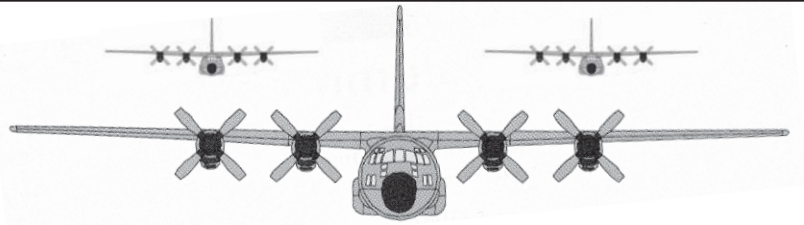


The 914th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA

FRONTIERSMAN



March 2009

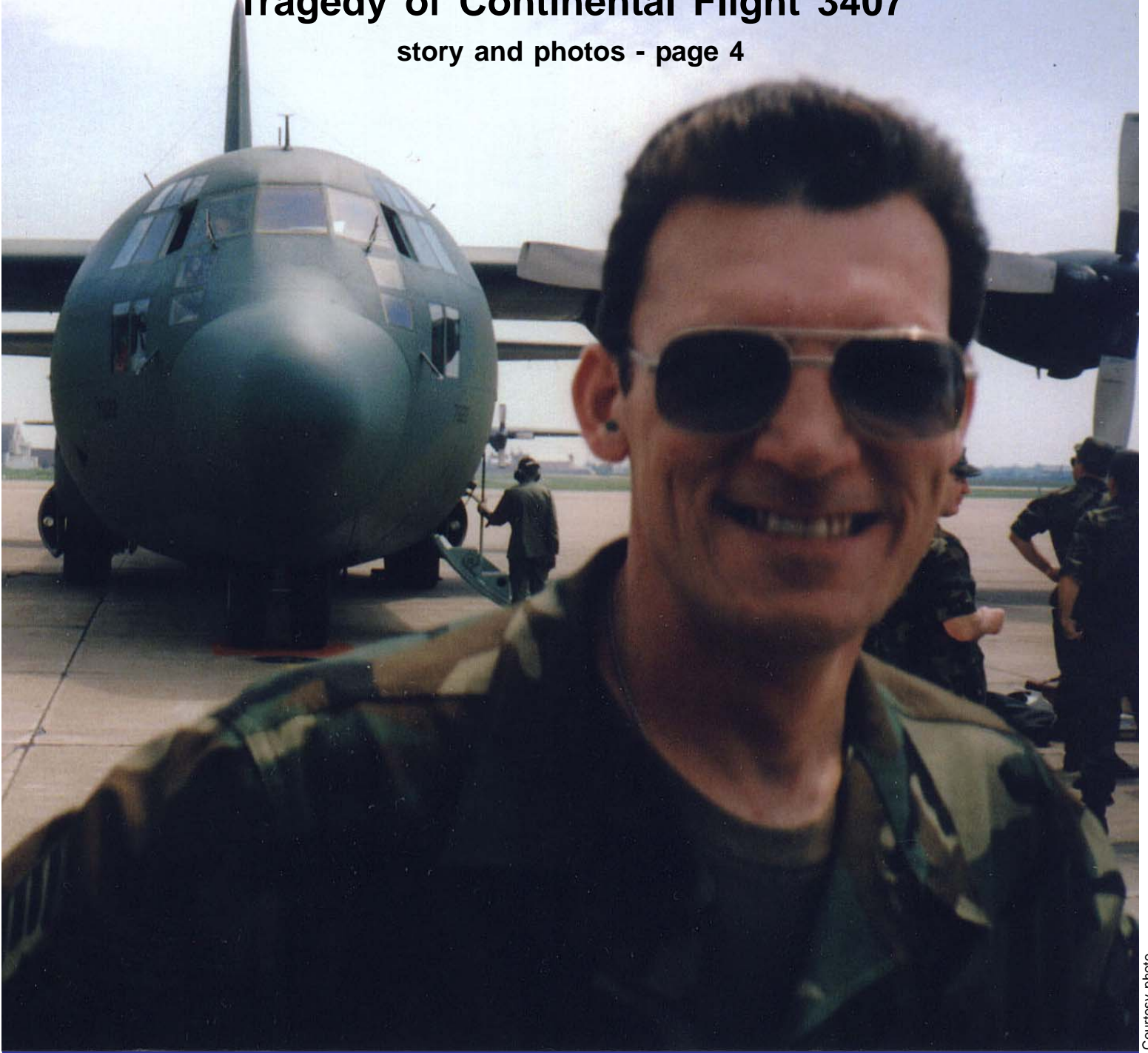
NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

