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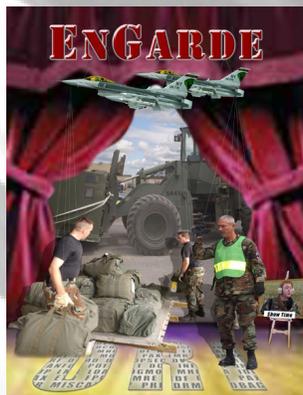
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About The Cover It's Showtime!

**The ORI is just around the corner.
Everyone's getting ready to play their part.**

Vision Statement

Our Vision is a world class fighter wing comprised of diverse individuals powered 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

I hope all of you enjoyed a great Holiday Season with your loved ones. As usual, it's hard to believe that we are through the holidays, and into the long, hard winter. Now that I've cheered you all up, let's talk about what's in front of us.

Because of a time deadline, I'm writing this column on 9 December for an article you won't read until mid-January. Due to an emerging change of policy at ACC, I don't know yet whether we will be taking an ORI, or executing a change of plans for this drill weekend. But in reality, it doesn't matter. Preparing for this inspection over the past year has taken us down a road we needed to travel regardless of whether 60 ACC inspectors actually show up here or not. All the OREs, all the hours, all the process changes, have made us an organization more capable of doing our job..... to be ready at a moment's notice to deploy world-wide in support of national objectives.

We prepared for this inspection by starting out slow, and increasing the heat on ourselves with each successive ORE. We brought in outside help to give us an objective look. We made corrections and improved with every drill. The Ops Group synchronized their phased-training so that the pilots' most basic training was accomplished early in the year, and culminated with our most intense missions being flown just as we get into our

AEF/Inspection vulnerability period.

Throughout the year, we have sent our folks to our AEF partner units, the 113th WG in D.C., and 192nd FW in Richmond, to help them in the same preparation. We've also visited other F-16 wings as they have gone through their own inspections, gathering very useful information on how to do it, and how not to do it. Cooperate and graduate!

Hopefully you've heard me say numerous times throughout the year that it would only take a phone call to change this event from an inspection to an AEF deployment. Everything we've done in this past year has prepared us to meet either tasking. I've watched us progress month by month. I've spoken with the other units' members who have come up to evaluate our OREs. I know that we are ready to perform at an outstanding level regardless of what is asked of us this weekend. Bring on our nation's enemies, or bring on our ACC/IG Team. It really doesn't matter.



Colonel Anthony B. Basile

TEAMWORK AND COMMUNICATION

By CMSgt. Mark Atkinson, 174th FW, Command Chief



As we roll in on our impending ORI, I cannot help but believe that two of the most important attributes that a Fighter Wing possesses are Teamwork and Communication. Without working together to meet the demanding agenda in front of us, and effectively communicating requirements to our subordinates/peers, we would surely fail at any assigned task. As an ANG Fighter Wing we are charged with the task of providing high quality training to personnel that will enable them to perform their duties in a safe and reliable manner to meet mission requirements. Our traditional folks are only here one weekend a month and maybe (TDY's) two weeks a year. How are we going to maintain the required training level? It's not easy, and it mandates the use of Teamwork and effective Communication.

We have to rely on each other to accomplish our tasks within the Wing. We all interact throughout the organization when going about our duties. It is absolutely imperative that we work together to meet our mission goals. Everyone has needed help at one time or another. If you see some one struggling with a task or assignment, ask them if they could use some help. If you are struggling

with a task or assignment, ask for help. We all need to work together to not only get the job done, but to help relieve the stress of working in a dynamic and sometimes stressful job.

Communication can be defined as a process by which information is exchanged. Take note of the word exchanged. Sometimes we fail to insure the receiver has correctly understood the message. Exchange would require feedback to verify that the information is understood properly. E-mail does not provide immediate feedback and can confuse the receiver sometimes. This in turn can produce another email that may contain some harsh words as it gets bounced back and forth. We should try to use the phone or even better yet, get up and communicate face to face. I know that we can't always communicate face to face and the e-mail is so easy to push a message out, however, the old fashion way of face to face can't be beat.

Not only will teamwork and effective communication carry us through the ORI and any other challenges that we may face, it will reduce stress in the workplace.



