



BAM

Vol. 34, No. 5

115th Fighter Wing, Truax Field, Madison, WI

Welcome Home!



Commander's Commentary

Summer, Safety, and a Star



Col Joseph J. Brandemuehl
115 FW Commander

It looks like summer is finally on its way, and like most people, I can't wait to get outside and enjoy the activities that go along with it. After such a long, harsh winter, it's going to be tempting to jump right into those summer plans without taking the time to think about things like safety. And I would suggest that most people don't think about safety because it is ingrained in our culture. But, here are some thoughts to remember.

Summer is traditionally an accident-prone season. You would think that winter around here would be more dangerous, but I believe most people are more safety-conscious in the winter. Ice, snow, cold; they are easy threats to identify. Summer threats may not be so apparent.

Everyone must practice the basic principles of Personal Risk Management (PRM) when we engage in summer fun. There are

obvious points to consider, like the dangerous combination of alcohol and driving – whether the vehicle is a car, boat, personal watercraft, motorcycle, ATV, or whatever. I don't think I need to say any more about that.

Just as our pilots and crew chiefs preflight an

F-16 before takeoff, take the time to “pre-flight” your summer equipment – your boat, motorcycle, lawnmower, gas grill, chainsaw, and anything else that might have been sitting idle for the winter. Best to identify problems before they become dangers. Be smart and be safe!

In addition to your own personal safety programs this summer, the Wing has a number of safety initiatives going here at Truax. In June, we have the Safety 12 AF SAV (Staff Assistant Visit) to help our safety office prepare for the July ESOHCAMP (Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment Management Program). Just about everything we do on the base is subject to an environmental regulation, law, or directive, and therefore, subject to enforcement by federal and state regulatory agencies.

The purpose of the ESOHCAMP is to enhance Air Force environmental compliance with federal, state, Department of Defense, and Air Force regulations, improve compliance management by identifying and tracking trends that can lead to environmental problems, build financial support for environmental compliance projects and assure commanders that the environmental programs are effective.

The evaluation team will be taking a hard look at how we manage major areas or 'protocols' such as the base's hazardous materials, air emissions, water program, fuels storage, and safety and occupational health management. Any discrepancies found will be noted and corrected as soon as possible. We all must approach the ESOHCAMP inspection with the attitude of cooperation and openness.

As I mentioned earlier, safety is ingrained in our culture – it's a daily way of life here, as our safety record indicates. And because of that, nothing should really change with regards to inspections when it comes to safety. However, here are a few helpful pointers from our Safety office: keep your

work area clean, make sure your training is up to date and documented, and be vigilant for any safety-related issues – again, not just for the inspections, but always.

After the ESOHCAMP, our safety office will be focusing on making the 115 FW the first military unit in the state and possibly the second Air Force-wide to earn a “Star” rating in OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). According to OSHA, “The Star Program is designed for exemplary worksites with comprehensive, successful safety and health management systems. Companies in the Star Program have achieved injury and illness rates at or below the national average of their respective industries. These sites are self-sufficient in their ability to control workplace hazards.”

This is yet another chance for the 115th Fighter Wing to lead the Air National Guard and the Air Force. By earning the Star rating, we will show that workplace safety and job performance are inseparable. Safety and performance are two things that get attention at the national level – both for good and bad. Let's work this summer to ensure our great reputation not only continues, but is enhanced! Think safety this summer!

The BAM

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On the cover: Returning 115FW Airmen are greeted upon return to Madison from Iraq. Top row l-r: Governor Jim Doyle greets LtCol Jon Graham; SrA Erin Johnson (center photo) and TSgt Nate Nickel (top right) reunite with loved ones. Bottom row l-r: SSgt Katie Kane sees her son for the first time in weeks; Maj Chris Arenz hugs his family; and family members await the return of their Airman.

Construction projects force parking restrictions

BAM Staff

Several construction projects are taking place this year, the first one starting April 7, 2008, which will impact parking at Truax Field for the next 8-12 months.

Certain parking areas around buildings 400, 404, 402, 414, 415 and 430 will become construction areas that will be restricted to contractor parking and equipment staging area only. For further details of locations, 115 FW members can go to the wing intranet home page and click on the parking restrictions link. This page will also contain updates on the most current parking information, so make sure to visit it often.



It is important to note designated parking areas and to park in those places only. This may require individuals to park their vehicles outside their normal parking area. Parking in areas other than designated parking can create a safety hazard and impede our Fire Department's response to an emergency. Those who park in areas other than designated parking will be ticketed by 115 SFS.

