

AMERICAN DEFENDER

MAGAZINE OF THE FIRST AIR FORCE

2001 YEAR IN REVIEW

**125th
FIGHTER WING**
GUARDS NASA'S
Space Shuttle

**WESTERN
SECTOR**
Aids in search
and rescue

**102nd
FIGHTER WING**
Commissions
youngest
pilot



AIR WAR OVER
AMERICA

COMMENTARY

THE FIRST WORD

Terrorism: CONR responds

Maj. Gen. Larry K. Arnold
1st Air Force Commander

First Air Force and the Continental United States North American Aerospace Command Region trains daily to meet our nation's requirement for rapid response to any threat to our air sovereignty. On September 11, 2001, while in the midst of a training exercise, our well-practiced rapid response capability may very well have prevented additional surprise attacks on the American homeland saving countless lives. Initially we were surprised, but it didn't affect our response.

Although all of the heroic individual actions that took place that day may never be known, units from across the country spontaneously shifted from peacetime to "wartime footing" to defend America. Fighter aircraft from the 147th Fighter Wing, Ellington Air National Guard Base, Texas, already airborne for a local training mission, provided defensive escort for the President of the United States and Air Force One.

Fighters from the 102nd Fighter Wing, Otis Air

National Guard Base, Mass., were airborne within six minutes of notification of the hijackings. Combat air

patrols were established immediately over numerous population centers and other areas designated as likely targets. Aircraft, crews and support personnel responded immediately to each of those taskings with a sense of urgency, teamwork and professionalism that is the hallmark of the American military.

Immediate coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration ensured the absolute and speedy clearing of all airspace over the continental United States, allowing us to quickly regain the sovereignty of America's skies. Because of the cooperation between 1st Air Force/CONR and the FAA we were able to identify, track and escort suspected hijacked aircraft after the initial attacks.

Coordination with the U.S. Secret Service was no less impressive. The spontaneous teamwork between the Region and the Secret Service proved vital to protecting the President. Additional coordination among the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Defense Investigative Service and other intelligence agencies resulted in real time defense reactions to protect the capital and the President.

Interservice cooperation with other Air Force commands and the U. S. Navy gave us tactical control of numerous Air Force and naval assets needed to secure the

borders and waterways of the United States.

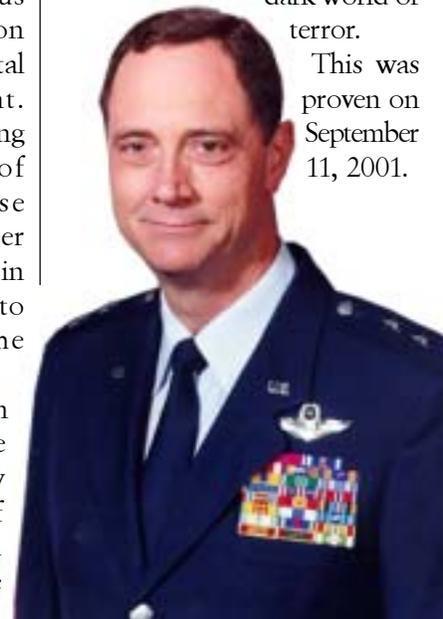
First Air Force/CONR's response to the attacks was coordinated with the Secretary of Defense as the rules of engagement were devised and implemented. In short, our reaction time outpaced the process in some instances. That response time was a reflection of the quality training, esprit de corps and creativity of our service members.

Today, we stand well prepared to counter the new domestic air threat.

It is with a sense of solemn pride that on America's darkest day in recent history, I was privileged to serve with the men and women of 1st Air Force and the Continental United States NORAD Region.

No matter how technical our operations become or how our mission expands, our people will remain the most powerful deterrent and most effective weapon against the agents of the dark world of terror.

This was proven on September 11, 2001.



AMERICAN DEFENDER

2001 Year in Review

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ABOUT THE COVER

An F-15 Eagle banks away from the sunset as the space shuttle, Endeavor, rockets up through Florida skies toward the International Space Station. Photo by: 125th Fighter Wing photojournalist Master Sgt. Shawn Withers



Lisa Carroll

President George W. Bush greets an enthusiastic crowd at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. Bush toured the base in March 2001 and discussed his proposed 2002 military budget with the Tyndall community.

Bush visits Tyndall, 1st Air Force

Staff Sgt. Scott Farley

1st Air Force public affairs

President Bush traveled to Tyndall Air Force Base, March 2001, to bring attention to his proposed defense budget and improvements to military quality of life.

Bush, a former 1st Air Force pilot with the 147th Fighter Wing in Texas, was welcomed by his brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and military dignitaries, including the 1st Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Larry K. Arnold.

After greeting the mostly military crowd on the flight line, Bush toured base housing, stopping to visit the home of

Senior Airman Donnie Bryant, of the 325th Civil Engineering Squadron.

At Bryant's home and later at the youth activity center, Bush spoke about measures in his budget that address the need for pay increases and improved housing to keep morale strong in the military.

"In order to keep the peace, the military must be strong and morale has got to be high," Bush said. "One part of my budget that I submitted to the Congress will be to make sure we house our military folks better."

The president's plan calls for \$5.7 billion to improve the quality of life for military troops that includes \$400 million for housing

improvements.

Bush later signed the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act Dec. 28, 2001.

