

Deploying Swamp Foxes meet boss

Editor's Note: At press time, the 169th Fighter Wing was about a week away from deploying to Afghanistan. Stories and photos of the historic AEF kick-off will appear in next month's SCANG News.

Lt. Gen. David Goldfein visited McEntire during March drill and addressed SCANG members preparing for this month's deployment to Afghanistan. Goldfein is the commander of Air Forces Central Command and is the Combined Forces Air Commander leading all American air assets supporting operations in Southwest Asia. During the upcoming deployment, the 169th Fighter Wing will fall under Goldfein's command.

"I want to give you a sense of what you're walking into," the general told SCANG air-

See AFCENT/CC, page 9



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

Lt. Gen. David Goldfein, Commander, U.S. Air Force Central Command, Southwest Asia, speaks to airmen from the 169th Fighter Wing, March 4th, 2012. He provided valuable insight to the airmen on the upcoming Air Expeditionary Force rotation to the area of responsibility.

Program offers vital deployment lifeline

Families of members scheduled to deploy this spring were treated to an information- and fun-filled afternoon at McEntire last drill. The Yellow Ribbon pre-deployment event provided outreach, networking and registration opportunities via one-on-one visits with a variety of participating vendors.

This "make-up" event was initially geared toward families of Maintenance personnel who did not attend the January Yellow Ribbon event at the Columbia Marriott. This particular iteration of the program's already-family-focused formula created an opportunity to target the families without the usual military deployment briefings.

South Carolina Adjutant General MG Robert Livingston and his wife Barbara got things with a briefing in the 245th Air Traffic Control Squadron's auditorium. They emphasized the importance of the upcoming deployment, as well as the SC National



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

Financial counselor Natalie Poepping (right) provides information to SCANG deploying families during the Yellow Ribbon pre-deployment event in March.

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Commander's Corner



Col. Calvin Elam JFHQ, Assistant Adjutant General for Air



First, let me thank all of you who I have had the distinct privilege of working with at the wing level over the last 25 years. The knowledge, expertise and, more importantly, the valued relationships gained from having worked on both sides of South Carolina Road played a pivotal role in preparing me for my new position as Assistant Adjutant General for Air.

The time I served in the Logistics and Maintenance Squadrons and the Mission Support Group was invaluable and gave me the broadening necessary to understand the criticality of our mission and the challenges we face in achieving that mission on a go forward basis.

As the wing prepares for the AEF deployment to Afghanistan, we all need to have a heightened sensitivity to what's going on politically and socially in that region of the world. Unfortunate acts like the burning

of Qurans and recent killing of seemingly unarmed Afghan women and children by U.S. military personnel have created a very difficult operational environment.

As Lt. Gen. Dave Goldfein, Combined Forces Air Component Commander, stated during his visit to the SCANG last month, the 169th Fighter Wing will play a critical role in supporting U.S. ground forces as part of the overall equipment and troop withdrawal strategy. This is unquestionably one of the most challenging missions the wing has been tasked with in recent times. It will require everyone involved from the lowest ranking Airman to the highest ranking officer to bring their "A" game to the table, and I have no doubt that you will.

While the AEF mission is being executed, those remaining home station will continue somewhat normal flying opera-

tions in our efforts to remain "Ready and Relevant." McEntire must do so at all times as huge cuts to the Defense Appropriations Budget are forcing the Air Force to become smaller. Significant cuts to weapon system programs and personnel across the entire "Total Force" will begin taking place in 2013, leaving some bases scrambling to find a new mission (if they're lucky enough to do so).

The long-term strategic vision of the SCANG is to secure the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter—it's our future. Without it, I'm afraid the long-term prospects of survival as a premier flying unit in the new smaller but strategic U.S. Air Force is marginal at best.

Air Guard units across the country are already experiencing the effects brought on by the actual loss of a mission, and we are only in the early stages of this restructuring. However, the one thing Air Force and Air Guard leaders in Washington are beginning to come to grips with is that the "Total Force" approach has now become the "Total Force" solution. For Air Guard units like McEntire that continue to maintain a high "ready state" flexibility and provide "out of the box" solutions to peacetime and wartime agendas, the future is bright. It will require the SCANG to continue setting stretch goals and taking on missions that help to maintain its' relevancy.

Motivational speaker Dennis Kimbro said, "At the counter of success there is no discount; you must pay the price and you must pay it in full." The future of the SCANG is the F-35; if we really want it, we must be willing to pay the price, and we must pay it in full. We've achieved everything else we've set out to do, and I have no doubt we'll achieve this milestone as well. Said another way -- "Stay Thirsty My Friends!"

To the AEF deployers, embrace the wingman philosophy, be vigilant, accomplish the mission and return home safely. I bid you God speed.

