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ENGARDE

174th Fighter Wing

New York Air National Guard, Syracuse



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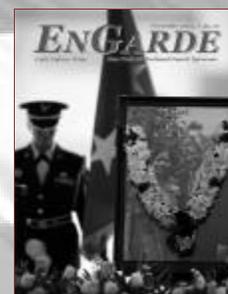
Publication Team
Tech. Sgt. Kevin Brody
(Team Leader)
Master Sgt. Terri Scanlin
Tech. Sgt. JD Martin
Tech. Sgt. Sandi McAllister



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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

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Cover photo taken by
Mr. John Muldoon.

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 challenges, 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

As I write this month's article, we are only two days removed from the memorial ceremony for Brigadier General Doctor Ravindra Shah, and his wife, Doctor Manjula Shah. It was a fitting tribute for someone who poured his heart and soul into this organization for over 20 years.

An awful lot of work happened in a short amount of time to prepare for this event. The driving force behind the successful accomplishment of this event was Lt. Col. Maryjo Timpano. Great job. The Maintenance Group unloaded and dressed up the hangar, and had the "D" model outside the doors with the General's name on the canopy. Those of you who work in the hangar, fuel cell, avionics, engine shop, motor pool, 604, 152 AOG and 274 ASOS, and others, were gracious in giving up your normal parking spaces to allow us to control the vast crowd from off the base. The Civil Air Patrol helped in the parking of those vehicles. The Base Honor Guard showed up in force, and performed admirably, as we have come to expect. But the most daunting of challenges was met by our security forces. They had to open the gates to over 500 civilians, perform no ID checks

or vehicle searches, and secure this base's valuable resources. When presented with this task, they told me "can do, sir." My thanks, and Well Done, to them, and all who helped make an extremely hard day go as well as it possibly could have. Talk about grace under pressure.

As we head into this year's holiday season, things seem a little different.

That's because hundreds of our Hancock Field family are deployed to a combat zone. We need to stay as focused on our jobs here at home as our deployed troops are at their location. They need our physical and moral support both in accomplishment of the mission, and in taking care of their families. I know I can count on you for both.



Colonel Anthony Basile
174th FW, Commander



Giving Thanks

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

By the time you read this, we will have deployed numerous personnel to the AEF. This is a time of the year that most families come together for Thanksgiving. I thought it was time to give a little background on an important day in our history. According to tradition, the first American Thanksgiving was in 1621 by English Pilgrims who had founded the Plymouth Colony. The pilgrims marked the occasion by feasting with their Native American guests (members of the Wampanoag Tribe). Although this event was an important part of American History, there is no evidence that any of the participants thought of the feast as a thanksgiving celebration. Gradually the custom prevailed annually to celebrate the harvest.

Colonial and later state governments took up the Puritan custom of designating thanksgiving days to commemorate various public events. Gradually the tradition of holding annual thanksgiving holidays spread throughout New England and into other states. In 1817 New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom, and many other states soon did the same. During the American Civil War, (1863),

President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November Thanksgiving Day in order to bolster the Union's morale. During the later part of the 19th Century the distinctly American Holiday was considered an introduction to American values for the millions of immigrants entering this country.

In the early part of the 20th Century, the day after Thanksgiving gradually became known as the first day of Christmas shopping. President Franklin Roosevelt under pressure from retail merchants actually shifted the day to one week earlier to extend the shopping season. There was so much opposition to the change that Roosevelt's opponents named the holiday "Franksgiving". Under pressure Roosevelt admitted he had made a mistake and changed it back. As football became increasingly popular, many people began to enjoy the holiday at a football stadium as we do today, or in front of a TV set.

If you celebrate Thanksgiving this year with your family, please think about those that are deployed in service to our great country, and also think of their families back here that are without them.



Upcoming Changes in MyPay and Commercial Processing

By Captain Chuck Hutson, 174th FW Comptroller



CAPT Chuck Hutson

There is some important information to pass on to folks regarding mailing of Leave and Earning Statements and W-2 statements. Military members who currently have a MyPay account **will no longer receive W-2s in the mail each January**. These W-2s will be available on MyPay and it will be the individual's responsibility to print them from www.dfas.mil. If elected through MyPay, military members can choose to also receive a W-2 by mail. All summed up—if you do not elect to receive your W-2 by mail in MyPay, it will not be mailed to you.

Technicians will continue to receive W-2s both through the mail and on MyPay. Technicians may elect to discontinue the mailing of a hardcopy by changing the setting via MyPay.

