



**Do I still have to  
do my fitness test  
after this?**

# Focused Prep – Run-Up to the AEF



**Col Joseph J. Brandemuehl**  
115 FW Commander

Our next AEF rotation is just around the corner and it's time to make sure we are all prepared and all of our training is complete. This is the time known as the "focused prep" phase in our AEF cycle, the time when we ensure that all required training items are completed and documented. This training is critical, because the bottom line is: if you don't get the training done, you don't deploy. Period. Also, if you aren't ready, you've let down your co-workers and the unit at large. It's that simple.

The primary mission during this UTA is Ancillary Training, Part II. We will complete the ancillary training we started in June by going through such topics as: Self-Aid and Buddy Care, Laws of Armed Conflict, Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection, and more.

Let me emphasize that these required items are not just "fill-the-squares" events. Each one is vitally important to the mission and requires your successful participation in them. If you are not convinced that these training events are really important, just read the paper or watch the news for a few days. You can see examples of how this training saves lives and careers - or would have, had someone had the proper training. We need everyone to take this training seriously and pay attention during the training. It's a cliché, but it's true: you get out of it what you put into it.

Some of you may look at this training and wonder why you actually have to do it. After all, you aren't planning to deploy, right? I would like to remind everyone that all of us could be called upon to deploy during our AEF window. It doesn't matter if you are a volunteer to deploy, scheduled to deploy, or not planning to deploy at this point. We are "in the bucket", so we need every single person ready to deploy. The 115th Fighter Wing is the lead unit in this AEF cycle, so we need to lead by example and make sure we are all ready to go, whether you are a volunteer, like many of you, or on a moment's notice if the need arises.

As we perform this training, I'd ask you all to take note of how the training is conducted. We need feedback on how well the process worked, or didn't work. The training plan we are executing is the latest in several different approaches we have used to accomplish this training, and we are still searching for the best solution. Please help us out and send your feedback up the chain through your supervisors, so we can continue to refine the process.

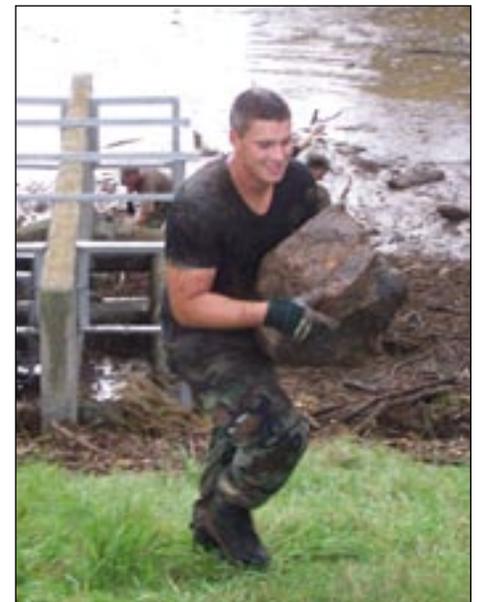
I would also like to briefly mention the fitness testing we did last month. As I pointed out here in the last BAM, fitness testing is another required element for deploying. I have to say that I was very pleased to see how seriously everyone took the fitness test. It was clear that most of

you take your personal fitness seriously, and I applaud you for that. Keep up the great work!

Before I finish, I would like to say, since this is a combined October/November issue, that as we have finished the "101 Critical Days of Summer" safety awareness period, we are entering another, just as critical one. I hate to say it, but the snow will be here before we know it, so think about your cold-weather safety, especially you who participate in outdoor sports in the winter. I know it's been a hot summer, but let's not forget that cold and snow are every bit as dangerous as heat and let's prepare ourselves for that. Use sound Personal Risk Management as we enter the fall and winter months.

Let's have great October and November UTAs, focusing on our AEF prep, and showing why the 115 FW is the lead unit in the AEF and the leading unit in the nation!