More details on alternative parking options is being looked into at this time by Security Forces and Command staff. Ensure you remain aware of current designated parking and inform those in your workplace of any changes.

For more information on parking restrictions, 115 FW members can contact CES Production Control at 245-4571 or Central Security Control at 245-4530 with any questions.



This could be a familiar scene over the next several months as construction on base restricts the number of available parking spots. (Photos by SSgt Katie Kane, 115 FW/PA)

F-16s get unexpected foam bath



Recently, a 115 FW hangar unexpectedly filled up with fire suppression foam as the hangar fire suppression system inadvertently went off during a heavy rain storm. This was the first time the system, installed nearly two years ago, has been "ops tested" with aircraft in the shelter. (Photos by MSgt Dan Richardson, 115 FW/PA)

Chaplain's Commentary The Gift of Friendship



Chaplain (Lt)
John O'Brien
115 FW Chaplain

As many of you know, I recently returned from Commissioned Officer Training at Maxwell Air Force Base. The training experience was both exhausting and exhilarating. The long days of training were followed by brief nights of rest. But in the end, as I stood upon the graduation parade field, I had an immense sense of pride and accomplishment.

I did not, however, graduate alone. There were over one hundred other individuals who graduated with me. We were strangers who became friends. We were individuals who became a team. It was about mission completion, and we all knew that we could not do it alone. We would need to work

together to accomplish the goal of graduation.

Just a few days before I stood on the parade field, I stood before my peers to give the invocation during our dining in event. We were sporting our mess dress for this formal occasion... and all hoping that we would not be sent to the grog. It was a time to reflect and relax in an environment of good natured humor, while in the company of good friends.

I would like to share with you the words I wrote for the invocation. They reflect a sense of appreciation for the friendships we formed. They remind us of the importance other people have in our lives. And I share them with you because so many people I graduated with said these words were very meaningful to them. They are as follows:

"We are reminded in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes that there is a time and a season for every matter under heaven. There is a time to be born, and a time to die; a time for war, and a time for peace; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; and there is a time to keep silence, and a time to speak. We have gathered here this evening because there is a time to train and test, and there

is a time to laugh and let loose; there is a time to sweat and study, and there is also a time to... laugh... and let loose... just a little. With these thoughts in mind, I invite you to join me in prayer. Let us pray:

"Lord God, creator of heaven and earth, you have graciously blessed us with both health and happiness this evening. We thank you for our food and drink – may your blessing be upon them – and may your blessing be upon those whose hands have prepared them for us. We thank you for safely guiding us through these past weeks of Commissioned Officer Training. We thank you for the dedication and professionalism of the OTS Staff. And perhaps more importantly, we thank you for the gift of one another and the friendships we have formed. This evening is about food, fellowship and laughter. But Lord, we know, not everything under heaven is peacefully balanced. We will leave here this evening ever closer to being called upon to serve our nation as officers in the United States Air Force. Therefore, in all we think, say and do; guide us in the ways of truth, goodness, integrity, service and excellence. We ask this in your name. Amen."

Outstanding Volunteer



Congratulations to Shawna Wyman for receiving the Family Readiness Outstanding Volunteer Award at the State Family Program Conference in La Crosse. Shawna is the lead volunteer for the 115th Fighter Wing's Family Readiness Program. Shawna volunteers most UTA weekends, assisting members with in and out processing. She is also a familiar face at Family Program events like Family Day. (Photo by SSgt Katie Kane, 115 FW/PA)

First Sergeant's Corner Fit to fight??



MSgt Martha
Irizarry
115 MDG

The Preventative Health Assessment (PHA) and Individual Medical Readiness (IMR) program exists to ensure a medically fit to fight force. The responsibility for ensuring a fit and healthy force is shared among commanders, the Medical Group, and the individual service member. Commanders are responsible for ensuring their personnel are ready for deployments within 72 hours. In order to have this happen commanders need to ensure members get to their appropriate medical and dental appointments.

The Medical Group is responsible for providing commanders with the information regarding the medical status of their

assigned personnel but not enforcing compliance. Individual members are responsible for completing required appointments so that tests, screenings, or immunizations are maintained as current. Keeping current ensures service members are ready to deploy in that 72 hour window.

