



# BAM

Vol. 34, No. 3

115th Fighter Wing, Truax Field, Madison, WI



Badger Airmen in Action

# Commander Chief's Commentary

## Deployment, development & discipline



**CMSgt  
David  
Zoromski  
115 FW  
Command  
Chief**

Once again, Col Brandemuehl has graciously allowed me this space to address issues pertinent to the enlisted force here at the 115th Fighter Wing. I have a lot of topics to address, so let's jump right in.

**New State Command Chief.** CMSgt Jim Chisholm returns as the state Command Chief. Chief Chisholm is currently the Command Chief at the 128 ARW and has previously served as state Command Chief. He knows the ropes and will hit the ground running there at full speed. We're fortunate to have him back in that position.

**Thanks for the Deployment Effort.** I can't express enough my thanks and my admiration for the effort absolutely everyone put forth getting our deployers going. The processing and departure were nearly flawless (weather aside, of course!). Everyone involved, from logistics to personnel to the

family readiness office and the flightline folks who launched our jets in some serious sub-zero weather and overcame some huge obstacles, did remarkable work. Thank you all for such a phenomenal effort!

**Congratulations, Award Winners.** I want to add my personal congratulations to our year-end award winners, MSgt Steve Veers, MSgt Elizabeth DiSalvo, TSgt Thomas Swearingen and SrA Christopher Kessler. They exemplify the standard to which we all should aspire. In addition to the 115 FW awards, MSgt DiSalvo was named state Senior NCO of the Year and SrA Kessler was named the Military Achievement Award winner by the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association. MSgt DiSalvo and SrA Kessler will be formally recognized at the WINGEA conference in April.

**Thank You, First Sergeants.** Thanks to the first shirts who stepped in to help out Services at lunchtime during the February UTA. They displayed a great attitude and had fun serving our members. We plan to have the Chiefs do the same during the March UTA.

**Grooming and Uniforms.** I have noted a troubling trend lately in a noticeable slip in some members' uniform wear and grooming standards. I shouldn't have to remind anyone, the standards are published and easily understandable. Whether you are a traditional member or a full-timer makes no difference. We are all professional military men and women and must present ourselves as such. Enough said on that.

**Enlisted Councils.** Please support your enlisted councils. Join - you can make a difference! Plan on attending one of the following meetings, if you are at all able: the Enlisted Council will meet on Saturday at 1430 and the Top Three Council will meet Sunday at 0930. Both meetings will be in the Wing HQ (Building 500) large classroom. Also, the enlisted councils have been given the lead on the design competition for the 115 FW 60th Anniversary tail design. See that story elsewhere in the BAM.

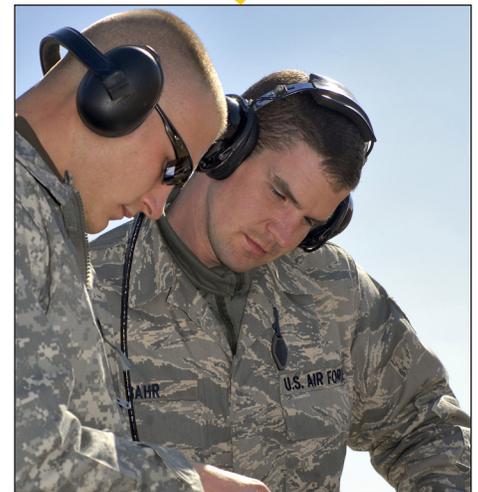
**PME.** I want to emphasize the importance of completing your PME. Your PME is an important part of your development as an Airman. It also opens doors that would otherwise not be open. For a good example, see the feature in the BAM about Chief Skaer and the EPP program. The list of people eligible for EPP promotions

is typically small, mostly due to PME not being completed. See also First Sergeant Melby's article on PME in this issue.

**Disaster Preparation.** I know you have all had the opportunity to read the pamphlet on family disaster preparedness. Please ensure your family is ready in case of disaster. If the National Guard is called, we want to be able to count on our members to be ready to help. You can do this by making sure your family is taken care of ahead of time, not when the crisis hits.

**Chief CoP.** I invite you all to become a member of my Command Chief Community of Practice on the Air Force Portal. I'll be posting a lot of great information on there to help communicate with our members and it will be a great repository of information that should be of value to all of you.

**Thanks, Col Brandemuehl.** I appreciate the opportunity to use this space to communicate directly with our fantastic enlisted force. I look forward to my next opportunity to do so.



