

The **JET** GAZETTE



141st Air Refueling Wing

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Web Edition

The Newspaper of the 141st Air Refueling Wing • WA ANG • Fairchild AFB
Serving Air Guard Members and their families in Eastern Washington

Wings train as a team

Capt. Larry Kohlman
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

A simulated environment of in-coming missiles, mortar attacks, sniper fire, suicide bombers and a few car bombings enveloped the atmosphere for more than 500 airmen from Fairchild AFB that deployed in January to Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Michigan in support of the Inspector General Exercise, Thunderbolt 09-03.

Airmen from the 92nd Air Refueling Wing and Guardsmen from the 141st ARW came together to form the 903rd Air Expeditionary Wing to practice for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection that will begin March 22, 2009.

These types of inspections demonstrate both wings abilities to deploy to an austere environment, sustain operational capabilities while surviving an attack and then to redeploy to home station. The ORI is one of the tools that the Air Mobility Command Inspector General uses to assess the operational capabilities of wings within the command.

The skills that airmen practiced and honed during the exercise will be the same skills that will be inspected for the ORI.

"Airmen can expect similar scenarios during the ORI," said Lt. Col. Marc Jones, 141st ARW Chief of Plans and Programs. "Preparation is the key to success. I encourage everyone to read through the ground rules, simulations, and read files."

The March Unit Training Assembly may be the last opportunity many Guardsmen will have to prepare for the ORI. Guardsmen that would like additional training beyond the UTA may attend refresher classes hosted by the 92nd ARW. Training will be held in Hangar 2050 on Fridays during the months of February and



Chief Master Sgt. Tim Flock, 141st ARW Deployed Forces Command Chief, and Chief Master Sgt. Dan Wells, 92nd ARW Deployed Forces Command Chief is being interviewed by Senior Airman Kali Gradishar, 92nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs, about their roles in the recent exercise. (Photo by Senior Airman Joshua Chapman, 92nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

March prior to the ORI. Two training sessions per day will be offered, one at 8:00 a.m. and another at 1:00 p.m. Uniform of the day is Mission Oriented Protective Posture, Level 2.

The 141st Civil Engineering Squadron is one unit that has been in a continual state of preparedness throughout the last three years. "As a squadron, we have gone through more inspections than many other units since the ORI in 2006," said Capt. Jason Kesler, 141st ARW Design Engineer.

"You need to maintain a positive attitude and know your Airman's Manual," said Capt. Kesler. "The type of inputs will be similar; however, during the inspection when you're not busy you can expect an inspector to be there asking you questions about buddy care, first aid or even the proper way to drink from your canteen in MOPP gear."

Beyond the simulated enemy during the IGX the real world adversary was the sub-zero temperatures. "Slips, trips and falls were the common denominator for both wings," said Lt. Col. Dave Kimpel, 141st ARW safety officer. "As a wing we did a good job staying safe considering the extreme temperatures."

"Although we will not have the extreme weather like we did in January, we need to make sure that we continue to effectively communicate safety issues during shift changes," said Lt. Col. Kimpel. "Operational Risk Mediation will be an item of interest during the ORI."

The legacy of an evaluation of excellence from the last Operational Readiness Inspection in April 2006 will be the challenge for the airmen of the 141st ARW to uphold for the upcoming ORI.



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The *Jet Gazette* welcomes articles and ideas that will enhance the paper. If you have suggestions for features or specific articles, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 247-7041/7042 on UTA weekends.

MISSION

The mission of the *Jet Gazette* is to effectively communicate events and information of the 141st Air Refueling Wing to unit members, their families and retirees and to recognize personal and unit achievements within the wing.

