

VANGUARD



Virginia Air National Guard

192nd Fighter Wing

February 2002



Col. Hicks sits with the children from Seven Pines that were on hand to welcome the SFS contingent back.

Photo by MSgt. Carlos Claudio

DEPLOYED SFS RETURN HOME !

By SSgt. Ann M. Martin

When 13 members of the Security Forces Squadron were deployed for 90-days to Beale AFB, Calif. shortly after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, they did not care they would be gone for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. They claim they were just doing their job helping secure their homeland. In their honor, several people were on hand on base to welcome them back in hopes of giving them the 'holiday' they missed.

Members of the SFS and the 192nd FW, representatives of the Bon Air Junior Women's Club, and 12 children and their teachers from Seven Pines Elementary School got together Jan. 15 at the SFS conference room and put on a welcome home 'pep rally' for the returning troops. Col. Stephen R. Hicks, wing commander, started off

the event by shaking hands with those that returned and then spoke to them on their patriotism.

"I want to thank you for what you are doing for our country," the colonel summed up his speech. "I salute you and congratulate you for what you have done. You and your families are great American patriots."

The principal of Seven Pines, Mrs. June Murphy, got up and expressed to the troops what an honor and a privilege it was to be there with the children. She thanked them for the opportunity. Following her short speech, the children performed a 'rap' rendition of the Pledge of Allegiance song. One SFS person was overheard saying the children's skit almost made him cry.

Lt. Col. Ralph Barker, wing support group commander, thanked the members for their dedication, service, and excellence. "You make the VaANG and our country proud," he said.

Although they worked 12-15 hours per day with four days on and two days off, morale was good under the circumstances said MSgt. Geoffrey T. Miltenberger, NCOIC in charge. "It was difficult being away from family during the holiday," he said. "Most of us got together though and had dinner together."

SSgt Paul Glowatch said his wife and daughter made the best of him being gone. They took a train ride out to California to visit him- a trip that took them 3 days. According to Sergeant Glowatch, the train trip was something they'd always wanted to do, so his deployment was a good reason to do it. While his wife and daughter were there, the three of them made Christmas dinner for all the SFS people. The trio also managed to visit Disney Land and Los Angeles.

SSgt Leval Chaplin was ecstatic he got the deployment to Beale. "My son lives in Seattle, Wash., so I got to visit him on New Year's!" he said. "It was a blessing."

Beale AFB is located in northern California, about a 40-minute drive from Sacramento and it encompasses over 23,000 acres. There are lakes on the base, as well as adequate hunting opportunities for people to hunt turkey and deer. Many of the SFS people took advantage of the local area and the fishing on Beale. Sergeant Miltenberger said they also organized trips which many took advantage of to Grass Valley and Nevada City - some old gold mining

Continued on Page 6...



ABOUT the VANGUARD

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for the U.S. military service. Its content does not necessarily reflect the views of, nor are they necessarily endorsed by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or the Virginia Air National Guard.

Submission Requirements

*The Vanguard is printed monthly. Deadline for submissions is **close of business on Saturday** of the drill weekend. Please submit material to: **Vanguard@varich.ang.af.mil**.*

The publication is edited & prepared by the 192nd FW Public Affairs Office. Our address is: 192nd FW PA, Virginia Air National Guard, 50 Falcon Road, Suite 6, Sandston, VA 23150-2524.

We can be reached at (804) 236-6388.

Check out the electronic Vanguard on the base Intranet.

Wing Commander
Col. Stephen R. Hicks

Chief, Public Affairs
Editor-in-Chief
2d Lt Mark Widener

Public Affairs Staff
TSgt. Michael Rawlings
TSgt. Sabrina Reynolds-James
SSgt. Ann Martin

Photographic Support
Multimedia Support Center
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You are Noble Eagle

Noble Eagle.

That's the operational code name for the homeland defense mission the 192nd Fighter Wing has carried out since the tragic events of Sept. 11.

It's a pretty catchy phrase, but it's much more than just a slogan. In my view, Noble Eagle represents a higher calling - a nobility of purpose, a dedication to guardianship, a commitment to serve.

Take a minute with me, if you would, to reflect on the image of a noble eagle. It's a proud, strong bird, alert and erect, free to soar into the skies above and watch over this great land. The eagle is the symbol of our nation and our liberties. And it's an excellent symbol for the job we've been summoned to do.

As a fighter wing, we have been entrusted with the awesome responsibility of guarding our nation, our resources, our families and our neighbors. To enable us to carry out this mission, the nation has provided us with the latest in warplanes and technology. And yes, it has asked us to make sacrifices.

I know that periods of extended active duty create countless hardships on our citizen-airmen and their families. Many are enduring separations, reduced income, and lifestyle changes.

Yet those are the realities of the war against terrorism, and we have to cope with them.

I am proud to say that the members of the 192nd are approaching these challenges with a sense of nobility. It's what I expect of you, and you're living up to those expectations in every way.

