

The JET GAZETTE



141st Air Refueling Wing

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Freedom is Not Free!



2010

Armed Forces Torchlight Parade



Photos by Master Sgt. Mindy Gagne



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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 247-7345/7042 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.

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The latest issue of the Jet Gazette can be found at: <http://www.141arw.ang.af.mil>

Notes from the Top

Well, this is it, my final installment for the Jet Gazette. As of June 7th I will begin terminal leave and start the transition to being a civilian for the first time in twenty-six and a half years. For those of you who might not be aware, I took a leave of absence from my career at United Airlines to take command of the wing. I will retire from my rather hectic part-time job and return to flying the friendly skies on a 767 out of Denver.

As I look back on my career, I find it somewhat incredible how things unfolded and the adventures I was afforded. When I joined the Air Force in 1984, I never had any intention of making a career out of military service. I thought I would serve a little over seven years, and pursue my dream of being an airline pilot. At the time, I had no idea what the Air National Guard was, nor could I imagine how it would change the course of my life. I also had no idea how much I would enjoy living in Spokane, or that I would meet a beautiful local girl and fall in love (more on that later).

Although a KC-135 to Fairchild wasn't number one on my dreamsheets at age 25, I can't think of a better assignment as I look back through the eyes of a 50 year old. My father, an airline pilot, used to remark how amazing it was for me as a 29 year old Capt. to take my 1st Lt. Copilot, 1st Lt. Nav and Airman 1st Class boom, load up my "707" and go fly the world. Sometimes we take what we do for granted, but it truly is remarkable the amount of responsibility the military thrusts upon us at a very early age. Of course, once I transitioned to the ANG, I was the "new guy" Capt. flying around with Lt. Colonels and Master Sergeants.

I have now been around long enough to see both my training bases, Williams AFB and Castle AFB, close. I've seen the stand-down of SAC, the advent of AMC, ACC, and AETC and watched as my first assignment, the 43rd Air Refueling Squadron, became a thing of the past. I've travelled the world for training, humanitarian relief and some not so peaceful missions. Throughout it all, the venerable Stratotanker performed admirably, with only a few hair raising incidents—just to keep it interesting! I've seen the end of the A-7, F-4, F-111, C-141 and a number of other aircraft while the KC-135 keeps performing its mission with astounding regularity.

Throughout the innumerable changes of the last quarter century, the missions have always been accomplished by incredibly dedicated and talented people. No matter the equipment required, or the task demanded, it was (and still is) the people who made it happen. It is also a characteristic of those in the military, that the more daunting the mission the more arduous the task; the more we pull together to ensure its success, and the better the stories we have to tell when it's over and done. It is this "can do" attitude and willingness to serve that I believe I will miss the most. In a word, I will miss the people, each and every one of you.

Now, I have talked a little about planes, places and people of my career, but I'm sure you can guess the answer for the fourth and most significant "P" throughout my career and indeed my life. I met Paula when I was a 1Lt and she has been there every step of the way ever since. She was by my side when we made the leap away from the comfort of an Air Force career to pursue the dream of finding an airline job. She waited patiently after the airlines shutdown hiring and I "Guard bummed" for three and a half years. Then we worked two careers for eleven years as a Traditional Guardsman, and now we're finishing four years of military service yet again! Talk about a saint! I'm sure you're all as



appreciative of her service with the 141st as I am. I was unbelievably lucky to find such a special lady to share my life with, and as my military career comes to a close I am most proud that she is still by my side.

As I close out this facet of my career, I'll leave you with some simple thoughts. Understand that change is a constant. It is how you react to it that determines success or failure. Your service will allow you to experience adventures others can't even imagine—soak it in and cherish every moment. It will end sooner than you think. Always stop to appreciate the people who serve with you. It is difficult (if not impossible) to replicate the talent and camaraderie you'll experience in the 141st. Mostly, however, do your best to balance career(s), service and family, but remember: In the end, family is all you have.

With that, Paula and I wish you all the best for a safe and happy future. It has been our pleasure to serve with you and it has been my distinct honor to be your commander.

Gregory A Bulkley

Dinner is Served!

*story and photos by Tech Sgt. Michael Stewart
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs*

Last month active and retired Chiefs and First Sergeants held the 6th annual deployers dinner at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #2 in Spokane. This annual dinner is planned, prepared and served to honor and recognize the great sacrifices our members give by deploying to a hostile area in service to our country. The annual event was held April 30, where approximately 120 people attended. The meal was funded this year by the Yellow Ribbon program. The Yellow Ribbon program provides National Guard and Reserve members and their families with information, services, referrals, and proactive outreach opportunities throughout the deployment cycle.