**"Each one of these training events is vitally important to the mission and requires your successful participation in them."**



**On the cover - SrA Joe Moore, 115 CES, moves a boulder that was blocking a dam spillway near Viroqua. See the full story on page 5.**

**The BAM**

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## Chaplain's Commentary

# Encouragement, Motivation Keys to Finishing the Race



Chaplain (Lt Col)  
Terry Larson  
115 FW Chaplain

Some years ago, I volunteered with others at the 115th Fighter Wing to take a shift at the Pinkney Street aid station for the 'Wisconsin Ironman' in Madison. The grueling course included a 2.4 mile swim in Lake Monona, then a 112 mile bike ride in the hills of western Dane County and finally a marathon run of 26.2 miles consisting of two loops through Madison along the south shore of Lake Mendota. It was my privilege to be one of the volunteers who passed out water/Gatorade/non-carbonated Pepsi and food snacks at an aid station. It was amazing to see the men and women who

had trained to a level to be able to complete such a feat.

I enjoyed giving the drinks and snacks to the athletes, but the best part was giving words of encouragement as they completed the last portion of the course. We were right where the athletes began a second 13 mile loop. They knew what was ahead of them...the hills on Observatory Drive, the wind coming off the lake, the blisters on their feet which were only going to get worse. So words like 'keep up the good work' or 'way to go' or '127 miles down, only 13 to go' or 'focus' or 'you're going to make it' were served with the snacks.

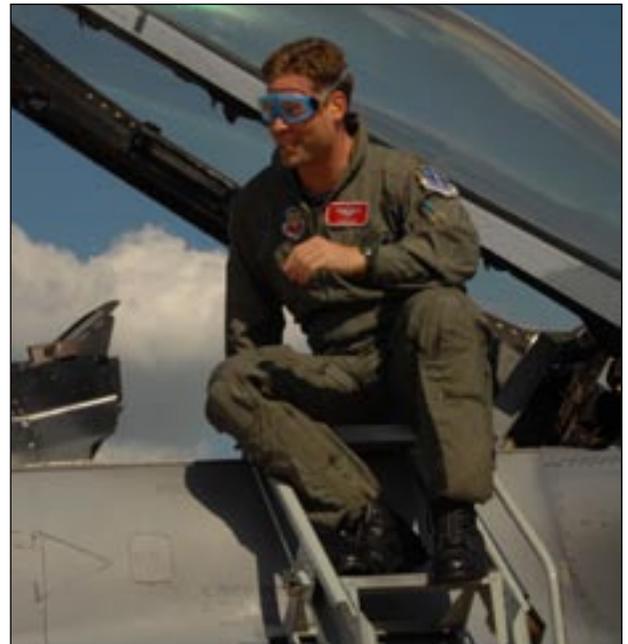
Not many of us are ever going to compete in such an event as the 'Ironman' but we all need words of support on our course through life! Through the encouragement of others, God shouts and cheers us on our way as we go through the valleys and over the steep mountaintops of life! I know that

encouragement flows through us to others because I've experienced that from so many of you, as well as seeing the wonderful support members of this unit have for each other!

This will be my last BAM article so I say thank you to all of you for your encouragement through these past years. I've felt God's grace in and through you. Ministry among you has been a wonderful blessing for me. It has been thrilling to see how God uses all to serve in incredible ways, in truly dangerous places, with excellence in all we do.

The words of Paul to the Philippians are fitting as I end my time here ... 'I thank God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you.' May God richly bless you all in the years ahead.

*Chaplain Terry Larson*



### Hanging it up - in style

Maj Kevin Kay, 176 FS, took his last F-16 flight with the unit during the September UTA. At left, Maj Kay greets his crew chief after the mission. Above, Maj Kay prepares for the traditional dousing with water and champagne by donning a pair of swim goggles.

Maj Kay is transferring from the 115th Fighter Wing to the Western Air Defense Sector.

# 115 FW Honors Airmen of 3rd Quarter

**Maj Brian Green**  
Deputy Commander, MSF



**Master Sergeant Kimberly L. Hahn** was selected as the Senior NCO of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter FY 2007. MSgt Hahn is assigned to the 115th Operations Group.

During this period, MSgt Hahn processed over 600 orders which resulted in the unprecedented utilization of resources. She is directly responsible for maintaining three different Standards and Evaluation Flight Crew Information File libraries for the Operations Group. During a recent formal HHQ inspection, this work resulted in zero discrepancies. MSgt Hahn's dedication to excellence was instrumental in the 115th Fighter Wing winning the Winston P. Wilson Trophy for the best flying unit in the Air National Guard.