What we have to guard against now is complacency. Nearly five months have passed since Sept. 11, and many of us - activated or otherwise - have fallen into a routine.

The enemy doesn't seem to be knocking at our door, and we run the risk of losing our sense of urgency. But this is a time when we should pay more attention than ever to readiness. We have to be ready in many ways - physically, financially, mentally and militarily. We have to make sure our families are similarly prepared to handle things if situations change.

Preparedness gives us the leverage to avoid panic and cope with change in a noble way. As recent events have shown, any of us could be deployed anywhere at any time. Ten of our Security Forces personnel returned last month from a three-month deployment to Beale AFB, Calif. We have a handful of our Security Forces people in Southwest Asia. In addition, six of our fire fighters are scheduled to deploy to a classified location for one year.

The nation has called, and you have shown that you are proud to serve. You have stood tall and answered the call.

You are Noble Eagle.

Col. Stephen R. Hicks
Wing Commander

Being activated was a blessing in disguise

By SST. Ann Martin

Captain Wimmer inspects the inner workings of an F-16.

After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, our world as we knew it was turned upside down. No one was exempt from the effects of what happened, including many members of the 192nd Fighter Wing who were put on active duty – some as long as a year. For Capt. Marc A. Wimmer, Logistics Support Flight commander, being activated was a blessing in disguise.

“Since I was a kid, I have always wanted to be in the military as an officer in charge, and now I’m here,” said Captain Wimmer, who has orders for one year. “It’s unfortunate the events that brought us here, but now that we’re here it’s a like a dream come true.”

At his civilian job, Captain Wimmer is a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in Salem, VA. He was a part time Guardsman until he received his full time orders on Sept. 24. “I’ve been in this unit as a traditional guardsman for ten years,” the captain explained. “I love the Guard! I enjoy the people at this unit. They are the best people to work with. If I had to be deployed, I feel fortunate to be here.”

It could be worse. Many of our nation’s Guardsmen are deployed throughout the country and the world.

A native of Lynchburg, Va., Captain Wimmer joined the Guard upon graduation from the University of South Carolina with a major in history and a minor in chemistry. He worked for five years in the enlisted ranks as a weapons loader. He was later commissioned in the summer of

1997 and has worked with the Equipment Maintenance Flight and the Aircraft Generation Squadron. Now he assumes the reins of the Logistics Support Flight.

The military has always been a big part of Captain Wimmer’s life for as long as he can remember. His father (Ret.) Lt. Col. Larry Wimmer, was the deputy commander of maintenance at the 192nd FW. “My dad swore me into this unit 10 years ago as an enlisted member, and he later swore me in when I received my commission too,” the captain said proudly.

Captain Wimmer is married to Karen, his wife of over 5 years, who is also a native of Lynchburg. According to the captain, the couple both understand the demands a military way of life can put on a family. “On the afternoon of Sept. 11, we both knew something was going to happen after they put the entire military on high alert,” he said. “Both of us knew that mentally I was not at the post office anymore. We started making plans right away for the inevitable.”

They started making checklists of information and points of contact in case Karen needed help while her husband was gone. The couple has one small child, a daughter Kaylin who is two years old, and Karen is

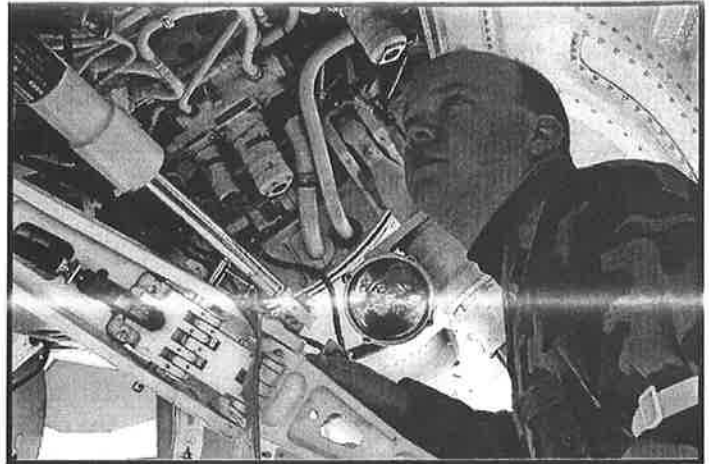


Photo by SrA. Michele Misiano/192CF Multimedia

expecting another child in May. Besides tending to their daughter, Karen also works full time as a kindergarten schoolteacher in Roanoke.

The Wimmer’s also own a small real estate investment company and a few apartment buildings in the Roanoke area. “There are times when things need to be fixed, and I usually take care of that,” Captain Wimmer explained. “Now, tenants have to wait until I can get home to help them, or Karen has to find someone to fix the problem. My being gone is no small task for my wife.”

But, Captain Wimmer claims the entire family is handling the separation well. “My wife has been great!” he boasted. “She helps to make my job easier. All things considered, things have run very smooth.”

