

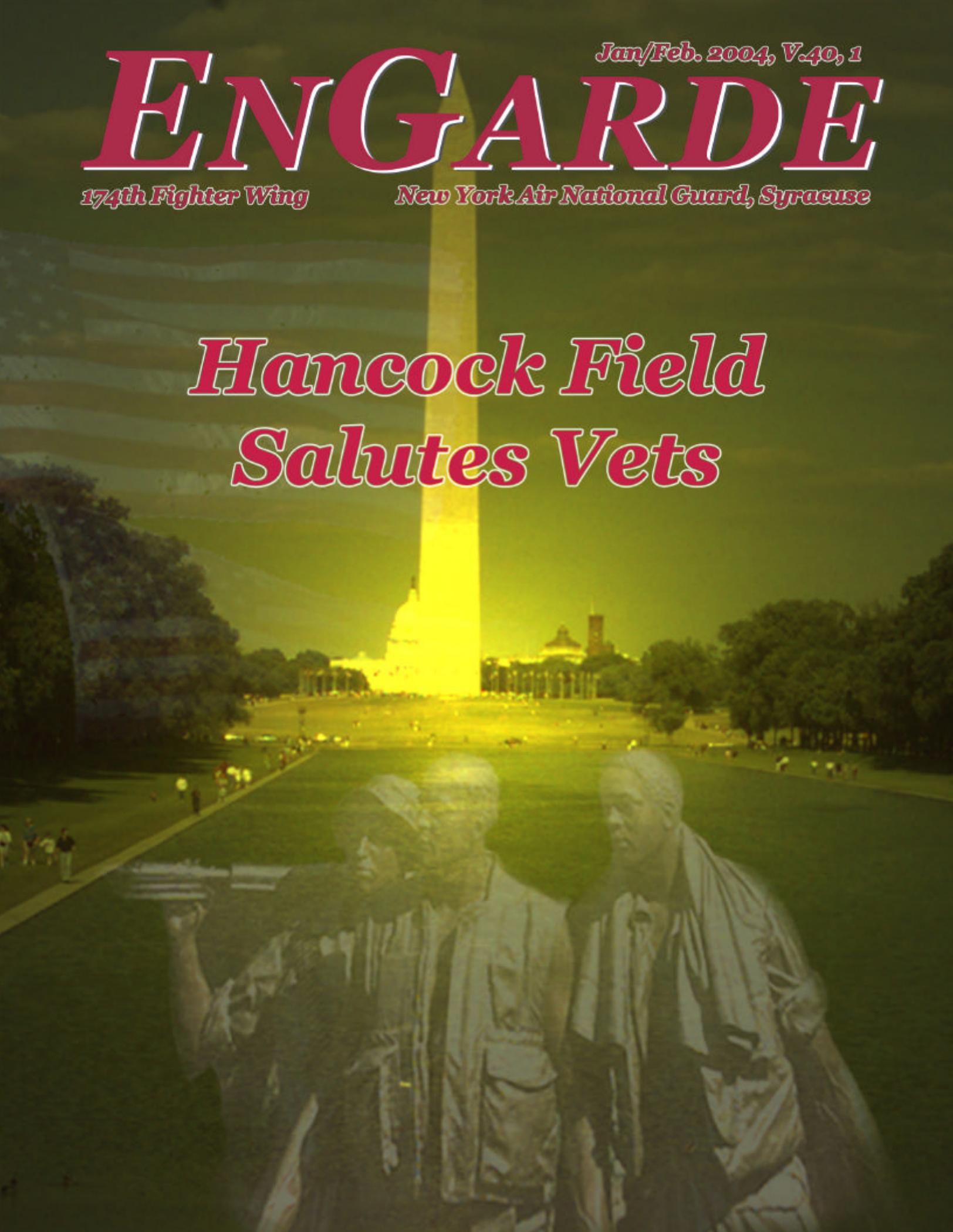
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# ENGARDE

174th Fighter Wing

New York Air National Guard, Syracuse

## Hancock Field Salutes Vets





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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 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



Colonel Anthony Basile  
174th FW, Commander

Knowing how news travels on this base, I'm quite confident that you all have received word of the major change in plans for our upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI). Gone is the ducking and diving, building sweeps, employment pressure, and many other stressful tests that prove a unit's combat capability and readiness. Gone, also, are deployments for the practice ORE, and the ORI itself.

Don't get me wrong, I think these evaluations are needed, and very valuable in determining mission readiness for the Commander of Air Command, General Hal Hornburg, in his responsibility of providing combat forces to the Combatant Commanders. It is his primary way of certifying individual units for combat operations.

In this case, however, when his representative responsible for making such determinations, Brigadier General Miller, ACC Inspector General, took a look at our accomplishments of the past couple of years, and 2003 in particular, he concluded that sending a team of inspectors to evaluate us during a full ORI would be a complete waste of his team's extremely valuable time. Hence, the decision was made to evaluate us during the Phase I portion of the inspection process.

There are two very important points that I want you to keep in mind as you ponder our good fortune. First and foremost, you, all of you, made this happen. In one calendar year you fought a war, pulled off a major aircraft conversion in record

time, at the same time accomplishing a "best-seen-to-date" Unit Compliance Inspection. You deployed for two major combat training spin-ups, and then shared a 90-day combat ops AEF rotation with one other unit. This was the single busiest year I've witnessed in my 24 years here. Each one of these challenges was met with a great attitude, and concluded with outstanding results. And because of this, ACC/IG is rewarding you with a little less on the plate for 2004 (yeah, I know, the ORI is in January of 2005. Humor me.). You earned this through your actions. Congratulations.

