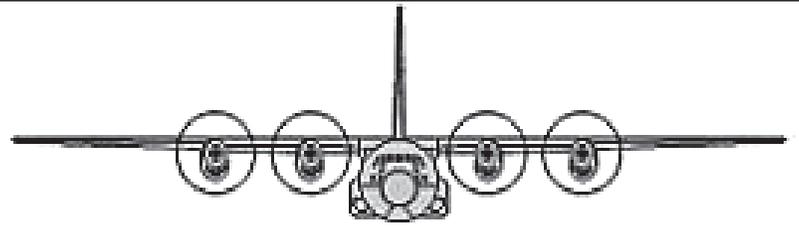


The 914th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA

FRONTIERSMAN



SEPTEMBER 2008

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

VOL 45, NO 8



## TOPS IN BLUE Delights Western New York Crowd

“Tops in Blue” Instrumentalists Airman 1st Class Clayton Bender and Airman 1st Class Megan Dennis perform for a crowd of over 500 military and civilian spectators during their 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show at the Seneca Niagara Casino. This is Tops in Blue’s 28<sup>th</sup> year performing in Western New York. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew Caya)



# Commanders Column

By Col. Terry Lawrence  
914th Operations Group Commander

I am grateful to get this opportunity to write an article for the Frontiersman.

My dilemma is what to say to a Wing full of Superstars. How about I frame my article around an Olympic theme as I stay up til midnight every day just to see the best compete for Gold.

Currently the U.S. leads in total medal count, but falls behind China when it comes to number of gold medals by nearly half. I dare say lifelong training, total self sacrifice and a survivalist mentality are the discriminators for the Chinese.

On the other hand, as we lead in total medals, we are always competitive and find ourselves on the podium due to Sheer Talent, Confidence and an AMERICAN SPIRIT that is evident in all our athletes. I'm impressed most by the way our athletes win and lose with grace.

But, back to that AMERICAN SPIRIT...that is the variable that makes all of us truly great. It is the thing that makes us crave a good athletic competition, root for the underdog, be a big brother to the world, and ultimately carry the day for Democracy. We are the bold partner for right in today's world and carry the torch as Superpower and World Leader.

We go forth and share our true wealth, the AMERICAN SPIRIT, with the entire World. We take it to the Olympics, we take it to SWA, and we take it wherever our Commander In Chief needs us. The whole World sees it coming...the weak and needy look to lean on it, while our enemies would rather not deal with it.

Men and women of Niagara...you showed this Winning Spirit in our IGX and lengthy prep, you showed it in inspection after inspection, you showed it as Host of a World Class Award



Colonel Lawrence

Winning Airshow, you showed it in an ongoing work to Associate with the 107th ARW, and I'm certain you'll bring it to our November Skills Challenge and whatever the world events of tomorrow will bring. But in the end, continue to Train hard, make the necessary sacrifice and bring home a SWEEP in 2009.

I'm Proud to serve with each and every one of you, Your OPS Group Commander, Terry.

## Volunteers needed for Wing Skills Challenge

It's not too late to sign up for the upcoming Wing Skills Challenge held on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The challenge is an AFSC competition made up of 8 teams. The teams were picked last month. However, judges volunteers and patients are needed to make this event work. Everyone is encouraged to sign up. POCs: Capt. Tony Wilmont, Maj. Langiewicz and Senior Master Sgt. Sherrie Campbell. After the skills challenge, a combat dining in is scheduled to take place in Hangar 707. POC: Capt. Al Knapp.



**NIAGARA FRONTIERSMAN**  
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**Wing Commander**  
Col. Reinhard L. Schmidt

**Editor**  
Airman 1st Class Andrew J. Caya

**Public Affairs Staff**  
Maj. William J. Vivian  
Capt. Albert L. Knapp  
Master Sgt. Peter J. Borys  
Tech. Sgt. Kevin L. Nichols  
Tech. Sgt. Christopher K. Boswell  
Tech. Sgt. Karl C. Vester  
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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.