This is not the only change. Within FY04 the default setting for LES delivery will change as well. Currently, all military members receive an LES by mail unless they elect to discontinue hardcopy mailing. All summed up—in the future, if you do not elect to receive your LES by mail in MyPay, it will not be mailed to you.

There is a MyPay feature that will not work for ANG members—that is “travel voucher advice of payment”. This is because of the differences between how the ANG and the other Services process travel accounting. You will continue to receive travel voucher advice of payment via mail—either hardcopy or e-mail.

Making pay changes via MyPay, updating personnel re-

ords in Virtual MPF, and carrying out TSP elections via tsp.gov allows you to have control over your personal business—and it can be done from virtually anywhere—whether you are at home, deployed, or TDY. The use of these systems also decreases the need for a Special Power of Attorney. I use these systems myself and highly advocate their use.

The movement towards electronic processing is not limited to personal finances. With regard to commercial processing of unit finances, these processes are changing as well. In FY02 we implemented the Customer Automated Reporting Environment (CARE) system as an electronic means of logging, approving, and paying Government Purchase Card bills. Nearly 100 full-time members at Hancock Field use the CARE system. The next major change in commercial processing will be the implementation of Wide Area Workflow. This will be an electronic means of receiving invoices and processing receiving reports, affecting each of our Resource Advisors, Cost Center Managers, and in some cases, end-users. You will hear much more about Wide Area Workflow in coming months.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of the late 1990s, has generated the movement towards paperless electronic processing in federal government. The movement is not going away—the pendulum is not going to swing back to a “papermore” way of doing business. If you are computer-shy, or just hesitant to use a new system, I encourage you to address that hesitation head-on. The sooner you gain access and use new systems, the more comfortable you will be, and you will be much better off—and less frus-

Air National Guard Meets End Strength Goals

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Army and Air National Guard met their end strength goals for fiscal year (FY) 2003, announced Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau today. "This is what sets us apart ... the ability to recruit and retain good people," Blum said. The Army National Guard's programmed end strength for the fiscal year was 350,000. As of today, they have 350,835 members. The Army National Guard has achieved its end-strength mission for seven consecutive years. The Air National Guard's programmed end strength for the fiscal year was 106,600. They started the fiscal year at 112,070, and they currently have 108,332 members for an overall manning of 101.6 percent. Their recruiting goal was 6,909 and as of the end of August, they had signed up 8,669 achieving 125.47 percent of their goal. With the exception of FY97 and FY99, the ANG has met or exceeded its recruiting goal over the past seven years. "The National Guard Bureau sees no indications that the homeland security mission or the war on terrorism are having any serious impact on recruiting," Blum said. For more information concerning this release, please contact Mr. Mark Allen at (703) 607-5934.



2nd Lt. Tim Martin, 174th FW Logistics Readiness Officer (L), stands in support of the 174th FW newest officer, 2nd Lt. Jason Taylor. Lt. Taylor recently graduated from the Academy of Military Science at McGhee Tyson ANG Base.

He will serve as the 174th FW Transportation Officer.

Congratulation 2nd Lt. Jason Taylor.



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
1411 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VA 22202-3231

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ANG COMMANDERS

SEP 10 2003

FROM: ANG/XO

SUBJECT: FY 03 Flying Hour Program Close Out

I want to express to you, your airmen, and your maintainers my sincere appreciation for the effort in fighting the Global War on Terrorism. As we come to the end of the 2003 flying year, we are predicting we will fly 63,645 hours over our fiscal year program. Through August, ANG units have flown over 68,000 hours in support of contingency operations, and more than 68,000 hours in TWCF airlift operations worldwide. These statistics highlight the fact that the Air National Guard is a full partner in the "Total" Air Force, and that we are deeply involved in operations around the world as part of greatest Air Force in the world!

The past year has proven to be very hard on our equipment and our people, and with everything said, we maintained a great safety record. HQ ACC has directed that if mission requirements allow, ACC units can make 26 Sep 03 the last fly day of FY 03. ACC has also authorized a Safety Day on either 29 or 30 Sep 03. ACC commanders can adjust accordingly based on mission requirements, but this must be accomplished prior to 1 Oct 03.