Rising 6 rise to the challenge

by Master Sgt. Mindy Gagne
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The residents of the Spokane Veteran's Center have been the recent recipients of generous donations and volunteer hours as the Rising 6, an association that provides social and professional mentorship and promotes esprit de corp, renovated the Center's Air Force Heritage room. This room serves as a multipurpose meeting area where residents have their meals, watch TV, play games, read or just hang out.

Over the past year, about 20 Guardsmen and their families, as well as personnel from the 92nd Air Refueling Wing, volunteered their time to refurbish and decorate the room. Funding and supplies were donated to update it to a current Air Force theme. They have repainted the room, replaced window blinds and ceiling tiles and collected books and movies for the Center's library.

"The response we have received from the employees as well as the residents has been nothing short of amazing," said Rising 6 member, Tech. Sgt. Jason Marrazzo.

Residents and employees thanked volunteers for their help and

complimented them on the work done to the room.

"They shared many stories of their service and just enjoyed interacting with us," said Marrazzo.

Shane Price, Spokane Veterans Home Event Coordinator, is very happy with the improvements and encourages everyone to also give of their time to come visit the residents.

"They especially enjoy seeing children and pets and are always willing to be an audience if anyone is looking for extra practice or rehearsal opportunities. All are made welcome and a small amount of your time means so much to them," said Price.

This project is ongoing. Volunteers are working to install a chair rail around the room and enhance it with more Air Force memorabilia and decorations. They also want to replace the aging computer monitors with larger, easy to see monitors. The home is also in need of more up to date DVD selections and other items. Please contact Tech. Sgt. Marrazzo at 247-7066 for any donations.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mindy Gagne)

Leaders say Guardsmen Want to Remain 'Operational'

by Army SSG Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

National Guard leaders were on Capitol Hill Wednesday with a message from Guardsmen: we want to remain an operational reserve.

"The National Guard has repeatedly proven itself to be a ready, accessible force," Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau told the Senate Appropriations Committee on Defense.

"We have validated the Total Force concept by showing that the men and women in our formations are ready to answer the call to be mobilized to deploy overseas, return home and then become prepared to do it again and again."

The Total Force concept includes a seamless integration of the active force, the Guard and the Reserve.

"The Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen of your National Guard are adding value to America every day," McKinley said. "Today's men and women volunteer ... fully expecting to be deployed."

"This shift in expectation is a central aspect of the National Guard's shift to being a fully operational force and no longer merely a strategic reserve. Indeed, the Soldiers and Airmen of your National Guard now serve with that expectation and are proud of it. They want to remain central players in the nation's defense and would indeed be resistant to any move to return to a role limited to strictly strategic reserve."

Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt said the Air National Guard's priorities for 2011 are modernization, securing the home front, and defending the nation and developing Airmen.

"Our nation's Air National Guard provides a trained, equipped, and ready force; accessible and available, that comprises about one third of the total [Air Force] capabilities for less than 7 percent of the total force spending," he said.

"Many of our folks continue to volunteer at unprecedented rates for worldwide contingencies and to protect our domestic security through air sovereignty alert missions and in responding to natural and manmade disasters," Wyatt said.

Describing the operational National Guard "a national treasure," Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, the acting Director of the Army National Guard, said "the National Guard today is a far cry from the force I joined."

Facilities and infrastructure are among the Army Guard priorities, Carpenter cited to the committee. "(They) are especially important in the homeland mission and supporting readiness for the overseas fight," he said.

"We have 1,400 readiness centers—armories—that are over 50 years old. The president's budget includes \$873 million for construction for the Army National Guard," he said. "It is a high-water mark ... and something we'd like to see sustained in order for us to do the modernization of armories."

The aging air fleet took the lion's share of the more than an hour-long Guard leadership testimony Wednesday.

Guard leaders said a looming aircraft shortfall could diminish the Air Guard's homeland defense air sovereignty mission.

Eighty percent of the National Guard's F-16 Fighting Falcon multirole jet fighters—the backbone of the air sovereignty alert force—will begin reaching the end of their service lives in seven



U.S. Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond talks with Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard, before a hearing of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense in Washington, D.C., March 24, 2010. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill)

years, according to the 2011 National Guard Posture Statement released Wednesday.

Of 18 air sovereignty alert sites nationwide, the Air National Guard operates 16. The sites have the aging F-16s, often built before their National Guard pilots were born.

