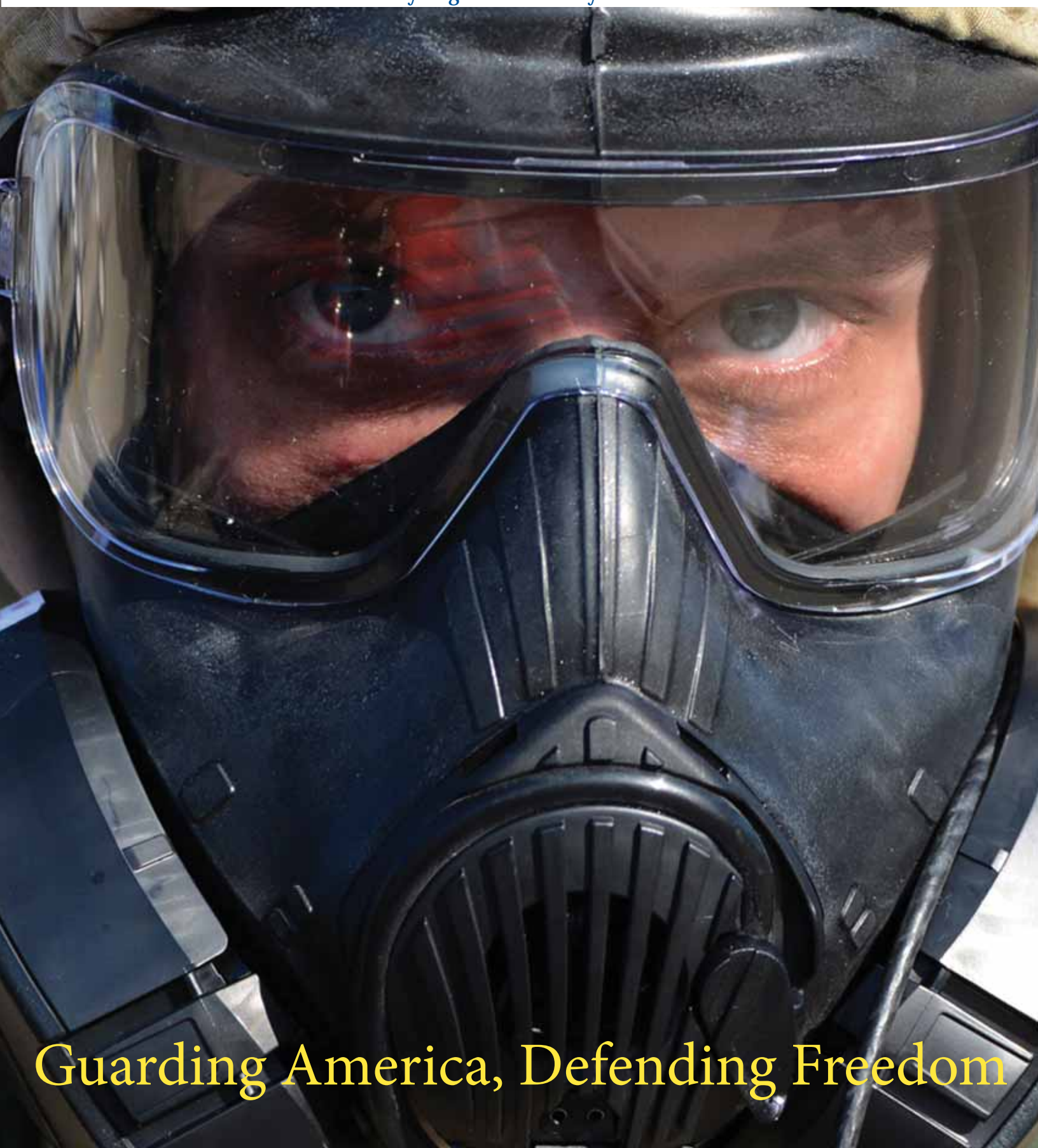


Vol. XXII

THE Chesapeake Guardian

The Yearly Magazine of the Maryland Air National Guard

2014 Edition



Guarding America, Defending Freedom

Leadership Perspective



The Chesapeake Guardian
Volume XXII
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Editorial Staff

Commander:

Brig. Gen. Scott Kelly

Public Affairs Officer:

2nd. Lt. Benjamin Hughes

Contributing Editors:

Maj. Wayne Minami

Maj. Brenda Reed, CAP

Capt. Joe Winter

Public Affairs Staff:

Senior Master Sgt. Edward Bard

Master Sgt. Gareth Buckland

Tech. Sgt. David Speicher

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Schepers

A1C Enjoli Saunders



On the Cover:

Photograph by:

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Schepers
175th Wing Public Affairs

Let me start by saying Thank You! Thank you to each and every one of you for a job well done in 2014. You all never cease to amaze me, whether you are part of the wing's full-time staff or a traditional Guardsman. It has been a very busy year and through many challenges you all continue to be the most prepared, dedicated and loyal group of Airmen I have had the privilege of serving with and leading in my military career. Together, we have accomplished great things this year and, in the coming year, we will take the momentum gained and push forward into 2015 reaching for greater success.

During a time that is mired in uncertainty, the members of the 175th Wing continued to train and prepare for any mission. The training that took place was completed all while deploying numerous personnel in support of global national security objectives and humanitarian missions to countries around the globe.



I would like to take a second to highlight some of the great things we accomplished as a wing this year. The 175th Operations and Maintenance Groups deployed 10 A-10C aircraft to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, in support of both Combat Hammer and Combat Archer Weapons Standardization and Evaluation Programs. They also sent six aircraft to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, in support of the Weapons Instructor Course. Finally, they were part of a group that included the Logistics Readiness Squadron that participated in Exercise RED FLAG 14-3 at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

The 235th Civil Engineer Flight played an integral part in supporting our NATO partners in the European theater. They had a key role in the design and execution of many projects that enhanced military infrastructure and civilian quality of life.

With the newly formed 135th Intelligence Squadron completing their inaugural year with many great achievements, the future looks bright. The squadron was able to hire over 40 personnel and conduct 10,000 hours on intelligence training. Through high quality leadership and a dedicated work force, the squadron has become the model for intelligence units across the Air Force.

The 175th Network Warfare Squadron has been equally busy this year transitioning to the new cyber operations group. This unit, which is co-located with the United States Cyberspace Command at Fort Meade, will soon be providing a combat ready force for USCYBERCOM national mission teams.

As you can see the 175th did many great things this year. I looked forward to the future with great hope for this organization.

In closing, I look forward to leading with you into the future. I ask that you maintain your personal readiness by maintaining your training. We have a rich history of providing professional, trained and equipped airmen that can handle the taskings requested by the Governor and President of the United States of America. If there is anything I can do for you please let me know. I am here for you and relish in the opportunities to speak with each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Safety is **EVERYONE'S** responsibility.

If you see something, say something. **Report it!**



Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Strong
Safety Superintendent



410-918-6524
DSN 243-6524

Bruce.Strong@ang.af.mil

Lt. Col. Stephen Cowart
Chief of Safety



410-918-6278
DSN 243-6278

Stephen.Cowart@ang.af.mil

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Joint Force Headquarters



Brig. Gen. Allyson R. Solomon was commissioned in 1986 through the Academy of Military Science at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Knoxville, Tennessee. Prior to being commissioned, she was an enlisted member for seven years. As Assistant Adjutant General–Air, General Solomon is the principal advisor to the Governor and the Adjutant General of Maryland on matters pertaining to the Maryland Air National Guard and overall commander of the Maryland Air National Guard. She was appointed to her present position in June 2008. In addition, she serves as the ANG Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, Manpower and Reserve Affairs.



