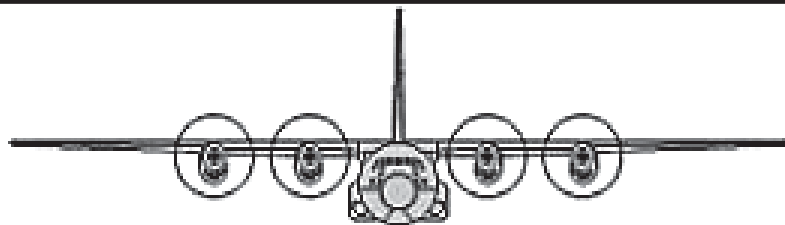


The 914th Airlift Wing

**NIAGARA**

# FRONTIERSMAN



OCTOBER 2008

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

VOL 45, NO 9

## Home At Last!



Story and photos on page 4

# Commanders Column

By Col. Mark Murphy  
914th Wing Vice Commander

What have you done today to make the United States of America a stronger and a safer place for your family, friends and neighbors to live? That is the question you should ask yourself each time you drive out the gate of our base after a hard day of work.

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a rodeo at the New Mexico State Fair. Prior to the start of the event, a parade of horses wound its way around the arena. On the last horse to enter the arena, the rider was holding an enormous American flag. As the rider passed a section of the crowd, that section stood up, took off their hats and held them over their heart. Men, women, children, old and young alike. It was like watching the "wave" as the rider slowly made his way around the arena. By the time the rider came to a stop at the center of the arena, the entire arena was on its feet.

Then the Honor Guard of the New Mexico National Guard marched in with another flag. You could hear a pin drop in the arena. I never quite saw anything like this before. After the playing of our national anthem (which everyone also sang), the announcer asked the crowd to show their appreciation for the men and women in uniform. The ovation was louder for them than any rider that night.

This event showed two things. First, patriotism is alive and well in the United States and there is deep love for our country and the values our country was founded upon.

Second, there is a deep respect amongst our friends and neighbors for our military and the job we do. They count on us to protect them, their families and our way of life. They depend on us to be ready and willing to risk everything to defend them. Keep that in mind when you come to train and prepare for the time you will be called to defend our great nation. Don't be distracted by petty differences or minor inconveniences during your time here. Strive to learn our "family business" and use your time at the base to practice what you learn. Many people depend on you to be the best and to be ready.

In order for us to be successful we must be *safe*. That means taking accomplishing tasks using the correct technical orders, checklists and procedures. Take your time.



Col. Mark Murphy

Make certain you and your team are wearing the proper protective equipment and know how to use it. Stop something from happening before someone gets hurt or our equipment gets wrecked. Our people are too valuable to have them out of the game hurt. We need our equipment to train and go to war. We can't easily replace either.

Take *responsibility* for your training. Don't wait to be invited to attend a class. Don't wait to have your ART call you and tell you are overdue for required training events. You seek out the training. Help them help you and us. Your AFSC specific training is key to our success on the battlefield. Learn it cold. Anything that stops you from deploying such as physicals, or shooting the gun or chemical warfare training must be a priority for you.

Don't forget professional development. The smarter you are the stronger our force is.

You also have a *responsibility* to your family to prepare them for times you are away training or deployed. Spend quality time with your family while home and teach them to care for the household and each other when you are away.

We all have *responsibility* to our employers. Our civilian employers give us the means to support our families. Educate your employer on your responsibilities with the military and educate your supervisors at the base of your responsi-

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**NIAGARA FRONTIERSMAN**

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## 914 AW HOTLINE

Global Address under: Niagara Falls  
IAP AW Hotline

The Hotline will be used for problems, issues, suggestions and or ideas that have a wing-wide impact. All senders will remain anonymous and issues having wing-wide impact will be addressed in Commander's Call or future additions of this paper unless requested otherwise.

## Commanders Column Continued

bilities with your employer. Our Air Force leaders must be cognizant of our civilian responsibilities and give us schedules and training opportunities that limit disruption our civilian careers. As the military converts to lean operations the civilian sector is doing more with less as well. There must be a balance so you are successful in both careers.

