

New Year brings big leadership changes

Col. Mike Hudson assumed command of the 169th Fighter Wing during a change of command triple-header in January.

The ceremony also marked Lt. Col. Linda Keck's assumption of command of the 169th Mission Support Group. Her predecessor, Col. Calvin Elam recently was selected to succeed Brig. Gen. Leck Patterson as South Carolina's Assistant Adjutant General for Air. Keck's former post as deputy commander of the 169th MSG now will be filled by Lt. Col. Rita Whitmire, who relinquished command of the 169th Security Forces Squadron to Lt. Col. Paul Laymon.

MG Robert E. Livingston, Jr., the Adjutant General, presided over the ceremony. Also in attendance were MG Les Eisner, the Deputy Adjutant General, many former SCANG commanders, the leadership of the 20th Fighter Wing from Shaw Air Force Base, other dignitaries, and families of the outgoing and incoming commanders.

Hudson was promoted from wing vice-commander. He is a former commander of the 169th Operations Group and 157th Fighter Squadron, and a combat pilot with



(Photo by TSgt. Caycee Cook, 169th FW/PA)

Col. Mike Hudson assumes the position of 169th FW Commander from Brig. Gen. Scott Williams during the Change of Command Ceremony held January 7.

nearly 100 combat missions in Operations Desert Storm, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

He succeeds Brig. Gen. Scott Williams, who guided the wing through a four-year period of extraordinary growth and accomplishments. In fact, Hudson's remarks focused largely on his predecessor's accomplishments. He shared a long list of the general's achievements, which included leading the wing through a historic 120-day stand-alone AEF and excellent performances during intense Operational Readiness and Unit Compliance Inspections, guiding the steady evolution of the Active Association, spearheading a surge in recruiting and creating the vision for the first-ever Air-Ground Expo and South Carolina Military and Family Appreciation Day.

"I obviously have some big shoes to fill," Hudson said after accepting command of the wing. "But I have my own boots and I'm going to walk in them and do the best I can to build on General Williams' success." Hudson also said he would continue the



(Photo by SMSgt. Edward Snyder, 169th FW/PA)

Immediately preceding the change of command ceremony, Brig. Gen. Scott Williams, the out-going commander of the 169th FW at McEntire JNGB, is congratulated by family, fellow pilots, friends and unit members at the return of his "fini-flight", January 7.

See Command, page 6

Commander's Corner



Lt. Col. Scott Bridgers 169th AMXS Commander



One main question for someone when they search for a job is, what are my promotion opportunities? Fortunately for us in the Air Force and Air National Guard those requirements are spelled out in AF or ANG Instructions. Maybe the better question is, are you prepared for promotion? Before we delve into promotion requirements and the future, let's take a look back to see how we got to where we are today.

BRAC 2005 affected many Active Duty and Air National Guard units. Within the ANG, 56 of 89 flying units were affected in some way and except for a few construction projects those changes are complete. Across the ANG, 22 units lost some or all of their aircraft, 18 units lost their flying missions, and 33 units gained aircraft but not necessarily the same kind they were flying before. (Footnote 1) We were very fortunate here at McEntire JNGB, to go from a 15 Primary Assigned Aircraft (PAA) to a 24 PAA unit with an active association that added close

to 150 active duty personnel. We also added 200 Guard positions, however the rank did not arrive with those positions. Promises for the added rank did not materialize until 1 Jan 2012 which happened to coincide with the most recent Unit Manpower Document (UMD) as recommended by the Enlisted Grade Council. The council convenes every two years and reviews the enlisted grade structure for the ANG. Some units within the 169th FW gained rank with the Maintenance Group receiving the majority, however several units lost rank. If you happen to be in a position that decreased in rank, your commander will cover your options as outlined in the "Personnel Assignment Guidance for 2012 Enlisted Grade Review" memorandum. In the end, the SCANG increased or decreased by the following: -1 x CMSgt., -3 x SMSgt., +35 x MSgt., and +46 x TSgt. positions.

In addition to manpower and grade realignment, the Guard updated ANGI 36-2502

Promotion of Airmen in June of 2010. Although I think the changes were motivated by shrinking budgets, the following are some of the main promotion ineligibility factors: is not assigned to a valid UMD position vacancy; is in an excess status (for TSgt and above you must be the sole occupant); fails to meet passing fitness requirement; and a promotion that will cause a state to exceed the grade ceiling is not authorized. Along with Time-in-Grade, Time-in-Service, and Professional Military Education (PME) requirements, an airman must hold a Primary Air Force Specialty Code (PAFSC) at the skill level appropriate for the grade to which being promoted. In the case of retraining to a different AFSC, the airman must be fully qualified in the previous AFSC and obtain a 3-skill level in their current DAFSC prior to promotion recommendation. To retire with your current grade, an airman must be fully qualified in their current DAFSC. This major change got rid of supervision moving someone to an open UMD position for the sake of promotion prior to retirement. With all that being said and current overgrades re-assigned, we will have several unit vacancy promotion opportunities. Once the dust settles, there should also be opportunities for Deserving Airman Promotions (DAP) to the rank of E-6 or E-7.

So what's on the horizon with regards to promotions? Locally we are changing when a promotion board will be required to promotions that are competing, such as DAP, and for promotions to CMSgt. In order to get a commander recommendation for promotion to E-8 or E-9, some commands within the AF require airmen to have a CCAF degree. The ANG Enlisted Field Advisory Council (EFAC) met recently and although their recommendations are not final they proposed the same thing. I am staunchly opposed to the idea for many reasons but I would expect the change to occur a few years from now. On the officer side rumors are a Master's degree will be required to make O-6. Hopefully current O-5's will be excluded!

