



Vol. 35, No. 3

# BAM

115th Fighter Wing, Truax Field, Madison, WI



# Leadership Changes in Wis. ANG



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

Throughout my Air National Guard career, there is one thing that remains the same...there is always change. Many see change as something bad, but as I told the Right Start briefing last UTA, the 115th Fighter Wing has excelled because we don't settle for the status quo. I personally dislike the status quo attitude. We can only get better and stronger through positive change. Change is the avenue in which we grow, improve and excel to new heights. Since our last UTA, there have been several big changes announced in the leadership across the Wisconsin Air National Guard. I would like to highlight these changes and the impact they have had on the 115 FW.

Col. Gary Ebben, current director of staff - air at JFHQ, will become the new commander of the Volk Field Combat Readiness Center. Colonel Ebben excelled in his first 27 years of military service with the 115

FW before he went to JFHQ in March 2008. He had a tremendous impact on our organization with 11 years in the operations group, four years in the maintenance group, and 12 years

on the wing staff. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to him for his exemplary service to the 115 FW and best wishes for continued success. Col. Gunther Neumann, current Volk Field CRTC commander, will transfer to JFHQ, and become the J3, director of joint operations. This change will be a positive opportunity to broaden both of their careers. The official transfer and change of command at Volk Field will likely be in April.

Col. Ted Metzgar, previous 115th Maintenance Group commander, transferred to Milwaukee and will become the commander of the 128th Air Refueling Wing. Colonel Metzgar's first nine years were with the Air Force. His career with the Wisconsin ANG includes one year at Volk Field, 12 years on the wing staff as chief of safety, and over five years as the maintenance group commander. During his career, he helped establish the foundation for our nationally recognized safety culture and led the maintenance group through one of the toughest times, as the Air Force tried to downsize our maintenance organization and replace it with a nationally centralized repair network. Thank you Colonel Metzgar for your exceptional service and sacrifices for the 115 FW and best wishes at the 128 ARW. Col. Murry Mitten, previous 128th ARW commander, transferred to the JFHQ and will become the director of staff - air. The change of command at the 128 ARW will be Saturday morning of this UTA.

The new 115th Maintenance Group Commander, replacing Colonel Metzgar, is Lt. Col. Pat Volk. Colonel Volk started his military career in the Navy where he spent nine years flying F-14s and F-18s, as well as, being a maintenance officer and test pilot. He joined the 115 FW in 1998 and has been an integral part of the wing as operations officer and commander of our alert mission. He most recently became the 115th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander in Dec. 2008. Colonel Volk brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and leadership

to the maintenance group. I have full confidence that he will pick up where Colonel Metzgar left off, and continue our great "Dedicated to Excellence" attitude in the 115th Maintenance Group. The change of command for the 115th Maintenance Group will be Saturday afternoon of this UTA in Hangar 400.

As you can tell, these are all major changes across the Wisconsin ANG. With every one of these changes comes optimism and enthusiasm by the new leadership, but as well, many in the organizations will feel a nervousness and uncertainty for the future. This is understandable but let me assure everyone that the future of the 115 FW and Wisconsin ANG is extremely bright. These leadership changes will allow us to grow, improve, and attain new levels of excellence. Our future is at hand, and these changes will assure that our "Legacy of Excellence" will continue for another 60 years.

## On the cover...



**Staff Sgt. Eileen Zellmer, 115th Services Flight, prepares dessert for the February UTA meal service. Sergeant Zellmer and her co-workers provided a 'behind the scenes' look (pages 6-7) at what goes into feeding more than 1,000 people every UTA weekend.**

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## The BAM

### 115 FW Commander

Col. Joseph J. Brandemuehl

### Public Affairs Officers

Lt. Col. Chris Rodel  
Capt. Suzanne VanderWeyst

### Public Affairs NCO Staff

Master Sgt. Paul Gorman  
Master Sgt. Dan Richardson  
Tech. Sgt. Don Nelson  
Staff Sgt. Christen Bloomfield  
Staff Sgt. Jon LaDue

### Printing

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# VA Reaching Out to Vets with Mortgage Problems

Many home owners have found it difficult recently to pay their mortgages, but quick intervention by loan counselors at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has actually reduced the number of veterans defaulting on their home loans.

“VA is reaching out to veterans -- both those who use our home-loan guaranty program and those who don’t take advantage of our guaranties -- to keep people in their homes,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James Peake. “I’m proud of our solid record of success in helping veterans and active duty personnel deal with financial crises.”