There are several components that are considered when determining IMR. These include immunizations, dental, lab tests, medical equipment, health records review and physical profiles. The IMR rate is reported as the percentage of assigned members medically ready for deployment. This percentage includes all assigned personnel for which the Wing is responsible. The 115th Fighter Wing's rate of 84% exceeds the Air National Guard standard of 80%. The status of each wing is reported to the Wing Commander, the National Guard Bureau and the Air Force.

This program will only be successful if each member of the 115th Fighter Wing does their small part in fulfilling their medical and dental responsibilities.



Student flight gets recruits ready for prime time

By TSgt Don Nelson
115 FW/PA

“Wipe that smile off your face and spit that gum out! Now pick it up and stick it in your pocket!” says Master Sgt. Val Chandler, 115 MSF recruiting supervisor, as he corrects a young 115 FW recruit. “This is my favorite part of the recruiting program.”

New recruits to the wing, who are also new to the Air Force and the Air National Guard, participate in a unique program designed to prepare new airmen for the rigors of basic military training. The student flight, as it is known, has 10 to 25 recruits in civilian clothes each UTA weekend learning how to be a good trainee.

Conceived several years ago to help stem the tide of recruits who were not making it through basic training, the student flight teaches prospective unit members drill and ceremonies, customs and courtesies, rank structure and a heavy emphasis on physical fitness.

“Preparing these recruits to be the best Airmen as they possibly can be is our goal,” said Master Sgt. Timothy Strassman, student flight team chief. “We want them to succeed.”

While the student flight is not unique to the Air Force, only a handful of basic trainees have this type of advance training, said Sgt. Chandler. “By working with them before they go, it is more likely that they

will be chosen for leadership positions while at basic training,” he said.

Students are part of the flight for three to four months for recruits who are usually not too far removed from high school. In some cases, if the recruit is still in high school, the student may train in the flight for up to nine or ten months.

Airman 1st Class John Seibel, 115 CE electrician, is veteran of the student flight who recently returned from basic training. “We want the recruits to hear about basic training directly from the perspective of someone who has been a member of student flight and has recently completed basic training,” said Sgt. Strassman.

“I knew what to expect,” said Airman Seibel. “Right after I got off the bus at Lackland (Air Force Base) I was thankful I had a chance to develop my military bearing in the student flight because that when basic training became real.”

According to Sgt. Chandler, the top reasons recruits do not make it through basic training are physical fitness and discipline. Making sure the recruits can pass the physical fitness test is very important he said.

The students come to the base for a typical UTA weekend, military pay and all. “They take their oaths and are members of the unit who are just waiting to go to basic training,” said Tech. Sgt. Zach Brewer, 115 FW recruiter. “They even have access to the National Guard tuition grants and tuition reimbursement.”

A normal student flight UTA Saturday consists of classroom training centered around basic



military knowledge followed by an introductory lesson on drill. The day concludes with a visit from a former student flight trainee and an intense session on reporting statements. Sundays are workcenter days for the student flight as the recruits get a chance to work in the sections that they will be assigned to upon completion of training.

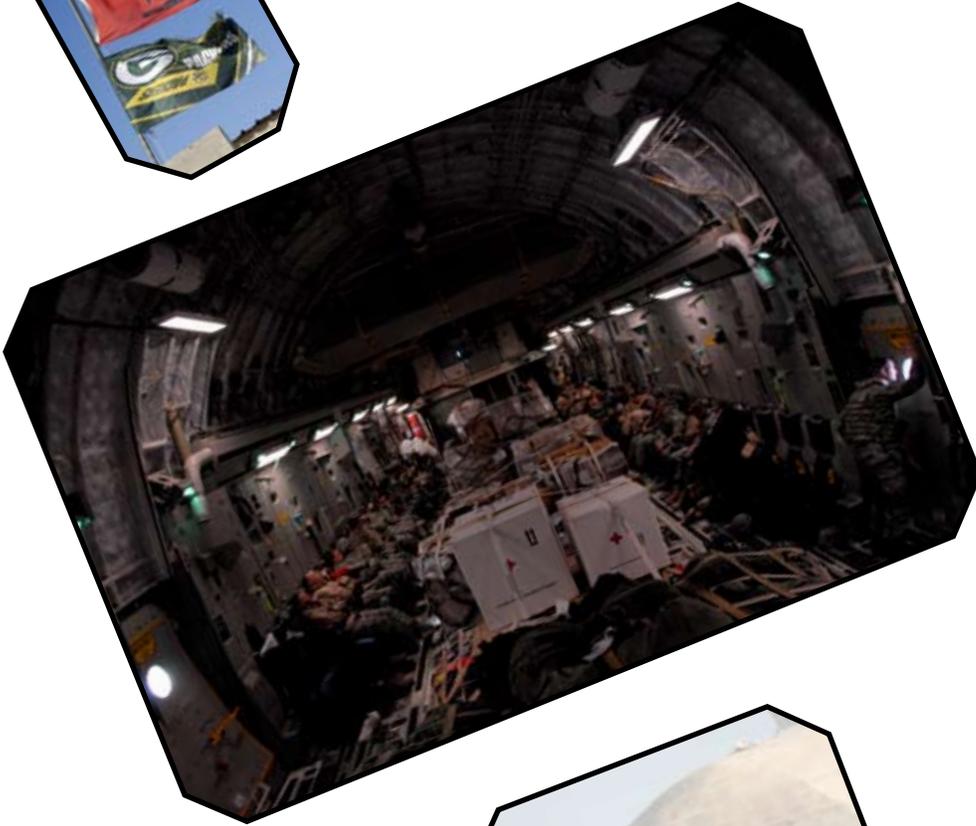
“The student flight is important to the wing because it is expensive to send recruits through basic training and technical school,” said Sgt. Chandler. “The Air Force goal is to have recruits fully mission qualified and world wide deployable as a 3-level in their career fields and the additional training we give them helps get them to that point.”