Swampfoxes, Always First!



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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 May issue is April 15

I have been scouring my brain for some useful tidbit of wisdom that might be worth sharing. Without a doubt, there are tons of things in my 32 or so years in this organization that are near and dear to me. So I started looking for landmark events in the history of McEntire to which I have been a witness.

I remember our last Operational Readiness Inspection with the A-7D aircraft. I was here when we became the first Air Guard unit to get the new, state of the art, Block 10 F-16A/B aircraft. A few years later, we took those jets to Nellis AFB and won the Gun-smoke Worldwide Gunnery meet. Shortly thereafter, we were activated to deploy in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. We never dreamed how much our lives were about to change after that!

From that point in time until now, our unit has achieved many "firsts." The SCANG has always been proud of these accomplishments and has never turned down a challenge that looked too difficult. In fact, it sometimes seemed that we would do things because they appeared too difficult. Regardless of the task, we always took it on with enthusiasm, and we always excelled.

We have seen the image of the national guardsman evolve from one of a "week-ender" to one of a professional member of the armed forces. We have always known we

are the best at what we do getting everyone else to see it was sometimes a hard sell.

We consistently bring to the table a base of knowledge and experience that rivals anything else in the Air Force. Over the years, we have learned that we have to make efficient use of the precious time we have to effectively train our traditional guardsmen. Without this resource, we would never be able to support our AEF, alert and home station flying missions. We have 39 days a year to squeeze in upgrade and ancillary training, shots, CBT's and a plethora of other new requirements. Not a small task!

Another factor that is perhaps most important to our success as a unit is our camaraderie. Becoming part of this unit is becoming part of a family. Regardless of your status, you are all Swamp Foxes. This sense of belonging is crucial to our success. Common experiences and ties to the local area serve us well. Long-term relationships are established and maintained through membership. This allows for an organization that works extremely well to achieve its goals.

This year, we again endeavor to accomplish the seemingly impossible. And once again, each and every unit, section and person in the wing is finding new and innovative ways to fill the many squares required to pull it all together. The question is never "can we



do it?" it is "how can we do it better?" In true McEntire style, people are thinking "out of the box." During February drill, we actually saw people coming back from mobility processing with smiles and positive comments on the vast improvements to this process!

Without the tireless effort and dedication from each and every one of you, we would never be able to field our team of trained professionals. We have taken the tradition of the "citizen soldier" to the next level. It is because of our pride in our organization and in each other that we refuse to fail.

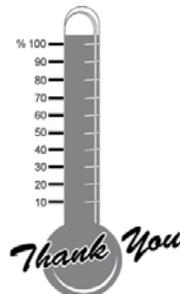
Recruiting & Retention

Military Personnel Summary

Strength		Recruiting/Retention		
Officers:		Gains:	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Authorized	138	Prior	0	11
Assigned	132	Non-Prior	0	30
Percent Manned	95.7%	Total	0	41
Enlisted:		Losses:		
Authorized	1191	ETS	0	5
Assigned	1202	Discharge	0	30
Percent Manned	100.9%	Medical	0	0
Total:		Resignation	0	3
Authorized	1329	Retirement	0	13
Assigned	1334	Transfer	0	11
Percent Manned	100.4%	Other	0	1
(as of March 4th, 2012)		Total	0	63
		Net Gain/Loss	0	-22

Recruiting Progress

We're at 100.4 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



SCANG Diversity Council

Officer elections will be held during April drill. Positions are open to members of all ranks. Contact MSgt. Amado Azua, 803-647-8640 or 803-608-9585.

Human Relations training

Training takes place Saturday of April drill, 9:30 a.m. in the 245th Air Traffic Control Squadron auditorium.

Teen Summit 2012

A camp opportunity that fosters teen leadership skills is available to 15-18 year old dependents of current Air Guard members. The camp is held at the Wahsega 4-H Center in Dahlonega, GA, June 17-22. Transportation and camp costs are funded by the Air Force. Register by April 13. Contact Brandi McGonagill at 478-327-2090 or brandi.mullins.ctr@us.af.mil.

ESOH CAMP reminder

The Wing Safety Office is spreading the word about the ESOHCAMP inspection scheduled for November. 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.

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."

Web-HA mandatory for PHAs

SCANG members must complete their Web Health Assessments on-line. The standard paper questionnaire no longer is offered. WHAs are due during birth months but can be completed up to two months sooner (but no later than one week before that month's drill. Contact SMSgt. Candace Cox, Health Systems Specialist, 169th Medical Group, 803-647-8296.

New NCOA Course (00015)

The Noncommissioned Officers Academy correspondence course has been updated from Course 00009 to Course 00015. Enrollments in Course 00009 before Feb. 1 remain intact (those members can complete Course 00009).