Chief Master Sgt. Glenn D. Hart graduated from Perry Hall High School in 1973 and enlisted in the Maryland Air National Guard as a Communication Specialist on Aug. 24, 1974. In 1976, he cross-trained into the aircraft maintenance career field. In 1995, he was selected as the Air Force Crew Chief of the Year. As State Command Chief, Chief Hart is the personal advisor to the Adjutant General and the Assistant Adjutant General–Air on enlisted issues and a key advocate for the Maryland Air National Guard enlisted force. Chief Hart was awarded a Community College of the Air Force degree in Aircraft Maintenance Technology. He was appointed to his present position in July 2009. Since 2013, he has also held the position of Senior Enlisted Leader of the Maryland National Guard.

Federal Mission

In peacetime, the MDANG prepares for wartime tasks and maintains readiness for mobilizations, supports homeland security operations and participates in international peacekeeping efforts. In wartime, it provides combat-proven close air support capability and cyber operations capability to meet the needs of combatant commanders worldwide and can deploy mission-ready security forces, civil engineering, logistics, medical and other support functions either independently or as part of a larger unit package.

State Mission

The MDANG provides forces for defense support to civil authority during natural disasters, civil disturbances and other emergencies at the call of the governor.

Local Mission

The MDANG participates in and supports community service projects and events throughout the local area through volunteerism and partnering with local business and government.

Airmen Spotlight

Airmen Spotlight



Staff Sgt. Ousseynou Soumou Sonko, Avionics Test Station and Components Craftsman.



Tech. Sgt. Ilir Kojtari, Precision Guided Munitions Section Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge.

**See our social media sites below
To read more about these Spotlight Airmen.**



Senior Airman Miriam Y. Jarvis
175th Security Forces Squadron.



Airman 1st Class Andrea Chaves,
175th Civil Engineer Squadron
Emergency Management.



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www.facebook.com/175wing



Visit us on the web at
www.175wg.ang.af.mil



Follow us on Twitter at
www.twitter.com/175thwing



For more photos, videos and stories visit
www.dvidshub.net/unit/175WMANG

2014: A YEAR



Airmen from the 175th Wing dig out after a snowstorm blanketed the state.



Members from the 175th Wing participate in Ability to Survive and Operate training during a Unit Training Assembly.



Emergency Management completes the first physical challenge station during the Fire Team Challenge.



The 175th Operations Group team completes the UXO identification station during the Fire Team Challenge.



Chief Master Sgt. Dale Sanders is presented with a memento by his son during his retirement ceremony.



Members of the new intelligence squadron perform training during a Unit Training Assembly.

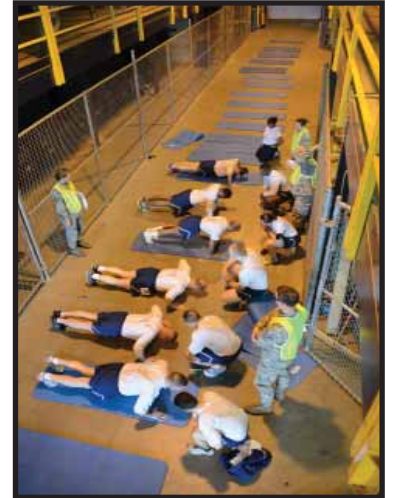
IN PICTURES



Military members, friends and family gather at the 5th Regiment Armory for Unity Day 2014.



Senior Airman Miriam Yaffa Jarvis works with outside agencies during active shooter training.



Members of the 175th Wing perform their annual physical training test.



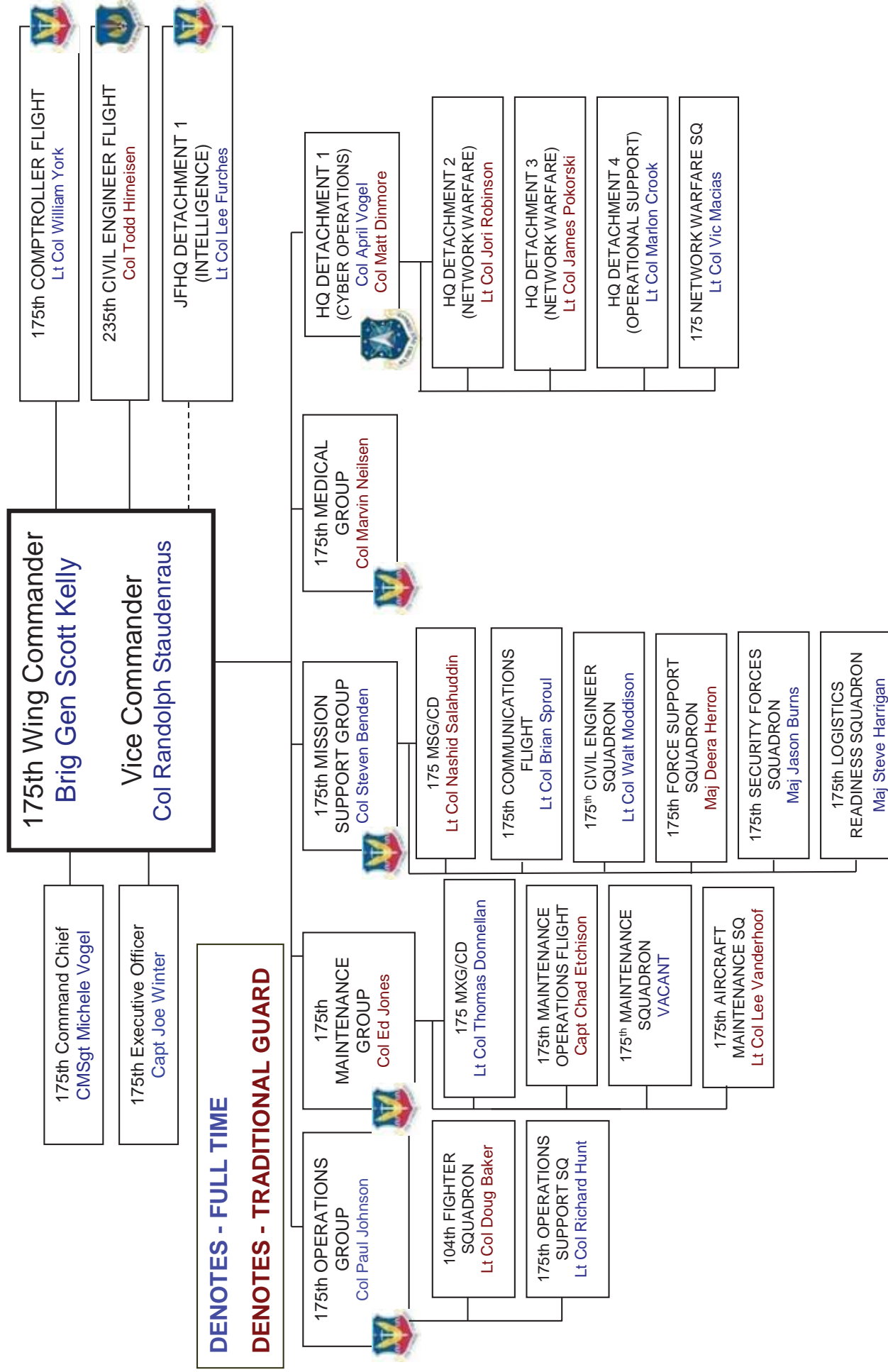
Chaplain Rivera performs the imposition of ashes on Chaplain Otten during an Ash Wednesday ceremony at Warfield Air National Guard Base.



