



**This is Only a Drill...
This Time**

A True Legacy of Excellence....Maj Gen Fred R. Sloan



Col Joseph J. Brandemuehl
115 FW Commander



Maj Gen Sloan has left us with a national legacy of excellence that won't be matched for decades.

On January 20th, military members, civic leaders, friends, and family from the local area and from across the state and nation will gather in Madison to congratulate and pay tribute to Maj Gen Fred Sloan, our long-

In the modern history of the 115th Fighter Wing, Maj Gen Sloan is the one person that singularly has shaped and defined the national reputation of the 115th Fighter Wing. He developed, framed, and implemented our current culture of safety, unit pride, pride of ownership, and commitment to excel. Without the exemplary service and sacrifices of General Sloan, this organization would be very different, and I would suggest, would be on a future course similar to many other Fighter Wings nationally that are struggling to define their future.

time wing commander, and the retiring Wisconsin Deputy Adjutant General for Air. I would like to take this opportunity to give my own personal regards to General Sloan and to let those of you who didn't know him as well as I did, have a glimpse into what made him, and by extension, the 115th Fighter Wing, so special.

General Sloan started his military career by receiving his commission in the very first Academy of Military Science (AMS) officer training class in 1971, then known as the ANG Officer Preparatory Academy. (All Air National Guard officers since then have received their commission from this school.) Little did he know then that 21 years later he would be the first AMS graduate to become a general officer. His military flying career spans 32 years and more than 6000 flying hours, starting in the standard USAF trainers, and then flying operationally in the F-102, O-2, A-37, A-10, and F-16 fighters. Interestingly, he was also qualified on the unit's lone C-131 (yes, "131" – that's not a typo) support aircraft. During his flying career, he was an air defense alert pilot, forward air controller, instructor pilot, evaluator pilot, and functional check flight (FCF) pilot. This is a flying career of multiple aircraft and missions that can not be matched by any pilot today.

General Sloan was a highly motivated and skilled officer and pilot, and eagerly took on nearly every job in the Fighter Squadron, helping to give him a very broad perspective on all aspects of our organization. That breadth of experience served him well later in his career as he moved into upper-level leadership positions, not only locally as commander, but nationally as a member of the ACC Reserve Forces Policy Board, the chairman of the ANG F-16 Weapons Systems Council, and as chairman of the Air Directorate Field Ad-

visory Council.

In April 1989, General Sloan took command of the Fighter Wing and for 14 years he provided unparalleled leadership to the 115th Fighter Wing. Those 14 years would be regarded as the most dynamic period in the wing's history. Shortly after he took command, we converted to the F-16, which was a big leap in capability and mission complexity. Previous aircraft that had been assigned to the 115th were certainly very capable at what they did, but the F-16 is the "do it all" multi-role fighter in the Air Force and ANG. The F-16 requires a huge commitment of time and effort among all unit members, and General Sloan led, as always, by example and never stepped down from a challenge. And during his tenure, there were many challenges, like multiple Operational Readiness Inspections (ORIs) and multiple Unit Compliance Inspections (UCIs, MEIs, QAFA), two class A mishaps, the stand-up of the C-26 mission, a dramatic change in ANG culture, a new safety-focus culture, anthrax, the development and start-up of the AEF construct which included volunteerism, 9/11 and the stand-up of the alert mission, the development of a long range base master plan that established our existing infrastructure, and a lease with the airport to the year 2050. His leadership and dedication allowed us to excel with every challenge. We received "Excellent" or "Outstanding" ratings for all of our inspections and evaluations, and received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in 1991 and 1998. That is quite a legacy.

