

The JET GAZETTE



141st Air Refueling Wing

Volume 47 Issue 3 - June 2009

Bi-Monthly Edition

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

Major General Lowenberg serves as Grand Marshal for Lilac Festival

by Capt. Sandy Smock
141st ARW Public Affairs

The city of Spokane's patriotic red, white and blue turns a light shade of purple during the third week of May while the Lilac Festival and all the patriotic events highlighting Armed Forces Day occur. The Spokane Lilac Festival honors all military members and has hosted the largest Armed Forces Torchlight Parade in the nation for over 70 years. The 141st Air Refueling Wing, located at Fairchild Air Force Base, was especially spotlighted as the Washington Air National Guard celebrates its 85th Anniversary this year.

The Wing received federal recognition August 6, 1924, as the 116th Observation Squadron, and has a rich history of flying various types of aircraft while adapting to new locations and missions.

Washington Air National Guard members from all eras can recount stories from flying the "Jenny" biplane post World War I, the P-51 Mustang in World War II, the F-86 during the Korean Conflict and presently the KC-135 Stratotanker in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The wing has also recently made history for being the first Guard KC-135 unit to join with an Air Force active duty wing, the 92nd Air Refueling Wing, to create a Classic Association as part of Total Force Integration.

The week began with an All City Civic Military Luncheon held to recognize the Armed Forces Persons of the Year. One of the winners was Senior Master Sgt. Stephan Coulston, a member of the 141st Security Forces Squadron. He was named Senior Enlisted Reservist of the Year.

A formal Lilac President's Dinner was held on May 15. Major General Timothy

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(Above) Maj. Gen. Timothy Lowenberg waves to the Spokane crowds during the Armed Forces Torchlight Parade. (Washington Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamarato)

(left to right) Col. Gregory Bulkley, 141 ARW Commander, Brig. Gen. Gary Magonigle, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Maj. Gen. Timothy Lowenberg, The Adjutant General for the Washington National Guard, Maj. Gen. (retired) Denny Hague, former 141 ARW Commander, and Brig. Gen. (retired) Don Powell, represents the Air National Guard at the Lilac Festival. (Washington Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamarato)





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This publication can be found online at:
<http://www.141arw.ang.af.mil>

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

Here we are again! Even though the *Jet Gazette* is bi-monthly, it's amazing how quickly my deadline for an article appears. We had a very busy month of May with many important civic events. Sunday of drill was Bloomsday, so congratulations to all who ran. Bloomsday participation was the focus of a question in an Ask the Commander box, so I'll address it here. The question revolved around not being allowed to miss drill to run Bloomsday. I leave it to commander's discretion if allowing members to miss drill for Bloomsday is appropriate or not. I know many members

participated, and I'm proud to say I completed my twelfth run. I would imagine if you were about to be a part of the LSEP, however, your commanders might have asked you to drill on Sunday.

Mid month was the Lilac Festival and Armed Forces Torchlight Parade. I have a detailed thank you in another section of the Gazette, but I'll say it again here – Thank you to all who participated to make these events so successful.

Another question I received centered on how we are trying to improve communications with Traditionals. This is always at the forefront of my thoughts, and is becoming more and more difficult as we focus on information assurance and protecting our network. Some of the initiatives we're using are: a new and improved *Jet Gazette*; Sharepoint; Ask the Commander boxes; and we're exploring how to blast text messages to cell phones (for people who have the capability and want the information). All of these create concerns as we study what information can be shared via open source, but we're looking for new ways to communicate all the time. Any and all ideas will be considered, however, there are limitations to our technology and we must also study potential negative ramifications of new communication avenues.

The individual who asked about improved communications also mentioned feeling like a pawn being manipulated by technicians. I can actually see how this could be the perception of Traditionals due to the pace of operations we're experiencing. Huge changes can take place between drills, and it may seem Traditionals are not in the loop. This is partly due to our system and the fact our Technicians are a civilian workforce during the week. I must first stabilize where and how our full-timers work, then we can focus on how we will train our Traditionals. Always keep in mind, though, that I am truly a Traditional Guardsman, and I understand the reason we have a full time force is to train traditional members. That is where we gain our depth of experience and truly bring a huge value to America. I would anticipate some frustration along these lines over the next few months, but then I believe we will settle into a more predictable rhythm and a "new norm". Be patient, what we are creating will take time, but my goal is to ensure our structure can withstand future stresses and keep the 141st relevant well into the future.

