AirScoop

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104th Fighter Wing promotes David 'Moon' Halasi-Kun to Brigadier General

Story by Jerry Hewitt

Photos by A1C Ellen Steien

BARNES AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Westfield, Mass. — The 104th Fighter Wing held a promotion ceremony for Brigadier General David 'Moon' Halasi-Kun, the assistant Adjutant General of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, at Barnes Air National Guard Base, October 6, 2026.

Maj. Gen. Gary W. Keefe, The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard, acted as the presiding officer over the ceremony, and expressed confidence that Brigadier General Halasi-Kun will excel in his new role and become a champion for fostering growth at the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

"This promotion recognizes not only Brigadier General Halasi-Kun's accomplishments, but also the responsibility he now assumes on behalf of our Airmen, families, and communities," said Maj. Gen. Keefe. I am confident he will bring the operational perspective, candor, and determination necessary to advocate for the Massachusetts Air National Guard at every level."

Holding the promotion ceremony at Barnes with the F-35A Lightning II as the backdrop served as the perfect full-circle moment for Brig. Gen. Halasi-Kun. Acting as the 104th Fighter Wing Commander from 2022-2025, Halasi-Kun played an instrumental role in having the wing selected to receive the world's most advanced fighter aircraft in the F-35, cementing the wing's future to maintain its critical role in providing defense for over one-quarter of the Nation's population, and one-third of our Nation's GDP. Now serving as the assistant Adjutant General of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Halasi-Kun has demonstrated an extensive history of accomplishing critical tasks to advance both the mission and the security of the United States.

Following the Secretary of the Air Force signing the official Record of Decision on December 20, 2024, David Halasi-Kun spoke on the significance of Barnes Air National Guard Base receiving the F-35, and its impact it would serve with the Massachusetts Air National Guard, and the country as a whole.





"This new aircraft ensures the critical defense of the airspace of New England and New York and the protection of 40 million Americans beneath that blanket of freedom," said Halasi-Kun. "None of this is possible without the support from our local communities and our elected officials. Local, state, and federal representatives were instrumental in this decision-making process, and their efforts ensured the future of this fighter wing for generations to come."

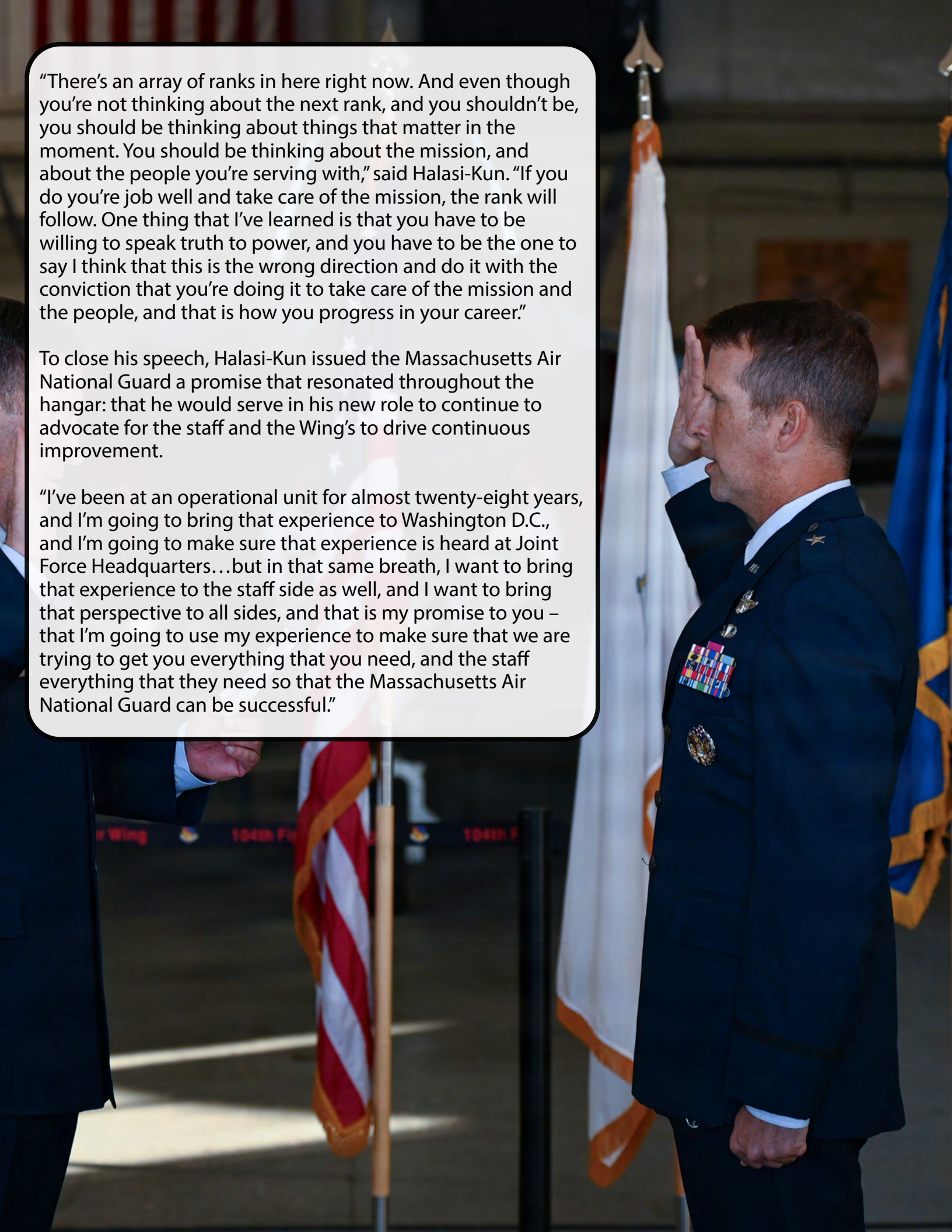
Graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1998, Brig. Gen. Halasi-Kun joined the Air National Guard in 2008 after ten years in active duty and has accumulated over 3,200 flight hours in the F-15 Eagle and other aircraft. During his military service, Brig. Gen. Halasi-Kun has been recognized with some of the military's highest honors, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, and the Aerial Achievement Medal.