Col. Paul Johnson gets pinned during his promotion ceremony.



Staff Sgt. Randall Roelker changes a T5 Amplifier on a TF34-100A Turbo Fan Engine that is used on the A-10C.



175th Wing Organization

175th Wing Base Tour Program for 2015



The 175th Wing has an active base tour program. The purpose of the 175th Wing Base Tour Program is to enhance community relations and provide base access to individuals, youth groups, community organizations, and educational institutions. Tour requests outside of the below dates are not normally granted. All children in tour groups must be at least 7 years old.

Tours include a brief history of the base, viewing an A-10C Thunderbolt II, aircraft up close and a visit to the base fire department.

Tours will be limited to a maximum of 40 participants.

For more information/questions please contact the 175th Wing Public Affairs, Community Relations Branch at 410-918-6001, Senior Master Sgt. Ed Bard. You can request a tour by emailing** us with the date from below that you would like to attend, adults names, number of children under the age of 18, group type, how many vehicles (we highly encourage car pooling) in your party and contact information.

**Base Email: 175wg.paworkflow@ang.af.mil.

March 8, 2015, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

April 12, 2015, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

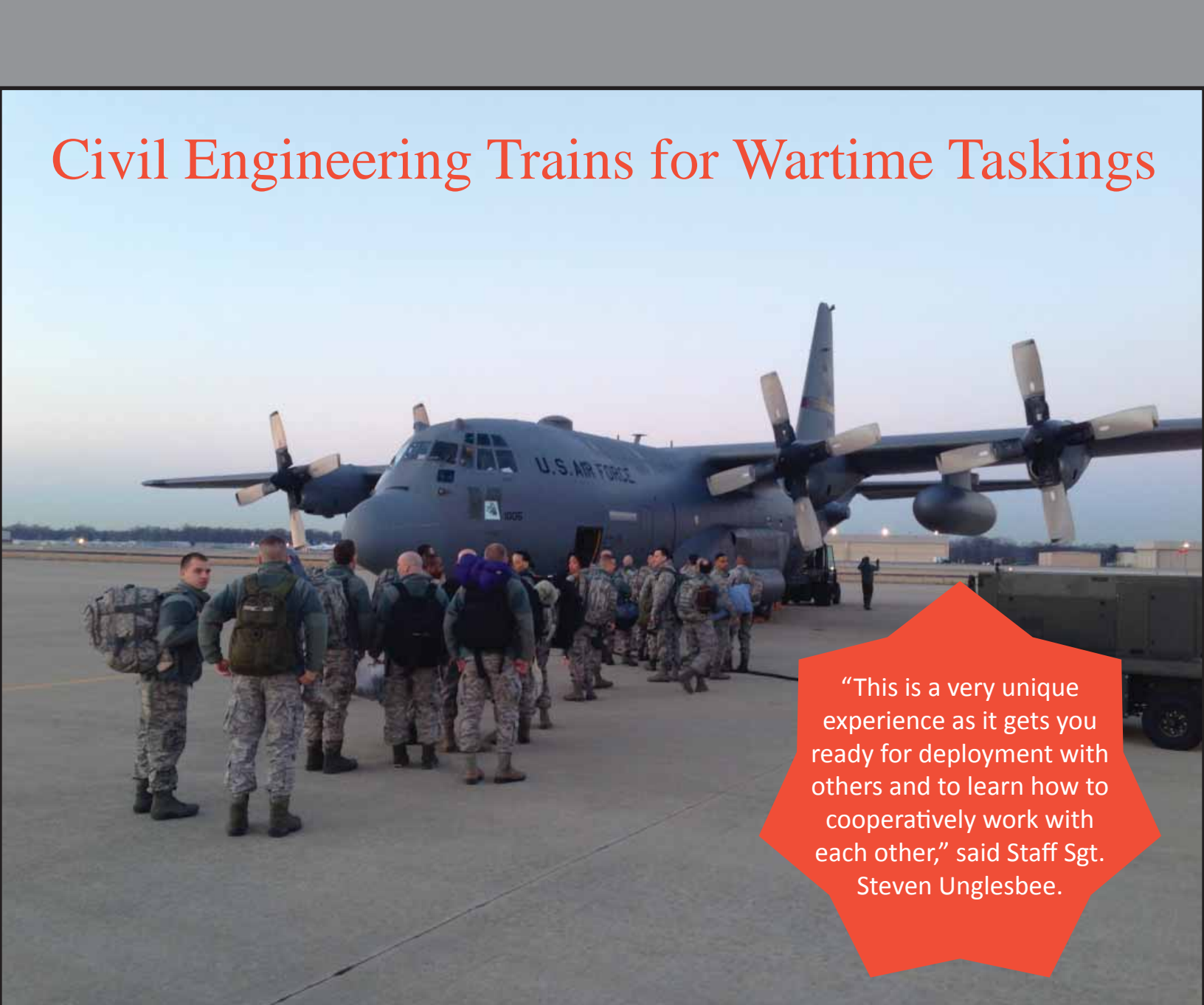
July 9, 2015, 9 a.m. to 11a.m.

September 13, 2015, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

October 18, 2015, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

November 13, 2015, 9 a.m. to 11a.m.

Civil Engineering Trains for Wartime Taskings



"This is a very unique experience as it gets you ready for deployment with others and to learn how to cooperatively work with each other," said Staff Sgt. Steven Unglesbee.

Story and Photographs by Master Sgt. Gareth Buckland
175th Wing Public Affairs

3/28/2014 - Ramstein Air Base, Germany -- Members of the 175th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) deployed to Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany, to conduct bare base operations training known as Silver Flag from March 21 through April 5, 2014.

The group of over 60 personnel spent the 10 days in classrooms, as well as conducting actual hands-on training, and ending in a two-day end of course exercise where skills acquired during the week were put to the test.

"Silver Flag is about our deployment training and tasking skills training," said Senior Airman Andrew Braken, from the 175th Civil Engineer Squadron. "We set up a bare base to bed down troops as well as establish and maintain an airfield."

The training consisted of critical contingency operations such as water purification, runway repair, emergency airfield lighting and aircraft arresting systems and power distribution.

"The environment gives you a different experience where multiple units come to together as a team," said Staff Sergeant Steven Unglesbee from the 175th Civil Engineer Squadron. "This is a very unique experience as is it gets you ready for deployment with others and to learn how to work cooperatively with each other."

The emergency manager and firefighters had the opportunity to train in both aircraft and structural fire fighting response, as well as chemical and hazardous response material response.

“Air Force Civil Engineers are required to complete certain training every three years,” said Maj. Ethan England, 175th Civil Engineer Squadron deputy commander. “In order to complete the training we have to travel somewhere else as we don’t have the equipment or real estate to do the training at home.”

The exercise simulated a base bed down operation to house a 150-person camp assist in bringing in additional forces to fight insurgents.