Secondly, make no mistake about it; this is still a major inspection that we have to perform well on. There are a lot of intricacies during a Phase I. Exactly how our inspection will look has yet to be determined. Rest assured, in the coming months we will be very involved with determining, planning for, and preparation for successful execution of this inspection. We will flex our yearly drill plan where needed to make this happen. May UTA will still be a Phase I ORE. June will still be a Phase II ORE, as we are required to have at least one per year, and we need to practice the new Chem Warfare CONOPS. November will probably be a dress rehearsal Phase I. Stay tuned, be flexible, and be very proud of what you have done.



## Airman and NCO Performance Feedback System. (PFS)

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



On the 21st of July of last year, the Air National Guard implemented a mandatory performance feedback system for all enlisted. ANGI 36-2627 is something you and your immediate supervisor will have to become familiar with. This program is something some supervisors are already doing, but in a different format. The purpose of this ANGI is to standardize and track the requirement so that everyone is doing it. Here are some excerpts from the instruction.

1. Feedback is a form of communication that should explain duty performance requirements and responsibilities, establish expectations, and tell the ratee if they are performing as expected. Feedback is essential in the growth of our subordinates, no matter what the rank. Formal feedback does not take the place of informal daily conversation on how an individual is performing. Formal feedback should ask and answer the following questions:

- A. How are we doing? (Performance)
- B. Where you need to be? (Expectations)
- C. How we are going to get there? (Career Development Plan)

(This is the heart of the program)

2. ANG personnel will use a standard AF 931 Worksheet

(AB thru TSGT), and AF 932 worksheet (MSGT thru CMSGT), as the documentation media. Locally developed programs that meet the requirements and intent of this program are authorized. Formal feedback will be completed on an annual basis as a minimum.

This program will work hand in hand with any mentoring program we are currently using, be it formal or informal, and should also be documented on the above forms. If you think about why this ANGI was written, the reason should be obvious. It is to ensure that every individual completely understands how to develop themselves to their fullest potential.

The Wing 1st Sgts are responsible for monitoring the compliance of this program and will be inspecting all sections during the June UTA.

**On a different topic, Sunday afternoon of the March UTA, there will be an awards/blues formation in the main hangar bld. 610. Uniform will be blue shirt (either long sleeve or short), short all weather blue jacket, and hat. Ribbons and tie are optional. Women can wear either slacks or skirt.**



# Chaplain's Corner

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



**S**ince this is the first EnGarde of the New Year, I wish everyone a blessed and prosperous New Year.

The Christian Church begins the New Year in Advent. The waiting time before Christmas gives the church a chance to reflect on the promised messiah as foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament. John the Baptist announced the anticipated arrival of the Messiah as he preached, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Just south of Cincinnati, Ohio, on the major interstate running through the hills of Kentucky, there is a stretch of highway which is notorious for accidents. In addition to being on a hill, there was a very dangerous S-curve in the road. Invariably a tractor-trailer would not slow down soon enough and it would

topple over taking with it all the cars in the area. Finally, after much planning and financial speculation, the civil authorities changed the pattern of the road so that the S-curve would no longer be as severe; lives were saved and things were safer. In our spiritual lives we can be like the vehicles on the interstate near Cincinnati, Ohio. We all carry burdens that weigh us down. Life can be difficult. We can get depressed. Once we try it on our own we may face the dangerous curves of the interstate. We may be in trouble. With the power of the Lord in our life we can travel along without too many bumps or bruises. However, with the Lord and His angels helping us we will make it.

Each of us need the foresight to see what is coming down the road of life. With the Lord's help He will make straight our paths... blessings of the Lord on the New Year.



## No PME!....No Promotion!

By Master Sgt. Leon A. Saddler, 174th Wing Element First Sergeant

**T**he importance of Professional Military Education commonly known as PME is without a doubt a vital and integral part of our career progression. Unfortunately, many of us are not taking advantage of it. The purpose of PME is to provide the tools and education necessary to develop the best-enlisted leaders in the world. Through this education with emphasis on the Air Force core values (Integrity First, Service Before Self, & Excellence In All We Do) enlisted personnel are prepared for positions of greater responsibility. Without this training, promotion opportunities are limited but more importantly we limit ourselves in expanding our knowledge, skills, and abilities that are necessary to maintain a competitive edge.

Enlisted Professional Military Education is divided into three phases with each phase building on the next. Those phases are Airman Leadership School (ALS), Non Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) and Senior Non Commissioned Officer Academy (SNCOA). The first phase of PME, ALS, broadens an Airman's experience and knowledge to become an effective supervisor. Also during this phase you are building initiative and self-confidence. Furthermore, ALS is required to be promoted to Staff Sergeant. The next phase, NCOA, prepares NCOs for increased responsibility by broadening their leadership and supervisory skills. This phase is mandatory to become a Sen-

ior NCO. The final phase of PME, SNCOA, develops the leadership and management skills necessary for a senior NCO. This phase is required to become a Senior Master Sergeant. PME is available through correspondence or by attending in-residence. For eligibility requirements and further information contact your supervisor and training manager in your section.

Currently, there are 57 airman eligible for ALS but only 20 have completed the course, 185 eligible junior NCOs for NCOA but only 90 completed their course and 139 eligible senior NCOs but only 45 have completed that course. Overall, there are still 226 eligible people (59%) that need to complete PME but have not. Why!!!