**On the cover: TSgt Shawn Bahr, F-16 crew chief for the 115 FW, reviews tech orders with SrA Jeff Braun from the 756 AMS, Luke AFB, AZ, while deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq. SrA Braun will be transferring to the 115 FW in June.**

## The BAM

### 115 FW Commander

Col Joseph J. Brandemuehl

### Public Affairs Officers

LTCol Chris Rodel

Lt Suzanne VanderWeyst

### Public Affairs NCO Staff

MSgt Paul Gorman

MSgt Dan Richardson

TSgt Don Nelson

SSgt Christen Bloomfield

SSgt Katie Kane

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Government Printing Office

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# 115 FW on USAF "Roadmap" for F-35

BAM Staff

Not long after the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter's inaugural flight, Air Force Chief of Staff General T. Michael Moseley identified the 115th Fighter Wing as a potential future base for the next-generation fighter, the F-35 Lightning II as part of the USAF "Roadmap to the Future". "Basing next-generation fighters in Madison is logical," said Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar, the adjutant general of Wisconsin and commander of the Wisconsin National Guard. "The 115th Fighter Wing is arguably the best Air National Guard fighter unit in the nation."

Colonel Joe Brandemuehl, 115th Fighter Wing commander, said, "It's a long way away and a lot has to happen for us to get the F-35, but this is a great first step and it's great to be on the list." Remarking on how Madison was chosen to be on the list, he added, "Our national reputation and inspection record has shown us to be the premiere fighter unit in the country. I'm convinced that was a major factor in the Air Force's decision. Now, we need to keep that up to



The F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter goes wheels-up for the first time Dec. 15 at Fort Worth, Texas. (Photo by Neal Chapman, Lockheed Martin)

remain at the top of the list."

Our F-16s are among the most up-to-date and advanced in the world, but they are getting up in years, and the airframes cannot last forever. The timetable for F-35 deployment is roughly ten years, when our

F-16s will be 30 years old. In preparation for a follow-on fighter the 115FW had already prepared a long-term master plan to handle the larger F-22 – the only plan of its kind in the ANG.

## CSAF Releases Reading List

BAM Staff

USAF Chief of Staff General T. Michael Moseley has released his reading list for the year. "Developing Airmen remains one of my key priorities; to that end I've carefully selected each book on my 2008 reading list. There is no room in our Air Force for anyone "too busy" to expand his or her horizons. That is why I consider professional reading an imperative for every Airman: officers, enlisted, and civilians," wrote Gen Moseley.

For the first quarter this year, Gen Moseley has selected three books:

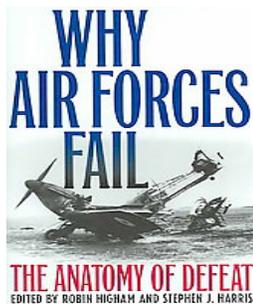
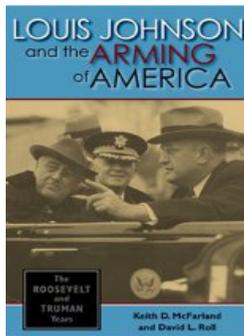
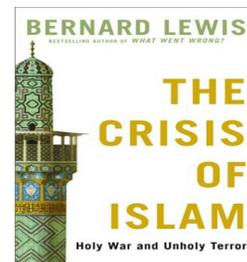
*Louis Johnson and the Arming of America: The Roosevelt and Truman Years*, by Keith D. McFarland and David L. Roll, an informative biography on former Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson. Secretary Johnson created a framework for long-term industrial mobilization during World War II and the early years of the Cold War that still endures to the present.

*Why Air Forces Fail: The Anatomy of Defeat*, by Robin Higham and Stephen J. Harris, explores the complex historical reasons for the catastrophic failure of air forces as leaders struggled to properly connect doctrine, training, technology, and industrial output.

*The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror*, by Bernard Lewis, examines the historical roots of the deep resentments that dominate much of the Islamic world today. This book puts into context many of the struggles that persist across the globe -- essential knowledge for a professional warrior.

The 2008 CSAF reading list is divided into 4 areas: Our Military Heritage, Our Air Force Heritage, Our Mission, Doctrine and Profession, and Our Nation and World.

This year's Chief of Staff's reading list is designed to encourage Airmen toward pursuing knowledge that grounds them in history, sustains them in today's flight, and propels them toward our limitless horizon. "I encourage you to begin reading books from this list and, as the slogan says, 'Read it, learn it, live it!'. Gen. Moseley said.



# Chaplain's Commentary

## Everything Has Its Time



Chaplain (Lt)  
John O'Brien  
115 FW Chaplain

Many centuries ago, an ancient Jewish philosopher from the royal lineage of King David reflected upon his observation that everything has its time. These words of the Qoheleth, the Teacher,

are also recorded in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes. They are as follows:

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. There is a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep

silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.”

As you read through this litany of philosophical conjunctions, which ones stood out? Are any of them especially meaningful to you? Admittedly, the conjunctive phrase that there is a time to be born, and a time to die; resonates with me since this year the time between the Christian observance of Christmas and that of Easter is the shortest it has been in many years. This is because Christmas is a fixed date, but Easter is a movable date for various reasons.