See **COMMANDER**, Page 4

The BAM

115 FW Commander

Col Joseph J. Brandemuehl

Public Affairs Officer

Maj Chris Rodel

Deputy PAO

Lt Suzanne VanderWeyst

Editor

TSgt Michael Coller

Staff Writer

SSgt Kandace Koch

Photography

MSgt Donna O'Connor

MSgt Paul Gorman

TSgt Dan Richardson

SSgt Hannah McGhee

SrA Katie O'Neill

Printing

Government Printing Office

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On the cover: 115FW First Responders and "victims" participate in a mass casualty exercise during the November UTA

A year that was and one that shall be



Chaplain (Lt Col)
Terry Larson
115 FW Chaplain

As we begin a new year, it's good to think about priorities for our life. If the new year is like the one past, it will be full of opportunities to decide what is most important in our minute, hour, or day. Many things guide us through our days of work and leisure. Some things we have no control over, such as requirements of our job and needs of our family. However, there are decisions we can make about what we do. And those decisions can best be based upon what's key not simply today, but into the far future.

In thinking about how our decisions to-

day frame our legacy, the "Charles Shultz Philosophy" provides a compelling set of questions. He asks:

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor or actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do? The facts are, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of three people who have appreciated what you have done.
5. List five people with whom you enjoy spending time.
6. Name six heroes whose stories have inspired you.

If you are like me, this quiz was much easier. And the lesson is that the people who make a difference in our lives are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the grand and glorious awards. The people who make a difference are the ones who've taken time to care about others. May we make a difference this year!

Call me crazy but I'm still taking the plunge!

SSgt Natalie Huschka

As a young adult, I have a list of "things that I have to do at some point in my life." I still need to make my way to Lambeau Field and the new Miller Park. I recently crossed off tailgating at a Badger football game, as I hadn't been to a game in years. There are others; I want to attempt snowboarding, rock climbing and my newest adventure, diving into the freezing waters of Lake Monona in the middle of a Wisconsin winter.

Call me crazy if you will, but it will not stop me. As I debated this potentially hypothermal event, I had to ask myself, "Why do I have any urge to make this one of those "things I must do" tasks?" The polar plunge is an opportunity for people to raise money for Special Olympics. This tradition began seven years ago and since then nearly 30,000 Wisconsinites have taken the plunge helping to raise more than \$4 million for Special Olympics.

As I began to register, the realization of what I was doing hit me. Was I really up for jumping into freezing waters, good cause and all? This is when I thought back to my grade school days. Evansville did not have an all-girls soccer team but this didn't stop me from joining the co-ed team at the ripe

old age of ten. At the age ten I soon found out that boys had cooties and it wasn't until one parent offered to start an all-girls league that sports became a reality.

It is because of that one parent, one opportunity, that I can look back to some of the best years of my life. I look back on years of training in not only soccer but also basketball, cross-country, track and whatever other sport I dared myself to endeavor. Now that I am committed to take the plunge I understand better that by doing something a little crazy, I can help those who may not have the opportunities I had growing up. My act of "living on the edge" can bring these children and adults memories of healthy and rewarding competition.

As captain of the Fighter Wings on the Brink I'm looking for fellow sport junkies, daredevils, and Wisconsinites to take the plunge or support those already willing. Myself, fellow Airmen, family and friends will take the plunge on February 17, 2007. What better way to take part in a true tradition? For more information call 245-4652 or e-mail me at Natalie.huschka@wimadi.af.mil and look forward to the next BAM to check on team members training for the event!

Truax CARES Planning Another Chili Cook-Off

Mark your calendars for the next Chili Cook-Off planned for January 31, 2007. CARES is having another chili cook off to raise funds for the organization. Tickets to the event will be available for purchase in early January from a CARES committee representative.

The Truax Caring Assistance and Relief Effort Services (CARES) was established on July 6, 1996. It exists "to assist any employee of the 115 Fighter Wing and their immediate families in times of need. This will be in conjunction with other programs that are already established for Truax Air Guard Base personnel."

Since the programs inception this organization has helped 46 families and given out a total of \$7500. Members may request funds for themselves or unit members in need of support by filling out an "application for distribution of funds". Please provide as much detail as possible. The forms are available from any of the committee members listed below. The form is returned to a committee member, who will turn it into the Treasurer. No funds will be disbursed until it is voted upon and approved. If the request is approved, a check is cut and delivered to the member. We do not give out loans - it is considered a gift.