Falcon's Nest All Ranks Club

Swamp Foxes are encouraged to join the Falcon's Nest All Ranks Club located adjacent to the Shoppette in the Canteen (Bldg. 157). The club features a pool table, televisions, domestic beers, well drinks and non-alcoholic beverages. Membership is a whopping \$15 per year! Perfect for promotion parties, special events and/or getting to know folks from throughout the base. Open 4-8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and on drill weekends. Comments, suggestions, concerns and/or questions can be sent to MSgt. J.J. Jones at 803-647-8908 or john.jones.1@ang.af.mil; or TSgt. Williams Burrows at 803-647-8691 or william.burrows@ang.af.mil .

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.

Personal weapons policy

No personal weapons of any type, concealed or in plain view, are allowed on property of the SC Military and under the jurisdiction of the SC Adjutant General. Exceptions are members whose job requires them to carry weapons and who have written permission from the TAG.

Ideas wanted

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

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>.

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.

Job Openings

The 169th SFS has an opening for a Security Forces Officer. This is a commissioning opportunity. 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.

Applications are being accepted for the 169th Fighter Wing first sergeant position. Only current SMSgt. or MSgt. first sergeants who have completed the Senior NCO Academy Course and have the minimum time in service and grade for promotion to SMSgt. are eligible to apply. Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. Sunday of May drill. Candidates should submit a resume, RIP, letter of intent and current passing PT score to Command CMSgt. Robert Davis at Robert.Davis.4@ang.af.mil. Call 803-647-8500/8592.

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Guard intentions to take care of the families left behind.

“The mission you’re getting ready to undertake is a very important one,” Livingston said. “Our intent is to provide the Afghans with a stable government, security force and some economy that will give them the stability to avoid another civil war.”

However, the focus of the Yellow Ribbon event was bringing stability to the families of those scheduled to deploy. Some of these families will be separated for the first time.

Mrs. Livingston shared a poignant story with those families about how stress affected her and her family while her husband was deployed. She found the best way to get through those stressors was to be positive and upbeat.

“I have found that members of the South Carolina National Guard are like the palmetto tree.” History suggests cannonballs would hit South Carolina forts built of palmetto logs and bounce into the surrounding sand. “We are just like that palmetto tree; we are very strong and always bounce back from adversity.”

The event also offered several fun activities in and around the base canteen, includ-

ing jumping castles, face-painting and live music by Borderline Country.

The most enjoyable part of the day for Charleston’s Brian Paul Wamsley, 7, was the food provided by Blue Marlin. Brian is the son of TSgt. Brian Wamsley who works at the phase dock.

Participating vendors provided resources to help families while their loved-ones are deployed. Yellow Ribbon coordinator Melissa Mitrik said, “We are working really hard to ensure no questions go unanswered.”

The Adjutant General commended the program, saying, “We cannot solve all your problems. We can’t wave a magic wand and make your loved-one come home. We can’t wave a magic wand and make monetary issues disappear. But we can provide resources to assist you, whether it is economic counseling or an emergency fund for a defined issue.”

Wing commander Col. Mike Hudson said, “The deployment itself is actually pretty easy for the military member, because all we have to do is get up, do our job, eat, hit the gym, go to bed and do it again the next day.

“But, at home, life is not so simple. It is important to realize that communication with

our loved ones is key to a good deployment.”

Ongoing communication among affected families is one of the main goals of Yellow Ribbon. The program helps accomplish its goals by inviting each Swamp Fox’s family to participate in various networking events before, during and after the deployment.

Mitrik said, “One of our main goals for this particular event was to get families of deploying members registered for the upcoming trip to the Kingston Plantation at Myrtle Beach from June 1-3.”

She said the Yellow Ribbon program actually pays mileage and per diem to family members who participate in the scheduled events. Similar get-aways have been hosted at venues like Hilton Head and Greenville.

“Some meals are provided, and you are reimbursed for the ones you pay for,” Mitrik said. “It’s pretty fantastic. You get paid to travel and unwind!”

For additional information about Yellow Ribbon and upcoming events, contact Mitrik at 803-493-5093 or melissa.mitrik.ctr@ang.af.mil.

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

ESGR sponsors working lunch

The SCANG’s Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve committee hosted a luncheon at Columbia’s Blue Marlin last month to discuss the upcoming deployment with a couple dozen civilian employers of Swamp Foxes.

Wing commander Col. Mike Hudson thanked the employers for their commitment to the SCANG and for supporting their Guard employees as they participate in monthly training and occasional deployments.

“We are really proud of our members, their employers and their families,” he said. “We place great emphasis on our relationship with employers and families, because they’re the ones who make it possible for our Swamp Foxes to confidently devote the time and energy it takes to accomplish our mission.”