The Air Force is scheduled to field a new F-35 Lightning stealth multirole fighter, but there is a gap between the anticipated end of the Fighting Falcons' service life and when the Air Guard could expect to start receiving any allotment of Lightnings.

"It is a primary concern of mine to make sure that we address a plan to make sure that we have the capability in the near-term, as we wait for the fielding of the F-35," Wyatt told the subcommittee.

The Air National Guard has 88 flying units. "We have three units that—without any kind of intervention—probably will not have equipment by the end of [the 2012 fiscal year], which is a big concern," McKinley said.

But there are no legacy aircraft in the pipeline to fill this gap.

"One solution to alleviate the pressure: The Air Force has said the Air National Guard can re-evaluate the amount of flying time left on its aging F-15 Eagle tactical fighter and F-16 fleet," McKinley said. That would mean some aircraft could potentially see longer service lives than previously expected.

The National Guard is renowned for squeezing the most from aging equipment, as it did from the 59-year-old M35 "deuce and a half" cargo trucks that Carpenter told the subcommittee are finally being phased out this year, and from the 40-year-old UH-1 Huey helicopters the Guard flew until 2009.

The Air Force also foresees ramping up F-35 production from 48 to 80 per year. "That's a significant change," McKinley said.

Failing longer service lives or faster F-35 fielding, units could receive alternative missions. "The last thing that I want to see is a wing of aircraft leave and leave 1,200 people at a location with nothing to do," McKinley said. "That's just not in the interests of the American citizen."

Freedom Is Not Free

by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs
(Photos by Master Sgt. Mindy Gagne)



The 2010 Armed Forces 72nd Anniversary Torchlight Parade theme this year was "Freedom is Not Free". The Grand Marshall for this year's parade was Kim Cole, Washington National Guard Family Readiness assistant and Gold Star Mother. American Gold Star Mothers is an organization of mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the service of our country. Her son, Cpl. Darrel James Morris served in the United States Marine Corps. He was killed by an IED explosion while serving on his second tour as a gunner in a 7-ton outside of Baghdad on Jan. 21, 2007. More than 50 Washington National Guardsmen participated in the parade by holding banners of fallen soldiers. "There are no words to express how much it meant to the families to have their sons and daughters banners carried by their brothers and sisters in arms and to see up close, just how much the city of Spokane supports its military," said Cole.





Left to right: 2nd Lt. Brad Sanders, Senior Master Sgt. Mike Lewis, Staff Sgt. Jared John, Staff Sgt. Ryan Gress, Senior Master Sgt. Steve Estep, Tech. Sgt. Cynthia LaForce, Tech. Sgt. Mark Conrad, Staff Sgt. Brian Leyh, Tech. Sgt. Doug Cole, Tech. Sgt. Holly Flores.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Gary Hall, 141st CES)

Ready for anything

by 2nd Lt. Bradley Sanders

141st Force Support Squadron, Fatality Search and Recovery Team Leader

September 11, 2001 is a date we will never forget. That tragic day reminded us that America is not immune to terror within Her borders. As military members, we have all taken an oath to protect and defend our beloved country and Her people from all enemies foreign and domestic. Each of us has an important role in providing that protection.

As tragic as it is, terrorism is not our country's leading cause of death and destruction. Accidents and natural disasters account for the largest loss of life in our country, second only to illness and disease. Death tolls can reach into the hundreds or even thousands following a single event. We do not have to look any further than Hurricane Katrina where, according to an MSNBC report, there were more than 1,300 deaths and countless injuries.

One of the most startling realizations after

Hurricane Katrina was that America is unequipped to deal with mass fatality events. The National Guard decided it had to take action. In 2007, under the direction of Lieutenant General Blum, the Fatality Search and Recovery Team (FSRT) mission was born. Initially there were 10 teams throughout the country comprised of 11 members each. Eventually that number expanded to the current level of 17 teams.

The FSRT mission is to maintain the dignity of the deceased and their loved ones by providing specialized and readily available operational support to local, state and federal agencies while assisting in the prompt recovery of fatalities during and after a disaster or mass casualty event. We do not need another Hurricane Katrina to warrant the augmentation of our first responders. In fact, according to the King County Medical Examiner's office (the greater Seattle area), any single incident with more than 5 fatalities constitutes a mass

fatality event which would overwhelm the resources of that office. To put that number in perspective, in 2008 there were 13,339 deaths in King County alone. Of those, 2,195 were handled by the King County Medical Examiner's office, which is more than 6 per day.