# Reserve, Guard Employers Educated on Niagara's Mission



Left: 914th and 107th Airlift Wings members' employers explore the back of a C-130 before take off. Above: Employers enjoy a birds eye view of Western New York from a C-130 as it flies over some of the regions most famous landmarks such as Niagara Falls, the Niagara River, the city of Buffalo and Ralph Wilson Stadium (home of the Buffalo Bills) during the Wing's "Bosses Day"(Photos by Airman 1st Class Andrew Caya and Mr. Michael Harvey

## Down-sized to an Upgrade

By Captain "Father Jim" Bastian

Why introduce myself and the chaplain's role that Chaplain Weldon Thomas and I share on the base? I figure if you are comfortable with us, and know who we are, then we can make this Wing stronger. So who is Chaplain "Father Jim" Bastian? I am the son of a U.S. Marine (on my father's side). I am the brother of a retired Sgt. from the U.S. Army. I am the product of the Kenmore public schools. I moved to Kentucky when I was a teenager when my Dad was down-sized from Ashland Oil, Inc. I graduated with an Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Kentucky (the same fine institution Col. Schmidt attended). I attended theology school near Chicago for three years before graduating from Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora in 1994. *And all this I did before the age of 12.*

Recently, my parishes that I pastor in West Seneca, St. Bonaventure Church and St. William Church, merged and have had a "change of command." I was "PCS'ed" to a new assignment to be a teacher at St. Joseph Collegiate Institute (St. Joe's). I will be teaching 10<sup>th</sup> grade religion to 200 eager young minds, specifically Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. This is a new and

challenging experience for me. I am excited to try this new role as a teaching-priest.

Down-sizing and change is sometimes very difficult. It could make a person feel without purpose. (*What's next?*) I certainly felt this. With many priest friends, I sought one out for short-term counseling with regard to the changes that I faced in my life. (*What's next?*) I believe this to be true for most, and it was for me, that in my prayer, I discovered what God's will was for me. I began to see my life had direction and purpose. I realized that my new family consisted of the faculty, staff, and students at St. Joe's; and the 1100+ Airmen of the 914<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and your families. I know of God's blessings. I hope to walk with you on the journey we call LIFE.

Should you be in the situation of change and in need of an ear, a voicing, a place to talk, confidentiality, or the privilege of the confessional – the chapel is the place to come, either for a moment of quiet or a service, and the chaplain is the person to see. We are to 'provide' for

all, and 'perform' for our own. I am a Roman Catholic priest attached and endorsed by both the Diocese of Buffalo and the Archdiocese of the Military. Chaplain Thomas is our protestant chaplain of the Methodist tradition pastoring in Rochester, NY. We can be reached during UTA's and we would arrange other times as needed, especially to serve you or your family. See the Chaplain Assistants also and we will get back to you.

Know of our prayers and blessings that we ask for you.

Shalom (*Hebrew for Peace*)



Captain "Father Jim" Bastian

# Senior Airman Aims High to Help Inner-city Youth

By Airman 1st Class Andrew Caya

One 914<sup>th</sup> Airman isn't reaching just to get a better grip on the mountainside he is climbing; he's reaching his goal to support a young person in need.

Senior Airman Adam Rauch, a 914<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Specialist is slated to climb Mount Rainier (located in Washington State) in mid-September to support a program that helps "at risk" inner city youth.

The Summit for Someone Program is run by an organization called Big City Mountaineers, as well as *Backpacker* magazine. The program raises money for Big City Mountaineers which sends inner-city kids on weeklong backpacking trips. The program is aimed to introduce them to a new environment and teach them positive values. A portion of

the program is used to raise money for working with the youth. The climbers involved in the program receive sponsorship in order to raise the required \$3800.

"Think of it as a walk-a-thon, but instead of walking, we climb a mountain," said Senior Airman Rauch. I love the outdoors, and I know that my experiences in the wilderness have helped shape me into the person I am today. I just wanted to allow someone else, who wouldn't normally have the opportunity to experience that for themselves, the opportunity for the

life changing experience that it can provide," he added.

Senior Airman Rauch uses his passion of assisting people in their times of need as well as his love of mountain climbing and focuses them to fulfill his goal of helping a cause that is bigger than himself.

