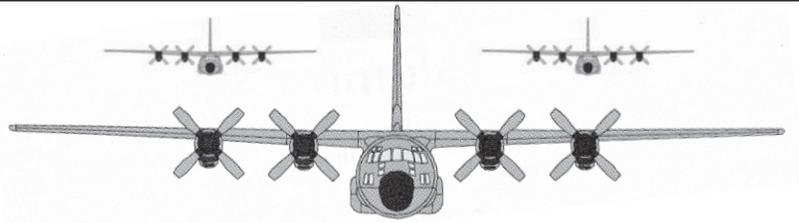


The 914th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA

FRONTIERSMAN



APRIL 2009

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

VOL 46, NO 4

Niagara
welcomes
commander



Commanders Column

By Lt. Col. Sharon Johnson
914th Maintenance Group

As we prepare for yet another round of inspections: HSI, UCI and MSEP, we are still meeting the needs of our nation with superb C-130H2 tactical airlift support. Our expeditionary combat support Airmen are deploying worldwide to support the global war on terror.

I feel bad for the Airman or civil servant who is not actively contributing to our business needs because they are being left in the dust and quickly becoming irrelevant. We are actively working toward a full-up, Air Reserve Component Association with the 107th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard.

We all must step up our game and seek out those new tools in our efficiency and accomplishment tool box. Terms like “that’s not my job” or “I don’t know how” are unacceptable given our workload. We are a team and must seek out instruction and education if we are tasked with something we’ve not done before.

Dust off those problem solving skills and network with others who have done the work before. There isn’t much more that sets someone off that has just worked 20 days straight, a minimum of 10 hour days and they ask someone for assistance and the response is “that’s not my job” or they get a half-excuse in an e-mail.

If our jobs were easy, anyone could do them. I suggest to you that being a traditional reservist, Air Reserve Technician, civil servant or contractor for the Air Force Reserve takes flexibility, agility and energy.

We owe it to each other to look at the overarching mission of the wing and focus our energy and talent to meet the mission. I’m not saying we should go around hugging everyone. Ok, that would be weird; yet we can be civil and accountable to each other.



I recently heard in my own organization, “Well, I only have 23 more months left....” We cannot afford to let Airmen, in any status, coast to retirement. We no longer have that luxury. I feel compelled to tell you how blessed I am to have the pleasure of being the 914th Maintenance Group commander. I work with predominately a superb group of officers, senior NCOs, NCOs and Airmen.

I want to talk a little bit about a few of the folks who keep the Maintenance Group running, day-to-day, mostly behind the scenes. I cannot mention everyone here, but please know behind each of these Airmen is a cast of great Airmen doing the wing’s work.

Lt. Col. Miles Montgomery and Chief Scott Goetze have the awesome responsibility to lead the Maintenance Operations Flight (MSL, PS&D, Analysis, Programs & Mobility, CSS, MOC/Debrief/Dispatch), Resource Advisor, Maintenance Training). This small but mighty flight provides incredible support to the entire Maintenance Group.

Maj. Dwight Meese and Chief Frank Barone have the distinguished leadership roles to lead the mighty Maintenance Squadron with 172

Airmen. They lead Airmen in the Maintenance Flight (Iso Dock & R/R), Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) Flight, Propulsion Flight, Fabrication Flight (Structural Repair, NDI, Metals Tech), Avionics Flight (Munitions, Comm/Nav, Guidance & Control, Electronic Warfare) and Accessories Flight (E/E, Fuels, Hydraulics).

Capt. Jessica Pisano and Chief Martin Gruber lead the outstanding Airmen of the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. You’ll find these hard charging crew chiefs on the flight line or on a TDY in the United States or abroad with each of our aircraft when they go. Chief Toney Proctor and Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Braunscheidel run the small, yet influential Maintenance Group Staff (QA, CSA, Career Advisor).

Together these Maintenance Group Airmen prepare the 12 primary assigned aircraft at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station for war-time readiness.

Each of these maintenance organizations is supported by the finest group of First Sergeants I’ve ever seen. We have Senior Master Sgt. David Leone, Senior Master Sgt. Scott Scharlau and Master Sgt. Robin Gradle. They provide amazing 24/7 support for our Airmen. If I played poker, I’d say I have a royal flush!