The Wing also has a *responsibility* to you to make certain all our training is available to you. Our full time force must realize they are the guardians of the program and have the *responsibility* to make your time here productive and relevant to our common mission. But you can see, this responsibility is shared with you. If you stand by and let your training lapse or decay in quality you have the *responsibility* to step in and fix it.

We have high operations tempos in every squadron at Niagara. We have high

operations tempos in our civilian jobs and families as well. To be successful we must be committed to being *professional*. That means showing up for work on time, in the proper uniform and with an attitude to work and learn. Study what you need to know before attempting a job task and ask questions if you need help. Everyone is a teacher. Learn from each other and strive to do the task right the first time.

For us to be successful everyone in this Wing must be a leader. We can't have followers who stand by and lament "Oh I'm just a lieutenant" as things around them are falling apart. The phrase "not my job" should never be heard on this base. Everything is your job and everyone is your responsibility. Everyone has something to offer regardless of rank, years of service or time in grade. *Leadership* is a state of mind, it is action. Leader-

ship is not reserved for the highest ranking person in your organization but flows throughout the organization. Don't wait for leadership, practice it.

Don't forget your roots. We come from good families, have good educations and are part of the most powerful force the world has ever seen. You represent your families, your neighborhoods, your squadron our Wing and the Air Force Reserve in everything you do. You also represent the United States of America. Don't kid yourself; everyone is watching you with pride as you accomplish your tasks. You are visible in the community in which you live and work. Feed off their pride. Study hard, apply what you learn. Teach everyone around you and make the team stronger. I like them, thank you for your hard work, dedication and service. You make this Wing the best Wing in the world.

## Management Tool Receives Air Force Chief of Staff Award

### Localized from Air Force Reserve Command News Service

A new Management Internal Control Toolset designed to help commanders run their units more effectively earned an Air Force Best Practice award during the 2008 Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award ceremony.

General Norton A. Schwartz, Air Force chief of staff, presented the award to the Air Force Reserve Command Inspector General's MICT team during a ceremony Sept. 16 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington.

Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, congratulated each team member afterwards and presented each of them with a Chief of Air Force Reserve coin. The Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award program recognizes outstanding team performances and shares best practices within the Air Force. It promotes a systematic approach for enhancing mission capability, improving opera-

tional performance and achieving sustained results while maximizing efficiency.

1<sup>st</sup>Lt. Gina Pizziconi-Cupples 914<sup>th</sup> Wing Process Manager was among those who were congratulated by General Stenner.

The Lieutenant also earned and additional award for her participation in setting up the management tool as the Lead Test Wing Facilitator.

"The award itself was a complete surprise," said Pizziconi-Cupples. "Everyone knew that I was going to receive it and they kept it a complete secret from me," Pizziconi-Cupples said with a smile.

After a one-week AFSO21 Rapid Improvement Event, an AFRC integrated process team designed and created the inspection tracking and analysis toolset.

The toolset gives commanders an automated process to report and assess unit compliance effectiveness. It enhances productivity by enabling them to identify and analyze process shortfalls and trends through a time-

and cost-saving inspection analysis system.

The command has been field testing the toolset and is making it available on its ReserveNet Web site for commandwide use starting Oct. 1.

Units will have one year to implement the new system, which replaces the Unit Self-Inspection Tracking System.



1<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Pizziconi-Cupples receives her achievement medal from Air Force Reserve Command Vice Commander Maj. Gen. Allan Poulin (Courtesy Photo)



Members of the 914th Civil Engineering Squadron take a quick break from their workload for a group photo during their six-month deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan (Courtesy Photo)

## Niagara Civil Engineers: Beefing Up Bagram

By Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Andrew Caya

After about a six-month deployment to Afghanistan, members of the 914<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron arrived back home in late September.

The Reservists joined with the 433<sup>rd</sup> CES from Lackland Air Force Base Texas, to form an Operation & Maintenance team.

The CE team worked 10-12 hour shifts a day seven days a week in order to complete their mission of building and renovating facilities for the Army and other forward operating locations.

