

The Granite State

REFUELER



157th Air Refueling Wing, Pease ANGB, New Hampshire www.157arw.ang.af.mil

APRIL 2009



Stories on page 4 and 5

(Photo Illustration by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Vezeau, 157 ARW Public Affairs)

Times change...values don't

By Chief Master Sgt. David Eaton, Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant

"The one thing in this outfit that is constant is that there will always be change." I specifically recall this advice from my first Flight Chief, just after I returned from Basic Training. That was in 1968 and I often think of just how prolific that was. Apparently, he was able to reflect upon what had changed for him, just as I can do now, looking back. Certainly it's easy to think back to aircraft and command changes. During my career we've changed from C-124s in Military Airlift Command to C-130s in Tactical Airlift Command to the Tanker in SAC and now AMC. And certainly we've had a continuous revolving door with regard to people. People come and go, sometimes after a short tour, and many stay for a longer career. My focus here is on what the appeal is and why people want to stay in this unit.

The easy answer as to why people stay in any organization is simply to get a paycheck – after all isn't that what we need for our families safety and survival? The positive effects of friendships and personal associations are key elements as to why people stay, and I think that is a big part of why folks stay here in this unit. On another level, respect of others and respect held by others, in the unit and within the military, is a big element of importance here. I believe it's at the center of statements such as, "being involved in something bigger than just yourself," and also, "this is something special."

When I think back to what was important, at least in the 157th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in the latter 1960's and the 70's, this is what I recall that was valued: Genuine hard work was respected by most everyone. Honesty was held in high regard, although I recall grudges being kept when some people didn't take well to constructive criticism. Fairness and justice were elements sometimes based exclusively on the principles held by those in authority – not necessarily based on widespread thought. But most everyone knew the inevitable repercussions of inappropriate actions. And solid, long lasting friendships were prevalent within the section and also within the unit. It was like a family then, as it is now.

Relationships, hard work, honesty, fairness and justice were important then and still are, some 40 years later. I think credibility, high standards and readiness are at a new level as compared to when I first enlisted. Experiences post 9-11 and the experiences of supporting state emergencies clearly indicate this. No question, times have changed. Devotion to helping people and the commitment to defending our American way of life are hallmarks of the National Guard. Heart, pride and dedication are the values I think most people feel and think when describing this unit.

Values do not change!!!



Staff Sgt. Becky Hegarty, Tech. Sgt. Pete Mickiewicz and Staff Sgt. Jeff Nelson complete the St Patrick's Day 10K. The airman are a part of the 157th Air Refueling Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to Baghdad International Airport.



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The Refueler welcomes articles and ideas that will improve the paper. If you have suggestions for feature or specific articles, please contact the PA office at (603) 430-3577 or your Unit Public Affairs Representative.

Current UPAR List:

Clinic

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Cleaver
Master Sgt. Emily Tebbetts

Mission Support

Vacant

Operations

Tech. Sgt. Lisa Joyce
Staff Sgt. Shane Hurd

Maintenance

Master Sgt. Michael Mercier
Staff Sgt. John Michniewicz

Logistics

Tech. Sgt. Michael Berry

Services

Master Sgt. Lori Johnson

Wing

Capt. Ken Leedberg

ATCS

Tech. Sgt. Harry Welch

Security Forces

Tech. Sgt. Daric Buttrick

State Headquarters

Master Sgt. Bill Bates

Stevens wins traditional guardsman of quarter

By Master Sgt. Norma Long, Recruiting and Retention

Please congratulate Senior Airman John Stevens of the 157th Logistics Squadron for being the 2nd Quarter Award Winner of the NHANG Traditional Guard Person of the Quarter. Honorable mention goes to: Staff Sgt. Joe Nachez (CES), Tech. Sgt. Pam Clements (MXS), Airman 1st Class Andrew Morrison (MXS), Tech. Sgt. Sam Pepinski (LRS) and Senior Airman Kassi Cloutier (MSF). Thank you to the unit members who took the time to submit the above individuals. Stevens has his own special parking spot and receives \$50 sponsored by the Commanders. Next nominations are due June 15.



Senior Airman John Stevens is recognized as the Traditional Guard Person of the Quarter on March 22, 2009 by Lt. Col. Chris Hurley.

It's almost Tee Time!

Forrrrrrrre! Seasons change and it's almost time to tee it up. The NHANG Golf League is accepting applications for members for 2009.

You can sign up on Sharepoint by clicking: https://157arw-sp-01.ang.ds.af.mil/sites/golf/Shared%20Documents/APPLICATION_FORM.htm

All members must sign up regardless if previously in the league. Membership is based upon these factors:

1. Prior year fulltime golf league members who are current members of the NH Air National Guard and NHANG Retirees.
2. Prior year fulltime golf league members and DOD/Civil Service members and also Active Duty retirees.
3. New applications for fulltime memberships who are current NHANG members, NHANG retirees, DOD or Federal Civil Service members, and active duty retirees.
4. Family and Friends. (The league is open for friends and family to round out teams as needed)

Dues are \$65 for the year. Dues include a \$2 per week fee for the end of year prizes, and your banquet fee. Please make payment to any committee member before April 25.

Make checks payable to the: NHANG GOLF LEAGUE. Give your dues to any league officer, or mail checks to:

MSGT Michael Paquin
157th MXS/MXOT
302 Newmarket St.
PANGB, NH 03803-0157

Were looking at firming up start date with Pease Golf Course, approximately May 5 or 12 depending on weather etc.

Mail applications to:

Gregg Fournier, ext. 3190 or e-mail to gregg.fournier@ang.af.mil
Tony Reagan, ext. 2458 or e-mail to tony.reagan@ang.af.mil
Mike Paquin, ext. 2465 or e-mail to michael.paquin@ang.af.mil
Gil Fradillada, ext. 3476 or e-mail to gil.fradillada@ang.af.mil

Independence Hall Dining Facility

Dining Hours
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Saturday

- Clam Chowder
- Fish and chips
- Chicken Tenders
- Vegetable Du Jour
- Deli Sandwich Bar
- Assorted Breads
- Assorted Meats
- Assorted Cheeses
- Chips
- Salad Bar
- Assorted Hot & Cold Beverages

As always correct change of \$4.25 is greatly appreciated.

Menu subject to change without notice.

Sunday

- Minestrone Soup
- Kielbasa
- Sweet and Sour Cabbage
- Egg Noodles
- Grilled Hamburger
- Grilled Hot Dog
- Onion Rings
- French Fries
- Deli Sandwich Bar
- Assorted Breads
- Assorted Meats
- Assorted Cheeses
- Chips
- Salad Bar
- Assorted Hot & Cold Beverages

As always correct change of \$4.25 is greatly appreciated.

Menu subject to change without notice.

A torch is passed in the maintenance squadron

By Staff Sgt. Dorrin Finley, 157 ARW Public Affairs

The Change of Command ceremony is a time-honored tradition which formally symbolizes the continuity of authority as the command is passed from one individual to another. On Saturday, March 7, command of the 157th Maintenance Group was turned over from Col. William F. Burns II to Lt. Col. Peter F. Sullivan who was the former commander of the 133rd Air Refueling Squadron.