Regardless of what changes lie ahead, members must be prepared. From my review of promotion rosters, there are several folks who are not qualified due primarily to PME and fitness. In addition, commanders must have a force management plan so promotion opportunities are equitably distributed throughout the unit to those qualified and most deserving based on demonstrated potential.

1. Ref: "Closure, Sort of" by William Matthews

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Official Mission Statement of the 169th Fighter Wing: To provide a trained and equipped citizen fighting force that exceeds the capability of any Guard, Reserve, or active-duty Air Force unit in the protection and defense of state and nation; to maintain the capability for worldwide deployment of combat-ready assets to meet contingency and general war requirements; to employ conventional munitions in close-air-support, interdiction, offensive counter-air, defensive counter attack, suppression of enemy air defenses and special capability AGM-65 Maverick missiles; to provide world-class units that are recognized as being the best of the best when directed by the governor to preserve and protect the life, property, peace and public safety of the citizens of South Carolina.

Submission of SCANG News material: Articles and photography are welcome and should be submitted prior to the deadline (see below). E-mail submissions to 169FW.PA.SCANGNews@ang.af.mil.

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Deadline for the March issue is February 5

AFI 36-2618 – The Enlisted Force Structure (The little brown book), states that all of us from junior enlisted Airman, NCO, and SNCO, are required to maintain the “highest” level of readiness to meet mission requirements both personally and professionally. Professional Military Education (PME) is a key part of individual professional military success in the Air National Guard and the United States Air Force. Airman Leadership School (ALS), NCO Academy, and the Senior NCOA are the three enlisted PME’s we must complete during our career. Each must be completed in order to transition and advance into the next level of your enlisted career. By keeping this training up to date, you ready and challenge yourself for increased opportunity and responsibility. You never know when the opportunity for promotion may present itself, so make yourself ready.

In preparation for our AEF deployments, we continually ask ourselves if we are truly ready to deploy. Have I completed all training requirements? Are all of my medical requirements up to date? Have I received all of my Individual Equipment Items? Do I have enough personal items to last for the duration of the deployment? Will I be covered by TRICARE while I am on orders? These are all valid questions to ask, but we

need to be certain our families and loved ones are ready as well.

Each individual is responsible for checking their own records in V-MPF and V-RED, to ensure all data is current and correct so your loved ones are not given an extra burden in the event the unimaginable happens to you. With our busy lifestyles, Ops Tempo and demanding work schedules, we sometimes forget this very important task. Other things to remember before you depart are to ensure that you have Wills and Powers of Attorney, that all insurance information and account numbers are available and accessible. Make certain that all dependants are entered into the DEERS system so they are covered under TRICARE for the duration that you are on orders. We must make sure that the people who count on us are well taken care of for the period of time we are gone. In addition, we must ensure that our loved ones have good contact information for people to reach in case of emergencies such as First Sergeants, work center supervisors, plumbers, carpenters, auto mechanics, or the heating and air specialist.

I applaud each of you for this past year’s many successful deployments and accomplishments, it was a great year for the 169th FW. This year we are on course to achieve even more as we deploy and continue to



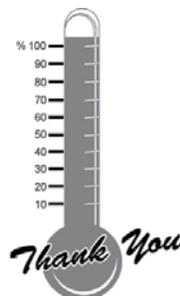
train our pilots and maintenance personnel at home station all while still supporting our federal alert mission, Aerospace Control Alert (ACA). We only have a few more months to prepare ourselves and our equipment for the upcoming deployments. We must take full advantage of the time we have to prepare and ready ourselves and not procrastinate until the last minute. Remember it is our responsibility to maintain the highest state of readiness. I would like to personally challenge everyone to do their part and always be prepared and ready for whatever the challenges may be, personally and professionally.

Recruiting & Retention

Military Personnel Summary

Strength		Recruiting/Retention		
Officers:		Gains:	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Authorized	137	Prior	0	8
Assigned	134	Non-Prior	0	19
Percent Manned	97.8%	Total	0	27
Enlisted:		Losses:		
Authorized	1191	ETS	0	5
Assigned	1207	Discharge	0	18
Percent Manned	101.3%	Medical	0	0
Total:		Resignation	0	2
Authorized	1328	Retirement	0	8
Assigned	1341	Transfer	0	8
Percent Manned	101.0%	Other	0	1
(as of January 6, 2012)		Total	0	42
		Net Gain/Loss	0	-15

Recruiting Progress We're at 101.0 percent!



We must maintain 100% strength through 2012!
Recruit & Retain!

There are many positions open for immediate recruiting...

Munitions, Weapons, Crew Chiefs, Life Support, CE, Security Forces and more



CBT reminder for deployers

All deployers are reminded to have their Self-Aid and Buddy Care CBT completed in ADLS before they attend the SABC classroom training during the Feb. UTA.

Valentine's marriage retreat

The Chaplain's Office will hold a Strong Bonds Marriage Retreat aboard the Spirit of Lake Murray cruise boat Feb. 10-12 with overnight lodging near the lake. Register by Feb. 5 by contacting Terry DeLille via e-mail at Carolyn.DeLille@ang.af.mil or calling 803-647-8089. Traditional members should provide a personal e-mail address and phone number.

Swamp Fox 56 Council

E-5s and E-6s are encouraged to actively participate in the Swamp Fox 56 Council. The next meeting is Feb. 5, 1:30 p.m. in the vehicle maintenance classroom.

ESOH CAMP reminder

The Wing Safety Office is spreading the word about the ESOHCAMP inspection scheduled for November 2012. Supervisors and unit safety representatives should complete the ESOHCAMP General Awareness CBT on ADLS. Annual updates and reviews to AF Form 55s and JSTOs also need to be accomplished.