MSgt Val Chandler, 115 FW recruiting, teaches the student flight members the basics of drill and ceremony during the recruits' UTA weekend which also includes training on customs and courtesies, Air Force rank structure in preparation for basic military training. (Photos by SSgt Katie Kane, 115 FW/PA)

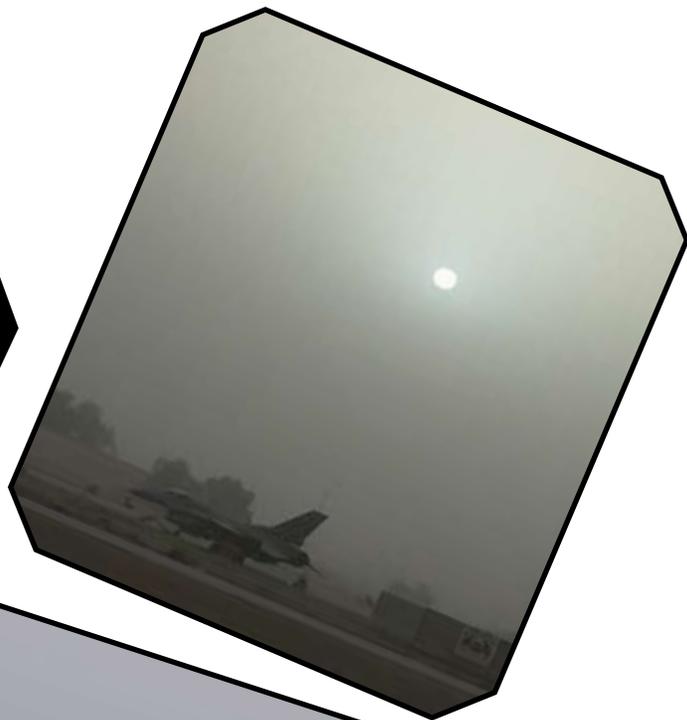
Back from from Iraq w

Members of the 115th Fighter recently returned from a 60-day deployment to Balad Air Base, Iraq where they were part of the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Wing in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photos by MSgt Dan Rice and SSgt Katie Kane, 115 FW/PA



with many memories...

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Volk Field CRTC airfield ops named tops for 2007

SMSgt Greg Cullen
Volk Field CRTC PA

The Air Traffic Control and Airfield Management sections of Volk Field CRTC have been named the 2007 Air National Guard Operations Complex of the Year.

"I'm very proud of both our Air Traffic Control and Airfield Management sections," said Lt. Col Brendan Smith, Volk Field CRTC Director of Operations.

The complex has nineteen people assigned to the control tower, radar approach control, and airfield management facilities. The CRTC competed against several other complex nominees throughout the ANG.

Volk Field's complex directly supports ten midwest flying units on a regular basis within their 12,000 square miles of airspace, including the 115th Fighter Wing. In addition, they supported seventeen deployed flying units and airlift support requirements for five major non-flying deployments with a 100% safety record.

