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192d Fighter Wing
Virginia Air National Guard - Richmond IAP - Sandston, VA

Wing recce mission is successful

The only multi-role, tactical reconnaissance unit in the U.S. Air Force completed a successful 45-day tour of duty July 17, flying intelligence gathering missions over Bosnia, in support of Operation Decisive Endeavor.

More than 100 people, and five F 16s from the 192d Fighter Wing, Virginia Air National Guard, deployed to Aviano AB, Italy, over Memorial Day weekend. The Richmond, Va.,

unit is currently the only wing in the Air Force capable of flying tactical reconnaissance missions.

The 192d became recce-mission capable in April; only two months after receiving the functional pods. The Air Force had experienced a short-term void in its tactical reconnaissance abilities since retiring its RF-4s in October 1995. During that time, Air Force recce capabilities were limited to satellite and unmanned aerial vehicle image gathering. Due to the impending void, Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman, requested the development of a new, manned recce capability.

In an extremely-condensed, 18-month timeline, the 192d tested a prototype recce pod, brought it on line, became mission capable, and found itself deployed in support of the NATO-led peacekeeping effort in Bosnia. The reconnaissance pod includes an off-the-shelf camera with a digital imaging chip. The Lockheed unit hangs directly off the belly of the 192d's Block 30 F-16Cs. Carrying the pod on the aircraft's centerline allows the F-16 to remain fully armed and able to support air-to-air and air-to-ground



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Commander's Call

The 192d has only the best people!

By the time you read this, our deployment to Aviano Air Base, Italy, will be complete. I want to report on this first ever overseas mission tasked to employ the F-16's new reconnaissance system.

The preparation and deployment of personnel and equipment required one C-5 and two C-141 aircraft. Thanks to our exceptional mobility team, this part of our mission was smooth and completed on schedule. The launch of the five deploying F-16 aircraft plus one airborne spare (at 0300hrs!!) was "flawless" (as someone said). Although we had to divert two jets to Spangdalem Air Base, Germany, due to a minor engine problem, all aircraft made it to Aviano. (It took nine hours, five minutes and nine in-flight refuelings without the stop in Germany)

After local area briefings and an orientation flight, pilots began flying reconnaissance missions over Bosnia. Preparation for these missions was very detailed and more time consuming than I anticipated. Our photo interpreter (PI) augmentees were learning to operate the ground exploitation station (GES) while being tasked to provide thorough and timely reports. The entire intelligence section was scrambling to prepare maps, provide threat briefings, authenticators, etc. GES "software crashes" added to the stress and frustration. Everyone kept plugging away.

Working hours were long and hectic for our maintenance troops. There were pesky problems with the aircraft—fuel leak, starter problem, UHF radios, canopy replacement and a busted radar tilt knob that required a lengthy cockpit inspection to find missing pieces. ECM pods did not always work right (not ours—they belonged to Aviano) and there were numerous resets required on the reconnaissance pods. Despite these challenges, missions were completed and taskings met with a high degree of success.

After the first week or so, the stress level subsided as we worked into a routine. Chief Steve Ingram observed one day that we were "finally getting these aircraft up to Virginia Air Guard standards." His statement says a lot about the dedication and attitude of our people. It applies across the board and includes our outstanding support team housed in "tin city."

I should emphasize that we were not just employed in the reconnaissance role. In fact, we immediately removed the "R" designation that kept showing up on our tasking (RF-16!!). BG Wald, Wing Commander at Aviano, asked me what we should be called. Simple answer: "F-16C with reconnaissance capability." For each flight, the aircraft were configured with four air-to-air missiles, a Maverick (air-to-surface weapon), an electronic countermeasure pod, chaff and flares and, of course, the reconnaissance pod. (And don't forget the 20 mm gatling gun!) This is a true swing-role, triple mission aircraft!! Our pilots are well trained to perform any and all taskings. The fully equipped and armed aircraft underscores the serious nature of this mission and highlights the awesome capability of our aircraft. The teamwork involved is challenging and equally rewarding. To be part of this team has been a GREAT HONOR for me.

The very essence of our mission requires dedication, teamwork and serious attention to detail. Support from families and employers is more important than ever before. Every single person has to know and perform his or her job. This business is not for everyone. Only the best need to show up. We have the best—I guarantee! I am really proud to serve with the 192d Fighter Wing. Thank you for this privilege.

Bill Jones

Engine Regional Repair Center closes

The 192d Fighter Wing's Engine Regional Repair Center will close its doors within the next couple months, according to SMSgt Ray Bassetti, ERRC manager.

The F-16 engine-repair test program run at Richmond for the last 18 months, won the maintenance team consistent praise for its high-caliber work. The 192d supported the F-16 flying unit at Pope AFB, N.C., and set both speed and quality bench-marking standards while processing 100 engines in approximately 12 months.

For a variety of reasons, the Air National Guard decided not to implement the program at this time. Therefore, the Richmond-based ERRC

will close down after six remaining engines have been inspected, repaired, tested and sent out. The F-16s the 192d were supporting at Pope have been moved to Canon AFB, N.M. The last F-16s were to leave Pope by mid-July.

"Keeping Pope in engines, in addition to processing our own F-16 engines was very demanding. We kept Pope in engines even when they were deployed to the Middle East and several other sites around the globe. They never went without, and they never had a complaint over any of our work," Bassetti said.

"The last year-and-a-half were challenging," Bassetti said. "Air Combat Command interest in the program was intense

Wing successfully completes recce mission

Continued from page 1

missions while gathering intelligence imagery.

The camera shoots two to three frames each second and transfers computerized optical imaging information to a digital video tape. After the F-16 lands, the digitized tape is removed from the aircraft and hand-carried to a portable ground exploitation station where intelligence imaging analysts examine, enhance and label the target shots. At this point, the images can be encrypted and sent electronically, anywhere in the world. Electronic imagery transmission takes mere minutes. The pod and its related technologies offer high-quality images, enhanced exploitation capabilities, high-speed transmission, and the digital imagery ends the need for time-consuming wet-film development.

After receiving a mission review briefing during the last week of the 192d's flying operations, Major Gen. Hal M. Hornburg, director

of the Combined Air Operations Center, 5th Allied Tactical Air Force (NATO), Vincenza, Italy, said, "The Air Guard should be justifiably proud of how well they've performed in this operation.

"It's amazing how far you've come with this mission in such a short time. Your troops have earned a well-deserved pat on the back," General Hornburg said to 192d Operations Group Commander, Col. Robert O. Seifert. General Hornburg was very pleased with the unit and the aircraft's multi-role mission performance. Air Guard members from Iowa, Nevada, Louisiana, and Alabama augmented the 192d in a variety of critical specialties.

This was the 192d's second major operational deployment since the beginning of the year. In February, the unit deployed to Incirlik AB, Turkey, to fly the no-fly-zone over northern Iraq in support of Operation Provide Comfort II.