Accounting for much of this success are VA counselors at nine regional loan centers who assist people with VA-guarantied loans avoid foreclosure through counseling and special financing arrangements. The counselors also can assist other veterans with financial problems.

VA counselors have helped about 74,000 veterans, active duty members and survivors keep their homes since 2000, a savings to the government of nearly \$1.5 billion.

Depending on a veteran’s circumstances, VA can intercede with the borrower on the veteran’s behalf to pursue options -- such as repayment plans, forbearance, and loan

modifications -- that would allow a veteran to keep a home.

To obtain help from a VA financial counselor, veterans can call VA toll-free at 1-877-827-3702. Information about VA’s home loan guaranty program can be obtained at [www.homeloans.va.gov](http://www.homeloans.va.gov).

Since 1944, when home-loan guaranties were offered with the original GI Bill, VA has guarantied more than 18 million home loans worth \$911 billion. Last year, about 135,000 veterans, active duty servicemembers and survivors received loans valued at nearly \$24 billion.

About 2.3 million home loans still in effect were purchased through VA’s home-loan guaranty program, which makes home loans more affordable for veterans, active duty members and some surviving spouses by protecting lenders from loss if the borrower fails to repay the loan. More than 90 percent of VA-backed home loans were given without a down payment.

April data shows that foreclosures are down more than 50 percent from the same months in 2003. VA attributes this to prudent credit underwriting standards, its robust supplemental loan servicing program and VA financial loan counselors.

## Performance feedback system decoded

Are you confused on the Performance Feedback System? Do you know that there is a performance feedback system? If you answered yes to these questions, then the performance feedback system training session is for you.

A session to help supervisors understand the system will be offered on Saturday, March 7 at 2:30 p.m. in Bldg. 510 classroom. Participants will be introduced to the Air Force Instructions and other guidance regarding this system and will have the opportunity to conduct a performance feedback session using the appropriate form.

Those who have questions about the training of the performance feedback system in general may contact Master Sgt. Katherine Pinnow at 245-4548.



## God's Reasons to Hope



Maj.  
James Chizek  
115 FW Chaplain

### Lessons from the God of the Hebrews

- The LORD is near to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34:18)
- The LORD also will be a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times

of trouble; and those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You. (Psalm 9: 9-10)

· I will rejoice and be glad in Your loving kindness, because You have seen my affliction; You have known the troubles of my soul. (Psalm 31:7)

· God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)

· Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me. (Psalm 50:15)

· Trouble and anguish have come upon me, yet Your commandments are my delight. (Psalm 119:43)

· For the sake of Your name, O LORD, revive me in Your righteousness; bring my

soul out of trouble. (Psalm 143:11)

· The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who take refuge in Him. (Nahum 1:7)

· “In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,” says the LORD, your Redeemer. (Isaiah 54:8)

· The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. (Jeremiah 31:3)

· Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4,5)

# Outstanding Airmen of 2008



## Senior NCO

**Chief Master Sergeant Mark W. Petty**

Chief Master Sgt. Mark W. Petty was selected as the Senior NCO of the Year for 2008. He is the wing safety manager for the 115th Fighter Wing.

Chief Petty was instrumental in the preparation for the 12th Air Force's Safety Staff Assistance Visit and the ESOHCAMP Assessment. Under his leadership, the Explosive Safety Programs received numerous "Best Seen" by the 12th Air Force and received a positive ESOHCAMP performance.

He developed and instructed an Explosive Safety Course for the wing. The course qualified all members in explosive safety training and ensured a 100 percent compliance rating in this critical training.

Chief Petty serves as the vice-president of the Chiefs' Council. He volunteers his services to the community via the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance Program which provides tax services to the less fortunate. He also is an avid donor of blood to both the American Red Cross and the Blood Center of Wisconsin.



## NCO

**Technical Sergeant Jayson C. Colvin**

Tech. Sgt. Jayson C. Colvin was chosen as the NCO of the Year for 2008. He serves as the unit training manager and unit readiness manager for the 115th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

While deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, he issued 350 weapons within 12 hours of tasking and maintained 100 percent accountability of these weapons. His actions also provided logistical support for more than 480 combat sorties. Sergeant Colvin created a quick reference card for deployers that ensured they met standards and an outprocessing checklist that resulted in zero discrepancies from the deployed personnel team.