Military One Source

Free personal services are available to service members and their families 24/7 at Military One Source. For online assistance related to military life and deployments, families and recreation, health and relationships, careers and education, financial and legal crises, go to <https://militaryonesource.com>.

R3SP Toolbox

The South Carolina National Guard has published the "SCNG Leader's R3SP Toolbox" brochure. Its purpose is to educate members about resources that help strengthen resiliency, family readiness and other personal concerns. Go to www.169fw.af.mil or, for AF Portal users, My Organization/169th FW (Products & Services).

Financial assistance

For general information about dealing with financial emergencies, getting out of debt, paying for child care, saving for the future and more, call 803-895-1332.

VPC-GR basics

The vPC-GR Basics electronic learning tool is the first in a planned series of web-based interactive courses related to personnel processes. It shows how to establish accounts, use the dashboard and manage action requests/work. The eLT is available via the Advanced Distributed Learning Service website (<https://golearn.csd.disa.mil>). Go to "Course List," then "Miscellaneous."

Gate hours

Main Gate

Daily: 0430-2400

(Hours extended for night flying.)

Morrell Gate

Duty Days: 0620-0815 & 1645-1745

UTA Saturday: 0600-0815 & 1600-1700

UTA Sunday: 0600-0815 & 1530-1630

Church Gate

UTAs: 0600-0815

No trespassing

The Base Firing Range, Bldg. 3320, is for official use only and closed to the public and non-authorized personnel. For more information, see TSgt. Paul Wallace, 169th SFS, NCOIC, Combat Arms, 803-647-8703.

Ideas wanted

Have an idea to improve McEntire? Send it to the Community Action Information Board (CAIB). This board meets quarterly to improve the quality of life for Airmen on McEntire. Submit suggestions to 169FW.CAIB@ang.af.mil.

Web HA mandatory for PHAs

Effective Jan. 1, 2012, It will be mandatory for all members to complete your Web Health Assessment on-line. We will no longer be offering the standard paper copy questionnaire. You are due on your birth month and may complete the Web HA up to 2 months prior to, but no later than one week prior to that UTA. Any questions, please contact SMSgt. Cox, Health Systems Specialist, 169th Medical Group, 803-647-8296.

EPR/OPRs

Those applying for technician or statutory tour positions and those who need a copy of their current or past Enlisted/Officer Performance Reports can use the virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve to request copies from the Total Force Service Center-Denver or use the Personnel Record Display Application to view and/or print a copy. Members also can view evaluation data online by accessing the virtual Military Personnel Flight. Access vPC-GR, vMPF and PRDA from the AF Portal, www.my.af.mil, (located under the Top Portal Links section.)

Falcon's Nest All Ranks Club

PLEASE come and join the Falcon's Nest All Ranks Club located adjacent to the Shoppette in the Canteen; Building 157. We have a pool table, televisions, domestic beers, well drinks and non-alcoholic beverages available. Membership is a whopping \$15.00 per year! Have your promotion party, event, or just come meet other folks from throughout the base. Open 1600-2000 Tuesday - Friday and during UTA's. If you have any comments, suggestions, concerns, or questions please contact MSgt. JJ Jones at 803-647-8908; john.jones.1@ang.af.mil or TSgt. Burrows at 803-647-8691; william.burrows@ang.af.mil.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Wilbur Smith Associates for winning the 2012 American Council of Engineering Companies Engineering Excellence Award. Recognized for their work at McEntire, designing and constructing six projects simultaneously. The \$18 million project included a total resurfacing of the primary runway and taxiway, modification of aircraft arresting systems, construction of a 1,000' x 150' wide paved runway overrun, demolition and replacement of 50% of the aircraft parking apron pavement and associated aircraft sunshade foundation modifications, repair and replacement of lighted runway mandatory and informational guidance signs, repair and modifications to the runway approach lighting system with sequence flashers and construction of a new Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) taxiway and associated parking apron repair.

169th MXS, Electronic Warfare

The 169th Maintenance Squadron's Electronic Warfare shop provides additional safety any fighter pilot needs when flying combat missions. Electronic Warfare is wholly responsible for total structural and electronic maintenance and repairs to the ALQ-184 electronic countermeasure (ECM) pod that is carried on the center line belly of F-16 Fighting Falcons.

"It's a jamming pod," says TSgt. Jose Peraza, an electronic warfare technician. The ALQ-184 ECM pod is equipped with forward and aft antennas, which receive radar signals and allows the pod to manipulate those and send back false information making it difficult for the enemy to lock-in on our jets. "It's a life saver form for the pilots," continues Peraza.

Electronic Warfare is a small shop, staffed just by seven full-time airmen. Each electronic warfare technician is responsible for the maintenance required on every ECM pod at McEntire, as well as the support (test) equipment that is used to maintain them. "Preventative Maintenance Inspections (PMIs) are conducted every 120 days and a major inspection at 360 days, where a specific series of tests are performed on various components at pre-set frequencies, ensuring the ECM pod is receiving and correctly responding to threat signals," says MSgt. David Hutter, the Electronic Warfare Section Supervisor.

McEntire didn't even house an Electronic Warfare shop until 1992, after the unit returned from Desert Storm, where 2,000 combat missions were flown. "We increase the pilot survivability," says Hutter.

"After Desert Storm the unit realized the importance of having electronic warfare capabilities within the unit." Prior to that, the Wing relied on jamming pods from other units.

