



“Folks, Don’t Try This At Home”

115th Fighter Wing Weapons Load Demonstration Team Performs at the LaCrosse Airshow

Hail and Farewell: Legacy of Excellence Continues

Thank-you, General Wilkening; Welcome, Colonel Dunbar



Col Joseph J. Brandemuehl
115 FW Commander

Thank You, General Wilkening

A great many deservedly wonderful things were said about General Wilkening at his retirement ceremony on August 3rd – a fantastic event at Monona Terrace. I won't repeat them all here, but I will add my own reflections on his career and what his leadership has meant to

“The only constant is change.” That famous saying is so appropriate to military life. Humans naturally crave stability and a certain predictability, but we in the military know that those things, while comforting, can also lead to a little too much comfort, or even complacency. Therefore, things always must change in our military lives, in ways both big and small.

This month, those changes are very big, indeed. Our state military chain of command has changed, as it does every few years, and I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous leadership of our retiring Adjutant General (AG), Maj Gen Al Wilkening, and welcome our new AG, Colonel Don Dunbar, who will be promoted to Brigadier General on September 1.



the state and to the 115th Fighter Wing in particular.

Long Island native Albert H. Wilkening showed his personal dedication to excellence by graduating cum laude from Long Island University in 1967. He then

completed a Master's degree while on his first Air Force assignment as an instructor pilot at Columbus AFB, MS. General Wilkening is also a distinguished graduate of the National Security Management Course. This personal drive to excel has certainly served him, the 115th Fighter Wing, the state, and the nation well.

General Wilkening came to the WI ANG in 1973, and since then, set the highest of standards for every organization he has been part of. I have personally had the honor to fly a countless number of missions with him while he was a pilot for the Fighter Wing. As well, he served as commander of our 176th Fighter Squadron and as our Wing Deputy Commander for Operations (equivalent to today's Operations Group Commander). In 1990, he was named as Wisconsin's Deputy Adjutant General for Air and was promoted to Brigadier General. General Wilkening served in that capacity until 2002, when Governor McCallum appointed him Adjutant General.

The next year, newly-elected Governor Doyle named General Wilkening Homeland Security Advisor and chairman of the Governor's Homeland Security Council. In this capacity, General Wilkening has been a national leader in the development of leading-edge homeland security standards and programs.

His distinguished professional accomplishments aside, there are things about General Wilkening that cannot be captured in an official biography, like his commitment to excel. Not only did he instill his commitment for excellence in his organizations, but he did it in his personal life as well. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has seen General Wilkening outside jogging on any given day, no matter how hot or cold. That commitment to fitness was his own personal way of setting the highest of standards for everyone in the Army and Air National Guard. As busy as the Adjutant General is, General Wilkening never neglected to take care of himself and set the example for all of us. He made it clear that the standards, rules, and regulations apply to everyone, no matter your rank.

Finally, I can't finish without commenting on General Wilkening's personality. Anyone who has spent time with him knows his genuine warmth and concern for each individual Airman and Soldier. He knows that every individual is important to the mission and he is the kind of person who makes sure each person knows it. He is someone everyone can call a friend.

It has been my personal and professional privilege to know and to work for General Wilkening for nearly my entire military career. I can't thank him enough for his service, his leadership, his mentorship, and his friendship. I wish General Wilkening and his lovely and gracious wife, Pat, the very best life has to offer from today forward. Thank you!

Welcome, Colonel Dunbar

I am excited to work more closely – both figuratively and literally – with our new Adjutant General, Colonel Donald Dunbar. Until his appointment as AG, Col Dunbar was my counterpart in Milwaukee as the commander of the 128th Air Refueling Wing.



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The BAM

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A list to live by



Chaplain (Lt Col)
Terry Larson
115 FW Chaplain

Over these past few months, I've been cleaning out my desk in preparation to retire. One of the pieces I came across is the following list. I'm not sure where it came from, nor do I know who the author is, but it's filled with compelling insight. May we learn something from it.