The airfield and controllers handled more than 750 transient aircraft. A large



portion of these aircraft were supporting Volk Field's aerial port of embarkation mission for soldiers mobilizing and demobilizing at nearby Fort McCoy. All of the flights continued despite a \$2.1 million dollar construction project which closed both arm/de-arm areas during the summer,

an airspace realignment project, apprentice controller training, and limited staffing.

"They continue to provide absolutely top-notch service and support to a wide spectrum of customers," said Lt. Col Smith. "They couldn't be more deserving of this prestigious award"

Honor your employer with Patriot Award

To recognize your boss for supporting your military service, why not nominate him or her for a "Patriot Award"? All members of the National Guard and Reserve are eligible to nominate their employers. By going to www.esgr.mil and selecting "Award Your Employer," the online request form will allow you to take a couple minutes to do your best to "brag" about your boss. The stronger your boss' support, the greater the likelihood that he or she will also receive a higher award.

The Department of Defense will send your boss, through the ESGR Office, a personally prepared certificate of appreciation and a Patriot lapel pin. Members can also encourage their employers to sign and display an ESGR Statement of Support, pledging their support to National Guard and Reserve Members.

The Wisconsin ESGR Committee presents The Above and Beyond plaques to up to fifteen of their most supportive employers each year. Of these, up to three are selected for the prestigious PRO PATRIA, the top state level award. The highest award, the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, goes to the top fifteen employers in the nation. Five Wisconsin employers in recent years have garnered this top honor.

For further information and assistance about these employer awards and statements of support please contact Mike Smith, executive director at 608-242-3169, Mike Hallquest, program support specialist at 715-858-9676 or Doris Schmitt, assistant program support specialist at 608-242-3729.

New Wisconsin Code of Military Justice

Governor Jim Doyle recently signed into law the new Wisconsin Code of Military Justice and Manual for Courts-Martial. Soldiers and Airmen of the Wisconsin National Guard are now subject to new and updated rules and regulations for military discipline that are similar if not identical to the rules and regulation found under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Important changes found under the new WCMJ include:

1. For purely military crimes, soldiers and airmen are subject to the WCMJ regardless of whether they are in a military status. For non-military crimes, soldiers and Airmen are subject to the WCMJ only if there is a military nexus to the alleged misconduct and civil authorities have declined prosecution.

2. Maximum punishments authorized under the WCMJ for nonjudicial punishment (Article 15) and courts-martial are now on par with the maximum punishments found under the UCMJ.

In contrast to the old guidelines, the newly enacted WCMJ now affords commanders an enhanced capability to field a disciplined force, creates a seamless transition between Title 32 and Title 10 for commanders and Airmen, gives the Air National Guard greater credibility with our active duty counterparts, and increases the Air National Guard's relevance as an operational reserve of the U.S. Air Force.

Training videos and briefings are currently being developed to provide the soldiers and Airmen a detailed understanding of the new provisions found in the WCMJ and WCMCM. For more information, contact the legal office at 245-4396.

Discounted travel, Disney, Brewers tickets

TSgt Don Nelson
115 FW/PA

With summer approaching, families are starting to plan out their annual vacations and many have theme park visits on their itinerary. As a member of the Air National Guard, several theme parks around the country and in Wisconsin offer discounted or even free admission to military members and their families.

In the Wisconsin Dells, Noah's Ark is hosting Military Days June 14-21. Active, reserve and guard members with military ID will receive free admission and family and retired members are half price.

Anheuser-Busch's "Here's to the Heroes" program acknowledges the service of military men and women and the sacrifices made by their families. "Here's to the Heroes" provides a single day's free admission to any one Sea World or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA for active, reserve and

guard members plus up to three immediate family members. Those interested may register online at www.herosalute.com or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a military ID.

Military families who are unable to travel to a base to buy specially priced Walt Disney World Theme Park tickets have a new option. Retired, active, National Guard, reserve and DoD personnel are now able to purchase these specially priced tickets over the phone.

"Many military families don't live near a base. We wanted to make sure they were able to take advantage of the savings on Disney Theme Park tickets without having to travel for hours to their nearest base," said Randy Gerber, Disney Military Sales director.

Disney Military Sales has offered discounted tickets to military families for over 20 years. The proceeds directly support the base community and the programs offered to the military personnel stationed there. Discounted tickets for qualifying military

families may be purchased via mail-order by calling the Commander, Navy Region Southwest at 619-767-6000 or Air Force Central Ticket Program at 210-652-2855.