The final day’s training exercise took all the skills acquired during the previous week to conduct a small scale Operational Readiness Inspection which included planning and conducting a convoy, sweeping the area to identify unexploded ordinance and then conducting a bed down plan with airfield recovery. During this one-day exercise the airmen were required to respond to simulated missile and small arms gunfire attacks to show their ability to survive and operate under austere conditions.

The Silver Flag exercise is conducted every three years and allows Airmen to deploy using real world equipment in real-world scenarios, that are not readily available at home station and that help develop their expeditionary skills that improves unit readiness.



Staff Sgt. Steven Unglesbee, 175th Civil Engineer Squadron, Maryland Air National Guard, uses a float to prepare freshly poured concrete during the Silver Flag exercise, March 24, 2014, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The Silver Flag exercise simulates training relevant to building and bed down of a bare base operation in a deployed environment.



Tech. Sgt. Rodney Riley, 175th Civil Engineer Squadron, Maryland Air National Guard, uses a ladder to put together a tent during the Silver Flag exercise. The Silver Flag exercise simulates training relevant to building and bed down of a bare base operation in a deployed environment



Senior Airman Andrew Bracken, 175th Civil Engineer Squadron, Maryland Air National Guard, assists his team members in constructing a tent during a practical application portion of the Silver Flag exercise, March 24, 2014, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The Silver Flag exercise simulates training relevant to building and bed down of a bare base operation in a deployed environment.



A1C Wesley Diefenbach (left) and Senior Airman Andrew Bracken, 175th Civil Engineer Squadron, Maryland Air National Guard, assists their team members in constructing a tent during a practical application portion of the Silver Flag exercise, March 24, 2014, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The Silver Flag exercise simulates training relevant to building and bed down of a bare base operation in a deployed environment.

History of the 175th Wing

Organized in Baltimore on June 29, 1921, the 104th Observation Squadron was the first post-war National Guard flying unit to be equipped with its own aircraft, 13 Curtiss JN-4 Jennies. The unit operated out of Baltimore's Logan Field and initially served as division aviation for the 29th Infantry Division. In addition to Jennies, the 104th flew a variety of other aircraft during the interwar period, almost all of them two-seat biplanes.

The 104th's World War II service began on Feb. 3, 1941, when it was mobilized along with the rest of the Maryland Guard. During the war, the 104th flew antisubmarine patrols out of Atlantic City, New Jersey, as part of the 59th Observation Group using O-46 and O-47 aircraft.

In late 1942, the 104th was inactivated and its personnel transferred to the new 517th Bombardment Squadron, which soon moved to Langley Field, Virginia. There the unit, which was later redesignated the 12th Antisubmarine Squadron, flew B-18B Bolo, and later B-24 Liberator and B-25 Mitchell bombers against German U-boats in the Atlantic.

The unit was moved to California and redesignated the 859th Bombardment Squadron in September 1943. By this time most of the original National Guard members had been transferred elsewhere as individual replacements, although a handful were still serving with the unit when it entered combat in Europe in May 1944.

The 104th returned to Maryland when the 104th Fighter Squadron was reactivated in 1946 at Harbor Field in Baltimore, equipped with P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft, later replaced by F-51 Mustangs. From 1955 to 1958, the unit was organized as a fighter-interceptor squadron and charged with defending the Baltimore-Washington area against possible Soviet bomber attack. The unit soon converted to the F-86 Sabrejet, and in 1957 relocated to the Glenn L. Martin Company Airport, whose longer runway was necessary to support jet operations.

Maryland gained a second flying unit in 1955, when the 135th Air Resupply Group was organized at Harbor Field. The 135th was one of only a handful of Air Force special operations units in existence at the time. Equipped with Curtiss C-46 Commando transports and SA-16 Albatross seaplanes, its mission was the covert infiltration, resupply and extraction of special forces. Following the closure of Harbor Field in 1960, the unit also relocated to the Martin Company Airport.

A second group headquarters was added in 1962, when the 175th Tactical Fighter Group was established that October. The 104th Tactical Fighter Squadron, which had heretofore operated as an independent squadron, became part of the new group.

Spring 1968 brought considerable activity, with both the 135th and 175th being called out to help quell rioting in Baltimore following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and elements of the 175th being mobilized and deployed to Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, in response to the Pueblo Crisis in Korea. While mobilized, the unit trained Air Force pilots to serve as forward air controllers. The 175th returned home and demobilized that December.

The 135th endured multiple changes in designation, mission and aircraft during the 1970s, switching first from special operations to a tactical air support role, where it flew forward air control missions aboard O-2A Super Skymasters. Then in 1977, the unit converted to a tactical airlift mission, flying the C-7A Caribou. In 1980, the unit converted to the C-130 Hercules. The 175th, which had flown the A-37 Dragonfly since turning in its F-86s in 1970, received brand new A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft from the factory in Hagerstown, Maryland, beginning in 1979. The unit continues to fly the famed tank killer to this day.

The military facilities at Martin State Airport were formally renamed in honor of Maj. Gen. Edwin Warfield III, former adjutant general of Maryland, in 1982, and the base has since been known as Warfield Air National Guard Base. The civilian portion of the field had been purchased by the state and renamed Martin State Airport in 1975.

Despite the end of the Cold War, the Maryland Air National Guard remained active in operations around the world through the remainder of the century. During the build-up to the 1991 Persian Gulf War, a number of unit personnel were mobilized to fill support roles. The same year, the 175th won Gunsmoke, the U.S. Air Force Worldwide Gunnery Competition, earning recognition as the best fighter unit in the Air Force.

The 135th participated in humanitarian relief efforts in Somalia, peacekeeping and humanitarian relief in Bosnia, the U.S. intervention in Haiti and the enforcement of U.N. sanctions against Iraq during the 1990s. A-10s from the 175th were likewise kept busy patrolling the skies over Bosnia and enforcing the "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq, where it was called upon to fly retaliatory strikes against Iraqi targets.

On June 15, 1996, the units of the 135th Airlift Group was inactivated and the 175th Fighter Group was reorganized and redesignated as the 175th Wing, a composite organization with both fighter and airlift assets (three years later, the 135th Airlift Group was reactivated as a subordinate group under the 175th Wing).

The new wing quickly became involved in fielding the latest Air Force aircraft. The 135th had played a major role in the test and evaluation of the new C-130J and its procedures and was the first fully equipped such unit in the Air Force. The wing was also the Air Force's lead unit in converting to the new "precision engagement" A-10C. Wing personnel were deeply involved in the test and evaluation process and in September 2007, the 104th Fighter Squadron became the first unit to take the A-10C into combat, when it deployed to Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

Since September 11, 2001, members of the 175th Wing have repeatedly volunteered or been mobilized to take part in the Global War on Terrorism. From January to June 2003, the 104th Fighter Squadron was deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, where it flew strikes against Taliban and al Qaeda forces and earned the distinction of being the longest-deployed Air National Guard fighter squadron at Bagram.

Elements of the 135th Airlift Group remained almost continuously deployed in support of the War on Terror from December 2004 until January 2007, flying airlift missions throughout the combat theater as part of the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. In addition, the 135th maintained a continuous presence of two aircraft and personnel in Afghanistan from April to September 2008.