Right now, there are many exciting opportunities within the wing, so be sure to watch for announcements and pursue those that may interest you. A number of First Sergeant slots are out for bid, and Operations will be hiring boom operators and sending a candidate to pilot training. There will also be other opportunities for advancement just around the corner. Make sure you've prepared yourself to take advantage of these positions if you are interested. It is always a shame to see someone who wants a position, but hasn't done all that's necessary to be competitive.

Finally, I would like to announce some senior leadership changes. Since Col Engelbertson reached his mandatory separation date and retired, I need a new Vice Wing commander. I have received the waiver necessary to have a non-rated Vice, so Col Bob Aunan will take that position. His departure from the MSG will require a replacement and I am proud to announce Lt Col Mike Hirst will become the commander of the Mission Support Group. Please congratulate Col Aunan and Lt Col Hirst when you see them. Lt Col Hirst's position on our manning document will disappear once vacated, so I won't be replacing my executive officer. I believe these moves will make an already impressive team even stronger as we move forward into an exciting and dynamic future.



Thanks for coming out -

Col. B

Lowenberg Grand Marshall, continued from page 1

Lowenberg, The Adjutant General (TAG) for the Washington National Guard, was the guest speaker and spoke of all the challenges and opportunities of the Air National Guard today.

“Everything that is part of the Air National Guard now has been built upon and is a result of the last 85 years of aviation. The challenges we face now are even more complex than those in the past. It is a privilege to represent the men and women who wear the uniform and are part of America’s next greatest generation,” said Lowenberg.

For the parade itself, thousands of local community supporters lined the streets of downtown Spokane and waved and cheered for military members and leaders as they rode in cars, military vehicles and floats.

The 141st float depicted a biplane flown out at Felts Field, a supersonic jet flown out of Spokane International Airport and the KC-135 flown out of Fairchild, as well as numerous landmarks of Spokane.

“It is important for us to share the Air National Guard story with our community and this was a great event for just that. I believe we made an impact on the community’s understanding of our history, and what a part of Spokane we really are,” said Col. Gregory Bulkley, 141 Air Refueling Wing Commander.



Members of the 141 ARW walk along the side of the Air National Guard float. (Washington Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamarato)



The 141 ARW Honor Guard continues tradition and serves as a highlight for Guard representation. (Washington Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamarato)

Various military bands marched and performed patriotic tunes. The Air National Guard Band of the Northwest, which has marched in 42 consecutive Lilac parades, performed once again. Joining them was the special reunion band, which included retired members who returned to march in this 85th Anniversary celebration.

This parade has provided supportive farewells along with enthusiastic welcome homes to military members throughout the years. It has played a key role in keeping the military spirit alive for all who have served and are still serving. It has displayed local community support and encouragement to family and friends who are left behind during deployments.

This Spokane tradition is one that will continue to be appreciated by all military members in the local community. It is one that recognizes the military of the past, present and inspires future military generations.



Brig. Gen. Gary Magonigle waves at the cheering crowds during the parade. (Washington Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamarato)



The Air National Guard Band of the Northwest marches with retired members who returned for the 85th Anniversary celebration. (Washington Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamarato)



Col. Mark Bahosh, 141 ARW Operations Group Commander, meets local children and shakes their hands. (Washington Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamarato)

I would like to thank each of you for supporting the events surrounding the Lilac Festival and the Torchlight Parade. The level of participation this year was impressive, and I’ve had a great deal of very positive feedback. What a treat to have five ANG General Officers at the President’s Dinner. I was so proud to take Gen Lowenberg to see the float and have a chance to see how many people showed up to “march” and interact with the crowd (including at least one Colonel and four Chiefs!). The band facing all the Generals at the staging area and playing Ruffles and Flourishes was a very classy touch and let them know how much they were appreciated and respected.