The bill includes a 5 to 10 percent increase in basic pay, targeting mid-level NCOs with an average basic pay raise of 8-10 percent.

The newly signed bill also calls for an increase in the basic housing allowance for most regions in the United States, reducing out-of-pocket expenses from 15 percent to an average of 11 percent. The Department of Defense is working to ensure basic housing costs are covered in full by 2005. →

Guarding America

Air Control Squadron helps guard United States

NEWS

Maj. Bob Thomson

366th Fighter Wing public affairs

Keeping an eye on air traffic in the western United States, the 726th Air Control Squadron, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, has been on the job - ensuring the friendly skies stay that way - for the past 100 days, 24-hours a day, seven-days a week.

As one of the first units to set up air defense operations in U.S. interior airspace after the Sept. 11 attacks, the unit conducts air traffic surveillance and, if need be, coordinates fighter intercepts of suspicious air traffic.

"We're a combat unit," said Lt. Col. Kathy Stoddard, squadron commander.

"We usually deploy into a battle theater and our team provides radar coverage of enemy territory. Guarding America through Operation Noble Eagle is something we never expected we would have to do."

Operation Noble Eagle refers to U.S. military operations for homeland defense and civil support to federal, state and local agencies in the United States.

More than 200 people make up Stoddard's unit. They are known on the radio by the call sign "Hardrock." They work with the Western Air Defense Sector, headquartered outside of Seattle and the North American Aerospace Defense Command, located in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"NORAD's mission prior to Sept. 11 was to track and monitor all aircraft entering the United States and the Canadian borders," said Stoddard. "Everything was designed to look for bombers and missiles approaching our coastlines, not inside them. That's why my team is needed: we watch the inside of the country and look for any aircraft that doesn't look, sound or act normal."

NORAD decides if the squadron controllers should direct an intercept of a potentially hostile aircraft.

NORAD is responsible for more than 100 aircraft that are assigned to protect Alaska, Canada and the United States. E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft from the United States and NATO make

information, send data and communications to various agencies, and stand ready to provide electronic countermeasures and jamming.

"We can't discuss any of the specific operational aspects that reveal mission profiles and patterns useful to our adversaries," said Stoddard.

"Those details include things like



Staff Sgt. Bennie Davis

A tracking technician with the 726th Air Control Squadron monitors air traffic over the northwestern United States.

regular patrols over NORAD's airspace and fighters fly random combat air patrols. Most of the fighters stay ready on the ground in 15-minute alert status - ready to be airborne in less than 15 minutes if called upon.

To provide NORAD with fast and accurate information, the unit from Mountain Home Air Force Base uses a long-range radar system called the AN/TPS-75.

It's capable of observing aircraft more than 240 miles away and more than 95,000 feet above the ground.

Operating from an eight-foot-wide by 20-foot-long box called an operations module, Hardrock teams of four operators conduct searches, track targets, view and share weather

flight plans, routes, altitudes, times of flights or operations. If we were to talk about specific details of our mission, we could adversely affect national security and threaten the safety of not only our military men and women but our citizens as well."

"It is a total team effort from maintaining the equipment to operating and protecting the resources," said Stoddard. "Because we have outstanding airmen repairing and taking care of our equipment, we're able to maximize the unit's command and control capabilities.

"I'm very proud of the Hardrock team's contributions to the defense of our great country," Stoddard said. ➔

Western Air Defense Sector

Radar evaluators aid in rescues



Master Sgt. Bruce Robie

Tech. Sgt. Scott Corpe and Master Sgt. John Henderson review radar data from a recent, successful rescue mission in which the 84th RADES played a crucial role.

2nd Lt. Elena O'Bryan

*Western Air Defense Sector
public affairs*

Search and rescue brings to mind brave men and women descending from helicopters above high seas, deserts or mountaintops, risking their lives to aid survivors.

But for the eyes of behind-the-scenes heroes who never leave their chairs or the glow of computer screens and radar scopes, these rescuers might never find those they save.

Technicians Master Sgt. John Henderson and Tech. Sgt. Scott Corpe are U.S. Air Force active duty personnel who work in one of the three radar evaluation squadrons (RADES) at air defense sectors across the country searching for the missing at sea or on land.

Recently, RADES personnel had an opportunity to prove the value of

their skills. Henderson received a call Nov. 15 from the Federal Aviation Administration about a Navy EA-6B Prowler the U.S. Navy said was missing over the Olympic Peninsula in western Washington. Ten minutes later, Henderson was back on the phone with the FAA.

"I can tell where it's gone down," he told the FAA representative, after isolating the aircraft's radar track from a sea of other radar data.

The combined testimony of witnesses on the ground and the efforts of Henderson and U.S. Coast Guard helicopters pinpointed the location of the three injured aviators who survived the impact. The crash occurred only two miles from the last radar "hit" as recorded by WADS.

Over the summer, again, Henderson's radar evaluation skills helped save not one life but six in danger of death by dehydration after their single-engine Cessna 210 made

an emergency landing in the Mexican desert June 24.

It was 11 p.m. and Henderson had just returned to on-base housing at McChord Air Force Base when his pager went off. He rushed back to the Western Air Defense Sector at McChord. There the mission crew commander briefed him on an urgent request from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, or AFRCC, at Langley Air Force Base, Va. AFRCC needed Henderson's help in finding an American civilian aircraft lost in the Mexican desert.