"I think he's doing the climb because he believes in the cause and wants to help the children through his fund

me to do whatever I could to help others," added Senior Airman Rauch.

Nature was Senior Airman Rauch's other inspiration. He said he began to love the outdoors and the wilderness when his family would go on hiking and camping trips.

"As I grew older and began backpacking and climbing, my experiences with nature took on a

more personal nature. I began to appreciate the simple beauty that nature provides," said Senior Airman Rauch

Even during a long deployment, Senior Airman Rauch kept focused on the cause he was training for back home, in the states.

"Senior Airman Rauch and I were deployed together over the holidays when he told me of his desire to participate in this climb," said Lt. Col DiFrancesco. "Even through his 1 year volunteer deployment



Senior Airman Adam Rauch practices his passion of mountain climbing as he prepares to climb Mount Rainier for the Program Summit for Someone (courtesy photo)

raising. He also enjoys the outdoors and the challenge of climbing," said Commander of the 914<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Lt. Col. Diane DiFrancesco.

***"He's doing the climb because he believes in the cause"***

Motivation to do this kind of work was not hard to find in Senior Airman Rauch's life. He said his family was a big part of that inspiration to volunteer his time and talents for a greater cause. "Their upbringing taught

he continued to train for this event,"

Lt. Col DiFrancesco expresses tremendous pride and respect for Senior Airman Rauch as an Airman and a person.

"As his commander I am very proud of him and the way he represents my unit. SrA Rauch is one of the most dedicated members in the unit. He is always willing to go above and beyond to volunteer and help others in times of need," concluded Lt.Col. DiFrancesco.

# Airlift Squadron Member Chosen to go to Tuskegee Conference

## Airman Shares Experience

By Senior Airman Keisha Dobney

Around the world the Tuskegee Airmen are a true symbol of the strength and precision of the US Military and a true testament of the greatest Air Force in the world. They were a group of young men who had a passion and determination to enlist and become the first black military Airmen, to help fight for freedom around the world. Many people are unaware of the true definition of the Tuskegee Airmen, they are not just pilots but they are all of the African American men and women who were apart of the military, who all had the same goal to fight and win.

Since 1947 the Air force had plans to integrate all units. A year after President Truman created executive order 9981 that directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all United State branches. Since that time the Tuskegee men and women have not been forgotten. The 37<sup>th</sup> annual Tuskegee Airmen conference was held on July 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> in the heart of down town Philadelphia. Around the country there are more than 50 different chapters that dedicate there time, educating and honoring the accomplishments of the Tuskegee airmen. The Greater Philadelphia chapter was honored to host this year's event for over two hundred airmen around the country. Active duty and the Air National Guard were in attendance but the event was dominated with Reserve members.

My self Senior Airman Dobney and Chief Master Sgt. Toney Proctor were both selected by the HRDC committee to attend the event to represent Niagara Falls. HRDC stands for Human Resources Development Council and is a committee that only reserve members have that puts a focus on the diversity and attitude of the base. The group brings events to the base such as the job fair and part tacking in the Tuskegee Airmen conference. I have been a member of the base since November 2007. Since then I have gained a stripe, won Airmen of the month and have been a member of HRDC and many other clubs on the base. This conference was my first TDY and I was honored. Every month I try my best to attend a monthly



Senior Airman Dobney

HRDC meeting chaired buy 914<sup>th</sup> Vice Commander Colonel Mark Murphy and was selected to go on the trip to Philadelphia. I will never forget the opportunity I had while I was there. Each day was packed with activities to benefit airmen and civilians. Military members had an agenda designed for them. They were able to speak to a panel of generals and military leaders about the different concerns that people were having at their home stations. Out of all of the sessions I had a few favorites, the first was the Chiefs panel. It was a panel made up of chiefs who spoke to the audience on their personal paths through the ranks. No one would question that being a Chief was a true honor but I was most impressed with the respect that both enlisted and commissioned members had for the eight stripes.