Chaplain's Corner

By Maj. Douglas Decker, I74 FW, Chaplain



World Day of Peace

The Liturgy of the Church celebrates a World Day of Peace for January 1. It is a wonderful way to begin a new year. The Scriptures invite us to reflect on the Old Testament Book of Numbers. The reading from Numbers 6 speaks of God letting his face shining upon us. Each of us would be in God's watchful care. To have God look upon us is a blessing. In this Old Testament reading the blessing is a priestly blessing. It is a priestly blessing on the holy pilgrims headed to Jerusalem for the different religious feasts. The religious feasts were important to God's people. It was expected that all adult males within 25 miles of Jerusalem were expected to go and spend the feast in Jerusalem.

Principal among the feasts were Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. The idea that God let his face shine upon you is that you would be in God's watchful care. There is a long held belief that no one could look upon the face of God and live. This belief was emphasized in Deuteronomy when it was said of Moses that no prophet has arisen in Israel like Moses whom the Lord knew face to face. Moses saw God face to face and lived.

As we begin a new year we pray that the Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. The Lord give us Peace.

As we begin a New Year may the Lord bless us, may the Lord bless our evaluation and may the Lord bless our good work.



Family Readiness News

By Terri Scanlin, I74th FW, Family Readiness Coordinator

During the December UTA, we celebrated "Wingman Day". We spent the day focusing on our wingmen and ourselves. We received briefings or visited informational booths to learn how to deal with stress and how to identify signs of stress in our wingmen. Hopefully we all took something home that day to help with day-to-day stress factors. Military life can be stressful not only to our members but also to our family members. Knowing the signs of stress, how to relieve stress, and where to go for help will help you take care of yourself and those around you.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The website is interactive which includes plan a call, e-mail a consultant, live events, monitored bulletin boards, and topical newsletters.

www.airforceonesource.com
1-800-707-5784

The Air Force One Source staff will provide personal support or will refer you to military and community resources. They can provide booklets and audio recordings at no cost to you. The website is www.airforceonesource.com. The user ID is: airforce. The password is: ready. After you sign in, you will be asked to select the Unit/Location. Scroll down and select National Guard 174 FW, Syracuse NY and press the continue button.

Air Force One Source is a support agency that is available to you and your family members. You can either visit the website, e-mail them or call them directly. The qualified staff are available

Their telephone number is 1-800-707-5784. They offer simultaneous translation into more than 140 other languages. TTY/TDD is also available at 1-800-346-9188.



BX Grand Opening: (From L to R) Darlene Griebel, Hancock Field ANGB BX Store Manager says "Thank You" to all who helped in making this day possible as P.J. Kirkland, General Manager AAFES Ft. Drum and Col. Tony Basile I74th FW/CC look on.

MAINTAINER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Joshua J. VanWinkle

Rank: SrA

AFSC & Title: 2W151-Armament Systems Specialist

Hometown: Williamstown, New York



SrA Joshua VanWinkle is currently assigned to the Armament Back Shop of the Weapons Element part of the Aircraft Maintenance Sq. He has no prior military service and has been a member of the 174th FW for 3 years. SrA VanWinkle is a crucial part of the Weapons Back shop Team. His interests include hunting and snowmobiling. SrA VanWinkle's involvement with the community includes being a member of the Williamstown Volunteer Fire Department. SrA VanWinkle's plans for the future are to expand his military career.

FPCON Signs, Building Entrances And Other Changes

By 2nd Lt. Tracy L. Schroeder, 174th FW, Security Forces Operations Antiterrorism Officer



As I'm sure most of us realized during the last ORE in November, a lot of what we have gotten used to over the years, with regard to Force Protection, has changed:

FPCON Signs:

It is no longer a requirement to hang both an exercise and real world FPCON sign. The sign to be placed on the entrance is the one, which reflects the highest FPCON, be it exercise or real world. *For example:* If the base is in real world FPCON Alpha and exercise FPCON Bravo, exercise FPCON Bravo signs are to be placed on the entrances.

In addition, it is ONLY building ENTRANCES that will have an FPCON sign. What that means is when an FPCON measure requires facilities to reduce their entrances, it is only that entrance that will have an FPCON sign in place. All other previous entrances, will have DO NOT ENTER signs in place.

Reduced Facility Entrances:

It is an FPCON Charlie requirement that entrances are reduced to one for both entrance and exit. However, it is no longer a requirement to man that single entrance until FPCON Delta. The exceptions to that are facilities that distributes food such as the dining

hall and BX, who would have to man their single entrance in FPCON Charlie and sign in all visitors.