In following ACC's lead, I encourage all ANG flying units to limit flying on 29 and 30 Sep 03 to mission essential flying only. Take this time to reflect on the outstanding accomplishments of the past year, our fantastic safety achievements, the gallant efforts of our crews, and the outstanding work of the greatest maintenance force ever. I recommend that normal training missions be terminated after COB on 26 September and that no sortie is generated for the sole purpose of "zeroing out" the flying hour program. However, commanders have the final authority to generate sorties for training or other mission requirements if they deem it necessary.

People are our number one asset! Let's take this time as an organization to reflect on what we've accomplished during FY03 and acknowledge our people for their hard work and most importantly their great safety record. Encourage your people to keep up the good work, and make 2004 an even safer year. This guidance is for all ANG flying organizations regardless of gaining command. Point of contact for FY03 flying hour close out and this guidance is Mr. John Wilmer, ANG/XOE, DSN 327-2931.

Handwritten signature of Brock T. Strom in black ink.

BROCK T. STROM
Colonel, USAF
Director, Air and Space Operations

NYANG Mourns Loss of Former State Air Surgeon and His Wife

By Maj Bob Bullock, Headquarters New York Air National Guard, Public Affairs Office

Brigadier General (Dr.) Ravindra F. Shah, recently retired State Air Surgeon for the New York Air National Guard, and his wife, Dr. Manjula R. Shah, were killed tragically in a plane crash near the Minuteman National Park in Concord, MA on September 27th.

Long regarded as a leader in the fields of civilian and flight medicine, Gen Shah's career was recognized as one of extraordinary achievement. Born in India in 1938, Gen Shah received his education at Gujarat University in Ahmedabad, India and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Canada. After his internship in India, he served as resident house surgeon in Weymouth, England. In 1962, he began his work in the United States, serving in hospitals in Chicago, Pittsburgh and New York. He was naturalized as a United States citizen through a special bill introduced by Senators Jacob Javits and Robert F. Kennedy for his service to the U.S. Navy in kidney transplant research, hemodialysis and work with the development of the dialysis machine. In 1970, he, his wife and two children moved to Central New York where he established a private practice in urology. In addition to this private practice, Gen Shah was chief of surgery for Oswego Hospital from 1998-2000, associate professor of Urology at Syracuse University and an auxiliary member of the state board of medicine of the New York State Board of Regents, State University of New York.

Militarily, Gen Shah was commissioned a major in the New York Air National Guard in 1982, assigned to the 174th Fighter Wing as a flight surgeon. His superior skills and dedication to duty were quickly recognized, resulting in his rapid ascendance in rank and responsibility. In 1985, he was made commander of the 174th's clinic and, in 1992, he was assigned to Headquarters New York Air National Guard as state air surgeon, a position he held until his retirement in May of 2003.

In addition to the defining work performed by Gen Shah while assigned to the 174th, he made a dramatic mark on the Air National Guard in New York and nationwide. An active participant in the airlift transition in Antarctica from the U. S. Navy to the Air National Guard, Gen Shah was the principal architect for clinical policies used in the clinic in McMurdo Station, Antarctica. To provide even greater insight into the effects of cold on the body, Gen Shah was the oldest member of the U.S. armed services to complete the Arctic survival program, "Kool School", on the sea ice north of Greenland. Similarly committed to the understanding of the effects of all flight on NYANG members, Gen Shah logged more than 600 hours flying in the F-16, Huey helicopter and other varieties of NYANG aircraft. He was recognized for his work in



Brigadier General and Dr. Manjula Shah dancing at last year's HQ NYANG Holiday Party.

establishing the center for primary staging used in receiving returning wounded from the Gulf War in 1991. He was also lauded for his work as joint task force surgeon for the New York National Guard's response to the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001. He was a veteran of several combat deployments. For his recognized expertise in military medicine, Gen Shah was named the "TOP KNIFE" from the Air Force's school for flight medicine, that school's highest designation, in 1990.

General Shah's commitment to others extended well outside of his medical practice and military experience. Proud of his proficiency in civil aviation, Gen Shah was an accomplished pilot with more than 3,500 hours, 2,500 of which were logged under instrument conditions. He served as a senior federal aviation examiner for private, commercial, and airline transport pilots and air traffic controllers.

Philanthropically, he personally endowed three scholarships at Brown University in Providence, RI for undergraduate and graduate medical students and supported other scholarships at Oswego High school and for members of the New York Air National Guard seeking to advance their educations. He gave generously to provide assistance to the Hindu Temple of Central New York, Oswego Hospital and Brown University.