VOL 46, NO 3

Niagara mourns loss of retired aerial porter

Tragedy of Continental Flight 3407

story and photos - page 4



Commanders Column

By Lt. Col. John Collins

914th Communications Squadron

When I was given the opportunity to write an article many things ran through my mind; mainly what do I write about? Should I write about what a Major General told me in a PME seminar: "If your family, your civilian job, and reserves are a little mad at you, you are well balanced."

He expounded by stating how we are pulled in three different directions all of the time. Trying to balance all three the best as we know how is a job in itself. The balance changes at times and we need to adjust accordingly. I am sure each one of you have experienced and understand the "pulling." How many of you have felt like Gumby?

Or should I write about a major issue coming up? The DoD has to cut 10% of its budget across the board for 2010; which translates to \$50B! It is interesting that the DoD has to cut because the military budget is ONLY 4-4.5% of the GDP; a very little price to pay for freedom and protection.

We understand cut backs and how it hurts the need for equipment, morale, mandays, RMP days. We just want to get the job done. I decided we have had enough talk of money or the lack of these past few months.

So here I sit tonight trying to decide what to write. I have a short deadline, I do not feel like writing anything, it is late, and I am in a miserable mood. Why? I just came home from Chief Master Sgt. John Fiore's wake. One of the finest individuals I

have ever known. Always a gentleman, friend, mentor, and outstanding senior non-commissioned officer to all.



CMSgt. (Ret.) John Fiore and Lt. Col. John Collins

I remember the first time I ever met Chief Fiore. I had just become a second lieutenant and Chief Fiore was at the time a Tech. Sgt. We hit it right off, but then again, everyone does when you met Chief Fiore.

He was the type of person you enjoyed being around. If you were having a bad day, he helped you out of it. If you were having doubts, concerns in your skills, military or civilian job, he was there to lend an ear and give advice.

He usually asked, "Are you taking care of the people? Are you putting them before yourself? Were you doing what was right?" He always turned it around and made you feel good about yourself and your situation. You would leave the conversation feeling energized and know you just talked to a

person who truly cared about you, the troops, and the military.

At that first encounter we talked for a very long time and he gave me pointers on being a good officer, doing what's right for the mission and taking care of your troops and the Air Force.

If you have a hard decision to make and you feel it is the right one, the troops might become upset, but they will know that you did what you thought was right.

I had heard the same rhetoric before over my eleven years of service; the difference is I heard it from someone who meant it and lived it! I left that night a better officer and person.

After 9-11, I did not see the Chief that much; he was deploying and taking care of his people and the business at hand. He was an old war horse, being in Viet Nam and the

Gulf War. I missed seeing him on UTA weekends, and the talks we had in the club or a military function. When I did seem him it was hard to get time with him because everyone wanted to talk to the Chief and how can you blame them?

Four years ago when I arrived at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, after being in Iraq for 4 months, I had a discussion with a Command Chief and two Colonels over a policy I did not think was fair to the four troops I brought out of Iraq with me.

I was trying to take care of my troops I worked side-by-side with in Iraq. Walking back to my room, feeling rejected because I just lost the battle that I thought unjust. I did not want to tell them I lost.

See COLUMN, Page 3

THE NIAGARA FRONTIERSMAN

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914th Airlift Wing
(Air Force Reserve Command)

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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.

COLUMN, Continued from Page 2

As I am walking, I hear my name being called. I am looking around and looking into the sun, I see someone with Chief stripes waving, sleeves rolled up, sunglasses on and a big toothy smile coming towards me. As he gets closer, I recognize the voice, it was Chief Fiore.