In 2010, the wing carried out its largest single combat deployment to date, when it deployed both its C-130s and its A-10s to Afghanistan. Maryland A-10 pilots notched nearly 700 combat missions during their deployment to Kandahar Air Base, while their C-130 counterparts, who were deployed to Bagram Air Base, flew 922 missions. A year later, the 135th transitioned from the C-130J Hercules to the new C-27J Spartan. By Spring 2012, the unit was flying combat missions over Afghanistan in the new airlifter as part of the 702nd Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Kandahar Airfield. That March, the wing's A-10s deployed to Bagram Airfield, mirroring their locations in 2010.

The Maryland Air National Guard also remained fully engaged at home. When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the Gulf Coast in 2005, the 175th Wing was among the first to respond, flying 42 relief missions and deploying nearly 200 troops to support recovery and relief efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi. From 2006 to 2008, numerous wing members deployed to the U.S.-Mexican border as part of Operation Jump Start, the National Guard mission supporting the U.S. Border Patrol. During 2001's Hurricane Irene, the wing established a receiving, staging and shipping warehouse operation to support various agencies in distributing water and food to locations throughout Maryland.

But perhaps the greatest impact on the wing has come from the repeated organizational changes it has experienced. In 2006, the wing gained a network warfare squadron based at Fort Meade, Maryland, with a mission of supporting Air Force and national efforts to identify and mitigate cyberspace intrusions into military networks. The squadron quickly earned an enviable reputation in the military cyber community, and as of 2014, is in the process of being expanded into a full group.

In 2008 the wing endured significant changes in the size and structure of several wing squadrons, including the inactivation of the 135th Aerial Port Flight, whose functions moved to a newly established small air terminal within the 175th Logistics Readiness Squadron. In 2013, the Air Force divested itself of the C-27 airframe, resulting in the loss of the airlift flying mission. An inactivation ceremony for the state's senior flying group was held in September 2013.

At the same time, however, the wing gained four new detachments, which will form the basis of a new cyberspace operations group and an intelligence squadron. As part of an organizational change request submitted in 2014 and currently pending approval by the National Guard Bureau, the 135th Airlift Squadron will be reorganized and redesignated as the 135th Intelligence Squadron, while remainder of the airlift group structure will be inactivated. As part of the same change request, the 175th Network Warfare Squadron will become one of three operational squadrons under the new cyber operations group.

With this addition of a substantial cyberspace operational capability, the Maryland Air National Guard finds itself at the cutting edge of national defense. As the 175th Wing stands on the cusp of a new year, it is well situated to meet the ever-evolving nature of threats to the nation and state.





Maryland Air Guardsman Shooting

Story and Photographs by Tech. Sgt. David Speicher

The U.S. Air Force Distinguished Rifleman and Distinguished Pistol Shot Badges are the highest honor that most military and civilian rifle and pistol shooters can aspire to earn, and Maryland Air National Guardsman Senior Airman Evan Jones was awarded both Air Force distinguished shooting badges.

Another Maryland Air National Guardsman earned both badges in the same year - Master Sgt. Greg Blackstock, intelligence operations specialist, 175th Intelligence Squadron. Blackstock was awarded both badges in 2000.

Jones, an electronic warfare pod technician, 175th Maintenance Squadron, and Blackstock previously worked together in the electronic warfare systems shop of the 135th Maintenance Squadron. Blackstock told Jones about the opportunity to compete with the base marksmanship team as a new shooter.

"I told the base marksmanship coordinator (Blackstock) that I was good and quickly found out that I was not. Master Sgt. Blackstock mentored me and guided my growth in multiple shooting disciplines," said Jones.

"You find things during the day to practice fundamental skills," said Blackstock. "I provided him the opportunity and tools for him to excel."



Jones applied that knowledge. “I find ways during my daily activities to practice fundamentals to hone my skills for competition. I have a sticky note on my wall (as an aim point) in the living room to practice dry firing in my home.”

In addition to Blackstock’s mentoring, Jones credits his success to, “consistently being challenged. When you consistently train and compete against people who are better than you, you have to get better.”

He learned from those who were better. “I asked all the guys that were better than me about things I had difficulty with. I couldn’t mentally calm myself down,” he said. “It is all about mental discipline. The shooting stuff is 90 percent mental and 10 percent physical.”

According to the Civilian Marksmanship Program, the Distinguished Badges are awarded to a member of the Armed Forces or to a civilian in recognition of an excellent degree of achievement with the service rifle or pistol.

“I earned points in four pistol matches and five rifle matches over a period of three years,” Jones said. “I never thought about the points. If you think about what you are trying to win you are not going to do well in the competition.”

The badges are issued to Airmen, active, reserve and Guard, who have received a total of 30 points in excellence-in-competition rifle matches shot over a three-year period. The current total number of USAF Distinguished Rifleman Badges is less than 350, and less than 415 Airmen have earned USAF Distinguished Pistol Badges since the inception of the program.

The match has to be formatted in a certain way by the civilian marksmanship program. That way it is standardized because it is available to all branches of the military and civilians.

In the fall of 2013, Jones earned the points for pistol badge at combat nationals at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, and for the rifle badge at a regional match at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

“There are a good number of people that have gotten either pistol or rifle badges. When you go into the people that have both, the number decreases. That number decreases even further for someone who has won both badges in the same year,” Jones said.

Jones’ skills have translated into two other distinctions: the President’s Hundred and the All Guard Team.

The President’s Hundred is a tab worn on the Airman Combat Uniform and a badge on the service dress uniform for ranking in the top 100 shooters at the annual national match at Camp Perry, Ohio.

The All Guard Team is National Guard members, both Army and Air Force, who compete and also teach others to improve their shooting skills. “In September of 2012 I was invited

to try out for the All Guard Team.” When Jones is not shooting in matches, he helps coach Airmen and Soldiers. “You give a new Airman or Soldier training that would cost an astronomical amount of money in the civilian world,” said Jones.

He also volunteers to teach civilian shooters. One example was when he was finishing technical school in Texas this year. He received permission to go to a local match near Sheppard Air Force Base, and he coached a youth team. “We have the uniform on and (we project an) authoritative figure. The kids listen. It is an awesome way to give back to the community.”

Jones has come full circle from his beginning in shooting to where he is now as a decorated competition shooter who gets real joy out of mentoring shooting enthusiasts. “It is not about me winning. The better feeling is taking a novice and coaching them,” said Jones. “I take the skills I have learned and give it back.”





Story and Photographs by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Schepers
175th Wing Public Affairs

Planning

Late in August nearly 150 personnel and 10 A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft from the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, Baltimore, Maryland, returned home from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. The aircraft and personnel were there taking part in Exercise RED FLAG – Alaska 14-3, a simulated environment for aircrews to conduct air combat training. The primary objective of this exercise was full-spectrum, realistic, joint and international integrated aerial combat training.

The wing's participation in this exercise, the first time in 15 years, was the largest deployment the wing has supported since Operation Enduring Freedom in 2012. Led by Lt. Col. John Dyer, wing project officer, members from the 175th Operations Group, 175th Maintenance Group, 104th Fighter Squadron and 175th Logistics Readiness Squadron came together to ensure that all aircraft and personnel deployed safely and effectively to Eielson Air Force Base.

"It was a massive exercise, so you rely on different squadrons and individual talents to get everyone there and back. When confronted with a challenge of this magnitude, it was impressive to see our people rise to the occasion," said Capt. Steven Montalvo, A-10 pilot assigned to the 104th Fighter Squadron and assistant project officer.