It is important for us to share the ANG story with our community and this was a great event for just that. KHQ did a nice job of highlighting us in their coverage, both on TV and the internet. The first news I saw on Sunday was a story about the parade with the lead footage being the float coming right at the camera, then pictures of Gen Hague and Gen Powell. Their website has a picture of the honor guard and one of Chief Flock visiting with a young parade watcher. The Spokesman Review had a picture of an “actor” portraying Maj Fancher on our float (thank Lt Col Lanzillo when you see him).

I think we made an impact on the community’s understanding of our history, and what a part of Spokane we really are. I know events like this take a toll in time and effort (yes, there’s the cost as well), but it is crucial to ensure our story is told so people will begin to understand how we are different from our active duty counterparts. While it is an easy distinction for us to make, it is not so obvious to the uninitiated. This year we made an important step forward in helping many civic leaders understand who we are, and what we do.

Thank you again for all you do every day. I am always incredibly impressed by your talents and your dedication in support of our nation, our state and our community. I can’t begin to tell you how proud I am to serve with each and every one of you.

Col B.

ANG bands build 'bonds of friendship' through music

by Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue
Wisconsin National Guard

VOLK FIELD, Wis. (5/20/09) - Collectively they are armed with everything from bass guitars and drum sticks to keyboards and microphones. They are Airmen ... better yet, they are rock band Airmen.

Their mission is to inspire, motivate and raise morale through music. They play the same popular rock, pop and country music heard on the radio today. Now, they are not only capable musicians, but capable warriors as well.

Three Air National Guard Bands, totaling 30 Airmen, received pre-deployment training April 14 through 18 at Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Wis., in preparation for a deployment in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

"These guys have little or no training ... they play instruments on the weekends. But now they're deploying overseas and traveling in convoys. We're giving them the training they need to be able to deploy with confidence in their own skills as well as the skills of their wingmen," said Capt. Mickey Kirshenbaum, a mobility trainer for the bands at Volk.

The first band will travel overseas the beginning of June to become part of the Air Force's Expeditionary Band in Central Command in an effort to provide relief to a strained active duty Air Force Band program. Each of the three ANG bands will serve a 30 day rotation overseas. The primary mission of the ANG Band is to raise morale in places where other morale-tour organizations like the United Services Organization and Armed Forces Entertainment may not always be able to go.

The three bands are: the Band of the Northwest, from Washington; The Band of the Great Lakes, from Ohio; and The Band of the West Coast, from California.

In the past few years, big-name artists like Toby Keith, Aerosmith, Drowning Pool and Carrie Underwood have volunteered to tour overseas. These tours, however, usually only



Airman 1st Class Johanna Brooks, Air National Guard - Band of the Northwest member, sings a pop song as part of their concert practice following a full day of pre-deployment training at Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Wis., April 17. Two other bands participated in the training which readies 30 ANG band members to deploy overseas to aid a strained active duty band element this summer. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue)

go to installations that are relatively safe and can provide a large crowd, leaving many service members at forward operating bases and smaller installations left out.

"We go to the most remote and dangerous locations where we have American forces. Our job is to bring a little bit of home to our warriors overseas," said Air National Guard Band Command Chief Master Sgt. Roger Chief Mason.

The bands also have humanitarian objectives and are tasked with playing in remote villages and at foreign dignitary events to boost morale, bolster U.S. military and foreign community relationships, and promote the U.S. Armed Forces in general.

"It can be an isolated Forward Operating Base in Afghanistan or a remote village in Somalia. We're not dropping bombs, we're going out and changing people's opinions about our country," said Chief Mason. "We like to call ourselves a non-kinetic weapon system. We bring the bond of friendship through music."

The commander of Air National Guard bands couldn't agree more.

"ANG bands are helping to create a positive impression of the United States by performing in communities for people who have perhaps never met an American before, or whose only impressions of America and Americans are from movies and the media," said Col. Patrick Jones, chief of Air National Guard Bands.