Henderson immediately set to work downloading and sifting through radar data to find the last known coordinates of the aircraft - a process that can take about four hours and that he likens to "a big game of Clue." By combining the radar information with the time of aircraft departure and the probable transponder codes of the aircraft, Henderson guided rescuers to a point one and a half miles from the last radar hit.

The survivors of the crash - three El Paso elected officials, two architects and the pilot - were right where Henderson said their plane would be. A local pilot spotted them near wreckage in a dry lake bed 53 miles south of Juarez.

Two U. S. Army helicopters soon arrived on scene to fly the survivors back to the United States.

"It was a fantastic feeling when I found out they were alive," Henderson said. "All the extra hours you put into the job are made worthwhile when you can save someone."

Most requests for assistance from the RADES shop don't involve such opportunity. Planes are often reported missing several hours after they've crashed due to lack of

recorded flight plans and other factors. By the time RADES gets the call, it's more a matter of recovering bodies than saving lives.

"We don't hear about a lot of happy endings," Network Administrator Corpe said. "The sooner we get called, the better chance they have."

Incredibly, Corpe also saved a life not three weeks before Henderson's involvement in locating the crash survivors from El Paso, Texas.

A Piper 180 single engine aircraft was missing out of Cameron Park, Calif., June 2. It never landed to pick up a group of skydivers waiting at an airstrip in Lodi, Calif.

After a call from AFRCC, Corpe dove into a sea of radar data to isolate the transponder squawk that fit the plane's profile. Only 28 minutes passed

before Corpe was directing rescuers to a location eight miles east of Sacramento, Calif. Twenty-five minutes later, state troopers on the ground arrived

at the spot and found an injured, but alive, pilot strapped to the seat of an airplane. The pilot, with head and neck injuries, was rushed to a hospital by police helicopter.

Commander of the AFRCC, Lt. Col. William Naumann III, thanked Corpe for his swift and precise efforts in locating the missing pilot.

"More often than not, those most essential to the success of the rescue business are often unnoticed, and often not thanked," Naumann said. Most rewarding for Corpe was realizing, "we can do this sort of thing." →



U.S. Navy file photo

A Navy EA6-B Prowler, similar to the one above, and its crew were located with the help of Master Sgt. John Henderson and Tech. Sgt. Scott Corpe of the 84th Radar Evaluation Squadron. Both NCOs are assigned to the Western Air Defense Sector, McChord Air Force Base, Wash.



Western Air Defense Sector file photo

The Western Air Defense Sector, above, is one of the many Air Force radar operations facilities from where the 84th Radar Evaluation Squadron, or RADES, operates.

An F-16 Falcon fighter jet is shown in flight, viewed from a high angle, flying over a dense urban landscape. The jet is dark grey with white markings on the tail, including the number '15159' and a silhouette of a person. The city below is a grid of buildings and streets, with some smoke or clouds visible. The sky is a deep blue.

An F-16 Falcon from the 158th Fighter Wing, Burlington, Vt., flies a mission over New York City shortly after the collapse of the World Trade Center towers in September.

Air war over America

Master Sgt. Roger Tibbetts

1st Air Force public affairs

From the minute the Northeast Air Defense Sector's mission crew commander scrambled two 102nd Fighter Wing F-15s out of Cape Cod, Mass., and directed them "super sonic to target," America has been focusing on the role of the Air National Guard.

158th Fighter Wing photo

“The wing’s F-15 fighter jets were among the first to be scrambled and respond to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City,” said Cliff McDonald, 102nd Fighter Wing spokesperson. “Since then the wing has been on a heightened state of alert, flying frequent day and night combat air patrols over New York City and the northeast sector of the United States.”

For members of 1st Air Force and the Continental NORAD Region’s remaining fighter wings and sectors, air sovereignty is a way of life – a part of its daily language and culture.

The devastation of Sept. 11 and its worldwide ripple effect has forever altered the size and scope of the CONR mission.

Moreover, it has now taken on new proportions and added many more players.

What makes this growth unique is the majority of the airmen who pilot the fighters, evaluate the radar air picture and maintain the engines and electronics are National Guard members.

“This is an active duty Air Force mission performed primarily by members of the Air National Guard,” said Maj. Gen. Larry K. Arnold, 1st Air Force/CONR commander.

Some are full-time members, still others are part-timers, America’s “Minutemen,” who trace their roots back to the first muster at Salem, Mass., in 1637.

The time-honored tradition of homeland defense started on the roads and in the fields of colonial New England, where citizens took up arms “with only a minute’s notice” during the Revolutionary War.

In the past months NORAD has more than doubled its fighter wing support with Guard members who have been activated to execute CONR’s expanded mission.

“North Dakota traditional Guard members have shown great support by coming forward to augment the efforts of our full-timers,” said Tech. Sgt. Tracey DuBord, a 119th Fighter Wing public affairs specialist. “Morale here is high – the ‘Happy Hooligans’ are proud to step forward and do their part ensuring homeland security.”

CONR’s Northeast, Southeast and Western Air Defense Sector drill status guardsmen, or DSGs, have enthusiastically answered the president’s call to the Guard and Reserve.

Folks who would normally be local educators, marketing professionals, as well as industry supervisors, college



Master Sgt. Roger Tibbets

Staff Sgt. Timothy M. Jacobs, Southeast Air Defense Sector tracking technician, keeps an eye on the Gulf of Mexico for airborne threats to the United States.

students or full-time parents have all donned their battle-dress uniforms, working full time for as long as needed.