192d undergoes first QAFA in August

The 192d Fighter Wing will undergo its first Quality Air Force Assessment (QAFA), using the Air Force's new criteria, Aug. 7-14.

"The unit will be hosting 46 Ninth Air Force inspectors who will evaluate us on where we currently stand on our quality journey," said LtCol Buddy Evans, Support Group commander. "Fifty percent of the assessment will cover quality issues and 50 percent will revolve around unit compliance in regards to higher headquarters and Air Force directives."

"We've been working hard, at an incredible pace, and doing a great job. Keep putting your best foot forward and show Ninth Air Force the great things we've been doing," Evans continued. "Ninth Air Force is here to provide us with guidance and assistance in areas requiring additional work. They will be here to provide us with the tools to move into the future as an even better unit."

Remember to provide QAFA team members with proper military respect.

Medics provide relief at Misawa hospital

In keeping with their mission of being there in times of need, 192d Medical Squadron members experienced an earthquake firsthand while deployed to Misawa AB, Japan, this summer. "We've developed a habit of deploying into one natural disaster after another. It was an earthquake this year and a hurricane last year when we deployed to Hurlbert Field, Fla. These natural disasters have made for some interesting, if not hair-raising experiences," said Col (Dr) James Jones, 192d MSQ commander.

Forty-four members of the medical squadron deployed for Japan on June 15 and returned June 28. The medics provided support to the 35th Medical Group hospital—the U.S. military's Pacific-region medical center.

The hospital is a 25-bed facility with a staff of 96 supporting the more than 20,000 people on Misawa, and military members from other Pacific-region bases that come to Misawa for major medical care. The 192d doctors, dentists, optometrist, nurses, medical technicians, and support staff performed a variety of tasks while deployed. Dr. Jones and his staff performed

emergency surgeries during their stay and assistant chief nurse, Maj Cindy Brown, recorded educational spots concerning health issues, for the base television network. The dental staff worked 10-12 hour days because the caseload was so heavy.

"This wasn't a kickback and play tourist deployment," Dr. Jones said. "The 35th Medical Group is a small, busy hospital. The people assigned here don't get the opportunity to take leave unless someone comes to fill in for them, and the staff has been spread very thin due to regular deployments to Korea and Saudi Arabia. They had a real need and it felt good to help them out. The hospital commander invited us to come back any time."

Brown added, "The active-duty staff made us feel right at home. They gave us a great orientation; we fit right in."

A highlight of the deployment took place when the group stopped overnight in Hawaii and were treated to an Hawaiian luau, planned by clinic member, Josephine Matalascus.

Cops return from first unit deployment

192d SPs backfill for 86th in Germany

The 86th Security Police Squadron got some much needed help this summer—47 security police, law enforcement specialists, small arms instructors, and support staff from the 192d Security Police Squadron.

The 86th SPS, stationed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, was temporarily understaffed due to temporary duty commitments in Bosnia and Hungary. Several members were also participating in a major exercise, called Creek Defender, underway in southern Germany.

The 192d SPS members found themselves sorely needed by the 86th during their two-week annual training, July 16 through Aug. 3. "They were very short on personnel," said 192d SPS commander, Capt. Eliot Evans. "We put in a heavy work schedule—generally 13-hour days—working right up until the day we left. We provided aircraft security, law enforcement patrols in family housing, and gave small arms training. We worked with our active duty counterparts, Army military police and civilian German police (equivalent to U.S. state police). We handled assault and battery cases, car accidents, DUIs, potential bomb scares, and Helping Hand situations."

"This diversity offered us training for situations we don't normally get exposure to



during regular training exercises. This was the unit's first overseas deployment. Working through the Guard Readiness Center, we were able to identify and volunteer our services to a unit that needed a hand," Eliot explained. "And in the process, we gave our host a new respect for the Air National Guard. Initial reaction when we arrived was that we were there for a vacation. But by the time we left, our host commander said that if he was ever tasked with a contingency operation, he'd request that the 192d SPS be at his side. He wanted us with him if he ever faced a wartime conflict, and said he couldn't ask for a better unit. It is reassuring to know that we can successfully integrate with our active-duty counterpart."

"We were invited to compete in a German military-police marksmanship competition, and out of 76 competitors, SSgt Sterling 'Scott' McDougle finished second."

Munitions troop wins state-level Sr. NCO title

A 192d Fighter Wing munitions specialist was chosen as the VA ANG Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for 1995.

MSgt Warren E. Powell, munitions quality assurance NCO, ensures the wing's munitions shop performs up to standards and stays up-to-date on technical munitions regulations.

"Assembling or repairing a piece of munitions is very exacting work. There are many, many precise steps to be taken, and you cannot permit any error," the traditional guardsman explained when asked about his career field.

Powell also serves as his unit's career advisor. As a career advisor, Powell is challenged with keeping his troops upbeat. "If morale is up," he explained, "following safety practices is up, security provisions are observed and production is up. They are all very closely tied together.

"Munitions is a unique and challenging career field. We build and maintain many types of weapons systems: missiles, bombs, aircraft gun munitions, flares and chaff. We build munitions for all types of military aircraft—multi-service, U.S. and foreign. This makes the job very demanding but also helps to keep people sharp and on their toes. The diversification we develop as we go from deployment to deployment makes us more valuable to the Guard and Air Force," he pointed out.

"One of the best parts of this job are the great people we work with on deployments," Powell said. "I've developed many long-term friendships with munitions people from the other units I've worked with over the years. Sometimes we're helping them, other times they're augmenting us. I've taken part in Air Force exercises all over

the U.S., and I've been to Panama four times, Italy twice, Turkey and Ecuador to provide munitions for Air Force operations."

Powell said he reacted with surprise when he was told he'd won the Senior NCO title. "I've won other awards, but nothing as big as this," explained Powell. "It was a special feeling to be selected by my peers, for this honor. This has been a real highlight of my military career." Powell joined the munitions career field and the unit in 1978.

The senior NCO's final comment, "Munitions will always be there 'providing the enemy the opportunity to die for his country.'"

Ed Office announces dates, slots for NCOA

The Education Training Office has received dates for the Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) program for fiscal year 1997. The 192d Fighter Wing has received eight quotas—or two slots per class. Class dates are as follows:

Oct. 17 – Nov. 14, 1996

Jan. 13 – Feb. 14, 1997

March 17 – April 18, 1997

Aug. 4 – Sept. 11, 1997

For more information about the classes and application deadlines, call the base Education and Training Office at ext. 6590 or 6436.

Earns trip to D.C., Pentagon**Guest wins top ANG NCO of Year award**

One of Virginia's own is the United State's Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for 1996.

TSgt Michael D. Guest, maintenance data systems analyst for the 192d Logistics Group, received the award during a special banquet and presentation in Washington, D.C., on June 21.