“Plus” Measures:

Although we often talk about “Plus” Measures, you will not find any reference to “Plus” Measures in any AF document. It is simply a layman’s term for additional FPCON Measures that have been added to a FPCON. This gives the Installation Commander the flexibility to adjust the installation’s force protection posture based on the given threat without fully implementing a higher FPCON, which may interfere with our ability to accomplish the mission. So, if you hear the “big giant voice” say “Plus Charlie Measure 4”, that means FPCON measure Charlie 4 has been added to the FPCON in effect.

ATO:

In addition to a Wing Antiterrorism Officer, each section also has a Unit Antiterrorism Officer. Your Unit’s ATO has further localized the FPCON Measures (IAW AFI 10-245) to meet the needs of your section. If you don’t know whom your unit’s ATO is, please ask your supervisor.

A Heart-Breaking Story

By Lt. Col. Wenzell E. Carter, 174th FW, Dental Surgeon



“Hey Joe, did you get your physical done this morning? First Sergeant was really serious about everyone getting it done today!”

“Yeah, yeah, I’m done. Man, that dentist over there is a real pain. All of a sudden, he’s after me just because I don’t have a civilian dentist.” By the way, did you hear about all the people suing that pharmaceutical company over that arthritis medication? I heard a lot of people in their 40’s had heart attacks from taking that stuff.”

“Yeah, I heard about that. You know, you should give the dentist a break. He’s only trying to help us. I was over there last month and he got on my case too. He told me in addition to complying with DoD standards, their was a more important reason he’s after everyone to sign up for or use our existing dental insurance, find a dentist and get a check up at least once a year.”

- “Really? What kind of spin did he give you?”

“It’s not spin. He said if you think that drug company caused a lot of heart attacks, it’s nothing compared to what we do to ourselves! Especially if we smoke or use smokeless tobacco. Need another reason to quit smoking? Smoking is one of the most significant risk factors associated with the development of periodontitis (severe gum disease). Smoking can lower the chances of success of some treatments.”

- “How’s that possible?”

“He told me several theories exist to explain the link

between periodontal (gum) disease and heart disease. One theory is that oral bacteria can affect the heart when they enter the blood stream, attaching to fatty plaques in the coronary arteries (heart blood vessels) and contributing to clot formation. Coronary artery disease causes a thickening of the walls of the coronary arteries due to the buildup of fatty proteins. Blood clots can obstruct normal blood flow, restricting the amount of nutrients and oxygen required for the heart to function properly. This may lead to heart attacks. Researchers have found that people with periodontal disease are almost twice as likely to suffer from coronary artery disease as those without periodontal disease. Periodontal disease can also make existing heart conditions worse.”

- “You’ve got to be kidding me!!”

“No! And guess what else? Studies have pointed to a relationship between periodontal disease and stroke. In one study that looked at the causal relationship of oral infection as a risk factor for stroke, people diagnosed with acute cerebrovascular ischemia (lower blood flow to the brain) were found more likely to have an oral infection when compared to those in the control group.”

“Wow! My grandmother died of a stroke! I better watch it. Is your dentist accepting new patients? Those Medical Group guys are really on the ball. I’ll have to thank them when I turn in my DD Form 2813!”



Different Perspective for the ORI – the Value of Mobilization

By Lt. Col. Carey Merritt, 174FW, EET Team Chief

As the unit makes the final preparations for the ORI and we focus on compliance, we sometimes take for granted the value of being able to mobilize massive amounts of people and equipment to anywhere in the world on short notice. This value has tremendous military significance and when put into the proper perspective, will help every unit member understand why we practice and test the mobilization process extensively. The key here is proper perspective. Confused - think about this! There are three main principles that make our military the best in the world.

1. **Best Technology**- Driven by a strong commitment to Research and Development, and Comprehensive Preventative Maintenance.
2. **Best/Most Realistic Training**- Driven by a Commitment to Maintain high Standards verified through a rigorous Inspection Process (ORI)
3. **Focused Logistics**- Driven by a commitment to be able to take the war machine quickly to any enemy anywhere in the world.

Each principle is equal and interrelated and could be compared to a three-legged chair. Without all three legs, a chair will not stand. A Phase 1 ORI challenges us to demonstrate our ability to live up to the third principle- Focused Logistics. Every one involved with preparing, packing and moving our people, equipment and aircraft have a direct link to this principle. There are many, including myself, who support this principle indirectly. In some way each unit member is vital to this Focused Logistics principle.