Notes from the Top

OK, I admit I like winter, but the record snow fall has me thinking about Spring! Some of you may not be aware that the governor declared a snow emergency and we sent crews out with our industrial snow blowers to clear roads (again). This time they cleared about 250 miles of roads around Spangle and north of Fairchild. When one crew arrived on scene, a resident let them know he hadn't seen any people for three days. He was happy to finally have a way in and out of his house. Shortly after that, we activated 100 Army Guardsmen and 100 Air Guardsmen to clear snow off several schools in the area. These two operations were a huge success and again showed our capabilities to respond to the needs of the governor and citizens of Washington. Closer to home, we had difficulties with structures on base. If you have time, drive by what was Outdoor Recreation and see where the roof collapsed. We have similar structures, but due to the quick reaction of our members, we discovered problems early and mitigated them. The most visible example is the shoring our CERFP members created in Bldg 2001 to support a cracked roof truss. The problem was discovered on a Friday and early Saturday morning CE had 38 members shoring up the building and reducing the snow load. This effort no doubt saved the building and its contents from further damage. Thanks to all who responded so quickly to all the needs this weather required.

As if we weren't cold enough, we sent folks to Alpena, Michigan for the IGX. Though extremely challenging, some very good training was accomplished. Kudos to all who acted as safety observers, because of your diligence we only had a few minor injuries while working in extremely austere conditions. Now is the time to sprint toward the finish of the ORI. Study your Airman's Manual and be prepared. Before you know it, we'll be past the inspection and focused on our next task.

I also want you all to be aware that we are studying a great many facility moves. There are a huge number of variables in these decisions, so not every aspect of every move can be discussed in depth. We'll try to keep you all informed, but some moves will happen quickly, so if you miss a drill or two, you may come back to different offices! We are trying to posture the base for KC-X consideration, move the GSUs as required by BRAC, eliminate old facilities with snow damage, and ACC is considering bringing a new mission to Fairchild. As I said, there are a lot of variables!

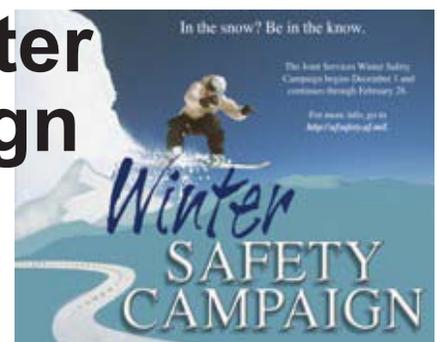
We are making great strides in our association with the 92nd and continue to have very high visibility. Many generals continue to visit, because we are shaping the future of the Total Force. I keep reminding them how many missions we're involved in while we figure out the new association. It's truly remarkable and a testament to your talents. Keep up the good work, and thanks again for all you do.

Thanks for coming out - *Col. B*



2009 Joint Winter Safety Campaign

The Joint Winter Safety Campaign has entered week 13 and the Air Force has lost five wingmen to personal motor vehicle mishaps and one to on-duty PT. So far, the Air Force has lost fewer wingmen this year than in each of the previous 2 years. Please continue to keep up the vigilance in preventing mishaps!



Washington Guard leadership looks ahead

*Lt. Col. Nancy Reid Isaak
141st Air Refueling Wing Community Manager*

Maj. Gen. Lowenberg, the adjutant general and many distinguished visitors from state headquarters spent time with the 141st Air Refueling Wing during February UTA. They visited work centers to meet and greet Guard members and had a working lunch with leaders from the 141st to discuss Total Force Integration and the Association between the 92nd ARW and the 141st ARW.

Gen. Lowenberg told Guard commanders that the association forming at Fairchild AFB is also symbolic of the changes of the Air National Guard at the national level. Looking at a map of Fairchild with a red line drawn



Above: Leaders pose with members of the snow team in front of the snow blower used during the state emergency.

Left: Gen. Lowenberg greets members of 141st Mission Support Group. (Photos by Staff Sergeant Anthony Ennamorato, 141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

around the ANG campus, the general said that the footprint must change. “The Air National Guard is no longer a separate entity in the military, standing alone by itself.” The moves of the National Guard to joint use facilities on Fairchild will “spread the DNA of the Air National Guard throughout Fairchild AFB.”

The visitors included the following: Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg, the adju-

tant general; Brig. Gen. Gary T. Magonigle, commander, HQ WA ANG; Brig. Gen. Craig W. Blankenstein, vice commander of the WA ANG; Col. Brian Dravis, commander, 194 RSW; Col. Paul Gruver, commander, Western Air Defense Sector (WADS); Col. Ed Piecek, director of staff, WA ANG; Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Haley, command chief, WA ANG.