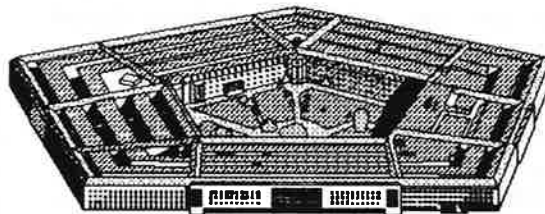
Guest was nominated for the national-level award after being named the Outstanding Virginia Guardsman of the Year for 1995. "I was honored to receive the state-level award, but I was really blown away when I found out I'd won the national award," Guest said. "Nomination packages for the best airman, NCO, senior NCO and first sergeant were sent forward for this award, from each U.S. state and territory. I knew I was up against some very stiff competition; I never dreamt I would win this award. I felt honored just to be nominated for it."

As part of the award, Guest and his wife, Rita, spent a week in D.C., receiving tours, visiting top brass and talking with many of the people shaping the National Guard today. "I developed a real appreciation for the workload going through the National Guard Bureau Readiness Center. I didn't realize just how busy the Guard was until I talked with a number of senior enlisted advisors in D.C. for a conference, and I saw how much planning was going on at the readiness center. For instance, at this time 10 percent of the active duty Air Force is TDY and 20 percent of the Air Guard is TDY."

"One of the best things about the week was how nicely our spouses were treated," Guest recalled. "Every step of the way, our spouses were recognized for the sacrifices they've made and the work they do that allows us to pursue our

military careers. Our families give up a lot, and my wife will tell you that 10 percent of my career success has been my doing and 90 percent is due to her commitment."

According to Guest, the highlight of the week was a three-hour tour of the Pentagon, and getting to talk with Air Force and National Guard leadership. "The week offered us the chance to see and experience many things most people never get to see. The trip and this award will



always hold very special memories for me and my wife; it was a true once-in-a-lifetime experience. I'm very thankful to the unit for the many opportunities it has offered me."

The NCO's military career began in 1983 when he enlisted in the Air Force as a maintenance data system analyst. He developed maintenance analysis procedures to assist in forecasting seasonal maintenance trends, and techniques and criteria for selecting rapid deployment aircraft. After tours with the Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team and with the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley AFB, Guest joined the 192d Fighter Wing in April 1994. The full-time air technician performs aircraft maintenance analysis and Core Automated Maintenance System (CAMS) database manager duties for the 192d FW. He is very involved in the unit's Quality Air Force initiatives, Logistic's self-assessment program and is the Logistics Support Flight quality advisor.

192d officer completes Army War College

First traditional ANG officer to attend

A 192d Fighter Wing officer was the first traditional Air National Guardsman to attend the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College—the military leadership program created by Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman in 1869 and attended by many of this country's most renown military leaders—including Gen. Colin Powell and Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf.

Maj Darrick A. Seale, 192d FW Social Actions officer, was one of three Air National Guard majors selected for the 1995-96 program.

The one-year program takes the Army's top majors and a hand-selected few Air Force and Marine majors, Navy lieutenant commanders, and 100 officers from 47 countries. The curriculum is designed to physically and psychologically develop and test the students' academic and combat tactic skills. Out of the 1,200 officers attending the grueling program each year, only 20 (on average) successfully complete all requirements and earn a master's degree in military arts and sciences.

Seale describes the curriculum as very strong—designed for the frontline fighting force. "It gave me an excellent perspective on waging war; it gave me more theater campaign planning and battle ground tactics information than any support service officer would ever need. But, because of that, I now understand what it takes to plan, carry out, and win a war. I now have a deep appreciation for the sacrifices these officers, their troops, and their families make in order to fight our country's wars."

According to Seale, the Army prides itself on being the toughest and it puts only its best

through this program. Seale made it through the program, but had problems with a tactics class. Most days lasted 14-16 hours and included military history and leadership, war gaming, theater campaign planning, military tactics, military and media relations, military exercises, physical fitness and getting dirty in the weeds.

The 12-month school is located at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

Speaking humbly of his distinction as being the first traditional Guardsman to attend the school, Seale said, "Being first at something doesn't mean being the best. Being first means being lonely, persistent, dedicated and working hard."

VANGUARD

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Forum deals with 192d FW women's issues

Having a pleasant work environment is vital to nearly everyone. Job stress is at the heart of a variety of physical and psychological ailments and productivity problems, according to many psychologists today.

Sometimes it is difficult for lower-ranking people to go to their supervisor and discuss potentially-sensitive or personal issues—especially when the boss is of the opposite sex.

It was these types of concerns that prompted

“Wing leadership is sincerely concerned about enhancing the work environment and providing everyone with equal opportunities. The forum helps to keep people informed, and educates them on current human relations issues.”

the creation of the 192d Women's Forum. The forum developed about two years ago as a subcommittee of the Wing Executive Quality Council. It currently meets on a quarterly basis and is attended by many of the unit's full-time women.

“There were women on base who felt they had no mechanism for presenting frustrations, complaints and questions in a neutral environment,” explained Jenny Boyer, base environmental engineer and the women's forum spokesperson. “They felt uncomfortable going to their male supervisors, and the mostly-male hierarchy, on a variety of issues.” This avenue provides base women with a unique, pro-active way of anonymously identifying and verbalizing concerns. Wing leadership is apprised of these issues, studies them, and responds to each issue in a timely manner.

So far, issues discussed by the group have ranged from sexual harassment concerns and

the condition of women's restroom to the possibility of having a base daycare facility and developing leadership and supervisory skills.

“The forum can be a great way to identify not only issues, but solutions. It opens up peer communication; it helps a lot for women to hear ideas and get input from other women who've had problems similar to theirs,” said 2nd Lt Jackie Minter, 192d Civil Engineering and women's forum executive council member. “The group identified inadequate restroom facilities as an issue they wanted studied. Civil Engineering took a look at all existing base restrooms and determined that both the women's and men's latrine facilities were inadequate. Our long-term improvements project will address this problem. However, as a first step, we have remodeled the women's restroom in the 200th Weather Flight building.”

“This program gets issues and problems handled at the lowest level. Wing leadership is sincerely concerned about enhancing the work environment and providing everyone with equal opportunities. The forum helps to keep people informed, and educates them on current human relations issues.”

Col Bill Jones, 192d FW commander, describes the forum an excellent alternative form of communication—allowing easy transmission of both positive and negative information.

In another move to address base women's professional concerns, the wing sponsored a full-day seminar in late July, entitled “Leadership & Supervisory Skills for Women, presented by the National Businesswomen's Leadership Association.

The forum is open to all traditional, full-time and civilian women in the VaANG.