Wing Names Outstanding Airmen of 2006

Major Brian R. Green
Deputy Commander - MSF

First Sergeant Alice M. Sischo

was selected as the First Sergeant of the Year for FY 2006. MSgt Sischo is the First Sergeant for the 115th Mission Support Group. She volunteered to deploy to Kuwait to support the Global War on Terrorism. While deployed, she escorted troop's off-base for medical appointments, secured much needed resources for personnel, and ran the awards and decorations ceremonies. To boost morale, she provided refreshments to the troops during the hottest part of the day, handed out Easter Eggs during Easter Sunday and coordinated a shipment of beef sticks from her civilian employer to be handed out to all deployed Wisconsin personnel.

MSgt Sischo recently earned her second CCAF Degree and works as a manager for Kwik Trip Inc.



Technical Sergeant Angela J. Hellenbrand

was selected as the NCO of the year for FY 2006. TSgt Hellenbrand is the Training and Readiness Manager for the 115th Logistics Readiness Squadron. While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, she flawlessly processed requests and turn-ins for critical parts while she managed the Hazmat Pharmacy. TSgt Hellenbrand also assisted in several mass issue and swap-out of equipment to assigned personnel. During her non-duty hours, she volunteered her time to work at the Base Hospital in Balad.

TSgt Hellenbrand served as the Vice President of the Junior Enlisted Council. In her free-time she is training for the Iron man 2007.



Senior Airman Jonathan M. Cutts

was selected as the Airman of the Year for FY 2006. SrA Cutts is a Command Post Controller for the 115th Fighter Wing. He monitored operational traffic and notified commanders of taskings during Hurricane Katrina and Rita and accurately submitted situational reports to JFHQ and the Air National Guard Bureau within the required time frame. During the UCI, SrA Cutts volunteered to work the console where he excelled by executing actions during critical exercises. He received excellent marks from ACC Command Post inspectors for his validation of Command and Control procedures and reporting requirements.

SrA Cutts is currently attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville seeking a double major in Business Finance and Economics. He also is a member of the Junior Enlisted Council.



Master Sergeant Brian L. Steffen

was selected as the Senior NCO of the Year for FY 2006. MSgt Steffen is the Aerospace Nursing Training Manager for the 115th Medical Group. Sergeant Steffen provided oversight that ensured that over 300 medical and dental records met mandatory requirements in support of the Air Expeditionary Force deployment which resulted in a 100% compliance rating. He developed an automated database to track profiles and a program that enables commanders to manage personnel assigned in SORTS. MSgt Steffen recently taught a CPR course to ensure that all medical staff comply with this mandatory program.

MSgt Steffen is an active member of the Zion Lutheran School Board and his local church.



COMMANDER, From Page 2

In March 2003, General Sloan turned over command of the 115th Fighter Wing to Col Steve Foster. General Sloan assumed the DAG-Air role, and, true to his form, also took on the national additional duty as Air National Guard assistant to the commander of Air Combat Command (COMACC) and also served as the director of Air National Guard Forces, Headquarters, Air Combat Command.

Aside from all the notable military achievements, there are also a few "fun facts" about General Sloan that many may not be aware of. For example, did you know he was the person who designed our current wing patch? Did you know his call sign is Hollywood and how he got it? He was also, early in his career, the official wing haircut officer, or hair sheriff. You can relax General, I won't go any further.

General Sloan was a great mentor to all of us as we matured through our careers, and he set the example of accepting every new opportunity and challenge with excellence in mind. The wing motto of "Dedicated to Excellence" was more than a mere slogan to him - it was absolutely a way of life from the beginning of his military career to its distinguished end. Not only did we learn a lot from him and respect him as a leader, many of us were proud to call him a friend, and I look forward to continuing that friendship with him and his lovely and gracious wife, Nancy, for many years to come. I wish the Sloans the very best in their retirement - they have both served their country and their state with distinction and have certainly earned all the accolades that are coming their way later this month.