MSgt Hahn is an active volunteer for several organizations which include the Relay for Life and the American Red Cross.



**Staff Sergeant Dustin H. Bell** was chosen as the NCO of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter FY 2007. SSgt Bell is an Aircraft Engine Mechanic for the 115th Maintenance Squadron.

He flawlessly provided leak and operational checks on over 20 engines. SSgt Bell was able to troubleshoot and solve a complex problem that returned the hush house and an aircraft engine back to mission ready status. He also contributed to the Propulsion Element's ability to maintain a remarkable 100% War Reserve Engine status on two spare engines.

SSgt Bell is currently pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Business Management at Concordia University. He is also an active member of the Trinity Lutheran Church and American Legion Post 67 in Lake Mills.



**Senior Airman Joseph B. Pavela Jr** was selected as the Airman of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter of FY 2007. He serves as an Intelligence Journeyman for the 115th Operations

Support Flight. Airman Pavela provided critical back-up intelligence support while his shop was deployed. He has recently volunteered for a second tour to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

SrA Pavela is currently pursuing a Political Science Degree at the University of Wisconsin. He recently obtained his private pilot license. SrA Pavela participated in the recruiting event at the EEA and serves as the Community Service Chairman for his fraternity.

## Military OneSource Offers Counseling Services

**Kim Sandleback**  
Family Readiness Coordinator

Coping with the ups and downs of life can sometimes seem overwhelming. That's where Military OneSource can help -- with face-to-face confidential counseling services offered through licensed civilian counselors. Whether it's adjusting to a return from deployment or dealing with a marital issue, Military OneSource counseling services are free to service members and their families.

Counseling professionals will help you develop personal solutions, goals, and plans. They will encourage you to build on your strengths, teach you to maximize your support systems, and help you find community resources to meet your needs. The services can be accessed by calling Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647. When you call Military OneSource, a trained consultant will answer the phone and provide a referral for face-to-face counseling.

## Fire Prevention Week 2007 theme announced: NFFPA urges "Practice Your Escape Plan"

The theme for Fire Prevention Week 2007 is: "It's Fire Prevention Week — Practice Your Escape Plan." This year's theme for Fire Prevention Week, taking place October 7 through 13, focuses on how to plan and practice escape from a home if a fire occurs. NFFPA has been the sponsor for Fire Prevention Week (FPW) for more than 80 years.

In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to 1.6 million fires and 24 percent of these were home fires. Home fires killed 3,030 people that year — roughly 8 people every day — yet only 23 percent of households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.

The public is invited to practice their escape plan by participating in The Great American Fire Drill. During the month of October, NFFPA and its mascot Sparky the Fire Dog® are urging people to "Practice Your Escape Plan." People participating in The Great American Fire Drill will be able to sign up and be counted at Sparky's Web site. Information is now available on how to download an "I Did the Drill" certificate.

It is important to be prepared to escape from a fire if one occurs, but it is equally important to prevent fires from happening in the first place. NFFPA suggests taking steps to avoid fires by making sure your home and activities that take place there are as safe as possible. The leading causes of home fires are: cooking, smoking, heating, electrical equipment, and intentionally set fires. Cooking leads to the most fires and injuries while fires caused by smoking leads to the most deaths. Visit the Fire Prevention Week Web site for more statistics about fires and useful safety tips on how to prevent them.

<http://www.nffpa.org>



# 115 CES Clears Waterways, Prevents Flooding

LtCol Kevin D. Philpot  
115CES Commander

Ten Airmen from the 115FW were called to State Active Duty from August 21-24. Their mission was to clear debris from clogged spillways in dams around Viroqua, Wisconsin. With additional rains predicted, the DNR determined that dam failure could result if the spillways were not immediately cleared. The Wisconsin Joint Operations Center ordered 10 Airmen to State Active Duty, five of whom would be flown by helicopter to the dam site to begin immediate clearing operations. Within two hours of notification, five fully-equipped Airmen were being flown to Viroqua. Five additional Airmen manned a convoy to bring supplies to the Area of Responsibility. The 115FW Airmen cleared debris from five dams during their tour.

