

# VANGUARD

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## Wing returns from Air Warrior/Red Flag

More than 90 members of the 192d deployed to Nellis AFB, Nev., Oct. 21-Nov. 7 to participate first in Air Warrior, then as part of the aggressor force for Red Flag.

Col. Tony Haynes, vice wing commander, was one of the F-16 pilots participating in the training deploy-

ment. He describes the Nellis training facilities and air space as unmatched. "Air Warrior gives the fighter pilot the opportunity to sharpen skills we don't always get to practice. It's a great place to try out new techniques, skills and procedures. The pilots hone their close air support, interdiction

and air superiority skills so we can work seamlessly with the Air Force," he explains.

During Red Flag the Wing took on the role of Red Air. As part of the aggressor force, it was the 149th Fighter Squadron pilots' job to provide training opportunities for Blue Air (the friendly forces). "We do get some training because of the number and variety of aircraft we are dealing with. A mission may have as many as 70 Blue Air players opposing 12-13 aggressors," Haynes points out. "Because we can integrate so many

assets for a mission we come close to putting together a warfare environment like no where else in the world."

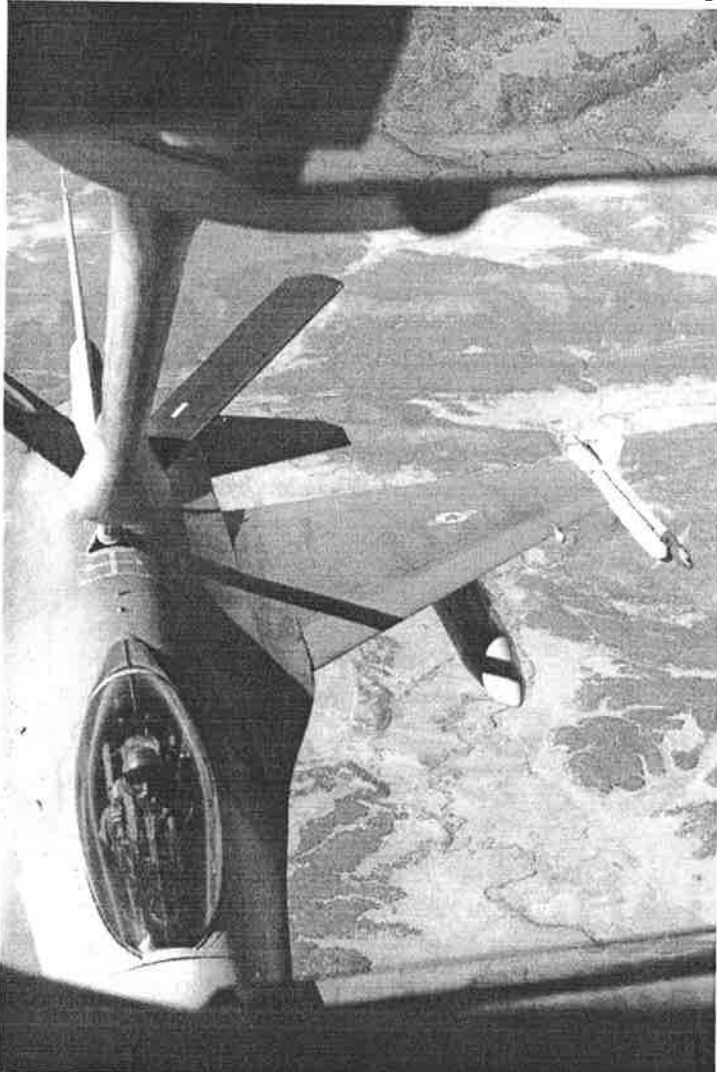
During Red Flag, the pilots work on surface-to-air, suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD), air superiority, and interdiction tactics while coordinating AWACS and aerial refueling. The scenario sets up all the problems faced in battle.

"Normally we don't think twice about an air refueling, but even something that straight forward becomes complex when a large number of different airframes are involved. Deconfliction can become incredibly complex. This training prepares us for handling these issues, so in a real battle our primary concerns won't be on the mundane but the life threatening," the F-16 pilot explains.

This isn't the first time the 192d has flown as Red Air during a Red Flag. "As part of the aggressor force it is important that we perform our job well," Haynes adds. "We're very respected at Nellis for the job we do as part of Red Air. For Blue Air to get their training, Red Air must be very disciplined, put aside egos and do the job the way it's supposed to be done. We do whatever is asked of us and we do it better than anyone else.

"Red Flag is a great opportunity to groom young pilots for the mission," Haynes continued. "Realistic training makes for a more prepared pilot and better performance during any future conflicts.

Maj. James Reiner, F-16 pilot, concurs, "Red Flag provides the most



*One of the Wings six F-16s, deployed to Nellis for the exercise, gets refueled by a New Hampshire ANG KC-135 on its flight home Nov. 6.*

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



## Commander's Call

# Celebrate holidays: Special time of year for reflection, giving thanks

The holiday season is upon us, and 1999 is nearly at its end. This time of year gives us the opportunity for personal reflection, giving thanks and celebrating! I hope you will take time during the next month to reflect upon the meaning of this special time of year, and to give thanks for the many things we take for granted as U.S. citizens.

We enjoy a peace in this nation that is unheard of in many other countries. During this holiday season many of our fellow soldiers and airmen are helping to bring about peace in several of those countries. They are performing their duties honorably and professionally in remote corners of the world. They are sacrificing their comfort, happiness, and even their lives to bring peace to other people. Please keep your brothers and sisters in uniform -- and their families -- in your thoughts and prayers during this holiday season.