Personnel actions

Promotions – May 1996

SMS Catherine A. Desper, 192d Med Sq
 MSG Robert M. Ellis, Jr., 192d LGS
 MSG Ralph J. Davis, Jr., 192d Maint Sq
 MSG Rodney A. Vanmeter, 203d RHF
 TSG Richard A. Garrett, 192d Maint Sq
 TSG Robert L. Gray, 192d LGS
 TSG Maria S. Linnane, 192d LGS
 TSG Robert W. Puryear, 192d Maint Sq
 TSG Christine M. Retseck, 203d RHF
 SSG Christopher M. Banaszak, 192d Maint Sq
 SSG Chester Gay, III, 203d RHF
 SSG Keith T. Henderson, 192d Maint Sq
 SSG Govie A. Peebles, 192d SPS
 SSG Dina L. Wells-Tanksley, 203d RHF
 SSG Henry J. Patterson, 192d CESq
 SRA Richard S. Holt, 192d AGS
 SRA Issac L. Jones, Jr., 192d SVF
 SRA Kenneth J. Peterson, Jr., 192d CESq
 SRA Winston S. Morris, 203d RHF
 AIC Teron E. Collins, 192d SVF

Accessions – May 1996

SrA Charles D.B. King, 192d AGS
 Sgt Steven D. Zettlemoyer, 192d Maint Sq
 Amn Penny L. Greathouse, 203d RHF
 SrA Lee R. Manis, 192d AGS
 SSgt Corey S. Ledahl, 192d AGS
 A1C Brian J. Penn, 192d AGS
 SrA Thomas C. Norbut, 192d LGS
 TSgt Robin T. Babcock, 192d Comm Flt
 SSgt Robert B. Russin, 192d FW
 A1C Richard C. Wampler, Jr., 192d Maint Sq
 SrA Jonathan S. Brady, 192d Maint Sq
 A1C Franklin D. Cabasier, 192d Maint Sq
 A1C Eric Dorsey, 203d RHF
 TSgt Coris D. Throckmorton, Jr., 192d CESq

Announced Retirements

SMSgt George S. McReynolds, 192d CESq
 MSgt James M. Smith, Jr., 192d CESq
 MSgt Francis L. Smith, 192d LGS
 TSgt William W. Kersey, Jr., 192d LGS
 TSgt Frank H. Johnson, 203d RHF



On the menu...

Saturday August 10

Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce
 Breaded Veal Steak
 Roast Pork
 Mashed Potatoes
 Buttered Mixed Vegetables
 Hot Garlic Toast

Sunday August 11

Cubed Steak
 Baked Chicken
 Baked Potatoes
 Steamed Rice
 Broccoli Combination
 Ice Cream & Dessert

Club sets event, requests support

Come on down to Club 149 for a burger or dog, before you go to the Ball Game on Saturday (UTA), Aug. 10. The club will be cooking up burgers and dogs for "Guard Night at the Diamond." Make sure you buy yourself a Guard T-shirt to wear to the game.

Anyone interested in pledging a donation toward Club 2000, please fill out the form below and give it to MSgt Valeria Murphy, MSgt Rick Lewis or TSgt Shirley Cooper. The Club 2000 project is a new facility the 192d FW is trying to build to provide a meeting and recreation place for members and their families, and to insure

activities are organized that add value to club membership through enjoyment and entertainment. We are trying to encourage camaraderie and more family participation at club functions and we feel this is the first step in accomplishing this task, says Club 149's governing board. The plan for this facility includes a large meeting area, bar area, kitchen, and gym with bathroom & shower area.

To start this project we need a minimum of \$100,000 and to date we have \$10,000. As you can see we need a lot of support. So come on, show your team spirit and please help!

CLUB 2000 PLEDGE CARD

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Home #: _____ Work #: _____

Pledge Categories (please check)

- ☐ \$1,000 or more * Name on Club Wall of Honor - Recognition Plaque-Commemorative Mug
☐ \$500 or more* Recognition Plaque - Commemorative Mug
☐ \$100 or more Commemorative Mug - Certificate of Appreciation
☐ \$25 or more Certificate of Appreciation
☐ Other (any donation is appreciated)

Please enter amount enclosed with this card \$ _____

*May be made in 5 annual installments (mug presented after first payment; other recognition after last payment)

Mail Address: 192d Fighter Wing (Attn: Club 2000), 50 Falcon Rd, Sandston, Va 23150-2524

Chapel meets at Club in Aug.

Chapel services will be held in Club 149 during the August UTA.

Chaplain Charles Woods will be back from his 5-month deployment to Italy. He will speak Aug. 11 at 8 a.m. Please attend and welcome Chaplain Woods back to the unit.

LOST & FOUND--A sum of money was found during the July drill. If you lost money during the July drill, call LtCol Buddy Evans, ext 6368.

Va co-hosts conference

The 118th general conference of the National Guard Association of the United States will be conducted in Washington, D.C., 1-3 Sept.

The 118th conference is dedicated to Congressman Sonny Montgomery, and this year's theme is "360 years of Service to the Nation, State and Community." Virginia is co-hosting this conference with the D.C. Guard.

Fraud, Waste & Abuse Hotlines

192d FG Hotline.....6368
State Headquarters Hotline.....6505
VANG Inspector General...775-9295
Air Force Hotline.....DSN 227-1061
DoD Hotline.....DSN 664-8799
DoD Hotline.....1-800-424-9098
DoD Hotline.....(703) 604-8569
GAO Hotline.....1-800-424-5454
Air Guard Price
Verification Monitor.....6542

****Confidentiality is Assured****

Vanguard

August 1996

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Operation Decisive Endeavor



192d Fighter Wing

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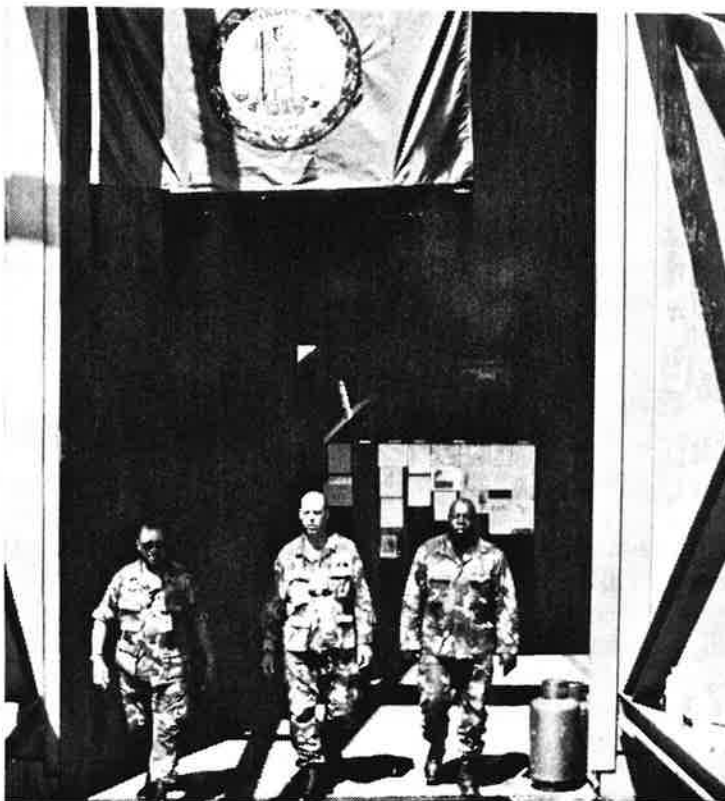
192d deployment hailed as success

More than 282 mission hours were flown by the 192d Fighter Wing during its deployment to Aviano AB, Italy, this summer, with near perfect performances from the people, the aircraft, the reconnaissance pods and the ground exploitation system.