"From planning to deployment to execution to redeployment, all organizations came together to function efficiently and effectively," explained Montalvo.

The 175th Logistics Readiness Squadron successfully developed, processed and launched three groups of nearly 150 personnel and approximately 43 tons of cargo in two days. "We were very fortunate to be able to rely on the experience of Senior Master Sgt. Dave Liberto and Master Sgt. Brandon Mooney, two of the best logistics planners in the Air Force," said Montalvo.

Execution

While testing their skills in Alaska, the pilots of the 104th Fighter Squadron were challenged in a way that they are not afforded while at home station.

The wing trained with nearly every asset the Air Force has to offer and performed detailed integration of more than 50 aircraft massing fires against the enemy with a 12 hour mission planning period the day prior where the pilots devised a plan to execute. More than anything the pilots were given the opportunity to see the way the Air Force fights a war.

"RED FLAG is designed to offer exposure to what the first 10 days of a major war would look like. We don't get that here on our local sorties,"

explained Montalvo.

The main push for RED FLAG was to capitalize on the different capabilities that the Air Force, Navy, Army and the Marine Corps can bring to the table.

During mission planning the pilots received detailed integration and the plan of how they were going to go in and take everyone's specialty, their tactics and what their aircraft is made to do, capitalize on the strengths and cover down on the weaknesses. They would then layer it together and send forces forward and maximize survivability while taking down the enemies air defenses and targets deemed priority one by the commander. They were able to capitalize on different capabilities of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Throughout the entirety of the exercise, the 175th Operations Group flew 201 sorties including opposed interdiction missions, high threat Close Air Support missions, Forward Air Controller – Airborne missions and opposed Combat Search and Rescue missions. In total, the 175th Operations Group flew over 537 hours.

The 175th Maintenance Group launched over 99 percent of their scheduled RED FLAG sorties, despite limited parts availability, adverse weather conditions and constantly changing live ordnance load plans due to range availability. During the two-week exercise, the maintenance group was responsible for loading nearly 150 bombs and over 11,000 rounds of 30-millimeter ammunition that were expended without incident. These numbers include 100 percent of the allotted exercise munitions and over 75 percent of the wing's annual weapons allocation.

One of the objectives for the 104th Fighter Squadron at RED FLAG was to expose their Forward Air Controllers - Airborne to a high-tempo CAS war with various model design series aircraft and weapon options. The objective of the FAC-A is to be an extension of the Joint Tactical Air Controllers in order to attack targets and to protect friendly forces.

The wing's FAC-A's were able to bring in F-16s, F-18s and other A-10s, control strikes and be the liaison with the ground commander and the fighters.

Debrief

In the end, the 175th Wing Maryland Air National Guard, with nearly 150 personnel and 10 tried and true A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft, were able to effectively train with and utilize the 168,350 sq. kilometer (65,000 sq. mile) Joint Alaska Range Complex to its utmost potential.

During their time at Exercise RED FLAG, Capt. Steven Montalvo earned an aircrew upgrade to mission commander rating as rescue mission commander by executing two dedicated Combat Search and Rescue packages with actual rotary wing recovery vehicles.

The 175th Fighter Wing also had numerous members selected as superior performers for Exercise RED FLAG 14-3. Those individuals came from many different organizations and performed a variety of skill sets that were integral in the success that the wing achieved at RED FLAG. Those individuals were Capt. Steven Montalvo, Tech. Sgt. Nathan Lively, Tech. Sgt. Shawn Sullivan, Tech. Sgt. Mike Myrick, Tech. Sgt. William Chang, Senior Airman Maranda Generette, Senior Airman Ryan Oldewurtel, Senior Airman Robert Hedderick, Senior Airman Michael Dison, Senior Airman Jesse Swain, Airman 1st Class Jester Clemente, Airman 1st Class Duy Do and Airman 1st Class Joseph Fisher.

"The success that the 175th Wing had at RED FLAG is a direct reflection of the work ethic and dedication that our members pride themselves in having when confronting any exercise or real world deployment," explained Lt. Col. Paul Johnson, 175th Operations Group commander. "Being able to participate in an exercise like RED FLAG gives our members invaluable knowledge and training that will benefit them greatly during a real-world, wartime tasking."



Tornado Hits, Guardsman Responds

Story by Tech. Sgt. David Speicher

Photograph by Senior Master Sgt. Ed Bard

A Maryland Air National Guardsman survived a tornado and then went into first responder mode to help others while camping.

Airman 1st Class John McCulloch, a crew chief assigned to the 175th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Warfield Air National Guard Base, was camping with his girlfriend, her family and friends of her family at Cherrystone Family Camping Resort in Cape Charles, Virginia, July 24.

McCulloch heard an alert for severe weather on his cell phone at 8:25 a.m. "I was asleep and looked at (the alert) and didn't think that much of it," he said.

The tornado hit their location about 5 minutes later. "I heard my girlfriend's parents, who were outside the trailer. They came running in and my girlfriend's father held the door shut. They said a storm was coming in. Even though it was 8:30 in the morning, it was dark outside like it was nighttime. I saw a grey wall of water. It was really dark grey," he said. Even though they were in a large camper, the tornado moved it about 10 feet and broke both axels.

Then it started to hail – marble sized up to baseball size which broke the camper's windows. Small tree limbs also pierced the trailer walls.

"I told my girlfriend and her mom to get down and stay away from the windows. The camper is built light and not made to withstand a tornado," he said.

After the tornado passed, McCulloch went to check on his friends. He found their camper rolled on its side by the wind.

A second blast of high winds hit causing him to retreat to his camper. This time McCulloch saw three-foot-wide trees "snapping like toothpicks." When the wind subsided and there was just heavy rain, they figured the tornado had passed and he could venture out to help others.

McCulloch lives in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, where he is a full-time deputy sheriff.

"I went from victim mode to first responder. I went to my vehicle and gathered a small first aid/trauma kit that I keep in there," he said. He also put on his sheriff's badge so he could be identified as emergency personnel.

"Myself and my girlfriend's dad went to our camping buddies'

camper and checked on their injuries," he said. "Once I knew everyone in our group was alright, I heard screams from other parts of the campground."

"I started running to the closest scream I could hear. At that point, a Hispanic family started tugging on my sleeve and pointing to a camp site 50 yards away.

When McCulloch arrived, three family members in a tent were trapped under a large pine tree that had been knocked over by the high winds. The mother and father were deceased, but their son was still struggling to stay alive. "I moved on to their 14-year-old son. He had massive head trauma. He was unconscious. He was still breathing and had a pulse. I tapped his foot and talked to him," he said.

"I went from camper to camper, campsite to campsite doing basic first aid," said Airman First Class McCulloch.

The sheriff department trained him to provide basic first aid care, but not as an emergency medical technician or paramedic. All he could do was stay and reassure him until other medical professionals arrived. Emergency vehicles were delayed entering the campground because trees in the heavily wooded area had fallen and blocked the road.

The boy died several weeks later in a hospital.

For the next three to four hours, he tried to help

as many people he could. "I went from camper to camper, campsite to campsite doing basic first aid." There were about 1,500 campers there that day. He directed the injured to a triage area and the rest to a separate area for accountability.