Participation in training exercises is paramount as members pursue and maintain readiness for stringent deployment criteria.

Hudson said, “Our time is limited with our traditional guardsmen, so we have to



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

ESGR chairman Lt. Col. Glen Boatwright thanks employers for their support of traditional Guard members during an ESGR luncheon at the Blue Marlin sponsored by 169th Fighter Wing honorary commander Bill Dukes.

plan and make every drill period count. It is our intent to maximize the training and preparation they receive.”

Following an overview of the SCANG and the AEF, the commander encouraged those in attendance to serve as ambassadors for the Swamp Fox team. “Help us spread the

word that hiring guardsmen is a good bet, because they are responsible and trained,” he said. “You can safely expect to get a quality individual who has been disciplined enough to complete mandatory job requirements with us and who will bring the same professionalism and drive to their civilian job.”

McEntire pilots train for Close Air Support

McEntire personnel benefited from a unique opportunity to participate in close air support training with Joint Terminal Attack Controllers Feb. 29.

JTACs from the North Carolina Air Guard's 118th Air Support Operations Squadron trained directly with Swamp Fox fighter pilots, gaining invaluable experience and preparing everyone involved for the upcoming Air Expeditionary Force deployment.

JTACs are an Air Force asset to troops on the ground. They are trained to communicate with pilots and advise ground commanders during situations where CAS is needed.

SSgt. Clark Collins, JTAC with the 118th ASOS (also deploying to Southwest Asia this spring) said training directly with the pilots changes the whole dynamic because it provides both perspectives.

"Being able to talk with one another and learn each other's tactics and capabilities while building a friendship, JTACs and pilots feel more confident," Collins said. "When we reach that 'warm fuzzy,' we can feel confident in the mission on the same level."

Maj. Ian "Chester" Toogood, F-16 fighter pilot with the 157th Fighter Squadron, said, "The training McEntire provided me during the CAS exercise was huge in terms of AEF spin-up. Performing this mission in the airspace directly over McEntire had several benefits.

"Not only did it save gas, resulting in longer missions and more training, but it also enabled me to brief face-to-face with our JTACs before and after the mission," he said. "That's something I've never been able to do in my 10 years of flying F-16s."

Toogood also had the opportunity to act as ground commander during one of the scenarios. "The added benefit of participating



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

SSgt. Clark Collins, Joint Terminal Air Controller with the 118th Air Support Operations Squadron, North Carolina Air National Guard, conducts close air support training with Capt. Stephen Kaminski.

on the ground gave me invaluable insight into the JTACs mission," he said.

"From the air, we hear, at most, 50 percent of the communications occurring on the surface. Riding shotgun with the JTAC enabled me to better understand his environment and effectively alter the way I would typically communicate with him on the radio from my cockpit."

Toogood said, "The more interaction we have with the JTACs on the ground, the more effective we can be in the air in supporting the ground force commander."

Several volunteers from different work centers joined the training. They were able to ride along in convoys, drive High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles and integrate with the JTACs as friendly forces. Some also played the role of opposing forces with mock weapons for fighter pilots to identify.

Referring to the deployed mission, F-16 fighter pilot Capt. Stephen "Boards" Kamin-

ski said, "We're there to directly support the friendly forces on the ground.

With the resources provided by JTACs on the ground and utilizing their targeting pods, McEntire fighter pilots can see the guy on the ground and distinguish whether that person has weapons and is shooting at friendly forces.

Kaminski said, "The exercise that took place here was two-fold, for the JTAC and for the pilots executing the mission. By integrating the volunteers from other work centers at McEntire, they get a better understanding of the mission in the AOR and how we're supporting the ground forces."

With an enemy that is persistent, close air support like that provided by Swamp Fox fighter pilots and the assets provided by the JTACs will be invaluable to the troops on the ground. Starting the mission with that "warm fuzzy" helps ensure the mission is a success.

Holocaust - Days of Remembrance

Congress established the Days of Remembrance as America's annual commemoration of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to the victims.

Holocaust Remembrance Day is April 19.

The Museum designated "Choosing to Act: Stories of Rescue" as the theme for the 2012 observance.

Organizers stress that for each person who was rescued and survived the Holocaust, countless more were killed. As the nation remembers stories of rescue, therefore, they also are reminded to honor the memory of Holocaust victims by countering indifference with vigilance and apathy with action.

In accordance with its Congressional mandate, the Museum is responsible for

leading the nation in commemorating the Days of Remembrance and for encouraging and sponsoring appropriate observances throughout the United States.

For more information, visit their website: <http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/dor/>.