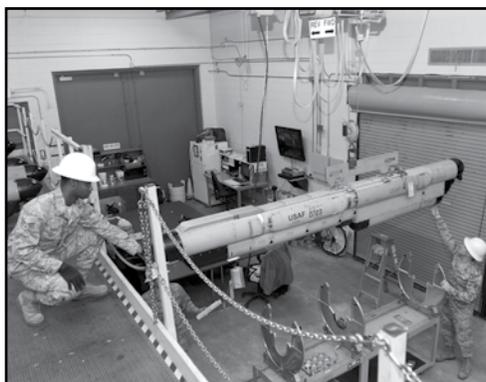
Col. Michael Hudson, the 169th FW Commander stated, "In Desert Storm, I was #5 in an 8-ship formation of F-16s. The number 8 pilot, my #4, had a known fault in his ECM pod and we decided to proceed with the mission regardless, to bomb a chemical factory. The enemy picked him out of the formation and fired three surface-to-air missiles at him. He had to jettison all his bombs and tanks and maneuver his jet to defeat three separate missiles. That, to me, was a statement how the technology really worked for the rest of us."

"The unique aspect about this career field is that we have a small foot print within the unit but play a pivotal role in the war fighting capabilities," says Hutter.

In addition to maintaining the security instrument that saves our pilots lives and preserves the aircraft, the Electronic Warfare group is highly active in additional duties and activities around the base. MSgt. David Hutter runs the base Honor Guard program, TSgt. Jose Peraza is a volunteer for Star Base and a PT monitor, SSgt. Justin Musall is the Command Chief executive and PT monitor, SSgt. Jermaine Edmunds was a member of the base basketball team and SrA Steven Rucker is also a Honor Guard member and the President and founder of the Airman's Council at McEntire.



Appears in photos from top, left to right: SSgt. Justin Musall; the 169th MXS Electronic Warfare element; SSgt. Carlos Hsue; SSgt. Christopher Hunter; SrA Steven Rucker; TSgt. Jose Peraza; SSgt. Jermaine Edmunds



(Story and Photos by TSgt. Caycee Cook, 169th FW/PA)

SCANG Snapshot

1Lt. Christina Pittman was recently introduced as the newest chaplain at the SCANG, and due to the various command changes and deployments, she will almost immediately assume the responsibilities of a seasoned military chaplain.

Pittman, who currently resides in Summer-ville, may be new to the SCANG, but is not new to meeting the challenges of coming to the aid of those in need of spiritual guidance.

She currently works as the director of medical services at the Low Country Medical Center in Charleston, SC, while also serving as their chaplain, and has held that position for the past ten years.

“In April, May and June of this year, I’ll probably be on the forefront as the acting wing chaplain,” she said. “I’m not from a military family at all, so it’s going to be a neat experience.”

However since she has spent most of her time in the civilian arena, Pittman is acutely aware of the different approaches that may be required in a military environment. “I believe that there are always needs, however those needs may be more evident in the hospital, as patients are lying in the bed where pain is more physical,” she said. On the other hand, “Through relationships here we will begin to uncover realness in ourselves and begin to connect and meet needs that might be hidden. So it will be more the ministry of presence.”

Pittman, who was born in Torrance, CA, and grew up in Irmo, SC, graduated from South Western Baptist Theological Seminary in 2000, which is also where she met her husband, Gregory. They have been married for nearly 15 years and have three children, Graham, 11, Elena, 9, and Wyatt, 7.

“After graduating from the seminary, I

stayed home with my children for ten years, but continued to serve with the ministry in my church,” said Pittman. “I’ve always had the gift of helps. Even as a stay-at-home mom, I started a ‘moms’ group to continue doing something to help people.”

She eventually volunteered with a pregnancy center, which is where she started honing in on a ministry called perinatal hospice, a new frontier in medicine that comes to the aid of pregnant women who receive an adverse diagnosis for their unborn baby. Pittman said this was a difficult assignment wherein she would minister to families in preparation of a possible death of their unborn child.

Although the task at McEntire may not be quite as daunting, Pittman has already established goals to successfully assist the base populace. She said, “I’m very excited to “plug-in” here on the military side, and I want to make myself available by taking myself to them.”

“My personal goal here is relationship-building, which opens the door and lays the ground work for me to be available in those moments of need,” she said.

Although Pittman has no prior military experience, she said, “I feel very humbled and in awe to be placed in this position, but I don’t think I would be here if I couldn’t rise to the occasion. I want to make the most of the opportunity to reach out to others, and be able to “pause” my life to recognize and meet the needs of our SCANG members.”

When she is not meeting the needs of her patients and peers, Pittman enjoys spending time meeting the needs of her family. One of her greatest hobbies is travelling to various destinations, including Disney World, as well as other explorations in search of new



1Lt Christina Pittman – Chaplain

Favorites:

Food – Mexican

Movie – Beaches & Top Gun

Hobby – Travelling

Books – Inspirational Self-Help

adventures.

But right now, Pittman’s new adventure is not only to demonstrate her abilities to the SCANG, but to fulfill her innate passion of counseling. She said she has a gift of counsel, and will bring the experience, training, and leadership qualities that goes with the position.

However, she feels that the most important part of her job is to recognize God, as well as the value and well-being of others. Pittman said, “I want to put my best effort forward, and I believe that I’ve got to know I’m doing my best, while doing what I say I’m going to do.”

(by MSgt. Pelham Myers, Jr., 169th FW/PA)

Command from page 1

long-term mission of putting F-35s on the McEntire ramp.

Williams, meanwhile, has been elevated to the South Carolina National Guard state staff as director of the Joint Staff under General Livingston. During January’s ceremony, he thanked the Swamp Foxes for “responding and stepping up to every challenge we put in front of you.” He said, “This wing is second to none, and it’s because none of you – traditional, Active Duty, AGR, tech-

nician, state employee – accept average or mediocrity. I’m confident you’ll continue to set the highest standards for the rest of the Combat Air Force.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Generals Williams and Patterson and Colonels Hudson and Elam also received Legion of Merit medals for their leadership and accomplishments over the past several years.