Very impressive results, actually stunning when you consider that the 192d Fighter Wing accepted this additional mission as a test project 18 months ago, and received the first functional recce pod in February of this year.

"We initially had some problems with the pod," said Col. Robert Seifert, 192d Fighter Wing operations group commander. "But we've worked through most of that and were very pleased with the pod's dependability during the deployment for Operation Decisive Endeavor. The only thing that held us back

Continued on page 2



END OF THE DAY--Another round of missions complete and MSgt Warren Powell (from left), TSgt Richard Garrett and TSgt Marion McCleod leave Hardened Aircraft Shelter #7.

Welcome to FalconView!

192d pilot writes mission planning software

What started out as a basic map manipulation (software) program has become a vital part of mission planning for F-16 pilots and C-130 aircrews throughout the Air Force, Air Reserve and Air Guard.

The program used for basic flight planning is called Portable Flight Planning Software (PFPS) and it is a combination of three programs. One part of PFPS is called Falconview and one of its creators is a member of the 192d Fighter Wing.

During the early 1990s, the development of Falconview was managed and directed by (now) Maj. Robert "Bobby" Sandford, 192d Fighter Wing chief of safety. Falconview allows the user to scroll around a map and get coordinates and elevations without using a paper map. The software provides incredibly detailed information about thousands of locations on complete world maps, allowing pilots access to vital information

for flight planning at the click of a mouse.

The other two parts of PFPS are the Combat Flight Planning System (CFPS) and the F-16 Load software. CFPS does all of the calculation functions for aircraft fuel consumption and timing. The F-16 Load software allows the pilot to upload a Data Transfer Cartridge with the flight planning information. (The DTC is a cartridge about the size of a VHS tape, which is carried out to an aircraft and plugged into the airframe's computer.) CFPS is written and maintained by Ogden ALC at Hill AFB or Lockheed, depending upon the F-16 block (model). PFPS is managed by Maj Joe Webster and LtCol Jake Thorn, of the Air Force Reserves Requirements Office.

Prior to the 192d's deployment to Italy, Falconview didn't allow a pilot the ability to use

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Deployment hailed as success

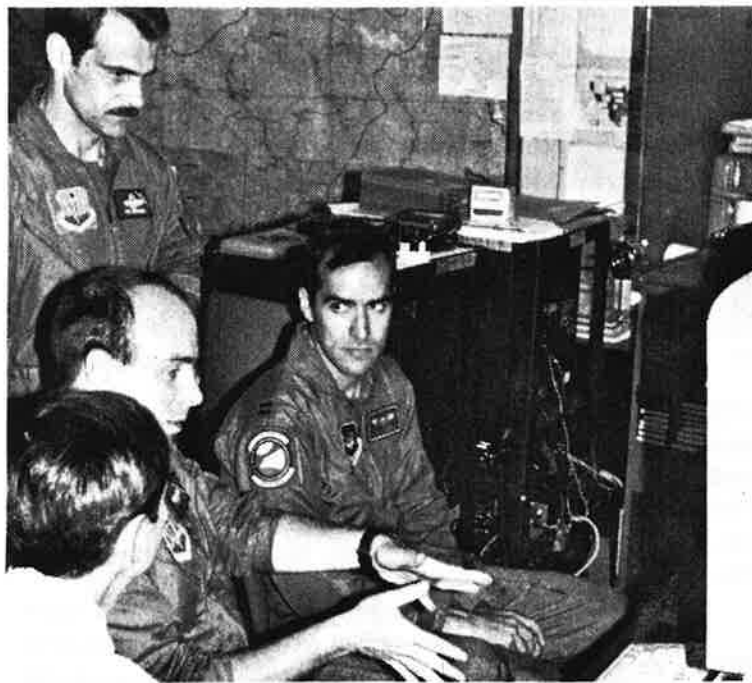
Continued from page 1

was bad weather." The unit flew two missions each day. Each mission was assigned to take reconnaissance photos of eight or more points of military interest in Bosnia. The targets were assigned through the NATO Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) in Vincenza, Italy.

Weather during the first half of the deployment was nearly ideal for the missions; however, low clouds over the Area of Responsibility (Bosnia) interfered with several recce missions during the second half of the deployment.

Accepting the recce mission on top of the 192d Fighter Wings primary mission of air superiority hasn't hindered the pilots' air-to-air and air-to-ground strike capabilities. The pilots use the same planning process and flying techniques for both bombing and recce targets and some pilots have said the recce mission has improved their targeting skills.

While talking with maintenance troops on the last day of deployment flying activities, Seifert said, "We've done a remarkable job in a very short time. There are many different units performing reconnaissance, and our pictures are every bit as good as anyone else's."



CHECK IT OUT--192d FW pilot, Capt. Mark Temple (center), explains to workings of the upgraded Falconview software to Capt. Rob Cockrell (far right), 555th Fighter Squadron out of Aviano, and Don Snelgrove (foreground) technical representative for Lockheed-Martin. Maj. Peter Bonanni (standing), 192d FW pilot, watches.

192d pilot writes mission planning software

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satellite imagery. Finding this to be a shortfall when mission planning for the reconnaissance role of the F-16, Sandford called his friends at Georgia Tech (John Pyles, Rob Gue and Vinny Sollicito) and they immediately began working the shortfall. Within a couple weeks the 192d FW had an upgrade to Falconview. Now the unit is using the satellite imagery provided through Georgia Tech during their mission planning. Pilots can determine visible features to look for while closing in on a target.

"We used Falconview while planning for all of our missions at Aviano," Capt. Mark Temple, 192d Fighter Wing pilot, said, "I like this software; it has a great user interface."

"Prior to the latest improvement, it took me 4--5 hours for mission planning. Now, I can plan

a mission in one hour," said LtCol. John Dornan, 192d FW deployment commander, during the second half of the unit's recent deployment to Aviano AB, Italy.

When asked about the future of the software, Sandford responded, "I was happy to be part of the Falconview development team, and the upgrade was a great service for all of the pilots flying in Italy. Georgia Tech has also recently been asked to modify the software so it can be used as a moving map, in response to safety concerns after Secretary Ron Brown's accident. That software should be available in the next couple of months.