Burns has been the commander of the 157th Maintenance Group since 2003. When asked what have you enjoyed most about being the Maintenance Group Commander, Burns said, "I enjoyed the people, the dedication, the professionalism, and the positive attitudes." Also when asked what words of wisdom will you be bestowing to the new commander, Burns said, "listen to the people; they know what to do and they are looking to you for guidance."

Burns was born in Utica, N.Y. and grew up in the town of Clinton. He attended Siena College located in Loudonville, N.Y. where he graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor in Business Administration in Accounting. While at Siena, Burns began his military career in 1981 joining the USAF Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Burns went to Undergraduate Navigator Training at Mather AFB, Calif. and earned his wings on April 27, 1986. Burns joined the New Hampshire Air National Guard in 1991 and became a full time guardsman in 1994 working in the Operations Group and was selected as the 157th Maintenance Group Commander in 2003.



Lt. Col. Pete Sullivan takes the guidon from Col. Richard Martell during the change of command ceremony for the 157 ARW Maintenance Squadron.

"With challenges comes great opportunities and no matter what we do as an organization, we do it well,"

The incoming commander, Sullivan, spoke

words of encouragement and set expectations. "With challenges comes great opportunities and no matter what we do as an organization, we do it well," said Sullivan. "It's imperative that we continue to build a cohesive team," said Sullivan. "My philosophy is that everyone matters," said Sullivan.

Farris takes the wheel of the 133rd ARS

By Tech. Sgt. Jim Dolph, 157 ARW Public Affairs



Lt. Col. Laurie Farris salutes Col. Paul Hutchinson during the change of command ceremony for the 133rd Air Refueling Squadron.

Saturday of the March Unit Training Assembly marked another historic achievement for the New Hampshire Air National Guard. With standing room only in the Bapp Auditorium, Lt.Col. Laurie Farris became the first female pilot to assume command of the 133rd Air Refueling Squadron. Farris is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and a pilot with 20 years experience. She came to the Wing in 1995 after serving on active duty at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, Loring Air Force Base, Maine and overseas flying missions during Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

Departing Squadron Commander Peter L. Sullivan gave the following advice to Farris, "assemble the best, become a team, they will go forward and won't let you down".

"Assemble the best, become a team, they will go forward and won't let you down".

“I assume command”

By Staff Sgt. Dorrin Finley

March 8 marked another milestone in the 157th Medical Group with the changing of command from Col. Gretchen Dunkelberger to Lt. Col. Paul Loiselle.

Before relinquishing command, Dunkelberger said, “I’m very excited about the new opportunity, but I will miss the medics and I will always be a New Hampshire medic.”

Dunkelberger has been selected to represent the Air National Guard as Advisor to the 59th Medical Wing Commander. The 59th Medical Wing is located in San Antonio, Texas. It operates Wilford Hall Medical Center. There are more than 4,100 people assigned to the medical wing.

“As bittersweet as this is, I am excited for Paul to take over,” Dunkelberger said. “Thank you for all you have done and I thank you for your support,” she added.

Loiselle graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1984 with a Bachelors of Arts and earned his Masters of Business Administration at the University of New Hampshire in 1992. He started out as a Musician at Pease Air Force Base in 1983 and was a Musician/Operations Coordinator at Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany in 1984-1985. He was an Administrative Technician with the 157th Mission Support group from 1987-1988 and later became a Medical Administrator with the 157th Medical Group

from 1987-1988. From there, he became the 157th Medical Group Deputy Commander from 1988-present.

“I look forward to this opportunity and I take it very seriously,” said Loiselle. “I can’t wait to see where the Medical Group is going. If we live by the core values; we will be outstanding as we already are.”



Lt. Col. Paul N. Loiselle takes the guidon from Col. Richard Martell during the change of command ceremony for the 157 ARW Medical Group.

Germ of the Month

By Tech. Sgt. Aaron Cleaver, 157 ARW Public Health

This month I’m proud to introduce you to a germ that’s so famous it’s often called a SUPERBUG. I sat down with this germ for an interview, and I found that despite its fame, it still seems to be well grounded.

PH Guy: Thank you for coming. I’d like to start by asking you to explain a little about yourself: where you live and what you do.

Germ: Right. Well, I lead a fairly simple existence in some people’s Gastrointestinal (GI) tract.. Let me start by saying that most of the time I don’t cause any trouble at all. A large number of people carry me around and they don’t even know it. Really. I mean, I don’t eat much, and I don’t complain. I’m just there.

PH Guy: OK, but would you mind explaining the whole SUPERBUG status? You’re obviously doing something to get that sort of attention.

Germ: Sure, but just realize, that I never meant for things to be this way. As I said, most of the time you people don’t even notice me, but then there are these times when people take anti-biotic drugs, or maybe an antacid. The drugs are ANTI for a reason.

These drugs you people take, sometimes just for a little sniffle, well they kill off a lot of my bacterial buddies. I can get out of control, and well, I just grow. It’s what I do. It’s not like I can talk to anyone about it.

PH Guy: Sure, I understand. It’s got to be hard seeing your buddies disappear. Well, can you tell me about the “good” and the bad” bacteria?

Germ: That’s a term you people use, just like good and bad cholesterol. You know what? We’re all just bacteria. Why can’t you just leave us alone?

PH Guy: Hold it right there. Some bacteria make us sick. We can treat that specific bacteria and save a lot of lives.

Germ (interrupting): You don’t have “smart” antibiotics yet. I know you think I’m just some SIMPLE organism, but that’s where you’re wrong. Bacteria evolve really quickly, unlike you people. We can adapt and survive and that’s how we become SUPERBUGS. You used to think an alcohol based hand rub or disinfectant would kill me. Not anymore! And the drugs you take to kill us bacteria off, well, we can adapt and survive those too, especially if you

keep using them in such a care-free way. Oh, I didn’t want to tell you that. Well, it’s true. If you people were just a bit more responsible in the way that you prescribe and take anti-biotics, this whole DRUG RESISTANT bacteria thing would go away.

PH Guy: Hmmm. I see. So you’re saying that we created the infections that YOU cause?

Germ: That’s Right! See, I’m fine in your GI tract, until you kill off other bacteria around me and then I grow like crazy and cause fevers, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, and sometimes pretty major abdominal pain. Sure it can be mild, but when I really get going I can cause major, and I mean major, diarrhea. I’m talking the bloody stool variety that dehydrates you and lands you in the hospital. And boy, that stuff STINKS! All the nurses know what you have when I really do my infection thing.

PH Guy: Yikes. Well we don’t want that. How can we avoid this, I mean aside from us NOT ever taking antibiotics again?

Germ: Well, like you always say, you should wash your hands. I spread through

objects or hands that are contaminated with infected feces. If you're going to disinfect an area, use bleach. Alcohol, well, I just LAUGH at that stuff. I'm pretty resistant to it now. Sure it works on other bacteria, but not me. You know, let's not emphasize prevention though, I mean, relax, even in my most drug resistant forms, I'm still treatable.