He could tell something was bothering me and after he listened to my problem he told me, "You tried, they know you took it as far as you could and they appreciate it." He was right, the Chief was always right.

For the next few days, he showed me the ropes. He was a trusted senior NCO for an officer and more important, a friend. He took me around, introducing me to many people. They all basically said the same thing, "You know this guy? You're lucky he is at your base, he's a great guy."

Later that week we got an off-base pass and we went into Doha. He was dying to take me to a mall with an indoor skating rink. He wanted to show me the Sabres of the East, the Middle East! He talked about how smart the people of Qatar must be because they have a skating rink in the middle of a desert.

Just as the Chief was outstanding at taking care of others, tonight I witness the 914th taking care of him and especially his unit the 30th Aerial Port Squadron. He is smiling down at Chief Craven and his fellow 30 APS members for doing an outstanding job. They took care of his daughter Dana and other family members and friends. If you knew the Chief, you then knew that he could have cared less about himself; he would just want to know his family, friends and troops are being cared for. He did not have to worry; his unit and wing were there for him this time.

No one will ever know what happened those final seconds of his life in that airplane, but I have an idea. He was taking care of the people around him on the plane, assuring them, putting them before himself, because that is who the Chief was.

Godspeed my friend... and thank you for making me a better officer.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Nichols

Left to right: Chief Master Sgt. Richard King, Command Chief 107th Airlift Wing; Chief Master Sgt. Hardy Pierce Jr., Command Chief New York Air National Guard; Chief Master Sgt. Troy McIntosh, Command Chief Air Force Reserve Command; Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Barron, Command Chief Air Mobility Command; Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, Command Chief Air National Guard; Chief Master Sgt. Steven Larwood, Command Chief 914th Airlift Wing.

Air Force major command chiefs from active duty, guard and reserve visit Niagara

Much has been said of the historic association between the 914th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve) and the 107th Airlift Wing (Air National Guard) at Niagara Falls ARS, but on February 12, 2009 major command chiefs from active duty, guard and reserve came to Niagara to see first hand this ongoing transformation.

In the spirit of cooperation and with the motto "One Team, One Fight!" the 914 AW and 107 AW hosted the Air Force Reserve Command Chief and major command chiefs from Air Mobility Command, Air National Guard and New York Air National Guard.

Of the association between the Guard and Reserve here at Niagara, Air Force Reserve Command Chief Master Sgt. Troy McIntosh said, "This is nothing to be afraid of. It will provide viability and the bottom line is this is the future."

Air Mobility Command Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Barron said, "You're doing a great job. Continue to do what your doing to get the job done and tell us what we can do to help you. You are setting the foundation."

After visiting Airmen and their duty sections on base, Chief McIntosh expressed his appreciation for the men and women of both wings and the challenges they face. "Thank you for being honest. I look forward to working with you in the future," said McIntosh.

"You've got alot of work to do, but you're on the right track. You are going to have other units come to you in the future and ask how you did it," said Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith. "You are going to be the textbook example of associations."

Retired 914th Airman among the victims of Continental Flight 3407

The heartbreaking events of Feb. 12, 2009 affected many. People from across the nation lost loved ones in the tragic crash of Flight 3407.

The 914th Airlift Wing is mourning the loss of a former comrade. Recently retired Chief Master Sgt. John Fiore was assigned to the 30th Aerial Port Squadron as Transportation Manager and was among the 44 passengers who perished in the tragic crash of Continental Flight 3407 near Buffalo, N.Y., Feb. 12, 2009.

Colonel Reinhard Schmidt, commander of the 914th Airlift Wing, expressed his deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Chief Fiore.

“The 914th Airlift Wing shares in the pain and deep sense of sorrow felt by Chief Fiore’s friends and family,” said Colonel Schmidt. “We have lost someone who was very dear to us. It’s a shocking blow and one that affects all of our members. He will be sorely missed.”

Chief Fiore served with honor in the Vietnam Conflict and Operations Enduring & Iraqi Freedom. He was both a Marine and Airman. Fiore had a total of 34 years of military service and 32 years as a traditional reservist with the 914th.

Chief Fiore was a consummate professional, leader and a true military hero,” said Capt. (retired) John Walp, 30th APS.