Gen Shah served as a member of the committee for biomedical affairs for the Brown University Medical College and as a member of that institution's Chancellor's Council.

Dr. Manjula Shah, an anesthesiologist who practiced in Fulton and Oswego Counties, was similarly devoted to her community and family.

The Shah's are survived by their children, Dr. Monica R. Shah of Durham, NC, a cardiologist at Duke University and their son, Neelesh R. Shah of New York, NY, president of PerformanceLOGIC, Inc.

"This is a devastating loss for the Shah family, all who knew the Shahs and particularly those of us in the New York Air National Guard who considered them vital members of our military family. We will always carry with us the memory of their smiling faces of just three months ago as they and their family and friends celebrated

the end of an amazing career dedicated to the service of the United States of America," stated Maj Gen Thomas P. Maguire, Jr, the Adjutant General.

Contributions in memory of the Shahs can be directed to the Tarandi Foundation, P.O. Box 599, Fulton, NY 13069. The Tarandi Foundation was established by the Shah's to promote education and support local charities in the greater Oswego-Syracuse area.





Photo graphs by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mike Waters

Doing the Right Thing Pays Off

By Senior Master Sgt. Tim Campbell, 174th FW, AGE Element Supervisor



SMSGT Tim Campbell

Have you ever found something in a technical order, or publication that just doesn't seem right? How many of us have researched parts and been appalled by the price the government is charged for those items? The answer to both those questions, I am willing to wager, is a resounding yes by most of you. There can be mistakes in tech data, and sometimes

those costs to which I refer are gross overcharges. The big question is, did you report your finding?

I know that many of you have reported problems, and some have been rewarded with cash and accolades. Congratulations! I also know that many times we see improprieties or mistakes, but we are reluctant to report them. You may feel you don't have time, or that no one will care. While the results of successful reporting vary, it is our duty to properly report those findings to improve a process, protect government property or to save taxpayers money.

Allow me to share a story of an exceptional case of following through with such a finding. Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) Technician Staff Sgt. Gregory Dennee noticed that an oxygen sensor in the newer Self Generating Nitrogen Servicing Cart was to be changed every 6 months. He further noticed that the small part was \$468.00! He called the engineers and the equipment specialist at depot to inquire about the necessity to change this part so frequently. He made his case to them, and filed an AFTO Form 22, to have the inspection requirements changed. His idea was approved, which resulted in an Air Force wide savings of \$514,800 in one year's time.

Greg didn't stop there. He also researched the availability of that same part from another vendor, to further cut costs. He discovered that the part the Air Force was buying from one company, was actually manufactured by another. The manufacturer was selling the part to the vendor for \$74.00, and the vendor was selling it to the Air Force for \$468.00! He determined that the government was being ripped off, and sought to ratify that situa-

tion through the system. As he prepared his AFTO Form 22, he included his findings about the part and the cost associations.

Greg called the manufacturer of the part to get their company part number. He funneled that information through Base Supply (POC was Staff Sgt. John Powell) to get the manufacturer's part number loaded into FEDLOG as an orderable asset. Staff Sgt. Dennee and Staff Sgt. Powell worked through the Depot at Warner-Robbins AFB to get the supply information accomplished, which allowed the Air Force to buy the part directly from the manufacturer. The savings associated with having the part loaded into FEDLOG amounted to another annual savings for Uncle Sam totaling \$433,400.

All together Greg's efforts will save the American Taxpayers about 1 Million Dollars annually. Greg's primary focus was on righting a couple of wrongs, and to do the right thing. The Air Force and Air National Guard were so impressed that Greg was given a cash award of \$10,000.

The following people were very supportive and helped Greg in succeeding with his endeavor: SMSGt. Bud Conto (Quality Assurance), Tech Sgt. Chickena Rivers (Civilian Personnel), Staff Sgt. John Powell (Base Supply), Staff Sgt. Laurie Morgan (Transportation), Mr. Jorge Camero (WR-ALC).

There is some leg work involved, but the AFTO Form 22 is not difficult to submit whatsoever. Quality Assurance is very willing to help everyone through the process. QA is also very helpful in Quality/Maintenance Deficiency Reporting. QDR's are simple to report, and can improve Air Force products to help you and the rest of the Air Force do the job more efficiently, and keep nonconforming parts out of the supply system.

Colonel Basile, 174th FW Commander, personally thanked Staff Sgt. Dennee, and was very pleased to have one of his own highlight the 174th FW, as a unit involved in improving the Air Force in such ways.