- The most destructive habit: Worry
- The greatest joy: Giving
- The greatest loss: Loss of self-respect

- The most satisfying work: Helping others
- The ugliest personality trait: Selfishness
- The most endangered species: Dedicated leaders
- Our greatest natural resource: Our youth
- The greatest "shot in the arm:" Encouragement
- The greatest problem to overcome: Fear
- The most effective sleeping pill: Peace of mind
- The most crippling disease: Excuses
- The most powerful force in life: Love
- The world's most incredible computer:

- The brain
- The worst thing to be without: Hope
- The deadliest weapon: The tongue
- The most worthless emotion: Self-pity
- The most beautiful attire: A Smile
- The most prized possession: Integrity
- The most contagious spirit: Enthusiasm
- The most powerful channel of communication: Prayer
- The greatest asset: Faith
- The four most power-filled words: "With God, I Can"
- Protestant Worship Service 0730**
- Catholic Worship Service 0815**
- Sunday Worship services will be held in Building 500 Classroom 229A**

COMMANDER, From Page 2

Col Dunbar brings a wealth of experience to the job, the highlights of which include: KC-135 functional manager at the National Guard Bureau, staff member for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Commander of the 385th Expeditionary Operations Group, Executive Officer to the Director of the Air National Guard, and Commander of the 141st Operations Group. He has been the 128 ARW commander since 2005.

Col Dunbar has both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in business administration, and earned his Juris Doctorate degree, as well. He has the real-world experience of several overseas operations, including Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Northern Watch.

I am confident that Col Dunbar, with his breadth of experience, will be another in a distinguished line of top-notch Adjutants General for which Wisconsin is rightly noted. He has taken on a huge responsibility, but I personally know Col Dunbar, and I know he will perform magnificently and take the Wisconsin National Guard to new levels of excellence.

I look forward to the first time the new Adjutant General can stroll across the street and make his first official visit as AG to the 115th Fighter Wing. Please join me in welcoming our new top state military leader to Madison!

July/August 2007

Local Firm, Volk Field Win AF Design Award

Lyle Leverentz
AIA, Mead & Hunt, Inc.

Mead & Hunt is proud to have been a part of the project to replace Volk Field's ATCT. After it was finished, we were thrilled that John Loehle, of the Air National Guard Readiness Center called it "...the model for Air National Guard towers." This Spring, we had the opportunity to congratulate Volk Field when its tower won a USAF Merit Award for excellence in facility design.

When Mead & Hunt was asked to design the tower at Volk Field, we were eager to find creative solutions to the variety of challenges the project presented. The base's existing tower did not comply with current ATC safety and space requirements and had serious USAF safety violations. We wanted to come up with a design that would integrate the historical context of Volk Field and its surrounding geography, while incorporating key updates that would address today's sensibilities and environmental concerns.

After working closely with the Design and Working Group Dennis Wiitanen in the BCE office, we realized space was at a premium on the base. Since tower shafts function mainly to support the operations cab in military ATCTs, it left us a significant amount of usable space to work with. The eight levels below the cab accommodated a

The BAM

formal training room, a computer simulation room, a conference room, and offices.

The exterior appearance of the tower is also impressive. The exterior brick was selected to match the existing buildings on base, while more modern materials were also used on the exterior of the building, such as its striking glazed curtain wall, which also meets current AT/FP requirements. Metal building panels, a unique feature of the tower, reflect an array of colors depending on the weather.

Base personnel at Volk Field have been very happy with the design and the many complements on the tower from controllers, visitors, and personnel training at the Volk Field complex.



Photo courtesy Mead & Hunt, Inc.

115FW member civilian employer earns top ESGR state award

Maj Ann Knabe

WI State Volunteer ESGR PA Officer

When Tech. Sgt. Carlos Alvarenga nominated his civilian employer for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's "My Boss is a Patriot" recognition award, he had no idea his written narrative would earn his employer top honors at Wisconsin ESGR's annual state meeting. The Oshkosh Elks Club, Sergeant Alvarenga's civilian employer, was named a State Chair Above and Beyond Award recipient for 2006. The distinction was given to only eight employers in Wisconsin this year.

A traditional Guard member with the 115th Fighter Wing, Alvarenga deployed three times to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He most recently did a 120 day deployment in Iraq. Throughout his deployments, Alvarenga said he experienced "terrific" support from his employer.

The Elks Club of Oshkosh was cited for its unwavering support and continuation of pay and benefits during Alvarenga's deployments. Sergeant Alvarenga included this fact and other key details in his written nomination for the Patriot recognition award. At the end of 2006, ESGR officials and awards committee members looked at more than a thousand Patriot nominations and narrowed them down to eight top employers in the state. The Oshkosh Elks Club was one of them.

"We were thrilled to earn this award," said Tom Widzinski, a trustee from the Elks Club in Oshkosh. "Carlos is an excellent example of one of our nation's finest service members, a civilian citizen-soldier." The Elks official said the Oshkosh club has a relationship between staff and employees that is similar to a family. "It is part of our continuing success at the lodge," he said.

