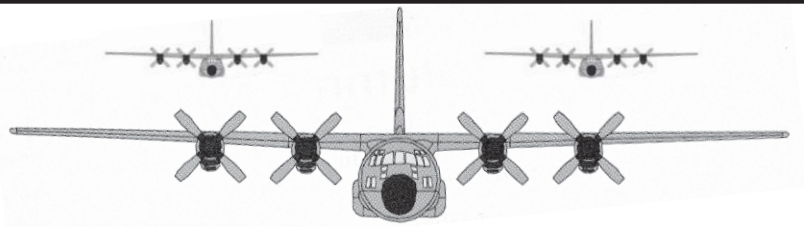


The 914th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA

FRONTIERSMAN



February 2009

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

VOL 46, NO 2

From sand to snow - Niagara welcomes home security forces personnel from Iraq



Photo by Mr. Michael Harvey

Commanders Column

By Lt. Col. Samuel A. Bellia
 Commander, 328th Airlift Squadron

Lessons to be learned

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the base agencies and organizations for their outstanding support. They have been instrumental to the 328th Airlift Squadron in allowing us to successfully accomplish our mission. Like the rest of the wing, 2008 was extremely busy for the 328th. Three separate deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Joint Enterprise and Coronet Oak as well as the association with the 107th Airlift Wing to include difference training from C-130 H3 to H2 aircraft, all have presented significant challenges. I believe we have met these challenges successfully and it is only because of the support we receive throughout the wing. Again, I thank you all.

I would also like to relay an event which highlights some of the issues which the typical reservist now faces. These challenges include the increasingly difficult task of juggling our commitments to family, civilian employers and the Air Force Reserve. It also demonstrates not only how an individual may fail in an endeavor that he is truly committed to, but also how the organization may fail the individual.

Recently, I was a member on a Flight Evaluation Board (FEB). An FEB is normally convened when an aircrew member's conduct or duty performance becomes suspect. In this instance it was alleged that an aircrew member's performance did not meet standards. The board would ultimately determine if the aviator continued to fly or would be permanently grounded.

In this case the individual joined the Air Force Reserve with no prior service, but with a strong desire to serve his country. This desire never wavered. The member's training took approximately two years at great expense to the Air Force. During training this Airman performed in an outstanding manner. He returned to his unit and due to budgetary issues was not afforded the opportunity to utilize a seasoning tour. In addition, after being absent from his civilian job for more than two years he felt a strong loyalty to his employer and returned to work.

As a result, although he met the minimum levels of participation required he was not able to maintain proficiency in his required duties and his job performance suffered. He was counseled and given limited guidance on how to correct this situation. The member was then activated, received additional training, and deployed in support of OIF. During this mobilization in a combat environment the member performed admirably without incident. The member was then demobilized and again returned to his civilian employment.

Again, participation was less than what was desired, but above the minimum level required. Performance again suffered. Steps were taken to assist the troubled Airman, but in the end an FEB would determine the fate of this Air Force Reservist. The reservist who had made great sacrifices both personally and financially to serve his country. The reservist that the government had spent millions of dollars and countless hours to train. The reservist who had not only demonstrated the ability to meet the standards, but excelled and served his country in combat. It is my belief that this unfortunate situation was avoidable.

I believe this situation could have been avoided in the following ways. First, leadership could have ensured the member was aware of the standards, the participation required to meet these standards, and made it clear that the standards were not being met. Once determined that the standards were not being met, additional training could have been made available to the member. Second, the member bears great responsibility in allowing this situation to develop. It is each individual's responsibility to ensure they understand and are meeting the standards. It is the responsibility of each individual to be accountable for their training and progression. This individual realized he was falling behind, but was not proactive in getting assistance that was available.

Finally and most importantly, I believe that the entire organization may have failed in this instance. There were many unit members who could have offered the support and guidance this individual needed to stay on track, but this did not happen. This did not happen out of malice or spite, but it happened. We are all extremely busy and may fail to recognize problems which are right in front of us. This is unacceptable.

It is the responsibility of every member of the 914 AW to ensure not only that you are prepared to accomplish your mission, but those around you are prepared as well. We can not only look out for ourselves, we must stay on guard for one another. You can choose any buzz word or catch phrase you like: mentoring, unrivaled wingmen, etc. (just don't say TQM), but the bottom line is every individual at every level is a teacher, role model, and leader. There are no exceptions. If you find yourself in need of assistance make sure you get it. If you see another individual who needs assistance, give it to them or find someone who can. We must look out for one another.

Again, I thank you for your tremendous dedication and sacrifices, God bless you.



