

# The **JET** GAZETTE



**141st Air Refueling Wing**

Volume 50 Issue 1 · Spring 2012

# M50

## Breathing Easier

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## COMMAND POST

Air Guard and Active Duty work side by side

## SACRED MISSION

Reflecting on Dignified Transfer mission

## WASHINGTON

AIR NATIONAL GUARD ANNUAL AWARD  
WINNERS

# 2011

# STATUS

MEANS **E**VERYTHING





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Vice Commander, 141st ARW:  
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The Jet Gazette  
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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 or 247-7003 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

Every day I awake thankful to be a member of the 141st Air Refueling Wing. You continually exceed expectations. Although some may say you make it look easy, your accomplishments are far from easy. You have spent time away from your loved ones, deploying to locations all over the world. At home you work long hours and operate at a very high pace. There seems to be an exercise or inspection on a monthly basis. You will never be financially compensated for all you have given. For all you do and continue to do, I offer a simple Thank You!

I was recently at the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia. One of the students in my class is a Marine Reserve officer. When he found out I was in AMC, he said "I love AMC. You guys are the best."

I also attended the AMC Commander's spring conference, we received a briefing from two US Army soldiers who had recently served at forward operating bases (FOB) in Afghanistan. Simply said, they love us. They relied on air drops for their resupply and survival. Air drops reduced the need for convoys and saved many lives. They knew that if wounded, they had nearly a 100 percent chance of survival if they reached an aeromedical evacuation plane alive. They also knew we brought their fallen warriors home with dignity.

When asked if they were aware of air refueling, the 1st Sergeant responded without hesitation. He knew we were overhead, extending the combat air patrol time of Close Air Support (CAS) aircraft. He knew those CAS aircraft could respond almost instantly when soldiers were under attack, while helicopters would take time, possibly having to stop for fuel enroute. He understood what the KC-135 meant to the survival of him and his soldiers.

It was reassuring to understand the importance of our mission to the individual soldier who has a name, a face, and a family. And it was a proud moment to hear soldiers express their understanding and thanks for our support. General Johns, the AMC Commander, has done a wonderful job leading and motivating the mobility forces. He is a great friend of the Air National Guard and very thankful for our service and commitment to the mission. He worked very hard to define our purpose and our "why" over the last couple years.



We answer the call of others so they may prevail. We answer the call by providing air refueling, air lift, and aeromedical evacuation. We answer that call in combat and when disaster strikes. My Marine classmate and the two Soldiers made me proud. They also solidified my understanding that we cannot fail. They expect and depend upon us to succeed.

Speaking of success, I told you about our 141st ARW Public Affairs team being recognized as the best web-based publication in the ANG and USAF for 2011. They also won at both levels in 2010. Here is some late breaking news. Congratulations to the 141st ARW Public Affairs team for winning the 2011:

Thomas Jefferson Award for web-based publication. This is a Department of Defense (DoD) award, the highest public affairs award that can be won. Congratulations to our Jet Gazette staff and editorial board:

Maj. Sandy Smock, Capt. Larry Kohlman, Master Sgt. Mindy Gagne, Master Sgt. Michael Stewart, Tech. Sgt. Travis Metheny, Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato and Staff Sgt. Johanna Brooks. We kept saying you were the best, and now DoD believes it! Congratulations!

Proud to serve with you,



Col. K

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

## Wing History



G29-467J-20 (11-1-35-9A-12) DOUGLAS OBSERVATION O38-E (NG) RANDOLPH FIELD, TEXAS

by Tech. Sgt. Wes Walton  
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**A**ccording to the National Museum of the United States Air Force based at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio which has on display the last remaining O-38, this was the best known and most versatile plane of the 1930s.

Take a closer look at those planes shooting down King Kong from the Empire State Building in the 1933 hit movie of same name; it was the premier aircraft of the Army Air Corp at the time, the O-38.

The 116th Observation Squadron was given first priority for the delivery of these planes from Santa Monica, California which according to acting Adjutant General for the State of Washington, Major General Maurice Thompson, "...indicated that the 116th Observation Squadron had been rated very high by the War Department in

The PT-17 (below) carried the same paint scheme as the O-38.



order to merit such consideration in the issue of equipment."

While difficult to distinguish in the black and white photographs of these planes we know from historical accounts that these planes weren't painted to be camouflaged, far from it, the 116th painted these planes to be seen and recognized by all who saw them with bright yellow wings and blue bodies.



**Master Sgt. William Mader and Tech. Sgt. Jon Daniels,** 141st Air Refueling Wing Command Post Controllers, verify checklist procedures during a training exercise.

# COMMAND POST

*Air Guard and Active Duty working side by side*

Photos and Story by Staff Sgt. Johanna Brooks  
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**W**orking at the Fairchild Air Force Base Command Post (CP) is serious business. While the nightmarish scenarios of nuclear war or terrorist attacks are a possibility most prefer not to think about, someone is always watching for, and responding to, anything that may threaten the lives or property of Washingtonians' and Fairchild's military assets.

"The command post is a nerve center which responds to input from a variety of sources and then we rapidly distribute what can be crucial information to the appropriate commanders and agencies across the base," Master Sgt. Carl Golden said.

"As the "eyes and ears of the commander", the Command Post is the conduit through which the Wing's senior leadership receives orders from higher headquarters," said Chief Cheryl Moriarty, CP Superintendent.

It is the only full-time unit in the 141 ARW to be manned 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, all year round, and is the only Air National Guard Command Post in the state of Washington.

Actions must be precise. Checklists are used for every action performed to ensure proper procedures are always followed. Lives depend on it.

Personnel man a central "console" room that is linked to telephone networks, radio

communications, and alerting systems, where information is received and routed to the necessary party. The use of multiple channels ensures receipt of critical information.

Before Total Force Integration (TFI), the 92nd and 141st ARW CPs operated in separate facilities.

