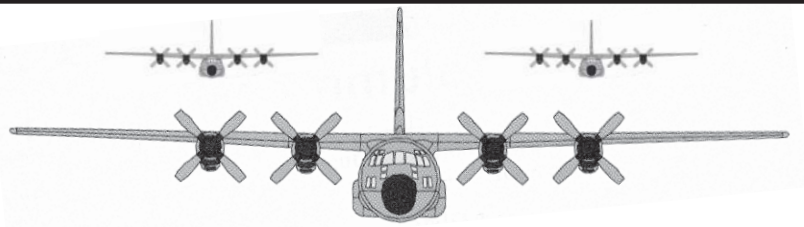


The 914th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA

FRONTIERSMAN



NOVEMBER 2009

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

VOL 46, NO 10



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph McKee

Niagara cuts ribbon on new lodging facility

The Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station officially opened a new \$16 million Airman's lodging facility here October 9, 2009. Pictured cutting the ceremonial ribbon are (left to right) Col. Timothy Vaughan, 107th Mission Support Group commander; Congressman Christopher Lee, NY 26th District; Col. Allan Swartzmiller, 914th Airlift Wing and installation commander; Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, NY 28th District; Col. John Boulé, Commander of U.S. Army Corp of Engineers NY District.

Find your Linda Miller

By Col. Mark Murphy

The Thanksgiving season is here! Thanksgiving is a time for reflection, a time to give thanks for what we have, and what our future holds. One of my family Thanksgiving traditions is everyone at the dinner table gets a chance to say what they are thankful for. This year I am going to say I am thankful for having known and worked with Linda Miller because she taught me lessons on how to live and how to care for my family and my co-workers.

Earlier this month Linda lost a very sudden and devastating battle with cancer. Linda Miller, single mom and a GS-6, worked for many years in the Operations Group taking care of the mundane day to day tasks that need to be done so this wing can function and turn out high quality combat leaders. Linda toiled in obscurity and asked for nothing in return. She was completely selfless and epitomized the Air Force core values of service, excellence and integrity. Look in your squadron; who is your Linda Miller?

Linda's work ethic is one to emulate. Once I took a task from her, giving it to someone else. Linda had accepted an enormous number of jobs that come under the heading of "other duties as assigned" and I wanted to give her a break. She complained bitterly. I had never had anyone complain about having work taken away. Preparing for our most recent Unit Compliance Inspection, Linda helped others in the wing get ready. Because of her, our wing scored high grades in the areas she was involved with. Despite being sick and knowing she was dying, Linda took work home with her so the base did not fall behind - typical Linda. A faithful servant, a loving

mother. Who in your squadron is like this?

We saw Linda at midnight or weekends at her desk, thanklessly toiling away so we could deploy. We saw her on the mobility line, working and saying goodbye to her troops. Linda came to work every day keeping the squadron running even if everyone else was deployed. She didn't need a boss to stand over her to make certain she did her job, she just did it. When we came home from the war, she was the first one we saw, on the line welcoming us back. Later, she sat in the audience applauding when our troops were recognized with medals. There are many people in our wing who do not wear the uniform, yet work very hard and are so very valuable and important to our mission and combined success. Take the time to thank them for their service to our wing and to our nation.

At Niagara we pride ourselves in our work ethic and it sets us apart from others. Linda Miller had that work ethic. She was once described as a "pack mule," meaning someone who you could keep loading with work as she carried our squadron on her back. There are over 1200 people in this wing. We shouldn't have "pack mules" in any squadron. Find your Linda Miller and help them. It will only make us stronger. The best teams are the ones where everyone works together for one common goal.

Work, learn, lead. Every time you leave the base, whether you wear a uniform, are a civilian or a contractor, you should ask yourself this question: What have I done today to make my squadron, the Air Force and our nation stronger? Linda always had an



Photo by Mr. Michael Harvey

Col. Mark Murphy

answer to that question.

May you and your family have a wonderful, safe and joyous Thanksgiving. When you sit at your Thanksgiving table this year, please take the time to remember Linda and keep our men and women deployed in your thoughts and prayers.