After taking his final flight in the F-15C Eagle with the 104th Fighter Wing on September 30, 2025, Halasi-Kun then relinquished the role of 104th Fighter Wing Commander to Colonel Michael 'Shot' Glass during a change of command ceremony held at the wing on December 6, 2025. During Halasi-Kun's promotion ceremony, Col. Michael Glass emphasized the impact that Brig. Gen. Halasi-Kun has had on his own military career as well as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"It is a tremendous honor to witness General Halasi-Kun's well-deserved promotion to Brigadier General today," said Glass. "Having served as a mentor to me throughout my career at Barnes, I have seen firsthand the dedication, strategic vision, and leadership that he brings to every mission. I am absolutely thrilled that this ceremony is taking place here at the 104thFighter Wing, where he played an instrumental role in securing our F-35 program as the prior Wing Commander."

However, despite all of Brig. Gen. Halasi-Kun's decorations and accomplishments, he remained humble during his promotion speech, and stated that he would not be where he is without the unwavering love and support he receives from his family.

Additionally, Halasi-Kun provided key words of advice to lower-ranking Airmen while reflecting on what it truly means to now wear the star insignia as a General.



"There's an array of ranks in here right now. And even though you're not thinking about the next rank, and you shouldn't be, you should be thinking about things that matter in the moment. You should be thinking about the mission, and about the people you're serving with," said Halasi-Kun. "If you do you're job well and take care of the mission, the rank will follow. One thing that I've learned is that you have to be willing to speak truth to power, and you have to be the one to say I think that this is the wrong direction and do it with the conviction that you're doing it to take care of the mission and the people, and that is how you progress in your career."

To close his speech, Halasi-Kun issued the Massachusetts Air National Guard a promise that resonated throughout the hangar: that he would serve in his new role to continue to advocate for the staff and the Wing's to drive continuous improvement.

"I've been at an operational unit for almost twenty-eight years, and I'm going to bring that experience to Washington D.C., and I'm going to make sure that experience is heard at Joint Force Headquarters…but in that same breath, I want to bring that experience to the staff side as well, and I want to bring that perspective to all sides, and that is my promise to you – that I'm going to use my experience to make sure that we are trying to get you everything that you need, and the staff everything that they need so that the Massachusetts Air National Guard can be successful."

HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS



Lt Col. Kiepke Retires



Chief MSgt. Sutherland Promotion



Annual MX Retirements

HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS



Kenyan Partnership



Annual Norwegian Foot March



MASS Task Force visits

BARNESTORMER COMMUNITY



Westfield Chamber Breakfast



UHart, Pratt &Whitney, AL 80 Tours



WNEU & Spirit of Springfield Visit

BARNESTORMER COMMUNITY



Army, ANG Showcase Military Skills to Employers



Annual Trunk or Treat



Fire Departments Team Up for Training

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

A REGULAR COLUMN BY KINDA-HISTORIAN MELANIE J. CASINEAU

Where did the Nickname come from?