In 2009, the 141st relocated to the active duty's facility and now work side by side, the Guard on one side of the room, the active duty on the other, an invisible line drawn down the center.

The centralization of both command posts benefits each Wing. The constant flux in active duty replacements due to Permanent Changes in Station creates a perpetual training atmosphere.

Each U.S. Military base across the globe carries a unique mission, which means that each command post can be significantly different from the next, requiring extensive on-the-job training. Many times, this challenge is met with the experience and longevity of the Guard controllers who have a combined 107 years of experience specific to Fairchild.



{from left to right} Tech. Sgt. Jon Daniels and Master Sgt. William Mader of the 141st Air Refueling Wing and Master Sgt. Jason Spradley and Master Sgt. Bryan Moore of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing monitor equipment and consoles in the event of an emergency.

“Sitting right beside the AD controllers enhances our situational awareness, enabling the ANG leadership to stay abreast of significant events occurring on base”

— Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl Moriarty

“Working at the Command Post is a job that on paper is simple, but to do very well, requires experience and a broad knowledge of things going on outside the doors of the CP, throughout Fairchild,” said Master Sgt. Cory Green, Controller.

AD equipment now available for use by the Guard strengthens the 141st ARW CPs capabilities.

“Sitting right beside the AD controllers

enhances our situational awareness, enabling the ANG leadership to stay abreast of significant events occurring on base,” the Chief said.

Due to state and federal laws and regulations, only the National Guard can respond to state emergencies, whereas the Guard can and does regularly augment active duty.

The Command Post is a vital piece of

the puzzle, increasing emergency threat recognition and response abilities in our community.

Its mission contributes to the overall responsibility of protecting American citizens. The CP deserves recognition for their role in making this state, country and world a safer place.

# CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

Remembering Space Shuttle astronaut  
and Spokane, Washington hero

Michael P. Anderson



Michael P. Anderson

Story by Air Force News Service

Graphic collage by Tech. Sgt. Michael Stewart 141st ARW Public Affairs



Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson was one of only a handful of African-American astronauts and was one of the seven crewmembers aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia when it exploded on re-entry just 16 minutes before its scheduled touchdown Feb. 1, 2003.

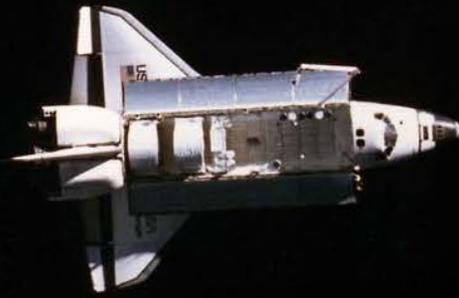
His accomplishments were numerous, and he showed that nothing should get in the way of a person's goals, including their race. He was born in December 1959, in Plattsburgh, N.Y., but considered Spokane, Wash., to be his hometown.

His interest in and drive for becoming an astronaut started when he was just 2 or 3 years old, according to his father. "He made model aircraft from the time he was a small boy until — well, when he was at NASA, he was still making them," his mother said. "Science and aerospace, those were his things."

From the shows he watched on television to the classes he later took in school, Anderson always had his sights set on being an astronaut, according to his parents. "He set his sights on it, and I think everything he did after that was focusing in that direction, hoping that one day he would get it," his mother said. "And, it worked."

He received his Bachelor of Science degree in physics/astronomy from the University of Washington in 1981, and also received his commission as a second lieutenant. He received his Master of Science degree in physics from Creighton University in 1990.

After completing a year of technical training at



Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., he was assigned to Randolph AFB, Texas. At Randolph, he served as Chief of Communication Maintenance for the 2015th Communication Squadron and later as Director of Information System Maintenance for the 1920th Information System Group.

In 1986, he was selected to attend Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance AFB, Okla. Upon graduation, he was assigned to Offutt AFB, Neb. as an EC 135 pilot, flying Strategic Air Command's airborne command post "Looking Glass."

From January 1991 to September 1992, he served as an aircraft commander and instructor pilot in the 920th Air Refueling Squadron at Wurtsmith AFB, Mich.

From September 1992 to February 1995, he was assigned as an instructor pilot and tactics officer in the 380th Air Refueling Wing in Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y. Anderson logged more than 3,000 hours in various models of the KC-135 and the T-38A aircraft.

Selected by NASA in December 1994, Anderson reported to the Johnson Space Center in March 1995. He completed a year of training and evaluation, and was qualified for flight crew assignment as a mission specialist. He was initially assigned technical duties in the Flight Support Branch of the Astronaut Office.

Anderson flew on STS-89 and STS-107, logging more than 593 hours in space. Because of his focus on education, numerous scholarships around the world have been set up in his name, as well as several schools and libraries named after him, including Michael Anderson Elementary at Fairchild AFB, Wash.

Included in the nation-wide memorials is a life-size statue of Col. Anderson in the middle of Riverfront Park, centered in the town he called home, Spokane. He is outfitted in his space suit and releasing a white dove — representing peace and humility.

He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, the NASA Space Flight Medal, then He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, the NAS NASA Distinguished Service Medal and the Defense Distinguished Service Medal.



# SecAF

## AIR FORCE MUST CONTINUE TO MODERNIZE

STORY BY TECH. SGT. RICHARD A. WILLIAMS JR.  
AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AGENCY

**S**ECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE MICHAEL Donley highlighted the service's need to continue future modernization plans during remarks to approximately 400 Airmen, industry officials and Air Force Association members Feb. 24 here.

Donley spoke on the second day of the Air Force Association's 2012 Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition, telling attendees the Air Force must recapitalize needed capabilities despite fiscal challenges.

"We made some hard choices to closely align our FY13 budget submission with the new (Defense Department) strategic guidance," he said. "Even as budgets decline, we must still provide the essential force structure and capabilities on which the Joint Force depends, and be ready to respond to a challenging and dynamic security environment.