NIAGARA FRONTIERSMAN

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On the cover:

Family and friends greet Senior Airman Shane Williams as he returns home after a six month deployment to Iraq where the temperature upon arrival was 120 degrees. Williams and ten other members of the 914th Security Forces Squadron returned home to WNY in January to below freezing temperatures.

Visit us on the web at
www.niagara.afrc.af.mil

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.

Constantly vigilant, always on guard 914th Office of Special Investigations

By Special Agent Michael Lenig
AFOSI Det. 102 OL-C

So it seems, that there have been a few questions as of late; some notably are “Who’s the new guy?” “Why is he here?” “What does he do?” and my most favorite, not necessarily a question mind you, but yet amusing in its own right...”Shhhh it’s the OSI guy...” Therefore, I thought I would take a moment of your time and answer some of your questions as best I can. This article will be the first installment of many enlightening articles yet to come. So let’s get started, first, my name, Michael Lenig, but you can call me Mike...if you must, or OSI Mike will work. I am a Special Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI). Throughout the past 6 months, I have met with many of you from the 914th AW and the 107th AW. For those of you whom I have yet to meet, bear with me as I make my rounds. I do hope this article will explain what AFOSI is, our mission, and what I am doing here in the Niagara Falls/Western New York (WNY) area. I would like to start with a brief history.

AFOSI was founded August 1, 1948, at the suggestion of Congress in order to consolidate investigative activities in the Air Force. Secretary of the Air Force, W. Stuart Symington (who was in fact the first secretary of the Air Force) created AFOSI and patterned it after the FBI. He appointed Special Agent Joseph Carroll, an assistant to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, as the first AFOSI commander and charged him with providing independent, unbiased and centrally directed investigations of criminal activity in the Air Force.

Prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the majority of Air Force personnel knew little about AFOSI, or for that matter, one of their most critical mission priorities: providing threat information to Air Force commanders. AFOSI reports directly to the Inspector General, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and maintains its headquarters at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. Additionally, AFOSI has been the Air Force’s major investigative service since its inception. AFOSI has roughly 3,115 active-duty, Reserve and civilian personnel. Of this number, 2,063 are federally credentialed special agents, who are drawn from all segments of the total force. There are 312 active-duty officers, 1,264 active-duty enlisted, 739 civilians and 407 reservists.

So what is the OSI mission you ask? Well, our mission is to identify, exploit and neutralize criminal, terrorist and intelligence threats to the U.S. Air Force, Department of Defense and U.S. Government, while providing professional investigative service to commanders of all Air Force activities. AFOSI investigates a



wide variety of serious offenses to include, but not limited to, espionage, terrorism, crimes against property, violence against people, larceny, computer hacking, acquisition fraud, drug use and distribution, military desertion, corruption of the contracting process, and any other illegal activity that undermines the mission of the U.S. Air Force or the Department of Defense.

Now that you have a brief understanding of how AFOSI got started, what our mission is and some basic insight in regards to the investigations we conduct, let me enlighten you as to my purpose here at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. My area of responsibility (AOR) includes all of WNY and runs just East of Batavia. If there is ever an instance where a major crime or fraudulent activity occurs, to which I require assistance, I have the reach-back capability to AFOSI support units and they in turn will send additional agents to assist in the investigation. The primary mission of my detachment, AFOSI Detachment 102/OL-C, is to provide counterintelligence support to force protection for AFRC.

An additional part of my CI mission is to provide base leadership with current threat information. Working closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies we ascertain the existence (or non-existence) of threats directed at our military installations and their respective personnel in the WNY/Niagara area.

In addition to the CI mission, I also support the criminal aspect by conducting federal level investigations. My primary customer is the 914th AW, yet with the association, I also include the 107th AW; although an Air National Guard unit, they still fall within certain investigative purviews and play a key role in combating terrorism, as does the 914th.

I have mission objectives to Col. Schmidt and what he feels are his main command priorities along with AFRCs. With that being said, we have the on-going association with the 107th, as I mentioned earlier, and assist Col. Ginavan and his personnel with their requirements. Lastly, I assist commanders by means of Command Directed Inquiries/Investigations (CDI's). This is where I can provide investigative

assistance and guidance on certain situations that can be and should be handled by the individual’s Commander and not AFOSI.

Everyone knows the world we live in changed dramatically after the attacks. Immediately after the attacks, the flags were waving, patriotism was at an all time high, and certain activities that were once considered “nothing” were now “suspicious”. However, people have shown that they are becoming more complacent as the years pass. Lately, it seems, many people will make up an explanation for the peculiar activity they have witnessed and therefore never report it. This is where I need your support and vigilance. If you observe a person or group of people acting suspiciously in the communities around our base, please let me know.

