

The 914th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA

FRONTIERSMAN



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New name, new mission for 107th Air Guard unit



One of the first steps towards a new mission is a new name: the 107th Air Refueling Wing became the 107th Airlift Wing on April 1.

The name change is a result of a 2005 BRAC decision, which directed the 107th Air Refueling Wing to convert to an Airlift Wing and form an association with the 914th Airlift Wing.

This conversion to an Airlift Wing brings the loss of the unit's KC-135 Air Refuelers. In their place, the air base will have a full complement of C-130H2 aircraft. The 107th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard, along with the 914th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve, will work together to employ these aircraft.

The association with the 914th Airlift Wing is the second-ever Guard/Reserve association in history, the first-ever in combat delivery. This association will allow the Guardsmen and Reservists to share resources, increasing mission effectiveness and decreasing duplication of effort.

The 107th became an Air Refueling Wing in 1994. After more than 40 years as a fighter group, the name was changed from the 107th Fighter Group to the 107th Air Refueling Wing with the 107th's receipt of KC-135R's. The KC-135's refuel other aircraft in mid-air, operating much like a mobile gas station. The KC-135 is also capable of hauling cargo and troops.

Over the years, the 107th has provided support to numerous operations around the globe while maintaining its state mission. The 107th has provided support for Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, Hurricane Katrina and Western New York's October Storm.

The 107th Airlift Wing will continue to provide support for state and around the globe operations with its new mission, flying C-130H2's. The C-130 offers flexible configurations for various airlift and medical missions. The C-130 is also capable of dropping troops and supplies into rough and hazardous terrain.

CE deploys in support of OEF

Nearly two dozen reservists of the 914th Civil Engineer Squadron departed Niagara for a six month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (photo by Airman Andrew Caya)



Senior Airman Justin Woods, 914 CES, spends a quiet moment with loved ones before departing for Afghanistan. (photo by Airman Andrew Caya)



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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.

Is change the only constant?

By Lt. Col. Sharon Johnson
914th Maintenance Group Commander

As I stare at this blank page, preparing to draft up this article, it reminds me of what we're creating with the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard Association here at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. We're taking a blank canvas and creating an association, comprised of two distinct wings, preparing our personnel and our common aircraft to be current, qualified and ready to fight. Our mission and the members of each unit are noble and working for the right purpose, national defense.

While we're forming the association and meeting the intent of the Base Realignment and Closure law, we will soon be reorganizing the wing according to Gen. Moseley's policy. The Maintenance Group name goes away effective Oct. 1 and becomes The Material Group (MTG). The Material Group will include the Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS) and Aerial Port (30 APS) which moves from the Mission Support Group. Shortly after this reorganization, a good part of the aircraft maintenance functions will transition to the Operations Group. For us, the Mobility Air Forces (MAF), the date is yet to be determined for the maintenance moves. The quality assurance function, the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and most of the Maintenance Operations Flight eventually moves over to the Operations Group.

Wow! What an amazing journey we're on! Change seems to be the only constant in our business. I suggest that change is not the only constant in our profession. I believe that the professionalism, leadership, talent, skills, abilities, commitment, dedication and desire to serve are constant and serve as the bedrock for our success now and in our future combat capability that we offer to the nation. Because we are human and we all have a "moment," where we articulate our dislike for a change here or there, we need to be careful with whom we share that dissatisfaction. Find that "iron man" that you can go to and share your concerns, without worry about someone taking it the wrong way or spreading your discontent out of context. I learned about the "iron man" concept from a senior leadership course. Everyone needs this person; a person you trust, respect and has sage wisdom and deep patience. Seek this person out when you're faced with so much change, that you're having problems putting your arms around and embracing it. It helps to bounce ideas off of your "iron man" and know, that when you leave that interaction, you can take a deep breath and press on with our critical business, defending the United States.

We need every single person on our books and occupying a slot. We no longer have the luxury of carrying people that are not performing. It is up to us to provide a climate and culture for teaching and learning our craft. Hopefully our supervisors and trainers have prepared lessons and tasks for our trainees to become upgraded or simply hone their skills on UTAs and during annual tour. Our trainees need to find that delicate balance with their civilian jobs or education, their families and their commitment to upgrade training in their career field. This includes getting the career development courses completed in a timely manner. We all have the responsibility to keep our physical and emotional health in a ready status. This means knowing when your RCPHA (health) questionnaire is due (six months prior to your birth month) and getting all your medical requirements done BEFORE your birth date. Make sure your passport is current. Make sure all your legal documents are in order, so when we're called to duty, you and your family are ready. Make sure you can do all aspects of the physical training test or you're actively working with the medical professionals to be able to do that in the future. Get your ancillary training done ahead of time or at least on time.