I am sure it is not a surprise but my second favorite seminar for the conference was the women's panel. I have never been around so many women of such pose and power. From generals to master sergeants they all loved their jobs and more importantly love the military. I did ask the panel a question and it was as follows, "what skills did they advise that women should sharpen to make sure that women can put their stamp on the new direction of the new Air force or military". Well for the rest of the conference I was known for the "good" question. Well I had stumped a few members of the panel and was jokingly offered a job at the pentagon for it. I was told that technology was key to the direction of the military.

The best panel was the Tuskegee Airmen themselves. Words cannot capture the feeling in the room. They were very honest about their feelings with every question. There were people asking questions about loved ones still over all these years not sure how they had pasted. No matter how serious the question was they managed to have a fantastic sense of humor.

As the conference progressed I was shocked at the big influence they had on education. Saturday, we spent the day at a Guard base with youth from Philadelphia who was interested in all jobs of transportation. It was incredible to see the passion and fire in their eyes as they were taken to all of the different planes on the base and taken through the different shops. That day they also had a youth luncheon were we had eaten with the Tuskegee Airmen and the youth that we spent the day with. Were they has given out a scholarships to youth who have done great things with avionics.

That same night was the Gala. Everyone wore their mess dress and civilians were in gowns and tuxedos. The key speaker was Dr. Guion S. Bluford, Jr. he is the first African American to fly in space. I could not think of anyone who would be better suited to end the conference. The four days that I was there was incredible, I spoke with generals and Tuskegee airmen in elevators. I had lunch with their wives and had the honor to get a glimpse in to their loves. For the men and women who have been apart of a legacy that will never be forgotten. Who broke down barriers and made history it is incredible how humble they are. They have no hate or grudge holding about the way they have been treated in life. Looking at them and speaking to them they have both the wisdom of their years but the same spirit and youthfulness they had so many years ago. They love to fly and they love this country and it was a pure blessing and honor to be one of the few young airmen at the conference and most importantly I was able to represent Niagara Falls.

**Senior Airman Dobney is an Aircrew Flight Equipment Apprentice assigned to the 328th Airlift Squadron**

## The Reserve Around The Region



### Air Force Reserve Jazz Band comes to WNY

Above and below: Air Force Reserve Jazz Band members from Robins AFB, GA. performed for a very receptive audience of Western New Yorkers recently in front of the Lockport Town Courthouse. Col. Schmidt 914th AW Commander was also on hand to thank the crowd for all their support of the military especially the Air Force Reserve.



Right: The 914<sup>th</sup> Honor Guard presents the colors to honor the event Above: Tech Sgt. Sherry Wurster and Tech. Sgt. John Waszak stand with their Bassmaster Guide Dwayne Potter and hold up their recently caught small-mouth bass (Courtesy Photos)

### 914th Members Fish In local tournament

Around 20 Western New York Service members participated in the WNY Bassmasters Armed Services Fishing Tournament which was held August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lake Erie held in conjunction with the ESPN Bassmaster Elite Series, Empire Chase Tournament in Buffalo, NY.

“The local Western New York Bassmasters Association along with ESPN/ Bassmasters always supports the military,” said 914<sup>th</sup> services marketing director Jerry Slipko. “Therefore, the local Bassmasters Association conducted a fishing tournament for all local military personnel in the area.” In addition, the 914th Honor Guard presented the colors at the request of the WNY Bassmasters and ESPN before the final “send off” of the top 12 pros who were competing for the \$100,000 top prize.



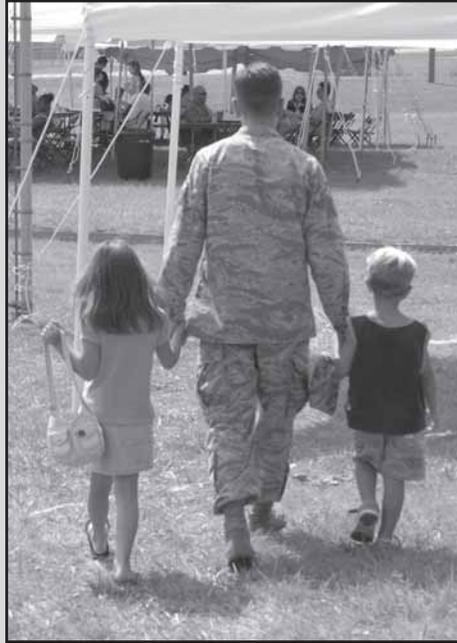
“The National Bassmasters supports the military every four stop, so they wanted to recognize the local military units in the area,” said Mr. Slipko. “Presenting the colors on the final day of the pro tournament gave the military a very positive exposure,” added Mr. Slipko.