PH Guy: Treatable for now you mean... I'm sure you'd like us to relax. Thanks. I think we'll keep washing our hands! You're a simple organism, true, and that means you have NO IDEA what it's like to get painful diarrhea. It's just not pretty. Thanks for stopping by. I'd shake your hand, but ...

What Germ is this? It's a bacteria.

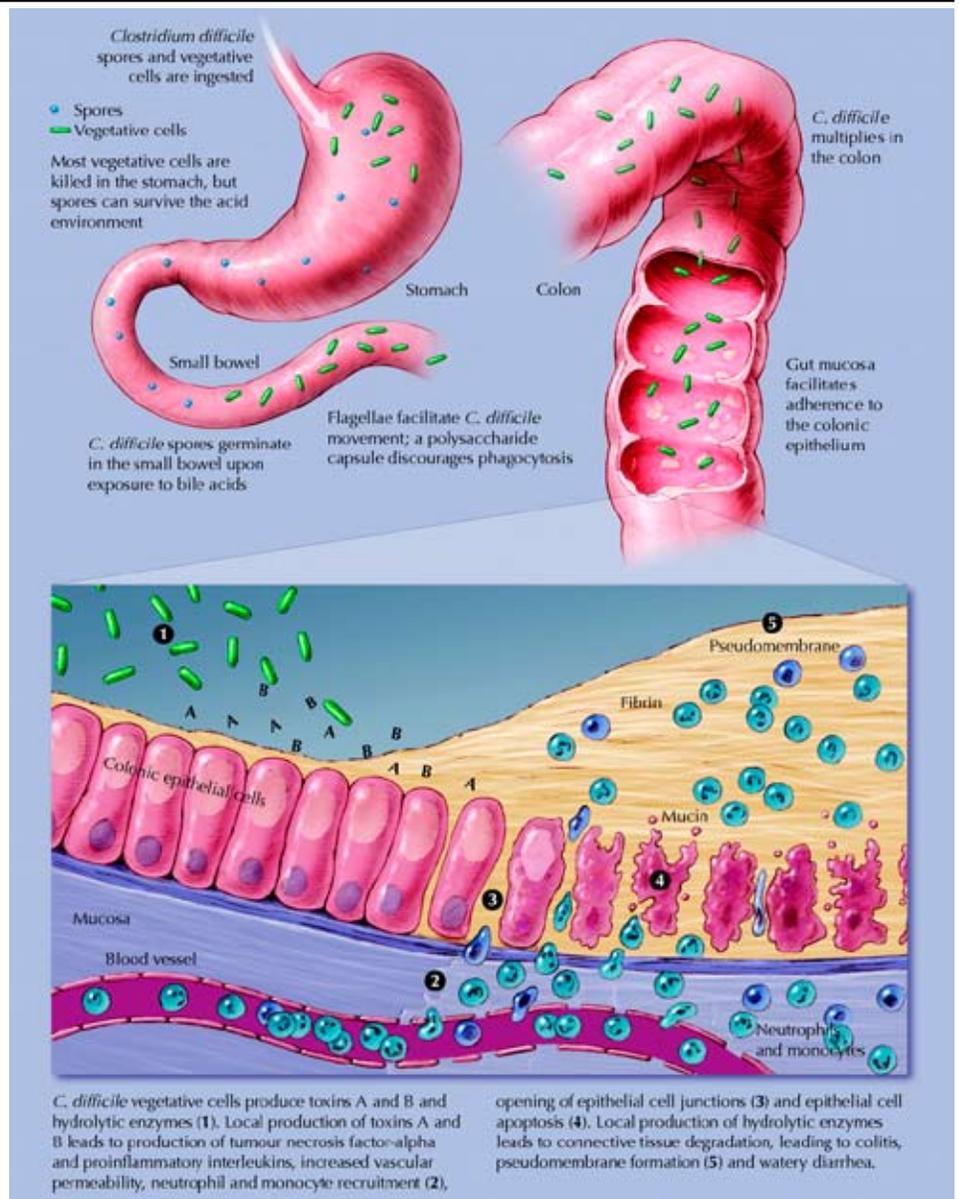
Germ of the Month Answer

This spore-forming bacteria makes more than 500,000 Americans sick each year. As a SUPERBUG, it's competing with MRSA as one of the top contenders for the Scariest New Drug Resistant Bacterial Threats to Humans (SNDRBTH). I invented this acronym, but figured it would fit in just fine with a military article – look forward to it in a future edition of the 10-100. The name of the bacteria is *Clostridium difficile*, commonly called *C. diff*.

C. diff forms spores which can survive for a fair amount of time in the environment, including on inanimate objects (sounds like your good buddy Anthrax). *Handwashing with soap and water and disinfecting with bleach are both good for preventing the spread of C. diff infections.* Alcohol is not an effective disinfectant.

C. diff produces two toxins, Toxin A and Toxin B. Think of this as Thing One and Thing Two, the little madmen in Dr Seuss's *Cat in the Hat* (a book that simple organisms like me appreciate). In this case, Thing Two (Toxin B) is the guy that makes you sick. Potentially, REALLY sick. Each year about 15,000 – 20,000 people die from *C. diff* infections in the US, a bad Thing.

Infections are usually associated with a prescription of anti-biotics, such as amoxicillin, which kill off competing GI bacteria. You may be prescribed an anti-biotic when (if) you deploy to a malaria endemic region, but these medications (most often Doxycycline or Chloroquine) are very unlikely to cause a *C. diff* infection.



Source: <http://www.cdif-support.co.uk/about.htm>

Look forward to the next Germ of the Month from your local neighborhood Public Health office.

Disclaimer*

The Germ of the Month is a column that Public Health (PH) writes based on interviews from actual germs. PH is not responsible for, and does not endorse, what germs have to say. PH is in no way responsible for harm, damages, or hurt feelings caused by comments from the Germ of the Month. Any similarities to actual events are completely coincidental. The PH Guy is TSgt Cleaver, but this in no way implies that all PH personnel are male. Germs are asked to consider Diversity in any Potential Future Human Infections (PFHI) by recognizing all military personnel equally, regardless of age, gender, race, and religion (or lack thereof), however they prefer people with weaker immune systems. For questions, comments, or to get in touch with this germ please email aaron.cleaver@ang.af.mil.

Traditional officer vacancy announcements

Aircraft Maintenance Officer

Position Title/DAFSC/Maximum Military Grade: Aircraft Maintenance Officer, 21A3, 2LT (O1) – Major (O4)

Position Location: 157th Maintenance Squadron, Pease ANGB, NH.

Application Information: Interested personnel can submit a resume with cover letter in the format of their choice. In addition, interested personnel will submit a copy of their bachelor's degree (or higher) college transcript and a copy of their AFOQT scorecard. Applications must be received no later than 4 p.m. April 17.