The bands have traveled "outside the wire" numerous times during their deployments. Since their morale mission began in 2006, they have visited at least 12 countries. They often travel by way of vehicle convoy. Although the band members are always escorted by trained U.S. service members, typically either a soldier or Marine, they themselves hadn't previously received adequate pre-deployment training. In fact, until last year, they hadn't seen a real Humvee in person prior to deployment. Instead, they had done all their Humvee and convoy training through an online training module.

The five day training the band members received at Volk was designed specifically for them and their unique deployed mission. The training was vigorous in that their days began at 6 a.m. and ran through 9 p.m. Each day, the members awoke for breakfast and then went straight into training. When finished with their training at about 5 p.m., each band set up for a practice concert at the all-ranks club.

Col. Jones is very impressed with the training at Volk CRTC. "The training our bandsmen receive at Volk Field CRTC is tailored to their needs. Bands spend a lot of time in transit and they need to know convoy operations and how to respond in a contingency while in transit. There is no place else in the Air Force where they can receive this training."

"My goal is that they never have to use this training, but, we want them to be prepared in case something does go wrong. Not only will they be able to save their own lives, but the lives of other servicemembers as well," said Lt. Col. Eugene Essex, Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center.

While at Volk, they enhanced their Ability to Survive and Operate skills, Combat Buddy Care skills, field navigation, convoy operations, urban warfare and tactical M-9 skills. At the end of their training, they combined all of their skills into a two-mile convoy in which they had to deal with various scenarios, including an ambush at a village where they were to play a concert for locals.



Maj. James Phillips, 560th Band Commander, gives his son a kiss good-bye before departing to a forward location. (Washington Air National Guard photo by Capt. Sandy Smock)

“A lot of people, because they are “band personnel”, don’t really look at them as warriors. Our focus was to bring them here and teach them some techniques and skills. These Airmen are going into harms way and they should get the best training possible ... much like any other service member,” said Senior Master Sgt. Joe Bomar, ANG Band mobility trainer from the 153rd Airlift Wing.

Much like they find austere and sometime dangerous locations to play, they are also spontaneous in the way they play. It is not out of the ordinary for the ANG band members to just pick up their equipment, set up next to some servicemembers eating or standing in a long line and play an acoustic lunch-time concert. Chief Mason says these unexpected stops are sometimes the most beneficial.

“The first feedback is surprise,” says Chief Mason. “When you go to these places, these servicemembers have iPods, DVD players, etc., but after a while, it’s nice for them to see a fresh face.”

During one of the ANG band deployments, a critical-care patient was in surgery when the surgeon requested the band come sing outside the operating room. Four members of the band stood outside the operation room and sang a cappella for the patient inside.

Every member of the band must be willing and able to sing four a cappella songs from memory on a moment’s notice. The appreciation they get from these random performances is heartfelt and is one of the reasons they continue to do what they do, the chief said.

Having received this training, many members said they felt more confident and secure about deploying overseas, which will allow them to focus on that next Metallica guitar solo or Kelly Clarkson-like high note, and share them with service members overseas.

“They came in here as band members, and yes, they play music. But, they wear the uniform and they are Airmen. They are outstanding individuals and I would be happy to deploy with these folks anywhere,” said Col. Essex.



(Above) The 560th Band gathers up luggage and equipment for their deployment. (Washington Air National Guard photo by Capt. Sandy Smock)



(Left) Col. Gregory Bulkley, 141 ARW Commander, assists the group and sends them off with the Wing’s support. (Washington Air National Guard photo by Capt. Sandy Smock)

(Below) Members of Wingspan win the Battle of the Bands Competition at Bloomsday. (Courtesy photo)



Nicholas Mamer and the early days of the 141st

Courtesy of 141st ARW Historian Office

The history of the 141st refueling mission can trace its earliest successes back to the 116th Observation Squadron and a World War I veteran, stunt pilot, and flight instructor named Lt. Nicholas “Nick” Mamer.

In 1925 Mamer was hired by Major John “Jack” Fancher, first commander of the Washington Air National Guard, to train the “weekend” pilots.

Many know Mamer for his 1929 world record non-stop 7,200 mile transcontinental flight in the *Spokane Sun God*.