When you can relate these principles to your daily job responsibilities, then you have the proper perspective. For example; A maintenance troop preparing an airplane for overseas deployment should always keep in mind the value of their work. Their quality of work ensures that a pilot flying a multi-million dollar piece of hardware many hours over water at 30,000 plus feet will get to its destination. A unit member packing a pallet with hazardous cargo should always remember that their quality of work ensures the safety of an airplane and the crew members that transport that cargo. I could list dozens more examples like this. Our work is much more than dotting I's and Crossing T's. Do you have the right perspective...

The 10 Best Ways for Inspection Participants to Dazzle the IG

Brig. Gen. Mark R. Zamzow, Air Mobility Command, Inspector General

1. **Competence** - Know your job inside and out, and perform those duties to the best of your ability despite the inspection scenario or the inspector's glare.
2. **Responsiveness** – Show that “sense of urgency” during every waking moment; lean forward in those starting blocks and then realistically propel yourself into every activity.
3. **Attitude** – Display a positive attitude, recognize that enthusiasm is contagious, and that problems always arise in the “fog of war” and can be overcome!
4. **Readiness** – Ensure your personal bags are packed, mobility requirements are current, the paperwork/processes in your work section are in perfect order, and you have trained effectively so you can infallibly perform your duties in peace and war!
5. **Aggressiveness** – React authoritatively with Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) skills in attack scenarios and with Self-Aid Buddy Care (SABC) in medical emergencies.
6. **Appearance** – Look people in the eye, pop that sharp salute, and exceed those standards for uniform, boots and hair!
7. **Safety** – Approach duties with a safety-oriented mindset, know when not to press forward on actions because they're unsafe, and apply operational risk management (ORM) techniques to accomplish the mission!
8. **Leadership** – Lead by words and actions, formally and informally by motivating, communicating and setting a positive example
9. **Followership** – Follow taskings and orders quickly and effectively, employ teambuilding skills, and always keep the “objective” in sight!
10. **Pride** – Visibly exude pride in yourself, your unit, your mission and your base: Looking good, feeling good, and being a winner!

Recruiter of the Year Awards at the 174th Fighter Wing

1st Lt. Anthony L. Bucci, 174FW, Public Affairs Officer

Two of our recruiters were recently named “Flying Unit Recruiter of the Year” and “Rookie Recruiter of the Year” respectively for the Air National Guard Region 5.

MSgt Brad Addison won the “Flying Unit Recruiter of the Year” award and TSgt Joe Call won the “Rookie Recruiter of the Year” award and will be honored in April at the ANG national conference and will be presented with a gold recruiting badge.

MSgt Addison has been in the 174th FW for over 10 years, the last five being in the recruiting office. He started his career in personnel before making the switch to recruiting in 1999. “Since the first day I saw a gold badge as a recruiter it immediately became my goal. I live my life by setting goals for myself, once I achieve one of them it’s time to set new ones” said Addison.

TSgt. Call has been in the unit for over seven years, spending the first six in the fuels department. “I was surprised when I was informed that I had won the award. It is one of those things that you shoot for and hope that maybe someday I can get it.” He also said that without his wife’s support his winning this award would not have been possible, “My wife is very supportive of my career, she thinks that recruiting is a great job. She is definitely very happy for me!” said Call.

There are numerous factors within the selection criteria that need to be met in order to win one of these awards. The enlistment quota per month measured overall during the fiscal year, the ANG standard is three per month and 36 for the FY. MSgt. Addison had 52 enlistments, while TSgt. Call bested him with 53 for FY 2004. However, TSgt. Call did say he owes a lot of his success to MSgt. Addison, “MSgt Addison was instrumental in helping me to be a successful recruiter. He literally taught me the ropes; from various call back techniques to navigating through the Air Force Recruiting Information Support System” said Call.

The next factor looks at community involvement, which both recruiters are heavily involved in. They have visited many schools in an attempt to expose area kids to the many opportunities in the ANG. They have participated in Veterans Day ceremonies, while also being present at the annual New York State fair. The selecting committee also looks at what Professional Military Education the candidate has completed. Unit and individual awards are also weighed to help in the selection process.

MSgt. Addison and TSgt. Call are authorized to wear the distinctive gold recruiting badge, which displays their significant achievement. It is a symbol of excellence, dedication and teamwork.