Widzinski accepted the Above and Beyond Award at Wisconsin ESGR's awards ceremony last month. During his acceptance speech, he shared the rich history of the Elks' support of the military since 1868, pointing out the organization's mission: to help those who need help, to give aid and comfort.

"Since the earliest days of the Elks order, patriotism has been among the many



Oshkosh Elks Club trustee, Tom Widzinski, receives the highest ESGR state award at Wisconsin's ESGR awards ceremony in April. From left to right: MSgt Derrick Hall (North Central ESGR rep), Tom Widzinski, TSgt Carlos Alvarenga, Jim Rebholz (WI State ESGR Chair).

hallmarks that make the Elks stand out from other organizations," said Widzinski. The Elks have supported military hospitals, special events like Flag Day and educational benefits for military members.

Widzinski said his Citizen-Airmen's recent deployments hold special meaning to the organization. "Among the many treasured items on display is a flag that Carlos presented to our lodge that had flown on a mission over Iraq," he said. "We also are proud to display the previous citations from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve commemorating our support of the unit to which Carlos was attached."

The Elks Club sent care packages from the Oshkosh lodge on a regular basis to support the members of Sergeant Alvarenga's unit. They celebrated the day with Carlos and his family when he returned from his tour of duty. All of these gestures of support helped the Oshkosh Elks Club earn the Above and Beyond Award. The Wisconsin ESGR chair, Jim Rebholz, said this year's award winners are terrific examples of supportive employers.

"Wisconsin employers set high standards for businesses around the country," said Rebholz. "These companies all go above and beyond what's required by law when it comes to supporting their Guard and Re-

serve employees. They excel at supporting our service members and their families."

Several companies in the state have gone on to earn ESGR's highest honor at the national level, the Freedom Award, given out by the Office of Secretary of Defense. Past national winners include Midwest Airlines, Schneider National Trucking, Miller Brewing, American Family Insurance and Harley-Davidson.

More than 300 Wisconsin employers were nominated for State Chair awards through the My Boss is a Patriot recognition program. Reserve component members may nominate their employers for the Patriot recognition and higher awards at www.esgr.org. State Chair Above and Beyond Award winners are chosen from the previous year's "My Boss is a Patriot" entries.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense volunteer organization. ESGR provides free education, consultation and, if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR's goal is to support America's employers who share their employees with the Nation to ensure our national security. More information about the Wisconsin ESGR Committee can be found at: www.ESGRwis.org.

Meet CMSgt Thomas Safer



Quality Assurance Superintendent 115th Maintenance Group

1. Please give a brief summary of your military career.

I enlisted in the Air Force (active duty) in 1982 as a T-33 aircraft mechanic. I did my four years of active duty and then went right into the Reserves through the Palace Front program. I joined the 440th Air Refueling Wing and spent the next 20 years of my career there. I started part-time as ISO doc for the C-130 airframe and in 1987, I became full-time as an air reserve technician (mechanic). I moved to the coordinator position in 1995 and then became the Maintenance Flight Chief in 2001. I was put into the Production Superintendent role when we were activated from 2003-2005. My last role before coming to the 115th Fighter Wing in January was as the AMXS Superintendent.

2. What awards have you been selected for?

General Leo Marques Award for Outstanding Maintenance Technician of the Year, 1999; NCO of the Year, 1997; Senior NCO of the year, 2005.

3. What are some of your most important career achievements?

I was promoted to technical sergeant, master sergeant and senior master sergeant all through the Promotion Enhancement Program (PEP). PEP is a Reserve program for promotion to grades technical sergeant through chief master sergeant through a board process. I had to fight for those slots since you compete through your command. (PEP promotions are for outstanding performers who are blocked for promotion under the unit vacancy program.) Other opportunities important in my career have been three major deployments in support of Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Shinning Hope and Joint Forge. I flew as maintenance support in Kosovo and Bosnia,

and did a two-year mobilization for Iraqi Freedom (2003-2005).

4. What is your education level?

High School diploma.

5. What are your personal interests and hobbies?

Working out, weight lifting, golfing, snowmobiling, playing cards and dice, and the Packers and Brewers.

6. What path did you take to get the highest enlisted grade? What recommendations would you give to someone who aspires to be a Chief?

I worked hard and tried to maintain a "can-do" attitude. I supported the organization and involved myself with all aspects of Maintenance and the aircraft as much as I could. I kept up with my PME. I volunteered to support and be a trainer for programs such as Air Base Ground Defense, Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) and Crash Recovery. I volunteered for various undesirable programs and deployments. When I became a supervisor, I supported wing policies as if they were my own. It's important that those working with you see that you support the organization and not be given mixed messages. I empowered my people as a supervisor and didn't micro-manage them and they developed into great leaders.

