know that this year's Alumni picnic will be on the 2nd of August 03, and that it will be held at the Base All Services Club. So mark it down on your calendar so you won't forget. It's a fun time for all, at a price you can't beat. More information will be forthcoming, so stay tuned.



1991 AL KHARJ, SAUDI ARABIA
Left to right: Dave Benson, Bob Rotunda, Roy Mansfield

mail message to approximately 145 members living in the Central New York area. With terrorism the way it is, and now the Iraqi War, this will probably happen again and we are sorry for any inconvenience it may cause, but as the old adage goes, "it is better to be safe then sorry."

Taps

William T. Kilpatrick, 81, died on 28 March 2003. Bill was one of the original members of the 138th Fighter Squadron, and the 207th Air Service Group who helped start it all on 28 October 1947.

Robert T. Burdick, 61, died on 23 March 2003. Bob was with us in Phalsbourg, France as a Staff Sgt. in CBPO.

We just dropped 16 members from our membership roster who exceeded the 90-day grace period because they didn't pay their dues. Hopefully, you are not one of them. If you are, this issue of the EnGarde will probably be your last.

Word was received from John Green the other day, saying that he retired from the military on April 1st after 25 years of military service. He also stated that it was a great ride and is greatly pleased with the many friends and great memories he acquired while associated with the 174th. He's hoping to see more of us now that he does not have to travel to Rome, NY every day.

Still searching for that lost DD-214 years after discharge? Well, here is a website <http://members.aol.com/forvets/dd214.htm> to help you retrieve it along with links to get copies of medical records and other military documents.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2003 at 7:00 PM in the Base All Services Club. Liquid refreshments will be served. Come on out, we'd love to see you. In case you didn't know it, or may have forgotten it, our meetings are always on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

The Men and Women of the 174th Fighter Wing

*request the pleasure of your company at a
Farewell Reception honoring
Brigadier General (Select) Robert A. Knauff
on Thursday, the 8th of May 2003
at the Holiday Inn, Carrier Circle, East Syracuse, NY*

Social ~ 1800 Dinner ~1830

Menu~ *Cheese & fruit, salad, pasta bar, turkey & roast beef carving, oriental selections,
and dessert/coffee display
~Includes soft beverages, tax, tip, gratuity & gift ~ Cash bar*

Cost ~ *\$20.00 per person payable by check made out to:
"NYANG 174FW Welfare Fund"*

Dress ~ *Coat and tie, female equivalent*

Please RSVP with payment NLT 1 May 03 to:
*174FW/CCE, 6001 E. Molloy Rd., Syracuse, NY 13211-7099,
or in person to Lt Col Timpano, MSgt Dardis or SSgt Mula*

*For additional information, please call x124
~Please note that seating is limited~*

ENGARDE

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New York Air National Guard
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