Mamer and his young associate, Art Walker, flew from Spokane to San Francisco, then New York and back to Spokane. Refueling support arrangements had to be made in advance by telegrams and letters. When unexpected issues arose communication was limited to hand written notes dropped from the aircraft or attached to hose lines during air refueling operations.

They faced several challenges during their endurance flight which included a broken gas line, ripped refueling hose, violent storms, and thick smoke from forest fires.

As they made their way back to Spokane, smoke from Montana forest fires nearly blinded Mamer and Walker on the way to Miles City—which was not a scheduled refueling site. When they arrived at Miles City they were low on fuel. Preparing for the worst, they attached a weighted note requesting airfield lighting in order to land. Remaining hopeful, he also asked if anyone could figure out a way to refuel them in flight.

Volunteers on the ground quickly formed into groups. One group went to a creamery and borrowed five-gallon milk cans, another made detachable rope slings while wives and helpers prepared food.

Then at daybreak local pilots, Frank Wiley and Tommy Matthews flew up to meet the *Sun-God*. With Matthews secured in the cockpit with a telephone lineman’s belt, he began to lower the milk cans to Walker one at a time. After a few exchanges, Mamer then flew low over the Yellowstone River and Walker tossed his empties into it, where a boy in a rowboat waited at the bridge in Miles City to fetch the cans as they floated by and return them to the refueling crew. All totaled, Wiley and Matthews brought up 120 gallons of fuel in this impromptu, but curiously efficient effort.

Mamer had also asked those on the ground to tell the Missoula refueling ship to fly to

Belgrade and await their arrival. After refueling they headed out across northern Idaho and arrived at Spokane at 2:00 in the afternoon August 20, where some 10,000 spectators had turned out to welcome back their adventurers.

With eleven refuelings under its belt and countless obstacles to overcome, the flight of the *Spokane Sun God* landed in Spokane setting records for nonstop mileage (7,200), the first transcontinental refueling flight, night refueling, and refueling above 8,000 feet. Mamer and Walker provided the first demonstration of inflight refueling as a means of range extension—as distinct from endurance—since the Army Air Service’s border-to-border flight in 1923.

Although the flight was commercially sponsored, it set the groundwork for current military refueling operations.

Returning to Spokane a hero, Mamer spent his remaining years operating Mamer Flying Services and Mamer Air Transport firms while also flying for Northwest Airlines. It was in his position as a pilot for Northwest Airlines that Mamer would make his final flight.

On January 10, 1938 the tail structure of his Northwest Airlines plane failed on his flight from Seattle to Minneapolis. Mamer and his crew did not survive the crash.

A year later the Mamer Memorial Clock was dedicated at Felts Field to the memory and accomplishments of Mamer as a squadron leader. Aircraft from the 116th flew overhead during the dedication. Maj. Hillford Wallace, commander of the 116th Observation Squadron of the Washington Air National Guard stated “His splendid record as a flyer will always remain before us.... Lt. Mamer, we of the military salute you.”

Mamer’s Spokane Sun God. (Washington Air National Guard photo provided by the 141st ARW Historian Office)



Art Walker (left) Nick Mamer, pilots of the record breaking Spokane Sun God. (Washington Air National Guard photo provided by the 141st ARW Historian Office)



Congratulations WAANG Marathon Team members

Michael Bergquist
Michael White
James Proctor
Amanda Bergquist
Rosa Bartol

MASTER
James Baurer



Tech. Sgt. Michael Bergquist, Washington Air National Guard, crosses the finish line of the 2009 Lincoln/National Guard Marathon held May 3 in Lincoln, Neb. Bergquist, the 2008 Air Force Athlete of the Year, finished the 26.2 mile course with a time of 2:50:39, eighth best among Guard runners. (Nebraska Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Alan Brown)

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new ones at camp**

Aug 16-20
at Camp Reed
Ages 8-18
\$125.00



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Financial aid available

***WA Air/Army National Guard Youth**

Graham Road Gate Opening

Effective 4 Jun 09, and until further notice, Graham Road gate will be open for in-bound traffic only.