Men and women of the 141st Services flight, who make up the FSRT, will play a vital role in the recovery and proper disposition of the deceased in the event of a man-made or natural disaster within FEMA Region X. The team trains continuously with the Washington State CERF and local authorities to ensure a ready, reliable and relevant force in the case of a mass fatality event. Unfortunately, there is no doubt the training and expertise of the 141st FSRT will be called upon in the near future. The only question is when and where?

Fitness Competition



by 2nd Lt. Dan Neuenfeldt
141st Force Support Squadron Flight Commander

Members of the 141st Force Support Squadron gathered for the spring FSS fitness competition held on base, April 22, 2010. Force Support teams challenged each other to cranking out the most pushups/sit-ups, holding the longest plank/wall-sit and running the fastest mile and a half. In the end, team "Renegades" from the personnel flight proved to be too much for the rest of the field. Great work team Renegades!



Team Renegades from left to right, Chief Master Sgt. Steve Holbert, Tech. Sgt. Jason Marrazzo, Tech. Sgt. Lisa Savage-Black and Tech. Sgt. Ruben Wright. (Photo by Mr. Bob Tipton)

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 Major Sandy Smock at sandy.smock@us.af.mil



NGAUS

The National Guard Association of the United States

by 2nd Lt. Chuck Parsons
141st Air Refueling Wing, National Guard Association Representative

Everyone knows that money is tight in our economy and the federal budget. Well, every day on Capitol Hill our budget and benefits are on the chopping block. Not just the current budget in the defense spending plan, but money for our future operations. NGAUS (National Guard Association of the United States) and EANGUS (Enlisted Association of the National Guard United States) are nationwide associations that are our voice. Think of them as our lobbyists, our dogs in the fight, and they fight for us every day on Capitol Hill. NGAW (National Guard Association of Washington) works here in the state for us. When these associations of over 600,000 total members speak, elected officials that want to get re-elected listen! These organizations are also able to help the Guard/Military educate and inform Congress about funding, staffing, equipment requirements and other needs to sustain and improve the Guard as an operational reserve of the Army and Air Force and as community emergency responders.

So, what do these associations do for us in the National Guard? These associations are non-profit organizations dedicated to preserving the welfare and interests of the National Guard. Today, well over a century later, the NGAUS/EANGUS/NGAW has the same mission. These organizations' primary focus continues to be petitioning Congress for the resources needed to obtain better equipment, standardized training and, ultimately, a more combat ready force. THEY ARE OUR VOICE! Without your membership, our voice is diminished at both the State and National level. We urgently need your help and support. Please join the National Guard Associations and keep our Guard strong!

For most people in the ANG, the money you save on one commissary run vs. going off base will cover your monthly dues. Some of you might remember the limited commissary privileges for Guardsmen. These associations fought for that change.

Contact Lt. Chuck Parsons with membership questions at charles.parsons.1@ang.af.mil or visit <http://www.ngaw.org>

Through a military woman's eyes

by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



During April's Unit Training Assembly (UTA), more than 80 women from the 141st Air Refueling Wing and 256th Combat Communications Squadron, Fairchild Air Force Base, gathered to address the challenges and strengths of their military service. This was

sparked by a recent brief that women were feeling undervalued in their Air Force careers.

While I was honored to be selected by leadership to help lead this event, labeled as a Women's Focus Group, I wasn't really sure I was the right person. I certainly had some fears and anxieties.

One month after the meeting and many positive effects of it later...I can say I am SO GLAD I was a part of this group.

I can say without any doubt that standing in the midst of so many diverse, strong and dedicated women of all ranks I was amongst an elite group. Never have I met a group of individuals who "do it all...all the time." The Air Force military women of 2010, specifically Air National Guard women, are Airmen who are attending school, working various jobs, "standing by their man", providing and creating safe, happy "home fronts" for their children while at a moment's notice need to leave it all physically and deal with it mentally when military training and deployments are required.

Whether these women are in their # 1 Mom role and attending soccer games to cheer on their kids while still needing to fold three loads of laundry after dealing with the "What's for dinner?" question or as the military member writing award packages for her troops, turning a wrench to repair an aircraft engine or preparing the best ever PowerPoint for next day's brief; it is their selfless dedication and desire to serve which makes them valued. It makes them part of the team. It makes the rest of the team dependent on them.