Having had the opportunity to experience all three phases in-residence has truly enriched my Air Force career as well as my civilian career. PME will challenge you but the rewards are invaluable. You will be equipped to handle and manage the challenging situations that yet await you. Also, you're able to share that experience with your fellow co-workers here at Hancock Field as well as with those in your community. Your Air Force career is part of your life and I can only stress how important PME will help your career and life. Taking advantage of Professional Military Education will only bring you success along with the potential for growth here at the greatest unit in the state of New York, the 174th Fighter Wing.



Master Sgt. John Butcher and Tech Sgt. Tim Lane, both from the 174th FW Legal Office, received the ACC/IG Team Superior Performance Award as a result of the Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI), 7-10 Mar 03. The Award specifically recognizes the "Deployment Support Organization" (DSO) for dedication as team members that successfully deploy the 837 personnel to/ from 26 locations over the past 18 months. This action by the DSO members resulted in each deployer feeling secure that all deployment issues were covered and that they were well provided for. Congratulations on a job well done.





# GTC and Personal Financial Responsibility

By Capt. Chuck Hutson, 174<sup>th</sup> FW Comptroller

Recently Hancock Field's Government Travel Card (GTC) delinquencies have increased significantly in a very short period of time. This calls for a review of the very basics of travel voucher filing.

Travelers must submit vouchers to finance timely. Vouchers are due to Finance within 5 days of completion of travel with Supervisory Signature. Finance accepts faxed vouchers at 315-454-6483 and scanned copies via e-mail at fm.174fw@nysyra.ang.af.mil.

Travelers must submit interim vouchers if TDY over 30 days. If members are TDY for 30 days or more for any reason, such as deployment or school training, you should submit an interim voucher every 30 days to finance. This can be accomplished by fax, e-mail or via the "Request for Accrual" on the Virtual MPF website.

Travelers must indicate split-disbursement on their voucher. Some members fail to write-in an amount to be split-disbursed to their GTC. Firstly, use of the GTC for lodging and rental car expenses is mandatory. Secondly, split-disbursement is mandatory for all members traveling in military or civilian status.

Supervisors must ensure split-disbursement is checked on vouchers and that an amount is indicated. This is just one of a

few items which supervisors should question when they approve a voucher. If for some reason, the member does not use the GTC for any expenses, a reason must be annotated by the Supervisor at the bottom the voucher. If the reason is simply that the member did not want to use the GTC, the Supervisor is required to take appropriate corrective action.

Members must be responsible. Recently one of our members was away from home (and his mailbox) for over a month—not on military deployment. The member didn't receive the Bank of America bill and consequently the bill went unpaid, long after the member had been appropriately reimbursed for legitimate travel expenses.

Other cases include misuse of the card—purchasing gas to drive to work, and holiday gifts. These cases are being addressed by the applicable commanders within the guidelines of Commanders Policy Letter 03-01, available on the base network at y://fsbase/policies.

The GTC is a personal financial responsibility. Using the card appropriately and ensuring the bill is paid timely is not difficult to do—if members are situationally aware and take just a little time to understand fiscal policies and procedures. Members who misuse the GTC through delinquency or inappropriate purchases will bear the consequences of their behavior.

# Adirondack Range

By Lt. Col. Bob Blank, 174th FW Adirondack Range Commander

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" You've heard that a thousand times, I'm sure. However, it can also be said, "If it is broke, then do fix it!" I write this article as a short synopsis of the seemingly endless change that has become a way of life at Detachment 1. First off, you may recognize that the name of our bombing range has changed from the nondescript "Range 35" to "Adirondack Range." Not only does this identify us with one of the most prominent geographic features in our region, it also puts us at the front of the alphabetical ANG Range Directory!

So you ask, "What was broke?" While we continued to function in the way that Range 35 had for many years, a number of things were amiss. We were in the way of Army artillery lanes and the final approach to the newly extended runway at Wheeler-Sack AAF. Our aircraft had very little airspace in which to work their tactics on the range. The attack headings were very scripted. For all of these reasons and many more, it was decided to move the range to the east side of the Fort Drum Training Area, an hour north of Watertown.

After five fairly difficult years of construction, we opened the new range on 15 October 2003, two years and three months behind schedule. Years of Corps of Engineers meetings were finally yielding fruit. As the deadline approached, the workload became oppressive for all Detachment 1 personnel. There were projects to restructure airspace, negotiate new memorandums of understanding, design and build targets, design and build scoring systems,



and design and build power generation systems. There were security measures to conceive and implement, adjusted work schedules, scheduling changes, and revised vehicle policies. There was a new range regulation to be written, coordinated, rewritten, published and briefed. This document turned out to be 164 pages long. No matter how many items I list here, I would fail to capture the volume of tasks and subtasks and the extent to which the members of this unit struggled to solve difficult problems. To that end I wish to thank my Det 1 airmen and thank all members of the 174<sup>th</sup> FW that have been a help to us over the years.

There may still be a few of you who say, "Det who?" Yes, there are humans north of Central Square. Often times we are called "The Det." In the mid-nineties, Detachment 1 (at that time the only detachment) was split in two to become Detachment 1 (Range) and Detachment 2 (Forward Operating Location). Our geographic separation from Hancock Field (2.5 hours) is our greatest challenge. Our second is the fact that we are tenants on a US Army post. Austere conditions are our third biggest challenge. I invite anyone interested to come up to the North Country for a tour of Adirondack Range. I particularly encourage those we routinely interface with. Come up on a day when we have aircraft on the range and you will never forget your tour!