There are four categories for a recruiter to win a gold

badge, they are: “Rookie Recruiter of the Year”, “Flying Unit Recruiter of the Year”, “Office Supervisor of the Year”, and “Recruiting Retention Supervisor of the Year”. The first three categories apply to the each unit’s recruiting section; the last category is open to each state’s Recruiting Retention Superintendent. There is no overall supervisor for a particular region; therefore the highest position is the state’s superintendent. A recruiter has the opportunity to win a gold badge for each of the aforementioned categories if they can.

MSgt. Addison and TSgt. Call now have the opportunity to compete on the national level against all the winners from the five regions to determine who the overall winner is for their respective category. If they win on the national level they are authorized to wear the gold badge for the remainder of their recruiting career to distinguish themselves as top performers within the recruiting field. It is the first time the 174th FW has two award winners from the recruiting section.



L to R: MSgt. Brad Addison and TSgt. Call review enlistment information for potential members of the 174th Fighter Wing, ensuring that all applicants meet the high standards for enlisting in the Air National Guard.

“Working with MSgt. Addison and TSgt. Call is a supervisor’s delight. Both are extremely capable in all aspects of recruiting and go above and beyond the required processes. Dedication and flexibility are paramount in a recruiter’s activities, and both of these NCO’s possess those qualities. Toward the end of FY 04 it was enjoyable to observe the friendly daily rivalry and weekly enlistment comparisons. Their accomplishments in an extremely difficult recruiting environment are especially noteworthy. It is a distinct honor to supervise and work with these two gentlemen and congratulate them for their awards.” said MSgt. Richard Doctor, Recruiting Office Supervisor 174th FW.

“With the recruiting challenges facing the military at the present

time, the 174th is very fortunate to have Brad and Joe performing as they are. Their efforts have achieved national attention not only for themselves, but for the 174th FW as well” said Col. Anthony B. Basile, 174th FW Commander.

Region 5 is made up of New York, New Jersey and the New England States, with New York State being the largest Air National Guard State. This is the first time since 1991 that New York State has won a recruiting award according to SMSgt Dion Adamson, Recruiting and Retention Superintendent for New York State. “Based on the Operations Tempo and what is going on in the world it has been tough on all the services regarding recruiting. However it is nice to see these two professionals excel, but also as important are all the other things they did within the recruiting environment that made them worthy of this award” said Adamson.



Awards and Decorations

By SMSgt Joseph F. Gianetto, 174FW, Assistant Chief Maintenance Operations Flight

The awards and decorations program can be an invaluable tool for supervisors and commanders because it provides positive reinforcement for exceptional performance. It can also go a long way in encouraging others to excel. Everyone, whether they are willing to admit it, likes to receive recognition for the exceeding standards and making things happen. Let's face it; we all like to get those "warm fuzzies."

In my last article, I mentioned that there would be information presented on the various awards we are eligible for. In this article we'll talk about two awards, the Air Force Overseas Service Long Tour Ribbon and the Air Force Overseas Service Short Tour Ribbon.

The Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon (AFOSR) is awarded to Air Force members who have been credited with an overseas tour, and is considered a "Military Service Award." There are two types of overseas service ribbons, the "Short" tour and "Long" tour ribbons. Generally, the short tour ribbon is awarded for overseas service between 180 days to 12-months at an overseas location. The long tour ribbon is awarded for overseas service over 12-months at an overseas location.

These are the basic eligibility requirements for the overseas service. You might say to yourself; "If you have to have a minimum of 180-days to receive the short tour ribbon, why should this concern me? I'll never be eligible for the award as a member of the Air National Guard. We don't deploy overseas

long enough to qualify for the award." Not true!

In a joint effort between the Air National Guard Readiness Center (ANGRC) and the Enlisted Field Advisory Council (EFAC), an exception to the 180-day tour length was made for ANG personnel. This special guidance is outlined in an ANGR message dated 26 September 2000.

The message states that, "ANG members can now qualify for the award of the Air Force Overseas Service Short Tour Ribbon by performing 90 or more consecutive, or accumulated days overseas in a deployed or TDY status in any three-year period after 1 January 1995."

A member may qualify only once, (initial or subsequent awards), in any three-year period. Subsequent awards of the overseas ribbon will be based on a rolling three-year window. Qualifying duty may not be double counted. Let's show an example of a qualifying period of service. Since 1995, our unit has deployed to Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, as well as Norway. Let's say you deployed to Saudi Arabia for 45-days in 2000, and 45-days in 2001, for a total of 90 accumulated days in a three-year period. You would qualify for the award of the short tour ribbon.