The next day he met the Governor of Virginia, Terry McAuliffe, who was there to survey the damage. McAuliffe wanted to recognize McCulloch for his actions, but he resisted. McCulloch didn't want recognition.

Instead McAuliffe sent a letter to the Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett, stating how McCulloch helped after the tornado. McCulloch received a letter from each governor showing their appreciation for his heroic efforts.

"Most of the training I utilized was from the sheriff's department," McCulloch said. "The discipline and the ability to keep a cool head were definitely from my military training."



Wing Participates in Base Beautification



Story and Photographs by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Schepers
175th Wing Public Affairs

More than 75 airmen from the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, helped clean up Warfield Air National Guard Base during the annual Base Beautification Day, April 25, 2014.

Base Beautification Day is an annual event that was envisioned by Brig. Gen. Scott Kelly, 175th Wing commander, when he was the 175th Mission Support Group commander to help keep the base as clean as possible to help minimize the wing's negative effect on the environment.

"Our wing is committed to the environment, we consider this base a part of the Middle River community and is as much our community as it is the local residents, and we will take care of it. It pleases me to know that this event continues to this day since its inception when I was the mission support group commander," said Kelly.

The event, organized and led by the 175th Mission Support Group with assistance from the Chief's Council, drew many Airmen out of their work areas to take part in the post-Earth Day event. Participants were given the opportunity to assist in numerous activities aimed at improving the cleanliness and appearance of the base. These activities included mulching gardens, planting flowers and picking up trash.

"I feel that it is our responsibility to give back to the base and the environment in any way we can so to be out here cleaning the base is something that I look forward to doing every year," explained Staff Sgt. Jennifer Wyrick, 175th Comptroller Flight.

This year's Base Beautification Day was a huge success as the participating members were able to re-mulch numerous flower beds and plant a variety of flowers in a number of gardens located around the base. They were also able to collect many bags of trash that otherwise would have polluted the base and surrounding community.

Base Beautification Day comes shortly after a ceremony for the opening of a brand new 175th Wing Headquarters Building which was constructed to meet LEED Silver Certified standards that include multiple energy saving materials and systems to include sustainable green roofs.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Fiscal Year 2014 Expenditures and Economic Impact

Maryland Air Guard salaries and expenditures totaling more than \$81,387,330 million created an estimated 508 off-base jobs within the Baltimore/Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area. The total economic impact of the Maryland Air Guard for Fiscal Year 2014 was more than \$114.5 million.

Because of these expenditures and the jobs they create, the Maryland Air National Guard has a significant economic impact on the City of Baltimore and the surrounding counties, as well as on the state of Maryland as a whole.

Full-time Employee Salaries	\$41,164,764
Guard/Reserve Drill and Training Pay	\$19,243,542
Other Federal Operating Expenses	\$12,486,007
Aviation Fuel	\$8,493,017
Military Construction	0
Total Expenditures	\$81,387,330
Total Cooperative Expenditures	\$4,790,353

Federal/State Breakdown



**Federal
Investment**

\$4,348,234

Total Economic Impact

\$114,534,330

**State
Investment**

\$442,120

DEMOGRAPHICS

Employment Status

Title 32	12%
Federal Technician	23%
Traditional	65%

Gender

Males	79%
Females	21%

Marital Status

Married	54%
Not Married	46%

Rank

Officer	14%
Enlisted	86%

Race

White	67%
Black	21%
Two or more races	7%
Hispanic	1.5%
Asian	2.04%
Unreported	.91
Native Hawaiian	.35%
American Indian	.2%

AIRMAN CARE TEAM

“The mission of the Airman Care Team is to provide a full range of care to any Airman who needs assistance and to their family.”



Susan Starnes
Psychological Health Support
410-918-6558
410-698-7030 Cell



Lt. Col. Christopher Otten
Full-Time Chaplain
410-918-6238
443-271-1173 Cell



Jeanne Benden
Airman and Family Readiness
410-918-6768
443-992-8280 Cell

Supporting the Total Force

Story by 2nd Lt. Benjamin Hughes
Photographs by 2nd Lt. Benjamin Hughes and Master Sgt. Gareth Buckland



Nearly 50 members of the Maryland Air National Guard participated in their annual training at Aviano Air Base, Italy. It was an opportunity for guard members to train side by side with their active duty counterparts at the 31st Fighter Wing and to demonstrate their value as part of the total force.

"The most rewarding part is that the active duty does really appreciate what we bring to the table," said Senior Master Sgt. Miguel Laboy, 175th Logistics Readiness Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge for the annual training mission.

175th Wing members were assigned to 14 different work centers throughout the 31st Fighter Wing showcasing their unique talents and civilian experiences ensuring mission success.

"What the Guard brings to the table is that fresh set of eyes," said Senior Master Sgt. James Wickersham, superintendent of logistics and plans, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron. "Their perspective, their energy really lends assistance to everything we do."

The majority of the training opportunities are not available at Warfield Air National Guard base, like mechanics and drivers working on various vehicles or logisticians learning on specific programs.

"I am learning different facets of my job that I am not able to participate in at our home base," said Staff Sgt. Vonetta McIntire, supply technician, 175th Logistics Readiness Squadron. "It helps me understand what each section is supposed to do and what their responsibilities are and how I play my part to make sure things come together."

The majority of the group was from the 175th Logistics Readiness Squadron but there were also representatives from the wing's judge advocate, public affairs, finance and chaplain's offices. 175th Wing chaplain Lt. Col. Christopher Otten and chaplain's assistant Master Sgt. David Yarborough were able to fulfill the 31st Fighter Wing chaplain's office contingency operations by holding weekday and Sunday services while they were away.

The members of the Maryland Air National Guard also brought many years of experience with them to Italy but they were able to acquire new skills.

Master Sgt. Brandon Mooney, a logistics planner and assistant non-commissioned officer in charge for



the annual training mission said, "I've learned we are limited in resources compared to the active duty but we still get the job done, just in a different fashion."

"I have noticed that Guardsmen, because they are a unit that works together all the time, it seems they work more seamlessly," said Master Sgt. Steven Mounts, first sergeant of the 31st Force Support Squadron.

In addition to training, Aircraft Fuels Operations supported the dispatching and fueling of 96 sorties and Small Air Terminal provided support for 339 new military and family members into Aviano.

After six months of planning, Airmen from the 175th Wing received over 2,000 hours of combined training.



AIRMEN OF THE YEAR



Airman of the Year

Name: Staff Sgt. Evan Jones

Unit: 175th Maintenance Squadron

Job Description: Electronic Warfare Pod System Specialist

Hometown: Chase, Md.

Total Service Years: 5.5

Favorite Movie: *Anchorman*

Favorite Food: Smoked BBQ Brisket

Favorite Sports Team: Baltimore Ravens

Proudest Military Moment: This past summer I was TDY to Camp Perry, Ohio, with the All Guard Marksmanship Team. After coaching juniors (8-18 years) during Small Arms Firing School I was approached by a boy and his father. The prior year I coached the young boy. "Hey, you coached me last year and I remembered everything," the boy said. "I just earned my first Excellence-In Competition points." It was one of those moments that struck a chord deep down.



Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year

Name: Tech. Sgt. Seth Randleman

Unit: Joint Force Headquarters Detachment 1

Job Description: Intelligence Analyst

Hometown: Huntington, Md.