# Veterans' Visit Spurs Surprise Reunion

By William A. Wallak, St. Camillus Health and Rehabilitation Center Public Relations Coordinator

*Note: The 174<sup>th</sup> FW Community Manager and Public Affairs Office would like to express a special thank you to Master Sgt. Rita Scheirer and Lt. Col. Jeff Johnson, from the 152<sup>nd</sup> Air Operations Group (AOG), for their attention to detail in coordinating all the components for the very successful visit to Hancock Field made by the special veterans from St. Camillus Health and Rehabilitation Center.*

When a group of veterans visit their local Air National Guard base, there's a good chance that the paths of those who once knew each other will cross again. Veteran Don Ross, a former Army gunner, had such a chance encounter recently.

Ross met up with the son of a dear friend while visiting the Air National Guard base at Hancock Field, Mattydale, in early November. He and five other male veterans, all clients in the Adult Day Health Program at St. Camillus Health and Rehabilitation Center, were touring the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and 152<sup>nd</sup> Air Operations Group. Sue Stevenson, the Day Health Program's recreation leader, led the men on the outing. The group got an inside look at the operations of both units and ate lunch with some of the 152<sup>nd</sup> staff members.

Lt. Col. Jeff Johnson, Readiness and Support Director of the 152<sup>nd</sup>, noticed Ross immediately while greeting the veterans from St. Camillus. Ross and Johnson's father, Carl, were best friends. The two grew up together, attended the same high school and served in World War II together. Ross remained a close friend of the Johnson family for many years. Lt. Col. Johnson didn't know Ross would be visiting that day.

"I knew (Jeff) and his brother when they were little kids," said Ross. "It's been awhile since I've seen him." For Lt. Col. Johnson, Ross' visit really hit home.

"It was a very pleasant surprise to see Don. It brought back a lot of good memories. Seeing Don Ross was like getting a special glimpse of my families military history. My Dad and Don were both World War II soldiers. It really meant a lot and made Veteran's Day special."

For the other men that visited Hancock Field, being on a U.S. Military base again felt like a familiar trip back to the past. The group's first stop at the base was the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing's

hanger. Lt. Col. Maryjo Timpano and Lt. Anthony Bucci greeted the veterans and led them on this first leg of their tour. The men got up close to some F-16 fighter planes that were in the hanger for repairs. Being in the presence of the huge jets left most in the group staring in awe. This was certainly a highlight for Day Health client Joe Walters, a former Army maintenance pilot.

"I really enjoyed the hanger," said Walters. "I had fun with the technicians I talked to, and found out that we had a lot in common."

Ross, a North Syracuse resident, hadn't been to the base in many years and was interested in seeing the jets. "I wanted to see the new planes up close. It was interesting." Day Health Client Al Mitchell spent six years in the Air Force as a cook and was impressed by the F-16s. "Even though I was in the Air Force myself, this was the first time I was in a hanger."

Following the hanger tour, the men moved on to the assembly hall at the 152<sup>nd</sup> to have lunch. Afterward Lt. Col. Johnson gave the men a mission brief in the Battle Lab training area. A multi-media presentation of the Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom deployment followed. Then it was back to the assembly hall for two more multi-media presentations. "I thoroughly enjoyed (the visit) and wish it was longer" said Walters. "The presentation was pretty impressive."

Day Health client Ambrose Flanagan, a five-year Army veteran who has always been fascinated by airplanes, was glad he visited the base. "It was fantastic. It was a learning experience well worth the time."

The Day Health Program's Sue Stevenson put the trip together thanks to help from her husband Charles, a major with the 152<sup>nd</sup>. Also instrumental in bringing the group to the base was Master Sgt. Rita Scheirer of the 152<sup>nd</sup>. She planned and coordinated all of the base's activities for the veterans. "It's clear that Hancock Field empathizes with fellow veterans, and values each individual's sacrifices and service," said Sgt. Scheirer.

Walters was extremely impressed by how welcome the group was made to feel. "The courtesy they rendered to us, making us feel so welcome, and genuineness of the people was great. It was nice being back and seeing the uniforms. They really overwhelmed us with their generosity."

The icing on the cake for the veterans was receiving a hand salute as they prepared to leave the base. "They saluted us at the end when we were getting on the bus," said Day Health client Michael Solar, a former Navy electronics technician. "That was really cool."



Left: Al Mitchell, veteran and St. Camillus Day Health Program client with Master Sgt. Rita Scheirer of the 152<sup>nd</sup> AOG, The 152<sup>nd</sup> prepared lunch for the St. Camillus visitors Sgt. Scheirer arranged all of the activities for the veterans



The veterans from the St. Camillus Health and Rehabilitation Center line up by a F-16 fighter jet located in the hanger at Hancock ANGB

# An ORI - The Long Distance Race

By Lt. Col. Carey Merritt, 174th FW ORI Project Officer



An ORI, or Operational Readiness Inspection is a lot like a long distance race. It takes months of training and requires a persistent progressive approach to be successful. Unfortunately, most people would argue that spending so much time and energy for one event is crazy. Being in the Air Force, however, means that this long process of preparation is part of our job and will occur every few years. An ORI is one of the most important ways we show our Major Command that we are a fully combat capable unit. Maybe this really means we are all a little crazy.