Sergeant Colvin continues to pursue professional military education and is currently enrolled in the senior NCO correspondence course. He volunteered as a lead counselor for the Wisconsin National Guard Youth Camp. Sergeant Colvin is very active in his local community, teaching bible studies at the Real Hope Community Church.



## Airman

**Senior Airman Heather A. O'Brien**

Senior Airman Heather A. O'Brien was chosen as the Airman of the Year for 2008. She serves as a medical services journeyman for the 115th Medical Group.

Airman O'Brien evaluated and implemented a detailed flowchart that streamlined the physical health assessment process. The final product resulted in a 45 percent decrease in discrepancies of medical care and documentation. She relentlessly trained and evaluated staff members on preventive and individual medical readiness, which reduced chart documentation time from 16 hours to six hours. Airman O'Brien flawlessly screened and restored 140 medical records from Volk Field personnel.

Airman O'Brien is pursuing a bachelor's degree in sociology and psychology and plans on entering a master's degree program soon after graduation. She volunteers as a domestic abuse intervention advocate where she successfully provides crisis intervention, counseling and support for more than 30 adults.



## First Sergeant

**Master Sergeant Karen M. Davis**

Master Sgt. Karen M. Davis was chosen as the First Sergeant of the Year for 2008. She serves as the first sergeant for the 115th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Sergeant Davis deployed as the first sergeant with the aviation package to Balad Air Base, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While deployed, she served as the 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance

Squadron first sergeant ensuring the well-being and accountability of 285 personnel from arrival to redeployment. She was instrumental in keeping morale high during a week long interruption in e-mail and phone communications. Sergeant Davis was an active member of the 332nd EAW First Sergeant Council and participated in more than 35 promotion and recognition ceremonies.

Sergeant Davis is an active member of the 115th Fighter Wing's First Sergeants Council and has served as the treasurer since 2005. She coordinated a fundraising event for the council during the 60th anniversary celebration. Sergeant Davis serves as a Sunday school teacher at St. Patrick's Catholic Church and is an adult leader for Cub Scout Pack #355 in Lodi, Wis.

## Outstanding Airmen of the Quarter First quarter - 2009

(Pictures and bios to be published in the April BAM)

### Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Daniel J. Richardson

### NCO

Tech. Sgt. Michael A. Harvey

### Airman

Senior Airman Michael D. Wallace

## “Mush! Gee! Haw!” 115th member finds high adventure in dead of winter

High fiber, high calorie food ... check. Cold weather gear ... check. Dog treats ...check. Sense of adventure ... check.

Braving sub-zero temperatures, Lt. Col. John Pietsch, 115 FW executive officer, recently participated in an Outward Bound Veteran's program where he manned a dogsled for five days.

The program, offered year-round, is designed to take Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom veterans to amazing wilderness areas in Washington, Oregon, Minnesota, Colorado, Florida and California.

Depending on the expedition, activities could include backpacking, mountaineering, rock climbing, canoeing, white water rafting, kayaking, ropes courses and dog sledding. Expeditions are 5-8 days in length and are staffed with experienced outdoor educators.

Colonel Pietsch's adventure ran from Feb. 2 - 8. He kept a diary of his activities that provide a unique insight to dog sledding. His diary:

**Monday** - Flew to Duluth Minn., stayed overnight at hotel.

**Tuesday** - Left hotel at 8 a.m. in van along with 12 other veterans. Two and a half hour drive to Ely, Minn. where we were issued specific cold weather outerwear and equipment and checked to be sure we had other mandatory inner layers of clothing of our own.

We split into two teams, one of six members with seven on the other. Each team had two dog sleds. We were introduced to 68 dogs. My group had five dogs on one team and six on the other.

Group made up of two female former USAF members from Arkansas. (one still a fuels aircraft maintainer in the Guard), one JAG from North Carolina, two former Marines from California, and me. Loaded sleds and departed into Boundary Waters Wilderness Area. Traveled a couple hours then set up camp.

**Wednesday** --30F when I woke up!!!!!! Ice formed all around the 4" dia breathing hole in my sleeping bag. Icicles on my eyelashes. Surprisingly, it was plenty warm inside the sleeping bag. Getting out was cold, but the instructors trained us how to stay warm, keep things dry, dry articles that may have gotten wet and what to watch before the cold got out of hand.

March 2009



Braving sub-zero temperatures, Lt. Col. John Pietsch, 115 FW, recently participated in a five-day, all inclusive dog sled adventure offered to veterans by Outward Bound, a non-profit organization consisting of five wilderness schools and two urban centers. To direct the dogs, the musher had to yell, "Gee," to go right and, "Haw," to go left.