Take time to celebrate the holidays with your loved ones. The Virginia Air National Guard couldn't exist without the support of our wives, husbands, children, parents, neighbors, bosses and co-workers. Let your family and friends know that you recognize and appreciate the sacrifices they make that allow you to pursue your military career. They give up a lot to support our military requirements, and

they do so much for us when we are on duty. The holidays are a great time for thanking these very special people.

Take pride in being a member of the Virginia Air National Guard and the U.S. military. We are a unique group of individuals -- bringing our strengths, skills and patriotism together -- to create a team capable of serving our nation and our state. Ever vigilant and ever ready, we are there to respond to anything from national defense to natural disaster.

The Air National Guard has been called upon to do much over the last 50 years. And, with the new Expeditionary Aerospace Force, we can expect our duties to expand even more in the coming years. We must work hard to stay current with our active duty counterparts -- modern equipment, highly trained people and vital mission capabilities. These will be our challenges in the coming years.

This year was hectic but next year promises to be even busier with a number of inspections, deployments, exercises, special events and training activities already on the calendar. As we enter a new millennium take time to reflect, give thanks, and celebrate all that we have.

During this holiday season my family and I wish you and yours "Peace on earth and good will toward all." Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Steve*

Col. Stephen R. Hicks

## VANGUARD

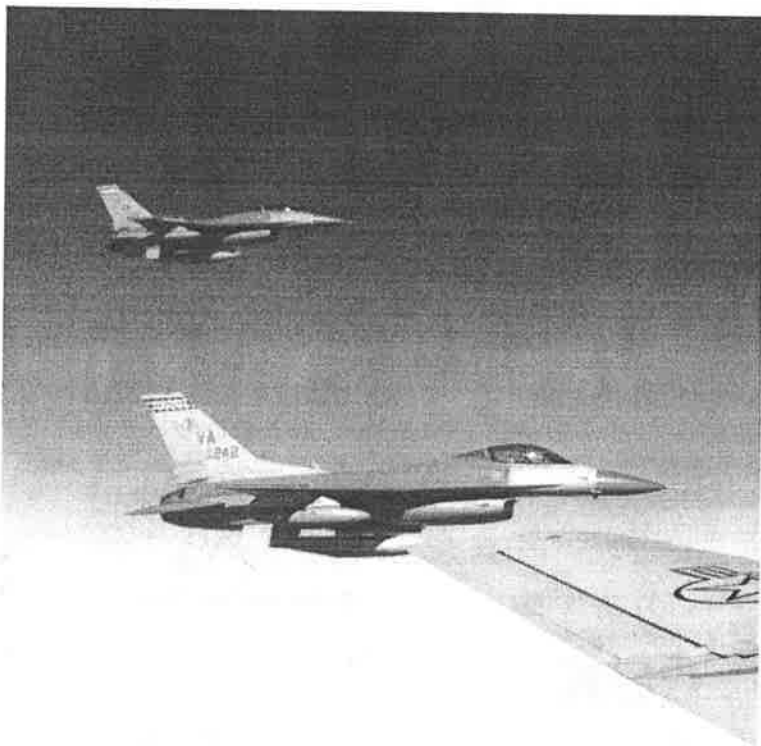
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# Wing returns from Air Warrior/Red Flag...



The Wing's F-16s and six of the pilots taking part in Air Warrior and Red Flag were ferried home by the 133d Air Refueling Sq. out of Pease ANGB, N.H. Maj.Gen. Claude Williams, Virginia's adjutant general, also returned on the KC-135. For more about the adjutant general's visit to Nellis, see pages 6-7.

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effective aerial combat training possible. And even though our focus as Red Air is to provide the training, it is an outstanding opportunity for us. Because of the environment any flying at Nellis is worthwhile training.

Maj.Gen. Claude Williams, Virginia's adjutant general, visited with 192d during the Nellis deployment. On Nov. 5, he ate breakfast with aircraft maintenance and support staff and took part in the morning FOD (Foreign Object Damage) walk on the aircraft parking ramp. That evening he attended the deployment party. He congratulated the Wing for its outstanding performance, handed out certificates of appreciation and presented his adjutant general "excellence" coin to seven unit members: TSgt. Marion "Mac" McLeod, MSgt. Butch Osborne, Maj. Mark McCauley, TSgt. Shirley Cooper, TSgt. Thornton Williams, MSgt. Jeff Davis and CMSgt. Sam Meador.

"Maintenance was as good as it gets," reports maintenance officer, Maj. Cindy Hall. "The guys kept the aircraft going great. And everyone really appreciated the visit by General Williams and our senior leadership. We support the general's TEAM Virginia philosophy."



Breakfast and lunch were served daily at the 192d's flightline facility during Air Warrior/Red Flag. Early morning flying schedules and long maintenance shifts made it difficult for deployed Wing personnel to get to base dining facilities. To get everyone fed and minimize time lost by traveling to the dining hall a dedicated team of volunteers prepared and served the meals. Here (r to l) TSgt. Shirley Cooper, MSgt. Jeff Davis and CMSgt. Wayne Keene serve up breakfast.

*Team prepares critically-injured for hospital*

# Fire Dept. responds to multi-car accident

The Virginia Air National Guard Fire & Rescue Department was recently dispatched on a multi-jurisdictional response to assist Henrico County Division of Fire at a four-car crash on Interstate 64.

The accident injured six people, two critically, and closed the west-bound lanes near the Henrico and New Kent County line for more than an hour.