Thank you, General Sloan, for providing us with our great "Legacy of Excellence"!



Meet CMSgt Andy Pipping



115 FW
Command
Chief



1. Brief summary of military career:

I enlisted in the United States Air Force on Oct 11, 1984. My first assignment was K.I. Sawyer AFB, MI where I started out in Finance as a travel pay clerk. I was auditing travel vouchers for the 115th Fighter Wing. The wing had a vacancy in the Finance office and inquired if anyone at KI Sawyer was interested in a full time position here at Truax. An AGR slot opened up and I started here in December of 1985. I have been AGR ever since and have over 22 years of active duty. I was in Finance for nine years, the Readiness Flight for 11 years, Vehicle Maintenance for about three months, Operations for over two years and the Command Chief for two years.

2. What awards have I been selected for?

Outstanding Airmen of the Quarter in 1988, Quarterly Safety Award in 1997, 115th Resource Management Squadron NCO of the Year in 1990 and two-time recipient of ACC Superior Performer Award.

3. Most important career achievements:

First and foremost, it was an honor to be selected and serve as the Wing Command Chief. It is truly a very rewarding position and I am glad I had the opportunity to serve the 115 FW, the "best of the best" - our record proves it. We have so much talent in this unit and a great work ethic. I have many other highlights to remember, but I guess one of the most memorable was the ORI in 2003. As the Readiness Flight NCOIC, I believe the 115th Fighter Wing was the only unit in ACC history which received an outstanding in the Phase I portion of the ORI. We worked very hard and it paid off. That accomplishment is going to be hard to beat. The AEF construct began while I was in the Readiness Flight and it was great to be on the ground floor and be an integral part of the process we now have here at the wing.

It was also fun and challenging deploying to so many locations CONUS and OCONUS in support of the multiple unit deployments and AEFs.

4. What is your education level?

I have attended several classes and am a couple of semester hours short of a CCAF associates degree in Logistics Management. My future plan is to return to school and receive a bachelors degree in Logistics.

5. What are your personal interests and hobbies?

I have many. I spend a lot of time on the land I own in Fond du Lac. I recently planted several trees and eventually would like to start a tree farm. Other hobbies include, golfing, playing basketball, trap shooting, hunting, traveling and spending time with my wife and family. I need another "project", so we're now exploring buying and fixing up homes that need some TLC.

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

Completing your Professional Military Education (PME) as soon as you are eligible to enroll is very important. I personally accomplished all of my PME via correspondence with the exception of the Chief Leadership Course (CLC). I learned while attending the CLC, there is an extreme amount of value attending PME "in-residence" as you get so much more out of it. In today's AEF environment, integrated with the active duty force, attending in-residence becomes even more valuable. I also cross-trained several times to afford myself upward mobility and am retiring with four different AFSCs. Things I would recommend for someone who aspires to be a Chief is to try and broaden your understanding of the entire organization, never stop learning, and have fun. The time I spent in the Readiness Flight allowed me to accomplish all of that. While I know everyone cannot work in the Readiness Flight, there are many other things an individual can do to get involved. Such as, participating in the various councils on base and volunteering to take on additional duties to broaden your knowledge. Lastly, I cannot stress enough to keep a good and "can-do" attitude. The military is a great occupation, is well respected, takes care of their people, offers unbelievable camaraderie, and great pay and benefits. I always try to dwell on the "good" instead

of jumping to negative conclusions.

7. What are your future goals?

By the time this article is printed, I will hopefully (unless they fire me right away) have been an employee of the Oshkosh Truck Corporation as a government contract administrator for almost a month. Other than that, I plan on working until age 55, keeping all my options wide open. I enjoy speaking and spending time with people and never want that to end. As I mentioned earlier, I plan on spending more time with my wife and family, improving my land, and potentially fixing up homes. I also plan to become more active in our church again. Bottom line is, I like to stay busy. Lord willing, I will be able to enjoy accomplishing my future goals unless He has other plans for me.