My recommendations would be to learn all you can because you never know what the requirements of the next job will be, so you need to be ready. Get involved. Volunteer for special projects and programs. Maintain a positive attitude and be loyal to your organization. Take the initiative to improve processes. Complete PME as soon as possible. Take a leadership role when the opportunity presents itself and treat people with respect.

7. What are your future goals?

After spending 20 years working on C-130s, I plan to learn as much as possible about the F-16 airframe. Another goal is to improve QA processes, making safety and mishap prevention a number one priority. Last, I want to attain my airframe and power plant license. That way, when I retire from the Guard, I can do similar civilian work to what I've been doing in Maintenance.

8. What goals do you have for the wing?

Maintain a constant state of readiness and compliance in order to seamlessly integrate all Maintenance activities into AEF deployments.

9. What community activities are you involved in?

I help with five and six-year-old T-ball and volunteer with my son's Cub Scouts troop.

Family Day another great success

Kim Sandleback

115FW Family Readiness Coordinator

Family Day 2007 was the perfect sort of Wisconsin summer day to spend with family and friends. Forty-one volunteers ran a variety of fun activities such as the kiddie game tent, obstacle course, silent auction and dunk tank (with 11 more volunteers getting a bit wet). At the picnic, 950 service members, family members and friends enjoyed 650 brats, 300 hot-dogs, 1,000 ice cream cups, 700 sno cones and 27 pounds of candy. 350 goodie bags and 15 dozen sports balls were distributed to the kids in the game tent and \$1,350 was raised through the silent auction. Thanks to all who donated and bid! By late evening, 2,017 people were through the gate to watch the fireworks.

Family Day 2007 was another great success due to the efforts of many generous and hard working people throughout the wing. Special thanks to all volunteers, Security Forces, Civil Engineering, the Fire Station, Mission Support Flight, Chiefs Council, First Sergeants Council, Mid-Tier Enlisted Council and the Unit Welfare Fund members for a job well done!



115FW Command Chief, CMSgt Dave Zorowski, gets dunked during one of the base Family Day activities. (Photo by MSgt Greg Block)

Organizational Culture Vs. The Numbers Game

State HRA talks about diversity

CMSgt Claire Lederhaus

State Human Resource Advisor, Joint Forces Headquarters

My focus as the Human Resource Advisor for Wisconsin is the “organizational culture” of the WI Air National Guard. The culture of an organization is, basically, the personality of the organization. The culture is comprised of the assumptions, attitudes, values, and norms. It is the workplace environment formulated from the interaction of the employees in the workplace. My main goal is to foster an atmosphere that welcomes all personnel regardless of gender, ethnicity and race - a culture where all personnel feel comfortable enough to want to stay in the Wisconsin Air National Guard for the span of their twenty year military career. It is one thing to recruit personnel and yet another to retain personnel. There are checklists devised to assist with the recruiting process. What about retention checklists? What would your checklist look like? Who are you mentoring within your unit? What do you do to foster morale and reach out to those members who are excluded?

In regards to the numbers game, I am often asked “what are the minority numbers?” So here are the statistics provided by the MILPDS (military personnel data system, dated June 2007) for the 128th Air Refueling Wing, the 115th Fighter Wing and the statistics from the U. S. Census Bureau for the cities of Milwaukee and Madison based on the year 2000:

Unit/City	%Male	Female	White	African American	Asian	Indian	Hispanic/Latino
128 ARW	77	23	92	3	1	1	3
Milwaukee	48	52	50	37	2	<1	11
115 FW	80	20	95	2	1	<1	2
Madison	50	50	84	6	6	<1	4

Comparing the diversity of the community to the 128 ARW and the 115 FW units', there is a difference in the representation of some of the race/ethnic groups. If you look at the numbers, we in the Wisconsin Air National Guard do not mirror the community in which we live. Therefore, according to ANG standards we do not meet the standards. It would be a goal to reach out and become more involved with the segments of the population that are underrepresented.

The culture of the organization is of utmost importance. Building a business case for managing workforce diversity is a challenging task. Diversity efforts are never conducted in a vacuum. They are shaped by the environment/culture and the organization's mission, vision and strategy. The mission of the 128th ARW is different from that of the 115th FW, therefore diversity is embraced differently due to their mission and by every organization. It is vital that the organization know the mission and be able to execute it. Diversity education is important for the future and needed to support a shift towards mirroring our communities.