"Yet, the new strategic guidance also requires continuing modernization, both to recapitalize aging systems and platforms and to address the proliferation of modern



PHOTOS BY SCOTT M. ASH, CHIEF OF PHOTOGRAPHY, HQ AIR FORCE

**"We will become smaller in order to protect a high quality and ready force, that will continue to modernize and grow more over time,"**

technologies and threats," Donley said.

To meet this requirement, the secretary said service leaders determined that the Air Force's best course of action is to trade size for quality.

"We will become smaller in order to protect a high quality and ready force, that will continue to modernize and grow more over time," he said. "In this decision, we sought the proper balance between today's Air Force and meeting the immediate needs of combatant commanders, while also laying the groundwork for the Air Force our nation will need ten years from now and beyond."

While the fiscal 13 budget proposal slows

the pace and scope of modernization, Air Force officials took measures to protect programs that are critical to future warfighter needs as outlined in the new strategic guidance, Donley said.

He said these programs include the Long Range Strike bomber; the KC-46A refueling tanker; key space programs such as Space-Based Infrared System and Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellites, as well as follow-on GPS work; advanced intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and initiatives related to the Air-Sea Battle concept.

Building fifth-generation fighter capabilities is also critical, Donley said,

"We remain fully committed to the F-35 (Lightning II joint strike fighter)," he said. "This is the future of the fighter force, not only for the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps, but for about eleven other air forces as well. The F-35 remains the largest single Air Force program, accounting for nearly 15 percent of our total investment."

The secretary said that one of the keys to successful modernization within the Air Force is an effective acquisition process.

"Recapturing acquisition excellence has been a top priority for the Air Force, and in the last few years we have made important progress in... revitalizing the acquisition workforce, improving our requirements generation process, instilling budget and financial discipline, improving source selections, and establishing clear lines of authority and accountability within our acquisition organizations," he said.

There is renewed emphasis in the Air Force on linking requirements and acquisition to ensure better understanding of capability, cost, and cycle time in decision making, and a continuing effort to simplify how the services does business, he said.

Donley told the audience that maintaining momentum in critical modernization programs while budgets are declining will be difficult. However, there is a compelling need to invest



in next-generation, high-impact systems so that the Air Force can continue to provide the capabilities on which the nation relies, he said.

"Our systems are growing older and new technologies are being fielded in regions of critical interest, by state and non-state actors alike, diminishing our marginal advantages," Donley said. "Modernization, as challenging as it is in this resource constrained period, will

**"Modernization, as challenging as it is in this resource constrained period, will not wait and remains essential to maintaining U.S. advantages in contested air, space and cyber domains."**

not wait and remains essential to maintaining U.S. advantages in contested air, space and cyber domains."

Donley concluded by saying that Air Force senior leaders, to include Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, are determined to ensuring today's Air Force and its Airmen remains the world's best.

"General Schwartz and I feel deeply that our leadership team has inherited the finest Air Force in the world," he said. "It's one that was built over decades, passed down from one generation to the next.

"It's our obligation to keep it that way going forward, so that our joint and our coalition partners know that they can count on the Air Force to deliver the capabilities that we need together to meet future security challenges," he said.





# PEER SUPPORT

STORY BY **MARCIA RICHARD**  
141ST AIR REFUELING WING DIRECTOR OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

**Marcia Richard**, 141st Air Refueling Wing Director of Psychological Health (front row far left) and **Tom Stabbins**, Peer Support Facilitator/Trainer (front row far right) pose with Peer Support members during training 9 January.

**I**N 2009 AND THIS PAST DECEMBER, several members from the Guard, Reserves and Active duty were trained to be Peer Support Members.

A peer support person is an individual who has volunteered to serve in that position because they care about the welfare of their fellow Airmen. Although Peer Support members are colleagues and not counselors or therapists, they have been specially trained to help address a variety of potentially problematic areas.

Their main goal is to be available to help and listen before a problem becomes too complex and overwhelming.

Why is a Peer Support Program important? Peer supporters “speak the same language” as those they are helping as a result of shared experience(s). Thus, service members often feel a strong connection with their peers. There’s a sense that because of their shared experiences they can better relate and understand each other.

Individuals under duress from stress or other conditions may begin to withdraw from social situations or may have a limited support network. Participating in the peer-to-peer program broadens an individual’s support network. We know that having a strong social support



## PEER SUPPORT

network (such as a peer mentor) has been linked to resilience, which is a fundamental component of successfully managing stress and preventing problems from becoming a crisis.

Confidentiality is an essential element to allow the individual to overcome apprehensions about seeking out a peer, and be able to freely discuss his or her concerns.

Peer Support Members are committed and dedicated to uphold confidentiality and anonymity. However, due to Air Force regulations, there are exclusions to this policy.



### PEER SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY TRAINED TO:

- Provide emotional and practical support at the first sign of need, before problems are compounded
- Provide guidance and resource links to fellow colleagues
- Facilitate referrals of individuals needing professional assistance if a situation requires expertise beyond their level of training
- Assist with grief management
- Intervention if someone is suicidal
- Use effective communication and listening skills
- Help with problem solving
- Assist with issues surrounding deployment
- Identify and be aware of signs of stress

### THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS HAVE TO BE REPORTED AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL:

- Situation where an individual poses a threat to themselves
- Situation where an individual poses a threat to others
- Suspected child abuse or neglect
- Domestic violence
- Major crimes (such as destruction of government property)

If you would like to know more about the Peer-To-Peer Support Program or would like to become involved, contact Marcia Richard (Director of Psychological Health Program) at 509-979-0051.



# Celebrating Women in History “Education & Empowerment”

Commentary By **Lt. Col. Kristi Lowenthal**  
Assistant Professor of History, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

**S**INCE WOMEN WON THE RIGHT to vote in 1920, few issues have been able to command the same amount of widespread support as suffrage did in the years after World War I. Some women want more political and social representation, but others feel that increased individual rights for women are not necessarily a positive social good, as demonstrated by the failure of the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s.