**Thursday** - Falling into routine of getting up, starting a fire, having breakfast, feeding the dogs, breaking camp and traveling 5-7 miles daily. One day three members dog sled (two on one sled, one other plus an instructor on the other). The other three members plus the other instructor cross country ski ahead of the dog sleds to break the trail. Then, set up camp.

Everyone pitches in with collecting firewood, sawing and chopping firewood, stomping down an area of snow to lay sleeping bags on, chopping a hole in the ice for water, unhitching and feeding dogs, making a fire and seating area, making dinner, setting



up tarps for the wimps (these were simply suspended tarps that did absolutely nothing to keep one warm.) They of course would have prevented getting snowed on. Most of us simply put a tarp down on the snow, then our sleeping bags (an outer waterproof rated to 20F and a goose down inner bag rated to 0F) then crawled in!! Tonight was the only night a wall tent with wood heater was set

up. It got up to 90F!! Of course, that was only for dinner. Afterwards it was back into the cold to sleep. Down to approximately -10F tonight.

**Friday** - Solo night. Instructors gave each student a packet of food, matches and a tarp. Took each camper about a quarter mile from each other and then instructed us to go make shelter, start a fire, boil water, dry clothes, make a meal, "reflect" and then sleep out. This was the only night I had any shelter to sleep in. Fun and confidence builder. All other nights I slept under the stars. Luckily it didn't rain or snow any nights.

**Saturday** - Hitched up one dog and a cable to each person on cross country skis. Let the dogs pull us around a little track near our camp. Then, back to civilization!! Finally got a shower. The other group opted for traditional sauna, jump in river from hole cut in ice, back in sauna and one more rinse in the river. Had a nice graduation ceremony and lunch. Presented with certificate, patch, pin, etc. Exchanged email and pictures with fellow campers. Rode van back to Duluth to party in the hotel, have a nice steak dinner, a couple brews, go down the water slide, etc.

**Sunday** - Flew back to Madison and then drove to my house with a real bed.

The program expeditions, which are fully paid for by sponsors, are currently full for 2009, however, veterans can apply for future adventures. More information on this program, visit [www.outwardbound.org/index.cfm/do/cp.veterans](http://www.outwardbound.org/index.cfm/do/cp.veterans).



# 115th Service Wisconsin Air

(Clockwise from top left) Senior Airmen Abigail Meinke (left) and Jill Petig readies green beans before mixing up the sauce for spaghetti (center) and Staff Sgt. Jamey Kuske (right) peel more than 100 hard-boiled eggs for the 115th Air Force (right) Scott Zautke ensures there will be enough food ordered to feed the 115th Air Force (right) Paul Gorman.)

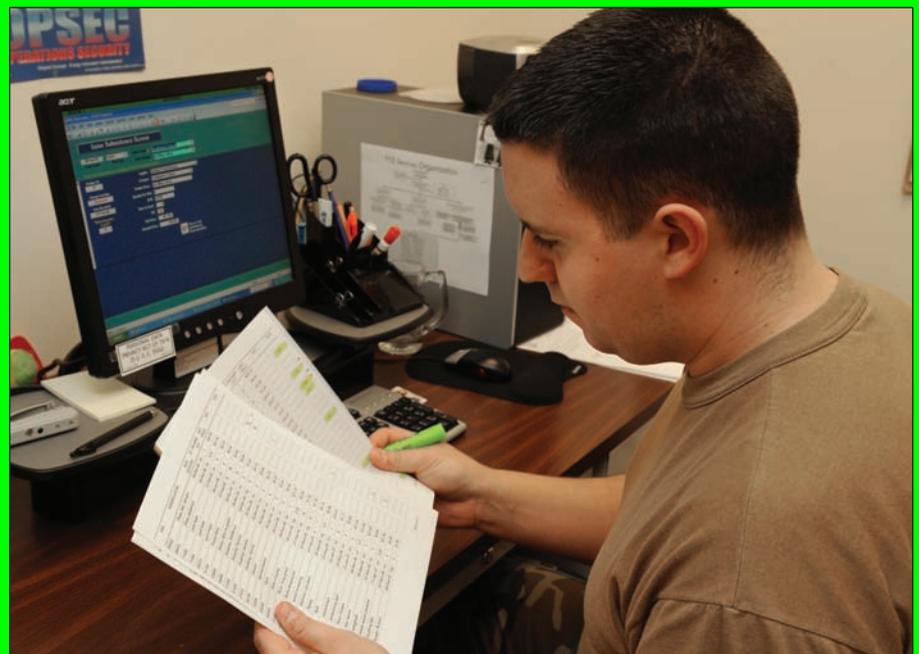


# AF SERVICES

that Support & Community Service

## Services Squadron National Guard

and Bridget Brummet prepare pork chops for the oven. Tech. Sgt. spaghetti. Master Sgt. John Gobler (left), Airman 1st Class Andrew than four dozen hard boiled eggs for the salad bar while Staff Sgt. ed the unit at future UTAs. (U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt.