- * 0600 - 0800 hours, Monday thru Friday
- * Military and CAC identification ONLY
- * NO contractors, visitors, or commercial vehicles allowed

If approaching from Medical Lake area use the Graham Gate. If approaching from Airway Heights, use extreme caution when making a left turn onto Graham Road due to fast on-coming traffic.

After entering the gate, please avoid the school zone by traveling straight down Graham Road to El Paso or Richmond Roads where you can turn left to reach main base facilities.

UPAR

by Mary Thomas
Family Support
Program Manager



Rachel Thomas- 2008 WA National Guard Family Programs Performance Award for Outstanding performance



Natalie Borek- 2008 WA National Guard Family Programs Adult Youth Volunteer of the Year



Richard Gauntlett - 2008 WA National Guard Family Programs Volunteer of the Year

The UPAR program is volunteer Unit Public Affairs Representatives who write and submit stories as they know of events happening. If you have questions or you would like to be a UPAR please contact Captain Sandy Smock at sandy.smock@ang.af.mil

National Veteran Wheelchair Games Update

MONDAY EVENING, JULY 13 -OPENING CEREMONY
Uniform BDU/ABU

PART 1

- 1) Volunteers can park in the arena parking lot – walk down to Mallon Street and enter the arena through the loading dock parking lot (located through an alley behind the arena ticket house)
- 2) Volunteers check-in by 3 p.m. and take part in a volunteer orientation lead by VA POCs.
- 3) If you miss the first orientation, you can attend the second one at 3:30 p.m.
- 4) Athletes will start staging at 4 p.m.
- 5) The Opening Ceremony starts at 6 p.m. and ends at 7 p.m.
- 6) Volunteers will parade with the athletes/families from the arena to the convention center where they will drop off their flags & sign and receive their volunteer t-shirt.

PART 2

- 1) Volunteers will get a break (the VA is providing box lunches for volunteers)
- 2) Time TBA- Volunteers report to the Exhibition Halls of the Convention Center where they will help VA POC set up sports courts for next day events.

Please bring heavy gloves for this part. This could require some mild-heavy lifting. If you cannot do heavy lifting then you can also be useful working at the Athletes Welcome Reception at the Convention Center.

If you are unable to participate in the opening ceremonies please look at other opportunities to volunteer at www.wheelchairgames.va.gov. **Ensure you register online!**

If you have any question please contact Sandy Smock at (509) 475-4953 or Tech. Sgt. John Borek at (509) 247-7177.

141st ARW Vice Commander takes final flight



Colonel Roger E. Engelbertson, 141st Air Refueling Wing Vice Commander, is doused with fire extinguishers and water guns in honor of his "Fini-Flight" in a KC-135 Stratotanker at the 141st Air Refueling Wing, Washington Air National Guard, Fairchild Air Force Base. Col. Engelbertson's May 27th flight marks his final flight of his military career of 30 years. He is a command pilot with over 4,500 hours in the T-38 and KC-135A/E/R. Col. Engelbertson retired from his duties as a KC-135 pilot on June 1, 2009. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Densley, 141 ARW/Public Affairs)

SAFETY



A recent review of the Air Force's Class A, B, and C motorcycle data revealed there were 582 Class A/B/C mishaps, during this time period there were 40 deaths, 6 permanent total disabilities, and 530 lost time mishaps (Class B and C combined).

Alcohol incidents account for less than 3% of the mishaps but in 12 cases our people are driving motorcycles legally drunk (.09 – .24 BAC).

13% of the people either fatally injured or suffering permanent total disability were not wearing required personnel protective clothing.

The most dangerous time to operate a motorcycle:
1500-1800 (31%)
1200-1500 (24%)
1800-2400 (26%)



Airmen E-1 through E-6 account for over 86% of mishaps.

Months in which motorcycle mishaps occurred in order from worst to least are July, April, August, May, September, March, October, and June.

FOCUS

Would you like to help shape the future of the Air National Guard?

You are invited to the 141st ARW Diversity Council's first meeting on Sunday of July Drill at 1000 hours in the Wing building's large conference room.