Around 11 a.m. on Nov. 3, the Base Fire Dept. responded with three Emergency Medical Technicians on the rescue truck equipped with hydraulic extrication and other specialized

equipment. Virginia Air Guard firefighters were given the assignment of extricating and treating two people in one of the severely damaged automobiles. After that task was complete, they proceeded to another automobile, where they assisted county firefighters with removal and treatment of other patients.

A medical evacuation helicopter, staffed by a Virginia State Police pilot and a Chesterfield County Fire Department paramedic, landed on scene to transport one of the critical patients to a medical facility.

The 192d Fire Dept. has a written

mutual aid agreement with Henrico Division of Fire and has assisted them on several occasions at severe crashes or fires. Even though this multi-vehicle crash involved the response of six agencies from four different jurisdictions, the coordination and teamwork displayed by all responders was noteworthy.

All of the Virginia Air Guard firefighters are highly trained in handling specialized rescue and fire situations, as well as emergency medical treatment of injured persons.

by Aubrey Hyde

Assistant Fire Chief

## Fire Prevention Week

### *Fire Dept. hosts variety of awareness activities*

Fire Prevention Week 1999 was a busy and successful one for the 192d FW Base Fire Department. The week started off with the 192d Fire Department canvassing the entire base to share fire and life safety messages face-to-face with all of the full-time employees. The Fire Prevention Office assigned base facility visits equally to each fire department shift. While performing these visits, firefighters inspected all base telephones to ensure that emergency reporting number decals were affixed to each.

This year's door-to-door visits on base marked the inception of a new customer contact survey for the Base Fire Dept. This new program collects data on the fire department's exposure to the base customers by firefighters documenting their contact information on a form kept on the emergency vehicle.

The purpose of the customer contact survey is to document one of the goals of the fire department's long-range strategic plan. That goal is for every full-time member of the base population to come in contact with a

fire department member at least once a year. The contact is only documented if a fire safety message is conveyed to the customer during the conversation.

In addition to the base-wide visits, the Fire Dept set up the annual Fire Prevention Week exhibit at a central location on base. The site provided NFPA brochures for fire and life safety, courtesy blood pressure checks and fire equipment displays.

During Fire Prevention Week, facility managers were asked to coordinate fire evacuation drills with the assistance of the fire department. Firefighter involvement in these drills presented an opportunity to provide the customer with beneficial information for their facility evacuation plan.

Coordination of these activities was accomplished through the weekly fire prevention tip and fire safety news brief that is e-mailed to facility managers through the base LAN.

The 192d Fire Dept. also promotes fire prevention education in the surrounding community. This year the department teamed up with the Henrico Division of Fire, which

provides municipal fire protection for the county where the 192d FW is located. Firefighters from the 192d and Henrico Engine Company 3 were partners in the "Good Monster" program, where they dressed in turnout gear for school children. This year offered something new for the youth with both an Air National Guard firefighter dressed in proximity gear and a Henrico County firefighter dressed in structural gear. During this demonstration, a Fire Prevention Specialist explained the differences in the types of turnout gear and the tasks of each firefighter.

by Aubrey Hyde

Assistant Fire Chief

### Special Notice

Don't park on the grass around the Civil Engineering Sq. building. Use the overflow parking lot adjacent to the State Headquarters.

# EAF is a journey, not an end state

Last summer, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan and I announced the beginning of our Expeditionary Aerospace Force journey. Now, our first two Aerospace Expeditionary Forces have assembled and deployed in part to Southwest Asia.

It has not been easy to get to this point. It has been a learning experience, but it is the first step in trying to create a stable and predictable lifestyle for all of our men and women.

EAF is a journey, and we have many more steps to take along this path as we transform the Air Force from a forward-based, Cold War force to an expeditionary force able to respond to crises around the globe.

EAF is not just one event. It is a completely different way of looking at how we do our business. It is also a fundamental change in the way we operate, as evidenced by the establishment of completely new training courses for both enlisted airmen and young officers — Warrior Week during Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and the Aerospace Basic Course at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

We are moving into the EAF for two reasons. First, to make sure that the nation has the trained aerospace forces it needs. Second, to make sure that our people have relief from operations tempo, or OPTEMPO, in a turbulent world. This is really what EAF is about.

Making life better for everyone in the Air Force is my No. 1 priority for 2000, and I know that the frequency and unpredictability of deployments remains everyone's No. 1 concern. The EAF will lay the groundwork for resolving this concern by spreading the effects of an apparently never-ending high OPTEMPO across more of the force.

By using our Total Force and by re-engineering our active forces to add to those eligible to deploy, we can spread the high OPTEMPO burdens

and ultimately reduce personnel tempo.

The EAF will also lessen the high work levels at home stations by putting enough manning on our bases to do the work, even when units are deployed.

Improving our OPTEMPO and PERSTEMPO is something that we cannot compromise. We will never fix our retention rates unless we can guarantee people that in peacetime they will have a personal life.

With the Expeditionary Aerospace Force as our vision, the AEFs are the tools that will transform it into a reality.

Our AEFs will be responsive, tailored and trained for the area into which we expect them to deploy. Dedicated airlift, intelligence and space assets will enable the AEFs to provide the right force at the right time, whether the mission is humanitarian relief or combat operations. This will be increasingly important in the rapidly changing 21st Century.

EAF won't be pretty at first, or provide instant relief, but it will ultimately succeed. For proof, look at Kosovo. There, we demonstrated we could deploy to some 20 bases with seeming effortlessness, and on short notice, transform a base with no U.S. facilities into a fully operational base within hours to a few days.