# Newly signed covenant a benchmark for Wisconsin service members and family support

by Staff Sgt. Jon LaDue  
115th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

While 3,200 Wisconsin Army National Guard Soldiers were patiently awaiting their chance at history, as the largest Army National Guard deployment from Wisconsin since World War II, a distinct group of military, legislative and civic leaders were also awaiting their time for a historic moment.

During the 32nd Brigade's sendoff ceremony Feb. 17 at the Dane County Veteran's Memorial Coliseum, Madison, Governor Jim Doyle, along with federal and state delegates, state and national support agencies and Reserve component branch chiefs, signed a Wisconsin Military-Community Covenant pledging a joint effort between military and civilian agencies to provide support and care for Wisconsin's servicemembers and their families. A covenant between so many different agencies, military services and signed by so many legislative figures is thought to be the first of its kind.

"When you have a Governor, two senators, congressman and chiefs of all the reserve components, all penning their name to one document ... that's pretty significant," said Army Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, Chief, U.S. Army Reserve. "I don't think it's ever happened before and I think that makes a statement to everybody that we mean what we say."

The actual covenant, which now bears the signatures of more than 20 military and civilian leaders, commits all signatories to "building programs and partnerships that support the strength, resilience and readiness of servicemembers and their families."

Brig. Gen. Donald Dunbar, Wisconsin Adjutant General, said it's not always easy to predict the problems a returning servicemember or their families may encounter, but the new programs and partnerships that were formed through the covenant offer promise.

"The key here is that we are in a new era. This covenant is about resiliency, readiness and sustaining the military member through some difficult times," said General Dunbar. "If somebody gets hurt and they're bleeding, you can see how to fix that. But often, you can't see what's necessarily wrong with the psyche, so you have to have the counseling services to take care of (that)."

"Knowing that we have the support of the state and knowing we have the Badger Yellow Ribbon that we can call upon to help get our Soldiers and families ready, is critical in order for me to meet the demands that are being placed on (the Army Reserve) for Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, the Horn of Africa and other places around the world," said General Stultz.

While the Wisconsin Military-Community Covenant puts a tangible "promise" on servicemember and family support, the agencies, programs and people under Wisconsin Joint Force Headquarters' Service Member Support Branch will be carrying out the majority of those promises. The SMSB hosted a training event called "Community Resiliency: A Coordinated Effort" Jan. 13 that included many of the same support organizations that signed the covenant. The training provided a road map for the consolidated programs and services that Wisconsin's servicemembers and their families can go to for help. For more information on the support programs offered, call Kim Sandleback, 115th Fighter Wing personal and family readiness coordinator, at 608-245-4654.

The covenant recognizes the need for these programs for the



**Evonne Koeppen, mother of a deploying 32nd Brigade Soldier, representing Wisconsin's military families, signs the Wisconsin's Military-Community Covenant during a large ceremony at the Dane County Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Madison, Feb. 17, 2009. The covenant is an agreement between federal and state legislature, military and civic leaders to consolidate resources to provide the best possible care and support for Wisconsin service members and their families. (Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs photo by Army Staff Sgt. Joe Streeter)**

families and also for the servicemembers. By signing it, willing participants acknowledge "the strength of our Armed Forces and the security of military families are supported by the strength of our communities."

General Stultz couldn't agree more.

"When a Soldier loses focus on his mission and is worrying about things back home, he jeopardizes not only his own life, but the lives of others," said General Stultz. "Signing this covenant today hopefully tells those 3,200 Soldiers to focus on the mission because their families are taken care of."



# Candidates sought for logistics readiness officer

Interested candidates seeking a commissioning opportunity are encouraged to apply for the position of logistics readiness officer.

The position has a maximum grade of major. Minimum qualifications for the job requires applicants to satisfactorily complete an appointment physical.