You as the member must provide supporting documentation that you meet the eligibility requirements for the award. If you think you are eligible for the Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, or have any questions pertaining to this service award, contact the Wing Awards and Decorations section at extension 496, or contact your unit awards monitor. Next month, we'll talk about the New York State Long and Faithful Service Award.

Scholarships for Military Children Program Enters Fifth Anniversary Year

By Bonnie Powell, Defense Commissary Agency

The fifth year of Scholarships for Military Children is now underway. Administered by Fisher House Foundation and funded by the manufacturers and industry supporting commissaries, the program has awarded over \$3 million through nearly 2,000 scholarships to the sons and daughters of active duty service members, Guard and Reserve members, and military retirees.

"The Scholarships for Military Children Program has become a major community event for commissaries since its inception five years ago," said Patrick B. Nixon, Chief Executive Officer for the Defense Commissary Agency. "The program awarded 500 scholarships in 2004 and ceremonies were held in commissaries worldwide in honor of these outstanding students. The industry members who support this program should be proud – and we hope the fifth anniversary year will be the best yet!"

Applications for the 2005 program are available at commissaries or online at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. A link to the program will be on <http://www.commissaries.com>, the DeCA Web site. Eligibility and other information are also available at the program Web site. Applications, which must include an essay on how the

heightened awareness of terrorism has impacted the student's life, are due at commissaries Feb. 16, 2005. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database.

Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2005, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

The scholarship program can also accept public donations at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

COI – Center of Influence

By MSgt Heidi A. Grosser, I74FW, Recruiter



On the 24th of November, the Recruiting and Retention office held a COI – Center of Influence event on the base. A COI is designed to inform anyone who has influence over high school and college aged students of the opportunities and benefits available in the Air National Guard. This includes H.S. Guidance Counselors, Teachers, Principals and Administrators.

The day started at 0800 in the 174th Wing Conference Room with briefings from Col. Basile and Commanders from the 152nd, 274th, and NEADS. Representatives from MEPS and Columbia College were also there to speak to the attendees. Attendees for this COI included representatives from Henniger, Tully, ES-M, and Paul V. Moore High Schools, as well as, OCM Boces, the Huntington Family Center and Onondaga Community College.

After the morning briefings, the attendees were taken on a base tour and ended the day at the Barbara Aronson Community

Relations Luncheon where Mr. James A. Kadamus, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Education was the guest speaker.

According to the surveys collected from the attendees, the COI was a huge success! Answers to what they liked most include: “going out and touring the different buildings and getting a hands on idea of the base”; “open format was good for questions”; “the presentations in the morning were excellent – very informative!”

The Recruiting and Retention Office is planning another COI event in March 2005. If you know any “influential” people you think would like to attend, please contact us and we will add them to our invitation list!

Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) Section

By 2nd Lt. James Hockey, I74FW, MEO Officer

I would like to take this opportunity to hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Holiday season. I know the tempo at the 174th has been, and will be, hectic but I would like to take this time to introduce the Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) Section to all of you.

Within the last year, our MEO office has seen a complete turnover in personnel. Within our walls, you will now find: 2Lt Gary Richardson (Training and Education), SSgt Kristina Rowe (Drug Testing, Training and Education Support), and myself. Our office is located in building 174, down the same hall as our Chaplain and Legal offices. Feel free to stop by or be on the lookout for us as we get our faces out to the masses. Now that you know who and where we are, let me explain briefly what we do.

The MEO office is responsible for Human Relations training of all base personnel along with the 274th, 152nd, NEADS, and any

assigned base personnel from other units or military branches. This training consists of Prevention of Sexual Harassment, Newcomers Orientation, and Key Personnel Briefings. Along with training, the MEO section is the initial point of contact for any allegations of discrimination of Title VI protections. These protections include discrimination based on race, color, religion, National Origin, and gender. We are also Subject Matter experts on the Complaint Process within the Air National Guard.

You will soon (if not already) be seeing our POC posters in your respective areas along with the 174th FW policies on discrimination, sexual harassment, and violence in the workplace. We want to ensure to everyone you will find sincere and dedicated personnel in your MEO office and we look forward to starting our MEO careers working with all of you.



(From L to R) SFC. Eric Quigley and SSG Todd Draper from Alpha the 108th Infantry Battalion in Batavia are presented with a plaque of a 174th FW tail flash on behalf of the Chief's Council in “Appreciation for their Commitment for their Outstanding support from February 2003 to November 2004” from CMSgt. Kenneth Potter, Chief's Council, as MSgt. Joel Graham, 174th FW Security Forces Squadron Operations Superintendent looks on.