The Diversity Council will be a representative body that works in conjunction with the Wing Commander as a tool to brainstorm diversity best practices, providing strategies in the area of recruitment, retention, promotions and qualifications.

If you have any questions, your POC is Senior Master Sgt. Dave Thornburg, ext. 7075.

Rising 6



Back-to-School Supply Fundraiser

Over the next few months the Rising 6 will be collecting school supplies to distribute to the families and communities of our fellow Guardsman. Be a part of helping our fellow soldiers by donating new or gently used school supplies. Cash donations will also be accepted. There will be a collection can at the Customer Service counter at the FSS. Supplies needed:

- Paper
- Crayons
- #2 pencils
- Pens (Black, Blue, Red)
- Backpacks
- Pencil Boxes
- 1" 3-Ring binder
- Dividers
- Highlighters
- Ruler
- Composition books
- Scissors
- Graph paper
- Spiral note books

Court Monitors Wanted! Spokane Hoopfest



Register To Become A Court Monitor!
June 27-29, 2009



Full-time monitors will be given a t-shirt and hat, plus Nike shorts and shoes.

If you are interested in becoming a monitor visit the below link for more information:
MUST REGISTER NO LATER THAN 20 JUNE 2009



<http://www.spokanehoopfest.net/volunteer/courtmonitorapp.asp>

Donations for Landstuhl's Wounded Warrior Center

The 141st ARW will have the opportunity to take donated items to Germany to be delivered to the Wounded Warrior Ministry Center (WWMC) on the upcoming deployment. Please have any donated items (new condition only) collected by July 10 and dropped off at Bldg 445 (old current Ops office).

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) is a permanent U.S. Military installation located in the German State of Rheinland-Pfalz. The Wounded Warrior Ministry Center (WWMC) at LRMC, started in October 2002 at the onset of Operation Enduring Freedom and continues today to provide service members needed comfort items. The wounded military member in the field, is brought quickly to the LRMC for treatment without having any of their personal belongings with them.

Items needed: T-shirts (short and long sleeve), flip flops - all sizes; long, loose, basketball shorts; sweat pants; bath towels and wash cloths.

If you have any questions please contact Master Sgt. William Campbell at (509) 247-7150.

ESGR holds first Joint Forces Employer Appreciation Breakfast

Capt. Sandy Smock
141 ARW Public Affairs

On April 24, a conference room located in downtown Spokane was filled with over 60 civilian employers who had been nominated by their part-time military employees to be recognized for their strong support of the military while they were called to duty. This was the first ever local Joint Forces Appreciation Breakfast and included representation from the Guard and Reserve Components.

Ken Isaak, Washington State East Area Chairman for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), opened the event with a welcome to representatives for Senator Maria Cantwell and Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, along with local elected officials and employers representing various groups of businesses. "ESGR is a Department of Defense Volunteer agency that seeks to promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. We recognize outstanding support, increase awareness of the law, and resolve conflict through mediation," said Isaak.

Many of these employers have signed a Statement of Support (SOS). This SOS is a way for employers to show their support of the Reserve component forces. It is a means for an employer to say they fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act. It states that they will continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crisis and in war. It is also a way for any employer to show their patriotism.

With over 126,654 Reserve component members on active duty as of January 2009 and 759,618 part-time Reserve members as of Nov 2008 the Reserve component makes up 48% of the total force. The high number of Reservist and Guard activated along with a struggling economy are factors which these employers deal with on a daily basis. "We know that sometimes that this patriotic support is a burden but we thank you deeply for that support," said Isaak.

Commanders from the Spokane area spoke to the crowd and gave updates on deployments and missions while emphasizing their gratitude for such dedication to support their troops. They relayed their understanding of the sacrifices that were made on the employer's part each time a member had to be absent from their civilian job due to fulfilling their military commitments.

During the breakfast the Seven Seals Award, which is presented to recognize an individual or organization that promotes the ESGR mission, was presented to Sandy Kates' employer. Kates is a member of ESGR and her employer, LCD Exposition Services President, Ken Quimby, and Vice President, Barbara Lockard, were both presented with the award.