Sno Go Procedures

With the winter months upon us, it is important that we once again familiarize ourselves with the procedures for situations that may affect reporting conditions for our members. All members are advised to listen to WBEN 930 AM Radio or watch ABC/CBS/NBC TV affiliates. These stations will be officially informed of reporting instructions for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

Another new method of facilitating communication of this type is the Commander's Straight Talk Line. You can reach this line by dialing 236-2137 and it will contain a message advising callers of any changes in reporting instructions due to weather or emergency conditions.

As always if you have specific questions, or are still unsure of the media instructions or status, contact your supervisor or the Law Enforcement Desk at 236-2280.

THE NIAGARA FRONTIERSMAN

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Courtesy Photo

The 914th Airlift Wing received first place as the top Get One Now program in the Air Force Reserve. This award was presented October 22 in Savannah, Ga during the Air Force Reserve Recruiting Command's field training exercise. Pictured from left to right: Col. Patricia Jarmuz, 914th Aeromedical Staging Squadron commander; Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner Jr., Commander of Air Force Reserve Command; Senior Master Sgt. Pasquale Muoio, 914th Airlift Wing senior recruiter; Col. Joseph Wilburn, Air Force Reserve Recruiting commander; Chief Master Sgt. Dwight Badgett, Air Force Reserve Command Chief Master Sergeant; Chief Master Sgt. Robert Starkey, Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service Manager.

914th takes first place in Get One Now program

By Senior Master Sgt. Pasquale J. Muoio, 914th Airlift Wing senior recruiter

Recruiting wrapped up another successful year, making our annual goal for the 9th consecutive time. This is largely due to Air Force Reserve members that participate in the Get One Now program! The men and women assigned to Niagara Falls ARS led the way with Get One Now accessions and earned the top Get One Now program in the Air Force Reserve Command. The 914th provided a total of 132 potential leads; 54 of these leads ultimately joined which equates to a 41% conversion ratio. This is by far the best lead source the Air Force Reserve has to obtain quality applicants. The Get One Now program enables wing members to help shape the future of the 914th and the Air Force Reserve while helping friends and family members. Thanks for all the leads and please keep them coming!

Rising 6 Stellar Airman In Development

By Senior Airmen Keisha Dobney and Jerome Boykin

Within the last few months the Rising 6 S.A.I.D has become a very active and visible organization. Before there is an exploration of both past and future initiatives of the organization it is important to understand why and where the energy came from to recharge the old Rising Six initiative.

SrA Jerome Boykin had a vision to incorporate a lounge area for Airmen on base. The purpose behind the lounge was to reach out to a more diverse and younger audience than in times past. The café was not only established to reach out to current Airmen, but as well was put in place to commemorate the memory of a fallen one. This young Airman had gone above and beyond with his efforts at the base, and had enjoyed his time here. Upon his transfer to the next duty station, he was not well received and never was able to find a place to fit in. It was soon after the transfer that Niagara Falls had received word that the Airman had taken his life.

With many victims of suicide there are often warning signs or a cry for help. After the duty days are done, how well do you know your wingman; would you notice a change in their behavior? Have you ever asked anyone if they are O.K. or if they need to talk? Is the extent of your relationship 0730 -1630?

SrA Boykin brought his vision for the lounge and activities for Airmen to take part in each month to the Human Resource Development Council. This Council meets once a month and is lead by Col. Murphy. The council embraced the vision and supported and commended Boykin on his initiative.

I, SrA Keisha Dobney, have participated in the HRDC since I joined the base almost three years ago. I have seen many ideas brought to the council and in true fashion no idea leaves the council the way it came. Every vision and thought is revamped and brought to another level always keeping the integrity of the initial goal.

Within the council meeting the Rising Six was mentioned because the goal of the young Airmen seemed similar to

the goals of the already established organization.

Over 850 members make up the ranks E1-E-6. Without a proper voice many of these individuals will leave the base and/or retire from the Air Force. Seeing that the problem was realized, the next step was to simply render a solution, The Rising 6 S.A.I.D.