More important, we demonstrated that we could also turn sorties quickly, within hours in many cases. And, ultimately, when the fighting stopped, our national command authorities

allowed us to come home quickly, showing the confidence we are already building in our ability to move out rapidly from home base to get the job done overseas.

While Kosovo operations showed EAF works, it also demanded a tremendous amount from our forces, and that effort did not come without a cost.

We are reconstituting the force, and we have adapted the EAF schedule accordingly. Even so, the initial AEFs include many men and women who have been involved in Kosovo and other operations this year. It is not ideal to ask these men and women to leave again so quickly, but it is essential if we are to find a long-lasting solution for OPTEMPO and PERSTEMPO.

I need the help of all Air Force members to get the word out about EAF. I need them to take time to understand the vision and our goals. Also, to take time to listen to feedback and pass it to me through the chain of command. We cannot change the mindset of the Air Force without feedback and the support and hard work of everyone in the organization.

EAF is a journey, not an end state. Today we are without a doubt the most capable aerospace force the world has ever seen. Thanks to your hard work, sacrifices and commitment, the EAF reorganization will help us stay that way.

*by F. Whitten Peters*

*Secretary of the Air Force*

## Congress provides funds for 6 F-22s

The Air Force will acquire six test F-22 aircraft in 2002 with funds provided by Congress in the budget resolution passed Oct. 5.

In the resolution, Congress delayed production of the F-22 from December 1999 to December 2000, and cut funding by \$560 million to make the Air Force justify the F-22's cost and prove its technology.

Instead of getting six production aircraft to complete operational testing, the Air Force will now receive six test aircraft.

With an aging fleet of F-15s, and the ability of adversaries and allies to match technology, the Air Force has embarked on a modernization program to maintain its edge on military strength and air dominance.



## Gen. Williams compliments unit, troops

# TAG visits 192d during Nellis deployment

Virginia's Adjutant General flew to Nellis AFB to see the 192d Fighter Wing in action during its recent Air Warrior/Red Flag training deployment, and he was delighted with what he saw.

"This was a great opportunity to see the 192d in action -- to see where the rubber meets the road and observe first-hand why this unit has such an outstanding reputation," said Virginia's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Claude Williams, during his visit. "I learned a great deal about the wing's mission and the conditions you work under."

General Williams is working closely with Virginia Air Guard leadership on several high profile issues. "We'd like to see the 192d get Block 52 F-16s, and that is a goal we will keep working on," the general said. Working recce pod concerns and funding and finalizing the new Base Lease Agreement were also big issues this year. "We needed to nail down the airport's lease for the land the base sits

on so we could start some much-needed construction," Williams explained.

However, when examining the total picture, manning is the biggest long-range issue facing both the Army and Air Guard these days, according to the general. "With the increased ops tempo, we need to pay close attention to improving and maintaining our strength posture. The new Aerospace Expeditionary Force is going to be a different ballgame," he contends. "We're working hard to ensure that the Virginia Air Guard receives an important but manageable AEF tasking and we're working hard to support the flying operations we have at the Richmond Airport. I'm very pleased with the Virginia Air Guard's mission capable levels and overall reputation. We're not about to sacrifice that or trade it away. Virginia National Guard leadership staunchly supports our Air Guard units."

In light of a draft plan to downsize all Air Guard flying units,

Virginia Air Guard leadership, General Williams and adjutants general around the nation are pushing hard to maintain the current mix of traditional and full-time personnel at Air Guard units. "I feel very strongly about having the bulk of our forces coming from our communities as traditional soldiers [and airmen]," Williams said.

"But," he emphasized, "the bottom line is that change is coming. Think positive. Be flexible. Be viable. The Air Force is becoming a space force. We will see a great deal of change within the Air Guard over the next several years. The Air Guard will look different because of new missions and new requirements. At this stage, we must keep our options open."

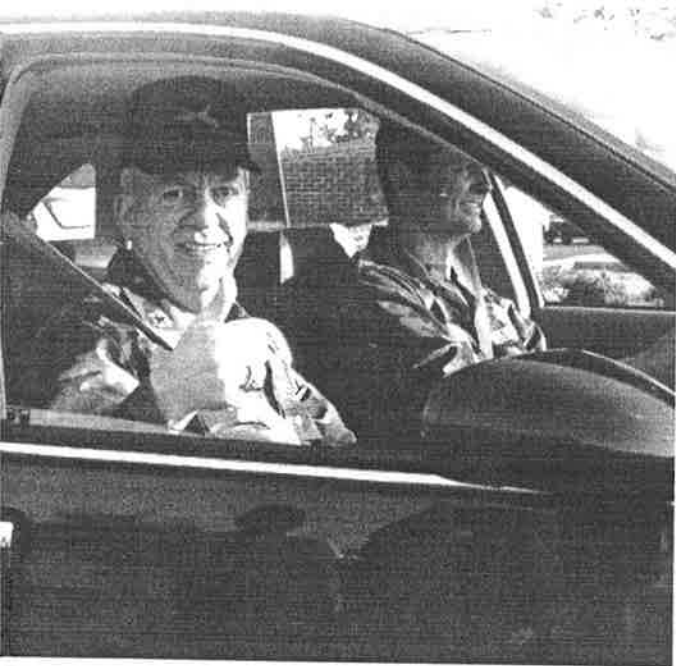
General Williams emphasizes that teamwork is vital for Virginia's continued success. The Virginia Air National Guard is an integral part of TEAM Virginia. "We're all in this together," he points out. "Everyone is equally important -- Army and Air. The infantryman, aircraft crew chief

and computer specialist are all just as important as the adjutant general. The Virginia National Guard has the best soldiers and airmen ever. We have high-caliber young people in the Virginia National Guard today. Gen-eration X has stepped up to the task and is doing a great job.