Mail applications to:
NH ANG/ROS
302 Newmarket Street
Pease ANGB, NH 03803-0157
Attn: MSgt Daniel Pollard

For entry into this specialty, an undergraduate academic degree in management, engineering, industrial management, business management, logistics or physical sciences is desirable. If not a fully qualified Aircraft Maintenance Officer, completion of an AETC in-residence Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course is mandatory.

Any questions concerning this position may be directed to: Lt. Col. Todd Swass, MXS/CC at (603) 430-2423, DSN 852-2423 or todd.swass@ang.af.mil.

Public Affairs Officer

Position Title/DAFSC/Maximum Military Grade: Public Affairs Officer, 35P1, 2LT (O1) – Major (O4)

Type of Position: Non-rated and non-professional

Position Location: 157th Air Refueling Wing, Pease ANGB, NH

Application Information: Interested personnel can submit a resume with cover letter in the format of their choice; however, contained in the application will be evidence of satisfaction of any education or other special requirements. In addition, interested personnel will submit a copy of their baccalaureate degree (or higher) transcript, a copy of their AFOQT scorecard. Applications must be received in the office listed below no later than 4 p.m. on May 1.

Mail applications to:
NH ANG/RRS
302 Newmarket Street
Pease ANGB, NH 03803-0157
Attn: SMSgt Bill Keene

Special Qualifications: Education – For entry into this specialty, undergraduate academic specialization is desirable in mass or public communication, communicative arts, journalism, public relations, advertising, or one of the behavioral sciences (sociology or social psychology). If not already an officer, completion of officer commissioning training is required. If not fully qualified Public Affairs Officer, completion of the Defense Information School Public Affairs Course is mandatory.

Any questions concerning this position may be directed to: 1st Lt. Sherri Pierce 157ARW/PAO at (603) 225-1224 DSN: 684-9224 or via e-mail at sherri.pierce@us.army.mil

Medical group gets hands-on training in Hawaii

By Maj. Stephanie Riley, 157 ARW Medical Group

The 157th Medical Group recently returned from its two week annual training at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii. The clinic certainly picked a great time to go on the deployment as it managed to escape the bitter cold temperatures that swept through New England. The trip proved to be quite the blending of the different services as the Arizona Air National Guard flew the deployers to Hawaii and back, the billeting arrangements were at Ford Island's Navy Lodge and the training took place at Tripler Army Medical Center, Schofield Barracks and Hickham Air Force Base.

The different sections of the Medical Group took advantage of the variety of training opportunities made available by the different locations. The doctors, nurses and medics were able to get hands-on training on the inpatient units, in the operating room, the emergency department and labor and delivery unit. The hospital clinics also went out of their way to provide great ways to get Readiness Skills Verifications (RSV) checked off. The orthopedic clinic allowed medics to apply casts on each other and practice removing them with the circulating saw. When we weren't able to actually demonstrate proficiency of tasks on real patients, we were able to create impromptu in-services using equipment provided by the hospital.

Our physicians put their civilian specialty training and skills to work by performing patient care in the different hospital sections. They were also able to help educate the residents currently in training at the medical center. Our flight surgeons were able to take advantage of going on aerovac missions in which real patients were transported to other facilities.

The aerovac missions also afforded our administrative staff the opportunity to work with the aerovac unit responsible for all of the coordination that goes along with the mission. The exposure to the aerovac system was an invaluable training opportunity since it is rare that our folks get to experience that outside of going on a deployment.

Schofield Barracks also proved to be a place where guard members benefitted from great training. The nurses and medics connected up with the training group responsible for running the Army Combat Lifesaver course and offered an abbreviated version of that class. After classroom instruction, we were put to the test in a simulated war time scenario



Members of the 157th Medical Group get hands-on training in Hawaii during their two weeks of annual training.

in which we had to use all of our knowledge and skills to try and save soldiers wounded in IED attacks. The dental section put our members right to work caring for soldiers; at the Hickham dental clinic the dental folks were able to participate in more training.

Our Public Health and Bio-Environmental Engineer members were able to work together at Schofield Barracks and Hickham Air Force Base. The Laboratory, Medical Logistics, Supply, Respiratory and Optometry staff were all able to work in their various departments to get exposure to the tasks required of them.

Of course being in a location like Hawaii for annual training afforded the attendees great experiences during off duty hours. Touring the Arizona Memorial is a must and one can't help but be humbled by the experience. The beaches, restaurants, hiking trails, helicopter rides, skydiving excursions, scuba diving, snorkeling and shopping trips were all phenomenal. Participating in the different excursions was also a great bonding experience for clinic members. I think that the biggest benefit to going on an annual training trip with the whole unit is the sense of camaraderie that you come away with.

Promotions

Captain

Jeffrey Kipp, ATC
Emily Cole, OSF

First Lieutenant

David Thomas, MXS

Master Sergeant

Robert Cole, LRS
Alan Beaulieu, OPS

Staff Sergeant

Steve Kawonczyk, AMXS
Joseph Berube, LRS

Senior Airman

Frederick Horne, CES
Matthew Slattery, CES
Anastasia Nestor, MDG
Mark Fillion, MDG

Wildlife hazards at Pease

By Marsha Barden, NH WS District Supervisor

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) is recognized nationally and internationally for its scientific expertise in reducing wildlife hazards to the aviation industry. WS' research arm, the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC), conducts research to understand the nature of wildlife hazards at airports, develop management tools to reduce these hazards and provide airport personnel with information to control hazards. NWRC also maintains the National Bird Strike Database which is used by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and airports to monitor trends and wildlife species of greatest concern to civil aviation.

The recent crash of a US Air passenger jet into the Hudson River, attributed to a double bird strike of Canada geese as it was departing La Guardia Airport, has brought the problem of bird strikes to the forefront of public awareness. Two WS biologists took part in the investigation of that strike and subsequent crash by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). That incident reminds all of us working at airports of the need to maintain vigilance in preventing wildlife hazards.

Wild Turkeys. After the 2003 incident here at Pease in which a KC-135 ingested a wild turkey on landing resulting in more than three million dollars in damages, WS did immediate targeted control and removed four turkeys from within the Airport Operations Area (AOA). Since 2005, WS has conducted harassment, monitoring and lethal control of turkeys and other large birds inside the perimeter fence twice a week from April to November. In 2008, WS conducted 29 days of patrols and removed two turkeys. Airport Operations personnel removed two additional turkeys and ANG personnel removed four turkeys under a depredation permit facilitated by WS. Since 2005, 36 turkeys have been shot inside the perimeter fence. The number of turkeys observed inside and immediately outside the airport perimeter fence has decreased markedly since the patrols began in 2005 from a high of 259 in 2006 to a low of 72 in 2008.



To learn more about the size and behavior of the local turkey population, WS airport biologist and Master's student Angelic DeButts initiated a research project funded cooperatively by WS, the University of New Hampshire (UNH), and NH Fish and Game (NHFG). During the winters of 2006 through 2008, 109 turkeys were captured by rocket net. Seventy-eight of the captured turkeys were radio-collared and monitored year-round through the spring dispersal of 2008.