The Rising 6 S.A.I.D. is not an Air Force mandated organization. In fact, the commander of the base has the power to approve and or put a Rising Six into effect. Our base Rising Six started with retired Chief Mondoux. Chief Mondoux, the Top Three and the chiefs also played large roles in the Rising Six. Whatever concerns surfaced would be brought to the Top Three and moved up the chain to the chiefs.

As a young Airman, if there is anything I know, it is that the chiefs on this base are experienced, smart and most importantly, respected. The founding members of the Rising 6 S.A.I.D. felt that the Rising Six was a great foundation to build

on. This new organization wants to not just aim for nine stripes, but for four stars.

Since it takes a village to raise a child, it will take the base to rise up the Rising Six. From the start of this journey Col. Murphy and Col. Jarmuz have supported the organization along. Those two along with a long list of others have insured the durability and longevity of the organization. That list includes 22 AF Command Chief Larwood, Capt. Pizziconi-Cupples, Major Pitruzzella, Chief Proctor, and Chief Craven. The organization is very appreciative to the chief's group and others who have donated monetarily to our efforts. This organization would not be able to run on our base without the blessing of the commander, thank you Sir.

If you remember anything from this article remember this, if you're a Tech. Sgt. or below this is your organization founded by you and run by you. Be the change you want to see; this is your Air Force, this is your base.



EVSA - what is it and what does it mean?

By Master Sgt. Peter Borys

Recently the 914th senior leadership, command chief and AFRC conducted an Enterprise Value Stream Analysis (EVSA) for the wing here at Niagara. This enabled leadership to identify those focus areas that they felt have the best potential for improvement and will have a positive effect on our Airmen development and the future of the wing.

"These focus areas are based on what senior leadership think ours needs are at this time," said Capt. Gina Pizziconi-Cupples, 914th Airlift Wing Process Manager. Several areas were selected and a champion was selected for each area. On the forefront were the ARC association, how we are developing Airmen in general, AFSC training and readiness.

"Expect a culture change, not so much a driving force from the higher ranks but more from underneath. Basically, this is the wing commander's report card. This is what I want you to do and here are my expectations; put together as a group," said Capt. Pizziconi-Cupples. She added, "We have to do this in a way where our expectation is to have more responsible, more proactive, more self sufficient Airmen in the sense that the requirements are building and we have super smart troops across the board."

One change has already occurred. A new vision statement: Attain the highest state of readiness in support of the nation and our community through the development of our Airmen to deliver exceptional performance.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Scott Scharlau explained, "A team will be assembled for each challenge with personnel from across the wing that has the knowledge necessary to evaluate the specific process and impact change. These teams will develop a road map and game plan for success in the area they are focused on."

One area that the Command Chief is a champion of is AFSC training. "We want to identify time for each unit to focus 25% of the UTA on core/AFSC training. The focus is to increase the qualifications and skill experience/expertise of our Airmen, both for our home-station benefit as well as that of the deployed gaining commanders," said the chief.

Capt. Pizziconi-Cupples stressed everyone needs to be familiar, and ready. "Everybody needs to put their hand on that rope, because when it's time to pull it's going to be pretty easy to identify who's not pulling."



What is the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program?

The Secretary of Defense initiated the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) which provides information, services, referral, and proactive outreach programs to Airmen of the United States Air Force Reserve and their families through all phases of the deployment cycle. Air Force Reserve and Guard members mobilized, deployed overseas and separated from their families 90 days or more qualify for this.

The goal of the YRRP is to prepare Airmen and families for mobilization, sustain families during mobilization, and reintegrate Airmen with their families, communities, and employers upon return.

The program includes information on current benefits and resources available to help overcome the challenges of deployments. There are three phases of the YRRP, pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment.

YRRP is broken up into the following three phases:

Pre-Deployment

Focuses on providing education about benefits and ensuring the readiness of members, their unit, their families, employers, and affected community for the rigors of combat deployment and family separation.

Deployment

Focuses on challenges and stressors associated with separation. En-

“Year of the Air Force Family” Web Site Launched

Air Force officials have launched a new Web site to showcase the Year of the Air Force Family effort.