In his closing remarks, Livingston applauded the accomplishments of the SCANG

and said the remarkable achievements of the organization are a direct reflection on the leadership provided by Generals Williams and Patterson. He also thanked the spouses and families of all SCANG leaders and SCANG Airmen, emphasizing the importance and necessity of family support to the success of the individual member and the organization.

(Story by Lt. Col. Les Carroll, 169th FW/PA)

Eagle Vision IV attends GEOINT 2011

This past October, the SCANG's Eagle Vision IV (EV4) Tactical Mobile Satellite Ground Station attended the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF) 8th Annual GEOINT 2011 Symposium in San Antonio, TX. GEOINT is short for Geospatial Intelligence and is defined as the gathering and interpreting of data that is associated to a particular geographic location. The GEOINT Symposium is the nation's largest intelligence event of the year and it attracted over 4,400 attendees and exhibitors from the defense, intelligence and homeland security communities. It is an event that allows members of the GEOINT community to learn about the latest GIS technologies, to network with one another and to hear from key industry leaders. Some of the keynote speakers during this year's event were the Honorable James R. Clapper Jr., the current Director of National Intelligence and Lt. Gen. Keith B. Alexander the current Director of the National Security Agency (DIRNSA), Chief of the Central Security Service (CCSS) and Commander of the United States Cyber Command.

EV4 is one of only five Tactical Mobile Satellite Ground Stations owned by the United States Department of Defense (DOD) and it is stationed at McEntire JNGB. The Eagle Vision program offers a service of producing near real-time unclassified commercial imagery for use by various government agencies.

During this year's event, EV4 deployed six SCANG members and a satellite communications package that consisted of the Data Acquisition Segment (DAS), the DAS Antenna, three Data Integration Seg-



(Photo courtesy GEOINT 2011)

ment (DIS) workstations, two tents and four Environmental Control Units (ECUs). Additionally the team deployed an ICE V3 Communications package and a total of four ROVER 4 and 5 packages. The team setup operations in the convention center's parking lot and performed daily real-time downlinks of commercial satellite imagery of San Antonio from the SPOT 4 and 5 satellites. Event goers were able to witness EV4 in operation and view actual down linked imagery of the local area. During the entire event there was a heavy flow of visitors showing an interest in the EV4 equipment and the EV program. As a result new

contacts were made that will possibly lead to providing EV products and services to some new customers. Also during the event, the Eagle Vision / ROVER Responsive Exploitation of Space Products for Tactical Use (EVR2EST) Team won the 2011 US Geospatial Intelligence Foundation's Award for Military Achievement.

Overall the deployment and event was a great success. EV4 is looking forward to attending again next year and to providing its quality service and products for its customers in 2012.

(Story by Capt. Roy Condrey, 169th CF/CTE)

Celebrating Black History Month

The month of February is designated as Black History Month. Some ask the question, "Why do we celebrate Black History Month?" According to an article from the NAACP web page, Dr. Carter G. Woodson originally founded "Negro History Week" in 1926. This was at a time when most history books simply omitted any African-American history and the central role African-Americans played in the birth of America as we know it. Woodson chose February because it coincided with the birthdays of two men who fought for freedom of American slaves:

Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas. In 1976, Negro History Week was expanded to Black History Month.

Dr. Woodson stated on the founding of Negro History Week 1926, "We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice.

A review of the Air Force definition of diversity is a composite of individual characteristics, experiences, and abilities consistent

with the Air Force Core Values and the Air Force Mission. The history of the South Carolina Air National Guard (SCANG) is rich with contributions by African Americans... not African American History, but the African American in the history of the SCANG and the military

As members of the SCANG, we recognize the many contributions African Americans made to the history of this great nation, our unit, and the United States Air Force.

(Story by CMSgt. Joesph Brunson/JFHQ-SCANG)

Congress recognizes the role of the Citizen Soldier

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R- SC) presented MG Robert E. Livingston, Jr., the Adjutant General for South Carolina, with a signed copy of a section of legislation from the Congressional Record commemorating the recent elevation of the National Guard Bureau Chief to the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

The legislation is part of the National Defense Authorization Act which President Obama signed Dec. 31. It elevates the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to statutory member on the JCS.

Senator Graham and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) worked together for the past five years as co-chairs of the Senate National Guard Caucus to pass this historic legislation.

Graham said having the National Guard Chief at the highest level of our national security advisors is direct recognition for the role the "Citizen Soldier" has played in our national defense since 9-11. Graham added over 450,000 Guard members have deployed in the last 10 years, including more than 11,000 from South Carolina.

"This is a great way to start off the new year. The National Guard has a voice now to be fully integrated in the planning process when we go to war," said Graham.

Graham said he sees members of the general public thanking returning military members at airports and train stations. This piece of legislation is a thank you from the Congress to our National Guard members and their families for their service and sacrifice in homeland security and deployments. Graham also mentioned in his remarks the highly successful Active Associate program at the 169th Fighter Wing.

Livingston, who returned this past weekend from visiting SC National Guard troops serving in Afghanistan, said this legislation will have a positive impact on morale, as it recognizes the contribu-



(Photo by SSgt. Jorge Intriago, JFHQ/PA)

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) presents MG Robert E. Livingston Jr., the Adjutant General for SC, with a copy of the section of the National Defense Authorization Act which elevates the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to statutory member on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at the SC National Guard Headquarters building in Columbia, SC, January 3, 2012.

tions of the Guard and prepares our total military for the future.

"We are a community and this brings the voice of our communities to Washington through a military channel," said Livingston.

(Story by Lt. Col. Jim St. Clair and MAJ Cindi King, JFHQ/PA)

SCANG prepares for deployment

At least 18 F-16 aircraft and approximately 400 airmen from McEntire Air National Guard Base are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan later this year for a planned 120-day deployment.