For entry into this specialty, undergraduate academic specialization in logistics management, economics, management, business administration, computer science, information management systems, finance,

accounting, petroleum engineering, chemical engineering or industrial management is desirable.

The selected candidate must be available to attend the Academy of Military Science, six weeks at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn., and the Logistics Readiness Officer Course, 11 weeks at Lackland AFB, Texas.

To apply, those interested must prepare and forward cover letter and resume, one copy of the AF Form 24, Application of Appointment as Reserve of the Air Force

or USAF Component, Air Force Officer Qualification Test scores and current official college transcripts. Commissioned officers must submit a cover letter and resume. An Officer Interview Board will convene to interview all qualified applicants. Applicants will be informed in writing or by phone of date and time to appear.

The deadline to apply is April 5, 2009. Applications must be sent to 115 MSF/DPMAE, 3110 Mitchell Street, Madison WI 53704-2591; attention Master Sgt. Heather Howe.

## Civilian job postings changes to help managers, applicants

by Maj. Beth Kelley Horine  
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) -- Air Force Personnel Center officials recently changed how civilian job announcements are listed to improve the civilian hiring process.

"AFPC is improving our civilian hiring process and reducing the time it takes to fill civilian position vacancies. Changing the way we list our civilian job openings is one of the many initiatives we're implementing to help improve our processes," said Maj. Gen. K.C. McClain, AFPC commander.

To meet their objective, AFPC officials turned to their customers, job applicants and managers, to find ways to improve the application and hiring process.

"By listening to our customers, we heard applicants were having a hard time finding the jobs they wanted to apply for on USA Jobs, and managers were having a hard time finding their advertised positions," said Ms. Jamie Beattie, the technical operations and training chief at AFPC's Civilian Force Integration directorate.

As a result of customer feedback, AFPC officials changed the way jobs were listed on USA Jobs web site.

"By doing this, we effectively reduced the number of civilian announcements listed from 77,000 down to 7,500," General McClain said. "This helps enable us to meet our goal of filling a civilian vacancy within 120 days or less," the general added.

Previously, almost all civilian positions were posted as an "open continuous" announcement--meaning the job was always "open" to accept applications, even if a vacancy didn't exist during the time of application. The intent was to allow staffing officials

to immediately pull a list of applicants as soon as a vacancy request was received.

However, due to the abundance of Air Force civilian job listings, feedback came in from both applicants and hiring officials of the difficulty in finding and monitoring specific positions. Job announcements listed as "open continuous" unintentionally led applicants to believe a current, vacant position existed.

In October 2008, AFPC officials changed the criteria for when jobs would be posted as "open continuous" to reduce confusion.

"Originally, AFPC's 'open continuous' announcement process was created to facilitate faster filling of civilian job openings," Ms. Beattie said. "But we didn't want to keep giving applicants an unrealistic picture there were open positions available, when in reality, there weren't."

"So, we re-looked at our processes and assessed criteria to determine which job announcements should actually remain listed as 'open continuous,'" she added.

Now, for a job announcement to be listed as "open continuous," it requires the same position, pay plan, series and grade to have been filled more than twenty times within a twelve-month period.

"Most of the announcements still listed as 'open continuous' are for high-fill rate jobs, such as childcare workers and administrative positions," Ms. Beattie said.

Part of the new process improves communication through automatic e-mail notifications sent to hiring officials and the local civilian personnel offices, notifying them of the actual vacancy identification number of the position for which they are recruiting. This allows managers to provide information, like the vacancy ID number, to applicants as questions arise.

"The policy change provides faster and quicker service to hiring officials and applicants by helping managers better identify their open positions and by greatly lowering the number of Air Force job listings to sift through on USA jobs--AFPC went from 14,000 'open continuous' positions down to about 250," Ms. Beattie said.

"However, this new criteria is simply a tool to minimize confusion, she added. We work with our customers to do what's best for them and the position they want filled. We often work with managers for jobs that--although it may meet the requirements to be listed as 'open continuous'--because of unique requirements, it's better to list the announcement individually ... or vice versa."

Changing the criteria for when 'open continuous' job announcements are listed is one of many AFPC initiatives to expedite the civilian hiring process and position fill time. For more information about civilian hiring initiatives or employment opportunities, visit the "AF Civilian Employment" tab at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil).