New Air Guard director promoted in Pentagon ceremony

*by Army Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau*

Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III became director of the Air National Guard and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general in a ceremony held Feb. 2 at the Pentagon.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, pinned General Wyatt’s three stars on his shoulders and congratulated him on his new position.

General Wyatt, who previously served as the adjutant general of the Oklahoma National Guard, was nominated in December by then President George W. Bush to the U.S. Senate for confirmation as the director of the Air National Guard. General Wyatt succeeds General McKinley, who served as the Air Guard’s director for more than two years until becoming chief on Nov. 17, 2008.

In this position, General Wyatt will be responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, plans and programs affecting more than 106,800 Air Guard members in more than 88 flying wings and 200 geographically separated units throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

“This is a special day for members of the Air National Guard,” General McKinley said.

He added that among the current adjutants general, General Wyatt was often the go-to person on many issues affecting the Air Guard.

General Wyatt, who also served as commander of the 138th Fighter Wing in Tulsa and as the Oklahoma Guard’s chief of staff for its Joint Force Headquarters. He entered the Air Force in 1971 and has flown aircraft such as the F-100 Super Sabre and the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

“I’m actually just Bud from Oklahoma,” he said after receiving his third star. “I’m humbled to be here, and ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work.”



Gen. Norton Schwartz (left) and Gen. Craig R. McKinley (right) pin lieutenant general stars on Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III during a Feb. 2 ceremony at the Pentagon. General Schwartz is the Air Force chief of staff, and General McKinley is the chief of the National Guard Bureau. General Wyatt was named the director of the Air National Guard, and previously served as the adjutant general of the Oklahoma National Guard. (U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy)

Washington Air National Guard holds remembrance of KC-135 crash

*Lt. Col. Nancy Reid Isaak
141st Air Refueling Wing Community Manager*

A decade has passed since the crash of ESSO 77, aircraft #1452 in Geilenkirchen AB, Germany. On Jan. 13, 2009 the 141st Air Refueling Wing held a remembrance ceremony to honor the crew: pilots Maj. David Fite and Capt. Kenneth Thiele; navigator Maj. Matthew Laiho and boom operator Tech. Sgt. Richard Visintainer.

Family members came from all directions to attend the memorial ceremony. Despite extreme weather conditions, family, friends and many retired Guardsmen attended the private ceremony. "Whether related by blood, marriage or common uniform, we are all better for having known the crew of ESSO 77," said Col. Greg Bulkley, commander 141st ARW. Col. Bulkley's remarks were a part of the remembrance ceremony.

The ceremony started at the Air National Guard memorial, Patriot Blvd., Fairchild AFB. The memorial was first dedicated in Oct. 2002, and stands as a continual reminder of the crew of ESSO 77 and all Washington Air National Guard members who gave their lives in service to the state and nation.

The flag was lowered at the stroke of 1140 Pacific Standard Time for a moment of silence. Family representatives laid a red, white and blue wreath at the ESSO 77 monolith.

The ceremony continued indoors with each family lighting a candle of remembrance for the life of their loved one. Mrs. Kay Fite mouthed the words – "thank you" to the assembled group. Mrs. Michelle Thiele helped Joshua light the candle for his father whom he never met, (Michelle was pregnant in 1999). The Laiho family including Matt's mother, brothers, sister, wife and sons paid their tribute. The Visintainer family continued the legacy, with Rich's 4 and 5 year-old grandchildren lighting his remembrance candle.

"Ten years ago today we were all forced to face a tragic truth and reach deep within ourselves in search of some lesson we were assuredly supposed to learn. I have no doubt we all changed that day as the call sign ESSO 77 was indelibly etched in our memories and forever attached to the image of our four comrades," Col. Bulkley said.

Concluding the ceremony with the benediction, Chaplain Beseler prayed, "We thank you for the memories that comfort our souls." The subsequent reception was filled with hugs and tears and smiles and laughs; the "comforting memories" of which the chaplain spoke.



Joshua Thiele, son of ESSO 77 pilot Ken Thiele, takes a "test ride" in a KC-135R during a tour after the memorial ceremony.