A Patriot Award was also presented. This award is based on a nomination submitted by a Guardsman or Reservist. This award went to Teresa Harris, Supervisor of Transcription Health and Information at Holy Family Hospital. Elaine Couture, Holy Family CEO, and the Director of Health Information and Management, Jeanne Carman, were also present. The Patriot Award is given only to supervisors or others at management level. This award is for contributing to National Security and Protecting Liberty and Freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force.

This appreciation breakfast gave employers the chance to witness support from elected officials, hear from key military leaders, meet with other local employers associated with part-time military employees and most of all to be appreciated for their service and patriotism. ESGR will continue to play an important role in creating successful stories by bringing part-time military service members and their employers together through education, communication and appreciation.

Top to bottom:-

Local civilian employers listen to a pre-recorded message on ESGR support from Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers.

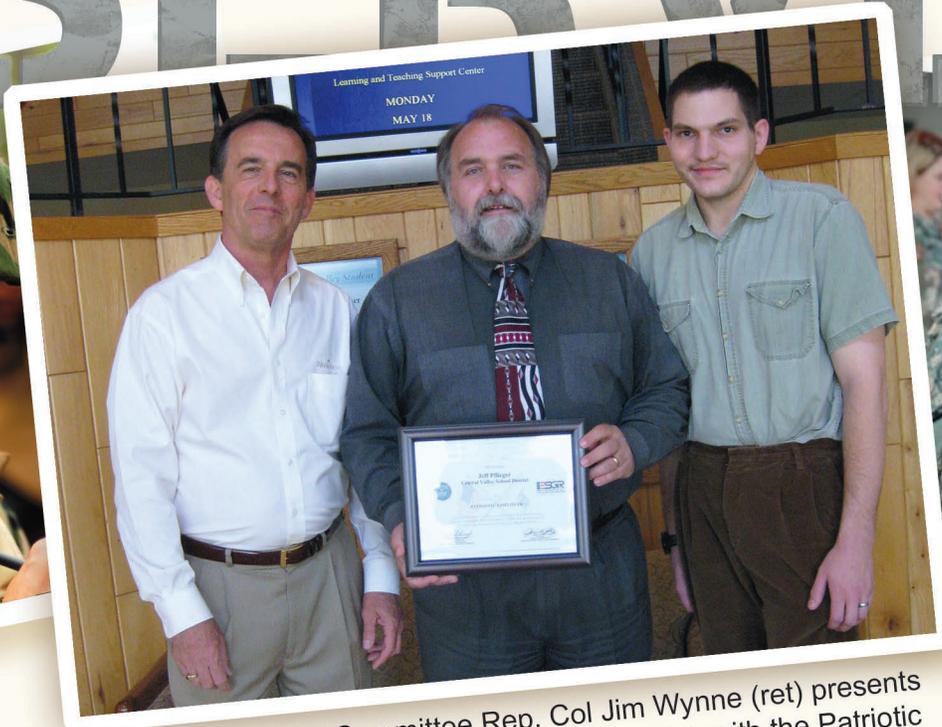
Sandy Kates stands beside Barbara Lockard (center) LCD Exposition Services, Vice-President, and Ken Quimby (left), President, as they were presented with the Seven Seals Award.

Paul McNabb (left), ESGR representative, presents Teresa Harris a Patriot Award for her military support as Jeanne Carman, Director of Health Information and Management is also appreciated.

Local civilian employers listen to commanders as they give information on missions and speak of their appreciation to employers.



WE ALL SERVE



From left: ESGR Committee Rep. Col Jim Wynne (ret) presents Jeffrey Pflieger, Central Valley School District, with the Patriotic Employer Award, nominated by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Pilik, 242 CBCS.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ★ ARMY RESERVE ★ NAVY RESERVE ★ MARINE RESERVE
COAST GUARD RESERVE ★ AIR NATIONAL GUARD ★ AIR FORCE RESERVE

We all serve. Whether serving our communities or our country, members of the National Guard and Reserve depend on their military units, families, and employers for support. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense agency that seeks to promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflict through mediation.