As I reflect on my own life, I've been an Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard member for 18 years. I've been proud to serve as an enlisted maintenance troop for seven years and an Intelligence and Public

Affairs officer for 11 years. I've served while living in Louisiana, Georgia and now Washington, been given limitless career opportunities, and even got a husband out of the Air Force (we were tech. school sweethearts at Chanute Air Force Base 18 years ago) I have had the chance to be part of many groups and have seen just about any recent change in a Guard unit possible.

As I reflect, I think about the highs in my career and I always associate them with good leadership and mentorship. My most challenging military experiences were not based on environmental changes but on fellow military member relationships and attitudes. When I was surrounded by members living the core values to their fullest; it created a positive and hopeful situation no matter how tough the challenges ahead seemed.

A consensus of the women's group was that for every women's focus group there could also be a men's focus group. With various topics discussed, many strengths and weaknesses of serving were mentioned.

Some points require change to occur from all levels of leadership. There was never a magical solution to solve the challenges in military members' lives presented; how-

ever, it was decided that if we all start with ourselves to look for opportunities to mentor and be mentored, if we support each other and if we continue to stay aware of challenges faced, a stronger, more cohesive wing would be formed.

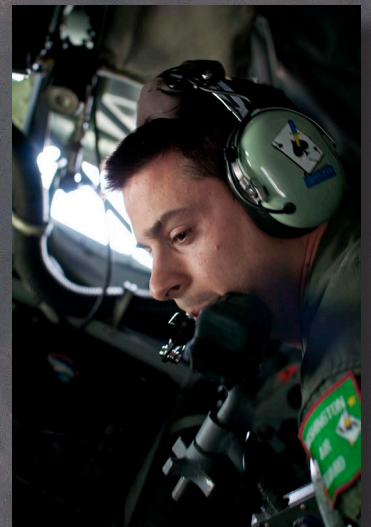
A personal challenge I have given to myself is to remember why I am here, what made me decide to be here and what contributions I will make while I am here, in the 141st Air Refueling Wing.

"I think about the highs in my career and I always associate them with good leadership and mentorship."



by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The first veterans cemetery in Washington was dedicated on Memorial Day in Medical Lake. The Washington State Veterans Cemetery was dedicated by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The 120 acre cemetery features a covered, open-air structure for committal services, a visitor's center, a computer system for locating specific graves or interments, and an assembly area for special occasions, such as Memorial Day observances. The State Veterans Cemetery provides for in-ground casket burial sites and cremation interments, columbarium niches, and a scattering garden for cremation interments. 141st Air Refueling Wing KC-135 aircrew members, Tech. Sgt. Curt Smith, Capt. Kristopher Yegge and Capt. Casey Clarkson were able to participate in the ceremony by providing a fly-by.



(Photos by Tech. Sgt. Michael Stewart, 141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

Fini Flight

Photos by Mr. Bob Tipton





ESGR Honors Spokane County Sheriff

by Nancy Reid Isaak
ESGR Representative

Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich was presented the "My Boss is a Patriot Award" along with other personal gifts brought back from Iraq recently. Three returned members of the 141st Security Forces Squadron of the Washington Air National Guard took part in a televised presentation of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Award and also presented the Sheriff with a flag flown in Iraq, an engraved military knife and unit coins.

"The Sheriff has been very supportive of our military duty," said Jeff Jenkins. Jenkins is a sheriff's detective, and like many of his fellow Guardsmen he has had numerous deployments that have taken him away from his civilian job.

"I want to do everything I can for these patriots and their families," said Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich when he was given the award. A large portion of the Spokane County Sheriff's Department consist of National Guardsmen.

"I am proud of their service and I tell them that we'll take care of their families if they need anything while they are gone."

ESGR also presented the sheriff with the esteemed "Above and Beyond Award".

"Every military member that has spoken to me, tells me that Sheriff Knezovich has been great about supporting their many deployments and their Guard or Reserve duty," said Spokane Area ESGR Chairman, Ken Isaak. Approximately 20 members of the Sheriff's Department are members of the Guard and Reserve. The Sheriff concluded the ceremony by formally signing an ESGR "Statement of Support."



ESGR Representative, Jim Wynne, presents Patriot Award to Sheriff Knezovich (Photo by Nancy Reid Isaak, ESGR Representative)

SKYFEST 2010

USAF THUNDERBIRDS

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Soaring with Eagles

Col. Greg Bulkley, 141st Air Refueling Wing Commander, rides shotgun in an F-15 Eagle while being refueled by a KC-135 Stratotanker from his flying wing. Col. Bulkley retires this month having served in the Washington Air National Guard for over 16 years.