The families continued the day with a lunch at Club Fairchild and a tour of a KC-135. Mrs. Michelle Thiele said that the KC-135 tour meant so much to Joshua, "...It helps lay the foundation of learning who is father was and what he did for a living. Ken was very passionate about flying and one thing I can't pass on to him. Joshua very much enjoyed exploring the tanker..."

Each family expressed gratitude to the unit for the day of remembrance. Rocky Visintainer said, "It was special and I am glad my family and I were able to be there. Thank you for keeping my dad's memory alive."



141st ARW members and families gather to remember the victims of the Geilenkirchen crash. A memorial service was held on the 10th anniversary. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mike Stewart, 141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

Total Force Service Center (TFSC) Toll Free Number

In an effort to better serve Airmen, a Total Force shared 800 number launches for all centralized personnel actions beginning in February, providing a single point of access for all customer calls. The Total Force Service Center (TFSC) number for all Airmen, regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve's military and civilian Airmen, will be **800-525-0102**. It will replace the Air Force Customer Service Center phone number (800-616-3775) on Feb. 22 at 1700 Central Standard Time.

Total Force Service Center (TFSC) is the new term for the virtual connection of the AFPC (San Antonio) and ARPC (Denver) centers to provide Airmen seamless access to personnel information, services, and tools via the Internet, telephone or e-mail. TFSC, a component of the Personnel Services Delivery Transformation, simplifies the process for Airmen to navigate through the personnel centers and get the personnel answers they need, and ensures all Airmen continue to receive quality personnel services.

Washington Guard battles Spokane snow

Lt. Col. Nancy Reid Isaak
141st Air Refueling Wing Community Manager

Christmas Eve in Spokane, Washington was reminiscent of the holiday story where the blizzard was so bad that Santa called on Rudolph to lead the way. It wasn't Santa, but Washington State Governor Chris Gregoire that called the team with an Emergency Proclamation. The snow crew teams of the 141st Air Refueling Wing, Washington Air National Guard, sprang into action.

A record 61.5 inches of snow fell in Spokane in December compared with an average of 48 inches for an entire winter season. It didn't start snowing until the week before Christmas! After the first four feet of snow arrived, the wind picked up with gusts of over 50 mph, keeping county plows busy clearing main arterials and emergency routes.

While people all over the country were doing their last-minute holiday shopping for gifts, the quick accumulation of snow closed Spokane's roads and parking lots. Shopping malls eager for the holiday rush, had to close their doors. Airline cancellations ruined many holiday travel plans.

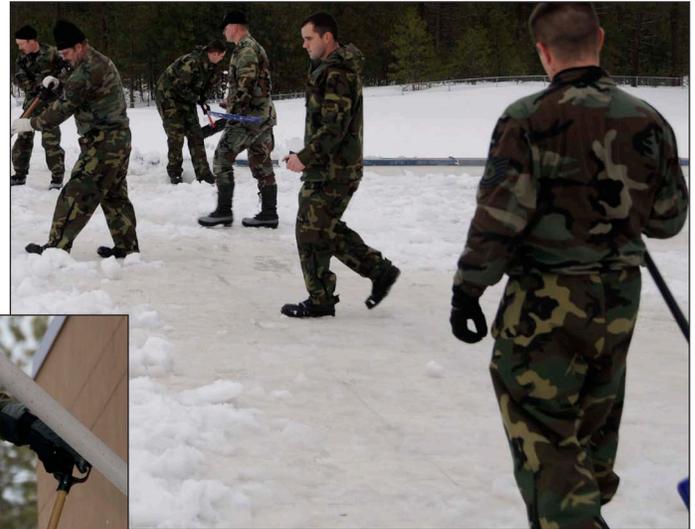
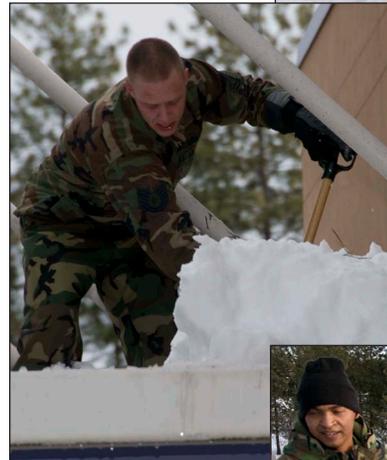
On Dec. 29 two teams of Air National Guardsmen using industrial snow blowers, started working with Spokane County officials to clear area roads for Operation Snow Blow... AND THEN the roofs started Collapsing.