It is almost as if the birth is all too quickly followed by the death. And yet, we know, everything has its time. A child is born. A man is crucified. Everything has its time. There is a time to weep, and a time to mourn; but the story does not end here. Everything has its time. Three days later there is a time to laugh, and a time to dance; and the story continues on through you and me.

We can live in the power and the hope of this story. You see, even though everything has its time, in the fullness of time, everything will make sense. Conjunctive opposites, paradoxes, and seeming contradictions will make sense. Only God can turn our weeping into laughter. Only God can turn our mourning into dancing. Only God can conquer death on our behalf and allow us to live in the power and the hope of this story. Because, you see, everything has its time.

## Visit the personnel office online

Accessing personal information online is easier than you think through the virtual Personnel Center - Guard & Reserve (vPC-GR). The online resource now includes retirement applications, duty history updates, service date updates, retirement point corrections, and TRICARE Reserve Select information. Coming soon to the site: federal awards and decorations corrections and nominations, coordinating and finalizing evaluations, and submitting points-only requests, with much more to be added.

Once a service is made available through vPC-GR, that is how members *must* accomplish that task, so having an account is a must. Supervisors and commanders also have an important coordination role in the vPC-GR application as well.

The vPC-GR site and instructions on how to create an account are available at: <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR>.



## First Sergeant's Corner



MSgt David Melby  
115 CES

Professional Military Education is not just a square to fill on the way to getting promoted. It is a way to cultivate the skills and knowledge that will enable you to make sound decisions, prepare you for increasingly more demanding leadership positions, and it develops strategic thinkers and war fighters. This information and knowledge will also help you grow in both your military and civilian careers.

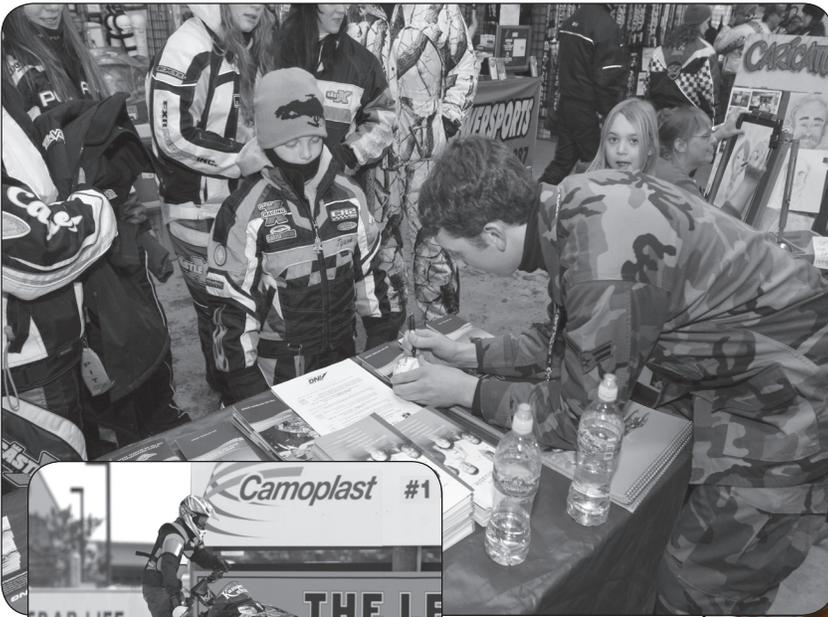
The preferred method to acquire the knowledge and skills offered in PME is to attend in-residence. Members may attend the Airman Leadership School, NCO Academy, SNCO Academy, Chief's Executive Course and Chief Leadership Course. Some of the advantages of attending in-residence courses are instructor interaction, discussion groups with your peers, "re-bluing" in an Air Force environment, instant feedback on thoughts and ideas, reinforcing regular physical fitness routines, and networking with individuals from different locations. Additionally, in-

residence PME allows you to focus solely on the curriculum without having the normal day-to-day distractions of home, plus you receive pay commensurate with rank, allowances, and per diem.

If in-residence does not work for you, there is the option of taking PME by Correspondence Development Courses. The advantage of the CDC option is you may take the course at your own pace if your civilian, military, or personal life is not conducive to allowing in-residence attendance. However, CDCs take discipline to stay on schedule, which by the way, is a skill you also need as a leader. To be successful with CDCs, make sure you identify ample time in your schedule that you can set aside to focus solely on learning and be sure to set attainable study goals in order to complete the course in a timely fashion. On a side note, taking PME via correspondence does not prevent you from attending the same PME in residence should you be able to in the future and is in fact encouraged!