The military members participated in the tournament for free because the WNY Bassmasters generously donated their time, boats, fuel, and fishing equipment for the tournament.

“It was a great opportunity to be on the water with the local fishing Pros,” said Tech. Sgt. Sherry Wurster of the 30<sup>th</sup> Areal Port Squadron. “They showed us all the best spots in Lake Erie to fish. They were very hospitable towards us,” she added.

The Western New York region can expect many tournaments like this to happen in the future. “The WNY Bassmasters are planning on making this tournament an annual event however, the pros are not slated to come to Buffalo in 2009,” concluded Mr. Slipko.

# Around Niagara...



Left: A Reservist's family member enjoys the cool water in a blow up water slide during the 914ths "Family Day" event. Niagara's Reservists were encouraged to bring their Families on base for food, games and fun during part of the Unit Training Assembly last month. Right: A 914th member and his family take a break from the UTA and walk down to the area where food and beverages were served during the event. (Photos by Tech Sgt. Karl Vester and Tech Sgt. Christopher Boswell)



914th Wing Commander Col. Reinhard Schmidt welcomes Major General Moen and Brigadier General Rohan to Niagara for the Air Force Reserve Command Allocation Conference held here on base (Photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew Caya)



Senior Airman Gijbert Talledo became a certified American Citizen as he was sworn in during a Naturalization Ceremony here on base. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Mckee)



The 914th Airlift Wing bids farewell to outgoing Senior Recruiter Senior Master Sgt. Tom Zwelling (seated) as he departs for Robins AFB, Georgia. Incoming senior recruiter Master Sgt. Pat Muoio (far right), comes to Niagara from Westover ARB, Mass. Also new to the 914th recruiting office is Staff Sgt. Jake Miller (far left) who has arrived from Los Angeles AFB, California and Staff Sgt. Joel Laureano who previously was stationed at Sheppard AFB, Texas. Welcome new recruiters and thanks Senior Master Sgt. Zwelling for your outstanding years of dedication to the 914th. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Nichols)



914th Wing Commander Col. Reinhard Schmidt sells newspapers off base while he wears a bright green shirt over his flightsuit in support of the United Way's "Day of Caring" (Photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew Caya)

## In Brief

### 914<sup>th</sup> Vacancies

The following are vacancies that we are currently recruiting.

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**

**WING:**

Admin Support Asst (ART), GS-303-05 (Public Affairs)

**OPERATIONS:**

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

**MISSION SUPPORT GROUP:**

Firefighter , GS-0081-06/07 (several positions)

Environmental Engineer, YD-0819-02

Police Officer, GS-0083-05

Training Technician, GS-1702-05

Automotive Equipment Dispatcher, GS-2151-05

Recreation Assistant, GS-0189-04



**Got a computer problem? Who are you going to call? How about the new Client Support Administrators? Senior Airman Liaquat Ali (Left) is assigned to the Mission Support Group and Senior Airman Dan Scott is assigned to the Maintenance Group.**

## Spotlight



Photo By: Tech . Sgt. Karl Vester

**Name:** Senior Master Sgt. Antonio Borrelli

**Unit:** 914th Services Squadron

**Job Title:** 914th Services readiness NCOIC

**Time in service:** 23 years

**Years at NFARS:** 19

**Hometown:** Buffalo, NY

**Favorite Sports:** Hockey, Football, Soccer.

**Hobbies:** Home Improvement Projects, computers.

**Career Highlights:** Watching my two sons follow in my footsteps and join the Active Duty Air Force

**Favorite TDY:** Aviano AB, Italy



### Complaint Numbers

IG Complaint Line: (716) 236-3192  
 Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline:(716) 236-3361