The problem with arguing for women’s rights is that “women” are neither a minority nor a natural interest group. Women exist on all points of the political spectrum from conservative to liberal; they are rich and poor, rural and urban, married and single. American women are black, white, Asian and Latina; atheists and evangelicals; mothers and those with no children.

Knowing their diverse constituency, the organizers of this year’s National Women’s History Month chose the apparently innocuous theme “Women’s Education - Women’s Empowerment.” It would seem that education as a medium for increased opportunity, social mobility, and empowerment is all but a foregone conclusion in today’s American society. However, President Obama’s recent call for increased post-secondary opportunity for Americans in order to compete in the global economy elicited accusations of snobbery.

Some believe that higher education erodes the value of blue-collar work. Similarly, some women reject the need for college education as tending to degrade the traditional roles of wife and mother.

Despite the howls of protest from some quarters, the fact remains that a college education is the best way to achieve upward social mobility in modern American society.

The US Census Bureau recently developed the graph below, reporting that, “the results of this analysis demonstrate that there is a clear and



**Lt. Col. Kristi Lowenthal**

well-defined relationship between education and earnings, and that this relationship perseveres, even after considering a collection of other personal and geographic characteristics.”

Education is the single most important factor in lifetime earnings, which translates into upward social mobility, better access to health care and quality education, and a host of other benefits. The importance of education for women is even more pronounced.

Several scholarly articles have underscored the importance of a mother’s education to the educational achievements and health of her children. Although experts disagree on the strength of this correlation, one worldwide study found strong evidence of community-



wide benefits resulting from the education of even a small fraction of women: “(1) [maternal] education may affect access to health facilities at the community level, thereby improving the health of children of educated as well as uneducated mothers in communities with high levels of education, and (2) higher immunization levels for children of educated mothers may reduce the likelihood of diseases like measles for all children in the community, thereby reducing mortality for children of educated and uneducated mothers in a given community

through spillover effects.” Educating women is instrumental in raising educational and health standards of American communities.

This year’s National Women’s History Month seeks to celebrate existing opportunities for women in America as well as to highlight the need for expanded access. Educated women can enjoy the benefits of education themselves, but can also bring these benefits to their families, their communities, and ultimately, their nation.

▲ Women Suffrage parade supporting President Woodrow Wilson: The suffragette movement became very popular during his term. (Public Domain photo)

Force Maj. David L. Brodeur • Air Force Master Sgt. Tara R. Brown • Air Force Lt. Col. Raymond G. Estelle II • Marine Cpl. Adam D. Jones • Army Spc. Andrew J. Nylander • Air Force Capt. Nathan J. Nylander • Air Force Maj. Charles A. Ransom • Army Pfc. Jonathan P. Day • Army Sgt. 1st Class Bradley S. Hughes • Marine Lance Cpl. Joseph F. Bitner • Marine Sgt. Sean T. Callahan • Marine Lance Cpl. James A. Justice • Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terry L. Varnadore II • Army Capt. Joshua M. McClimans • Army Pfc. Antonio G. Stiggins • Army 1st Lt. Omar Hill • Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Micah Aaron Hill • Army Pfc. John F. Kihm • Army Sgt. Paul J. Atim • Army Sgt. 1st Class Charles L. Adkins • Army Spc. Joseph B. Pierre • Army Spc. Linda L. Pierre • Army Spc. Joel A. Ramirez • Army Capt. Charles E. Ridgley Jr. • Staff Sgt. Cynthia R. Taylor • Army Cpl. Charles J. Wren • Army Spc. Joseph A. Nichols • Army Spc. Donald L. Nichols • Army Sgt. Brent M. Maher • Army Pfc. Brandon T. Pietri • Staff Sgt. Jose Caraballo Pietri • Army Sgt. Vorasack T. Xaysana • Army Sgt. Keith T. Rogers • Navy Hospitalman Benjamin D. Rast • Marine Staff Sgt. Gary L. Nelson III • Army Staff Sgt. Scott H. Burgess • Army Maj. Wesley J. Hill • Staff Sgt. Michael S. Lammerts • Marine Lance Cpl. Harry Lew • Army Staff Sgt. John F. Welch III • Army Staff Sgt. Christian S. Garcia • Army Staff Sgt. Quynh Pfc. Anthony M. Nunn • Army Sgt. Aaron J. Blasjo • Army Capt. Joseph W. Schults • Army Spc. Adam S. Hamilton • Army Pfc. John C. Johnson • Army Sgt. Thomas A. Bohannon • Staff Sgt. Edward D. Mills • Army Staff Sgt. Ergin V. Osman • Army Spc. Adam J. Ramos • Sgt. Louie A. Ramos Velazquez • Army 1st Lt. John M. Runkle • Air Force Tech. Sgt. Christopher R. Thibodeau • Army Pfc. Thomas C. Allers • Army Spc. William S. Blevins • Army Pfc. Andrew M. Krippner • Army Staff Sgt. Kristoff Beattie • Sgt. 1st Class Clifford E. Beattie • Army Pfc. Ramon Mora Jr. • Army Cpl. Brandon Melton • Army Pfc. Bradley L. Melton • Army Pfc. Cheizray Pressley • Army Staff Sgt. David D. S. Pvt. Lamarol J. Tucker • Army Spc. Brian D. Riley Jr. • Army Sgt. Robert C. Schlotz • Amaru Aguilar • Marine Sgt. Kevin B. Balduf • **SACRED MISSION** • Marine Lt. Col. 1st Lt. Demetrius M. Frison • Army Sgt. Ken K. Hermogino • Army Spc. Riley S. Spvin W. White • [commentary by Master Sgt. Michael Stewart](#) • Marine Sgt. Chad D. Frokjet. Matthew G. Nielson • [141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs](#) • Army Sgt. Robert G. Tenney • Lance Cpl. John F. Farias • Marine Cpl. Mark R. Goyet • Army Staff Sgt. Donald J. Hill • Army Spc. Dylan J. Johnson • [photos by Mr. Roland Balik](#) • Air Force Tech. Sgt. Daniel J. Johnson • Army Spc. Dylan J. Johnson • [436th Airlift Wing Public Affairs](#) • Marine Gunnery Sgt. Ralph J. Proctor • Army Staff Sgt. Russell J. Proctor • Army Spc. Nicholas P. Bernier • Army 1st Lt. Dimitri Kelly • Staff Sgt. Nigel D. Kelly • Marine Sgt. Marlon E. Myrie • Army Spc. Nicholas C. D. Lance Cpl. Jared C. Verbeek • Army Pfc. Joshua L. Jetton • Army Pfc. Gustavo A. Pfc. Josue Ibarra • Army Pfc. Brian J. Backus • Army Spc. Robert M. Friese • Army Staff Sgt. Matthew D. Hermanson • Air Force Maj. Philip D. Ambard • Air Force