Useful information has been gathered about the size of the population (125-185 birds) and about how they use the airport and adjacent areas. Discussions about future management of the turkeys are underway and recommendations will be presented to Airport Management in the near future.

New Hampshire WS has a long history of working together with Airport Management at Portsmouth International Airport at Pease (Pease) and with the Air National Guard (157th ARW) to proactively address wildlife hazards and conflicts. On December 31, 2008 New Hampshire WS completed the fourth consecutive year of wild turkey and other large bird control, the twelfth consecutive year of bird surveys, and the sixteenth consecutive year of woodchuck control at Pease.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Lt. Col. Thomas Blake
 Maj. Dean Rancourt
 Master Sgt. Michael Toews
 Senior Master Sgt. Elaine Halsey
 Lt. Col. Mark McKenzie
 Senior Master Sgt. William Russell
 Lt. Col. Marc Schwartz
 Master Sgt. David Langford
 Tech. Sgt. Samuel Daigle
 Master Sgt. John Lessard
 Lt. Col. Scott Normandeau
 Master Sgt. Michael Krall
 Chief Master Sgt. Cesar Davila
 Senior Master Sgt. William Hardekopf
 Senior Master Sgt. Keith Downs
 Master Sgt. Peter Coletti

AF COMMENDATION MEDAL

Tech. Sgt. Ralph Siemer
 Tech. Sgt. Brian Marden
 Tech. Sgt. Anita Manupelli
 1st Lt. Karl Smith
 Master Sgt. John Capsalis
 Master Sgt. Daniel Pollard
 Senior Master Sgt. William Brown
 Master Sgt. Paul Short
 Master Sgt. Perry Briggs
 Tech. Sgt. Beverly Wallace
 Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Timblin
 Master Sgt. Jeffrey Floyd
 Tech. Sgt. Thomas Johnson
 Tech. Sgt. Ronald Connary
 Senior Airman Danielle Lewis
 Master Sgt. Joseph Madison
 1st Lt. Emily Cole
 Master Sgt. Sandra Chabot

AF ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Airman 1st Class John Pepper
 Senior Airman Jeffrey Greenlaw
 Airman 1st Class Joseph Cloutier
 Staff Sgt. Brian Roberge
 Staff Sgt. Raymond Martin
 Staff Sgt. Emilio Garcia
 Master Sgt. Russell Ayers
 Staff Sgt. Lawrence Bower
 Tech. Sgt. Darryl Bethel
 Staff Sgt. Jacob Watson
 Staff Sgt. Gabriel Laplume
 Master Sgt. Garrick Lewis
 Tech. Sgt. David Pinard
 Staff Sgt. Matthew Tricomi

Recruiter Rap

By Staff Sgt. Dorrin Finley, 157 Recruiting Administrative Assistant

Welcome New Members!

Luke Underwood MXS
Laura Carrier LRS
Jackie Blake MDG
Kyle Godfrey CES
Kelly Williams AMXS
Jimmy Grindle MXS
Sean Wood LRS
Amanda Nicholson MDG

Travis Corriveau MXS
Joshua Kehr MXS
John Fiorentino ATC
Brian White LRS
Ray Miller ATC
Josiah Kelsall MXS
Chris Wood LRS
Ben Whitehill ATC

Welcome New Officers!

Joshua Pierce MXS
Lisa Sullivan MDG

Got Cash?!

Want to make an easy \$2,000? Register with G-Rap and get paid for helping us enlist your friends and family. Right now this is only for traditional members however a full-time G-Rap is in the works!

Five things for GUARD RECRUITING ASSISTANTS to make more money

1. Once you register yourself, go out and nominate friends, family and co-workers that might be interested.
2. Keep adding notes about how you helped "recruit" your nominees on a weekly basis.
3. Refer the nominee to a recruiter to be pre-qualified.
4. Do not promise a nominee anything such as a specific job or bonus.
5. Keep in touch with the recruiter throughout the process.

If you haven't registered yet, please go to www.guardrecruitingassistant.com to earn \$2,000 per referral.

We would also like to welcome back Staff Sgt. Hope Townes from Recruiting Tech School. She graduated Tech School February 13 as the Top Sales Performer and we are glad to have her back and ready to recruit

Upcoming Events-We could use your help!!

April 9 - State of NH Job Fair- Southern NH University- Manchester
July 18 - Air National Guard Night- Fisher Cat Stadium- Manchester
August 29 - Air National Guard Night- Fisher Cat Stadium- Manchester

High School visits are throughout the year. Call us if you'd like to attend an event at your local school!

Call Staff Sgt. Hope Townes (603) 365-0933 for Portsmouth, Dover, Newmarket, Raymond, Epping, Oyster River, Cold Brown Academy, Northwood, Sanborn Regional, and Winnacunnet.

Call Tech. Sgt. Ron Connary (603) 365-7237 for Concord, Bow, Goffstown, Manchester West/Central, Pittsfield, John Stark, Merrimack Valley, Pembroke, Hopkinton, Franklin, Laconia, Prospect Mountain, Winnisquam, and Plymouth schools.

Call Tech. Sgt. Brad LePelley (603) 365-0287 for Nashua, Manchester Memorial, Keene, Salem, Alvirne, Pinkerton, Merrimack, Londonderry, Timberlane or any school in the southwestern part of New Hampshire and would like to take a walk down memory lane.

Call Tech. Sgt. Ted Brissette- Regional Recruiter for southern Maine and New Hampshire (207) 415-3490

On February 5, the first enlistment took place with our new Regional Recruiter for southern Maine and northern New Hampshire. Tech Sgt. Ted Brissette takes the lead in this position as the first Regional Recruiter in the nation. He is both a Maine and New Hampshire asset. His storefront office is located in Sanford, Maine. He comes to us with five years of active duty Air Force in Intelligence, two years as a Combat Medic, six years in Security Forces, and three years in Recruiting. We are excited to have Brissette apart of the recruiting team!



Left to right: Lt. Col. Swass, Jimmy Grindle, and Tech. Sgt. Brissette

For the latest Officer vacancies please call Master Sgt. Daniel Pollard at (603) 430-3508.

If you have any inquiries in your shop for state to state transfers, please contact Master Sgt. Norma Long at (603) 430-3507.

CAP Cadet Davilla receives Mitchell Award

Story by Maj. Penny Hardy, Seacoast Squadron Public Affairs Officer

Civil Air Patrol Cadet 2/Lt Julian Davila from the Seacoast Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) received the Gen Billy Mitchell Award from Col. Peter Sullivan, NHANG 157th Air Refueling Squadron Commander at a recent promotion ceremony. Cadet Davila is the son of NHANG CMSgt Cesar and Mirna Davila of Wells, Maine. Cadet Davila is a ninth grader at Wells High School where he is class president. His activities at school include student council, concert band and marching band. He also participates in homecoming events, prom fashion show and civil rights organization. In Civil Air Patrol which Julian joined in December 2005 he has earned the following ribbons: Commander's Commendation, Mitchell, all ribbons for ranks below Mitchell, Red Service (2 yr. membership), encampment, recruiter, National Cadet Competition w/bronze star and Cadet Special Ac-



Cadet Julian Davila receives the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award from Col. Peter Sullivan, NHANG 157th Air Refueling Squadron

tivities. After high school Cadet Davila hopes to attend either the US Air Force Academy or the Mass. Institute of Technology. Davila says he joined CAP to be in a structured organization where he could increase his comfort level in leadership.