Airmen and their families can log on to <http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp> <<http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp>> to learn about AF-wide initiatives, monthly themes and programs, as well as contact local installation Airman Family and Readiness Centers to find out about local events and activities.

Earlier this year Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley designated July 2009 to July 2010 as the “Year of the Air Force Family,” a year-long focus on Air Force programs highlighting the importance of, and commitment to, the entire Air Force family: all Airmen, married and single; spouses; children; Air Force civilians; extended families; and retirees.

“We will devote this year to identifying what we are doing right and what we need to do better to support the entire Air Force family, and to rekindle the sense of community that has been our tradition for so many generations,” General Schwartz said.

Findings from the April “Caring for People” forum provided direction for the year-long focus that highlights improvements to existing programs. It also introduces new initiatives built on four pillars that meet the unique needs of Air Force families to include health and wellness; Airman and family support; education, development and employment; and Airman and family housing.

Together with Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Roy, the service’s senior leaders are addressing key areas of concern to Airmen. Some of the programs receiving special emphasis include deployment support, fitness, family safety awareness, exceptional family member programs and single Airmen initiatives.

“You can rest assured that taking care of families is a solemn promise we make to each Airman and family and one that Chief Roy, General Schwartz, and I each take very seriously,” Secretary Donley said. “And we make this commitment not only because it’s the right thing to do for our Airmen, but because it is the smart thing to do for our Air Force.”

Airmen and their families can expect programs and events tailored to the needs of their individual communities. It may include reintroducing family support programs already available to them today, as well as announcing new initiatives that will serve as model Airman and family support programs long into the future.

“The strength of the nation’s Air Force is not the platforms we operate or the technologies we employ, as good as they are,” General Schwartz said.

“It is our Airmen and their families. The Air Force is a great place to work, live, and play. Our intent is to make it even better.”

ures family members are aware of their entitlements during time of separation.

Post-Deployment Events

Enjoy a relaxing all expenses paid event with your family! The 30, 60, and 90-day post-deployment requirements provide members with information about resources available to transition them back to civilian life, as well

as connecting them with service providers who can assist them in overcoming deployment challenges. Events are performed in (RPA) status for Airmen, family members are authorized to travel on Invitational Travel Authorization (ITAs). All or some events may be attended.

For more information on this program contact Family Readiness at 236-2097.

Welcome Newcomers

Senior Airman Jacob Ameele, 914 SFS
 Senior Master Sgt. Brian Bell, 328 AS
 Airman 1st Class Andrew Dexheimer, 914 LRS
 Airman Kristie Durst, 914 ASTS
 Senior Airman Todd Frank, 328 AS
 Staff Sgt. Kimberly Hanley, 914 ASTS
 Airman 1st Class Thomas Johnson, 30 APS
 Staff Sgt. Albert Maryott, 30 APS
 Staff Sgt. Cameron Murray, 914 CES
 Airman 1st Class Michael Olyer, 914 MXS
 Airman Robert Pace, 914 ASTS
 Airman Jonathan Perez, 914 LRS
 Airman Sarah Simon, 914 CS
 Airman 1st Class Darius Stovall, 30 APS
 Airman 1st Class Nicole Thomson, 914 AES
 Airman 1st Class George Wasickanin, 30 APS
 Airman 1st Class Amanda Webster, 914 LRS
 Airman 1st Class Ayshia Welsh, 914 ASTS
 Airman 1st Class Lisa Zeng, 914 MXS

Farewell

Lt. Col. John Collins Jr., 914 CS
 Master Sgt. James Cooke, 914 AES
 Senior Master Sgt. John Currie Jr., 914 AMXS
 Tech. Sgt. Daniel Phister, 914 MOF
 Col. Terry Lawrence, 914 OG
 Tech. Sgt. Renee Sylvies, 914 ASTS
 Master Sgt. Luann Vanpoursem, 914 LRS

Spotlight

On October 4, Tech. Sgt. Timothy McNerney, 30th Aerial Port Squadron, was presented a 914 AW Chief's Group coin for outstanding contributions to the DoD mission.