One big project the civil engineer team finished was the Bagram Theater Internment Facility Family Non-contact Meeting Area, which was featured by the Air Force news in a story. In the facility detainees can meet with their families in a secure area. They will be separated with a wall and a one-inch Plexiglas window however, they

will be able to see and communicate with each other.

This was a high visibility project that has strong humanitarian concerns of the senior leadership in this area of operation, said Senior Master

Sgt. Eric Pressley civil engineering operations superintendent. The project completion date was shortened by 30 days to meet local needs so we had to pull out all of the stops to meet this time line, he added.

We have completed over 37 projects and this team has been a crucial part of that effort," he added.

"We're extremely proud of our Civil Engineers and all of our members of the 914<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing who have answered the call to serve the nation," said Col. Reinhard Schmidt, wing commander. "We also appreciate the continued support from the community and our employers in Western New York".



Master Sgt. Clifford Cornell is all smiles as he steps off a C-130 & is greeted by fellow Airmen (Photo by Master Sgt. Peter Borys)

*"It has been an honor to be part of such a great team."*

**-Senior Master Sgt. Eric Pressley**

Although this group's deployment is complete, the wing continues to have Citizen Airmen serving overseas in various capacities. Since the onset of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, the wing has supported military missions throughout Southwest Asia and the Horn of Africa Theater of operations continuously.

# 914th Aeromedics Support Disaster Relief in the Gulf

By Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Andrew Caya

In the first few days in September, the 914<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron received a call from Air Force Reserve Command asking for a crew to support Homeland Defense with Hurricane relief. The 914th had been proactive and had a voluntary aeromedical evacuation crew set up, ready to be called upon. An AES crew consists of two flight nurses and three medical technicians.

Twenty four hours later the 328th Airlift Squadron supported the mission of giving relief to the disaster victims in the gulf by providing a C-130 to fly the crew and all their AE equipment to Little Rock AFB, Arkansas.

The five-member 914<sup>th</sup> crew included Major Joyce Veshia, Major Paul Seyfried, Staff Sgt. Richard Gage, Senior Airman Rory Burgstahler and Senior Airman Jason Crewson. The crew was on alert status until they were called upon to fly in to Corpus Christi Texas, to assist with the evacuation. They helped evacuate patients from local hospitals and nursing homes, prior to Hurricane Ike's arrival.

"The 914 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron has sent out many unit members to support various operations and this latest one for Hurricane Ike. The young airman that are answering the call



Very Top: A group photo of Maj. Veshia, Maj. Seyfried, SSgt. Gage, SrA Burgstahler and SrA Crewson. Lower left: SrA. Burgstahler sets up stretchers to carry patients in the back of a C-130. Lower right: An Airman sits on alert status in the back of a C-130. (Courtesy Photos)

are very motivated to do the job, I feel confident that they can handle whatever they are asked to do, from the training they receive in the unit prior to any volunteer deployment," said 914<sup>th</sup> AES Commander Lt. Col. Diane DiFrancesco.

The 914 AES AE crew was just one of 10 that were stationed at Little Rock AFB. The Air Force Reserve alongside their Active Duty and Air National Guard counterparts combined efforts to accomplish the mission. "The mission of flying to offer relief to the hurricane victims is gratifying and a

great experience to see how so many different organizations and people can come together for a common goal. I look forward to the opportunity to work with the personnel evolved with Operation Noble Eagle again," said Crewson.

Over 400 Gulf Coast patients were evacuated Sep. 10-12 thanks to Air Force Reserve aeromedical crews as Hurricane Ike slammed into Texas and Louisiana bordering Gulf coast because more than 50 air evacuation flights had carried them to safety, the area's hospital and nursing home patients were able to escape the storm's wrath by traveling through staging areas in Dallas Fort Worth, TX and Oklahoma "I thought that all the Air Crews were motivated and eager to help the victims of Hurricane Ike," said Crewson.

Over a 48 hour period, Active Duty Air Force, Reserve and Air National Guard aeromedical forces provided immediate capability to transport 100 percent of those medical patients identified from movement by Texas and Louisiana state officials.