Part of my role as the State Human Resource Advisor is to form a State Diversity Council (SDC) (IAW ANGI 26-2110). The council consists of key members of the 128th ARW, 115th FW and CRTIC appointed by the Wing Commanders. Some of the goals are as follows:

1. Develop a Diversity training curriculum.
2. Educate all base personnel in Diversity.
3. Focus on Retention rates.
4. Improve the Force Management Plan.
5. Ensure visibility of the SDC to all members' of the WI ANG.

If you would like to contact me regarding diversity education and initiatives, please send me an e-mail at Claire.lederhaus@wimadi.ang.af.mil I welcome your thoughts and value your opinion. Our people are our most valuable asset and we need to take care of them. As an individual and as part of this organization, please become part of the diversity solution.

“Our greatest strength lies in our people. We are a force of men and women with the highest personnel tempo in Air Guard history which will continue into the foreseeable future... We are starting to see changes in what Air Guardsmen look like and will embrace the diversity of this great nation to ensure that these constants remain: they will deliver diverse military and civilian skill sets, long-term experience, unmatched expertise, and community-based integration and support.”

-Lt Gen McKinley, Commander, ANG



Lodging Program Update

Important Information for Members Using Lodging Program

SMSgt Deb Shaw
115 SVF

We would like to take this time to remind personnel who are on the 115th FW Lodging Program of some of the rules and guidelines that need to be followed to be eligible for personnel to remain on this program.

The base lodging program is established at the direction of the Wing Commander because on base housing is not authorized at Truax Field. If you abuse this program, you may be removed from the program.

To be eligible for the billeting program, your Home of Record (HOR) must be over 70 miles from Truax Field. This is determined through the Defense Table of Official Distances (DTOD) by the Services Lodging personnel. If you qualify, you are entitled to request a room reservation for the night before your duty starts. Your HOR must be the same address you have given to Finance and the Military Personnel Flight.

STUDENTS: Even though your Home of Record is over 70 miles, but you actually travel from your school that is not over 70 miles away, you are not entitled to use the lodging program. This also applies to anyone who may be staying with someone within the commuting distance and not traveling from their HOR.

ALL: E-1 through E-6 personnel are not authorized a single room and will have a roommate. Please be considerate of your roommate. This means that you should not have the television or lights on all night, you should not be on the phone late or in the middle of the night, or if you have been out partying, you should not come in drunk and/or make a lot of noise. Also, remember that you cannot have an overnight guest which includes a friend who forgot to make a room reservation.

Reservations can be made by filling out the orange UTA card or by calling the Lodging voice mail, not the Base Services Office, at 1-800-438-3489 option 2 for Lodging. All reservations for the UTA must be made before 1100 the Wednesday before the UTA. Even though the hotel may have available rooms, late reservations requests may not be honored because they may not have any more rooms at the ANG contracted rate.

The hotels require a minimum 24 hour cancellation notice. If you cancel with less than the 24 hour notice, you may be charged for the cost of a 1 night stay. If you are sent a notice that we were charged for a late cancellation, you will have 30 days from the date of the letter to pay that bill. The amount you pay is not reimbursable. The instructions on how to clear this bill are included in the letter sent to you. If you do not clear up this matter within the 30 days, we will not be able to get you a room reservation until it has been cleared. If you feel you have a legitimate reason for cancelling your reservation late please call the Base Services Office to discuss it before you pay the bill. Please remember that you can cancel your reservation with the hotel directly. If you are cancelling a reservation for the UTA, do not call the hotel to cancel until the Thursday morning before the UTA. If you call the hotel before that time, the reservations may not be entered into their system yet and you will be told you do not have a reservation when in fact you do.

Reservations for UTA make-ups will be paid for through the Base Services Office. Reservations for Annual Training will be made by the Base Services Office as a Pay Own Way reservation, which will be paid for by the unit member and reimbursed on a travel voucher. Please do not wait until you are on base the day of your duty to call and request a room reservation. The hotels may not be able to accommodate the request. When doing a UTA make up or Annual Training, it is the member's responsibility to make the reservation request, not your supervisor. When making a reservation request for Annual Training, you must provide us with your Government Travel card number and expiration date. If you do not have a GTC, then you must provide us with a personal credit card number and expiration date. The hotels require this to hold your Pay Own Way reservation. Please check your bill before you check out to make sure the charges are correct and that you were not charged tax.

Due to the End of Year Funding, all reservations for anyone on the Lodging program making up the September UTA must be made NLT Sunday, Sep 9, 2007.