I could hear the voice over the two-way radio call out “wheels rolling.” That was everyone’s cue to get into position and not move. Everyone was at parade rest waiting for the families to arrive.

I was nervous – more nervous than at any point in my military career. My heart was pounding so loud I was sure everyone on the flight line could hear it. I had to remind myself to even breathe. My ears could pick out every little sound, from the faint hum of my camera’s internal motor to the buzzing of insects.

Why was I so nervous? I knew I would have some nervousness, who wouldn’t? But, I had no clue it would be this strong. I had double

and triple checked everything on my equipment; I ran the process through my mind a hundred times. The one thing I kept reminding myself was “don’t forget to hit the record button.”

I had heard about the dignified transfer mission at Dover Air Force Base, Del., while attending training in Tennessee. I was told it would be one of the most rewarding jobs you could ever do as a combat correspondent in public affairs and how it has touched so many people’s lives, but I never dreamed it would change my life forever.

It had been 16 hours since I arrived at Dover; and, already, a notification had come in informing us that we would be receiving six fallen soldiers later that night. That

evening, we loaded our gear and headed to the passenger terminal to wait for the arrival of their remains.

I was surprised to see that it was a commercial airliner and not a military aircraft. When I asked the other videographer why, he explained the remains of the fallen are returned to Dover by the most expedient means possible, which may mean a direct flight from theater on a civilian aircraft. The mission, he continued, is to return America’s fallen to their loved ones as quickly as possible.

Once the aircraft taxied and parked at the designated spot, we drove out to set up our cameras, one camera on the flight line and



*“Even though it was very cold, I could not stop sweating because I was so nervous”*



one in the transfer vehicle. Once inside the vehicle, I was required to set up and level my tripod, frame and focus my camera, adjust exposure and white balance, and check my back-up recording device, all within 5 minutes. Even though it was very cold, I could not stop sweating because I was so nervous.

When the call came in over the radio for “wheels rolling,” it was at that point no one could leave there designated location or even move. If we forgot an item or had a camera malfunction, we only had access to what was in our camera bag. There was no room for mistakes.

In the distance, you could see the flashing lights of the security forces vehicle escorting the families out to the flightline. An Airman with two lighted batons precisely guided the surrey transporting the families into view of the aircraft.

As the families were approaching

they could see the flag-draped cases ready to be lowered.

Because of the position and location of where I film from, I could not see the families when they parked, but I could hear the driver applying the buses’ brakes, letting me know I would need to hit the record button very soon.

I checked my camera’s focus position once again and waited for what seemed like an eternity. The families did not make a sound, or at least I could not hear them.

As I waited, I wondered how I would react in their situation. Would I cry? How would my family and friends respond if they were out in the cold waiting to watch me be transferred to a military vehicle?

After about 10 minutes, I could see out the driver’s side window some movement along the flightline road, far off in the distance. The carry team and the official party were on their way. With precision and dignity, they all marched in step down the long road toward the aircraft.

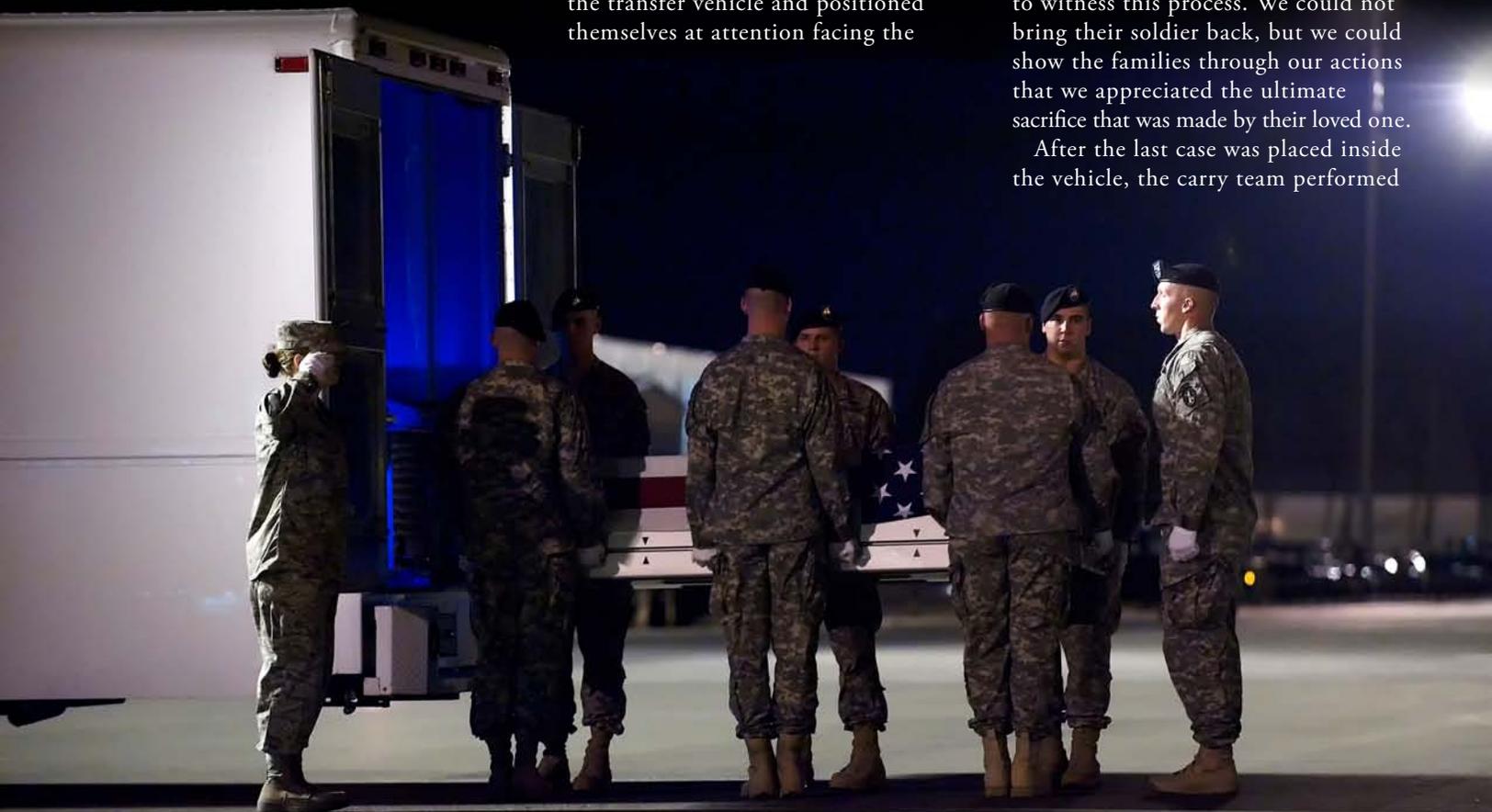
As the carry team marched around the transfer vehicle and positioned themselves at attention facing the