As a Federal Agent, my investigative authority extends beyond the base fence line or as I call it, “outside the wire”, but I cannot be everywhere all the time and I need your help. Imagine for a moment that you are downtown in Buffalo or at the airport, or maybe you are site seeing at the falls with family, or just simply having lunch. Perhaps you are on the way home from the unit training assembly and you see something suspicious, I want you to remember something: Eagle Eyes!

The Eagle Eyes program is an aggressive Air Force-wide neighborhood watch program that educates people on observable activities and what to do if they see something suspicious and is much like a neighborhood watch program. Eagle Eyes enlists the help of base personnel, whether active duty, reservist, family members, or civilian contractors and the civilian communities surrounding the base to remain vigilant and keep their eyes and ears open to any suspicious activities.

As we continue the association between the 914th and 107th, we have to remember one vital fact...it is not about “this side” or “that side”, “our side” or “their side,” but rather it is about “us” and “our base”. We have to do our utmost to reach the goal, to be a single collective and cohesive element functioning together to accomplish our respective missions. Some of you have already heard me say that I consider this to be a one mission, one fight, one team concept. We should all have one goal, and that is to safeguard this installation, its missions and the great people who serve them both.

To report suspicious or criminal activities, please call me at (716) 236-2283 during normal duty hours or the Niagara Falls ARS Security Forces Law Enforcement Desk at (716) 236-2280. If you would like to report something in person, my office is located in Building 800, Room 124. If for some reason you are unable to make contact with me, the 914th SFS has 24hr contact information.

Base hosts first annual civilian job fair

By Airman 1st Class Andrew Caya

The 914th Airlift Wing hosted its first annual civilian job fair here January 10th in the base gymnasium.

The job fair was an effort to bring local community businesses together with 914th reservists, their spouses and adult children looking for work. In addition, some educational institutions, along with the United States and New York State veterans' affairs offices were present in the event one of the members had questions about continued education opportunities.

"Our goal is to market our troops to the business community. We believe that our people possess the necessary skill sets to be successful in the business world," said Col. Mark Murphy, 914th vice commander.

The job fair was first introduced at a Chief's Group meeting last spring and then again at the base Human Resource Development Council.

The 914th reached out and held meetings with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Niagara Falls Military Affairs Council and other veteran's organizations and groups of influential local business leaders.

The base Human Resource Development Council sent out questionnaires to base personnel to determine what our folks needed.

"With contacts made at our bosses day and civic leaders flights, along with contacts in the business community, we sent out flyers to businesses and made cold calls," said Murphy.

Although a few businesses scheduled did not attend due to economic concerns, a total of 24 businesses did attend.

"The showing was better than expected. Many companies were reluctant to come out on a Saturday," said Murphy. "At first we were hoping for 10 companies, but as we got rolling more asked or agreed to come. That was exciting."

Many people contributed their time and effort to making the job fair a success. However, Col. Murphy singled out 914th maintenance personnel specialist Staff Sgt. Meredythe Putnam for lending much of her time and talents in making the job fair a great event to host.

"I did whatever needed to be done; be it creating flyers, recruiting companies, fielding inquiries, providing directions or compiling contact information," said Putnam.

While recruiting companies to participate in the job fair, Putnam tried to accommodate all Air Force Specialty Codes, encompassing the diverse experience the 914th Airmen who work on base here have, with the companies targeted for participation.

The civilian employers were very impressed with Niagara's Airmen.

"Each company that participated told us afterwards, that the event was well planned and well worth their while," said Murphy. "Each was astounded by the quality of our people; one told me he found three candidates he was calling Monday to offer jobs to," he added.

"I was in a very fortunate position to develop a working rapport with these companies over the past couple of months and their support of our military members, as well as their appreciation for the quality and caliber of candidates they were able to meet with proved to be an invaluable experience for me," said Putnam. "It was a great opportunity to do something that reached so many people, all the while allowing me the opportunity to meet and interact with a broader and more diverse population on the base," she added.

Now that the 914th has established human resource contacts in the local community, Col. Murphy is hoping even more employers will attend to the job fair in coming years.

"I think we can get an even better turnout, especially when others hear what we have to offer," said Murphy. "It was a strong first attempt and I'm grateful to the companies that attended this year," he concluded.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew Caya





Photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew Cayá

HAZMAT training course brings together state and federal agencies

By Tech. Sgt. Kevin Nichols

One team! One Fight!

That motto was never more evident than over the course of two weeks in January when the 914th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve) and 107th Airlift Wing (Air National Guard) firefighters and emergency managers completed a two week Hazardous Materials Response Technician Certification course.