Before the hurricane made landfall, patients were safely transported under medical supervision to various predetermined medical treatment facilities away from the storm's path. "

On Sept. 15, 2008 the crew returned. "Since Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, this unit has had ongoing volunteer deployments. From 30-120 days some even longer. Our unit is never short on the list of who would volunteer at a moment's notice," said DiFrancesco

# The Chaplains' Corner

## "Celebrating Religious Freedom"



By Chaplain Lt Col Weldon G. Thomas

The Chaplain Corps' mission is to serve as a visible reminder of the Holy. We do this by providing spiritual care and the opportunity for Air Force members and their families to exercise their constitutional right to freedom of religion. This is fundamental to all other freedoms we so richly enjoy as Americans!

Here at the 914<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, your Chaplain Corps staff's focus is to "glorify God, serve airmen and pursue excellence." For some who may be uncertain as to what we do during our training cycle; the chaplains and chaplain assistants' core competencies are to facilitate spiritual care to our Air Force family by providing for your diverse religious needs. How do we fulfill our mission?

**We:**

- " Keep an open door for airmen, retirees, family members and other authorized personnel affiliated with the 914<sup>th</sup> AW.
- " Offer pastoral counsel while being sensitive to the diversity of our Air Force community.
- " Assure all that contacts are privileged and confidential communication.
- " Provide worship experiences during each UTA cycle.
- " Visit your squadron, unit and various offices to ensure that our presence is felt by all; and
- " Provide ongoing advice to the wing leadership on ethical and moral issues that impact us in carrying out our mission when and where possible and as the need may arise.

Ultimately, we want to help lay a foundation of faith for airman to stand upon when called to deploy.

As you can see – all roads for the Air Force Chaplain Corps leads back to helping you to celebrate and exercise your constitutional right to free religious expression. This is with equal respect to those who choose *not* to exercise that right.

We promise to model ethical leadership – for our Air Force and specifically here at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. Don't hesitate to call on us while you faithfully serve train and your country. Our goal as chaplains and chaplain assistants is to honor the words of Ch, Maj Gen, Cecil R. Richardson, Air Force Chief of Chaplains when he stated in the priorities for the Air Force Chaplain Corps to, "...*Let every Airman we visit experience God's presence; [and] let every life we touch be enriched and enveloped by God's love.*" This is a part of our duty and why we are here to help you enjoy your most cherished freedom, that of your freedom of religious expression. Be blessed, be faithful and be vigilant as you serve God and serve your country.



Chaplain, Lt. Col. Weldon G. Thomas

## From the Top



Fellow Airmen,

Last week Acting Secretary Donley and I hosted a strategic summit with leadership from across the Air Force. This meeting was the latest in an on-going dialogue with senior leaders as we chart the way ahead for our great institution.

We are still discussing many long-term issues, but we did reach conclusion on several near-term initiatives. Hopefully you have read about some of the key decisions [http://www.af.mil/news/story\\_print.asp?id=123112691](http://www.af.mil/news/story_print.asp?id=123112691) such as halting the move of maintenance personnel into operations groups and refocusing our uniform efforts to solve current ABU and PT uniform problems.

All of the decisions were made in keeping with our "back to basics" approach, and this principle will continue to guide us in the coming months.

In that same spirit, we refined our mission statement to better reflect what we do for the Nation.

It is simple: "The mission of the United States Air Force is to fly, fight and win...in air, space and cyberspace." My first Vector <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-080903-067.pdf> outlines how Air Force Global Vigilance, Reach and Power capabilities in air, space and cyberspace are foundational to the Joint fight. Articulating what we do—what we bring to the Joint fight and how eager we are to serve—is important for every Airman to know and understand.

We have the best Airmen in the world—performing with Integrity, Service, and Excellence.

Your efforts achieve mission success daily and keep our collective promise to America.