Either way, PME is a benefit that will make you a better Airman, supervisor, and employee. Even if you don't think you will ever get promoted, the skills you learn will serve you in your everyday life and you will be prepared should opportunity knock.

For more information contact your unit training manager. Good luck and happy learning!



(clockwise) 1) A1C Steve Hamilton, 115 CES, autographs an ANG Baseball for a potential new "young" recruit. 2) SSgts Melanie Ewing and Steph Miles, 115 FW, take some time with Natalie Decker, daughter of the derby organizer. 3) Lt Col Don Hamilton, 115 MSF commander, gets a chance to meet the 2008 Ms. Derby Princess. 4) Derby contestant.



## Snowmobiles & Airmen

Recruiters from the 115 FW and 128 ACS, along with other members from both bases, joined in the support of the World Championship Derby in Eagle River, Wis., known as the "Snowmobile Capital of the World". Members joined in the fun and potential opportunities for the recruits in the ANG. Temperatures over the weekend reached a high of -8 degrees during the day and between -32 and -42 degrees with the windchill at night.



## Photos from the front



SSgt Nicholas Amoriello, SrA Timothy Jenko, and TSgt John Schueman perform maintenance duties at Balad AB, Iraq. U.S. Air Force photos by 115FW/PA, MSgt Daniel Richardson and SSgt Katherine Kane.

# New Wisconsin ANG leadership

## Col John McCoy

Col John E. McCoy began his military career in February 1979 when he enlisted in the Wisconsin Army National Guard as a fuels specialist in Janesville's Co. C, 132nd Support Battalion. He transferred to the Wisconsin Air National Guard in 1984, where he was assigned to the Milwaukee-based 128th Air Refueling Group's Resource Management Squadron.

After graduating from the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in July 1986 and began a full-time Air National Guard career in November 1986 as the unit's air base operability officer.

McCoy's other assignments at the Milwaukee base included Chief of Logistics Plans, Comptroller, Communications Flight Commander, Mission Support Flight Commander and Mission Support Group Commander. He transferred to the Wisconsin National Guard state headquarters in February 2005 and was assigned as Director of Manpower and Personnel until assuming his current position as Director of Staff for the Wisconsin Air National Guard headquarters in March 2007. He will be promoted to Brigadier General as he officially takes office.

At press time, Col McCoy was about to embark on a special TDY to Nicaragua for the Partners for Peace program.

## Col Gary Ebben

Col Gary L. Ebben is the new state Director of Staff-Air. Col Ebben enlisted in the Wisconsin Air National Guard in 1981 and was commissioned into the pilot training pipeline the next year, after completing his degree at UW-Madison. Col Ebben is a command pilot with over 3000 flying hours in the T-41, T-37, T38, A-10A, and RC-26B.

Col Ebben's assignments at the 115 FW have included Instructor Pilot, Functional Check Flight Pilot, Intelligence Officer, Scheduling Officer, Safety Officer, Command Post OIC, Maintenance Squadron Commander, Operations Group Commander, and Vice-Wing Commander.

Recently, Col Ebben served a tour in a Middle East location with the RC-26B operation. During that tour, he and the RC-26B crews flew an exceptionally heavy schedule, doing what amounted to a normal year's worth of flying in only a couple months.

## Col Mike Hinman

Col Michael T. Hinman is the new 115 FW Vice Commander. Col Hinman began his military career as an enlisted member in 1976 as an aircraft maintenance specialist. He was later commissioned through ROTC at Washington State University and served as a bioenvironmental engineer at Brooks AFB. In 1990, Col. Hinman came to the 115 FW as an officer in Civil Engineering.

Since then, he has held positions here including Quality Management Officer, Deputy Maintenance Squadron Commander, Aircraft Generation Squadron Commander, Logistics Squadron Commander, Director of Wing Readiness Programs, and most recently as Mission Support Group Commander.

Col Hinman also completed a tour as commander of the 380th Expeditionary Mission Support Group at Al Dhafra AB, UAE, in mid-2006. At Al-Dhafra, Col Hinman spearheaded many improvements in the base facilities and processes that were recognized CENTAF-wide.



## Make sure your air sickness bag is accessible

MSgt Ken Schwark, a life support equipment specialist with the 176th Fighter Squadron, prepares TSgt Kevin Fuerbringer, a crew chief with the 115th Maintenance Squadron, for an incentive ride in an F-16D. Fuerbringer was the last crew chief on the D-model F-16 the unit had before switching to all C-models. Recently, the fighter squadron added a D-model to the inventory and it is currently being used for the incentive ride program. (U.S. Air Force photo by TSgt Don Nelson, 115 FW/PA)

# Mother replaces son on Iraq's front lines

SrA Eric Schloeffel

506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) -- As many parents anxiously await the next phone call from their sons and daughters fighting the war on terrorism in Southwest Asia, one mother journeyed across the Atlantic to not only see her child, but also to replace him on the front line.