Women generals speak about career, life

by Staff Sgt. Monique Randolph
SecAF Office of Public Affairs

7/24/2007 - WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Earlier this year, Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne released a "Letter to Airmen" about diversity where he recognized several Airmen whose actions highlight the ever-changing, ever-growing roles of women in the Air Force.

Women make up less than 20 percent of the active-duty Air Force, and while achieving general officer ranks is no small feat for anyone, women make up less than 8 percent of the entire active-duty general officer corps. Lt. Gen. Terry Gabreski and Brig. Gen. Dana Born are part of this group.

In the Air Force Reserve, there are 75 general officers, only seven of whom are women. Maj. Gen. Linda Hemminger is one of those seven.

These three women have more in common than the stars on their shoulders. They've seen the Air Force through periods of major transition, overcome stereotypes and opened doors. Today, they continue to balance their personal lives and careers, and they all agree they wouldn't change a thing.

General Gabreski said in her 33 years in the Air Force, the percentage of women has increased and the number of career fields in which they serve has expanded considerably.

In fact, the general served a large part of her career in aircraft maintenance. As a woman, and a leader, in what is considered a male-dominated career field, she said the best way to defy stereotypes and change negative perceptions is to be knowledgeable and competent.

"(Maintenance) is a tough and demanding career field, and the Air Force has done a really good job of ensuring they choose and train the right person for the job, man or woman," General Gabreski said. "I work hard, do my best and know my job. I am an Air Force officer first. The highest compliment I get is to be acknowledged as a maintenance officer, not a 'woman' maintenance officer, and as a trained professional and coworker.

"The Air Force has been a shining example to the rest of society," she said.

For the full story, see www.af.mil

115 FW Honors Airmen of 2nd Quarter

Maj Brian Green
Deputy Commander, MSF



Master Sergeant Elizabeth M. DiSalvo was selected as the Senior NCO of the Quarter for the 2nd Quarter FY 2006. MSgt DiSalvo is assigned to the Dental Services Section in the 115th Medical Group. MSgt DiSalvo created over 1,200 new dental record jackets in support of the Health Services Inspection. She coordinated with the Wing Profile Manager to ensure 100% accuracy of dental profiles which resulted in a 95% Dental Readiness Classification for the 115th Fighter Wing which is one of the highest in the country. MSgt DiSalvo streamlined the dental radiographic process with additional training that resulted in decreasing radiation exposure to the patient by 85% and completely eliminating radiographic retakes.

MSgt DiSalvo is an active volunteer for several organizations and is currently pursuing a degree in International Health.



Technical Sergeant Paul F. Opper was chosen as the NCO of the Quarter for the 2nd Quarter FY 2007. TSgt Opper is the assistant Flight Sergeant for Alpha Flight for the 115th Security Forces Squadron. He reviewed all processes for standard evaluations and implemented several improvements which resulted in a 100% first time go for all military and state security personnel in accomplishing their evaluations. He became a sim-munition instructor and drafted the first Operating Instruction for Security Forces. TSgt Opper is also assigned as the Assistant Antiterrorism Force Protection NCO. He recently updated the Antiterrorism-Force Protection Facility Representative Handbook which is a critical resource used during contingencies and FPCON changes.

TSgt Opper is a board member for the Special Olympic Law Enforcement Torch Run. He also is pursuing a Criminal Justice Degree at Concordia University.



Senior Airman Christopher K. Kessler was selected as the Airman of the Quarter for the 2nd Quarter of FY 2007. He serves as a Armament Systems Journeyman for the 115th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Airman Kessler graduated at the top of his class at the Aircraft Armament Systems Technical School. He made immediate contributions on his recent deployment to Balad AB. He coordinated a Foreign Object Damage Walk after noticing loose gravel on an active taxiway. SrA Kessler volunteered his spare time working at the hospital by assisting medical crews in bringing wounded servicemen off of helicopters and into the emergency room for critical care and cleaning up the surgical ward.

SrA Kessler is currently enrolled in the Pre-Dental Program at UW Milwaukee and is concurrently completing a major in Spanish,



The BAM

Retirees can grab G-RAP awards

115 FW Recruiting Office

Air National Guard Retirees are now eligible to apply as a Recruiter Assistant in the ANG Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) and receive a \$2,000 stipend for bringing prior service and non-prior service individuals into the Air National Guard. Applicant must be retired from the ANG with a minimum of 20 years satisfactory service, have been retired for greater than six months, and meet the other eligibility requirements identified by the sub-contractor - Docupak. ANG retirees will undergo the same training as is required from traditional guardsman. Please pass this information to all of your friends and former colleagues.