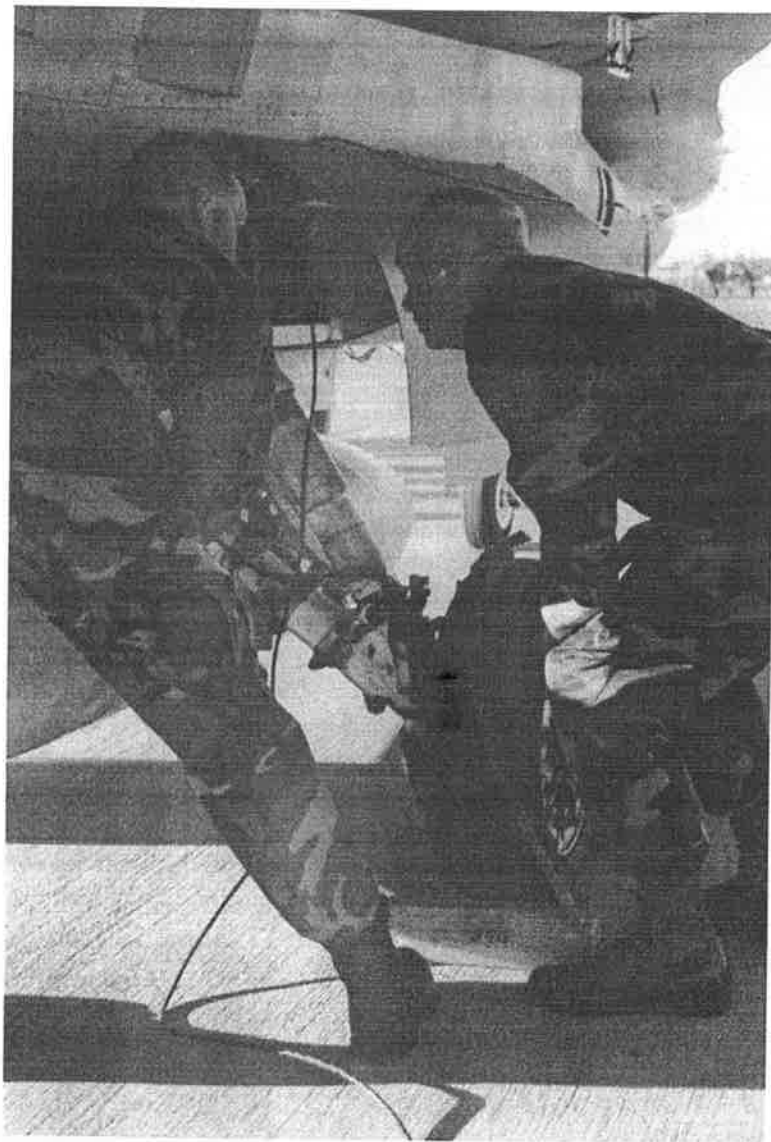
"I encourage leadership to stay committed to our younger people," Williams continued. "Take ownership of your troops. Find out what they need -- militarily and as individuals -- and help them succeed. We need to stay committed to our people -- at all levels. Supervisors need to make



Behind flag from left, Brig. Gen. Robert Seifert, VaANG State Hq chief of staff; Col. Pete Bonnani, Ops Group commander; Maj. Gen. Claude Williams, adjutant general; Col. Steve Hicks, 192d Wing commander; Col. Roy McCutcheon, Va. National Guard chief of staff; Col. Tony Haynes, 192d vice wing commander and Col. David Loy, VaNG Human Resources officer, pose for a photo with many of the 192d's aircraft maintenance and support personnel deployed to Nellis for Air Warrior/Red Flag. Deployment NCOIC, CMSgt. Sam Meador coordinated the senior leader's visit; it was General Williams' first opportunity to watch the wing in action.



*Maj. Gen. Claude Williams, Virginia's adjutant general, gives the VaANG a "thumbs up" as he leaves the base after returning from Nellis AFB, Nev. The general was accompanied by his Human Resources officer, Col. David Loy (behind the wheel) and his chief of staff, Col. Roy McCutchin.*



*F-16 crew chief SrA. Nicholas Reed, 192d Fighter Wing/Aircraft Generation Sq., explains the F-16's landing gear to Maj. Gen. Claude Williams, Virginia's adjutant general, during the general's flightline visit while at Nellis AFB.*

sure their troops understand their career progression requirements, get the training they need, and have access to mentors. The Guard is tough, but we're committed to helping you succeed, whether your goal is to become adjutant general one day or earn a college degree."

"And another vital part of TEAM Virginia is our families. I like to take every opportunity possible to recognize them. I thought your (August) Family Day was great! It is a fantastic way to show our families what we do and make them realize the important part they play in our success," Williams added.

On the home front, General Williams is a strong proponent of community service. "Many of our young people today need mentors -- someone to set a good example for them to follow, and who better than someone from the National Guard. There is no better example," the

general contends. "Guard members are drug free, patriotic, selfless, pro-active and willing to make sacrifices; they set an outstanding example." He applauds the Air Guard's participation in the Lunch Buddy and Commonwealth Challenge programs.