Capt. Walp was activated with Chief Fiore in 2004 in support of OIF, OEF. “His more than 30 years of service to his country are a testament to his love for his country and the men and women of the military,” said Walp.

Back home, Fiore was always willing to sacrifice of himself and go above and beyond the call of duty.

“John was going to help a friend with a roof job at his friend’s house,” said Chief Master Sgt. Charles Craven, 30 APS superintendent. “John showed up early



in the morning and started to work on the roof. The friend was going to be working until noon. This friend had his mother living with him at the time. While John was working on the roof a neighbor had come by to visit the mother and found her having a stroke. John came down from the roof, rendered care and notified the emergency medical personnel. The neighbor went to the hospital with the mother. When John’s friend arrived he came down from the roof, gave the friend \$20 for gas and told him to get to the hospital and take care of his mother. John then returned to the roof and finished the job,” said Craven.

His troops were always his number one concern regardless of where he was and his fingerprint will be forever ingrained in the success of the 30 APS .



Photo by Master Sgt. Peter Borys

Mourners gather to honor Chief

Senior Master Sgt. Ryan King (left) and Tech. Sgt. Pam Rickard (right), from the 30th Aerial Port Squadron and 914th Operations Group, stand as honor guards beside the casket of Chief Master Sgt. (retired) John Fiore of the 914th Airlift Wing. Chief Fiore was tragically killed in the crash of Continental Airlines Flight 3407 on February 12, 2009.

Aircrew Life Support officer earns prestigious 22nd Air Force Award

Story and photo by

Airman 1st Class Andrew Caya

A 914th Airlift Wing Reservist earned the Outstanding Aircrew Flight Equipment Officer of the Year Award 2008 for 22nd Air Force.

Captain Anthony Wilmot is the first officer stationed at Niagara Falls to earn this prominent award in recent memory.

914th Aircrew Flight Equipment Superintendent Senior Master Sgt. Steve Patterson was very pleased when he received the news that Capt. Wilmot earned the award.

“Hearing that Captain Wilmot won the award was fantastic and is well deserved,” said Patterson. “I was overwhelmed with excitement and gratitude. Captain Wilmot has been an inspiration to all Aircrew Flight Equipment Officers,” he added.

To earn this award, there is board of five officers who review each package and award a point score for each package. Each unit has an Aircrew Flight Equipment Shop and they are all in the running for the award. The candidates are graded on leadership, special accomplishments, significant challenges that were achieved or exceeded.

“[Niagara’s Aircrew Flight Equipment Shop] had to come up

with special solutions for problems never faced by any other unit: for example the association,” said Wilmot.

The Aircrew Flight Equipment Shops of both the 914th Airlift Wing and 107th Airlift Wing are big players in the association between

one of the best shops in Air Force Reserve Command and possibly Air Mobility Command,” said Patterson. “I’m very confident that we will only become stronger and constantly improve our ability to support our aircrew through these difficult times with special challenges

to overcome each and every day. We are doing just that with this association with our Guard brethren and special challenges that my shop faces. I look forward to the days and months ahead that not only will we overcome these challenges, but will set the bar for all Aircrew Flight Equipment Shops,” he added.

It is not only Wilmot’s leadership skills in the shop which help smooth the association of the Guard and Reserve and make him stand out as an officer, it’s his mentality which also motivates the 914th Aircrew Flight Equipment Shop to go above and beyond and to be the best of the best.

“Captain Wilmot has one of the most positive attitudes I’ve come across,” said Patterson. He truly has been an inspiration. He is upbeat, a positive role model and

encourages the very best from all Airmen alike.

Captain Wilmot’s positive attitude can be reflected in the advice he has for younger officers and Airmen.

“Don’t sweat the little stuff,” he said. “Take the big picture and find your place in it. Set backs are a part of the job; accept that and keep moving forward.”



Niagara’s Guard and Reserve Units. There have been some minor setbacks in associating the two units together however, Patterson remains very optimistic of reaching Team Niagara’s goal and motto of “One team, one fight!” with officers such as Capt. Wilmot leading the way.