After ringing in the New Year, the focus shifted from the sidewalks to the roofs. Flat-roofed buildings were the biggest concern and 15 area roofs had Collapsed from the weight of snow. Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich recommended that schools remain closed after the holidays due to the hazardous snow conditions.

With the Governor's proclamation authorizing the adjutant general to use National Guard resources, the new snow mission was focused on the roof tops. Nearly 200 Guardsmen, 100 Army and 100 Air, were called up to shovel snow from school roofs for Operation Snow Removal.

"We would like to thank the Governor and her staff for granting this assistance," said Sheriff Knezovich. "We have broken nearly every snow record imaginable in the series of storms we have seen in the last three weeks. Our community needs this help."

School teachers and superintendents ap-



(Photos above and at left by Tech. Sgt. Mike Stewart, 141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

At the height the Washington National Guard's statewide efforts, about 540 citizen soldiers and airmen were on state active duty battling floods or snow, including members of the 141st ARW, 242CBCS and 256CBCS. (Photo at right by Lt. Col. Nancy Reid Isaak)



preciated the help. Dr. Pam Veltri, superintendent of Medical Lake School District, thanked Guardsmen for shoveling out Michael Anderson Elementary School, "We are so thankful that the Guard is able to help us, it's really a wonderful resource."

A custodian at Deer Park High School, Patrick Hartnett, was thrilled to have the help. Hartnett, a retired Army soldier, commented, "It's great to see the military here and they have a great attitude and strong work ethic."

Senior Master Sgt. Wayne Deist, 141st MXS, stated, "We have a mix of technicians and traditionalists out here. Quite a few of them live right here in this area and they have kids that go to this school, so it's a pleasure for them to help out in their own community."

Traditional Guardsman Staff Sgt. Joshua Oliver's civilian job is at ARC Electric. He said that his employer is very supportive of the

Guard. "They appreciate everything we do out here for the community and the world."

Senior Airman Ryan Fitzpatrick has been with the Guard for a year after spending four years on active duty. "The state mission is a little different. I'm more used to working the line and that's strictly all I would ever do, but the state mission is something that I take pride in. I went to school in this area and I have lots of family, so I'm glad to be out here helping."

Maj. Casey McGinn, 242 CBCS commander, said, "It's part of what we do, supporting both state and federal missions. Morale is great and we're happy to be here digging Deer Park out of the snow." When asked if it was hard work for the shovelers, he said with a grin, "It's going to be an ibuprofen night."

Free tax preparation resources for military personnel

There are several options for military personnel to file their 2008 taxes for free.

Most military installations have a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) office. Marines, Airmen, soldiers, sailors, and Guardsmen, and their families worldwide receive free tax preparation assistance at offices within their installations. These VITA sites provide free tax advice, tax preparation, and assistance to military members and their families. They are trained and equipped to address military specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits and the effect of the new Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) guidelines. The military tax programs generated over 287,644 electronic 2006 federal income tax returns.

If you prefer to do your taxes yourself, there are several options to e-file your taxes online.

Militaryonesource.com offers free tax consultations and free e-filing for active duty, Guard, Reserve and their family members.

Taxslayer.com offers free e-filing for active duty military personnel who use taxslayer.com classic. The Defense Department considers active duty military for the 2008 Tax Year to be those personnel whose W2's contain one of 12 EINs. The EIN (Employer ID Number) is the number in Box 'b' of the W2 form. Reserve and National Guard personnel who are classified as permanent 'Active Duty' by the Defense Department will have a W2 containing one of

these EIN's. This offer applies to those active duty military personnel who received a 2008 W-2 form.

TurboTax Freedom Edition offers free online federal tax preparation and e-filing for active duty, reservists and National Guard personnel. Individuals may also for free state tax filing. To qualify, you must have a 2008 W-2 form from the military and have earned an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$56,000 or less.

IRS Free File is available to taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of \$56,000 or less in 2008.