The 174<sup>th</sup> is again faced with an opportunity to participate in an ORI in January 2005. Even though this event is a year away, the preparation has already begun. This ORI will occur at the Savannah CRTC site in sunny warm Georgia. How many unit members will deploy and the exact exercise scenario is yet to be

finalized. But, like a long distance race, if we do not start preparing for the race now, we will never finish in first place. In fact, the key to an outstanding ORI grade is getting the peak performance from our unit members at just the right time. If we sprint from the starting line we will burn out, if we wait too long to get going, forget it! We will crawl for now, however the pace will quicken this spring. Here are some milestones everyone should be aware of. Feb 04 - Savannah site survey, Mar 04 - ORI concept of operations development, May 04 - Phase 1 Mobility exercise, Jun 04 - Phase 2 exercise and meet with IG to finalize simulations and ground rules, Oct 04 - Deployed ORE to Savannah, Jan 05 - ORI in Savannah

# Civil Air Patrol and ANG Working Closer

By Maj Jim Edmonds, New York CAP, Homeland Security Office



Well, it has been a very busy three months! In September the CAP NY Wing Commander, Director of Operations, Director of Emergency Services, and I met with the New York State Adjutant General, the NY State Air Chief of Staff, and the Planning-Operations-Military Support Officer for the NY State Department of Military and Naval Affairs to present to the a capabilities briefing on the New York Wing CAP. The NY Wing Government Relations Officer met with several NY State Legislators and representatives from SEMO, the Office of Public Security, and the Disaster Response Commission to give them a preliminary overview of Civil Air Patrol's organization and capabilities in the state.

In October, we held the first NY Wing Homeland Security Seminar at the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing HQ in Syracuse. The seminar was attended by over 60 members from the Long Island Group to the Western New York group! The feedback from the attendees was very positive and the questions and issues that were raised by the attendees and presenters have resulted in some specific plans that are being implemented already.

In November, the Wing pulled together for the USAF Emergency Services Evaluation based out of the (very) new Mission Base at the former Griffiss AFB and scored a well deserved Outstanding.

The New York Wing CAP's Homeland Security operations will be simply the special applications of the basic skills that we have developed in our Search and Rescue, Disaster Relief, and Counter Drug missions over the past 60+ years. Outstanding performance in the USAF EVAL, SAR, DR, and CD operations will translate directly to outstanding performance in future Homeland Security missions.

In terms of Homeland Security/Military Support operations, we have made significant progress. The CAPCAS program

is now in full swing. This is a program where the NY CAP Wing is assisting the 274<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron in the training of their Tactical Air Control Parties (Forward Air Controllers). One of these airmen, who incidentally is a former CAP Cadet, has just returned from Afghanistan where he was assigned to a Green Beret A-Detachment to provide the "talk-on" for their Close Air support. SrA "CJ" was with his team, doing his job, in the major battle with Taliban and Al Qaeda forces on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border that was widely reported a few months ago, and is now safely back home at the end of his tour of duty.

The CAPCAS Operations Plan, written by the NY Wing Director of Operations, has been carried up the chain of command by our NY State Director of the CAP-USAF Liaison Office and is now being considered for recommendation across the country!

The 274<sup>th</sup> ASOS Training Officer, Capt Glen Hisert, has taken the concept of the CAPCAS Missions and has recommended that the simulated targets in these missions actually be designated critical infrastructure points around NY State and has submitted that recommendation to the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) as the Capabilities Multiplier approach (CMA). To CAP these missions are conducted exactly the same as CAPCAS missions. The only difference is that the simulated "targets" are now areas of interest designated by DMNA. This program is being tested over specified facilities in both the upstate and downstate areas.

The products of these missions are both valuable training for the Forward Air Controllers and also extremely useful aerial images that are immediately provided to DMNA. At this time, digital imagery is a recognized critical need and one that CAP is addressing very efficiently and successfully.



## The 174<sup>th</sup> PAO...

# The National Guards Best in Media Relations

By 2nd Lt Anthony L. Bucci, 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Public Affairs Officer



The 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Syracuse, New York Public Affairs office took first place overall out of all the National Guard units with the receipt of the National Guard Bureau – Public Affairs (NGB-PA) recognition of Excellence in Media Relations award. The National Guard Bureau received 184 entries from 17 states in the competition for the annual award. The competition was open to all Army and Air National Guard units in the United States. Major Ellen Krenke of the National Guard Bureau, who was one of the judges in the competition said: “Usually it is the state public affairs staff that submits packages for these competitions. But, we do get units every once in a while that feel they’ve done a good job during the year and feel they can compete against the big boys. The 174<sup>th</sup> did that. And they came out on top.”

The 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing collaborated with various local and national media agencies regarding over 130 different news queries. During this 10-month period the 174<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Office (PAO) expertly executed all of these media queries, an extraordinary amount for an office manned on a part-time basis. The unprecedented success of this team effort was a direct result of the outstanding professionals who occupied this office, they are: Lieutenant Colonel Maryjo Timpano, Captain Jeff Brown, and Master Sgt Jeff Wallace. Their incredible dedication to duty and availability twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week was critical to the office winning this prestigious award. “Without question it was the busiest time I’ve ever witnessed,” Master Sgt Wallace said. “It was an extremely busy time with 9/11, the war on terrorism, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

The National Guard used the following criteria in selecting the winning submission: Their focus in the media, the impact of the media on the National Guard, people deserving special recognition based on their contributions and its cooperation with the state headquarters of the National Guard. The time frame, November 2002 through August 2003, was the window that this media attention had to be from. This award is presented annually at

the public relations workshop, which this year was held in Puerto Rico. Lt. Col. Maryjo Timpano, the 174<sup>th</sup>’s community relations manager, was in attendance to proudly accept this prestigious award. “Accepting this award on behalf of the men and women of the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing was a very proud moment for me,” Lt. Col. Timpano said. “This award belongs to all the men and women of Hancock Field Air National Guard Base who always made themselves available to the media and our community.”