8. What goals do you have for the Wing?

The 115th Fighter Wing is a "blankety-blank hot" unit. Because of the excellent leadership and good ol' Wisconsin work ethic, we will do well no matter the mission(s). The immediate goal I have for the Wing is to remain a premier fighting force for our AEF and ECS commitments. Future goals I have for the Wing would be to start exploring alternative missions for the years ahead. While we have state of the art aircraft now, the F-16 is projected to be phased out in the next 10-15 years. Our personnel and the facilities we operate out of are too valuable to allow BRAC or anything else to shut us down. The younger generation coming up through the ranks is very educated. I have the utmost confidence the 115 FW will survive and remain a premiere, relevant fighting force.

9. What community activities, etc.

I have not been involved with all that much for the last year or so. In 2006, my six year term expired as Vice President and Secretary of St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Council. I am currently a life member of the Dotyville Hunting Club, member of the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association and Air Force Sergeants Association. I plan to become active in the local VFW, American Legion, and our church again.

The BAM Staff thanks Chief Pipping for his dedicated service and wishes all the best to him and his family!

Promotions



Diane Zirger



Steven French
James Lofy, Jr
Jeremy Phillips



Randall Brown
Ryan Brown
Mark Dixon
Joseph Klich III
Samantha Rahn
Eric Stenglein
Douglas Wealti
Scott Wollinger



Cristian Bennett
Jeremy Demos
Amanda Kapugi



Andrew Lavoy
Karmin Johnson
Stephanie Dufek



Natalie Twohig

Retirements

CMSgt Ronald "Radar" Johnson
TSgt Scott Koegler

Want your news in the BAM?

In your Outlook address book, select "115FW BAM", and this will send your work to all members of the BAM staff. The deadline for BAM submissions is Saturday of each UTA at 12 noon. However, for night flying UTAs, the submission deadline is Saturday at 4 p.m.

Back In Black

Col Brandemuehl has authorized the following BDU uniform changes:

Black t-shirts may be worn with your BDU uniform. AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, dated 2 Aug 06, authorizes the wear of either black or brown t-shirts with the BDU uniform.

The Base Exchange will no longer stock brown t-shirts. The BX will stock black t-shirts.

115 LRS will continue to stock and issue brown t-shirts. Black t-shirts will not be an issued clothing item until the new uniform is implemented. The projected date for issue of the new uniform has not been determined yet.

Bottom line: Black t-shirts are currently an optional wear item and must be procured at your expense. Black turtlenecks are also authorized as an optional wear item per the 115 FW Supplement to AFI 36-2903.

UTA Pay Date



Jan. 15

January UTA Menu

Saturday:
Mexican Turkey Macaroni Casserole
Beef & Bean Burritos
Refried Beans
Mexicorn
Spanish Rice
Apple Churros
Orchard Dessert Bars
Soup: Southwestern Chicken Vegetable

Sunday:
BBQ Beef Sandwiches
Or
Fish-N-Chips
Succotash
Lemon Bars
Soup: Beer Cheese



In Brief

MWR Has Hoops

Are you looking for a good workout after drill? An open gym is planned from 4:30 - 6 p.m. following the January UTA. 4:30 - 4:50 will be set aside for a shoot around. Pickup games will be organized after the shoot around. Grab your basketball and shoes for some good old fun.

For more information call SSgt Amanda Lease at x3506.

25th Annual WI National Guard State Bowling Tournament

Hosted by: Milwaukee Area Guard Retirees, Gen. Mitchell IAP (ANG)

Where: AMF South Park Lanes at 305 S. Chicago Ave, S. Milwaukee, WI.

When : Saturday February 17, 2007

•Limited to the first 80 teams - Times: Noon and 3pm

•Registration Deadline is Feb 3, 2007

•Cost: \$20.00 Per Bowler, \$100.00 Per Team (5 Person Teams)

Includes Bowling Fees, Prizes, Lunch, and Refreshments. Additional Lunches available for non-bowlers at \$10.00 each, Must indicate ahead of time.