(Provided by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum)

Another McEntire First

Swamp Foxes recognized during quarterly ceremony

SCANG leaders applauded the achievements and contributions of the enlisted force at McEntire's first-ever Quarterly Recognition Ceremony in March.

Wing commander Col. Mike Hudson and wing command chief CMSgt. Robert Davis recognized the airmen, NCOs and senior NCOs of the quarter, plus all the enlisted members promoted in the previous quarter.

When the recently-promoted senior airmen were called forward, the narrator explained the importance of the senior airman rank, the final stage of preparation before Airmen assume the role of non-commissioned officers.

Newly-promoted staff sergeants were

charged to actively lead and mentor as they reached the NCO corps.

Newly-promoted tech sergeants, master sergeants, senior master sergeants and chiefs also were recognized. They were reminded of the increased responsibilities that come with their advancement through the enlisted ranks.

Recently-promoted chiefs Kellie Gibbs and Rob Hartzog were given a few minutes to address the audience that filled the wing auditorium. They thanked the officer and NCO leaders who mentored and trained them and encouraged all enlisted members to uphold the high standards of Airmen and NCOs in the SCANG.

Davis said the idea was first introduced because McEntire's active associates were being recognized at Shaw, and their leadership here wanted to recognize them as well as the SCANG promotees. MSgt. Amado Azua, who serves as the first sergeant for the 20th MOS/Det.2, was crucial in setting it up.

Davis said, "It's an awesome event. We wanted this to be a family event so our spouses, children and other loved ones also can be recognized for their contributions."

Davis said having family members involved made it that much more special.



(Photos by SSgt. Jorge Intriago, 169th FW/PA)

(Above) SrA Kertenish Artison is recognized for her promotion by Col. Michael Hudson, 169th Fighter Wing commander. (Left) Hudson presents the Airman of the Quarter award to A1C Glen Delozier.



Some family members even accompanied their loved ones on stage for the recognition.

Davis said, "This couldn't happen without the support of our wing leadership and our state command chief CMSgt. Larry Crowson."

The next quarterly recognition ceremony is Saturday of June drill, 4 p.m. in the wing auditorium.

Swamp Foxes earn "outstanding" recognition

How do we know Superman is the superest of all the super heroes? Because he wears a ginormous "S" on his unitard. Thankfully, the Air Force hasn't decided to outfit us in unitards, but they do have a way of symbolizing super—or outstanding performance. You, the members of the 169th Fighter Wing, have earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

The AFOUA is a big deal and, in the case of the Swamp Foxes' vision, hard work and ingenuity, it is very well deserved. Over 80 line-items describe how Swamp Foxes excelled at everything from above and beyond mission accomplishment to winning international air competitions to acing inspections to maintaining an exceptional level of readiness. The myriad sacrifices, to include late nights, working weekends away from our families, seemingly countless exercises



and the individual initiative taken by each Airman did not go unnoticed by Air Force senior leadership.

This is the first time in the 169th Fighter Wing's 65-year history that the AFOUA has been awarded to the entire wing.

Wing commander Col. Mike Hudson said, "I believe every member of the unit is represented somewhere on the list of accomplishments included in our nomination, and [each member] personally earned the right to proudly wear this decoration on their uniform."

For many young Airmen, this award means an addition to a ribbon rack that all too often

never seems to grow. But, unlike the Air Force Training Ribbon, the National Defense Medal or any other personal service or achievement award, the AFOUA recognizes an individual contribution to the mutual success of the whole.

You could say this is the Air Force's way of reinforcing the core value of service before self. Wherever your Air Force career takes you, this award will remind you of the shared accomplishments of the 169th Fighter Wing.

Speaking of the ribbon, SMSgt. Paul Caldwell of the 169th Force Support Squadron, says that everyone's records will be batch updated, and it will be reflected in their vMPF shortly (but the ribbon can be worn immediately!).

(Commentary by TSgt. Carl Clegg, 169th FW/PA)

Family within family 'key' to success

A family within a family. That's how one might describe the 169th Fighter Wing's "Key Volunteer" group.

The group's 15 core members wrapped up their training last month and will be assisting Guard and active duty families during the wing's deployment this summer.

According to Terry DeLille, the Airmen and Family Readiness Program Manager, this program was modeled after similar key spouse programs found at active duty Air Force bases.

"We are different, because we have people in various statuses, Guard and active duty," she said. "But we want to take care of everyone. We're all Swamp Foxes out here."

The members of the Key Volunteer group had their first meeting in January and started training in February. The group consists of active duty and Guard spouses as well as other family members and friends.

The training in February and March was "foundational training," DeLille said. "We want to show the volunteers how things flow out here. We like to emphasize that the volunteers are not in the chain of command, but they are in the chain of concern."