“His leadership has brought tremendous strides into us becoming

Recruit the Recruiter

Are you looking for a career that's challenging, exciting, and rewarding? Are you looking for a full-time job and the chance to obtain an active duty retirement? How about a way to give back to the community?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then the Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service may be the answer you have been looking for! 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.

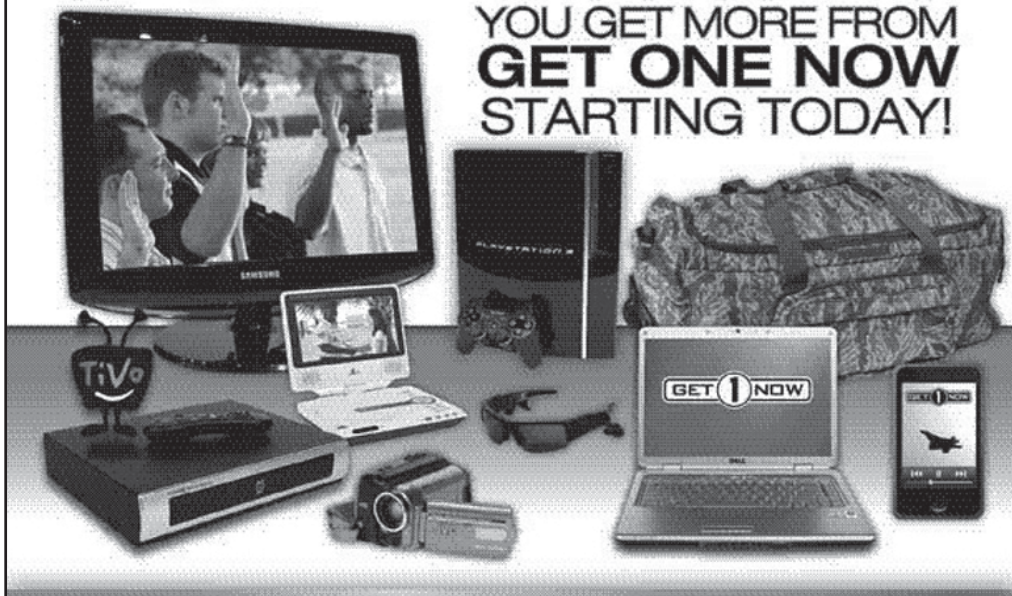
Most military members will always remember their recruiter and Basic Military Training Technical Instructors ... the reason is these individuals assisted in getting you where you are today! You too can help young individuals obtain the money, skills, training and education needed to stand above their peers. While assisting your applicants you will be providing the Air Force Reserve with the Airmen of the future!!!

To qualify for an opportunity to obtain a rewarding, full-time position with great pay and outstanding benefits you must be an active member of the Air Force Reserve, have a 5-skill level and passing PT scores.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact Senior Master Sgt. Pat Muoio, 914th Airlift Wing Senior Recruiter, at (716) 236-3033.

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Chaplains corner: Readiness is the order of the day!

By Lt. Col. Weldon G. Thomas
914th Installation Chaplain

On September 11, 2001, I was preparing for a busy day at the Bolling Air Force Base chapel at a few minutes after 9:00 a.m. when the staff and I heard a loud noise like a bomb just outside the building! We all went to the front door of the chapel to discover a large dark plume of smoke rising in the air from the direction of the Pentagon, which was about 5 miles



away. We went back in the chapel, turned on the T.V. only to hear about the tragedy that had just occurred in New York City at the World Trade Center.

As we continued to watch we were shocked by the realization of the fact that the Pentagon *had* been hit by a plane. Our readiness skills immediately kicked in and chaplains along with personnel throughout the 11th Wing were dispatched to the Pentagon to do ministry and to provide vital services. For the chaplains, this ranged from using our Critical Incidents Stress Management (CISM) train-

ing to immediately preparing prayer vigils and offering crisis counseling.

As first respondents, active duty chaplains and reservists from the National Capital Region or the Washington, DC metropolitan area, were dispatched to provide ministry to survivors, rescue workers, not to mention the traumatized employees – military or civilians who needed a helping hand. All of our readiness skills were brought to bear that day and for weeks and months to follow.

See **READINESS**, Page 7

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;
Command Post Specialist (ART), YA-301-02.