Williams says it has been a distinct privilege to serve and lead the outstanding soldiers and airmen of the Virginia National Guard. "I'm committed to our people. The Guard is nothing without its people. I want our troops to grow and learn and have an infectious enthusiasm for their work and their team. I want people in an environment where they can operate at their potential. I'll never ask our people to do more than they're capable

of; all I ask is that we do the best we can. I don't subscribe to the zero defects mentality," he remarks. "Our people need to be able to grow and learn and sometimes that means they'll make mistakes.

"Thank you for a great visit," Williams said of his trip to Nellis. "Congratulations on the level of operational capability you've achieved. Many aspire, but not many achieve what you've accomplished. I'm very pleased with the entire operation. The unit can't be successful unless everyone does their part. I know it takes a heck of a group on the ground to put that bird in the air and

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*But they can't do it alone...*

## Safety office strives for mishap free workplace

Maximize combat capability by providing risk assessment, education, training and a safe work environment for all personnel at the VaANG. This is the mission statement and the tasking of the 192d Fighter Wing Safety office.

Spot check, maintain, inspect, conduct, brief, report, submit, approve and award represent the tip of the iceberg in Safety. The Safety office is among the busiest offices on base; their work is never done. You rarely find them all in one place at the same time and even catching them in the office is difficult.

Their function is to keep the base safe and allow everyone to do their job in a safe place. Sometimes doing their job prevents someone else from doing their job (performing an unsafe task or working in an unsafe environment). "We all want to do our jobs well," says SMSgt. Jerry V. Johnson, ground safety Noncommissioned Officer. "Our job is to make sure everyone's job is done safely and according to regulations."

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) and the Air Force Occupational Safety and Health (AFOSH) regulations found in AFD 91-3 govern the activities of the safety office, says Johnson.

TSgt. Leslie M. Cairns, 192d FW safety specialist, explains, "The AF is committed to providing safe and healthful environments both for Air Force people and those affected by Air Force operations. We must be ever alert to identify and control hazards and prevent mishaps. When mishaps do occur, the Air Force must learn the causes and take steps to ensure those mishaps are not repeated." All mishaps must be reported and investigated.

Johnson says safety has so many requirements and such a large responsibility (covering the entire base) that the office is divided into three areas. The components of the Safety office

are flight safety, ground safety and weapons safety.

Ground safety staff are responsibility of base grounds. They routinely check for tripping hazards, electrical hazards, and make sure all machines and equipment are properly guarded and grounded, according to Johnson. "These inspections are just the beginning," he explained. "We also must review the sections safety and health programs to make sure they comply with regulations and standards. Every section on base must be inspected at least once a year and we are also responsible for random spot inspections in high interest areas."

SMSgt. Lisa A. Hernandez, weapons safety (explosive safety NCO), has a strong concern for proper procedure with explosives. "One

hundred percent compliance with safety regulations and standards," she says. "You don't often get a second chance with mishaps involving explosives."

Weapons safety tasks include issuing explosive licenses and inspecting all facilities using or storing explosive materials. Weapons safety staff make sure units take measures to prevent potential mishaps, minimize mishaps and eliminate violations, as well as advise commanders and supervisors on explosive safety matters, and monitor operations involving explosives to ensure units understand and comply with all standards.

Flight safety is handled by Maj.

*Continued on the next page*



*The base Safety office staff, (back row, l. to r.): TSgt. Carolyn Fleischer, SMSgt. Lisa Hernandez, TSgt. James Taylor, and front row: TSgt. Leslie Cairns and SMSgt. Jerry Johnson take a minute out of their busy day for a group photo.*



# Wing Safety office...

*Continued from page 8*

Bobby Sandford -- from takeoff through landing.

TSgt. Carolyn M. Fleischer, safety information management specialists, and the longest active member of the Safety office serves all sections. "Carolyn keeps it all together," says Cairns.

Safety maintains the sign at the front gate. Pay attention to their safety notices; they are concerned about unit members' well being. The Safety staff urges everyone -- at home, at the Guard base, and even at your civilian job -- to think safety before you start to work each day. Don't become a statistic. Be safe.

**by TSgt. Michael Rawlings**  
Public Affairs office

## 192d Fighter Wing Safety Staff

Chief of Safety	Maj. Bobby Sandford	ext. 6422 (full time)
Ground Safety Mgr	CMSgt. Wayne Keene	ext. 6420 (full time)
Ground Safety NCO	SMSgt. Jerry Johnson	ext. 6420
Ground Safety Spec.	TSgt. Leslie Cairns	ext. 6420
Explosive Safety NCO	SMSgt. Lisa Hernandez	ext. 6421
Weapons Safety NCO	TSgt. James Taylor	ext. 6421
Information Mgmt	TSgt. Carolyn Fleischer	ext. 6107

Located in building 3635 (the old POL building).

*"Doing Things Safely is Our Mission"*

# TAG visits 192d during training deployment...

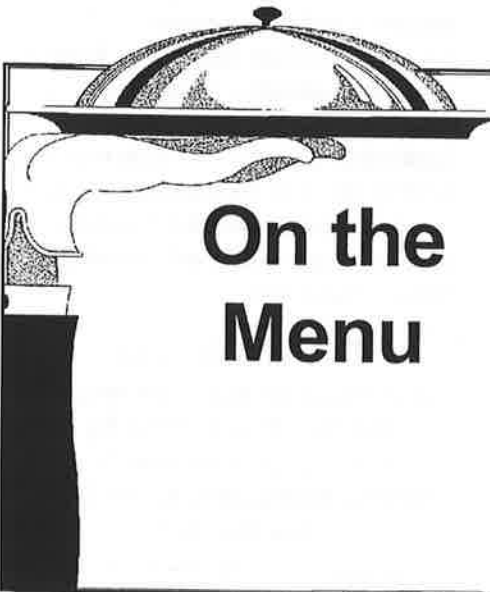
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steel on the target. You are the Virginia National Guard's bragging rights.