families, is when I finally heard them – quietly at first, but very clearly, the cries of a lone woman calling out her soldier’s name. As she became louder I started to hear other cries, more women and then children, over and over they cried “daddy, daddy – you promised me” an engulfing wall of grief. I no longer had to wonder how I would respond – I cried.

I had to stay focused. This wasn’t about me, this was about the families. “Do what you were trained to do, stay focused,” I repeated to myself. By the time the official party marched toward the transfer cases and stood in front for a moment of prayer, I quickly regained my composure. I had to. Not only was I responsible for the taping of the event, I also had to help position the transfer cases within the vehicle.

One by one, each fallen soldier was placed in the vehicle with the greatest of care. Every detail was thought through; even the order of the cases is done by position of honor or rank. I was never prouder than at that moment in my career to be able to witness this process. We could not bring their soldier back, but we could show the families through our actions that we appreciated the ultimate sacrifice that was made by their loved one.

After the last case was placed inside the vehicle, the carry team performed





*“I reached out and placed my hand on one of the cases and thanked them for their sacrifice”*

– Master Sgt. Michael Stewart

an about face and took about five steps out, stopped, and turned around to face there fallen comrades. The Airman responsible for closing the vehicle doors did so in a very slow and deliberate manner, walking the one side of the double door all the way in and securing it, before walking to the other side and closing the final door, until both doors were secure.

As the transfer vehicle started to drive away, the commander in charge ordered “present arms,” every military person on the flight line rendered a three-second salute. The vehicle slowly headed toward the port mortuary with a security forces vehicle as its escort.

As I rode back in the vehicle, sitting inches from six men I never had the

privilege to know, I reached out and placed my hand on one of the cases and thanked them for their sacrifice, not only for my family, but for those families sleeping soundly that night, who might never get the privilege of thanking these heroes.

Those six soldiers would be the first of 183 military men and women from all branches of service that I would thank for their service and sacrifice during my four-month tour at Dover AFB. My job there was because people were dying. It doesn’t get any more sobering than that for me.

I’ve changed since that deployment. I hold my family a little tighter when we hug. I’ve learned to be more open with my emotions. And, I don’t sweat the small stuff nearly as much as I used to.



# WHY WRITE A MEDAL?



STORY BY **MASTER SGT. CHAD MANLEY**  
141ST MAINTENANCE SQUADRON UPAR

**A**t my grandfather's funeral, next to the coffin, there was a black and white photo of him as a young man. It was taken after he'd returned from the war. Next to the picture there were ribbons and among them was a Purple Heart. It occurred to me that there were no mementos of 30 years spent as an electrician in the local area; a lifetime spent building homes in the growing post war suburbs joining northern and central Ohio. My grandfather was 83 years old when he died and he was memorialized by three grown children, a youthful picture, and military ribbons he had earned 60 years earlier in campaigns we've all since read about.

Today we have a cynical view of medals. We shrug off awards as a form of self-praise; recognition for the ordinary worthy of nothing special. Many veterans dismiss credit for their involvement in the most extraordinary achievements by diminishing their service to a small supporting role.

Humility is a virtue and our proudest victories are won by the modest endeavors of the virtuous. Medals represent our contribution to the whole, evidence that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. Patriotic sentiment aside, serving in the military is a commitment, not just a job. We will cash our paychecks and spend the money but the medals will bear testimony to the obligations we fulfilled.

It's easy to recommend someone for a medal. The vPC-GR (virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve) site can be found on the Air Force Portal. Create a vPC-GR account and access the vPC-GR Dashboard. From there choose the Action Requests tab and select "Nominate a Member for MSM, AFCM, AFAM, AAM". The process is simple and intuitive; of course the hardest part is completing the narrative. It will take time to find the correct wording and to route the package through the review process. It may even find its way back to you for corrections; however, the effort will be worth it. Consult AFI 36-2803 for guidance.