NORTON A. SCHWARTZ  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff

## Around Niagara...

### Niagara Falls ARS Firefighters: Team Players



### 914th Firefighters Join Local Crews in Airport Construction Mishap

Late in September 914<sup>th</sup> Fire Department and Hazardous Material Teams responded to a mutual aid request involving a 500-ton construction crane next to the new airport terminal on the civilian side of the runway. Niagara Falls initially sent 15 Fire Personnel to the scene. The crane was loading concrete counterweights onto a flatbed trailer when the crane started tipping over. Niagara ARS provided aid to the Bergholtz Fire Company. No one was injured. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will be investigating this incident. Above left: A 914<sup>th</sup> Firefighter packs up his gear after the situation was contained. Above right: A local police officer documents the damage. (Photos by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Andrew Caya)

### Niagara to Host Civilian Job Fair



The fair will invite local businesses on base to recruit our members, their spouses and adult children who are looking for civilian work. The fair will be held on Saturday of the January UTA. Everyone attending should have a Résumé available to speak to employers. Employers anticipate conducting some interviews on the spot. For any questions call or write to Col. Mark Murphy [mark.murphy@niagarafalls.af.mil](mailto:mark.murphy@niagarafalls.af.mil) or Command Chief Steven Larwood at [Steven.larwood@niagarafalls.af.mil](mailto:Steven.larwood@niagarafalls.af.mil).



### You've got mail... at Building 216

Official mail can now be picked up or sent out at the new mailroom. Recipients can pick up or send out their official mail at building 216 here, on base. Personal mail must be dropped off at the mailbox located in front of lodging building 300. Any questions contact the mailroom at ext. 2179.

## In Brief

### Benefits for Reservists When Volunteering vs. Being Mobilized: Same or Different?

Since Operation Desert Storm, the Air Force has increasingly relied on Reserve and Guard forces to meet combatant commander requirements. Demand for forces dramatically increased after the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

The range and conditions of benefits — when they apply, when they don't — can be confusing: Does a Reservist get a particular benefit when he or she meets a contingency requirement by volunteering as opposed to being mobilized?

Since benefits for Reservists are always subject to change, Reservists should keep abreast of the latest information available on the Web at <http://www.defenselink.mil/ra>



## Blacks In Government Region II Training Conference

*Sponsor: Region II Council*



*Take advantage of the tremendous workshops & networking opportunity*

All Federal, State & Local Government employees as well as the general public are welcome.

Networking Reception— Friday, October 10, 2008 (6:30pm– 10:00pm)

& Workshops— Saturday, October 11, 2008 (9:00am– 5:00pm)

#### Topics:

- Resume Writing and Interview Techniques
- Project BIG Vote
- Financial Management
- Speak Out Youth Forum
- EEO Case Preparation
- Health & Wellness Awareness for Minorities
- Small Business Administration Minority Programs
- Adversity Management

## October 10-12, 2008

Host: Buffalo-Niagara Regional Chapter

#### CONFERENCE LOCATION

BUFFALO HYATT REGENCY  
Two Fountain Plaza  
Buffalo, New York, USA 14202

There are still a limited number of hotel rooms available. Contact Mike Roach @ 716-870-7056, or [mike2345@roadrunner.com](mailto:mike2345@roadrunner.com) for availability information

#### Registration Fee: \$35

All registrations processed after  
September 19, 2008 have no meals included

Attendees are encouraged to pre-register prior to October 10, 2008. However, on site registration will be available.

For More Information Contact: Mike Roach at [mike2345@roadrunner.com](mailto:mike2345@roadrunner.com) or 716-870-7056 or Lenora Grable-Grant at [Lenora.Grable-Grant@usma.edu](mailto:Lenora.Grable-Grant@usma.edu)

## Spotlight



(Photo by Michael Harvey)

**Name:** Pasquale "Pat" J. Muoio

**Unit:** 914 AW/RS

**Job Title:** Senior Recruiter

**Time in service:** 15 years

**Time at NFARS:** 2 months

**Hometown:** Philadelphia PA

**Favorite Sports:** Football, Hockey  
(Yes, I am a Eagles and Flyers Fan!)

**Hobbies:** Spending time with family  
hunting, fishing

**Favorite TDY:** I would have to say that my TDY to Lackland AFB for the Senior Recruiter Workshop. I enjoyed this because of the interaction with Basic Military Training. We were able to attend a graduation and speak with a few of the trainees going through basic. Great experience to get "re-blued"!