Staff Sgt. Tammi Johnson, a reservist with the 507th Security Forces Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., arrived to Kirkuk Air Base Jan. 20 and will receive a complete week of training from her son, Senior Airman Derrick Johnson, before he heads back to the U.S.

Atop a remote guard tower, mother and son stood post peering across the barbed wire into the desolate desert plains surrounding Kirkuk AB. In this setting, the role of the caretaker is reversed as Airman Johnson instructs his mother, Sergeant Johnson, on perimeter defense practices as both are assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

"This is all just a big coincidence," said Airman Johnson, a reservist with the 610th Security Forces Squadron from Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas. "When I found out she was coming to replace me, my jaw dropped just wondering what the chances were of this occurring."

The coincidence of this pair choosing to serve in the same military branch and career field is only trumped by the fact that out of the thousands of Air Force security forces Airmen and numerous deployment locations -- Sergeant Johnson was randomly selected to relieve her son.

This chain of events was put into play in March 2006 when Airman Johnson visited a local Air Force recruiter.

"My son was graduating from high school and talked to me about the Air Force, and as his mother, I naturally wanted to go to the recruiter with him," Sergeant Johnson said. "As a joke, the recruiter asked if I was interested in joining up. I laughed it off at first, but then he started asking questions about my age and how long I had previously served."

Sergeant Johnson initially joined the Air Force in 1983 and worked in the personnel career field for several years before separating.

"The recruiter said there were some March 2008

openings in security forces, so I hemmed-and-hawed about it," she said. "My son was joining the same career field, but I knew we'd be stationed at different places, so I decided to just do it."

Both joined the Air Force Reserve that spring. Sergeant Johnson works for a local school district in their hometown of Moore, Okla., and Airman Johnson is a full-time college student.

"I was all for it, but when she chose the security forces career field, it was a little strange because that's what I do," he said. "But she knows I would support her doing

his time preparing to leave Kirkuk AB and training his mother on the duties he performs from the guard post. This entails maintaining close surveillance of the base perimeter and beyond for suspicious activity. Security forces also conduct base patrols, anti-terrorism measures and identification checks.

They both said the deployment has given them time to bond and a shared experience that only draws their relationship closer. Without this short week together in Kirkuk AB, they would not see each other for more than a year.



**Senior Airman Derrick Johnson teaches his mother, Staff Sgt. Tammi Johnson, base defense practices Jan. 22 at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. Airman Johnson is currently training his mother, who is soon scheduled to replace him. Both are reservists working for the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman SerMae Lampkin)**

whatever made her happy."

Sergeant Johnson found out she would replace her son in Iraq shortly before he left six months ago. As a mother would, Sergeant Johnson said she initially felt nervous about her son's deployment.

"At the time, I wished I could've deployed first," she said. "We received the same training, so I was aware of the various threats security forces Airmen can face while deployed. But at the same time, I know he is well-trained and intelligent, so that helped put my mind at ease."

Airman Johnson now spends most of

As a staff sergeant, Airman Johnson's mother is just one rank above him, but she might as well be a four-star general. Airman Johnson said he feels hard-pressed to think of a time when he wouldn't take orders from her.

"I've heard some of the guys ask, 'Is your mommy here to replace you yet?'" he said. "My friends back home who serve in the military think it's strange to picture their mothers in Iraq with a helmet, weapon and flak vest. None of that bothers me though. It brings us closer together, which is what matters most."

# Are you being served?



First sergeants donned colorful aprons and hats to serve lunch during the February UTA. (left to right) MSgt Steve Veers, 115 AMS, MSgt Martha Irizarry 115 MDG and SMSgt Mike Busdicker, 115 FW, joined all wing first sergeants who ensured hungry unit members had enough to eat. (U.S. Air Force photo by MSgt Paul Gorman)

## 60th Anniversary Tail Flash Contest

BAM Staff

Sharpen those pencils, dig out your magic markers, or fire up the computer, the wing needs your help. Whether you are an aspiring artist or just a frustrated doodler, the 60th Anniversary Tail Flash Contest wants your submission.

The contest, which is organized by the Wing Enlisted Council, seeks to find a design that can be painted on the tail of the “commander’s” F-16 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the organization of the wing. The design is to be painted on the aircraft before Madison’s Rythm and Booms Fourth of July celebration in late June.

The deadline for submission of designs is the April UTA with a final decision expected by the May UTA. Eligible contestants are any wing member and their immediate families.

Designs can be hand-drawn or computer-generated. The artwork may incorporate multiple colors, but should not include gradients (graduated shading). The designs should also include well-defined black borders to aid in the enlarging and reproduction process for the winning logo.