Tech. Sgt. McNerney recently returned from a 30 day TDY to March AFB. While assigned to the 452 ALCF, McNerney was responsible for performing joint inspections and preparing cargo movement plans for U.S. Navy equipment for forward transportation on USAF C-17's. His deployed supervisor, Master Sgt. Dewayne Douthett, wrote Tech. Sgt. McNerney was his "go to guy" while assigned to his unit and has requested him to return to March AFB in 2010 to assist again during "Patriot Hook," a critical aerial port exercise.

The 914 AW Chief's Group congratulates Tech. Sgt. McNerney for his dedication and contributions... wherever the mission is located.

Promotions



Chief Master Sergeant

Joseph Merville, 914 ASTS
 Scott Scharlau, 914 AW

Senior Master Sergeant

David Blaser, 914 CS
 Perry Campau, 914 ASTS
 Clifford Thom, 30 APS



Master Sergeant

Marilyn Higgins, 914 OG
 Christopher McArdle, 914 CES
 Eric Moseman, 914 MXS



Technical Sergeant

Daniel Federowicz, 914 SFS
 Guy Travis, 914 CES



Staff Sergeant

Patrick Amidon, 914 MXS
 Tony Brock, 914 AMXS
 Joseph Marie, 914 SFS
 Jason Miller, 914 SFS
 Adam Rauch, 914 AES
 Matthew Smith, 914 CES
 Cory Muldowney, 914 SFS



Senior Airman

Matthew Baird, 914 MXS
 Steven Darcangelis, 914 CS
 Eric Dipalma, 914 CES
 Angela Hansen, 914 ASTS
 Robert Heaps Jr., 914 MXS
 Amanda Lisius, 914 LRS
 Rachel Longwell, 914 SVS
 Rosen Rose, 914 MXS
 Anthony Sinclair, 914 AES
 Thomas Vacca, 914 SFS
 Marie York, 914 CS



Airman 1st Class

Nadeem Arshad, 914 ASTS
 Henry Carpenter, 914 AES
 Michelle Zakraysek, 914 CS



Airman

Maria Hechabarria, 914 CES
 Richard Jones, 914 ASTS
 Christina Robinson, 914 AES
 Lindsey Steiner, 914 SVS



Deserving Airman

By Col. Allan Swartzmiller

It is my privilege to announce the results of the recent Deserving Airman selection board. Please join me in congratulating TSgt Robert Healy (30 APS), SSgt Carrie Dreibelbis (914 ASTS) and SrA Keisha Dobney (914 AW) in their selection for commissioning and service in the 914 AW.

I want to highlight the selection of these three individuals as shining examples of the value of mentoring and of our commitment to grow from within.

First, supervisors recognized the leadership abilities in these selectees and nurtured their professional development. I encourage all supervisors to read the Air Force Mentoring Guide (AFI 36-3401), as it is our duty to invest in our people. Second, our decision to fill the vacancies via the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program underscores the leadership's commitment to growing from within and giving opportunities to those individuals who qualify and best demonstrate the Air Force Core Values – Integrity first, Service before self and Excellence in all we do.

I encourage those not selected to be as proud of their efforts as I am, and to continue to look for more opportunities. I am convinced that the 914th enlisted force is the best and the brightest in the Air Force. This was recently illustrated by our recent command chief's selection as 22 AF command chief. Our commitment to growing from within was once again demonstrated by the selection of CMSgt Scharlau to become the next 914th Command Chief.

There will be more opportunities for those who qualify. The common factor in all of these selectees is that they were ready when the opportunity arose.

Work hard, complete the PME and civilian education and strive to excel. Our nation deserves the very best we have to offer, and I know you're up to the challenge.

V-cubed - Volunteered, Volun-told, Veterans

By Chaplain (Capt.) James Bastian



Photo by Mr. Michael Harvey

of plaques are all too common. Let us be sure to thank those, the sometimes ancient eyes and as we know all too well, the not so ancient eyes.

Let us remember those who volunteered and those who were volun-“told.” The sacrifice is the same. I heard a thought provoking statement recently. “Veteran’s Day (11/11) is a day off for everyone, except veterans.” Why? Because they are still doing their duty. In part because of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. In part because it is what they truly believe in and are dedicated to.