The Airmen involved were:

MSgt John Crase, 115CES  
MSgt Dave Martin, 115CES  
MSgt Wade Peterson, 115CES  
MSgt Robin Weckesser, 115CES  
SSgt Dylan Bell, 115CES  
TSgt Jaime Salazar, 115CES  
SSgt Phillip Biwer, 115CES  
SSgt Mathew Hemenway, 115SFS  
SrA Aaron Clark, 115SFS  
SrA Joseph Moore, 115CES

**Right - SrA Aaron Clark rescues a dog that was stuck in the mud near the worksite, while MSgt Robin Weckesser clears debris from a clogged spillway.**



## Air Force Offers Degree Options for Enlisted Force

*“We want to put options out there for distance learning and advanced degrees.”*

*- General Moseley (Air Force Print News, 3 Feb 06)*

The Air University Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperative Program (AU ABC) aligns with the vision of our Air Force leaders to provide distance learning and bachelor's degree opportunities for Airmen. The AU ABC initiative establishes partnerships between the Air Force and “military friendly” accredited civilian higher education institutions. Airmen that have completed an associate in applied science (AAS) degree with the Community College of the Air Force or other accredited two-year programs can earn a career-related (AF-relevant) four-year degree by completing an additional 60 semester hours. The program maximizes the application of military career education and training, and provides a multitude of online academic and support services for the enlisted member.

To enroll, registrants must be serving in the active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard. Degree October/November 2007

requirements, however, may be completed after students retire or separate from the Air Force. Once enrolled, every student will receive a binding degree completion contract with the selected university that locks in the transfer credit and remaining degree requirements.

The Air Force Virtual Education Center (AFVEC) will serve as the gateway to AU ABC degree programs and related student services. AFVEC removes the brick and mortar challenges Airmen face in completing bachelor's degrees. The AU ABC virtual campus provides one-stop shopping to a host of online services for the enlisted member:

- Access to academic institution's programs and services
- Advertised bachelor's degree programs
- Full spectrum of distance learning courses
- Web-based “guidance counseling”
- Manage tuition assistance processing and other financial services
- Complete enrollment and instruction
- Tracking and program management

AU ABC fulfills the vision of the Air Force by providing enhanced educational

opportunities for our enlisted force. The program efficiently uses existing resources to provide the technology support and program management to military-friendly baccalaureate degree options at no additional cost to the member or the Air Force.

With more than 60,000 eligible enrollees, this Air Force initiative is leading the way in higher education eBusiness--one student at a time.

Visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center (accessed from the AF Portal) or contact MSgt Scott Schweighauser x4005, for more information.



## Promotions



Eileen Bennett  
Denise Hansel  
Anthony Leombruni



Matthew Randall  
Natalie Steil

## Retirements

TSgt Carl Cady

## Simplified Tricare Reserve Select Opens Oct. 1

A simplified Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) program open to all Guard Members and Reservists will debut Oct. 1, 2007. New TRS provides an across-the-board health care plan similar to the active-duty coverage but open to all Guard Members and Reservists. The only group excluded is Guard Members and Reservists eligible for/enrolled in Federal Employee Health Benefits.

The new TRS is a premium-based health plan available to Selected Reserve members (unit assigned and IMA members) at 28 percent of the premium cost. Now, all enrollees will pay \$81 a month for personal coverage or \$253 a month for family. TRS offers coverage similar to TRICARE Standard (and TRICARE Extra) with the active duty family member deductibles and cost shares applied to both the Selected Reserve member and family members under the TRS plan.

Members who are currently enrolled in TRS under the 3 Tier program must re-enroll into the new program prior to September 30, 2007 in order to continue coverage. Please reenroll at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/trs/>.

For further assistance please contact:  
TSgt Lee M. Rettmann (608) 245-4589

## Enlisted Council Restructuring

Effective October 1, 2007, the enlisted councils have undergone a restructure to more closely align with the Enlisted Force Structure.

The Junior Enlisted and Mid-Tier Enlisted Councils have realigned to form an Enlisted Council representing AB - TSgt, and a Top 3 Council representing MSgt - CMSgt. The Chief's council will remain, but Chiefs will be participating in the Top 3 also.

This structure allows us to combine talents and skills without losing them in a year or two. It should also ensure more can be accomplished and will be more efficient.