Remember, receiving a medal is an honor. Recognition should not be bound to just those people we are close to; it should be fairly and justly

awarded. To write a medal is to magnify a moment that was instrumental in driving towards a goal. It's breaking down a series of events into their anatomy and exploding that view to show impact. It's not fictionalizing an event for the sake of recognizing someone when it's their turn. It's a legitimate occurrence that serves as its own justification. Medals should be earned.

It's doubtful my grandfather sought his awards anymore in his day than many of us do today, and they probably meant about as much to him as ours do to us. Yet they mattered so much to his family that they were chosen, of all of his possessions, to represent the significance of his life at his death. The importance of what we do on a daily basis isn't always apparent but often will only come into focus well after the fact. It's up to us to measure the weight of the distinctive accomplishments of our humble peers and recognize the efforts that are the foundation of our success. Take the time to appreciate those around you for their service and sacrifice.

**Unit Public Affairs Representatives are volunteers who write and submit stories unique to their units. If you have questions or would like to be a UPAR contact Major Sandy Smock at [sandy.smock@us.af.mil](mailto:sandy.smock@us.af.mil)**



# M50



## Breathing Easier

story and graphic by Master Sgt. Michael Stewart  
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**E**ver since World War I when German soldiers used chlorine gas to attack the French at Ypres, the importance of respiratory protection in combat has become as important as body armor and bullets.

For more than 20 years the Air Force has relied on the MCU-2A/P gas mask to help protect its Airmen in the event of a chemical or biological attack.

During the August drill, the 141st Air Refueling Wing will begin training on a replacement mask, the M50 Joint Services General Purpose Mask.

"The new mask is lighter, more comfortable and provides better protection," said Tech. Sgt. James Achen, 141st Air Refueling Wing Individual Protective Element NCO. "The first thing people will notice is how easy it is to breathe in the new masks. The dual filter design allows more air to flow in and out of the mask, which keeps lenses from fogging up and helps Airmen avoid heat exhaustion."

The M50 provides another important benefit to the military and the tax payer. Prior to the M50, the military had two different gas masks that were issued. The Air Force and Navy used the MCU-2A/P and the Army and Marines were issued the M40.

Now, having an inventory of only one type of mask makes it cheaper and easier to obtain replacement parts and perform mask repairs in the field. With Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines commonly working side by side, carrying the same equipment can possibly save a life.

*(continued on next page)*

photos by Staff Sgt Anthony Ennamorato, 141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Training on the M50 will require getting fit tested by Bioenvironmental Engineering. The procedure is still the same as before, but because the mask is a different model, a new fit test must be administered.

"A fit test consists of five simple tests after an individual don's their mask" said Senior Airman Devon De Castrique, 92nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron Bioenvironmental technician. "We have the member perform normal breathing and deep breathing. Then we have them turn their head side to side, move their head up and down

and finally, rotate their chin."

Although the testing procedures are the same as before, the new mask actually speeds up the testing process.

"Because members can breathe easier in the new mask, they are less claustrophobic and perform the tests faster," De Castrique said.

With high tempo deployments, extreme temperatures and loads of equipment to carry in combat, a mask that not only protects but allows Airmen to see clearer and breathe easier is a good change.

## M50 Filter Performance

### Blood Agents

Hydrogen Cyanide, Cyanogen Chloride, Chloropicrin

### Nerve Agents

"G" Series, "V" Series, Any thickened form of agent

### Blister Agents

Mustard, Lewisite, Any thickened form of agent

### Riot Control Agents

CS, CN, OC (Pepper Spray)

**Tech. Sgt. James Achen**  
141st Air Refueling Wing  
Individual Protective Element NCO





# WASHINGTON

AIR NATIONAL GUARD ANNUAL AWARD  
WINNERS

# 2011



CGO  
Captain Timothy Ridhour



First Sergeant  
Senior Master Sgt. Joel Dauer



Honor Guard  
Senior Master Sgt. Mary Crofoot



SNCO  
Master Sgt. Steven Furfaro



Civilian  
Mr. Robert Tipton



# STATUS

## MEANS EVERYTHING



In the civilian world status can mean a lot of things. It can define your place in society or at least give the appearance of what you want to portray. Celebrities live for it; politicians strive for it. What about members of the military? What does it mean to us? More importantly, what does it mean to you and your commander?

story by **Master Sgt. Elena Manley**  
141st Air Refueling Wing Legal Office

In the Air National Guard, status is often a question of who has control over you. If you are on orders your status is either Title 10 or Title 32. As a Guardsman under Title 10 orders you are subject to the legal jurisdiction of the federal government, meaning your commander-in-chief is the President of the United States. Members will be disciplined according to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

A Washington State Guardsman under Title 32 status (drill weekends, training days, etc.) is subject to the legal jurisdiction of the state government. You have sworn an oath to obey the orders of the commander-in-chief who is the Governor of the state of Washington. Members will be disciplined according to the Washington Code of Military Justice (WCMJ).

To put it simply, your chain of command and the disciplinary process can change depending on what status you are in.

Many guard members are unaware of a drastic change in the law that has a significant impact on all of us.

In the old days, for a traditional guard member, what happened off-duty stayed off-duty. Not anymore. The WCMJ was amended in 2009 and states that the code applies to all members of the organized militia who are not in federal service pursuant to Title 10 U.S.C. (WCMJ 38.38.008).

This means if you are currently a member, you are subject to this code, whether you are working in your civilian job, attending civilian classes, staying at home to care for children, or working in uniform as a technician. The caveat is that if disciplinary action is warranted, the act of serving and receiving such an action must take place in a duty status (i.e. UTA or AT, etc.).

For instance, if a member of the Washington Air National Guard happens to be on base and, while not in a duty status, is found to be disrespectful to a superior non-commissioned officer (violation of Article 89, WCMJ), the Guardsmen can be held accountable once the Guardsmen is in state military status.

Other examples are when a member who's conduct is prejudice to the good order and discipline of the unit (Article 134, WCMJ), has an unprofessional relationship with another member of the unit (Article 92, WCMJ), or someone who commits a DUI (Article 111). The member can be held accountable once the member is in state military status.