I am proud and honored to work with such a magnificent group.

The Operations Group, our close brethren, are led by incredible Airmen who stay focused on our overall mission. I couldn’t ask for finer partners in our wing mission to fly C-130 aircraft. My hope is that the inspections prove what great warriors the Airmen of the 914th Airlift Wing are as our mission contribution has been proven time and again.

God speed and great luck getting ready for our inspections and our AEF bucket!

THE NIAGARA FRONTIERSMAN

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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.

ON THE COVER >> Col. Allan Swartzmiller (right) accepts command of the 914th Airlift Wing from Major General Martin Mazick, 22nd Air Force.

ROUND UP 2009 >> Several members of the 30th Aerial Port Squadron traveled to Dobbins Air Reserve Base, GA in March for the 22nd Air Force Round Up 2009.

Eighteen of 20 Aerial Ports from 22 AF were in attendance for this week long event.

Aerial Porters competed against each other in competition revolving around aerial port duties.

Areas of competition consisted of events in engine running off/on loads, intransit visibility, material handling equipment driving, joint inspection of cargo for shipment in the military airlift system, fit to flight and a trivia test on the AFMAN 10-100.

The 30 APS team consisted of Tech. Sgt. James Corbett, Staff Sgt. Chad Weis, Staff Sgt. Joe Frischholz, Staff Sgt. Michael Peppers, and Senior Airman Chris Barnum. Staff Sgt. Anne Majdecki also provided admin support for 22 AF during the competition.

Overall the 30 APS members placed 6th out of 18 teams and their material handling equipment operators took first place in that event. They were awarded a handmade silver belt buckle (photo above) as the top MHE drivers.



Photo by Mr. Michael Harvey



Photo by Mr. Michael Harvey

OPERATION WHITER BRIGHTER >> Dr. Stuart Weinstein and his staff at Advanced Dental Center of Niagara Falls, N.Y. present a check for \$5,204.00 for the Family Support Center, to Col. Allan Swartzmiller, 914 AW commander and staff. The donation, dubbed Operation Whiter Brighter, represents the proceeds from all the professional tooth whitening procedures performed at the dental practice between New Years and Valentine's Day. This is the third consecutive year that Dr. Weinstein made this donation.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Nichols

SALUTE >> The 914th Maintenance Group (above) presents arms during the March wing change of command ceremony.



Photos by Senior Airman Stephanie Clark

HONORING OUR NATION'S FLAG >> Master Sgt. Jon Saunders (left) holds the colors during the wing change of command ceremony and 1st Lieutenant Gina Pizziconi-Cupples (above) sings the National Anthem.

FINAL SALUTE >> Outgoing wing commander Col. Reinhard Schmidt gives his final salute to the men and women of the 914th Airlift Wing at the change of command ceremony in March. During the ceremony Col. Schmidt was presented the Legion of Merit by Maj. Gen. Martin Mazick, 22nd Air Force commander.



Photo by Senior Airman Stephanie Clark



Photo by Senior Airman Stephanie Clark

ACCEPTING COMMAND >> Col. Allan Swartzmiller (center) takes over as commander of the installation and the 914 AW from Col. Reinhard Schmidt (right). Col. Swartzmiller comes to Niagara from the 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis St. Paul ARS, MN, where he served as the Operations Group Commander. Col. Schmidt moves to Robins AFB, GA, where he has been assigned to Headquarters, Air Force Reserve Command. Maj. Gen. Martin Mazick (left) was the officiating officer for the ceremony. Command Chief Master Sgt. Steven Larwood holds the unit flag.

Choices (*Chaplains Corner*)

By Chaplain (Capt.) James Bastian 
914th Airlift Wing

There are two guarantees in life – death and taxes. I was watching one of my bracket teams from the NCAA men’s basketball team ‘advance’ and it made me think of all the choices we have to make in life. If death and taxes were bracketed against each other, I guess I would root for taxes. Last month we mourned the death of one of our own, retired Chief Master Sgt. John Fiore. His death brought us together in a meaningful way to comfort his family and one another by remembering his life and praying for his soul. “Chief – Rest in Peace.”