"Thanks again for all the great work you do; you are a credit to the United States Air Force and to the

Commonwealth. The Virginia Air Guard is a very important part of the Virginia National Guard. You make me proud. You do an excellent job of meeting your goals and maintaining your standards. Being out here on the ground with the crew chiefs, aircraft maintainers and pilots I saw tremendous camaraderie and esprit de corps.

What I saw validated the great results I've read about in reports. With your mission capable rates you can prove you are the best. You are a great unit. I appreciate what you do and the Governor appreciates what you do. TEAM Virginia plays a major part in the defense of our nation," he concluded.



## On the Menu

### Saturday Dec. 4

Roast Pork  
Salisbury Steak  
Buttered Whole Potatoes  
Brown Gravy  
Buttered Peas  
Short Order Line  
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs  
Cheeseburgers, Pizza  
French Fried Potatoes  
Salad Bar w/Asst'd Dressings  
Breads & Butter  
Beverages  
Spice Cake & Ice Cream

### Sunday Dec. 5

**Holiday Dinner**  
Honey Glazed Cornish Hen  
Steamship Round  
Fried Rice  
Buttered Corn  
Salad Bar w/Assorted Dressings  
Hot Rolls & Butter  
Beverages  
Pumpkin Pie, Pecan Pie  
Sweet Potato Pie, Fruit Cake  
Fresh Fruit & Ice Cream

## *Know what the ACC/IG inspector wants!*

# How to turn back the prophets of doom

Of all the tragic characters in Greek myths, the one who gives me the most shivers is Cassandra. The god Apollo gave her a wonderful gift — the ability to foretell the future — then followed it up with a terrible curse — no one would ever believe her. I can just imagine Cassandra, standing there inside the walls of Troy, yelling, “No, no whatever you do, don’t haul that big wooden horse in here!”

I have to ask all of you a question: What if we come to believe Cassandra? What if you believe the modern Cassandras who say the climate is changing — I am talking the climate in the Air Force and the Air National Guard? I believe those modern-day Cassandras!

Furthermore, I believe that Cassandra’s curse can be broken, because the gift of prophecy and the curse of being ignored must run together, and therefore, can be broken together. If no one listens to warnings, the prophets of doom will be right. But if people listen, they will ward off disaster, and the prophets will have eggs on their face.

How many times have we as individuals survived and been successful in situations where the prophets said we were doomed? Mine range from a terrifying bus trip in Malaysia on a rainy night with no windshield wipers and no lights (obviously I survived), and leading an ORM workshop with a group of Macedonians (without understanding their language), to singing a love song to a herd of German cows. (I am not sure how the cows are doing.)

So where am I going with this Cassandra story: Well if you believe Cassandra (read that: ACC/IG) you get depressed, just thinking about all of the C&SRLs (Compliance & Standardization Requirements List) you have to do, and then the continuity book and I still have to do my regular job. But the depression doesn’t last. You begin to

see how to make her wrong (you did that during the OREs and ORI). Then you discover how much exciting, practical, doable work there is to do and the fun there is to have in the process.

Once you believe Cassandra, there’s no one right or best thing to do. Wherever you are, whatever you’re good at, whatever you do with ease and joy, you can contribute — in ways large and small — to a turning away from the doom. Especially if you can do it with both your mind and your heart, with humor and fun. My only advice for all of us is to call your

inspector and see what he/she likes and dislikes and learn to like and dislike the same things! Unit Compliance Inspections (UCIs) are 20 percent mechanics and technique. The other 80 percent is philosophy, humor, tragedy, romance, melodrama, companionship, cussedness and conversation.

Thanks for your time. Call your inspector today. Have a great Holiday with your family and friends!

Maj. Bobby Sandford

ORI Project Officer, oops, UCI Project Officer

## Wing prepares for AEF support contingencies during summer 2000

The 192d Fighter Wing’s Aerospace Expeditionary Force (flying) deployment originally scheduled for the summer of 2000 has been cancelled, but the Wing will still provide combat support.

As part of Expeditionary Combat Support Team 8 (the support equivalent of an AEF), the Wing will provide the Air Force with more than 120 people -- from a variety of support career fields -- to meet national and international contingency needs between May and August 2000, according to Lt.Col. Ralph Barker, Support Group commander.

Most of the individuals will be deployed for slightly longer than two weeks; however, some people may be able to volunteer for rotations lasting for longer periods of time.

The career fields the Wing will task for ECS 8 include civil engineering, the Fire Dept., security forces, medics, communication, motor pool, POL, Supply, Persco, Finance, Services and jet engine mechanic, according to Barker.

While most of the rotations will

be to Southwest Asia, some people may be bound for Europe or even a few stateside locations.

On the topic of the Wing’s part in the new Expeditionary Aerospace Force, Wing officials ask base members to be patient and bear with the recent Unit Training Assembly and Annual Field Training schedule changes.

The Air Force and National Guard Bureau are still trying to finalize schedules, rotations and missions. This has caused the Wing’s training schedule to change a couple times over the last couple months. Leadership feels the schedule is finally firming up. Any final changes to the schedule, and a revised drill/annual training Order will be published in the January Vanguard.

### Special Notice

Don’t park on the grass around the Civil Engineering Sq. building. Use the overflow parking lot adjacent to the State Headquarters.