The volunteers will be participating in all pre- and post-deployment events at McEntire. In addition, during the deployment, the Key Volunteer group will make regular contact with families, ideally at least once a month. The volunteers check in to see how

the families are doing and to see if they need anything.

DeLille said, "The goal of the program is to have open communication. I've developed a lot of friendships from doing this in the past. Our families obviously like knowing that somebody cares."

The training in February and March consisted of everything from personality assessments to telephone call training to role playing in several real-world scenarios.

DeLille said, "We want to make the volunteers more comfortable performing their roles."

As wing commander, Col. Mike Hudson is in charge of the program, while DeLille conducts the training and facilitates events and activities. Unit representatives also can serve as Key Volunteers, and unit First Sergeants are heavily involved as well.

Tina Foster, wife of Maj. Mark Foster, is the group's chair this year. Bibianna Wright, wife of TSgt. Darryl Wright, is vice-chair. In addition, Amy Hopper, wife of MSgt. Jeffrey Hopper, is the group's secretary, and Desiree Allen, wife of Lt. Col. Brent Allen, is treasurer.

The Key Volunteer group also works closely with their counterparts at Shaw AFB's Airman and Family Readiness section as well as the South Carolina Army National Guard community. DeLille said she utilizes resources found in the new J1.1 Service



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

Family Readiness coordinator Terry DeLille trains new members of the Key Volunteer Program.

Member and Family Care Directorate, which was activated last year and headed up by Col. Ronnie Taylor and Col. (Ret.) Debbie McNamee.

Even after this deployment is over, the plan is to continue the training and keep the group going. For further information about the Key Volunteer group or Airmen and Family Readiness, contact DeLille at 803-647-8089 or carolyn.delille@ang.af.mil.

(Story by Lt. Col. Jim St. Clair, JFHQ/PA)

C is for Community

Girl Scouts from northeast Columbia's Troops 1198, 1334 and 1463 donated more than 3,000 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to the SCANG's deploying Airmen and families. Assisting with the recent delivery were Steve McCracken, MSgts. David Hutter and Leslie Koger, TSgt. Sharlene Shuler, SrA Steve Rucker, Troop 1198 Leader Jennifer Hutter and McEntire's Key Volunteers Renee Crowson and Susan Mathis.



(Photo by Terry DeLille, 169th FW/FAMILY SVC)

Unreported medications affect deployment

With the upcoming deployments facing our wing members, I was asked to write this article about being a good Wingman. You might look at the headline and ask ... what does that have to do with being a good Wingman?

Here's the deal. The Air Force is doing its best to remove the stigma associated with seeking help from mental health counselors (like myself). We know Airmen are seeing private doctors and being prescribed medications for anxiety, depression, panic disorders, PMS, sleep aids and a host of other issues. The problem is they are not reporting the fact they are taking these medications to the medical clinic. This creates a major problem.

Psychotropic medications as a whole

can disqualify folks from being deployed (with some exceptions). If you have been on certain medications for 90 days at the same dosage with no adverse side effects you might be deployable. However, if you show-up to out-process and no one knows about your meds, you are automatically disqualified from deploying.

This is where being a good Wingman comes into play.

If you become ineligible to deploy at the last minute due to not reporting your medical status, you have let yourself down. You have let down your shop and the Swamp Fox. You have jeopardized our ability to complete the mission on time. You also just put someone else in a bad position, because they are going to get a short-notice deployment to fill

your position.

I know we have the best Airmen in the Air Force right here at McEntire, and no one is intentionally trying to neglect their responsibilities to their Wingman and the mission. So, help us help you by keeping the clinic informed of all changes to your medical status and all medications you are currently prescribed.

Thank you for all you do every day as you serve our great state and country. I am here to help you stay in your uniform and continue the fight.

I can be reached at 803-647-8085 or 803-608-6297. Email me at Jeffrey.Rose.1@ANG.AF.MIL

(Commentary by Jeffrey Rose-EdS, 169th FW/DPH)

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men gathered in the wing auditorium. "Everything we do in Afghanistan is to support the ground forces."

The general compared Afghanistan to the state of Texas in terms of size. He told SCANG members that, no matter where ground forces are in that "state," when they call for support, an Airman will be overhead

in about six seconds. He said that was an awesome responsibility for the Swamp Foxes and all our air forces.

He encouraged the McEntire Airmen to build the relationships that the Air Force will need to prepare for what's next. He said that might be Airman to Airman, Airman to Soldier, Airman to Marine, or it might be

Airman to German or Airman to Jordanian, because we'll the Air Force will be working that way in future operations.

"Why do we do this?" he asked. "We make the world a better place for our kids and grandkids."