Two more choices: University of Kentucky – vs. – Michigan State University. Well, my alma mater UK did not make the top 65; they are in the NIT. So I’ll root for Michigan State. I know this is our commander’s alma mater and it may seem that I’m trying to get on Col. Swartzmiller’s good side (OK, just a little). Anyway, go Spartans!

Two more choices: 914th AW – vs – 934th AW. That’s easy!

And two more: Palms – vs. – early lunch. This ‘bracket’ needs some explaining. April 5th is Palm Sunday. The Catholic Church and many Protestant Churches give out a sacramental in the form of a blessed palm branch as a sign of the beginning of Holy Week. A sacramental is anything set apart or blessed by the Church to excite good thoughts and to help devotions. Now lunch is served from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. You can stop by the chapel to pick up a palm at 11 a.m. (takes 30 seconds), even stay for the Liturgy of the Word (takes 15 minutes), or stay for the whole Mass (about 34 minutes). Or eat early. Your choice.

Now I better get to my taxes, I don’t want to temp fate.



Photo by Mr. Michael Harvey

914 AW / 107 AW Children’s Easter Egg Hunt



FREE

For all children 12 and under

**Saturday, April 11, 2009
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Dining Facility

Treats and prizes for all

**Call Family Readiness
236-2097 NLT April 6
for reservations**

Career assistance advisor program available to unit members

By Master Sgt. Michael Haag
914 AW Career Assistance Advisor

I would like to take the time to introduce the 914 AW members to the Career Assistance Advisor program. Why? Plain and simple... Retention!

First, our goal is to retain every individual assigned to the 914th Airlift Wing. Each and every member is valuable and needed to meet and maintain all mission requirements for our national defense.

The wing, as well as each group, has a Career Assistance Advisor assigned whose door is always open to assist you in any way possible.

Also, as an additional duty each unit also has a Career Assistance Advisor assigned. Together, we are here to provide information and support for the following programs that affect your career: reenlistments, extensions, the bonus program, promotions, retraining, as-



signment options, participation, educational benefits and retirement to name a few.

As Career Advisors, we are not necessarily the program managers for the aforementioned programs, however we have been trained in counseling and the referral process. This training allows us to point you in the right direction ensuring your career satisfaction.

Posters and listings of all the Career Advisors are posted throughout the wing. With that being said, I urge each and every one of you to locate and call upon us when you have a question or concern, no matter how small it may be.

All the Career Assistance Advisors and I are personally interested in your career satisfaction and the overall retention efforts of the 914th Airlift Wing.

I am found in Bldg 800, room 108. Stop by anytime or contact me at 716-236-2192.



The Niagara Frontiersman Readership Survey

Our editors would like to know what you think would make the Niagara Frontiersman better! That's where this survey can help.

Please take a few minutes to let us know what you read and like, how the paper could improve and a little bit about yourself.

If you don't read the paper, please let us know why in the comments section.

This survey is designed to help us improve the Niagara Frontiersman. To do this, we use this survey to better determine how much local news, Air Force operations news, personnel programs and policy information, and other news you desire. We are interested in your assessment of the Frontiersman as a source of information about the Air Force and 914 AW community. While remaining completely anonymous, you can give us useful information by checking the appropriate responses on those items. Thank you.

Please return completed surveys to: 914 AW/PA, 2720 Kirkbridge Dr., Niagara Falls ARS, NY 14304-5001.

The survey can also be accessed by logging onto the 914 AW portal page and finding the public affairs link.

1. I read the Frontiersman:

- At least occasionally. (Please proceed with questions 2-25)
- Never. (Please go to question 18)

Please circle your response:

2. The Frontiersman is a vital source of (base/unit) news to me.

Agree - Disagree

3. The writing in the Frontiersman is easy to understand.

Agree - Disagree

4. I depend on the Frontiersman for news about Air Force involvement in world events.

Agree - Disagree

5. The Frontiersman keeps me fully informed about Air Force personnel policies and decisions.

Agree - Disagree

6. The Frontiersman keeps me fully informed about events happening on base.

Agree - Disagree

7. Generally, the Frontiersman is written with my interests in mind.

Agree - Disagree

8. The stories in the Frontiersman are timely and up-to-date.

Agree - Disagree

9. In terms of the amount of stories, rate the Frontiersman at recognizing local people with stories and photos.

- A. Excellent
- B. Very Good
- C. Satisfactory
- D. Below Satisfactory
- E. Poor