## Fire Dept. offers tips for a safe post-holiday season

The holidays are nearly here. And just as quickly they will be over and it will be time to pack up the decorations and return to our daily routine.

As you clean up from your holiday celebrations, here are a few safety tips to keep in mind. Don't put a damper on your holiday fun by being careless afterwards. Fire prevention and life safety should be practiced all year long. Make it a regular habit to reduce or eliminate hazards around your home or workplace.

---Discard live Christmas trees once they start to dry out, usually 10-14 days after being taken inside. Take the tree outside and discard it according to your city or county regulations. Never burn old Christmas trees.

---If you have an artificial Christmas tree, be aware that even flame-resistant trees can catch fire, especially if they have lots of dust buildup on them. Wash/clean your artificial tree each year and put it in a plastic bag to keep the dust off while it is in storage.

---When storing artificial trees and other decorations, ensure they are not too close to any heat sources.

---On the Virginia Air Guard base, all Christmas decorations shall be taken down during the first week of January.

---Discard all used gift wrapping paper and unwanted decorations by placing the material into trash containers as soon as possible. DO NOT place these items in your fireplace for incineration.

---Until all your holiday lights are put back in storage, remember to unplug all decorations inside and outside your home whenever you leave the house or go to bed.

---After every party or family get together throughout the year, check all areas in your home for smoldering cigarette butts and cigar ashes, even behind pillows and cushions.

---Have your chimney and fireplace inspected by a qualified company if you plan to use it for heat or enjoyment during the winter months.

---And make sure your furnace or heating system is running properly.

If the post-holiday blues start to set-in, make some fun plans for you and your family in January!

from the VaANG Fire/Rescue Dept.

## Officers reminded to pay dues

State and national Guard officer association membership fees are due soon. "When you receive your dues notice, please turn in your money as soon as possible," asks base membership officer, Maj. Michael Woody.

Checks should be made out to the VaANG Officer Fund.

## Af-Am banquet meeting set for drill

The Black History Banquet planning committee meets Sunday, Dec. 5 at 1:30 p.m. in the Logistics Sq. meeting room. Anyone interested in helping with the event may attend.

## 192d FW drill schedule & VaANG Calendar of Events

### December

**4-5: UTA** (Should pay NLT Dec. 17)

*Rumor has it that Santa Claus will be visiting the Guard base during drill. At publication time we were still awaiting arrival information from Base Ops. No EO2000 training on Saturday. Challenge Prom planning meeting Sunday at 3 p.m. in the State Headquarters.*

**6-10: DACT** training at Langley AFB, Va.

**11: Challenge** prom, State Military Reservation, Virginia Beach. Call MSgt. Beth Martin, ext. 6014 to help.

### January 2000

**8-9: UTA** (Should pay NLT Jan. 21)

### February

**12-13: UTA** (Should pay NLT Feb. 25)

### March

**11-12: UTA** (Should pay NLT March 24)

**25-26: UTA** (Should pay NLT April 7)

**24-26: Enlisted** Virginia Guard Association Conference, Four Points Sheraton, Harrisonburg, Va.

### April

**8-9: UTA** (Should pay NLT April 21)

**28-30: Virginia** Guard Association Officers' Conference, Hampton, Va., hosted by 192d FW

### May

**May - Aug.:** ECS 8 deployments

No Drill weekend.

**13-26: Annual** Field Training at home station

### June

**10-11: UTA** (Should pay NLT June 23)

### July

No UTA scheduled

### August

**26-27: UTA**

**19-23: Enlisted** Association (EANGUS) National Conference, Bismark, N.D.

### September

**9-10: UTA**

**12-19: National** Guard Association (NGAUS) 121st General Conference in Atlantic City, N.J.

**23-24: UTA**

### October

**14-15: UTA**

**12-17: Unit** Compliance Inspection (UCI)

This calendar includes the drill/annual training schedule of the 192d Fighter Wing, and other VaANG events. If you have an event you would like to add to the calendar, call Public Affairs at ext. 6388.

## Volunteers needed to help with ChalleNGe proms

The VaANG State Headquarters staff is looking for individuals or duty sections willing to help with one ChalleNGe prom party each year.

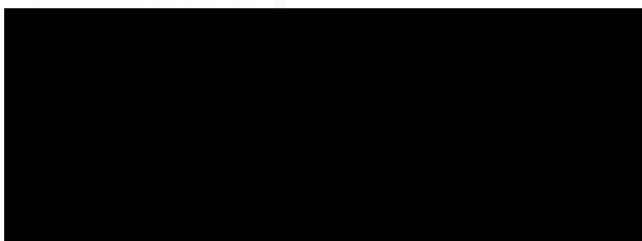
Two proms take place each year—one in December and the other in June. They are held for each Commonwealth ChalleNGe class—approximately one week before they graduate. The parties take place at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, and always begin at 7 p.m. on a Saturday.

Volunteers are needed to help with hall decorating, food preparation, cadet photos, a souvenir party program and clean up. The parties are funded by donations from the State enlisted and officer National Guard Associations. The next party will be Saturday, Dec. 11. The next prom planning meeting is Sunday, Dec. 5 at 3 p.m. in the State Headquarters. Guard family members are invited to help with these events.

Call MSgt. Beth Martin, ext. 6014 for more information or to volunteer. "It's a great way to meet other Air Guard members, have a nice time, develop great party-planning skills and give the cadets a much deserved pat-on-the-back for turning their lives around," Martin said. "Join us in this fun, worthwhile project."

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