"We must have been doing something right to get this assignment," said Col. Mike Hudson, 169th base commander. He said we could not complete this 120-day commitment without the aid of the Active Associates working alongside. "Together, there is no reason for us not to do well."

"The next two years are laid out for us, and the future at McEntire is bright," Hudson said.

Working hard to ensure that all personnel are prepared to depart as scheduled is SMSgt. Sandra Roseborough, NCOIC of the Personnel Deployment Function (PDF), Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ). She has the responsibility of ensuring that all briefings and processing are done in a timely manner, and that airmen are aware of what is expected of them prior to entering into theatre.

She said the most difficult part of the deployment process is ensuring that deploying members have coordinated with other agencies within the PDF line to complete their personal affairs with finance, legal and if necessary, the chaplain. "However, we will work closely with Airmen Family Readiness to make sure that they have all their squares covered," said Roseborough.

Roseborough admits that this deployment has been much smoother than previous ones, due to the greater coordination between the many outside agencies, including Shaw Air Force Base for the active associates and the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP).

The deployed member now receives some of the required briefings and pre-registration at the initial YRRP event, which has expectedly cut the processing time nearly in half, from the normal three-hour average.

"Much better communication from higher headquarters has also provided us with additional time for the tasking," she said. "The first rotation should already have their or-

ders, and should have already been enrolled in the Tri-Care health system, since that was coordinated on the front end."

Due to the upcoming mass troop movement, the personnel office wants to remind members and their families that they will work as much as possible to shorten the time that families will have to wait to see members after returning from the deployment. Families will be notified when to come out to the base after the deployed member returns.

Roseborough said, "The member will probably not be able to meet with their families as soon as they get off of the planes; while families and deploying members should realize, that as it took time to out-process; it will also take additional time for them to in-process. Therefore the goal is to release each returnee as a group, so that it will be fair to everyone."

Please contact SMSgt. Sandra Roseborough with questions at Sandra.Roseborough@ang.af.mil.

(by MSgt. Pelham Myers, Jr., 169th FW/PA)

YRRP and Family Readiness prepare for action

As the SCANG prepares for one of their most ambitious deployments in many years, the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) is set to ensure that affected families have proper knowledge of the process, as well as the resources available to them while their loved-ones are deployed.

Melissa Mitrik, the program coordinator, said, "The YRRP at McEntire is extremely important because there seemed to be a disconnect between the families and the services available to them, prior to its inception."

Mitrik, who was a financial manager at the Shaw Air Force Base Family Readiness Center before assuming her current position, became aware that many service members didn't understand the resources and outreach opportunities that were available to them.

"The most rewarding part of my job is to see someone gain a resource that they did not have access to before," she said. "Seeing that families are connected and reconnected with one another is also very important."

The program provides service members and their families with valuable information before, during and after deployments by connecting them with subject matter experts in their local community.

The philosophy of YRRP, a legislatively mandated program that helps Service Members and their Families in the National Guard, is that no one should embark on a deployment or see a loved one deploy without first knowing the benefits, resources, and contacts to navigate the deployment cycle.

The YRRP spans the entire deployment cycle to address the various challenges at each phase, which includes:

- Pre-Deployment (for all)
- During Deployment Event (for families)
- 30 Days Post Deployment Event (for all)
- 60 Days Post Deployment Event (for all)
- 90 Days Post Deployment Event (personnel)

The YRRP recognizes that deployments can be hard on all family members and seeks to provide information relevant to all involved, through fun activities and learning opportunities for the service member's children or younger siblings. These activities will attempt to help them understand the deployment process and how to cope with separation and reintegration in a fun learning

environment.

"We understand that members of the Air Guard are dispersed throughout the various counties of the state, so we don't just stay in the local area," said Mitrik. "We want to ensure that we are fair to all individuals that are dispersed in different counties. I also enjoy the opportunity of taking them to those locations, while giving them the opportunity to connect with one another during the deployment phases."

Mitrik said that the YRRP is endeavoring to offer a lot more "During Deployment" events during the upcoming AEF rotation to allow the opportunity for family members to get connected with one another and for them to have a nice time, while having access to resources during the deployment cycle. Typically, these events will be a Friday through Sunday event.

At YRRP-sponsored events, members are treated at a nice hotel in locations like Hilton Head, Myrtle Beach, or Greenville to participate in the four-hour event, in which they will be reimbursed for mileage," said Mitrik. "After which, we will allow them to enjoy the rest of their stay by relaxing and getting to know one another, while enjoying some free time."

YRRP provides full per diem for immediate families participating in the events. This includes the parents of single service members; and for married service members - their spouses, as well as their children, which

are aged 13 and older. Two family members are authorized for each participating service member.

The sessions will endeavor to share information concerning the following topics: Health Care benefits/enrollment, veteran benefits/enrollment, education opportunities - Post 9/11 GI Bill, family programs and assistance, youth opportunities/resources, financial readiness, counseling services, emergency notification process, and employment opportunities.

All 169th Fighter Wing members who deploy for 90 days or more within the year are required to participate in this program, and family members are encouraged to attend.

"Although, we have just begun the process of pre-registering deploying service members, those who desire to sign up should come by my office or contact MSgt. Felicia Corley to complete the process," said Mitrik. "I want to emphasize that YRRP's "During Deployment" information is key. The spouses should be sure to contact YRRP, watch out in the SCANG News, or on the SCANG Facebook page for fliers that will be posted with information on upcoming events."

YRRP was initiated in July 2009, and was developed by Melissa Mitrik for the SCANG in February 2010.

She can be contacted at (803) 493-5093 or via email, melissa.mitrik.ctr@ang.af.mil.