(From L to R) SFC. Eric Quigley receives a backpack from Ms. Darlene Greibel, Hancock Field ANGB Base Exchange Manager for “all the support they gave to the BX during the relocation process into their newly opened facility”, as SSG. Timothy Reaska looks on.

All Services Club Update

The new club construction is coming along despite the very busy schedule everyone has getting ready for the January, Operational Readiness Inspection. At this point we have worked the drawings/plans to the point of waiting for approval from CE and the Fire Department. With preliminary plans complete we have ordered most of the items to get the new cooler started to include; cooler glass doors, cooler entry door, cooler working (fridge type door), along with a new tap system and the cooling unit. We also have plans for a security screen that will be installed on the bar to separate the common room from the working bar. We are presently working with the base to coordinate a color scheme, along with tables, chair's and stage and communications system to include TV's and a comm. system for commander's calls and entertainment.

TAX YEAR 2004 W-2 INFORMATION:

Civilian employees will automatically receive a mailed copy unless they request "electronic only" by changing the setting in MyPay NLT 1 Dec 04. Any change you may have made last year is still in effect.

Civilian W-2s will be available on MyPay on 6 Jan 05.

Civilian W-2s will be mailed out NLT 14 Jan 05.

If you have an active MyPay account, W-2s won't be mailed unless you change the setting in MyPay NLT 1 Dec 04. Any change you may have made last year is still in effect.

AGR W-2s will be available on MyPay on 10 Jan 05.

AGR W-2s will be mailed out NLT 24 Jan 05.

If you have an active MyPay account, W-2s won't be mailed unless you change the setting in MyPay NLT 1 Dec 04. Any change you may have made last year is still in effect.

Guardsmen W-2s will be available on MyPay on 27 Dec 04.

Guardsmen W-2s will be mailed out NLT 5 Jan 05.

You can visit MyPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>. More information on W-2s is posted on the website.

Civilian Employment Information (CEI) Program

The purpose of this program is to capture member's civilian employers and the addresses of those employers. This is a mandatory DoD requirement that must be implemented ASAP. (Per All States Log Letter P04-0013 21 Sep 04)

All guardsmen (AGR's do not need to put in military employer) must sign on to the following website and complete the information requested:

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/esgr/index.jsp>

Proof of completion must be given to unit commanders. Requirement is 75% complete by 31 December 2004. This is a permanent program and must be updated each time the employer information changes.

Programs Available For Supporting the Troops

As reported in the last "AFA Update", DoD recently asked the public to be conscious of the strain that is often placed on the military postal system, especially during the holidays, and to refrain from sending unsolicited packages to military personnel deployed to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. DoD does, however, list some resources on their website, http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html <<http://www.memberconnections.com/links/link.cgi?32795|3317793|AFC-20041201144314>>. While the Department of Defense does not endorse organizations, a DOD official said that the groups listed on this website are checked routinely to make sure they are doing what they say they are. There are many groups offering many ways to show deployed troops that yes, "America Supports You!" We highlight a few here:

"Sending Care Packages to "Any Soldier in Harm's Way" AnySoldier.Com has put together a "work-around" to the DOD guidelines which DOD has acknowledged and mentioned on their own website. "AnySoldier.com" has volunteer airmen, soldiers, marines and sailors in Iraq and Afghanistan who will accept packages addressed to them and will then distribute the needed items to the troops in their area for full details of the program www.anysoldier.com.

Army and Air Force Exchange has two programs that can send some comfort and joy to the troops:

"Gifts from the Homefront" - Send a \$10 or \$20 personalized gift certificate that military men and women can use just like cash to buy personal comfort items specific to their own needs like toiletries, food, CDs, DVDs, electronic games, and much more. You can choose to have the gift certificate mailed directly to a specific service member or donate to "any service member or unit". For more information <http://www.aafes.com/docs/homefront.htm>

"Help our Troops Call Home" - Help deployed troops call home for the holidays from one of AAFES' 60 call centers in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. A phone call home can bring peace of mind to deployed men and women. Donate a telephone calling card to troops today to help them stay connected from the front lines to the homefront. For details <https://thor.aafes.com/scs/default.aspx>

The USO—The USO also runs a program for deployed troops to call home. "Operation Phone Home," uses donations to buy international phone cards in bulk for distribution to deployed troops. For information on the USA Phone Home Calling Card program http://www.uso.org/pubs/8_20_2733.cfm. For other ways to support our troops through the USO http://www.uso.org/pubs/8_18_53.cfm.