For further information, or to apply, go to www.guardrecruitingassistant.com

Uniform officials warn Airmen about knockoff ABUs

6/14/2007 - WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Commercial manufacturers have begun to advertise sale of the new Airman Battle Uniform at various online web sites. Air Force officials warn Airmen these uniforms are not the authorized items provided by the Air Force's official source, Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, and may not meet the service's stringent specifications. Problems may include improperly sewn or sized pockets; incorrect stitching; inferior weight, quality and feel of the garments; and safety issues.

The ABU is being issued to Airmen scheduled to deploy and those already in deployed locations. It will also be issued to Airmen in basic training and available in select AAFES locations in October. The mandatory wear date is in 2011.

Additionally, you can expect some changes to the Air Force physical training uniforms over the next year. Uniform board officials are working several issues presented by Airmen since the release of the existing uniform. Plans are also in the works for new optional items such as shorts for long-distance runners, long-sleeve T-shirt, sweatshirt, and sleeveless, fleece vest. Some of the PT uniform changes include:

- Modified lining in the running shorts for improved fit
- Alternative fabric for the running suit to reduce weight
- Lighter weight fabric for short-sleeve T-shirt

Badger Bikers Brandish Banners for the Brave

Entry Wins "Most Patriotic" Award in Parade

Vicki Edgren

State Family Support Office

On July 4th we look to honor those who have given us our freedom and the right to live the lives we live. This past holiday, 10 members of the 115 FW took this honor to heart and decided to show their support for those who have died so that we may live that freedom. The 115 FW Sheet Metal Dept worked with SMSgt Wayne Edgren of the Flightline (whose idea it was to honor 2 fallen service members from DeForest). Together they created signs to hang proudly off the side of a lead truck that took the 115 FW Members and Ms. Jennifer Cook down the main street in DeForest WI. The sign read:

**"Riding in Memory of DeForest
Area Military Members
ARMY SPECIALIST ROBERT J
COOK
MARINE LANCE CPL SHANE K
O'DONNELL
And All Other Members, Past and
Present, of the Military
Who Were Killed or Missing in Ac-
tion.
Riding with the 115th Members
today is Jennifer R Cook,
Sister of Specialist Robert J Cook".**

Harley Riders were:

CMSgt Jeffery Knuteson
SMSgt Wayne Edgren
SMSgt Mike Post
SMSgt Darrell Miller Sr.



MSgt Scott Edmonston
MSgt Brian Larose
MSgt Robert Dederich
SSgt Darrell Miller Jr
SSgt Scott Ebert
SSgt Dustin Bell

Thanks so much to all those who participated in this and other 4th of July activities that honor our service members and the sacrifices they give so we can proudly state "Land of the Free – Because of the Brave"



Congressional Votes Good News For Veterans

S.38 Proposes Enhanced Healthcare Services to Combat Veterans

S.38, sponsored by Senators Domenici (R-NM) and Obama (D-IL), proposes extending to five years the current two years of free care available to veterans of combat service at VA medical facilities. The bill also addresses removing geographical barriers to readjustment services and mental health care for our members returning from deployment, a priority National Guard issue. In addition, S.38 authorizes the Department of Veterans' Affairs to contract with Community Mental Health Centers to provide readjustment and mental health

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services to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom for three years following their return from deployment. The program proposed by S.38 will make available needed readjustment and mental health services in the communities where our veterans live and authorizes the use of telehealth services by the community providers.

Senate Passes Military Healthcare Bill, Increases Troop Pay

On July 25, the Senate passed "Wounded Warrior" legislation, a bill designed to effect the overhaul of military health care

and bring about the successful transition of wounded soldiers from the Pentagon's healthcare system to that of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The bill was previously included in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Bill, which was tabled in mid-July by Majority Leader Harry Reid. In order to avoid further delay on the healthcare and pay provisions, Reid agreed to remove them from the NDAA and pass them as part of a free-standing bill. The bill (H.R. 1538), which passed by a voice vote, also includes a 3.5 percent pay raise for U.S. servicemembers.