Spokane Chiefs hold military appreciation night

Col. Robert Thomas, 92nd Air Refueling Wing commander Fairchild Air Force Base, and Jamie Ripplinger, Representative from Coca Cola, look on as Col. Gregory Bulkley, 141st Air Refueling Wing Air National Guard commander Fairchild Air Force Base, dropped the ceremonial first puck to begin the game between the Spokane Chiefs and Kooteney Ice from British Columbia, Canada, at the Spokane Arena Jan. 31. The Chiefs won the game 6-0 and took home the Championship Cup.

*(U.S. Air Force photo/
Airman 1st Class Melissa L. Barnett)*



2009 NGAW Conference

20-21 March 2009

CenterPlace
2426 N. Discovery Place
Spokane Valley, WA 99216
Business Sessions; Town Hall Meeting
with Maj Gen. Lowenberg
Brig Gen. Toney and Brig. Gen. Magonigle

Dinner and Scholarship Auction

<http://www.ngaw.org/Conferences/2009%20NGAW%20Conf%20Info/2009%20Conf.htm>



CALLING ALL FORMER MEMBERS OF THE 105TH TCS

Col (r) Glenn Rice and Col (r) Jerry Baltzell would like to know if you're interested in having a reunion.

Please contact Jerry Baltzell by email if you're interested in attending or to help plan a reunion.

jbbaltzell@verizon.net





Members of the team are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Steve Haxton, 141st AMXS | Wendi McLean, 141st MDG |
| Jennifer Lundberg, 141st ARW | Robert Shaw, 141st MDG |
| John Gannon, 141st MDG | Rod Cosgrove, 141st MOF |
| Tim England, 141st AMXS | Dawn Tallman, 116 ARS |
| Doug Klugman, 141st AMXS | Rob Taylor, 141st CF |
| Mary Thomas, 141st ARW | Don Lemons, 256 CBCS |
| Andrea Jonckers, 141st MDG | John Borek, 116 ARS |
| Steven Durrance, 141st ARW | Dave Ford, 141st MXS |
| Mahleenee Wright, 141st MDG | Ann Beyer, 141st MDG |

(Photo by Mr. Bob Tipton)

Peer support group introduced

Mary Thomas
141st Air Refueling Wing Family Support

The first 141st Air Refueling Wing Peer Support class was held in February. This group consisted of Guard members who have volunteered to receive training on how to assist fellow airmen. “We have a well-rounded group that is dedicated to help,” said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lundberg, 141st ARW finance office.

The concept of “Peer Support” began in the early 1980’s for Law Enforcement. The idea was to provide a program for law enforcement officers that allowed them to identify emotional problems such as depression or relationship

issues, before they became too serious.

Members of the law enforcement community have traditionally avoided using counseling or psychological services. Law enforcement officers believe that people outside of law enforcement cannot understand their issues. They also fear consequences such as a negative stigma or not receiving promotions for using mental health services.

Air Guard members and Reservists have many similar issues to law enforcement: a unique job, often times hazardous, that takes him or her away from home, and possibly into harm’s way.

Tom Stebbins trained the group and is the Peer Support Director. He is a clinical social worker with over 30 years of experience with military members and their families. He is developing our support team with skills in recognizing and providing support in the area of stress, suicide, and life problems. These issues can be resolved or referred before there is a build up of negative emotions and responses such as fighting, abusing alcohol, marital conflict or suicide. By having strong peer support, many symptoms of post-traumatic stress can be alleviated or reduced.



ESGR is planning a breakfast for your boss

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is planning a breakfast to honor area employers of Guard/Reserve members.

This will be a great opportunity to say thank you to civilian employers for supporting your military service!

The breakfast is scheduled for April 24 at the Spokane Convention Center.

If you would like your civilian employer to be invited to this free event, please complete the nomination form and fax or e-mail it to Lt. Col. Reid Isaak at: nancy.reid@wafair.ang.af.mil or fax 247-7002.



Seattle Seahawks sign a Statement of Support to the Guard and Reserves

Matt Hasselback, Seahawk quarterback; Jim Shepherd, WA ESGR State Chair; Mike Flood, Seahawks VP; Bryon Burgess, WA ESGR Executive Director; Ken Isaak, WA ESGR East Area Chairperson.