Trophies awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Teams, High Handicap Series & Game, Men & Women.

•Motel room information available upon request, just call or E-mail "Bird"

?? Questions ?? Call "Bird" Siegel at (414) 529-4978 or E-mail lauren.siegel@sbcglobal.net. 115 FW contact is CMSgt Charmaine Schultz, x4574.

Ski Devil's Head and Tyrol Basin at a Discount

Services has just received the discounted ski passes for Devil's Head Ski Resort and Tyrol Basin. Passes can be signed out in the Base Services Office in the back of the Dining Hall. Passes will be limited to the member and each of their dependents for 2 outings. Military ID will be checked at the resort. Contact SMSgt Deb Shaw at x4306 for details.



Legacy of Excellence

Right - Five Years Ago: The ECM Pod shop earned a perfect score on its Electronic Warfare Aggressor Program (EWAPs) evaluation. All 16 ECM pods checked by the inspection team passed their tests. The Electronic Countermeasures Pod is a vital piece of equipment that helps keep our F-16s and pilots safe from enemy radar-guided missiles and anti-aircraft artillery. (January 2002 BAM)

115 Fighter Wing Electronic Countermeasures Pod Shop. From left to right: TSgt. Joshua Lowery, TSgt. Jim Nelson, TSgt. Brett Salen, TSgt. Paul Ravelle, TSgt. Frank Blaser, TSgt. Doug Kordeck, and MSgt. Fritz Dahn. (Not pictured: MSgt. Jeff Wall and TSgt. Tim Potlack)

ECM Pod shop earns perfect score during recent inspection

TSgt. Douglas J. Kordeck
ECM POD Instructor

Because of its global mission and likelihood of being deployed to a hostile region worldwide, the 115 Fighter Wing was recently scheduled for an Electronic Warfare Aggressor Program evaluation. An EWAP's evaluation, which tests and evaluates the Electronic Countermeasures Pod's performance.

"In God we trust ... all others we jam, monitor or deceive"

Tom Cooley, Sgt. Bob Dobis, Gen. Hoff, A1C Jim Schifferl, and SSgt. Grant Goetsch. The '86 team finished third in the competition hosted by the 104th Tactical Fighter Group in Westfield, Mass., in October.

—Photos by TSgt. John Dudzek —

Above - 20 Years Ago: the 128 TFW LOADEO team placed third in the ANG weapons loading competition. The wing was traditionally a high finisher and sometimes winner of the competition. (January 1987 RAM)

RAM
No. 10th Tactical Fighter Wing

Happy New Year

115th Fighter Wing Support Squadron/Truxa Field, Robins, Georgia

January 1982

Above - 25 Years Ago: Maj Rob Slack walks away after one of the last OA-37 flights at Truxa Field. The OA-37 was about to be replaced by the larger and more capable A-10, which would serve for the next 10 years. (January 1982 RAM)

Chapter V of the NCO Academy Graduate Association, Robins, Georgia, is presented the award for having the best retention rate and the best retention program in the country. The award is given by Chapter 1 of the 115th AFW. From left to right: Gen. Hoff, A1C Jim Schifferl, SSgt. Grant Goetsch, TSgt. Douglas J. Kordeck, and MSgt. Fritz Dahn.

—Photo by 115th AFW News Team

Above - 30 Years Ago: Excellent organizations breed excellent retention numbers. Chapter V of the NCO Academy Graduate Association (the Wisconsin Chapter) was awarded for having the best retention rate and best retention program in the country. The 115FW continues to have one of the best retention programs in the country to this day. (January 1977 RAM)



Dining with the Stars?

Wisconsin Adjutant General Maj Gen Al Wilkening provides service with a smile during the December UTA. The general and other senior leaders performed the long-standing tradition of serving the annual Holiday meal. This annual event is a popular one, allowing those senior leaders to demonstrate "Service Before Self" in a very visible way to all unit members and to catch up with old friends and make a few new ones as they pass through the line.