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

MISSION SUPPORT:
Firefighter, GS-0081-06/07;
Training Technician, GS-1702-05;
Automotive Equipment Dispatcher, GS-2151-05;
Recreation Assistant, GS-0189-04;
Human Resources Specialist (ART), YA-201-02;
Logistics Management Specialist (ART), YA-346-02;
Supv HR Specialist (ART Officer), YC-201-02;
Police Officer, GS-0083-05;
Civil Engineer, YD-810-02.

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;
Management Assistant (OA) (ART), GS-344-05;
Aircraft Electrician (ART), WG-2892-11.

READINESS, Continued from Page 6

I was on MPA days, filling in for a chapel staff that was in transition. What started as a two month assignment expanded into a 6 month tour. I soon discovered in the immediate minutes and hours after the Pentagon's attack that readiness was the order of the day!

As a reservist, my training and skills were surely tested, yet I was ready and proud to serve! Lesson learned - we must be ever vigilant about sharpening our skills and always being ready to serve in whatever crisis, emergency or disaster that may arise, internationally, domestically or locally.

All of this was brought front and center for me during the recent news of the Continental Flight 3407 plane that crashed in Clarence Center, NY. Though living in Rochester, immediately my antenna went up! Will members of the 914th be affected, deployed or at a minimum, be on standby - ready to provide any needed rescue services? We never know when our monthly unit training assembly (UTA) weekends skills will be brought to bear on any given set of circumstances. This is true whether we gear up for deployment during the next AEF rotation, or when an emergency hits closer to home. Readiness is always the order of the day!

The Chapel staff adds our condolences and prayers to the families of all of the victims killed in the recent crash. We also extend an added gesture of love and support to the family of one of our own, retired Chief Master Sgt. John Fiore, one of the casualties, who was assigned to the 30th Aerial Port Squadron as the Air Transportation Manager before retiring recently. May God bless and comfort all who were affected.

As we are able to provide support, other gestures of goodwill or other needed resources during the aftermath of this local disaster, the lesson learned: Readiness - as an Air Force Reservist is always the order of the day.

Spotlight



Name: **Marie York**

Rank: **Airman 1st Class**

Unit: **914th Communications Squadron**

Job Title: **Knowledge Operation Manager**

Time in service: **A year and a half**

Hometown: **East Aurora, N.Y.**

Favorite Sports: **Rugby, Hockey and Football**

Hobbies: **Exercising**

Favorite TDY: **"I can't wait to go on my first TDY!"**



Welcome newcomers!



Airman Basic Mario Barret, 30 APS
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Boreman, 914 CES
Senior Airman Dale Bowles, 914 SFS
Tech. Sgt. Suzane Buttery, 914 ASTS
Senior Airman Stephanie Clark, 914 AW
Airman Eric Dipalma, 914 CES
Senior Airman Jennifer Ferris, 914 SFS

Staff Sgt. Robert Lawrence, 914 MXS
Tech. Sgt. Paul Marion, 914 OSF
Senior Airman Michael Moore, 30 APS
Staff Sgt. William Renno, 914 LRS
Tech. Sgt. Derek Sansone, 914 LRS
Senior Airman Toni Schumacher, 30 APS
Airman Basic Michelle Zakraysek, 914 CS



The Airman's Creed



*I am an American Airman.
I am a Warrior:
I have answered my nation's call.*

*I am an American Airman.
My mission is to fly, fight and win.
I am faithful to a proud heritage,
A tradition of honor,
And a legacy of valor.*

*I am an American Airman,
guardian of freedom and justice,
My nation's sword and shield,
Its sentry and avenger.
I defend my country with my life.*

*I am an American Airman:
Wingman, leader, warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter
and I will not fail.*

Niagara Frontiersman



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph McKee

The Niagara Frontiersman is printed for unit members like Master Sgt. Nick Seyler, 914th Airlift Wing recruiter. Sergeant Seyler (left) is pictured receiving an award from wing commander Col. Reinhard Schmidt for enlisting a top number of applicants into critically manned career fields.

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“Courage is the price that
Life extracts for granting
peace.”

- Amelia Earhart