Alumni, I need your help!

I came across an ad in the November 1980 issue of the AirScoop, Volume 32, Number 8, page 3. An entire page dedicated to this request in ad form. Not something you would normally see, but there it was. Here is how it read.

Baby Needs A New Name

The 104th is looking for a descriptive name for the unit. The name must be suitable for use on the A-10, fuselage, letterhead, etc.

An example of descriptive names of other units are "The Boys from Syracuse", "The Happy Hooligans", and "The Maniacs".

Now here is the fun part. The NCO Advisory Council has come up with a $50 savings bond which they will award as the prize for the winning name or design.

Rules
Entries should be in good taste and appropriate for general usage. No obscene or improper logos will be considered.
2. Entries must be timeless. This logo will be used for many years to come so make it as applicable as possible.

All entries are to be deposited in the Grouch Pouches located throughout the base. Deadline for the submissions is December 31, 1980.
The commander and council will judge all entries and reserves the right to reject any or all entries submitted. The decision of the judges will be final.

When asking around Dick Platt came to someones mind who was here during those years. Platt arrived on base in July 1980. Someone else thought it was an enlisted member.

When asking Google, I was told that the specific individual that coined or officially decided on the "Barnestormers" nickname is not recorded as a single person in official military histories. Google goes on to say the name was adopted collectively by the founding members and pilots of the 131st Fighter Squadron.

Google continued to say "Rather than a formal top-down naming directive from the Air Force or National Guard Bureau, the name originated as an organic, cultural identity chosen by the original Massachusetts Airmen stationed at Barnes."

I do believe the answer is "Barnestormers". The land for the airport was donated by a man named Vincent Barnes, the secured space for the unit was at Barnes Airport in January 1947 and Fifty years ago our hockey team was named the "Barnestormers".

The question I need your help with is who's entree won and where was the answer? I searched through years of AirScoops and there was never another mention of it. It would also be interesting to see what other suggestions were submitted.

I am still looking for the answer and would love some help. (Also, can someone explain what "Grouch Pouches"are?)

- *Melanie J. Casineau*


★ 104TH FIGHTER WING ★
BARNES AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE
Save the Date!
Merry and Bright
★ FAMILY EVENT ★
December 5
Join us for a holiday celebration with the 104th Fighter Wing!
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:
Watch the F-35 Launch
Pictures in Front of the F-35 with Santa
Holiday Activities
Gifts from Santa and More!
Let's make the season merry and bright, together!


LAST CALL
Time Capsule Item's Due November 17
ACCEPTABLE ITEMS
• Patches
• Coins
• Pictures
• Stickers
• Other small items
Bring items to Public Affairs Building 29
Questions? Call ext. 1299


104th FIGHTER WING
2026
TREES FOR SOLDIERS
OPERATION SERVICE
SAYING THANK YOU, ONE TREE AT A TIME
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28TH 2026
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
BUILDING 3
815 SOUTHAMPTON RD
WESTFIELD, MA 01085
SCAN TO REGISTER
YOUR DONATION HELPS PROVIDE:
FREE CHRISTMAS TREES FOR VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS & MILITARY FAMILIES
SUPPORTS MILITARY FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON
SHOWS OUR GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO SERVE
MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY
Thank You
FOR YOUR SERVICE
Questions? Contact Lisa Potito
Lisa.Potito@us.af.mil


ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET 2027
104th FIGHTER WING
It's an Evening of Celebration!
Saturday, January 9th
5-10pm
NEW ENGLAND AIR MUSEUM
36 Perimeter Rd. Windsor Locks, CT
Semi-Formal Attire
Ticket Sales Start November 5th
Scan this QR Code to order your tickets NOW!
Deadline for ticket sales is Dec29th, 2026



—Mission Statement—

Forge combat-ready Airmen prepared to defend our Nation and employ lethal F-35 airpower

—Vision Statement—

To be America's premier combat wing - projecting decisive, unrelenting airpower across the spectrum of joint warfare

—Wing Priorities—

| Develop elite Airmen | Optimize readiness and lethality |

| Strengthen partnerships | Drive continuous improvement |



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