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

Sexual Assault hurts one, affects all

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month across the nation, and this campaign commits to raising awareness and promoting the prevention of sexual violence. "Hurts One. Affects All" has been the motto for the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program for the last few years. Everyone has a role in stopping sexual assault. Whether a leader, Wingman, friend, peer or bystander, you are the key to preventing sexual assault and its effect on military members and our mission readiness.

To assist victims, each wing has assigned Sexual Assault Response Coordinators. The 169th Fighter Wing Sexual Assault Coordinators are Capt. Grady Patterson and myself. Each state also has Joint Forces Headquarters SARCs. For us, they are 2LT Sharnte Jamison and Mr. Alan Wooten.

The DoD recently established a confidential and anonymous sexual assault hotline. To access this 24/7 hotline, members can "click, call or text." If, after speaking to an assistant, the member would like to report a sexual assault, the call can be transferred to the local SARC or be referred to a local community program.

Bystander Intervention Training is a mandatory requirement and the new facilitator-style course must be accomplished by all Air Force military members by June 2012. Contact your unit training manager (or me) for assistance.

(Commentary by Maj. Heather Leite, 169th FSS)

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*Text your location for the nearest SARC





We had our Breakfast in our “Luncheon room” this time due to a leaking pipe in our usual meeting room, which was causing a musky odor according to the NCO Club staff. Many of us may have thought nothing of it, just thought we were back at old McEntire? Anyway we again had about 70 folks to show, there were no first-timers, but we had one former member, who did not retire, and is now a very prominent lawyer in town, Ed Mullins. Several people mentioned he just showed up to collect money that was owed to him? That’s a lawyer joke folks! We discussed, in length, the entitlement of Aid and Attendance that concerns veterans who may need assisted living.

Our McEntire liaison, Robo gave us an insightful look into the upcoming deployment, plus he fielded questions from the audience. Overall, it was a great meeting. What I would like to see for this pending deployment is for many of us retirees to help send off the deployed folks whenever they leave sometime in April. Some of us did this when the group left for OIF, and many of us thought it was a nice gesture, along with the families involved. I will see if I can coordinate this with help from the base by communicating when the main body is departing and notifying everyone the time of departure.

McEntire History: Two things happened in the history of our past Aprils, and that is the forming of the 240th Airways and Air Communications Service (240AACS),

which I used to see stenciled on some flyaway kits. As many of you know the 240th stood down March 31, 2008 after almost 56 years of stellar service. The other happening of significance was the April 2001 deployment (Southern Watch) to Prince Sultan AB in Saudia Arabia, formerly known as Al’s Garage (Al Kharj) by the Desert Storm folks. There were about 225 folks that went on this deployment. Same place, just better accommodations, these guys had hardened barracks, we had tents, whoever said the old days were better?

I am honoring the last year of our “Missing Link” years, 1993. We have a total of 18 known retirees for this year, I will split them into two groups, the first group this month and the second group next month. The first group is as follows: CMSgts. Doug Lovette, and Jerry Couch, SMSgt. Ron Gregory, MSgts. Steven George, George Harbin, Gerald C. McKervey, David H. Murphy, Augustus Williams and TSgt. Thomas Paul. If you were a 1993 retiree, or a retiree from the years of 1987-1992, and haven’t seen your name in print yet, please let me know.

The history of our airplanes continues, SCANG was the first guard unit to receive the hottest airplane around at that time, the F-104. Three F-104’s were brought in February 16, 1960 and Maj. Bob Johnson acquainted the base and local surroundings with the first appearance of this plane by giving a ‘flyby’ demonstration that got everyone’s attention at Congaree Air Base, by

coming in low, and pulling back the stick. That must have been a hoot. The other pilots flying the other two planes were none other than Brig. Gen. Barnie McEntire, and Col. Robert Morrell, who was flying one of the two-seater models, with Capt. Henry Milne in the back seat. Even though the 104’s were around for only about 2 1/2 to three years, it is one of the most renown planes in SCANG’s history. There is as much discussion about this plane as any, because of the constant engine problems that plagued this plane. SCANG had more accidents and incidents with this plane than any other plane flown at our base. As you know this is how Congaree Air Base got renamed for Barnie McEntire because of his courageous crash he experienced coming out of Pennsylvania, when he and Col. Morrell went up to Harrisburg, PA to discuss the problems they were having with the F-104 engines.

Our next Breakfast will be April 3rd, we have been experiencing a goodly number of people this calendar year. Keep up the good attendance. As per usual, we will have it at the Fort Jackson NCO Club, beginning at 0830. The food is OK, the comradeship is much better, we just have a glorious time. We ‘yak’ a lot, the stories sometimes get embellished, but that’s what it is all about. My phone number is 803-936-0680 and my email is rbarkalow@sc.rr.com if you would like to talk or communicate with me.