What can I do today? In a “Yellow Ribbon” sense, please check on a family that has a loved one deployed. Use e-mail, a phone call, or even a personal visit. Also, drop a line to the deployed. We will probably never know how important a simple e-mail can be.

And a little extra - I know we all have unique prayers and styles of praying. I would like to pass along a prayer I learned this past month (We’re never too old to learn a new trick). It comes from a co-worker of mine, a teacher from St. Joe’s; He leads this prayer before every class. I heard it from one of his students who was imitating him. From Mr. Pat McHale: Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deserves; to give and not count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy work. Amen!

I was walking down the hallway of my work-place recently and noticed two dedications. First, a World War II plaque with 32 young men who gave their lives from St. Joe’s Collegiate Institute. At the bottom of the plaque read the following from the prophet Isaiah 6:8 “I heard the voice of the Lord saying ‘Who shall I send and who will go for us?’ Then said I ‘Here am I, send me.’”

Second, there is a plaque with an American Flag. It is one that flew over a base in Iraq during 2003. It was from an alumnus who served. These kinds

Jason's Care Packages - Servicemembers helping Servicemembers

The Human Resources Development Council in conjunction with the Rising 6 organization will be holding a charitable event during the December UTA to benefit service members away from home during the holidays.

HRDC and Rising 6 are partnering with the volunteer organization Jason’s Care Packages, which was founded by Buffalo native Mary Sobkowiak. It is a charitable organization that collects and distributes care packages to military members.

During December’s UTA the HRDC and Rising 6 will gather together the donated items, sort and pack boxes for delivery to any service member away from home during the holidays. A list of requested items for these care packages will be available through your unit.

More information will follow during the month.

Questions, comments or concerns can be addressed through the public affairs office at 914awpa@niagarafalls.af.mil .



Photo by Mr. Michael Harvey

Brande Newsome, LMSW

As the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), I am reaching out to you as members to partner in taking a stand against Sexual Assault where ever it may happen especially on base, during TDYs and on deployments.

Bystander intervention can serve as a strong deterrent against assault of all kinds. I am also extending the opportunity for volunteers to support the program through the role of Victim Advocates (VA). The VA is not a counselor or provider, but a friend to the victim who is willing to be there when needed to help a fellow wingman through the process of recovering from an assault.

If you are interested in serving in the role as VA I welcome you to inform either your first sergeant or commander so that your name can be passed along to me. The three step process to becoming a VA includes the completion of an application, interview and required training.

On another note, I have taken on the role of Black Employment Program Manager for the wing and I welcome feedback, ideas and suggestions on events and activities of interest. Look for future updates and information under this umbrella to come from me.



Photo by Mr. Michael Harvey

The Niagara Frontiersman is printed for unit members like Staff Sgt. Sherry L. Fossett. Staff Sgt. Fossett, 914th Services Squadron, was one of 25 food service professionals honored at the 2009 Hennessy Travelers Association Educational Foundation Armed Forces Forum for Culinary Excellence in October.



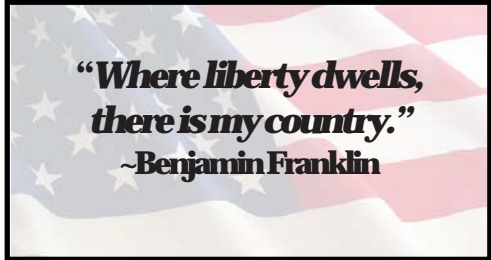
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The 914th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA FRONTIERSMAN



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph McKee

Air Force Reserve mass enlistment ceremony held at NFL stadium

On October 11 the 914th Airlift Wing recruiting office put on a mass enlistment ceremony at Ralph Wilson Stadium, home of the National Football League Buffalo Bills, in Orchard Park, N.Y. The oath of enlistment was given by Col. Allan L. Swartzmiller, 914th Airlift Wing Commander. This enlistment ceremony earned the 914th recruiting team it's second major award at the Air Force Reserve Recruiting conference held in October.