The Billy Mitchell Award is named after Brigadier General Billy Mitchell

who proved to the US Army and Navy, the importance of air power that could be used on aircraft carriers prior to WWII. To receive this award, a CAP cadet is required to be challenged by completing five achievements in the cadet program. This includes encampment activities involving ground Search and Rescue. Cadets are also required to pass a comprehensive 1 1/2 hour test with a grade of 80 percent or higher, pass a physical fitness test of running a mile in eight minutes and doing push-ups. Should the cadet enlist in the Air Force with the Mitchell Award, they are entitled to the grade of E-3.

The Seacoast Composite Squadron composed of both cadet and senior members meets at Bldg. 252 at the NH Air National Guard Base in Portsmouth. The cadets meet each week on Thursdays and the seniors meet two or more Thursday evenings depending on programs planned. For more information go to www.seacoastsquadron.org or call Mike Hall at (603) 289-8923.

ARPC explains procedure validating early retired pay

DENVER (AFRNS) -- Air Reserve Personnel Center officials here are finalizing procedures for validating the receipt of retired pay before Citizen Airmen turn 60 years old.

Since Jan. 28, 2008, Guard and Reserve Airmen can reduce the age they receive retirement pay by three months for each aggregate of 90-day period of qualifying active duty served in any fiscal year, but they cannot receive retired pay before age 50.

"We are trying to make this as easy as possible for our Airmen," said Steve Hannan, director of personnel programs at ARPC. "The operational tempo of guardsmen and reservists is larger than many realize. So far this fiscal year, there could be more than 13,000 participating Guard and Reserve members performing creditable service entitling them to reduced age retired pay."

ARPC officials are working with counterparts at the Air Force Personnel Center to add a field into the Military Personnel Data System, or MilPDS, so Citizen Airmen can see estimated retired pay date.

"Until there is an automated way to track the information, our ARPC retirement technicians are reviewing personnel and finance records to see if Citizen Airmen qualify to receive their pay early," said Mr. Hannan. "In most cases we hope to never ask a Citizen Airman to validate their service. Our testing shows that we can often determine the correct information from current finance and personnel systems. Only when these systems are inaccurate will we need the member's help."

So far, six people are already eligible to receive their retired pay before they turned 60. Information in MilPDS indicates more than 250 Citizen Airmen who are awaiting pay at age 60 may already be eligible for reduced pay age, ARPC officials said. After reviewing these records, ARPC retirement technicians will contact those who are eligible.

If Citizen Airmen are approaching retirement and believe they are entitled to get their pay early, they can call (800) 525-0102 and discuss the specifics of

their participation with retirement experts to validate their eligibility for early retired pay.

For more information, call (800) 525-0102 or visit www.arpc.afrc.af.mil.



Staff Sgt. Paul Dovich, a fire team leader, leads Airman 1st Class Corey Sheckler and Airman 1st Class Anna Hullinger during a mobile patrol for an Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) on March 21. This part of the exercise consists of enemy prisoner of war (EPW) procedures including search, segregate, silence, speed to the rear, safeguard, and tag.

How to avoid medical mistakes

Story by Maj. Stephanie Riley, 157 ARW Medical Group

I get my inspiration for articles from many different sources, this time I happened to be reading the newspaper and noticed that a week in March had been designated as National Patient Safety Awareness Week. Around the same time, I caught an episode of Oprah that had Dr Oz on and his topic revolved around how to be a smart patient in a hospital. I have worked in hospitals for more than twenty years so I know just how to direct the care that I receive whenever I become a “healthcare consumer”. But for people that aren’t very familiar with the healthcare system, there are some tips that you should know to make sure that you receive the best care possible.

For many people, their health is taken for granted until something happens which makes them seek out healthcare. Probably the best piece of advice to start with is to get yourself a physician that you can call on when you do have a healthcare concern. Right now our whole healthcare system is in turmoil because many people use the emergency room as their “primary care physician”. If you are reading this, I am assuming that you are in the Guard and have the ability to sign up for Tricare health insurance, which you should do unless you have insurance from some other source. Once you find a provider you should schedule a physical so that you can and your provider can meet and you both can learn about each other. You want to be comfortable with your provider so that you can discuss your health concerns and you want your provider to know your baseline history so he or she will have something to compare to if you become sick.

In looking up statistics for medical errors it was estimated that there are between 44,000-98,000 deaths each year in hospitals. The Joint Commission is an organization that accredits more than 16,000 health care organizations in the U.S. and advocates for safe, high quality care. The president of the Joint Commission, Mark R Chassin MD, stated that “Patient safety is a critical component of quality care and is one of the most challenging issues in healthcare today. Patients can be effective partners in this improvement by being engaged in and informed about their care”. The Joint Commission developed a “Speak Up” education campaign which uses an acronym approach to urge patients to:

Speak up if you have questions or concerns. If you still don’t understand, ask again. It’s your body and you have a right to know.

Pay attention to the care you get. Always make sure you are getting the right treatments and medications by the right healthcare professionals. Don’t assume anything.

Educate yourself about your illness. Learn about the medical tests you get, and your treatment plan.

Ask a trusted family member or friend to be your advocate (advisor or supporter).

Know what medicines you take and why you take them. Medicine errors are the most common health care mistakes.

Use a hospital, clinic, surgery center, or other type of health care organization that has been carefully checked out. For example, The Joint Commission visits hospitals to see if they are meeting the Joint Commission’s quality standards.

Participate in all decisions about your treatment. You are the center of the health care team.

Dr Oz also had some sage advice about how to be a smart patient and reduce your chances of a medical mistake when you are in the hospital. He had eight steps that he outlined the first one being: prevent infection by asking people to wash their hands before touching you. Have hand sanitizer by your bed, ask doctors to clean their stethoscope before using it on you, and clean the television remote and phone (think about how many other sick patients have used it!)

Number two on his list dealt with avoiding “wrong-site surgery” error by, for example, writing “operate here” on the correct site you are having surgery on. He made a good point on the show, though, by saying that if they are prepping the “wrong” site, they may not see your message on the correct site. Therefore, maybe you should write “don’t operate here” on the wrong site that they will see. The other steps he outlined specified not engaging in chit-chat with your provider because that could be a distraction. You should find a high-tech hospital that uses, for example, bar-code technology to organize treatments and medications. Advanced technology measures are cutting down on many risks that lead to medical errors. The hospital should also be accredited by Joint Commission, as mentioned previously. Hospitals that use care checklists for different procedures cut down on simple, preventable mistakes. Dr Oz recommends getting to know your hospitalist, which is the provider that your primary care physician may utilize to handle your care when you have been admitted to the hospital.