### Chief Skaer Retiring

After 30 years of military service, with just over half of those years coming here at the 115th Fighter Wing, Chief Skaer will celebrate his retirement from military service on Saturday, April 4. A ceremony is planned that day in the dining facility at approximately 3:30 p.m. with food and drink to follow at the Landing Strip. For all current and past members of the wing who have served with Chief Skaer over the last 16 years, please come and help him celebrate. Chief's Skaer's last UTA will be in March.

# News Briefs

## Marriage Enrichment Seminar

The Family Program is offering a Marriage Enrichment Seminar at the Landmark Hotel in Egg Harbor. These seminars are offered at no cost to you - hotel, meals and travel are covered by the Family Program. The program has recently been extended to two nights paid. Future seminar dates are: March 20, 21, & 22. The seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point May 15, 16, & 17. For more information call Kim Sandleback at 608-245-4654.

## Bowling tournament on tap

The 46th Annual Air National Guard "National" bowling tournament is being-hosted by the 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines, Iowa May 6 through 9. Deadline for entries is Mar. 31. Those interested in participating in these tournaments should contact Chief Master Sgt. Charmaine Schultz at 608-245-4574.

## Tax Season

W-2 statements are only available on the MyPay website: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. MyPay PIN resets may be requested through the MyPay website or in person at the finance office (Military ID required). W-2s for student loans will mailed directly to members. Visit the 115 FW Financial CoP for financial resources; a link to the CoP is available on the 115 FW home page.

## Waterpark Discounts

Keylime Cove waterpark and hotel in Gurnee, Ill. is offering \$99 per night special for members of the military from Wisconsin. The special runs Jan. 1 to March 31 and is good for Sun. through Fri. night stays. Waterpark passes are included with the \$99 room rate. Saturday night stay are \$149. The park is located across from Six Flags Great America. For more information go to [www.keylimecove.com](http://www.keylimecove.com).

## Basketball tournament

Congratulations Team Ammo for winning the 3-on-3 basketball tournament! Team Ammo players consisted of Staff Sgts. Jon Meulemans and Nate Aslesen, and Airman 1st Class Justin Englekens. Thank you to all seven teams that participated in the 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

## Deployment Pet Care

A big cause of stress during a deployment is finding someone who will take care of your pets while you're deployed. If you don't have family or friends who are able for that long of duration, the Military One Source has a link to foster homes who care for your animal family members while you're gone.

If you are interested in helping those who need to leave and watching over their animal family members, you may volunteer by going to [www.netpets.org/netp/foster.php](http://www.netpets.org/netp/foster.php).

## Finance: File your travel vouchers on time

The 115 FW Finance Office would like to remind members to promptly file travel vouchers immediately after traveling. Airmen are required to file vouchers within five days upon return of temporary duty.

There are many layers of administrative work behind the scenes of a travel order. When a travel order is cut, a financial obligation is placed in our accounting records.

The resource advisor for your squadron must monitor this obligation. The obligation stays on record until you file your voucher. In some cases, if the TDY was not taken, the order must get revoked. The revocation is our

source document to remove the obligation. Perhaps the TDY was set up using Annual Training (AT) workdays. In this case, AT workdays are obligated against the TDY; if the TDY was not taken, the order must be cancelled to free up the AT days. Travel vouchers that are not filed promptly create Government Travel Card (GTC) issues as well. We monitor GTC accounts that have not been paid by the end of the 30 day Citibank billing cycle.

If you have not filed a voucher and paid any remaining balance on your Citibank balance by the end of the billing cycle, Citibank will place you on their 30 day

delinquency list. This list is then forwarded to your commander for review and or action. If your Citibank bill is not paid by the end of a two month (60 day) cycle, your Citibank Card will be suspended. There is administrative action that can take place on you such as demotion, and potentially separation.

Please lessen the administrative burden placed on our supervisors and commanders by promptly filing your travel vouchers. The 115th Fighter Wing received \$20,000 from National Guard Bureau for not having any 60 day delinquency violations in 2008. Your attention to this matter does pay off.