U.S. Postal Service Offers Free Shipping Materials for Military Families—The U.S. Postal Service is helping make things a little easier for military families by offering a special kit for military families which includes 10 boxes, 10 customs forms with envelopes, 10 "Mili-Pac" shipping envelopes which are specially printed for military mailing addresses and a roll of priority mail tape. To order the free kit, call 1-800-610-8734 and request Care Kit 4 or fax your request to 1-800-270-6233. The kit will be mailed to you via Priority Mail and delivery is usually within a couple of days.

Happy New Year...can you believe it's 2005! It seems like something from a Flash Gordon movie but its real life. I reported last month that we wouldn't have a January EnGarde but the staff decided to have one after all, so we're off and running.

Our Alumni Thanksgiving Dinner was a great success! We had 135 people attend. Our thanks to Col. Anthony B. Basile and his lovely wife Carol for taking the time from their very busy schedule to help us celebrate. We also enjoyed the professionalism of the Base Honor Guard as they presented the Colors and the solemnity of the POW/MIA ceremony. Never to forget the sacrifices that they and their families have made to ensure that we continue to enjoy these experiences. Chaplain Whiting gave the warm benediction for our evening to begin. Background music was provided by JR's Entertainment.



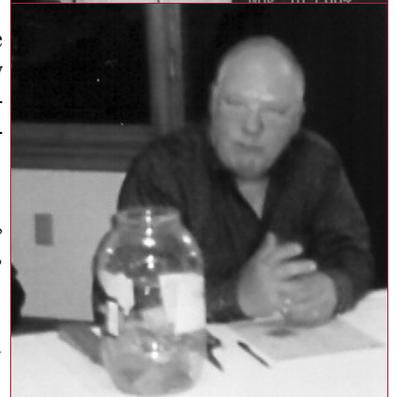
We did really great on collecting the new toys that were donated to the Chaplain's Office at Ft. Drum. In fact, I had a SUV full! Talk about feeling like Santa...oh yeah! My car was packed to the brim; I almost had to take two cars. Thank you everyone for your gracious generosity.



The major raffle, the TV/DVD player was won by Dick Woods. We had two winners on the 50/50 Raffle of \$88.00 each; they were Alice Gratzer and Jack O'Hara. Twenty 15-17 lbs. turkeys were given away also.



Chuck Johnson of A Catered Affair, who is also affiliated with the Cicero American Legion, catered dinner. Food was hot and tasty and there was plenty for seconds. He did a great job and continually asked if he could do more. So when you see him, please extend your appreciation.



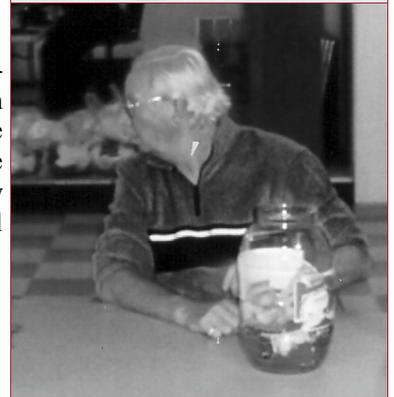
A special thank you to Vince Coon, Dick Brady, Gary Berberich, John McNamara and Floyd Dufore for handling the raffle tickets, door entry, and purchasing turkeys etc.

It was a wonderful time for reminiscing and seeing old friends.... next year let's see even more!



TAPS:

Boycheck, Catherine, Capt. (Ret.), passed away on Thursday, December 2, 2004. Capt. (Ret.) Boycheck was a Registered Nurse in the 174TFW Medical Squadron. She was activated during the Phalsbourg, France call up and retired after thirty years with the Veteran's Administration hospital in Syracuse. She is survived by her daughter and son. Condolences may be sent to 164 Forest Hill Dr, Syracuse, NY 13206.



Next Meeting is January 20th at the All Services Club, start time is 7:00 pm sharp.



Alumni Assn Thanksgiving Dinner 2004

OPSEC

Operation SECURITY

The Enemy is Listening

He wants to know what you know!



Keep it to Yourself

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PRI: MAJOR CHRIS MCDONALD X231

ALT: 1ST LT. ANTHONY BUCCI X651

DUTY SECTION OPSEC MANAGER:

PRI: _____

ALT: _____

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