The Milwaukee Brewers are also offering a number of seats to military members in conjunction with the USO. Please call the Wisconsin USO at (414) 271-3133 for more details. The USO also partners with other venues for tickets to Milwaukee Mile races, Milwaukee County Zoo, Mitchell Park Domes, Milwaukee Admirals Hockey and Milwaukee Wave Soccer, when in season.



Among the Ranks

Interviews by TSgt Don Nelson
Photos by SSgt Katie Kane

If Hollywood made a movie about your life, whom would you like to see play the lead role as you?



2nd Lt. Jeremy Phillips, 115 FW

Tom Cruise because he can portray an officer in the movie even though I think I am better looking than he is.



MSgt Frank Blader, 115 MXS

Jason Statham, star of the Transporter films, because he is very calm and cool under pressure very much like me.



Sage Hanson, Student Flight

It would have to be Julie Andrews because if Hollywood were to make a movie about my life it would have to be a musical and the person who played me would have to be a good singer.



**SrA Caleb Krause
115 MXS**

Vince Vaughn because he is tall, dark and funny. He has the same personality as me; easy going and likes to joke around with his buddies.



**MSgt Patricia Demers
115 LRS**

Tia Carrera because she is hot and I would want to look my best in a movie about my life.



Promotions



Michael Closs
 Sheri McLean
 Katherine Pinnow
 Julie Stubblefield
 Daniel Woerpel
 Jason Zych



Bobbie Checolinski
 Amanda Lease



Brandon Erickson
 Jordan Jensen
 Barton Lechner
 Jonathan Meulemans
 Zachary Pugh



James Mallas
 Nathan Ortiz-McCusky
 Jessie Mooney
 Daniel Rommelfanger
 Roy Zellmer

Retirements

LtCol David McLean
 SMSgt Elizabeth Christiansen
 MSgt Peter Murray
 MSgt Brian Ringelstetter
 TSgt Mary Matcke

May UTA Pay Date



May 13, 2008

2008 UTA Schedule

May 3-4	Sept. 6-7
June 7-8	Oct. 18-19
July NONE	Nov. 1-2
Aug. 23-24	Dec. 6-7

Briefs

Suicide prevention

To ensure veterans with emotional crises have 24-hour access to trained professionals, the Department of Veterans Affairs has begun operation of a national suicide prevention hotline for veterans. The VA is partnering with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Veterans can call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and press "1" to reach the VA hotline.

P.I.C.K. a Partner for single Airmen

The Family Program and the Chaplains are offering a free pre-dating workshop for single airmen, the "no jerks" program, also known as "P.I.C.K. a Partner." P.I.C.K stands for Premarital Interpersonal Choices and Knowledge. The workshop is August 22 and 23, 2008 at the Heidel House in Green Lake, Wisconsin. There is no cost for the program which includes hotel, meals and mileage. To register go to www.wingfam.org and look for P.I.C.K. under upcoming events. For more information contact 608-242-3414.

F-16s over Lambeau

Copies of the picture of F-16s over Lambeau Field that ran in the BAM last month are available for purchase from 1030-1200 on each day of the May UTA in the dining facility. We will accept personal checks only, payable to "Steven Lepak" and costs are as follows: 8x10 is \$10, 11x14 is \$15 and 16x20 is \$25. The pictures can be picked up at the public affairs office in building 404 during the June UTA.

Youth Camp seeks volunteers

The Wisconsin National Guard Youth Camp 2008 sponsored by the State Family Program needs Air Guard volunteer support August 1-3 at Volk Field. The purpose of the camp is to give youth a fun forum to meet other military kids while learning about military careers and the role of the National Guard in state and federal missions. Extra volunteers are needed this year due to the number of Guard members who are deployed or are about to deploy. For more information contact Tina Jeffords at the State Family Program office, 608-242-3466.

Tail Flash contest deadline extended

The next agenda of the Enlisted Council includes selection of the winning design for the 60th Anniversary Tail Flash design contest. Designs can still be submitted to SSgt Stephanie Miles until May 4 at noon. The council is scheduled to meet on Saturday of the UTA at 1430 in the large classroom in building 500. The Top 3 Council meeting, open to Master Sergeants and above is scheduled to meet in Sunday of the UTA at 0930 at the same location.

BG Hoff Memorial Service

The memorial service for former wing commander David Hoff will be at noon on May 23 at Nakoma Golf Club.