The most important recommendation that Dr Oz advises and is echoed in all of the literature I read is for you to be a smart patient. In addition to the measures listed above you should also carry a list of your current medications and allergies in your purse or wallet. That is information that is always asked about whenever you see any healthcare provider. You should also know about your medical conditions and on-going treatments, your physicians’ names and phone numbers. Above all, go with your intuition. You are the most knowledgeable about your body and if you don’t think your care is being handled appropriately, keep asking questions or get a second opinion.

Family Readiness Program

Bonnie Rice – Family Readiness Program Coordinator

302 Newmarket Street Pease ANGB 03803

Phone: (603) 430-3545

bonnie.rice@ang.af.mil

Emergency 24-hour hotline: (800) 472-0328

E-MAIL LISTING

For updates on events, activities, discounts and benefits, contact Bonnie Rice to have your e-mail address added.

During our recent computer/e-mail conversion some of the Family Program e-mail listings were lost – if you would like to be added or re-added to the Wing Family Program e-mail listing contact Bonnie Rice at the above e-mail address or phone number. Please note: some e-mails are not being received at the base –when an e-mail is received, a response will be e-mailed back – if you have not gotten a reply be sure to call.

Retirees, we also have a retiree e-mail listing. Please specify if you would like to receive all e-mails that pertain to and include our retirees or just to be on the e-mail list to receive the Refueler when you request to be added to the e-mail listing.

TAX ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Military OneSource offers free tax consultations and free e-filing for active duty, Guard, Reserve and their family members. You must be logged in to access this service (password required). Find out how to start your return at: <http://www.militaryonesource.com>

You can also call a tax consultant at 1-800-730-3802 (7a.m.-11p.m. EDT) or e-mail one to help you with your personal tax-related questions

For 2008 Deployers:

Members of all branches of the armed forces serving in the Global War on Terrorism qualify for tax filing extensions beyond the April 15 tax filing deadline and may also be eligible for other exclusions. To help military members who are or have been deployed to a combat zone in support of the Global War on Terrorism, the NHSCPA Military Tax Assistance Program will provide CPA volunteers for one-on-one assistance for the 2008 filing year.

Military Personnel may qualify for tax and financial planning assistance if:

- * in 2008 the soldier was, or currently is, deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism, or
- * the soldier was disabled while serving in the Global War on Terrorism.

Surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action during the Global War on Terrorism qualify for tax and financial planning assistance if they receive Survivor Benefits and have not remarried.

Residency in New Hampshire is required with the exception of those serving in the NH National Guard.

For additional information about the NHSCPA/NH Military Tax Assistance Program, please contact Ms. Marlene Gazda, CEO of the NH Society of CPAs at (603) 622-1999 or e-mail taxassistance@nhscpa.org. Please state "Military Tax Assistance Program" in your subject line.

MILITARY SPOUSE CAREER ADVANCEMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAM

With Congressional authorization in Public Law 110-417, the Department of Defense is implementing the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program, providing resources and assistance to spouses of active duty services members, Guard and Reserve with a spouse on orders for one year, supporting their pursuit of a successful, long-term, portable career.

This centralized, virtual program, accessed through Military OneSource, will provide counseling and funding, up to \$6,000, to assist with licensure, certification or education opportunities leading to portable employment opportunities.

- A spouse calls the Military OneSource Center (1.800.342.9647) to speak with a Career and Education Consultant.
- The Military One Source Career and Education Consultant will assist the spouse in selecting a career goal and entering a Career Plan into the online system "My Career Advancement Account."
- Upon approval of the spouse's Career Plan for education, training, certification or licensure, Department of Defense will provide direct payment to the Payee (school, institution, or program) through the designated government Portal.
- The spouse will report back to Military OneSource upon completion of the Plan and receipt of employment.

This Department of Defense funded program will be available April 2009. Program specifics are available for your review at www.militaryonesource.com. The DoD point of contact is Mr. Mike Tevnan, 703.908.1237, mike.tevnan@moscenter.us

Readiness cont'd from pg. 12**DEPLOYED FAMILY INFORMATION GATHERING**

Our next deployed Family Information Gathering will be held on Wednesday, April 15 at 6 p.m. at Pease Air National Guard Base, Building 16, Conference Room. Families of our deployed members are highly encouraged to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to get to know other deployed families. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please RSVP to Bonnie Rice (as soon as possible) so the meal can be planned. These monthly gatherings are still open to those who have had their loved ones return as well. Our monthly deployed family gatherings are normally scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month.

TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

Date: April 20-24

Location: Wilbrandt Auditorium, Pease ANGB

RSVP: To reserve your spot call Bonnie Rice at (603) 430-3545

What: The TAP Program that had been traditionally held at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has moved to Pease. This is program presented by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Fleet and Family Support Program and the Department of Labor/Employment Securities. If you are transitioning from a military to a civilian career you may be interested in attending the next TAP seminar. This workshop is designed to assist voluntarily and involuntarily separating or retiring service members make a successful career transition. Members should plan to attend at least six months prior to separation or retirement. Casual civilian attire is suggested. Spouses are welcome.

MANCHESTER WOLVES "PROTECT AND SERVE" NIGHT

Date: Friday, April 24, 2009

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Verizon Wireless Arena

What: Free tickets to all Active & Veteran First Responders (Must be purchased through Wolves ticket office, or at will call the evening of the game. This offer not available at Verizon Wireless Box Office.) Must present identification including, but not limited to, police, fire, & military members. Sign up before April 17 through your department or by calling the Wolves office. To purchase or receive your tickets call: (603) 627-9653 or go to: www.manchesterwolves.com. After April 17, the tickets will cost \$5. To receive a complete flyer contact Bonnie Rice.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES**Air Force Services Space Camp**

For a complete package –and additional details please email Bonnie Rice at bonnie.rice@ang.af.mil.

Deadline for applications: April 9 to Bonnie Rice, Wing Family Program Office.

Where: The camp will be held at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL.

Date: The camp will be conducted July 26 – August 1

Details: Forty-eight scholarships are available for youth, ages 12 - 18, to participate in the AF Services Space Camp Program. The camp is divided into two age groups: 32 youth, ages 12 - 14, will be selected to participate in the Space Academy and 16 teens, ages 15 - 18, for the Advanced Space Academy.

General Information And Instructions Regarding The AF Space Camp:

The Air Force Space Camp (AFSC) is a residential six-day program that shows youth firsthand what it takes to be an astronaut. Activities include simulated Space Shuttle missions, training simulators, rocket building and launches, scientific experiments, and lectures on the past, present, and future of space exploration. More information is available at <http://www.spacecamp.com>.

Location of AFSC: Offered at Huntsville AL. Space Camp takes a unique, fun, and hands-on approach to learning outside the classroom, and students leave with a greater appreciation for school and their studies.

Dates of the AFSC:S cholarship recipients must be able to attend the entire AFSC program. Recipients arrive in Huntsville AL on Sunday, July 26 and depart on Friday, August 1.