I hope the next time you see the government overcharged for an item, or needlessly changing parts to make some company rich, that Staff Sgt. Dennee's success will encourage you to do the right thing.

The Things We Value Most

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) R. Paul Mathis, 174th FW Chaplain Office

Every now and then I am sure we all read a human interest story that reminds us of some value, person, or item that is important to us as we live our busy lives. One of my friends emailed a story that touched me and that I'd like to share with you.

Jack was a young man who lost his father when he was a child. The next door neighbor, Mr. Belser, stepped in and made sure that Jack had a male presence in his life. He invited the boy to his house and taught him carpentry.

About 25 years later Jack's mother called to tell him that Mr. Belser had died and asked that he come home for the funeral. Jack knew that he wouldn't be in the carpentry business if it hadn't been for Mr. Belser. Although busy, Jack caught the next flight to his hometown, attending the small funeral with his mother.

Jack and his mother visited Mr. Belser's home the night after the funeral. For Jack, it was like going back in time. Everything was just as he'd remembered it, except for one thing. "The box is gone," Jack told his mother. "What box?" she asked. "There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most,'" Jack said. Jack realized, with regret, that he would never know what that "thing" was.

About two weeks later Jack received a note in the mail telling him he had a package waiting at the post office that required his signature. He retrieved the package and opened it when he got home.



Continued on page 9

174 FW Fiscal Year 03 Safety Statistics

By Senior Master Sgt. John Martineau, 174th FW, Ground Safety Manager



SMSGT John Martineau

The 174 FW is fortunate this past fiscal year in that there were no Class A or B mishaps. Some may wonder, “What is a Class A or B mishap?” A Class A mishap is reportable damage in excess of \$1 million dollars, a fatality or permanent total disability, or aircraft loss. Class B mishap is the reportable damage from more than \$200,000 but less than \$1 million, inpatient hospitalization of 3 or more personnel in a single mishap, or a permanent partial disability. Again people would say, “Why is this important?”

The Class C, Class D, and the Class E mishap as well as “first aid” reports have risen over the past fiscal year. What are these mishap Classes? A Class C mishap is reportable damage between \$20,000 and \$200,000, or an injury resulting in a loss workday case of more than 8 hours or an occupational illness that causes loss of time from work at any time. A Class D is reportable damage from \$2000 to \$20,000 including government owned equipment and vehicles, or a nonfatal injury and results in less than 8 hours loss time. A Class E is an event deemed important enough to trend for mishap prevention but doesn’t meet the criteria of other reporting mishap classes. The 174 FW reported ten Class C mishaps, nine ground mishaps and one aviation mishap this year. The unit also had one Class D explosive mishap and two aviation Class E mishaps; In addition to the mishaps that were able to be classified there were 33 mishaps that were only a first aid type of mishap or injury that are tracked for trending purposes. Compared to fiscal year 02 this was an increase of eight Class C, one Class D, and one Class E. So where were these mishaps. Of the nine Class C ground mishaps five were on duty (work related), and four were off duty (not work related).

Of the ground Class C, five were from slips/trips/falls, one was a lifting/pushing mishap, and the other three were miscellaneous injuries. While these are a increase over fiscal year 02, this wasn’t a bad year, except for the types of minor first aid injuries that were reported. These were all occurrences that could have been easily Class C reportable lost time. Twelve were additional slips/trips/falls where personnel reported that the only bruised or strained slightly but not enough to loose time from work. Three more were due to lifting/pushing injuries that could have been Class C also. All of the new construction and

personnel moving from one building to another is a lot of movement and not a part of the everyday work load. Furthermore, the unit had two personnel that were involved in off duty private motor vehicle accidents. These unit members,

if it weren’t for the fact that they were using the appropriate safety devices, could have been Class A or Class B mishaps. One was a PMV-4 that rolled over and the second was a PMV-2 that lost control. The roll over driver was wearing his seatbelt. The motorcyclist was wearing his personal protective equipment (PPE) consisting of full-face helmet, leather jacket, and leather gloves. Both individuals received only scrapes and bruises.

The Class D explosive mishap occurred when MK 82 bombs fell from the transport trailer enroute to the flight line for a “live” drop at the FOL at Ft. Drum. Costly damage to the components was the reason for the mishap classification, but the ultimate consequence could have been tragic. The aviation Class C was from a system gun jam during a strafing run. The two aviation Class E mishaps were from an engine compressor stall and a punctured centerline tank on landing. In addition there were also four bird strikes. The “what if” always comes to mind when these things happen. If circumstances were different what would have been the outcome.