The limitations include ensuring the design fits on the surface of the tail. For your convenience, a design template of the tail is available on the base intranet and on the 115 FW Air Force Portal page. All Page 8



Ten years ago, the winning design to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the wing was painted in a unit F-16 and remained on the tail for one year. The winning 60th anniversary design will be painted on the same aircraft.

designs must also incorporate the current “Wisconsin” marking at the top of the tail (in place of the “Madison”, shown above). All other limitations are marked on the design template.

The design must be appropriate in nature and be reflective of the unit and its heritage in some way. When considering your design, simple is often best.

Completed designs can be submitted to SSgt Stephanie Miles in building 500, room 104. They can be in hard paper copy format

or in .jpg computer file format on a CD or DVD. Submissions may also be mailed to 60th Anniversary Tail Flash Contest c/o 115FW/CC 3110 Mitchell Street, Madison, WI 53704-2589.

The winning design will be chosen by Col Joe Brandemuehl, 115 FW commander. There has not been a determination of what prize the winner will receive. For additional information about the contest, interested participants may contact SSgt Miles at 245-4503.

# Meet CMSgt Michael Skaer

## Human Resources Manager - 115 FW



**Q:** Give a brief summary of your military career.

**A:** I began my military career as an active duty Marine in 1978 as a F-4 Phantom plane captain before joining the Illinois Army Guard in 1983 as a truck driver. My Air Guard stint began in 1984 with the 183 FW in Springfield, Ill. as a crew chief. After a brief diversion back to the Army Guard as a helicopter mechanic during Desert Storm in 1991, I went back to the Air Guard, this time with the 182 FW in Peoria, Ill. before joining the 115 FW here in 1992.

**Q:** Since joining the 115th, what positions have you had in the unit?

**A:** I started out in the phase dock before serving as a crew chief. One of the jobs that prepared me the most to be a chief was being the first sergeant of the maintenance squadron. After five years with the diamond, I served as the fitness program manager before becoming the wing human resources advisor in 2006.

**Q:** What was key for your promotion to chief?

**A:** I was promoted to chief May 1, 2006 and I am thankful that the Exceptional Promotion Program has given me the opportunity to be promoted twice, to senior master sergeant and now chief. As a traditional guardsman I am very proud to serve as an example to other traditional Airmen who aspire to become a chief someday.

**Q:** What do you enjoy about being a traditional guardsman?

**A:** I like the variety of the job. I feel

I can contribute just as much as the full timers and I enjoy being part of the team. A lot of my civilian and military leadership training has proven to be beneficial to both my military and civilian jobs.

**Q:** What do you do for a civilian career?

**A:** I have 20 years of federal government service with the USDA. I am the director of the Food and Nutrition Service office in Madison that oversees the food stamp program in the state.

**Q:** What advice would you offer Airmen?

**A:** Make sure you know what your career goals are and take the opportunities that are out there to advance. Also, you can't always tell someone what they want to hear, but you can always tell them why it is what it is.

**Q:** The 115th seems to have more chiefs than other units. Why and how does the unit gain from that?

**A:** I think EPP is a major contributor to the number of chiefs here. It is beneficial to the younger members of the unit to have examples of traditional Airmen who have made it to the top enlisted rank.

## Among the Ranks

What Spring activity are you most looking forward to?



**Maj Pete Speicher, 115 OSF**

Running in my first full marathon in April in Minot, N.D. I have been training for this for a while.



**SrA Stephanie Dufek, 115 SVF**

Swimming and camping. I like to go to Red Granite (Wis.) to do some cliff diving.



**MSgt Billie Karstetter, 115 MSF**

I am looking forward to some Morel mushroom hunting. They are awesome eating and I am very secretive about where my hunting spots are.



**2 Lt Christy Kasten, 115 MXS**

Gardening. I want to plant annuals and see if I can get my perennials to grow bigger. Vegetables are also a favorite of mine, too.

**TSgt Jim Housel, 115 MXS**

Four-wheeling with my three sons. We like to go to an ATV park up near Green Bay with our four-wheelers.



## Promotions



Elizabeth Barker  
Erin Lutterman  
Richard Svardahl



Takashi Dehart  
James Hale



Todd Eggert



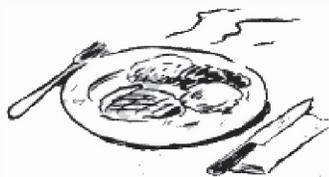
Arik Armstrong  
Eric Chartre  
Virginia Krauss  
Jason Kuske  
Cassie Mainwaring



Taryn Hermanson  
Amanda Lowe

## Retirements

MSgt Eric Jones  
TSgt Jason Ehlert



### March UTA Meals

Saturday

Chicken / Beef Fajita  
Spanish Rice  
Refried Beans  
Calico Corn  
Cherry Orchard Bars

Sunday.