The course consists of seven days of classroom instruction and three days of practical, hands-on training and is held annually here at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

“The Air Force requires all emergency managers and firefighters to be HAZMAT qualified,” said Aaron McLane, 914th civilian fire department HAZMAT captain and hands-on instructor for the course. “This course allows us to train to

respond to county, state, federal emergency response plans,” he added.

Niagara Falls ARS is part of HAZMAT West, a regional program encompassing 13 counties, 2 tribal nations, guard/state and federal agencies.

The class was set up to serve two purposes. First, it provides training and required certification for fire and emergency management personnel in upgrade training and second, it enhances the working relationship between the 914th civilian fire department, 914th reserve fire department, 107th guard fire department and the 914th reserve emergency management flight.

“This course assists in the camaraderie between the 914th, 107th and civilians,” said Master Sgt. Ron Harkins, 107th guard fire department and assistant instructor. “There are really no negatives to this course.”

“Homeland security, the federal emergency management agency, and the current operations tempo of the profession of arms, is solidifying the importance of multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional and multi-function response throughout the emergency response world,” said Tech. Sgt. Chris McArdle, 914th reserve fire department and assistant instructor. “This class is just a small example of the remarkable teamwork ongoing to keep our nation and communities safe,” he added.

“Much credit should be given to the leadership of the 107th and 914th Civil Engineer flights, as well as those leaders and managers of the respective flights for the strong support they displayed to make this training possible and successful,” said McArdle.

African American /Black History Month 2009



*The 914th Airlift Wing
Presents*

“The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas”

*Featuring Guest Speaker
United States Air Force Veteran
Pastor Betty P. Williams
Pastor of Pastoral Care & Academic Dean
Sound of the Genuine Biblical Institute
Elim Christian Fellowship of Buffalo, NY*

When: February 6 & 7, 2009

Where: Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station Base Theater

Time: 11:30am—1:00pm (Both Days)

Cost: Free & Open to the Public

Employment Opportunities

The following are vacancies that we are currently recruiting.

The Webpage for viewing job announcements and applying is located at <https://ww2.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb/> (for current federal AF employees) or www.afrc.af.mil/jobs (for Air Reserve Technician positions). All external applicants have to apply through USA Jobs at www.usajobs.opm.gov. The rules for applying for civil service positions can be complicated or confusing, so if you or someone you know is interested, they should contact the civilian personnel office at 236-2218 or 2205.

For ART positions all external applicants may contact Master Sgt. Bill Hose, ART recruiter, at william.hose@westover.af.mil or by phone at 413-557-2943 (DSN 589).

WING:

Drug Demand Reduction Specialist, GS-301-09.

OPERATIONS:

Aircraft Loadmaster (Instructor) (ART), GS-2185-09.

MISSION SUPPORT:

Firefighter , GS-0081-06/07 (several positions);
 Training Technician, GS-1702-05;
 Automotive Equipment Dispatcher, GS-2151-05;
 Recreation Assistant, GS-0189-04;
 Facilities Services Asst., GS-1603-07;
 Human Resources Specialist (ART), YA-201-02;
 Logistics Management Specialist (ART), YA-346-02;
 Supv HR Specialist (ART Officer), YC-201-02;

MAINTENANCE:

Aircraft Mechanic (ART), WG-8852-10;
 Aircraft Engine Mechanic Supv (ART), WS-8602-09;
 Aircraft Work Inspector (ART), WG-8852-11;
 Production Controller (Aircraft) (ART), GS-1152-9.

Newcomers

Senior Airman Howard Clemens, 30 APS
 Airman 1st Class Justin Fill, 914 ASTS
 Lt. Col. Ruth Kanaley, 914 ASTS
 Staff Sgt. Kaitlynn Livingston, 914 ASTS
 Staff Sgt. Jonathan Miller, 914 SFS
 Airman 1st Class Donavan Porcha, 914 LRS
 Lt. Col. Joseph Potts, 328 AS
 Staff. Sgt. Robert Smith, 914 SFS
 Tech Sgt. Randy Snider, 914 ASTS
 Airman 1st Class Brandon Sullivan, 914 MXS
 Senior Airman Jason Tonaus, 914 SFS
 Tech Sgt. Garnet Wood, 914 CS
 Airman Anthony Zapata, 914 SFS

Farewell

Chief Master Sgt. Gene Newman, 914 SFS

Promotions



Master Sergeant

Kenneth Scholz

Technical Sergeant

Rachel Brill
 Jonathan Ferland
 Chelsea Raymond
 James Salyer



Staff Sergeant

Bradley Brooks
 Erin Peck
 Joshua Puit
 Tiffany Seager
 Matthew Shea



Senior Airman

Britni Mason
 Scott Ordway



Airman 1st Class

Marie York



Airman

Lasharice Werts
 Daniel Rizzo
 Anthony Zapata



In brief:

Military secretaries stay on, help ensure smooth transition

Each U.S. military service secretary has agreed to stay in office for at least several weeks to help ensure the Defense Department's smooth transition under the new administration. Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley has not announced a timeline for his stay, but Air Force officials confirmed his willingness to continue serving in his position until a successor is named and confirmed by the Senate.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123132563>.