Staff Sgt. Virgil Simms, who left active duty and joined the Southeast Air Defense Sector as a part-timer, had recently begun work as an FAA technician for the National Network Control Center in Atlanta.

“I am glad to give up anything, including my life,” said Simms. He hopes his return to active duty prevents his children from having to fight the same battle 20 years from now.

The events of Sept. 11 have been top stories in the media again and again. The photos and video coverage of the infamous attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon served as a constant reminder to Guard members about the importance of their role.

It is the job of the members of 1st Air Force/CONR and the Air National Guard to continue to play a major role in homeland defense, helping to prevent such acts of terrorism from happening again.

“We are a critical player in our nation’s defense and we are well augmented to perform our mission today,” Arnold said. “I will tell you, we have the resolve, we have the patience and we have the determination to win this war.” →



125th photo

125th Fighter Wing, security forces personnel check vehicles entering the base on Sept. 11.

Flying Shotgun



An F-15 Eagle from the 125th Fighter Wing flies combat air patrol over NASA's space shuttle docked at the Cape Canaveral launch platform.

photos by Master Sgt. Shawn Withers

for NASA



Florida Air National Guard fighters patrolled over the John F. Kennedy Space Center prior to NASA's launching of the space shuttle, Endeavor.

Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

125th Fighter Wing public affairs

Fighters from the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing secured the skies against possible acts of terrorism during the first shuttle mission since Sept. 11.

Following the Sept. 11 attacks, tighter security at airports, military bases and in the skies above places such as the John F. Kennedy Space Center has become a daily ritual.

Americans have also witnessed the emergence of images symbolizing our current endeavor to fight terrorism.

Video footage of fleeing victims, the rubble at Ground Zero and the rebuilding efforts at the Pentagon are daily reminders of our current struggle to restore the safety, security and freedom to which Americans have grown accustomed.

In concert with President George W. Bush's call for Americans to "live their lives," Dec. 5, the space shuttle, Endeavor, America's premier symbol of freedom in space, rocketed toward the heavens under the protection of F-15 Eagles flying combat air patrol



Above: An F-15 Eagle from the 125th Fighter Wing refuels above the John F. Kennedy Space Center as the winter sun sets over southern Florida. Left: The space shuttle Endeavor stands ready for another launch by NASA.



missions to support the launch. Pilots at the 125th regularly fly CAP missions, but the shuttle launch marked the first time it was such a highly publicized mission, according to Maj. Sami Said, one of several pilots who flew during the shuttle launch.

“I don’t think anyone has had a mission before Sept. 11 where we were protecting U.S. assets on U.S. soil,” stated Said.

Prior to the attacks on the United States, the wartime mission of the 125th was to provide armed aircraft capable of intercepting, identifying and, if necessary, destroying unknown aircraft that infiltrated U.S. airspace.



The Space Shuttle Endeavor begins its ascent to the heavens, leaving in trail a spectacular plume of fire and smoke. The December launch was guarded by F-15 Eagles from the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, Fla.

But since Sept. 11, the 125th's fighter pilots have also been flying combat air patrol missions in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

"Unlike other CAP flights, it felt like we had more of a defined goal," said Maj. John "Homer" Black, another fighter pilot who was airborne during the launch.

The well-defined goal of supporting the shuttle launch also had well-defined boundaries according to Said.

"There was a defined area as opposed to other CAP missions where you are there for the region," Said stated. "Every CAP mission is very important, but

now we were there for a specific asset on the ground."

The unique mission required more planning than most CAP missions because it was the first time a CAP mission was flown under such exceptional circumstances, added Said.

"Our training was already in place to get the job done," Said stated. "It was more about coordinating with the different agencies like the Federal Aviation Agency and the Cape Control Agency."

The pilots communicated with the different agencies several times to coordinate "how everybody does their piece of the puzzle," he said.

"We talked about who has control of what - so command and control issues were huge."

And once in the air, the pilots were able to see the Endeavor launch.

"To watch the launch from the vantage point that we had was such a unique opportunity," remarked Said. "We were so close to it. It was certainly the first time seeing something that dramatic," Said stated.

"It stirred up patriotic feelings in all of us - we were proud to be there," →

The New Cold War



World Military Ski Championships *Hosted by Vermont Guard*

Compiled from Staff Reports

Military athletes from around the world converged on Vermont for the Conseil International du Sport Militaire 43rd World Military Ski Championships March 8 through 11, 2001.

The championships were hosted by the Vermont National Guard and featured men and women representing the armed forces of 19 nations.

The athletes, many of whom will compete in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah,

competed in the Nordic and Alpine skiing events.

The eight events were held at the Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho, Vt., and at the Stowe Mountain Resort in Stowe, Vt.

The events included the 20km biathlon (men), 15km biathlon (women), giant slalom (men and women), 15km cross-country (men), 10km cross-country (women), 25km military patrol (men), and 20km military patrol (women).

This is the third time Vermont National Guard has hosted the championship at the Ethan Allen Firing Range, which is one of three internationally licensed biathlon ranges in the United States.➔

Left: German Peter Strodl races down the North Slope course at the Stowe Mountain Resort placing 11th in the giant slalom event of the CISM 43rd World Military Ski Championships.