On duty we are asked to use Operational Risk Management (ORM) in the day-to-day situations. Off duty, whether we are the traditional guardsmen, on active duty orders, AGR, or a technician we should be using the personal risk management process. The acronym ACT, Assess the risk, Consider the options to limit the risk, and then to Take appropriate action to implement risk control. Finally look to each other, if you see your coworker or friend making unwise decisions do what you can to help them make a better choice. This UTA following the Commanders Comments is a short 9-minute video “Airmen Helping Airmen” which was developed by ACC. Please take the time to view this video and think of how we can control mishaps on and off duty.



Ground:
Class C – 9 Total
(5 On-Duty, 4 Off-Duty)

First Aid Reports –
33 Total

Explosive:
Class D – 1 Total

Aviation:
Class C – 1 Total
Class E – 2 Total
Bird Strikes – 4 Total

Continued from page 8

There inside was the gold box – and an envelope containing a note and a small key taped to the paper. The note read, “upon my death please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It’s the thing I valued most in my life.”with his heart racing, Jack carefully unlocked the box. Inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch. Unlatching the cover he found these words engraved: “Jack: thanks for your time! Harold Belser.” Stunned and humbled, Jack had his answer.

Someone once said, life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away. Those moments, big or small, are to be treasured. I believe that here at Hancock Field we’ve experienced some of those special moments especially if we take the time to recognize them. They are the glue that continues to call us to a deeper relationship with one another.

Base Announcements

November UTA Theme

- Ancillary Training
- C&SRL Review

Pay Date for November Drill is 14 Nov 2003

The next UTA is 6-7 Dec 2003



Capt Cook presents Superior Team certificate to Master Sgt. Shawn Johnson.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN 2003

When you take a \$2.00 Challenge (\$2.00 per pay period or \$52.00 a year):

- Get to help someone in need
- A chance at becoming a weekly prize winner (drawing to announced on Monday mornings on WIXT Channel 9 and Y94 FM Radio from 6 October-26 January 2004. Winners will also be posted on www.unitedway-cny.org).
- As a weekly prize winner you will be eligible for the Grand Prize of complete Home Makeover.
- Help the 174th FW break all previous contribution records from years past.

For more information contact your section POC or call 2nd Lt. Anthony Bucci at 454.6651.

To access my pay online, please use the following address:

<https://mypay.dfas.mil> **not** www.mypay.com

Someone was recently trying to download his LES. He was at the www.mypay.com website, and was entering his SSAN# in the search bar to retrieve his LES. The problem? WWW.MYPAY.COM is NOT the official DFAS website. It is set up to resemble the official site, with terms like "LES" and "DFAS" listed on the left side as "Recent Searches." However, when you click on the loan link, you are taken to a payday loan vendor and giving them your personal information. BE CAREFUL when accessing your LES online. The OFFICIAL website is <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

D O D N E W S

House Committee Allows Deductions for Health Care

The House Government Reform Committee passed a bill last week that would allow active and retired military servicemembers to pay health care premiums in pre-tax dollars. The bill (H.R. 1231) would amend the U.S. tax code to allow military retirees to pay into the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program on a pretax basis and allow active duty military personnel to apply a deduction for supplemental payments for TRICARE—the military's healthcare plan. As a tax bill, H.R. 1231 must still go before the House Ways and Means Committee, where representatives are reportedly leery of the bill's price tag. For more information regarding H.R. 1231, see <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0903/092603njns1.htm>. For more on military health care, see <http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0,13964,30847,00.html>

New Ribbon Recognizes Deployed Airmen

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche has approved award of the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon to recognize servicemembers' support of air expeditionary force deployments. The ribbon will be awarded to Air Force active-duty, Reserve and Guard members who completed a contingency deployment after Oct. 1, 1999, according to officials. To qualify for the award, individuals must have deployed for 45 consecutive days or 90 nonconsecutive days. To receive the award, people should report to their serving military personnel flight once they return from deployment to validate entitlement to the ribbon. People must present a copy of their deployment orders and completed travel voucher; any citations or certificates received while deployed may also help prove entitlement. For more information, see <http://www.af.mil/stories/story.asp?storyID=123005685>

Metallic Nametag Mandatory Jan. 1

Air Force personnel officials have announced the mandatory use of nametags for Air Force members beginning January 1, 2004. The new metallic nametags will be required attire with the service dress uniform and pullover sweaters. According to the announcement, the nametags -- available for purchase since November -- will be issued to enlisted airmen by their appropriate organizations. Officers, however, will be required to purchase their own nametags. For information, contact your local commander's support staff.