Obama directs military to plan 'responsible' Iraq drawdown

President Barack Obama directed key defense and military officials to come up with plans for "a responsible military drawdown in Iraq." The president said he plans to meet with the Joint Chiefs of Staff to discuss operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the broader Middle East.

"In the coming days and weeks, I will also visit the (Defense Department) to consult with the Joint Chiefs on these issues, and we will undertake a full review of the situation in Afghanistan in order to develop a comprehensive policy for the entire region," he said.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123132300>.

Administration sets agenda for veteran care

President Barack Obama has promised to deliver the care and benefits the nation's military veterans deserve while transforming the Department of Veterans Affairs into a 21st century organization. Plans include reversing the 2003 ban on enrolling modest-income veterans into the VA system; continuing to fight to end employment discrimination for guardsmen and reservists; and improving the transitioning process from active-duty to civilian life.

To improve the benefit decision system, the administration will look at hiring additional claims workers with an improved accountability and training criteria. Officials will also explore ways to improve mental health studies, polytrauma care, prosthetics development, spinal cord injury treatment and women's health.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123132299>.

Spirituality of time: “Hurry up and wait” (Chaplains corner)

By Capt. “Father Jim” Bastian

Recently, I had some “additional time” of reflection that was unexpected. I was driving to my parents’ home in Ashland, Kentucky. I checked the weather report ahead of time and it seemed like a smooth ride. You might say “smooth as ice.”

Turns out, just south of Columbus, Ohio, on Route 23, I and every other holiday traveler came to an unexpected halt due to thick black ice on the roads. After a few spin-outs we all had to wait for the salt trucks (in this case, a sand truck, they ran out of salt).

”Hurry up, and wait!” It is a phrase in the military that I’ve come to learn we all laugh about. I guess when I’m on Uncle Sam’s clock, it is worth a chuckle.

But when it is “my” time, I can tell you I was not a happy camper. So after skating around my truck and down the center yellow line for a while, I decided to try to be productive.

In the next two hours, while waiting, I think I solved several problems in the world. I reflected on patience and prayed for understanding.

First I started with a little prayer. I asked God to make my time productive while I waited. So I turned off the radio and CD player in order to focus. Then I read a little to prepare my mind. I carry a Bible in my truck and decided to finish a few chapters from the Book of Job that I’ve been studying with my students at St. Joe’s.

I read about a man that had everything taken from him, yet he never cursed or said anything disrespectful of God. He stayed faithful. The phrase “The patience of Job,” is from the lengthy middle chapters in which Job defends God and his own reputation. Job 2 states “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” I then considered patience, or the lack of it in the world, and prayed for understanding.

Isaiah, the prophet in chapter 11, invites the world to consider gifts from

God. “The spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord.”

It costs nothing but the “time” it takes to ask for these gifts of the Holy Spirit. Believe it or not, more ice south of Portsmouth, Ohio and another two hour wait. I could almost taste my destination. I thought of the sand we poured in the grog-bowl at our combat dining-in symbolizing our battles and conflicts in the world. I prayed that the “Sandman” might come soon.

I then reflected on an old Native American saying “If you want to understand your enemy, walk a mile in his moccasins.” Reflection — If you still don’t like him, at least you are a mile away, and you have his shoes.

So my trip that was supposed to be 9 hours turned to 15 and the down time seemed immobilizing. In reflection, not really, it was a time out from God. I hope I used it well. And I made it home “just-in-time” for the holidays.

Niagara Frontiersman



Photo by Mr. Michael Harvey

The Niagara Frontiersman is printed for unit members like Master Sgt. Robert Morse, 914th Security Forces Squadron. Morse is pictured departing a unit C-130 after returning from a six month deployment to Iraq. He is welcomed home by wing commander Col. Reinhard Schmidt and Col. Terry Lawrence, 914th Operations Group commander.

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AFRC Hotline: (800) 223-1784

“The spirit of truth and the spirit of freedom - they are the pillars of society.”

- Henrik Ibsen