Total Service Years: 13

Favorite Movie: *Mr. Roberts*

Favorite Food: Thai

Favorite Sports Team: Washington Capitals

Proudest Military Moment: Deploying with the 104th Fighter Squadron to Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan, 2012. After that deployment I was thoroughly convinced that the A-10 is the greatest Close Air Support airframe ever produced. Getting to be a part of the history and legacy of such a distinguished unit and airframe was a real honor.



Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year

Name: Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Leavy

Unit: 175th Security Forces Squadron

Job Description: Superintendent

Hometown: Atlantic City, N.J.

Total Service Years: 22

Favorite Movie: *Raising Arizona*

Favorite Food: Cheeseburger

Favorite Sports Team: Baltimore Ravens

Military Career: The lifestyle change for security after 9/11 is the most remarkable. I've always been a security guy and the requirements didn't change immediately, but the mindset for those outside of security was great to see. The Air National Guard changed from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve effecting all AFSC's.



First Sergeant of the Year

Name: Master Sgt. Larry Norman

Unit: 175th Security Forces

Job Description: First Sergeant

Hometown: Abingdon, Md.

Total Service Years: 20

Favorite Movie: *A Christmas Story*

Favorite Food: Seafood

Favorite Sports Team: Baltimore Ravens

Military Career: I joined the Air Force as a fire protection journeyman. I currently serve as first sergeant for "THE DEFENDERS" of the 175th Security Forces Squadron. During my first drill as first sergeant we had multiple members receive Bronze Star Medals, Meritorious Service Medals, Air Force Commendation Medals and Air Force Achievement Medals for combat action in Afghanistan.



A Message From Comand Chief Master Sergeant Michele Vogel

My fellow Airman,

It is truly a privilege for me to replace Chief Harold Stewart as your next 175th Wing Command Chief. I am honored to follow in the path of those senior enlisted leaders before me who selflessly served and paved the way for our enlisted force. I am thankful for the opportunity to represent each of you and lead alongside Brig. Gen. Scott Kelly, as a member of the Wing command team.

Serving as your command chief is humbling, and I take this responsibility as a personal challenge to ensure I represent not only the 175th Wing, but also the Air National Guard and the U.S. Air Force as a strong and competent leader. I am truly excited about our collective futures and for the opportunities to serve both you and your families. It is my honor to be your voice, and I assure you I take this responsibility seriously. I will do everything in my power to advocate on your behalf and uphold our core values of integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do.

Throughout my tenure, I will focus on the deliberate development of our enlisted force, leverage our diversity, and strengthen unit cohesion through teambuilding. It's my commitment to encourage all Airmen, military and civilian to strive past your comfort levels to reach and then exceed your personal and professional goals. I will assist by providing each of you the information you need to reach your greatest potential by guiding you through proven methods to develop personally and professionally to meet the needs of the Air National Guard, our state and nation.

You have my utmost respect, admiration and support, and I am thankful for your dedication and service to this state and our nation.



“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.”
-Vincent Lombardi



175th Wing Unveils New Headquarters Building



The Maryland Air National Guard held a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new 175th Wing Headquarters Building, March 8, 2014, at Warfield Air National Guard Base. The new \$14 million, 33,700 square foot facility was completed in early 2014.

“The 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, has critical function for the security of our country and to those of us in Maryland. They need to have adequate facilities,” said U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin from Maryland. “We show our support by making the facilities that they need.”

The building will be the new home of wing leadership, the 175th Mission Support Group, 175th Medical Group and other wing support functions. Some of the Airmen are moving from a 1960s era Operations and Training Building.

“It gives us operable space that we have needed for quite a few years,” said Brig. Gen. Scott Kelly, 175th Wing Base commander.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, hosted the ceremony attended by military members and political representation from the federal, state and local levels.

“Any kind of new development or new improvements that happen on the base shows that you are vested here in this area,” Baltimore County Councilwoman Cathy Bevins said.



The facility was built to achieve LEED Silver Certified standards including multiple energy saving materials and systems to include sustainable green roofs.

This new building improves space allocations, has state of the art environmental control systems and meets all force protection requirements, creating a modern, functional and eco-friendly work environment.

Guardsman Fights Fires and Stereotypes

Story by Tech. Sgt. David Speicher
Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ed Bard

In the firefighting profession, fear is not an option, and the challenges can be big.

Senior Airman Sheila M. Fuentes, a full-time firefighter here at Warfield Air National Guard Base, put the fear of leaving her unit and home in Puerto Rico behind her to pursue the challenge of a career in Maryland.

She left Puerto Rico and joined the Maryland Air National Guard last year. Then in March, she landed a full-time firefighter position with the base firefighting department. "I took my chances and I came over here," she said.

It would have been difficult for her to become a full-time firefighter in Puerto Rico. "Career fire fighter positions are hard there, you had to know somebody – very political," she said.

She served with 12 members of the 175th Wing she met while serving with the Puerto Rico Air National Guard while deployed to Bahrain in 2012. During that six-month deployment, she worked well with them. "I got to see how good they were as a fire department."

From the start of her Air Force career in 2010, Fuentes wanted a challenge.

"I told the recruiter I wanted a physically active job. Being a fire fighter is a hard job, which sometimes you have to grow into it. After graduating firefighting school, I fell in love with the job," she said.

"It is not all about fighting fire. It's more than about that. We have the medical side. It is about helping the community. It's about making sure people are going to be safe by preventing situations," said Fuentes.

"I am a woman who likes challenges. There are a few women out there, but for the most part, it's a guy's career and it feels good to know that I can do the job." She is the only current female in the fire department.

As a woman, she had concerns about a male-dominated career.

"In this department I have never had a problem. The guys are very supportive. They treat me as I am one of them. I have never had a sexist attitude from them," said Fuentes. "This is a really good department for a female fire fighter. My supervisor always makes sure that I am okay."

She did have concerns about coming here. "It is scary coming to new unit. It was a big change coming from an island to the mainland. There is a different culture here. I knew I would be the only female fire fighter here. It was very scary," she said.

"It took me a couple of drill weekends (to adjust). The fire fighters made it really easy for me. They would make sure I was okay. If I had any concerns, I was more than welcome to talk to management. They knew my concerns about being the only female. They had a zero tolerance (for harassment). The six months I served with 12 of them in Bahrain made it easier because I knew them," said Fuentes.

Fuentes remarked on the difference between where she was born and here. "Puerto Rico is very social, everybody knows your business. It is more peaceful living here and a lot to do. One day I can be on the beach and the next day be out in the rural country. There is a lot of history around here."

Fuentes' near-term plan is to finish her Community College of the Air Force degree. She sees herself staying in the Guard 20-plus years and earning a leadership position. "You always have to go for something better."

Most of the calls she has been on have been about vehicle accidents outside the gate and medical calls. She is enthusiastic about knowing how to deal with a potential airplane crash. "I like dealing with planes. I make sure I know about the planes. That's what this department is here for; it's about taking care of the planes on the ramp," she said.

Although there is nothing she doesn't like about the job, she states it is a sacrifice being here for 24 hours in a row, when most people go home after 5 p.m.

That time together does create bonds. "In my shift we all are like a family. We like having a good time and we take care of each other."





Senior Airman
DAVID ANDERSON

94% GRADE ON LAST
BIOLOGY EXAM

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GUARD EACH MONTH

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WITH GIRLFRIEND

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