Thanksgiving Party. Due to the many obstacles we were encountering in finding a suitable location and caterer for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, our Board of Directors has decided that we will not have a party this year. It was not an easy decision, knowing how many of you look forward to this event each year, and we apologize for any disappointment or inconvenience it may cause you. Keep in mind that this is but a short break in our social calendar and that next year we will celebrate Thanksgiving as we have done for so many years.

Election of Officers

By the time you receive this issue of the Alumni News, a new Board of Directors will have been elected to office. However, our input for this issue of the EnGarde was prior to the election, so we are not able to tell you now who won the election. If you will please bear with us one more month, we will report the results and with any luck have a picture of your new Board.

Taps

Robert P. Grenier, died 20 Sep 03. Bob served with the 207th Air Service Group as their Adjutant on or about 1950.

Ravindra Shah, died 27 Sep 03. General Shah began his military career in 1982. Was a physician and former Commander of the 174th Medical Squadron. He later was assigned to our State Headquarters where he served as the State Surgeon General. He was promoted to Brigadier General in 1999.

Sick Call

Joe Notaro was hospitalized on the 7th of September after experiencing a stroke at his residence. Prognosis is that he has a good chance for a full recovery. His son has indicated that they can be reached at 1-979-595-1425 if you would like to check on Joe's status.

New/Reinstated Members

John Graf, Paul Olszewski, Dave Ryan

More News & Trivia

If you've ever wondered what possesses some people to move from a relatively warm comfortable climate, such as we have in CNY, to an area in the northwest region of Montana, a stones throw from the British Columbia border, ask Ted Dodson. He may know the answer, for he has been living in Troy, MT ever since his retirement from the Guard. His e-mail address is ram-bokie@aol.com.

For those of you who know Thurlow Diller you might be interested in knowing that he is now living in Fayetteville, and his phone number is (315) 637-2538. Give him a call he'd love to

hear from you.

Here is a website we think you may enjoy, though for some it may bring back memories that would sooner be forgotten. The website is: <<http://www.pressaprint.com/som/wesupportu2.htm>>.

Reminder - There will be no monthly meeting of the Alumni in December. The next meeting will be held as usual on the 15th of January 2004 at the All Services Club.

If you've moved recently, or have a new e-mail address, let us know. Send all changes to: 174th Alumni Association, Inc. 6001 East Molloy Road, Syracuse, NY 13211-7099, chiefjpm@twcny.rr.com.

Did you know that it was just 50 years ago that we received our first T-33 aircraft, 52-9409, direct from the factory? They draw straws to see who would be the crew chief and Stash Jennis was the big winner. Here are a few other timeline events that took place in November that you may have forgotten, or never knew.



"Bill Gregory & Friends" Circa 1982

1950 – Major Curtis J. Irwin was named Commander of the 138th FS, and Col. Maione assumed command of the 107th Ftr Grp.

1950 – The first All-Jet combat in history took place over the Korean peninsula.

1955 – 2Lt John J. Kesel was killed when his F-94 crashed into Onondaga Lake while returning to base on an Alert Mission.

1961 – In response to activation orders, the main body of 138th personnel and planes

head for Europe to provide support missions for combat elements of the 7th Army.

1970 – Unit receives it's first A-37 Aircraft.

1975 – 174th sponsors relocation of two Vietnamese brothers to Central New York under the direction of the Chaplain's office.

1976 – VFW Post 9596 dedicates park in honor of the late Cpt Wm Havener, a former 138th FS pilot.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2003 at 7:00 PM in the Base All Service Club. Refreshments will be served. Come on out, we'd love to see you.

Children's Christmas Party

By MSgt Terri Scanlin, Committee Chairperson



**This year's Children's Christmas Party will be held on
30 November 2003 from 2 - 4 p.m. at the 174th FW Dining Hall.**

Children up to age 12 are invited. Due to limited space, there will be a limit of 2 adults per family to join the celebration. Please do not bring children over 12. Thank you. 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 19 November. 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.



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

Deadline: November 19th (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 Road
Hancock Field
Syracuse, New York, 13211-7099