"The entire PFPS software package has lots of untapped potential and I hope its development will continue because all of the pilots I've talked to really like it."

Third deployment in year

Woods serves as head chaplain

Managing the NATO air operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a Herculean task. An equally daunting part of this mission is overseeing the spiritual and moral well being and morale of the 6,300 troops from 16 countries participating in the air operations of this peacekeeping effort.

That's been the job of 192d Fighter Wing Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Woods.

The chaplain deployed to the NATO Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC), Vincenza, Italy, March 26 and served as the Air Force/NATO chief of chaplains. He worked directly for MajGen. Hal M. Hornburg, director of the CAOC, 5th Allied Tactical Air Force.

Chaplain Woods oversaw the activities of six Chapel Readiness Teams assigned to five bases in Italy and France. Woods and his chapel readiness team members ministered to troops scattered across 18 air bases, where they are regularly handling the flights of nearly 200 aircraft over and into Bosnia-Herzegovina.

During Woods' tenure as chief chaplain, he worked to make the religious services at these air bases multi-national as well as multi-denominational. "When I arrived," the chaplain recalled, "there were very few people from the other NATO countries participating in any of the church services. When I asked them why, they told me the services were 'American' services. We've worked very hard to make the services multi-national and the results were overwhelming. We now have services given by Catholic and Protestant clergy from several European countries. I found it especially gratifying to witness the talking that takes place after services and the

camaraderie that has developed among the NATO forces and how that has helped our people work together to produce a seamless operation—across boundaries, across branches of the military, and across people.

"In a situation like this we discover just how much we are all alike," Woods continued. "We are all making personal sacrifices to get the mission accomplished. We all have loved ones that we miss terribly and we look forward to being reunited with them. We have the same kinds of worries and problems: relationships, family, job and money."

A sense of urgency enters his voice when asked about the peacekeeping effort. "NATO has 50,000 troops in the Area of Responsibility. More than 350

NATO members have been killed in the AOR since the military operation began. This is many, many more than the number of soldiers, airmen, and naval and marine troops that died during Desert Storm, but few people at home are aware of this tragedy. Because few of these troops were from the United States, our media hasn't reported these deaths. But that doesn't make it any less of a human loss."

Always seeking to lessen human suffering, the chaplain also worked diligently during his temporary duty assignment to organize the military's humanitarian efforts among the worn-torn people of the land formerly known as Yugoslavia. The chaplain worked with large organizations such as the International Red Cross, church organizations and private humanitarian groups from a number of countries

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FEEDING THE BIRDS--
MSgt Tom McIntyre
enjoys a rare day off the
flightline during the
deployment. He took a
day to visit Venice, where
he saw the sites and
shared a handful of
birdseed with some fine-
feathered friends.

Woods serves as head chaplain

Continued from page 4

to help bring healing to the war victims, with food, clothing and medicine.

The chaplain worked to ensure humanitarian aid was divided equitably among all war victims. "It is important to see that the aid gets into the hands of those who need it—orphans, injured civilians, women whose livelihoods have been taken away from them, the homeless and jobless. If the aid isn't carefully monitored and distributed, it can wind up on the black market, where it is used as a political and military weapon, and goes to those with the money to pay for it," Woods explained.

"None of the factions involved in this civil war are blameless. Therefore, to help heal the wounds, we must not show favoritism with our aid. The biggest need is food and clothing for

children," the chaplain continued. "But, the hardest thing to deal with has been the wanton raping of women and girls, on all sides of the fighting. These women, married or not, are now outcasts among their own people. Married women are considered unfit to resume a normal relationship with their husbands, and unmarried women are not considered marriageable. These women have been marginalized for life."

Chaplain Woods, completing his third deployment in the last 12 months, will be reunited with the 192d FW for only a brief time in August before heading off to Air Command and Staff College. Woods and his wife, Kathy, reside in Danville, Va. They have two daughters, Heather and Bethany. Due to the QAFA, Chapel services during the August drill will be held at Club 149 at the 8 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 11.

Dream comes true for Intel NCO just hours before deployment

TSgt. Robert R. Keeton, 192d Fighter Wing intelligence analyst, fulfilled his life's dream just hours before he deployed to Aviano AB, Italy, with his unit in support of U.S. peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He carried the Olympic torch just outside of Dumfries, Va., shortly after noon on June 21.

Less than two hours after his kilometer-long run bearing the Olympic flame, Keeton was back in Richmond in uniform, preparing to deploy for Operation Decisive Endeavor.

The part-time military intelligence specialist had dreamt of carrying the Olympic torch for years. "It always seemed like an unattainable goal because torch carriers had previously paid large sums of money for the privilege of carrying the torch," Keeton explained. "This was the first year that a corporate sponsor, Coca-Cola, funded the Olympic Torch Relay across the country. The 10,000 torch bearer positions were filled by people from many countries, who had been nominated for the privilege, and selected based upon their community service."

Individuals could not nominate themselves. Keeton's wife, Susan, knew how much her husband had always dreamt of carrying the Olympic torch and nominated him for the honor after hearing the nomination requirements announced by a local television station (Ch. 35). In Keeton's nominations package, Susan described her husband's work in the Virginia Air National Guard and his volunteer work with the Richmond Special Olympics. "Maybe that's where I caught Olympic torch fever," Keeton speculated.



FOND MEMORIES--TSgt Robert Keeton reminisces over the thrill of carrying the Olympic Flame.

The Olympic Torch Relay went through 42 states during its 84-day, 15,000 mile trip. It started in Los Angeles on April 27 and arrived in Atlanta on July 19. The passing of the Olympic flame from hand-to-hand started with the 1936 Olympics and symbolizes the peaceful joining of people for the upcoming games.

"Carrying the Olympic torch was a fantastic opportunity to be a little part of history and the Centennial Olympic Games. I really enjoyed my 15 minutes of fame. It was especially neat because my wife got to escort me while I carried the torch," Keeton said. The person nominating an Olympic torch carrier had the honor of escorting that person while he or she carried the torch over their section of the course.

Keeton, a recent Virginia State Police Academy graduate, and his wife reside in Richmond.

203d engineers do their part at Aviano

How do you help an air base designed to handle 2,000 troops and a few squadrons of aircraft manage an influx of several thousand temporary duty personnel and several times the usual number of aircraft? You call in the 203rd Red Horse Civil Engineering Flight from Virginia Beach, Va.

Major Noel Harris and Capt. Jay "John" McClure, 203rd architectural engineers, have worked with the Aviano Air Base civil engineering squadron since Feb. 19, helping them develop a working plan to modernize and enlarge base facilities.