(Story and Photo by MSgt. Pelham Myers, Jr., 169th FW/PA)

Terry Delille (left), Family Readiness Program Manager and Melissa Mitrik, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) coordinator for McEntire JNGB.



As some of you know, we had no January Breakfast, which is the first Breakfast we have missed in years. The reason being, the NCO Club had to make some necessary plumbing renovations; therefore I have nothing to report about the last Breakfast. However, there are other things I would like to discuss and inform.

I consider myself the Air Guard Liaison with the Fort Jackson Retirees Council, I replaced Jud Pardue about 5 years ago. We meet every other month, and it allows me to keep an ear to the ground concerning the goings on at Fort Jackson. Recently BG (ret.) Nick Sipe joined us on the Council as the Army Guard liaison. Fort Jackson acts as a "mother hen" to all retired military personnel, regardless of the branch of service they were in. Admittedly, the Council is primarily Army oriented, but overall I am satisfied that the Council works to oversee and make recommendations to the active Army as to how the various facilities serves us retirees at the Fort. These include Moncrief Hospital, family and MWR matters, the commissary, Post Exchange, and lastly the annual Retirees Appreciation Day, which now occurs on Armed Forces Day, which this year is May 19th. I will give you more information about this as the date gets closer.

Something we dwelled on during our past meeting, and that is what happens to us when we die, what are your, the retiree's, wishes? This is not usually an often discussed topic

among us, and most of us don't like to deal with this issue. But we should as a responsible person. One of the most important topics is to let your spouse and family know what your wishes are, whether you would like a military funeral, with honors, etc. If so, then the family needs to be aware of either or both your DD-214 or NG 22 form, and where these important documents are kept, so the process can start. If the spouse or family has these documents at hand, then they can turn them over to the funeral director to allow them to proceed. If you would like to be buried at the new Fort Jackson National Cemetery, like me, then it is a must to have the DD-214 at hand. Again, this can be an ongoing discussion about these details at our breakfast/luncheons.

McEntire History: We have a good "crop" of 1992 retirees, hence I have to break them up into two listings due to space. The first batch based on word of mouth confirmations are: CMSgt.'s James W. Connelly and William D. Cliett. SMSgt.'s Bobby R. Berry and Thomas W. Shirley. MSgt.'s John J. Leech, Vernon R. Hatcher, Donald O. Valentine, Ralph A. Yoho, Jr., and Hugh J. Leitner. TSgt.'s William L. Dove, John R. Harvin, Jr., Gregory C. Williamson, Mark A. Vanuch, and Marshall A. Point. In March I will honor the other 1992 retirees. If you are a 1992 retiree, and you don't see your name by next month please let me know, or if you are one of the 1987-1993 retirees and

you haven't seen your name yet then again please let me know.

I also began to review and list the different aircraft that have been at Congaree/McEntire, which evoked a call from our oldest retiree, Jack Moak. Jack was one of two retirees in 1963, and he still has his "logbook", and he was able to refine to me the dates when many of these type of planes arrived at the base. His information states what months the planes arrived, whereas the information I have just generally states what year a type of plane showed up. Anyway there was an AT-26 listed in 1947 (short lived), and was gone in 1947. There was a B-26D Invader listed from 1949 to 1950, not sure how many there were? Jack did not list these planes, I believe they were used as a tow target plane? Then there was the Korean Call-Up (approx. 21 months), which led to a RF-51, to provide a reconnaissance mission. Then in 1951 at Lawson Field, GA, the RF-51s were swapped for the new jets, the F-80A's. While on active duty we flew the F-80's with many going overseas to France and Germany. After the Korean Call-Up, everyone filtered back home and the pilots had to re-learn the F-51H back at home station.

We will have our Breakfast February 7th, at the Fort Jackson NCO Club beginning at 0830, we plan to have a short Memorial Service for our fellow retirees who passed last year. Please come if you can.

SCANG Recruiters 1-800-432-2754 187-SWAMPFOX www.goang.com

Village at Sandhills

110-8 Forum Drive
Columbia, SC 29229
Phone: 803-462-0405 or x0455
1-87SWAMPFOX

SMSgt. Brad Gibson

Superintendent,
Recruiting & Retention
BB: (803) 315-7419
william.gibson@ang.af.mil

MSgt. Chris Sewell

Recruiting Office Supervisor
BB: (803) 206-2499
christopher.sewell@ang.af.mil

TSgt. Steve David

Production Recruiter
BB: (803) 608-3098
steven.david@ang.af.mil

SSgt. James Rodriguez

Production Recruiter
BB: (803) 391-6348
james.rodriguez@ang.af.mil

McEntire JNGB

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Eastover, SC 29044
1-800-432-2754

MSgt. Ceomara Timmons

Retention Office Manager
Palace Chase/Palace Front
and Guard Transfers
(803) 647-8211
ceomara.timmons@ang.af.mil

MOVIN' In MOVIN' Up, & MOVIN' On

Enlistments

2Lt. Christina Pittman, 169th FW
SSgt. Joshua Cohen, 169th CF
SSgt. William Harrison, 169th MXS
A1C Delmar Carter, 245th ATCS
A1C Preston Corpis, 169th MXS
A1C Samantha Goad, 169th SFS
A1C Cory Payne, 169th MXS
A1C Christian Truedel, 169th LRS
A1C Corey Witt, 245th ATCS

Officer Promotions

Lieutenant Colonel

Brian Bohlman, 169th FW

Major

Misa Cadua, 169th MDG

Enlisted Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant

Gene Croft, Jr., 169th AMXS
Mark Drafts, 169th MXG
David Keller, 169th MXS
Ralph Guyton, 169th SFS