The profession of arms is not a nine to five job. The profession of arms is a calling and a commitment to sacrifice and service. The uncertainty of the enemy means we cannot relax and take a break from national defense. Until world peace arrives, I look forward to serving with you at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.



Western New York Armed Forces Week

May 4 - 10, 2008

Sunday, May 4 (1245) Armed Forces Week Opening Ceremony

Thursday, May 8 (1100) Armed Forces Luncheon

Saturday, May 10 (1800) Armed Forces Ball

Contact Public Affairs for tickets, ext. 2136, April 28 deadline

Recruit the Recruiter

Are you looking for a career that's challenging, exciting, and rewarding? Are you looking for a way to give back to the community? If so, then the Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service may be your answer. You may qualify to be a member of the United States Air Force Reserve Recruiting Team if you are motivated to excel and perform above the status quo. As a recruiter, you have the opportunity to help shape the Air Force Reserve. Your personal standards must be higher for a number of reasons; and most importantly, you will be an Air Force Reserve Representative. Remember, first impressions are lasting impressions.

For more information please contact Senior Master Sgt. Tom Zwelling at 236-3033.

Spotlight



- Name: **Tech. Sgt. Robert J. Mielke**
- Hometown: Sandusky, Ohio
- Unit: 914 AW
- Position: Recruiter
- Years of Service: 16
- Years serving at Niagara Falls ARS: 2
- Favorite Sports: Football and Hockey
- Hobbies: Spending time with his family, working on his house, and hunting
- Favorite TDY Location: Turkey
- Career Highlight: All TDYs he has been on.



BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- Staff Sgt. Andrew Smith, 332nd Services Squadron NCO, reads a book during a video session at the Red Tail Library here, March 22. The Read to Me program is a way for deployed servicemembers to record themselves reading books to their children at home. Staying connected to family members can be difficult during deployments. Many servicemembers have found that the program gives them the chance to communicate and be interactive with their children even when they are far away. Sergeant Smith, who has two children, is deployed from the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y. (photos by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter)

Sergeants' Association to hold elections

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base's Air Force Sergeants' Association Chapter 177 will be having a membership meeting, membership drive, and Executive Council elections on Saturday, April 5, 2008 in Building 800, Room 135 at 1630 (4:30pm).

Principle 7, Section 3, of AFSA Manual 100-2 requires the general membership to elect the following officers: President, Vice President, and three trustees. The president serves for one year, the vice president serves for two years (beginning with even-numbered years), and the trustees serve for one or two years as approved by the general membership and specified in standing rules.

If you are interested in becoming a member or serving on the Executive Council, please contact Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Bell at (716) 236-2194 or at jonathan.bell@niagarafalls.af.mil.



Attention!

All 914th & 107th Personnel



This is your opportunity to make a mark in history. With the association, both units will soon be flying the C-130H2 model aircraft. Col. Schmidt and Col. Ginavan are looking for a new tail flash design that best represents the new and synergized combat capability that the Association brings to national defense. Entries will be judged and submitted to the commanders for final selection. The winning design will become an historic part of the twelve C-130H2 aircraft flown by the Association. We wish to unveil the new tail flash at the official aircraft dedication ceremony on 2 May 2008. Also attending this ceremony are military and civilian dignitaries and local media. See details below on how to submit your entry.

**All entries must be submitted by COB 15 April 08.
Winner will be announced shortly after.**

914th entries must be e-mailed to: Peter.borys@niagarafalls.af.mil

Requirements: **Size: 11”w X 1”h preferred but not mandatory**
 (actual size on aircraft will be 11 feet wide x 1 foot high)

CMYK Color
PSD, AI or TIFF Format
E-mailed version must be under 5 megs. Low Res.
High quality version must be minimum 300 DPI
Text must include: Niagara, Niagara Falls or Niagara Falls ARS
The design is preferred to incorporate the unity between the
Guard & Reserve units at Niagara & must not be slanted toward
either organization.

Any further questions contact the PA Office at ext. 2136



Sample