Aviano AB is a small pre-World War I era base made up of several compounds or geographically separated sections nestled throughout the town of Aviano, located at the foot of the mountains in northeastern Italy. The town and base lie at the edge of a fertile plain that has been a prime agricultural area for millennia.

During the early 1990s, Aviano was one of many European bases the Department of Defense listed for possible closure. The threat from the Soviet Union was gone and the U.S. military was down sizing and cutting costs. But NATO's involvement in the peacekeeping effort in Bosnia-Herzegovina brought new life to the tranquil base. Thousands of temporary-duty military troops from the U.S., Italy and several other NATO countries now find themselves supporting a variety of air operations out of Aviano AB. "The sheer numbers of people have swamped the base and overloaded every facility," McClure said. "The base wasn't built for the number of people and the level of activities it is currently supporting."

The two engineers completed an architectural compatibility study which included

"It's been a real pleasure working with the Air Guard. Their experience level is so much higher than our young troops; they've given us great results."

surveying the base's security, site structures, furnishings and amenities, utilities, roads and parking lots, signs and lighting, and courtyards and recreational areas. "The base is undergoing a major restructuring," Harris said. "We provided them with a process improvement outline designed to provide architectural compatibility across the upgrade process."

The importance of the engineers' work is underscored by the fact that the Italian government must approve all base improvement, construction and engineering projects before any work can begin. The civil engineers prepared a report detailing all projects planned through the year 2000, and how these projects will impact the environment and the civilian community.

"Major Harris and Captain McClure have done a tremendous amount of work since they've been here," said SSgt. George Waring, noncommissioned officer in charge of the computer-aided drafting section. "We're going to miss them when they leave."

Capt. Katherine Webb, chief of base development, echoed the praise saying, "It's been a real pleasure working with the Air Guard. Their (the engineers) experience level is so much higher than our young troops; they've given us great results. The base and the Air Force have benefitted from their work."

The engineers return to Virginia on Aug. 15.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!--Col. Bill Jones, 192d FW commander, commends the entire unit for making the deployment to Aviano AB, Italy, a complete success.

"It took the concerted effort of everyone deployed, and those remaining here at home providing support, to make this mission work. I

also wish to thank the many augmentees who provided skills vital to the final outcome of the mission."

The unit deployed five F-16s and approximately 100 people to Aviano over Memorial Day weekend. The wing flew reconnaissance missions over Bosnia as part of Operation Decisive Endeavor. About midway through the 45-day deployment a second group of unit members deployed to Aviano to relieve the first group. The unit returned home on Aug. 18. Toward the end of the deployment, unit members and augmentees posed for a photo in front of one of the wing's F-16C aircraft.

Photos in this special edition Vanguard are by SSgt Charles Kramer, 192d Combat Visual Information; and Capt Debbie Magaldi, 192d Public Affairs Office.

Stories by Magaldi.

Photo development by the 192d Combat Visual Information Office.

Production by PDO.







SMILE FOR THE CAMERA—192d FW intelligence and communications activities were augmented by Air Guard members from Nevada, Alabama, Louisiana and Connecticut units.



THE WALLS COME TUMBLING DOWN—Communications and intelligence troops fold up the ground exploitation station as they prepare to deploy home. The 10ftX20ft floor space in the unit becomes a 10ftX10ft square when folded up.



WAITING OUT THE RAIN IN TIN CITY—MSgt Richard Mabry, SMSgt Ray Bassetti and TSgt Cheryl VanTil sit through one of many down pours during the second half of the deployment.



JUST CHECKING—Maj Carmen Gonzalez-Lawless, 192D flight surgeon, checks a med kit.



WOW, LOOK AT THAT!—SSgt Charles Kramer (from left) checks out examples of the new recce pod's imaging capabilities. Col. Robert Seifert, 192d Operations Group commander, and Recon Optical technical representative Gary Pignato from Ft. Wayne, Ind., look on.

Nearly 200 deployed

Unit thanks all participants

Following are the names of all the unit members and augmentees that deployed to Aviano AB, Italy in support of Operation Decisive Endeavor.

A1C Virgil J. Dedrick I
A1C Richard B. Green
SrA Benjamin Anderson
SrA Granton L. Austin
SrA Dennis E. Bird Jr.
SrA Stephen D. Breeden
SrA Dewayne S. Browning
SrA Frederick Chappell
SrA Frank T. Chrissley
SrA Christopher Cline
SrA Andrew P. Dalton
SrA Chris Fleischer
SrA Christy L. Gambill
SrA Brian P. Judy
SrA Darrell T. Lloyd
SrA Walter T. Moore III
SrA Henry J. Patterson
SrA Paul A. Rasmussen
SrA Brian D. Rhodes
SrA Frederick W. Rowe Jr.
SrA Steven E. Smith
SrA David R. Stinson Jr.
SrA Peter V. Whitehouse
SrA Dena B. Woolfolk
SSgt Joe C. Bailey Jr.
SSgt Ricky D. Barbour
SSgt Nealer W. Brown
SSgt Leslie M. Cairns
SSgt Kragstevens Cash
SSgt John D. Chapman
SSgt Timothy V. Clark
SSgt Tanya A. Conrad

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SITTING IT OUT--Hot, sunny weather returned to Aviano as the 192d Fighter Wing headed home. SSgt Steve Sadler and TSgt Mike Pittman, Communications, put a wet-weather purchase to good use in the sun.



UP, UP AND AWAY--Goes the luggage as 192d Fighter Wing members hand their baggage to TSgt Marion "Mac" McLeod. The luggage was loaded onto pallets to prepare for the trip home.

Participants

Continued from page 12

SSgt Jonathan W. Cooper
 SSgt John D. Eaves
 SSgt Charles W. Felber
 SSgt Kenneth E. Fisher
 SSgt Richard A. Garrett
 SSgt David L. Hampton
 SSgt David L. Harlow
 SSgt Reginald Hinton
 SSgt Richard Huddleston
 SSgt Steven W. Jenkins
 SSgt Carl B. Knight
 SSgt Charles W. Kramer
 SSgt Lonnie W. Minor
 SSgt Frederick Osterud
 SSgt David K. Pack
 SSgt L. Wayne Ragsdale

SSgt John J. Reisigl III
 SSgt Dennis W. Richards
 SSgt Arnold H. Robinson
 SSgt Steven W. Sadler
 SSgt Belinda T. Sagal
 SSgt David R. Shelton
 SSgt Collins D. Sheppard
 SSgt Brian K. Thomas
 SSgt James J. Wheeler
 SSgt Mark L. Wirt
 TSgt Ronald D. Agee
 TSgt William C. Atkins
 TSgt Robert L. Bates Jr.
 TSgt Robert W. Brotten
 TSgt James L. Buchanan
 TSgt Edward G. Burrell
 TSgt Dan W. Cavender
 TSgt James W. Carrington