The Enlisted Council will meet on Saturday of drill at 1430 in Wing HQ (Building 500) upstairs classroom. One of the major initiatives this council will be taking on in the coming months is to create and run a contest to design the tail flash on one of our F-16s to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 115th FW.

The Top 3 Council will meet on UTA Sundays at 0930 in the Wing HQ upstairs classroom.

Please attend one of the upcoming meetings. With everything going on in October, it will be difficult, but any effort would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for supporting our councils as you have in the past, and we look forward to moving to an even greater level of excellence in the future.

## Virtual DD 214 and NGB 22

The new Virtual DD Form 214 online application is available to our members effective August 30. The DD Form 214, reflects your service characterization, eligibility for reenlistment, and the reason for the separation. The DD Form 214 also provides civilian and government agencies with authoritative information needed to administer any federal and state laws that may apply to members seeking veteran's benefits, reemployment rights, and unemployment insurance. To check for accuracy, log onto the Virtual MPF and Click on "Self Service Applications", then "Personal Data", "Record Review/Update" and then upper left corner "Individual". If you discover any errors in the underlined sections, correct the information by clicking on those data items.

Virtual NGB Form 22 is the newest on-line personnel application and was effective September 10. Like the DD 214, the NGB Form 22 reflects your service characterization, eligibility for reenlistment, and the reason for separation, discharge, or retirement. To access this service, once logged into vMPF, select "Self Service Applications". Under "Self Service Applications", if you are retiring from the ANG, select "Retirements". If you are separating or being discharged, select "Separations". Click on "NGB Form 22 Worksheet". You may also read the "Introduction" and "When an NGB Form 22 will be issued".

## We've moved!

Our Public Affairs office has moved to the Multimedia shop in hangar 400, room 206. We are in process of merging PA and VI and appreciate your support in the process by ensuring your BAM submissions are in by the deadline: 1200 Saturday of the UTA. Please e-mail you BAM submissions to "115FW BAM" in your Outlook e-mail address book.



**October UTA Pay Date**  
**Oct 24**

**November UTA Pay Date**  
**November 13**



**October UTA Meals**  
*Saturday and Sunday*

Training Operationally Tailored Meals (TOTMs)

**November UTA Meals**  
*Saturday*  
Holiday Meal  
*Sunday*  
TBD



# Legacy of Excellence

Right: Fifty Years Ago - A feature on the unit pilots included Capt. Ray Matera, later Major General Matera, the Wisconsin Adjutant General. (October 1957 Scorpion)



Above: Forty Five Years Ago - Another Major General, Collins Ferris, was "pinned on" in a ceremony recognizing his second star. MajGen Ferris was the Wisconsin State Chief of Staff at the time. (October 1962 Scorpion)



Above: Thirty Years Ago - TSGT Wayne Syverud receives an award from Col James Dawson for his part in rescuing Brig Gen Hoff and Col Skinvik after an aircraft crash while TDY. Syverud and TSgt Frank Koning freed the pilots from the wreckage, then directed firefighting efforts regarding fuel spills and the handling of white phosphorous rockets. (October 1977 RAM)



Above: Fifteen Years Ago - The mighty A-10 Warthog leaves the Truax ramp in order to make room for the new jet, the F-16. After 11 years of service, the trusty Hog was replaced in favor of the newer, more versatile Viper. The F-16 is now the longest-serving aircraft in the history of the 115th Fighter Wing. (October 1992 RAM)



Right: Ten Years Ago - A ceremony honoring the 25th anniversary of the victory at the William Tell air-to-air weapons meet was held during the UTA. The team was inducted into the WI ANG Hall of Fame. Also inducted was Roger Vandrell. (November 1997 BAM)



Assistant Fire Chief Terry Havens gave a tour of the Truax Fire Department during the September UTA to the Niney-Nines, a women's aviation organization. The group also toured Hangar 406 and had their picture taken in front of our display F-16 (inset). The members of the Ninety-Nines are primarily general aviation pilots and requested the tour in order to learn more about not only military aviation, but the fire and rescue services available to all pilots here at the Dane County Regional Airport. Ninety-Nines tour organizer Tina Hartlaub is a flight instructor at Wisconsin Aviation and is a colleague of MSgt Tom Huismann, who also instructs there.