## Congratulations



**John McCoy**



**Rodney Cook  
Karen Davis  
Alan Dickrell**



**Scott Freymiller  
Keith Hanse**



**Amanda Kapugi  
Melanie Peters  
Andrew Speth**



**Christopher Fitzsimmons**



**Chad Tuura**

## March UTA

### Menu

Saturday	Sunday
Pulled Pork-Sandwiches	Chicken Stir Fry
Steak	Beef & Bean Burritos
Rosemary potatoes	Spanish Rice
Peas and Carrots	Refried Beans
	Carrots

### Pay Date

**Mar. 18 , 2009**

## 2009 UTA Schedule

Mar. 7-8

May 2-3

July 18-19 (RUTA)

Sept. 19-20

Nov. 7-8

Apr. 4-5

\*\*\*Jun. 27-30

Aug. 22-23

Oct. 3-4

Dec 5-6

\*\*\*Changed from Jun 6-7 to Jun 27-30



# Legacy of Excellence

## Dedicated to Service...

The Military Personnel Flight recently received the 1998 Outstanding Military Personnel Flight Achievement Award from the Air National Guard. This award recognizes extraordinary performance. This is the third time in the past twelve years that they have received this award. (See related article on page 9.)

Above: Ten Years Ago - Our Military Personnel Flight was recognized as tops in the ANG for the third time in twelve years. (March 1999 BAM)  
 Below: Fifteen Years Ago - Women made up fifteen percent of the Air Force population. Recently, a new demographic study has shown that percentage to have grown to 20 percent. (March 1994 BAM)

**BAM**  
 Vol. 30, No. 3  
 115 Fighter Wing, Truax Field, Madison, WI

**We've had it up to here...**

Five Years Ago - A security forces member checks the official snowfall at Truax Field. Sights like this have been all too familiar the last few years! (March 2004 BAM)

# Women in the Air Force

# 15%

As of Dec. 31, 1993, the magic number for the 66,088 women in the Air Force was 15. Women make up 15% of the Air Force, 15% of the officers and 15% of the enlisted force.

Source: USAF/MPC

AFNEWS

**THE RAM**  
 Hq 128th Tactical Fighter Wing  
 Dane County Regional Airport/Truax Field, Madison, Wisconsin  
 March 1989  
 Vol. 14, No. 3

## Gen. Hoff retires as commander

Brig. Gen. David B. Hoff retired as commander of the 128th TFW on 1 Mar. 1989. Col. Fred N. Sison, former deputy commander for operations (DDCO), replaced Gen. Hoff as head of the 128 TFW.

At age 58, Gen. Hoff has commanded the unit for 13 years and has completed over 34 years of military service, including four years as a pilot with the U.S. Air Force.

Gen. Hoff led the 128 TFW into the jet age, literally and figuratively. He took over a unit which was still reeling from almost being deactivated and which had been subsequently relieved of its F-102 jet aircraft in favor of a honey little pushdowner which Camma called its Bismarck, the military called an 83-A, and demoralized pilots and crew members called such waxes.

Gen. Hoff was faced with turning morale around and getting the unit pride and performance back to where it had been when the fighters were parked on the line.

command vehicle. He jerked the unit up by its lapels and made it clear that anyone who wanted to stay would do what the Air Force asked—it, not cheerfully, then with a vengeance. If fuel and electricity use were to be held constant, the 128 TFW would cut its use by 10 percent. If the Air Force said training had to be accomplished in a year, the 128 TFW would do it in less. If a unit were allowed 18 months to convert to a new aircraft and become fully combat ready, the 128 TFW would do it in six months.

And the inspections. Oh, the inspections! A security policeman emptied his clip on an inspector/terrorist then physically restrained him when he continued to try to torch the command post instead of "saying" the way it should have. The aircrews would work from dark to dark turning airplanes on their caseness and little food because the hot dishes dumped on their table were so unpalatable. And the inspectors just stood by with their hands on their hips.

"It's clear, based on the record, that we're one of the best units in the guard. I would hope that when people are looking at which units to give what, they'll select the future of the unit is bright."

Col. Wilkening is new DCO

Lt. Col. Al Wilkening, formerly 176 FFW commander, will become the 128 TFW Deputy Commander for Operations. Col. Wilkening replaces Col. Fred Sison, the new 128 TFW commander.

Other recent changes have Lt. Col. Jim Orenik filling the newly created slot of Deputy Commander for Support and Lt. Col. Jim Anderson, production

Twenty Years Ago - Brig. Gen. David Hoff retired as commander of the 128th Tactical Fighter Wing. His tenure saw the wing transform from a unit that barely survived shutdown in the early 1970s to the premier ANG A-10 unit by the late 1980s. (March 1989 RAM)

# Send in the robots



Operating a Remotec F-6A Andros Hazardous Duty Robot, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Stehling shows off a recently acquired piece of equipment designed to assist explosive ordnance disposal personnel get the job done safely. For the complete story, visit <http://www.115fw.ang.af.mil>. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Gorman)

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