Right: Norwegian Evelyn Hanevold rests during the military patrol event in which Norway placed sixth.

Below: Christoph Schneider, left, and Roland Zwahlen, right, of Switzerland lead their teammates during the Military Patrol Race during the CISM 43rd World Military Ski Championships.

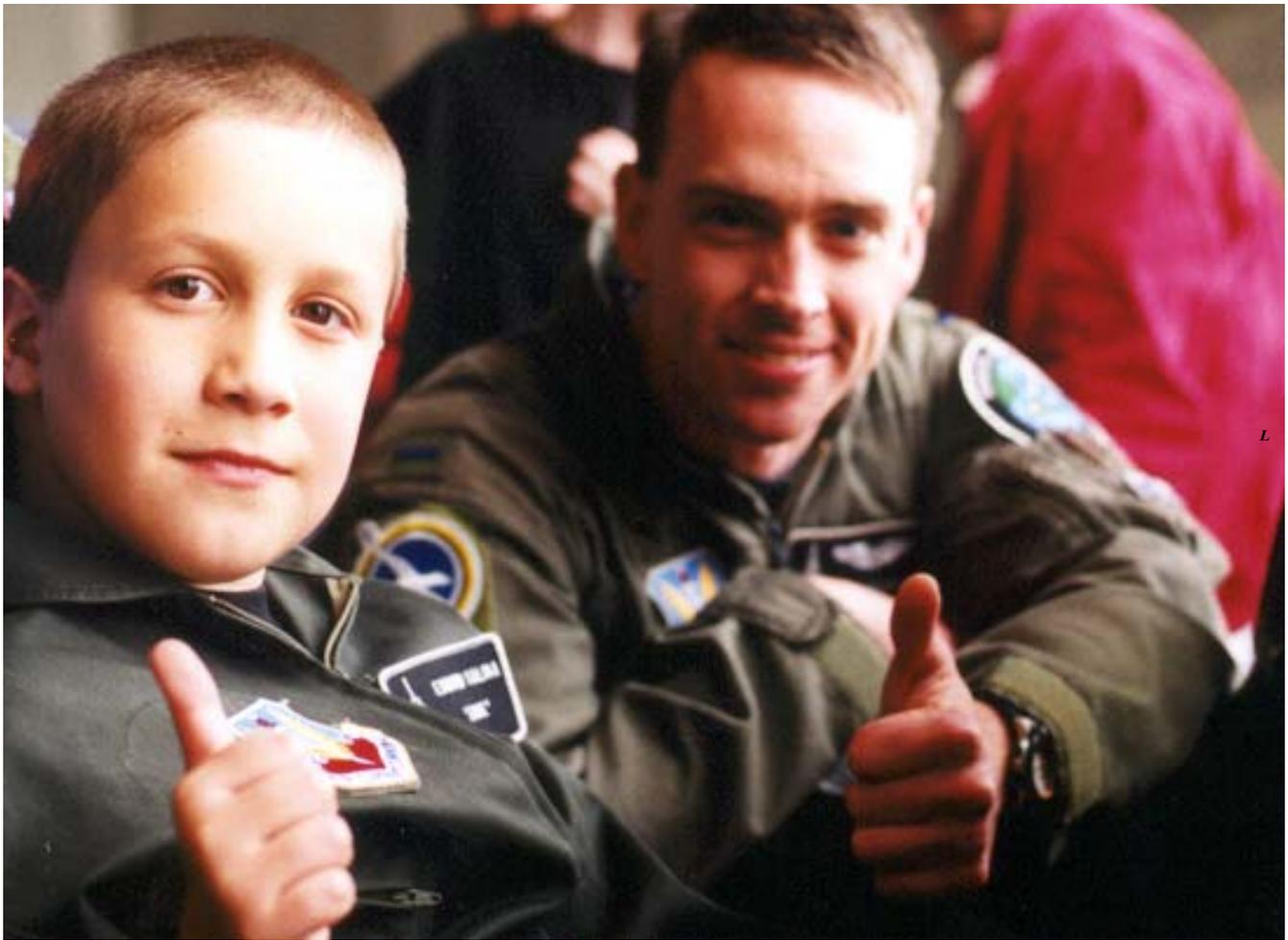


Courtesy Oregon Army National Guard



Spec. Cavett S. Ishihara

Spec. Cavett S. Ishihara



photos, Senior Master Sgt. Sherrie Correia

Eddie's "Wicked Cool" Day *Otis "commissions" youngest fighter jock*

Clifford McDonald

102nd Fighter Wing public affairs

Stepping through the front door of his Braintree, Mass., home, 9-year old Eddie Saliba glanced up at the gray sky as rain clouds parted to make way for the brilliant sunshine of late May. To Eddie, it wasn't just another Wednesday, not the usual rainy New England spring week - it was a dream come true!

As his eyes lowered back to the walkway, he focused on two Massachusetts Air National Guard security forces personnel making their way toward him. With them was Eddie's new buddy, 1st Lt. Sean D. Halbrook, an F-15 pilot for the 102nd Fighter Wing at Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass., and Eddie's co-pilot for the day.

"Eddie was wide-eyed and astonished when he saw us and our HUMVEE," said Halbrook.

This was going to be the biggest day in Eddie's young life: today Eddie is "Pilot for a Day," compliments of the 102nd Fighter Wing.