TSgt Nathan A. Clark
 TSgt Richard N. Cokes
 TSgt Raymond L. Cole Jr.
 TSgt Raymond C. Dawson
 TSgt John K. Doyle
 TSgt John K. Edmondson Jr.
 TSgt Robert M. Ellis Jr.
 TSgt Terry D. Ely
 TSgt Jennings Entsminger
 TSgt Sheila P. Gallacher
 TSgt Mike Garcia
 TSgt Angus A. Garner
 TSgt Timothy D. Graham
 TSgt Robert F. Gray
 TSgt Michael D. Guest
 TSgt Charles E. Harper

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Participants

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TSgt Clarence W. Helms
 TSgt Clifford B. Hisxon
 TSgt Grover L. Hockman
 TSgt John L. Hughes Jr.
 TSgt Robert R. Keeton
 TSgt John E. Killin III
 TSgt David L. Kimmick
 TSgt Thomas W. Langdale
 TSgt Michael McAlister
 TSgt Marion McLeod Jr.
 TSgt Karen R. Mealy
 TSgt Charles W. Middleton
 TSgt Brent Morris
 TSgt Donald E. Morrison
 TSgt Gilroy E. Phaup Jr.
 TSgt Michael G. Pittman
 TSgt Julian P. Reynolds
 TSgt David W. Rhodes
 TSgt Ralph W. Self
 TSgt Joel K. Steinberg
 TSgt Arthur L. Strader Jr.
 TSgt David C. Thelen
 TSgt Cheryl L. VanTil
 TSgt Thornton Williams
 MSgt Larry B. Anderson Sr.
 MSgt Thomas W. Brooke
 MSgt Darcy T. Burton
 MSgt Barry S. Coleman
 MSgt Karol A. Crane
 MSgt Richard K. Edwards
 MSgt Brian W. Evans
 MSgt Fred Fontenot
 MSgt John H. Fore Jr.
 MSgt Carl F. Gregory
 MSgt Larry W. Hackett
 MSgt Jerry V. Johnson
 MSgt Donald W. Jones
 MSgt William K. Joyce
 MSgt Peter S. Lanier
 MSgt Charles L. Leavelle



GOURMET FOOD & DRINK--Make that a box lunch and the ever-present bottle of water! Aircraft loading delays at Aviano meant one last meal in Italy. From back: SSgt Chris Fleischer, intel augmentee SrA Scott Beard and TSgt Mike Pittman chow down.

MSgt Thomas G. McIntyre
 MSgt Richard L. Mabry
 MSgt Lawson W. Osborne
 MSgt Warren E. Powell
 MSgt Michael E. Redell
 MSgt Paul G. Riding
 MSgt Stephen W. Tuck
 MSgt Thomas J. Wallace
 MSgt William G. White
 MSgt William B. Wilcox

MSgt Charlie E. Wood Jr.
 SMSgt Raymond L. Bassetti
 SMSgt McQueen A. Johnson
 SMSgt Charles W. Keene
 SMSgt Eddie C. Longest II
 SMSgt Robert H. McCormick
 SMSgt Robert W. Mantlo
 SMSgt Charles H. Martin Jr.

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DIRT CHECK--Sgt Jeff Bair, 560th Military Police Co. out of Manheim, Germany, inspects luggage of 192d FW members prior to their deployment home.

Participants

Continued from page 14

CMSgt Thomas E. Brown
CMSgt Larry E. Byers
CMSgt Ronald W. Haley
CMSgt Steven T. Ingram
CMSgt Charles R. Sparks
2ndLt Rodney C. Brickell
Capt Deborah Fredette
Capt Robert J. Grey Jr.
Capt Bryan D. Perfetti
Capt Daniel S. Polanosky
Capt Mark C. Schmidt
Capt Mark K. Temple
Maj Peter A. Bonanni

Maj William S. Busby II
Maj Lawrence Cerritelli
Maj Joseph H. Early III
Maj Carmen Gonzalez-Lawless
Maj Johnny O. Haikey
Maj Cynthia L. Hall
Maj Timothy D. Hartwig
Maj Clyde W. Mathews
Maj Gary H. Maupin
Maj James A. Reiner Jr.
Maj Charles W. Sachs
Maj Robert T. Sandford
LtCol Garnett Alexander
LtCol Hugh T. Cole III
LtCol John D. Dornan

LtCol Basil H. Evans Jr.
LtCol Donald E. Everett
LtCol Donald C. Hayes
LtCol Anthony R. Haynes
LtCol Stephen R. Hicks
LtCol Charles W. Martin Jr.
LtCol Francis W. Pedrotty
LtCol Benjamin V. Petrone
Col William M. Campenni
Col David L. Hudson
Col William C. Jones Jr.
Col Robert O. Seifert
Augmentees:
SrA Russell S. Beard
SrA Natalie J. Friedenthal
SrA Nino Iannacchione
SrA James M. Lyster
SrA David C. Perry
SSgt Gary W. Bradford
SSgt Barrett C. McGuire
SSgt Delbert L. Zlotzky
MSgt Glenn M. Gevert
MSgt John E. Zaleski Jr.
SMSgt Michael O. Arnold
SMSgt Milton R. Lizana

VANGUARD

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WELCOME HOME-
-Gov. George Allen
talks with
members of the
192d FW during
his visit Aug. 18.
Local media
covered the event.
Photo by TSgt
Carlos Claudio.

Gov. Allen greets returning troops

Governor George Allen greeted members of the 192d Fighter Wing as they returned from a 45-day deployment to Aviano AB, Italy, around 10 a.m. July 18.

Governor Allen spoke to a number of unit members shortly after the unit's five deployed aircraft returned to base. Virginia's Adjutant General MajGen. Carroll Thackston, 192d FW Commander Col. Bill Jones, and a large number of base personnel turned out for the return of the deployed troops and for Governor Allen's remarks.

Governor Allen greeted the returning troops and spoke for several minutes about the importance of the unit's mission in Italy and the pride the unit must have in its long tradition of outstanding service to the Commonwealth and the nation. He praised the airmen for their devotion to duty and commended their many employers for permitting them the time to handle this deployment.

Among his comments, the governor observed:

"In February, you deployed to Turkey to fly missions in the 'no-fly zone' over Iraq. I heard many positive comments of that deployment. A month and a half ago, five F-16s and 100 personnel took off from this base to assist in Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia...

"More than 200 of you took time out for this important mission...You flew more than 282 mission hours, many under hostile conditions over war-torn Bosnia. I salute you for your determination and dedication, but I expect that from professionals such as yourselves. You are leaders and trail-blazers...

"I am extremely proud of your accomplishments and that big 'VA' adorning the tail of your aircraft. Anyone who sees that knows you're Virginians, and that carries a proud heritage of fine traditions...We appreciate all your sacrifices. Keep up the good work."

After talking with the returning troops, the governor received a brief tour of the flightline.