Spaghetti w/meatballs  
Peas & Onions  
Garlic Bread  
Gingerbread Cake w/frosting

## Briefs

### Free Smoking Cessation Program

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center in conjunction with the United States Air Force and the University of Minnesota is providing a smoking cessation program: free to all active duty airmen, reservists, and their spouses. The program includes a telephone quit line that provides live smoking cessation intervention, counseling, education, and nicotine replacement therapy for the purpose of quitting smoking cigarettees. The program start date is April 1, 2008. If you or your spouse is interested, please contact Angela Tonozzi, M.D., Co-Investigator and Study Coordinator. Her email is: [atonozzi@utm.edu](mailto:atonozzi@utm.edu)

Now would be the time to give yourself a chance to quit if this is what you really want to do. Good Luck!!!

### Hang up and drive (or pull over and talk)

In order to comply with AFI 31-218 and to enhance motor vehicle safety, cell phones may not be used while operating a motor vehicle while on base. Any driver observed doing so will be issued a warning and the member's commander will be notified. The 115 SFS interpretation is that using a hands-free device such as Bluetooth is acceptable, but drivers must have their hands free to operate the vehicle and their attention must not be diverted by handling the phone while driving.

The AFI states: "Vehicle operators on a DOD Installation and operators of Government owned vehicles shall not use cell phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or unless they are using a hands-free device. The wearing of any other portable headphones, earphones, or other listening devices (except for hand-free cellular phones) while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited...Using a cell phone while driving, without a hands free device will be considered a "primary offense", meaning that violators will be able to be stopped solely for this offense."

If you need to make a call, pull over and park safely before dialing, or use a hands-free device. Though it is not considered a primary offense, the DoD still wants to emphasize the potential for distraction when drivers attempt to eat or drink while driving or operating radios, CD or MP3 players, or GPS navigators.

### Traditional Officer Announcement

**UNIT:** 115th Medical Group  
**MAX AVAILABLE GRADE:** Major  
**POSITION TITLE:** Health Services Administrator  
**AREA OF CONSIDERATION:** 115th Fighter Wing and JF HQs members only.  
**CLOSING DATE:** April 6, 2008

### Truax BX to close on UTA Sundays

Beginning with the March UTA and continuing until further notice, the Truax BX will be closed on UTA Sundays. After a thorough review of the Exchange's financial performance on Sundays, the wing leadership and BX leadership made the decision to have this closure. This decision will be reviewed regularly and if business warrants, the BX may re-open on UTA Sundays sometime in the future.



### March UTA Pay Date

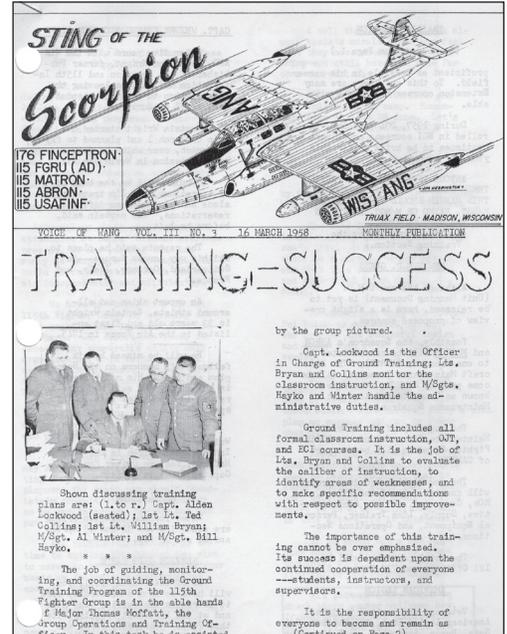


**March 12, 2008**

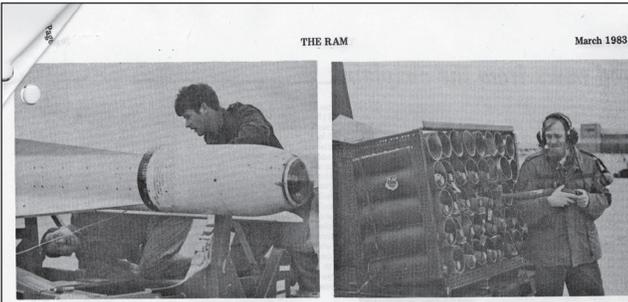


# Legacy of Excellence

**Right: Fifty Years Ago** - The old axiom, "Train like you fight" is and has always been true. In 1958, the training staff got special recognition for their contributions to readiness. 1Lt Ted Collins, 1Lt William Bryan, Capt Alden Lockwood, MSgt Al Winter and MSgt Bill Hayko are shown discussing training plans. (March 1958 Scorpion)