An unofficial program first launched at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, in the early 1990's, "Pilot for

a Day," gives children who are stricken with life threatening illnesses a chance to put their pain behind them - if only for a day - and experience the thrill of spending a day-in-the-life of a fighter pilot.

This program is our way of helping children, like Eddie, have some fun and excitement, and to give back to our community where we have a vested interest, said Lt. Col. Margaret Quenneville, 102nd Fighter Wing community relations officer.

Eddie, a third grader, has a form of muscular dystrophy called Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. A progressive, muscular degenerative disease, DMD wastes away skeletal muscle tissues found in the arms, legs and trunk of the body.

With his new buddy, along with his parents Edmond and Margie Saliba, Eddie began his day at the wing's life support section, where he was outfitted in his own flight suit complete with name and squadron patches and an official wing baseball cap.

Like any good new airman, it was time for Eddie

to meet his commanding officer, 102nd Fighter Wing commander, Col. Donald Quenneville, who in turn proceeded to introduce him to the senior staff. Quenneville, along with his staff, was so impressed with Eddie he “officially” promoted him to the rank of captain, awarded him pilot’s wings and handed him his own genuine aviator sunglasses, which made Eddie the coolest looking guy in the squadron.

Later that morning, “Captain” Eddie made a pre-flight inspection and sat behind the stick of his very own F-15 Eagle, complete with his name painted below the canopy. In preparation for the new captain’s pending arrival, F-15 crews from the 102nd FW had carefully “tagged” the Eagle fighter with “Pilot for a Day - Edmond ‘Eddie’ Saliba.”

Quenneville said that seeing the reaction on Eddie’s face made it worthwhile.

Sitting down for lunch with his parents in the wing’s pilot’s lounge, Eddie listened to a few well told “war stories” and refueled on four kinds of pizza and cookies, washing it all down with plenty of soda.

As the second half of the day-long visit got underway, Eddie stopped by the base fire station and learned about base fire safety. Climbing aboard a fire truck, he aimed and shot its water cannon across the flight line. His tour of duty also included watching a demonstration by base security forces, who gladly swapped Eddie his baseball cap for the traditional black beret worn by the Air Force’s security forces personnel.

The afternoon continued to be filled with surprises for Eddie as he got to chat with pilots suiting up for the afternoon’s training missions.

With the briefing completed, he made his way down to the runway and watched in amazement as the 102nd launched its fighters into the blue sky of Cape Cod, Mass.

Next came the ultimate experience in Eddie’s young life! He was helped into an F-15 egress trainer and had the thrill of a lifetime ejecting from a simulated pilot’s seat of an F-15 Eagle.

Closing the special day’s events, Col. Quenneville



Above: 1st Lt Sean D. Halbrook and Edmond Saliba adjust Eddie’s flight suit. Eddie and 1st Lt. Halbrook give thumbs up to the day’s events, left.

read a citation proclaiming Eddie an honorary member of the 102nd Fighter Wing, and dubbed him Eddie “Flash” Saliba, capping off a day Eddie will not soon forget.

Eddie’s parents continue to help him keep a positive outlook with exciting daily activities as he continues his battle with DMD.

“Events like these are twofold: on one hand it’s fantastic to see your child experiencing such a unique and wonderful event; on the other hand, you realize why he’s there and wish that it didn’t have to be this way,” said Eddie’s mom, Margie. →

Duchenne muscular dystrophy facts:

Muscular diseases, such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy, or DMD, are genetic disorders. French neurologist Guillaume Benjamin Amand Duchenne, who described DMD’s degenerative cycle in the 1860’s, was the first to note the muscular disorder.

Here are some more DMD facts:

- DMD almost exclusively affects boys but in rare cases girls can also suffer from the disorder.
- The disease is X-linked recessive, carried by females.
- Boys begin to show signs of muscle weakness as early as age 3.
- Between the ages of 7 and 12, nearly all DMD sufferers will lose the ability to walk.