Cost: HQ USAF/A1SA has funded all lodging, meals, and activity fees after arrival at Space Camp at no cost to attendees or their installation. Airline or POV travel costs to Huntsville AL are the responsibility of the attendees. Spending money for snacks, souvenirs, etc. are the responsibility of the participants.

Readiness cont'd on pg. 14

Readiness cont'd from pg. 13**Eligible Applicants:**

The applicant must meet the following requirements:

- *A dependent of Active Duty Military assigned to or living on an AF installation, AF Retired Military, AF Civilian Employees, Air National Guard or AF Reserve who have been activated within the last 12 months
- *Must have a GPA of 2.8 (must provide documentation)
- *Must demonstrate an application of leadership abilities and social maturity through involvement in school and community activities;
- *Must demonstrate skills and achievements outside of the realm of science and outside the realm of academic pursuits
- *Must demonstrate a curiosity and an eagerness to explore many and varied topics

Application Criteria:

A complete application (typed) consists of an original of the following:

1. Official Nomination Form
2. A resume detailing your academic achievements and extra-curricular activities
3. A recent academic transcript
4. A letter of support from a teacher
5. Youth Programs Verification of Eligibility Form

FREE SAT AND ACT TEST PREP

What: eKnowledge Corporation & NFL Players Tackle SAT & ACT Test Prep Group Extends \$20 Million Donation to America's Military Families For a Fourth Year.

Details: In alliance with the Department of Defense and a group of patriotic NFL football players, eKnowledge Corporation is extending its donation of SAT & ACT Test Prep Software to military families and veterans for a fourth consecutive year.

Over the past three years, eKnowledge has delivered more than 100,000 SAT/ACT test prep programs normally priced at \$200, FREE to military families worldwide. The total value of the donation is now over \$20 million.

Some of the NFL players who are supporting the eKnowledge SAT/ACT donation for 2009 include: Mark Anderson (Chicago Bears), John Bradley (Tampa Bay Buccaneers), Scott Young (Philadelphia Eagles), Garrick Jones (Atlanta Falcons), Corey Williams (Green Bay Packers), Jason Radar (Miami Dolphins) and Ahmaad Galloway (San Diego Chargers).

The donated eKnowledge SAT/ACT Power Prep programs come in a single DVD or two CD-ROM set that includes more than 11 hours of high quality classroom video instruction with up to 40 hours of student interactive learning participation. The test prep programs can be used as a stand-alone instruction tool to prepare thoroughly for the SAT/ACT or as a supplement to other SAT/ACT preparation materials. Each student can select the areas where they need additional or special instruction and then study at their own pace using the 120 classroom video lessons.

Members of Military families or Veterans interested in receiving the FREE SAT/ACT Power Prep software should visit the following website for details: <http://www.eknowledge.com/military>

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD INFORMATION (PSNY) INFORMATION:

Summer destination tickets for 2009 spring and summer season to be sold at ITT, Relief Valve Recreation Center, Bldg 22, PSNY, call Judy for ticket information at 207-438-2713. For information on ski rental equipment call Todd 207-438-1514). Gear Issue is located in Bldg H-10 (PSNY), rear of building.

FAMILY PROGRAM "YELLOW PAGE" LISTING

Spring is finally upon us. Lawns will need to be mowed. Lawnmowers and garden tractors will need to be started. Are you mechanically inclined? Would you like to help a family of a deployed member prepare their garden/lawn equipment for taking care of their yards while their loved one is deployed?

The Wing Family Program has a "yellow page" listing of resources to offer to during the time their loved one is away. The Yellow Page lists those interested in providing a free or discounted service to our military families in need during a deployment or an extended TDY. This list is kept confidential; contact information is only release to families with the permission of the person or the agency that has offered the service. The Yellow Page listing has assisted families of all components of the service from throughout New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts.

If you would like to become a part of our Yellow Pages, please contact Bonnie Rice.

Readiness cont'd from pg. 14**4-H SPACES CONFERENCE**

What: Full day of fun doing hands-on workshops. With sessions to include topics on Science & Technology, Personal Development, Environmental and Global Education, and many more fun filled sessions.

For: All Youth ages 9 and up (Youth do not have to be 4-H members to attend.)

Date: Saturday, April 18

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Epping Elementary School, Epping

Event Cost: \$5 per child (Pizza - \$2 per slice)

For additional information. or to request a booklet, call Bonnie Rice at (603) 430-3545 or call me Jean Hussey, Rockingham County 4-H Office toll free (800) 248-6672.

FLORIDA VACATION DEALS:

Planning a Florida Vacation? There are my options for military families to take advantage of: For complete flyers with additional information contact Bonnie Rice in the Wing Family Program Office. Both the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PSNY) and the Hanscom Air Force Base Information Tickets and Tours (ITT) and MWR offices have Orlando discounted attraction tickets as well local New England attraction discount tickets available for purchase. Call Portsmouth Naval Shipyard MWR Office at: 207-438-2713 or the Hanscom Air Force Base Tickets and Tours Office at: (781) 377-3262.

Shades of Green has some great vacation deals to – For further details go to: www.shadesofgreen.org/salute.htm

Universal Orlando: Universal Studios wishes “A UNIVERSE OF THANKS FOR SERVING OUR NATION” – Free – 2-Park Unlimited admission ticket. Plus - Save up to \$35 each on 2-Park Unlimited Admission Tickets for family and friends!

Walt Disney World and Walt Disneyland Military Discount Program:

With the “Disney’s Armed Forces Salute” offer, active and retired U.S. military personnel, including active and retired members of the United States Coast Guard and activated members of the National Guard or Reservists, can enjoy complimentary, multi-day admission into Disney’s U.S. theme parks, great rates at select Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland Resort hotels, and additional special ticket offers for family members and friends. For additional details go to: www.disneyworld.com/military.

Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks: Just an update the Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks - Free Admission Program has been extended through 2009. Complimentary admission for active duty military representing all five service branches, active members of a reserve or National Guard unit, and/or up to three direct dependants. For program information go to: <http://www.herosalute.com/>

SAVE THE DATE INFORMATION:**“OPERATION THANK YOU!”**

What: “Operation Thank You!” - As you begin to make your summer plans, be sure to mark your calendar for the 6th annual “Operation Thank You!” to be held once again at the Red Hook Brewery. This event is a tribute to our military families. Those of you who have attended any of the previous year’s events will know that the day includes a delicious barbeque lunch provided once again by the Meathouse; and music and entertainment for families. For additional details contact Bonnie Rice at (603)-430-3545, bonnie.rice@ang.af.mil. Additional details to follow.....

DATE: Sunday, August 9

TIME: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

LOCATION: Red Hook Brewery, Pease Tradeport, Portsmouth

COST: Free to military members and their dependants (with ID cards).

Extended Family Members (without ID Cards) and Civilians: \$10 per person – tickets can be purchased at any Meathouse location (<http://themeathouse.com>)

RSVP: For planning purposes, if you are planning to attend with a large group please RSVP to bonnie.rice@ang.af.mil.

Once again this year, proceeds from “Operation Thank You!” will benefit the Chaplains Emergency Relief Fund.