Master Sergeant

Stuart Amos, 169th AMXS
John Bennett, 169th AMXS
Seth Berger, 169th AMXS
John Bonovich III, 169th AMXS
Daniel Blue III, 169th MOF
Karl King, 169th CES
Gregory Payne, 157th FS
David Rock, Jr., 169th AMXS
Kenneth Rose, 169th MXS
Randall Silvia, 169th AMXS
Timothy Urch, 169th AMXS
Charles Walker, 169th MXS

Welcome - Active Associate Arrival

SSgt. Christopher Cahill
169th LRS

MOVIN' In MOVIN' Up, & MOVIN' On

Staff Sergeant

Jonathan Aun, 169th MDG
John Denny, 169th AMXS
Kevin Duckworth, 169th AMXS
Jason Dunn, 169th MXS
Jessica Ervin, 169th MDG
Julius Priestler, 169th FW
Geoffrey Westmoreland, 169th CES

Senior Airman

Kertenisha Artison, 169th MXS
Shane Ureel, 169th, AMXS
Ryan Windhorn, 169th AMXS

Retirements

Brig. Gen. Grady Patterson, III
30 years - JFHQ

MSgt. Deloras Weaver
33 years - 169th LRS

Job Openings

The 169th Fighter Wing will hire a new Public Affairs officer in the New Year. This position is open to SCANG commissioned officers or enlisted members eligible for commissioning. Public relations and/or journalism experience is preferred. If interested, submit a package consisting of a letter of intent, resume and RIP to 169th FW Executive Officer Maj. Jim Roth before February drill.

The 169th Maintenance Group has an opening for an Executive Officer. This position is a commissioning opportunity. If interested, submit a package consisting of a letter of intent, resume and RIP to MSgt. Christopher Sewell. Contact him at christopher.sewell@ang.af.mil. The closeout date is Feb. 10.

The 169th LRS has an opening for a Logistics Readiness Officer. This is a commissioning opportunity. If interested in applying, please submit a package consisting of a letter of intent, resume, and a RIP to MSgt. Christopher Sewell. Contact him at christopher.sewell@ang.af.mil. The closeout date is Feb. 21.

Base Training

TESTING SCHEDULE

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.
Drill Sundays, 12:30 p.m.

Report for testing no later than 15 minutes before the test. Members testing on CDCs required for upgrade training must bring their AFIADL 9 course card with the following items documented:

Date review training began
Date due completion
Date review training ended
Supervisor's signature
Trainee's signature

Members without the card and required information are not allowed to test. For more information, contact a unit training manager.

Airman Leadership School
(class start dates -- five-week duration)
(56 seats for ANG members)

2012

Noncommissioned Officers Academy
(class start dates -- six-week duration)
(75 seats for ANG members)

PME Schedule

MCGHEE TYSON ALS
12 MAR 12 - 12 APR 12
7 MAY 12 - 7 JUN 12

MCGHEE TYSON NCOA
6 MAR 12 - 12 APR 12
1 MAY 12 - 7 JUN 12
23 JUL 12 - 29 AUG 12
17 SEP 12 - 24 OCT 12

Swamp Fox Litter

Charleston Lee Burton
29 December, 2011

Proud parents are
SSgt. Brandon and Tara Burton

What's for Lunch?

Saturday

Barbecue Ribs, Southern Fried Chicken,
Cabbage, Macaroni & Cheese, Hopping John,
Corn Bread

Sunday

Beef Stew over Rice, Chicken Parmesan,
Mexican Corn, Okra, Succotash

Snack Line

SAT: Hot Dogs with Chili, Chips

SUN: Chicken Strips and Onion Baked Beans

* All with Soup / Salad Bar / Desserts / Beverages

The Dining Facility is open 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Everyone using the facility must present a valid ID card.

REFLECTIONS

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” ~Romans 15:13

Retired Chaplain, Brig. Gen. David Cyr, made said the following about having hope before a deployment, “When we receive notice that we are going to be deployed, a number of things run through our minds. We may begin to be anxious, especially if we know we are going into harm’s way. If we are young and single, we may think about separation from friends or significant others. And if we are married, we think about being separated from our spouse and children. We may even be concerned about being well-prepared. To keep it real, we may think about our own mortality. Perhaps the best thing we can do at this point is to slow down, take a few deep breaths, whisper a prayer, get with close friends and family and go before the Lord together. He cares about you and your loved ones.”

If you are preparing to deploy, remember these words of hope from God, “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:29-31)

As you answer the call of duty, may you find hope in the God who promised never to leave you, nor forsake you. Grace and peace be yours today!

(by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Brian Bohlman)



Worship Schedule Saturday

Maintenance (hangar) & SFS after roll call

Sunday

0815 - 0845 - Traditional Worship (Wing HQ Auditorium)

1100 - 1130 - Contemporary Worship (Wing HQ Auditorium)

1330 - 1400 - Catholic Mass (Eagle Vision Conference Room)

South Carolina ANG
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TO THE FAMILY OF:

2011 FW/SCANG AOY Winners

***SMSgt. James Rider, 169th CF**
Senior NCO, Full-Time

MSgt. Shane Guyett, 157th FS
Senior NCO, Traditional

***TSgt. Josh Thacker, 169th AMXS**
NCO, Full-Time

TSgt. Jeremy Lloyd, 169th SFS
NCO, Traditional

SrA Brain Franklin, 169th SFS
Amn, Full-Time

***SrA Rachel Leamon, 169th MXS**
Amn, Traditional

* Denotes personnel selected for the ANG
12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Competition *

169th FW 1st Quarter Awardees

A1C Glen Delozier, 169th MXS
Airman (Traditional)

TSgt. Carl Clegg, 169th FW
NCO (Traditional)

SSgt. Justin Musall, 169th MXS
NCO (Full-Time)

MSgt. Lester Worthy, 169th CF
SNCO (Full-Time)