10. In terms of the quality of stories, rate the Frontiersman at recognizing local people with stories and photos.

- A. Excellent
- B. Very Good
- C. Satisfactory
- D. Below Satisfactory
- E. Poor

11. In terms of the amount of information, how would you rate the Frontiersman as a source of information about the 914 AW? (Check only one response)

- A. Excellent
- B. Very Good
- C. Satisfactory
- D. Below Satisfactory
- E. Poor

12. In terms of the quality of information, how would you rate the Frontiersman as a source of information about the 914 AW? (Check only one response)

- A. Excellent
- B. Very Good
- C. Satisfactory
- D. Below Satisfactory
- E. Poor

13. In terms of the amount of the stories, how would you rate the Frontiersman as a source of information about the Air Force? (Check only one response)

- A. Excellent
- B. Very Good
- C. Satisfactory
- D. Below Satisfactory
- E. Poor

14. In terms of the amount of photos and graphic illustrations, how would you rate the Frontiersman?

- A. Excellent
- B. Very Good
- C. Satisfactory
- D. Below Satisfactory
- E. Poor

15. In terms of the quality of photos and graphic illustrations, how would you rate the Frontiersman?

- A. Excellent
- B. Very Good
- C. Satisfactory
- D. Below Satisfactory
- E. Poor

16. Using a scale of 1-10, where 1 means "extremely unsatisfied" and 10 means "extremely satisfied," how satisfied are you with the way the Frontiersman keeps you informed? (Please circle your choice)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

17. Do members of your family read the Frontiersman?

- A. Every week
- B. Once a month
- C. Occasionally
- D. Less than once a month
- E. Never
- F. I do not have dependents

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF

18. What is your age?

- A. 18 and younger
- B. 19-21
- C. 22-24
- D. 25-34
- E. 35-44
- F. 45-54
- G. 55 and over

19. What is your gender?

- A. Female
- B. Male

20. What is your marital status?

- A. Married
- B. Single

21. What is your primary Air Force affiliation? (Choose only one response)

- A. Active Duty Air Force
- B. Air Force Reserve
- C. Air National Guard
- D. Civilian Employee
- E. Retired (Skip to Question #26)
- F. Family member (Skip to #26)

22. What squadron are you assigned to?

23. What is your rank?

24. What is your civilian pay grade? (Skip if military)

25. What is your highest level of education?

- A. Some high school
- B. High school graduate (include GED)
- C. Some college
- D. Associate degree
- E. College degree (BA, BS, etc.)
- F. Master's degree or above

If you have any issues or concerns about the Frontiersman or this survey that we haven't covered, please write them down on a blank sheet of paper. If you are referring to a question, please identify the question by number.

Thank you for participating in this survey.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Nichols

The Niagara Frontiersman is published monthly for unit members like Capt. Ronald Reidel, executive officer for the 914th Airlift Wing. Capt. Reidel (right) is pictured receiving the Air Force Commendation Medal from former wing commander Col. Reinhard Schmidt. Capt. Reidel's distinctive accomplishments reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Air Force.

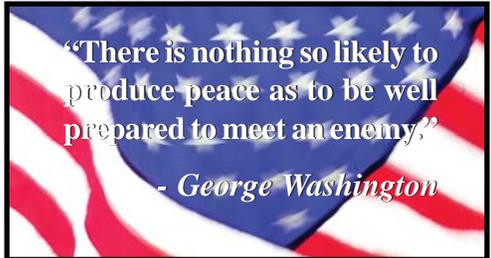
49th Annual Western New York Armed Forces Week May 3-9, 2009

For more information contact the Public Affairs Office at 236-2136.



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The 914th Airlift Wing

NIAGARA FRONTIERSMAN



PRESENT ARMS! >> Members of the 914th Airlift Wing stand in formation for the change of command ceremony welcoming Col. Allan Swartzmiller to Niagara and saying farewell to Col. Reinhard Schmidt.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Lanphear