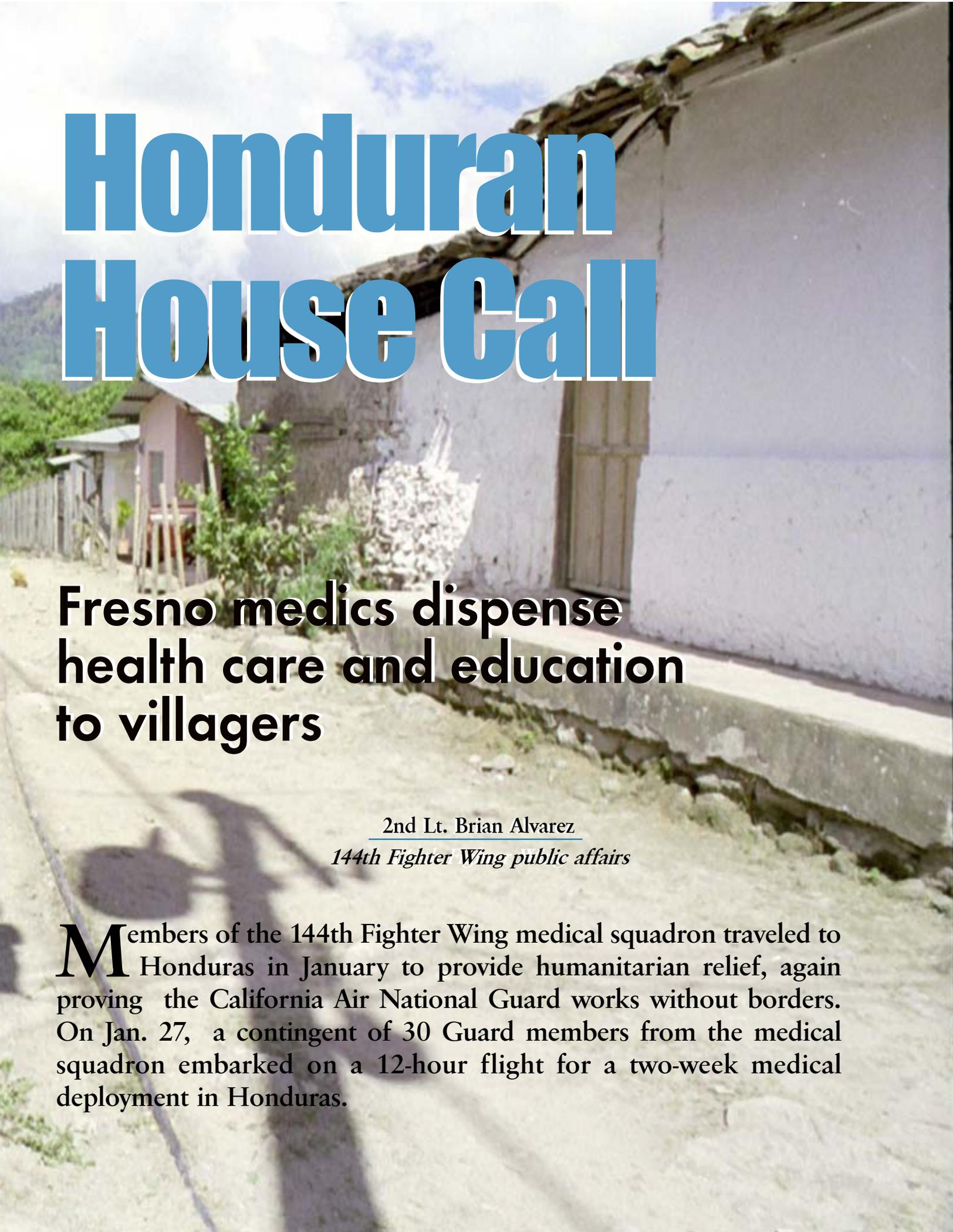
You can learn more about Duchenne muscular dystrophy by logging on to www.mdausa.org.

— Editor

Honduran children gaze with wonder and caution at California Air National Guard members on the streets of Honduras.



photos by Staff Sgt. Dave Loeffler

A photograph of a village street in Honduras. The street is unpaved and dusty. On the right, there is a white-washed building with a wooden door. In the background, there are more simple buildings and some greenery. The sky is bright and slightly hazy.

Honduran House Call

**Fresno medics dispense
health care and education
to villagers**

2nd Lt. Brian Alvarez
144th Fighter Wing public affairs

Members of the 144th Fighter Wing medical squadron traveled to Honduras in January to provide humanitarian relief, again proving the California Air National Guard works without borders. On Jan. 27, a contingent of 30 Guard members from the medical squadron embarked on a 12-hour flight for a two-week medical deployment in Honduras.



After Arriving at Soto-Cano Air Base, the unit was transported to accommodations in Santa Barbara, Honduras.

The medical group quickly received a small taste of the many challenges in store after they moved into a refurbished fish hatchery - without hot water.

“The living arrangements were very rustic, sleeping three to four people per room,” said Lt. Col. Gerald Dill, a traditional Guard member and Fresno-area optomologist. “For the first several days, we did not have proper water drainage.”

There were also safety concerns from infectious tropical diseases.

“We chemically treated our uniforms for ticks and other insects before going down to Honduras,” said Capt. John Macedo who served as a bio-environmental engineer and interpreter. “We also slept under mosquito netting.”

The living conditions and disease concerns were quickly overshadowed by the mission.

Each day began with an hour or more driving to local villages to render much needed medical attention, as well as immunizations and dental and vision exams.

In rendering medical treatment, the medical squadron diagnosed and treated many diseases while focusing on one case at a time.

“The people just flocked to us; there were just hordes of people,” said Staff Sgt. Heather Pratt. “We didn’t turn anybody away.”

The unit visited the villages of Guacamaya, Santa Rita, Corozal, San Francisco Ojuera, Nuevo Celilac, Las Crucitas and El Porvenir.

After arriving in a village, the unit would set up its makeshift clinic in the local school where they then treated villagers.

“The unit was very well received by the Honduran people,” said Dill. “Typically we would see and treat between 400 and 500 people daily.”

Members worked closely with the Honduran Army and the Honduran Ministry of Health while rendering medical treatment.



At center: Lt. Col. William Goldsmith, flight surgeon, attends to a Honduran boy's leg. Below: A Honduran Army dental technician performs a dental exam. Far left: Tech. Sgt. Michelle Moor, health technician, assists Lt. Col. William Musso as he examines Honduran children.

Local Fresno organizations lent assistance by donating over 2000 eyeglasses for use on the Honduran mission.

In addition to medical treatment, classes in basic hygiene and preventive medicine were offered to the villagers.