What is limiting to your commander is what they can do regarding actions having occurred while a member is in Title 10 status. Again, while in Title 10 status the member is no longer subject to state jurisdiction. Administrative Control, called ADCON, lies with the 201st Mission Support Squadron out of Andrews AFB, MD. This is why your Title 10 orders reflect that you belong to the 201st.

Operational Control, called OPCON, lies with the commander/unit for which you are being temporarily assigned to. If an act is committed while in one duty status, it must be addressed while the member is in the same status by a Commander in the same status. Commanders in Title 32 have no command authority nor UCMJ authority over members deployed in Title 10 status.

While the commander has an obligation to handle disciplinary matters swiftly, the commander must also ensure that the accused is afforded their rights under either the Uniform Code of Military Justice or the Washington Code of Military Justice; rights such as the opportunity to speak

with an attorney, and the right to remain silent when questioning leads to the possibility that answering such questions could incriminate the accused (Article 31 – both UCMJ/WCMJ).

Equally important, commanders and supervisors must know the duty status of a member to determine if they have jurisdiction over the person. Occasionally, a problem occurs when a member commits an act while in Title 10 status and it is discovered when the member reverts back to Title 32 status.

If the criminal act is serious enough, they can put the member back on Title 10 orders or the member's orders can be extended to initiate punishment. If the Title 10 orders are not extended, the best remedy is to issue a letter of reprimand, deny a promotion, deny future deployment opportunities, or impose additional duties that do not fall under the "hard labor" definition. Finally, depending on the seriousness of the offense, a member can be denied re-enlistment on his Estimated Time of Separation date.

It's an honor, not a privilege, to serve in the Washington Air National Guard. Those who bring discredit to the unit will be disciplined and possibly discharged for misconduct. When commanders, first sergeants, or others in supervision contact the Legal Office regarding possible disciplinary action against a member, our first question will always be "What status were they in?" Status, for military legal purposes, means everything.



The Legal Office is open UTA

weekends from **0700-1600** hours.

DSN: **370-7035** or **509-247-7035**

or email **141ARW.HQ.JA@US.AF.MIL**

If you need assistance after hours, contact the

**COMMAND POST** at **509-247-7100**

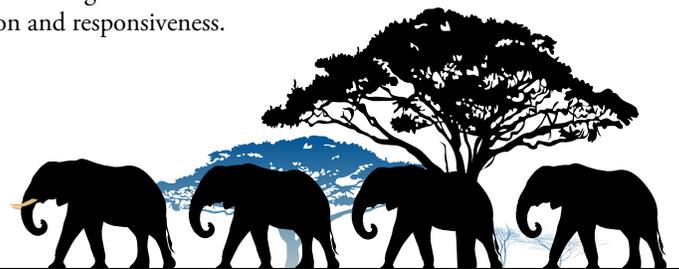


# Elephant Walk

story by Ms. **Katie Timm**, 141st Air Refueling Contributing Writer  
photo by Staff Sgt. **Michael Means**, 92nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**T**eam Fairchild personnel of the 92nd and 141st Air Refueling Wings performed the time-honored tradition of an “elephant walk” on Thursday, February 23, 2012. Using KC-135 Stratotankers, this training mission practiced total force integration and wartime readiness at Fairchild Air Force Base. The “elephant walk” is a uniquely Air Force exercise that dates back to World War II. According to Mr. Gary Boyd, 305th Air Mobility Wing Historian, the Army Air Forces had the luxury of large amounts of bombers by 1944, and would regularly generate attacks in excess of 1,000 aircraft from its Numbered Air Forces. Observers commented that the nose-to-tail, single-file taxi movements of the heavily-laden bombers paralleled the nose-to-tail trail of lumbering elephants on their way to the next watering hole. This procedure demonstrates a test of the wing’s mobility procedures and allows for a close inspection of wartime readiness.\* Team Fairchild personnel executed the mission with success, launching several aircraft to honor the tradition, allowing Airmen to practice team cohesion and responsiveness.

**\*[Link to article \(click here\)](#)**





The Fitness Center supports an average of approximately nine hundred service members and their families each day. The new facility offers greater locker space, a new sauna, and spacious shower areas.

# Fitness Center

story by **Master Sgt. Michael Stewart**  
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**T**HE NEW FAIRCHILD Air Force base Fitness Center is now open. The 80,000 square foot two-level facility offers many activities for Guard members and their families.

The new facility has regulation size raquetball courts, new cardio and weight lifting equipment and an upper level indoor track.

"I love that the track is located upstairs," said Master Sgt. Cindy Jackson, Mission Support Group Equipment Management NCOIC, "the

large windows provide a great view to the outside so I don't get board running in a circle."

The track is an 1/8th of a mile with twelve laps equaling the 1 1/2 mile requirement for the Air Force fitness test.

The basketball court can be divided up to accomodate a basketball and volleyball game simultaneously and there is an enclosed children's play area located next to work out equipment so you can exercise and keep tabs on your children at the same time.

The gym is staffed by ac-

tive duty specialists who are trained to help in many fitness areas.

"We can design workouts to help you reach your weight loss or strength goals," said Senior Airman Paul Goth, 92nd Force Support Squadron Fitness Specialist, "We have taken members who could barely make three laps around the indoor track, to passing there fitness test, seeing them reach their goals is a great feeling." The Fitness Center has alot to offer. To learn more, contact the Fitness Center at 247-2791.



“Men and Women of the 141st, congratulations on your selection as an Air Force Outstanding Unit for fiscal year 2011. It was a challenging year for us considering the runway closure, multiple deployments, several exercises and inspections (Compliance Inspection, Logistics Compliance Assessment Program, Health Services Inspection), and a Homeland Response Force External Evaluation on top of our normal busy schedule. You met every challenge head on and achieved resounding success each time. Your national level recognition as being amongst America’s finest Air Force units is well deserved. I am honored to serve with you!”

Col. Kelly