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ceomara.timmons@ang.af.mil

MOVIN' In MOVIN' Up, & MOVIN' On

Officer Promotions

Colonel

Nicholas Gentile, Jr., JFHQ-SC

Lieutenant Colonel

Stephen Allen, 169th OSF

Enlisted Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant

Anthony Stovall, 245th ATCS
Robert Wright, Jr., 169th OSF

Senior Master Sergeant

Anthony Heidenreich, 169th AMXS

Master Sergeant

Scott Colclasure, 169th MXS
Christopher Hickman, 169th MXS
George Hillman, 169th MXS
Kathie Iorga, 169th LRS
Matthew Little, 169th MXS
Mark Merklein, 169th MXS
Jamie Scarbro, 169th MXS
Glenn Vereen, 169th CF
Charles Wells, 169th MXS

Technical Sergeant

Scotty Austin, 169th MXS
Blaine Bachelder, 169th MXS
Jeffrey Bryan, 169th AMXS
Roy Culp, 169th MXS
Adam Fisher, 169th MXS
Waylon Forgey, 169th MXS
James Francis, III, 245th ATCS
Vernon Hanbeck, 169th MXS
Robert Harrison, 169th MXG
Curt Howard, 169th MXS
Carlos Hsue, 169th MXS
James Laverdiere, 169th AMXS
Melsha Scott, 169th MXS
Kimberly Salley, 169th AMXS
Isaac Struckman, 169th AMXS
Kevin Vaughn, 169th CF

MOVIN' In MOVIN' Up, & MOVIN' On

Staff Sergeant

Joseph Dellinger, 169th CES
Jerkerris Griffin, 169th FSS

Senior Airman

John Blanco, 169th MXS
Cody Davis, 169th AMXS
Sonya Echols, 157th FS
Jeremy Hargis, 169th AMXS
Ryan Jones, 169th AMXS
Derrick Lowman, 169th MOF
Ashley Scarboro, 169th AMXS

Airman 1st Class

Kyle Lindsey, 169th AMXS

Enlistments

SSgt. Mitchell Menges, 169th CES
A1C James Darden, 169th MXS
A1C Sean Gaston, 169th MXS
A1C Norman Rueda, 245th ATCS
A1C Benjamin Strait, 169th CES
A1C Patrick Waters, 245th ATCS
A1C Brittanie Woods, 169th MDG

Welcome - Active Associate Arrivals

169th AMXS

Ann Colton Bennett

169th MXS

TSgt. David Guy
SSgt. Anthony Abraham
AB Dillion Brown



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

7 MAY 12 - 7 JUN 12

MCGHEE TYSON NCOA

1 MAY 12 - 7 JUN 12
23 JUL 12 - 29 AUG 12
17 SEP 12 - 24 OCT 12

What's for Lunch?

Saturday

Baked Ham, Cube Steak, Creamed Corn, Pinto Beans, Tempura Vegetables, Rolls

Sunday

BBQ Chicken, Baked Pork Chops/Gravy, Oven Brown Potatoes, Peas/Carrots, Rolls

Snack Line

SAT: Sausage Dogs and Baked Beans

SUN: Fried Chicken Nuggets and French Fries

* All with Soup / Salad Bar / Desserts / Beverages

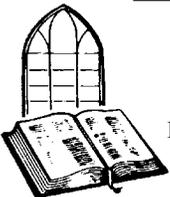
The Dining Facility is open 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Everyone using the facility must present a valid ID card.

REFLECTIONS

"The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effects of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever." --Isaiah 32:17

Have you ever wondered in the chaos of life how to gain peace? The Bible tells us that right living brings about a life of peace and quietness. Does this happen all the time? No, and not always instantaneously, yet choosing the right action, attitude, or words can bring the quiet calmness we strive for in this chaotic fast pace life. For me, I grew up in a family where my parents were business owners. I saw directly the effects of making right choices in up keep of property and finances which brought about the stability for our well being. Even as a young person, when I swept the floor at my dad's store and cared for children at my mom's childcare center, I experienced the benefit of order and hard work. At the moment I had peace too as I learned to obey and follow directions. I experienced an immediate quietness from my parent's voice as I responded to them in obedience (if you know what I mean). God gives an insight to this same principal as in Isaiah we read how the effects of right choices, or righteousness, brings quietness and assurance. What choices can we all make to bring about inner peace as well as peace in our home and community?

(by Chaplain, 1Lt. Christina Pittman)



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)

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May 16th (0900-1400)

June 3rd

August 5th

Contact MSgt. Selina Chavez at 803-647-8200

or

selina.chavez@ang.af.mil

~ Walk-ins are welcome. ~