News courtesy of NGAUS

Promotions



Erik Peterson
Nick Radney
Ronald Washak



Robert Hintz



John Gobler
Chad Woodman
Lee Peters
Laura Hanke
Robert Mcelmurry
Brett Sabin
Che Stedman



Christina Paris
Jason Roberson
Stephen Smilko



Mary Eggleston
Phillip Biwer
John Magnus
Karl Pooch
Heidi Schlitt
Jeffrey Tokarczyk



Wesley Bernath
Bridget Brummet
Nathan Burkum
Brian Duchek
Phillip Givens
Timothy Huber
James Jacobson
Robert Lange III
Abigail Meinke
Cassandra Stepp
Natalie Twohig
Thomas Twohig
Laura Valenstein

Retirements

Maj Gen Al Wilkening
Lt Col Wayne Matthews
CMSgt Gary Gard
CMSgt Janet Gaedke
MSgt John Okrziesik
MSgt Timothy Johnson
MSgt Will Underwood
TSgt James Hermanson

115FW Base Honor Guard applicants wanted

The 115th Fighter Wing will be re-establishing the Base Honor Guard effective Oct 1, 2007. We are looking for ten sharp Fighter Wing personnel, E-6 and below, for 179 day MPA tours. Personnel may remain on MPA tours for a maximum of three years, followed by one year off of MPA orders. Interested personnel must submit a resume and letter of interest NLT August 15, 2007. Questions can be directed to SMSgt Deb Shaw or MSgt Richard Breister, (608) 245-4306.

Mail to:
SMSgt Deb Shaw,
115th Services Flight
3110 Mitchell Street
Madison, WI 53704
-OR-
FAX to:
(608) 245-4346

Junior Enlisted Council

The next JEC meeting will be August 18, 2007 at 1430 in the Building 500 Large Classroom.

MWR News

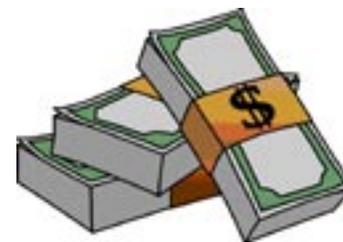
August Activities:
*Volleyball Tournament team sign-up sheets are available in the base Services office. They will need to be turned in by 1200 Saturday of the August UTA.
*Texas Hold'em- Think you're a player? We're looking for 50 card sharks who would like to join us for a friendly game. Sign up in the base Services office.
Any questions? Please call MWR Office at x3506

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.

Contact the BAM

Let us know what you think of the BAM. Are there features you like, or don't like? What would you like to see in the BAM that isn't there now? Is our new distribution system getting the BAM to you on time now? Remember, the BAM is for you!



August UTA Pay Date Sept 1



August UTA Meals

Saturday

Homemade Turkey Nuggets
Jaegerschnitzel
French Style Green Beans
Onion Rings
Stuffing
Lemon Bars

Sunday

BBQ Ribs
Steak Strips Smothered w/Onions
Rice
Corn on the Cob
Glazed Sweet Potatoes
Pineapple Upside Down Cake



Legacy of Excellence

Right: *Forty Five Years Ago* - MSgt Aldro Winter exemplified dedication in his perfect attendance of never missing a drill or camp in 14 consecutive years of service in the Wisconsin National Guard. (August 1962 Scorpion)

Attendance Record Set



Lt Col Oliver Ryerson, 128th Air Defense Wing Commander congratulates MSgt Aldro Winter on his 14 years of a-missed drills. His sons A3c Dick Winter and A2c Bill look on.



Above: *Ten Years Ago* - Brig Gen Fred Sloan, 115FW Commander, and TSgt Chris Buhler share congratulations after a ceremony awarding the 115th Fighter Wing the 1997 Air National Guard Environmental Compliance Award. The award recognized the unit that, as a team, exemplified the goals of the ANG environmental programs. (July 1997 BAM)

First Female Sgt.



Above: *Thirty Five Years Ago* - Janet Hatleberg of Madison, WI became the first enlisted woman to serve in the Wisconsin National Guard. She joined the 128th Air Defense Wing at Truax as a chaplain's assistant with the rank of Sergeant, having four years of prior service in the Air Force. (July 1972 Deuces Wild)

Below: *Five Years Ago* - Getting fired-up for the new FATS (Firearms Training System), Combat Arms training manager, TSgt Daniel Knettle, demonstrated part of the simulated and interactive training. The state-of-the-art video training system was aquired to improve the quality of firearms training. (August 2002 BAM)



Pictured above from front to back, TSgt Daniel Knettle, TSgt Dave Busse, MSgt Kert Hanson, and MSgt Larry Rush. Instruction precedes firing in the FATS classroom, located in Building 503. (Photo by TSgt Paul Gorman)



Ten members of the 115 FW took part in the July 4th parade in DeForest to honor DeForest area military members who have died in service to their country. See story on page 9.