"All the class presentations were done with pictures because we did not know whether the Honduran villagers could read or write," said Macedo. ➔



THE TOTAL FORCE

Otis names NCO "Outstanding Military Person of the Year"

The 102nd Fighter Wing, Falmouth, Mass., named Staff Sgt. Joseph Kellerher, an intelligence application specialist, "Outstanding Military Person of the Year" for 2001.

Kellerher, a member of the 102nd since 1995, was cited for outstanding, professional skill and community volunteerism.

His review and inventory of more than 200 classified documents and the creation of a computer database to track the sensitive information was rated the best in 1st Air Force.

In his spare time, Kellerher is a member of the International Red Cross' Big Brother program, where he mentors under-privileged children. He is also a disaster-relief volunteer.

Burnett takes command of Florida's National Guard

Former Florida Air National Guard Adjutant General for Air, Brig. Gen. Douglas Burnett was



Burnett

named by Gov. Jeb Bush to lead Florida's National Guard, assuming command on Nov. 3, 2001.

Burnett, 57, is the first Florida Air National Guardsman to be appointed to the state's top military position.

A member of the Florida Air National Guard since 1963, the Jacksonville native began his

military career as an enlisted aircraft radio repairman, rising through the ranks to become Florida's top Guardsman.

Frequent flyer miles saved

Congress has OK'd military and DoD employees traveling on official orders at government expense to keep promotional items, including frequent flyer miles.

Promotional items must be obtained under the same terms as those offered to the general public and must be at no additional government cost.

The new directive applies to promotional items currently held or received in the future.

For more information contact your military travel section, or log onto: www.defenselink.mil.

Tax time is here

The 2002 tax season is underway and the Air Force is ready to assist folks with their federal income tax preparation.

Air Force legal offices, under the guidance of the Internal Revenue Service and the support of volunteers from the military community, annually set up tax preparation centers. Local volunteers are trained as unit tax advisors to help personnel fill out tax returns, and are able to submit completed forms through electronic filing. The centers will be open until April 15.

Air Force members can contact base legal for more information on how to file and the nearest Air Force tax center.

Diane Sawyer, ABC News, talks about the attacks on the World Trade Center with, from left to right, Maj. Michael Dolan, Lt. Col. Bill Ramsay and Col. Al Wickel, 102nd Fighter Wing pilots, during a taping of "Good Morning America" Sept. 26. Later that morning, Sawyer climbed into the back seat of an F-15B Eagle fighter and flew a combat air patrol mission over New York. The Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass., fighters were the first to be scrambled Sept. 11. (photo by Sandra Niedzwiecki)

CSAF Survey is here!

The 2002 Chief of Staff Survey is underway and everyone in the Air Force is encouraged to take part. The research, which has been conducted every two years since 1997, is a way for members to address top command policy makers.

The survey was originally scheduled to begin in October, but was delayed until Jan. 22 because of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

The 100 question Web-based survey takes 30 to 45 minutes to complete, and is available on dot-mil, dot-gov and dot-com Web sites.

This year's Web-based survey will be available until March 8 and participants can take the

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entire seven weeks to complete the survey.

If members start the survey on a dot-com site, they must finish on a dot-com site.

Assistance for mobilized student - Guard members

Nearly 30 percent of National Guard and Reserve members are students enrolled in college or university studies. Many have been called to full-time duty, leaving their course load behind them.

The Department of Defense has been working closely with state governors and educational associations to provide support to members of the Reserves and Guard, who have been called to active duty.

One organization, called the Servicemember's Opportunity Colleges, has been very successful at mediating concerns between student-Reservists/Guardsmen and educational institutions.

Student credit, tuition and course work issues are hot topics being addressed by the SOC.

Military members can call toll free for more information at: 1-800-368-5622.

Southeast Air Defense Sector hails new commander

Col. Larry L. Kemp assumed command of the Southeast Air Defense Sector from Col. Ted Kraemer, May 2001.

Kraemer, commander of

SEADS from 1998 - 2001, was one of the architects of the sector's transition from active duty to the Florida Guard. Retired in Maryland with his family, he continues working for the military community in the private sector.



Kemp

Kemp began his Air Force career in 1973, completing undergraduate pilot training at Craig Air Force Base, Ala. Later, he joined the 142nd Fighter Group, Oregon Air National Guard.

In 1985, he assumed full-time duties as chief of standardization and evaluation for the 123rd Fighter Squadron. Later, he held the positions of air operations officer and commander for the squadron.

In 1996, 1st Air Force selected Kemp as chief of safety; however in 1997, Oregon requested he return and take command of the 142nd.

February 2000 marked Kemp's return to Tyndall Air Force Base as SEADS deputy commander for operations.

American Defender wants your stories and photos

To submit stories and photos to the *American Defender*, call Master Sgt. Roger Tibbetts at (850) 283-8659 or DSN 523-8659; or email: roger.tibbetts@1staf.tyndall.af.mil.

LAST LOOK

GUARDING AMERICA'S SKIES

LAST LOOK



photo by Capt. Jim Fabio

A reflective moment: Staff Sgt. Anthony Latona, a Newburgh, N.Y., Air National Guardsman and a New Jersey firefighter, awaits orders to enter the rubble of the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Latona is a member of the 105th Engineering Squadron at Stewart International Airport in Newburgh, N.Y.

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