The 174<sup>th</sup> FW Public Affairs office supported numerous requests from the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs office and, from the local media agencies within central New York. There were many requests fielded by the 174<sup>th</sup> FW including all televised news related stories about National Guard troops being used for Airport security. The 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing was also commended for its significant logistical support in co-creating a segment titled ‘War Fighting Gear’, which aired on the National Fox News Broadcast, reflecting eminently on SAF/PAMN and the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. Being selected for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards, which aired on the Lifetime Channel was another first for the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. Having continuously demonstrated its ability to orchestrate national media events, they coordinated

with the Office of the USAF PA/Media Outreach NY City for a Media Trip of 20 different National Media Representatives. Master Sgt Wallace felt this award was not only a reflection of the 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, but also of the wonderful working relationship that has been established with all of the Syracuse based media agencies.

“Our job in the 174th Fighter Wing public affairs office is straight forward--tell people about the positive things happening at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base,” said Capt. Jeff Brown, former 174th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer. “This award is a testament to the 1,500 servicemen and servicewomen who serve with pride and dedication at Hancock Field. Thanks for making our job easy!”



The National Guard Bureau, Public Affairs Office, presented the 174<sup>th</sup> FW with a heritage painting for being selected the best in the nation in National Guard Media Relations. From left to right: Master Sgt. Jeff Wallace PAO/ NCOIC, Capt. Jeff Brown PAO/ OIC, and Col. Anthony Basile 174<sup>th</sup> FW, Commander.

## Children’s Christmas Party - A Blessing to All

By Master Sgt. Terri Scanlin, Children’s Christmas Party Coordinator

This year’s party was an overwhelming success – complete with snow this year! Over 80 children were in attendance. The guests started arriving around 1330 hours. While they waited for Santa’s arrival, they won prizes by playing games like Pin the Nose on the Snowman, Snowman Ring Toss, Snowman Darts and Lollipop Tree. The children also had the chance to have their hands and faces decorated with tattoos. Many children made a Christmas card to be presented to residents of the Loretto Nursing Home. Santa Claus arrived at the



Children gather around the table to make Christmas greeting cards for residents at the Loretto Nursing Home

Dining Hall at 1430 hours and the children waited patiently for their chance to sit on Santa’s lap and receive their present. Pizza, snacks and cookies were served O’Brien & Gere generously donated trays of homemade delicious cookies. The committee would like to thank all those who helped make the party a success. Thanks also go to Toys R Us for donating the X Box Game System.



## Line Badge Re-Issue

By SG9 William F. Mulcahy, 174th FW, Security Forces Pass and ID

The New Year has arrived along with the mass re-issue of line badges. Our goal is to get most of the Traditional Guardsman completed by March UTA. The full-time personnel are scheduled to complete the process during the upcoming weeks. We have had a lot of questions in regards to why some have certain areas open and others do not. This decision was made by your Commanders and Security Managers.

I would also like to stress the importance of these badges. They are a controlled item. It is imperative that we are more responsible with them. By understanding each area listed on the badges we can all ensure the security of our resources. Several changes have been made to the 1199A's and are available through your Unit Security Manager. If you are available to get your new badge and have spare time between meetings or work schedule, please have your Security Manager call us at 454-6541. We are flexible at times, and can most likely fit you in to accomplish this task. If anyone has any questions, contact your Unit Security Managers (USM). To limit any interruptions during this line badge issue, please do not call us; let your USM, if he/she needs to. When you enter Building 174 on the west side, we are the first office on the right. Please have your old line badge and completed AF Form 2586.

I would like to a special thank you to SG9 D. Wilson, Tech Sgt McClouth, Tech.Sgt Kildea, Staff Sgt Sonnacchio and Senior Airmen Jackson for helping make the kick-off of this new effort possible. If you see any of these people, please thank them for the hard work and long hours.



Col. Anthony Basile, 174<sup>th</sup> FW Commander, stands with the latest graduates from the Academy of Military Science (AMS). The graduation ceremony was held on 21 Nov 2003 and included a significant number of graduates from the unit. Standing from L to R are: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Marissa French (152<sup>nd</sup> AOG), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Gay Richardson (174 MEO), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James Hockey (174 MEO), Col. Anthony Basile (174 FW/CC), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Tracy Schroeder (174 SFS), and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Nicholas Schultz (138th FS).

As a special mention, 2nd Lt. Gay Richardson was the Distinguished Graduate of this particular class. Lt. Richardson also received the Commanders Award and Citizen Soldier Award as a result of his outstanding performance and dedication. Outstanding Job!