VFW Thank You

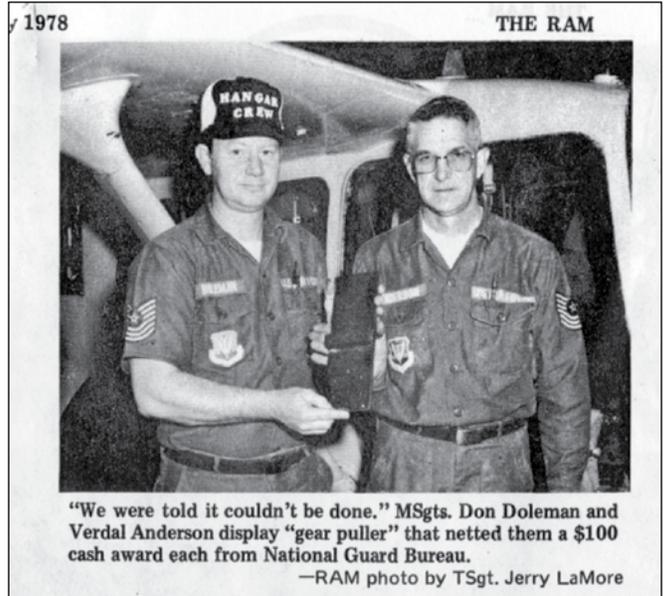
A very big thank you to the William "Sonny" Simon VFW Post 8216 of Middleton for their generous support of the AEF return hospitality.

	Sunday Hot Turkey Gravy Sandwiches Rice Peas & Carrots Gingerbread Cake
	Both Days Salad Bar Potato Bar Chili Garden Veggie Soup
Meal cost \$3.85. Please bring correct change. Meals subject to change. Lunch hours are 1030-1200.	



Legacy of Excellence

Right: 30 Years Ago - MSgts Bob Doleman and Verdal Anderson earned \$100 bonuses from Guard Bureau for inventing a "gear puller" which eliminated the need to saw through an O-2 landing gear shaft in order to change bearings. They had been told such a thing couldn't be done - obviously the wrong thing to say to Wisconsin Airmen! (May 1978 RAM)



"We were told it couldn't be done," MSgts. Don Doleman and Verdal Anderson display "gear puller" that netted them a \$100 cash award each from National Guard Bureau.

—RAM photo by TSgt. Jerry LaMore



Above: Twenty Five Years Ago - Governor Tony Earl goes for a ride in an OA-37 from the IL ANG to observe a mission and play Forward Air Controller to Madison A-10s. (May 1983 RAM)

Below: Five Years Ago - Col Steve Foster takes command of the 115FW from long-time commander Brig Gen Fred Sloan. Sloan was promoted to DAG-Air, and a year and a half later, Foster was named State Chief of Staff, turning over the reins of the wing to Col Brandemuehl. (May 2003 BAM)

Below: Ten Years Ago - The 115FW completed its third major deployment in a year with a trip to Alaska for Exercise Cope Thunder. Within the previous year, the unit had also deployed to Turkey and Kuwait. (May 1998 BAM)

115 Fighter Wings deploys 125 to Eielson AFB Alaska

TSgt Dave Anderson
115 FWPA

The 115 Fighter Wing is on the road again. One hundred twenty five unit members and eight F-16s are deployed to Eielson Air Force Base participating in Cope Thunder 98-02. Cope Thunder is an Air Force flag exercise designed to expose aircrews to working in large aircraft packages consisting of various mutual support assets.

Cope Thunder was originally conducted at Clark Air Base, Philippines, in July, 1976. The eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1992, however, forced all operations to be moved from the island, including Cope Thunder. The exercise was relocated to Eielson Air Force Base the next year. Cope Thunder is conducted by the 353rd Combat Training Squadron.

The 115 FW is operating as part of a provision wing during the exercise. The 8th Provision Fighter Wing is named for the active duty F-16 unit participating the 8th FW from Kunsan Air Base, Korea.

Commenting on the deployment, Brig Gen Fred Sloan, Commander 115 FW said, "We've established ourselves as one of the elite F-16 units in the Air Force based on our recent performance." Sloan continued, "Being asked to participate in three major deployments in a year is an indication of the importance of this unit, and for that matter the Air National Guard as a whole in our national military policy."