**Left: Twenty-Five Years Ago** - International operations are nothing new, as representatives from the UAE and Thailand came to Davis-Monthan AFB to see the 128 TFW in action. Pictured top left are MSgt Dave Dalsoren and SrA Mike O'Shaughnessy maintaining a Maverick missile, while top right is pictured TSgt Rick Boyes selecting a BDU-33 to load. At the bottom of the page, Brig Gen Dave Hoff briefs UAE representatives. (March 1983 RAM)



MSgt. Dave Dalsoren, left, and SrA Mike O'Shaughnessy take care with a Maverick Missile. TSgt. Rick Boyes selects a live BDU 33. -115th CSS Photo Lab photos by TSgt. Jim Vargo

## Snowbird '83 an international affair

The February deployment to Davis - Monthan AFB, Arizona, for Snowbird '83 took on an international flavor for the 128th Tactical Fighter Wing. Officials of two governments, the United Arab Emirate (UAE) and Thailand, were on hand to observe the performance of the A - 10 aircraft and to chat with members of the 128th about the plane. After coordination with the U.S. State Dept., Headquarters USAF, Headquarters TAC, and the Air Force at Davis - Monthan, arrangements were made for the two pilots and two Army officers from the UAE to observe the A - 10 go through its paces on the East Tac Range in the desert near Davis - Monthan.

"We had lunch with them afterward," said Brig. Gen. David B. Hoff, 128th TFW commander. "They're flying F-4C Mirage's now. That's a different mission, but they said they were impressed with the A-10 and the crew and the

Maverick missiles. It's not for us to say, however, whether they're interested in buying the plane or not."

Gen. Hoff said the Thai pilots also were impressed with the A-10 credentials. The Thai now fly F-5Es.

About 150 members of the 128th TFW deployed to Davis-Monthan for the two-week exercise. The pilots and munitions section were the main beneficiaries of the new training.

For many of the munitions personnel, it was the first time they had worked with live bombs and live Mavericks.

"It was a little tense the first time with the Maverick, and putting the fuses on the bombs," said TSgt. Gary Jensen. "But that goes away pretty quickly. We loaded in the dark (with floodlights) for the first time, too, and that was interesting."

For those in munitions, the loading was similar to the training they have had with concrete bombs and dummy missiles. But, for the pilots, some of their experiences were in areas they hadn't worked on, for instance, flying six hours with in-air refueling and knowing it would take twice as long to fly to Europe.

"When we fly across the Atlantic, we'll go on a special diet before we leave," said Maj. Fred Sloan, 128th TFW Chief of Safety. "This should help relieve some of the discomfort a pilot would normally encounter on a 13-hour flight."

Other than the six hours in the cockpit, the other experiences were mostly positive for the pilots.

"The range complex is unique," said Maj. Sloan. "They have realistic threat displays, tank attack type scenarios with 60 tanks, 20 to 30 vehicle convoys in valleys, SA-2, -5, and -6 missile sites, air



Brig. Gen. David B. Hoff answers questions about the A-10 for UAE representatives.



Resource Plans, better known as Logistics has long been the backbone behind our unit deployments. Through the detailed planning and organization of Maj. Ron Wagner, MSgt. Dave Marcum and now retired Warren Lohry, 128th TFW personnel deploy with a minimum of headaches, ensured that their equipment will greet them when they land. Most recently, Outstanding Support Management helped the LGX office earn several best seen to date areas and rated them overall superior in the Nov. UEI.

**Above: Twenty Years Ago** - Readiness has always included a robust logistics program. Maj Ron Wagner and MSgts Warren Lohry and Dave Marcum set the standard in with an overall "Superior" UEI rating for the LGX office. (March 1988 RAM)

**Left: Ten Years Ago** - The 115 FW's F-16s returned from Al Jaber AB, Kuwait after the unit's first operational deployment in the F-16. Also in that issue of the BAM, it was reported that the 115 FW was the first ANG F-16C unit to be certified for hot pit (that is, engine running) refueling. ACC evaluators also called our program "Best Seen to Date" and even certified the 115 FW to train and certify other ANG units (March 1998 BAM)

## F-16s return from Kuwait



All four 115 Fighter Wing F-16s flown as part of the unit's participation in Operation Southern Watch are home. The aircraft stayed at Al Jaber Air Base along with two F-16s from the 140 Fighter Wing, Buckley Air National Guard Base, CO, and were used by the 140FW during their rotation in Kuwait.



Renowned aviation photographer Joe Oliva captured this extraordinary time-lapse photo of our F-16s departing for Iraq. The departure night was exceptionally cold and Mr. Oliva had to ensure his camera batteries did not freeze prior to the launch - a big concern since the takeoff was delayed. Ten years ago, Mr. Oliva produced a similar picture during our last nighttime mass launch. You might also see this image in an upcoming issue of National Guard magazine.