### All Service Club Announcement

Membership cards cost \$10 per year. If you do not have a current card, please purchase yours at the door or contact MSgt Rita Scheirer at X606. There will be a cover charge of \$3 if you do not hold a current club card. Renew yours now! We hold a drawing every Saturday night of the UTA for current club members. You must be present to win. The cash prize starts at \$25 and increases \$10 per month if we do not have a winner for that month. Show up this drill – hey you never know – this could be your lucky month. The All Services Club will be relocating in the near future. A large part of the moving expense and building expense will be coming from our fund raising. Please remember this when we offer raffle tickets each month. It's your club - please support it! We are still selling "Dog Tags" for the display in the new Club. If you would more information, you may obtain an application up at the Club or see MSgt Terri Scanlin. Future events: *February UTA*: St. Valentine's Theme – We will be serving meatball sandwiches. *March UTA*: St. Patrick's Theme *April UTA*: Specialty drink night – serving Margarita's...come join in the Fiesta!

## D O D N E W S

### Bush Signs "Servicemembers Civil Relief Act"

President Bush has signed the "Servicemembers Civil Relief Act," new legislation to help ease the economic and legal burdens on military personnel called to active duty status in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Authored by Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Chris Smith, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, or H.R. 100, updates and strengthens current civil protections enacted during World War II. In addition, the new law contains dozens of provisions to assist soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines to help manage their financial and legal obligations while they are away from home in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations around the world. For more information, see <http://veterans.house.gov/news/108/12-22-03.html>. To learn more about current legislation that affects servicemember and veteran benefits, including H.R. 100, see <http://vote.military.com/military/issues/bills/>

### Veterans Receive Cost-of-Living Increase in Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is including a 2.1 percent increase in the disability benefit payments that millions of veterans and dependents will receive at the end of December. President Bush authorized an increase matching the increase in Social Security rates by signing into law the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2003. Those receiving the increase include 2.5 million veterans awarded compensation for disabilities sustained or made worse during their military service, as well as 347,000 wartime veterans who are totally disabled from civilian-life causes and who receive a pension under an income-based program. For more information, see <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/PressArtInternet.cfm?id=712>.

# Base Announcements

## Air Force Announces Wear Guidance For New Nametag

The Air Force has established both the mandatory wear date and proper wear for the new metallic nametag on service dress uniforms.

According to personnel officials, effective Jan. 1, 2004 the nametag must be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the nametag level with the bottom of the ribbons. It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel. If a duty badge is worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket, men will center the badge a half-inch below the new nametag; women will center the badge a half-inch above the new nametag. An exception is when a command insignia is worn by either men or women, then the command insignia is worn either a half-inch above or below the nametag and the duty badge is worn either a half-inch above or below the command insignia, depending on whether the individual is a current or former com-



mander.

When the maternity jumper is worn as the maternity service dress, the nametag should be centered on the right side and placed even to, or 1 ½ inches higher or lower than, the first exposed button. The nametag will also be worn on all pullover sweaters on the wearer's right side with the bottom of the nametag level centered between the middle of the sleeve seam and the seam of the neckline. It will not be worn on the cardigan sweater.

The current plan for the issue of the new Air Force name tags is as follows. Name tags should be received on base hopefully before the Feb 04 UTA but may possibly not be here until the March 04 UTA. New name tags have been ordered for all personnel including officers using the Oct 03 manning document provided by MPF for the 174th, 152nd and 274th. When the tags arrive Clothing Issue will distribute to the respective 1st Sgt's who will in turn hand out to personnel. Clothing issue will order tags for personnel not on original order using the IMPACT Card as they process in.

**Pay Date for January UTA is 20 Jan 2003.**  
**The next UTA is 7-8 February 2004.**

### Comrel Guest Speaker

This is African-American history month; with that theme in mind the Comrel guest speaker for February will be Tuskegee Airman Lt Col. (Ret) Clarence Dart.

### Cultural Awareness Team Bake Sale

The Cultural Awareness Team Will be having a Bake Sale On the February UTA at the dining hall from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00p.m. A black History display will also be featured. So come out and enjoy a few delicious treats and learn a few little known, long forgotten, or newly discovered facts about people and events in black history.

The recruiting process starts with us all. If you know of someone considering Military Service or may want to receive a correspondence from a 174<sup>th</sup> Recruiter, please fill out the referral form below and return it to the 174th FW Recruiting office.

### RECRUITING REFERRAL (PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
          AREA CODE

BIRTH DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIOR MILITARY SERVICE: YES / NO

BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

### Hazmat Declaration Class

The Traffic Management Office will hold a Hazmat Declaration Class on the 7th and 8th of Feb UTA. Each class can hold only 15 students. Classes will run from 0800 to 1600 in Columbia College. Please contact Master Sgt. Dave Shaffer at 454-6105 or Master Sgt. Donna Giambalvo at 454-6106 to register for the class. Thank You.

### Travel Voucher Advice of Payment

For several months now, members have been sent travel advice of payment electronically to their on-base e-mail account. In the past, these payment slips have been mailed to you. All 174<sup>th</sup> members are authorized e-mail accounts and this is the most effective method to transmit the information to you. All members can access their on-base e-mail accounts from off-base by following the procedures at [y:/procedures\\_and\\_checklists/extranet.doc](#). Also note that travel advice of payment is featured on MyPay, but unavailable to the ANG and Air Force. The feature only applies to our sister services.

Newly promoted 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Pyke gets his silver bar pinned on by Capt. Chuck Hutson (left), 174<sup>th</sup> FW Comptroller and Col. Anthony Basile, 174<sup>th</sup> FW, Commander during the January 2004 drill. Lt. Pyke is the 174<sup>th</sup> FW Financial Services Officer.  
**Congratulations!!**



# Alumni News

By First Sergeant (Ret) Maureen McNamara

First and foremost, we hope everyone enjoyed a happy, healthy Holiday Season! It's hard to believe that we're now in 2004?