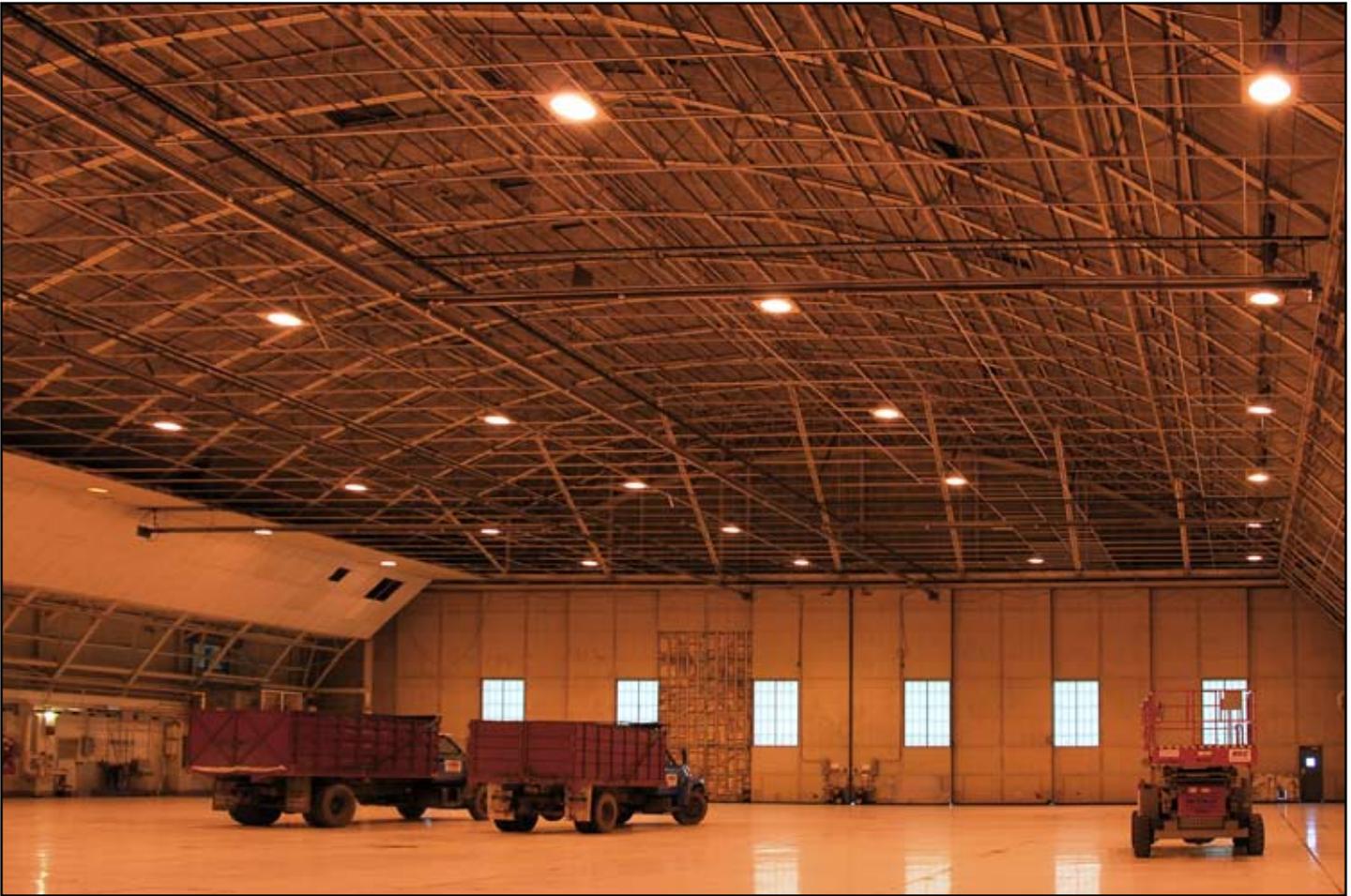
This is the third deployment in the past year for the 115FW. In April 97, the unit deployed to Incirlik Air base, Turkey as part of Operation Northern Watch. In December 97, the unit deployed to Al Jabbar Air Base, Kuwait, as part of Operation Southern Watch.

The unit departed Truax Field on 30 April and is expected to return on 16 May 98.



Col Foster takes command of 115 FW





Built in 1948, the Truax Field aircraft maintenance hanger receives a well-deserved face lift. Renovations will include removing the dropped ceiling to allow for a new foam fire suppression system, resurfacing the floor, and replacing the original hanger bay doors. This construction project, along with several others, will create certain parking restrictions on the base (see story on page 3). Photo by MSgt Paul Gorman, 115FW PA.