"Calling All Retirees", we're excited and we hope you will be also. Starting in February, 2004, we will be having a guest speaker at every other meeting. Topics that have been suggested are, Tri Care Plans; Long Term Care Insurance; Social Security ins & outs; wellness; woodworking, fly tying, speakers from FBI, IRS, and many more. We have great resources from within our ranks to provide some very interesting programs. Frank Duester has been appointed as the Program Committee Chairman and he welcomes any ideas you may have. If you know a terrific speaker or have an idea for a topic...by all means get the information to him. He may be reached at 986 Old Seneca TnPk, Skaneateles, NY 13152 or contact any board member. Our first speaker is Colonel Anthony Basile, Commander 174 Fighter Wing.

Jim Monroe reports that out of 261 email addresses we have for Alumni members, that forty seven (47) came back as having permanent errors. Please notify us of any info changes you have. If you're not sure which address we have, contact Tim Myers at [tmyers1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:tmyers1@twcny.rr.com) or myself at [jmcnamal@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jmcnamal@twcny.rr.com).

Melvin Denny has been appointed as the new House Committee Chairman, and will be working with a committee to schedule meetings, events, refreshments etc. We are still searching for an Entertainment Chairman. This position was held by Bob Musengo for many, many years and he needs a good old fashioned break. So if you'd like to get involved please give me a call, email or send a note. This person is in charge of events such as picnic, thanksgiving dinner etc. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO STEP FORWARD AND HELP US!

## Taps:

-P. Richard (Dick) Coughlin, Captain (Ret) - passed away on 9 November 2003. He came on board with us in the 138th Fighter Squadron in 1956 as a dentist. He then transferred to the Army

Reserves. He was an avid airplane buff, having his own PT 19 double wing flight trainer as well as others. He is survived by his wife Myra and family.

-Roberta Mae Bonnet, widow of Tech Sgt.(Ret) Frederick G. Bonnet, former Air Force Advisor, died on 19 Nov 2003. She is survived by her daughter Anne and son Robert Bonnet of Central Square. Her husband was an Alumni from 1979 to 1992.



Robert "Bob" Connal and Laurie Radtke and 174<sup>th</sup> Family Picnic 1979.

Sick Call: -We are glad to hear that Ralph Brooks is recuperating nicely from major surgery and is resting at home. We look forward to seeing him back at the meetings soon. We understand that he has a new "buddy" - a new puppy to keep him on his toes. Cards may be sent to 113 Kaywood Rd, N. Syracuse, NY 13212. We were sorry to hear that Harold Haig has also been somewhat under the weather these days but enjoyed a great family Thanksgiving in Lowville. Cards may be sent to 5061 Spencer Rd, Constableville, NY 13325. Jim English is recuperating from carpal tunnel surgery but with some major problems left behind due to nerve damage. He can be reached at 8560 County Rte 392, Princeton, TX 75407-4516.

## News & Trivia:

-We received information from Hqs that DOD announced that with the President's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Yr 2004, effective immediately the

commissary privileges we now have will permit unlimited access to the facility, instead of just 24 visits a year. Look in this month's En Garde for a full article on the "whole picture" and its impact on us as retirees.

-Congratulations: One of the old boys from Motor Pool, Alfred Zoanetti and his wife Jeanne, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in November. A great write-up in the Post Standard on 11/16/03.

## Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be January 15, 2004 at Base All Services Club at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. Come on out and BRING ANOTHER ALUMNI FRIEND....we'd love to see you.



## Sojourns of a Wayfaring ALO

By Capt. Glen Hisert, 274<sup>th</sup> FW ASOS Air Liaison Officer

After the altitude chamber event at Andrews Air Force Base (AFB) and street side show, the Iron Knights of the 274<sup>th</sup> ASOS' ad hoc walk to see our nation's capital began. This was my first visit to DC. At the age of 47, and back in uniform after 12 years as a civilian, being there was an affirmation. With a backdrop of calm night air, and with silhouettes of enormous marble lighted to resemble beacons of the angels, we set out. It was rather suddenly that we were in front of the White House. Barricades, fences, ugly construction and all. At first I resented the irony of being shut out instead of being embraced. Somebody blurted, "Where's the missiles?" It was like I was being kept from a dear, but wounded friend. Yes, I

do love our boss. It felt unfair. I tolerated my own mood like I tolerate my two year old son. And then we walked on...beautiful gardens, late at night, no people, just the Iron Knights and the spirits of those who fell before us. The many spirits. Many respects. The White House, the Washington Monument, the Vietnam Memorial, and Lincoln's Memorial were what we saw in about four hours that night. For me, it was at Lincoln's Memorial that my affirmation peaked, as if The One had intervened. Know this: Life's greatest gifts are given and received in silence. Grace was powerful, warm, and crushing all at the same time. I slept well that night. And I think of the barricades in front of the White House differently now. "I am an American, fighting for my country and our way of life..." I AM the fence.

**Do You Ever  
Find Yourself Doodling?**

**Do You Have a Creative Side?**

***Do You Enjoy Writing?***

If You Answered "Yes" to ANY of these questions, Please  
Contact Lt Anthony Bucci at X651, Thanks!



## ***ENGARDE***

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