Despite his family being apart, and the reason the Guard is participating in Noble Eagle, Captain Wimmer claims that the whole experience is going well. “I’m on cloud nine with my job,” he said. “If I had my family here, it would be perfect.”

Section Connection

Year of Diversity

HAPPY NEW YEAR: The National Guard Bureau has designated the year 2002 as the "Year of Diversity."

MPF RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

The 192MPF recently recognized their quarterly and annual recipients of the Outstanding MPF Member Awards.

SRA Angelique Dickerson and MSG Gary Harper were nominated by their peers to be recognized as MPF Member of the Quarter, for the period ending December 31, 2001.

MSG Richard Roberts was recognized as the MPF Member of the Year for 2001.

The OUTSTANDING MPF RECOGNITION PROGRAM was established to recognize individuals quarterly and annually within the

MPF who have demonstrated and contributed outstanding support to the Military Personnel Flight and the Virginia Air National Guard.

Please join us in congratulating and thanking these members for exceeding the standard!

**192nd FIGHTER WING &
OPERATIONS GROUP**
SMSgt Susanne Dates

EMAIL ACCESS: The remote login has changed to
<https://mail.varich.ang.af.mil>

HERITAGE BANQUET CANCELLED: The Heritage Banquet originally scheduled for the March UTA has been cancelled. The Heritage Committee would like to thank everyone for their support. A Heritage Social will be held on a later date.

TUITION ASSISTANCE: State legislators did not approve tuition assistance for the summer semester.

EANGUS SCHOLARSHIP: The Enlisted Association scholarship

applications are due NLT 15 Mar 02. See the first sergeant for details.

BENEFIT INCREASES FOR MONTGOMERY G.I. BILL:

The new rates are: Full time student: \$272.00, Three Quarter Time: \$204.00, Half Time: \$135.00 and Less

If you have a story of interest relating to Family Readiness, please submit to:
Angie Wade, Family Readiness Group Coordinator
VA Air National Guard 192nd FW
50 Falcon Road, Suite 6
Sandston, VA 23150
804.236.7036 (V)/236.6933 (F)/DSN 864
angeli.wade@varich.ang.af.mil

Than Half Time: \$68.00

NEW FITNESS TEST: The proposed Air Force fitness test has been placed on hold until further notice. The Fighter Wing annual run will be held on 9 Mar 02 at 1530.

SCHOLARSHIPS: There are numerous federal scholarships available to Air Guard members and their dependents. Additional information can be found by visiting the federal scholarships Web site at www.fedscholarships.org.

Photo by SSgt Dave Buttner/192CF Multimedia



Senior Airmen Quadesha Joyner and Ron Whisner are preparing catfish for lunch on Sunday at the 192nd Dining Facility.

VIRGINIA ARMY/ AIR NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION

For MEMBERSHIP information contact MSG Bryant Thorpe at ext. 7105.

For SCHOLARSHIP information contact SMS Sheryl Clark at ext. 6598. Deadline for application submission is 15 March 2002.

For 2002 ENLISTED CONFERENCE information contact: CMS Ray Bassetti at ext. 6754. At the Holiday Inn Oldtowne, Portsmouth, VA 23704 on 26,27,28 April 2002.

2nd Annual Jim Stanley Leadership Award

by Andrea L. Richardson, SMSgt, VaANG
Senior Health Systems Specialist

On 12 Jan 2002, the 2nd Annual Jim Stanley Leadership Award was presented in the 192nd Medical Squadron. CMSgt Jim Stanley was on hand for the presentation. This award was established to honor CMSgt Jim Stanley (now retired) for the outstanding guidance and leadership he brought to the Medical Squadron during his tenure. CMSgt Stanley had specifically asked for no recognition. The award was also established to thank CMSgt Stanley for challenging, encouraging and forcing the Medical Squadron to grow.

He led by example and his vision was to empower all enlisted personnel to achieve any goal they wished in their military career.

The criteria for selecting the award recipient is: (1) currency in all CDC courses, (2) acceptable UTA/Field training attendance, (3) no disciplinary action within the past 12 months, (4) exceptional standards above the requirements of AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance, (5) completion of all phases of training, (6) nominee has displayed outstanding attitude for mission accomplishment and (7) a high spirit of volunteerism and esprit de corps.

Through the past year the Medical Squadron has faced many challenges which included a Medical Readiness deployment to Alpena, Michigan and the completion of the Health Services Inspection during the Sept. 11 tragedy, where we obtained the highest score on the inspection in ACC to date. The culmination of this outstanding year brought forth many exceptional



From left to right, SSgt. Amy Brown (winner of this year's leadership award) retired CMS Stanley, TSgt. Dawn Wilson (last year's award winner).

candidates and the selection of the this year's recipient was extremely difficult. Award nominees included: TSgt Jim Tuberson, SSgt Damaris Santiago-Santiago, SSgt Carlos Brito, SSgt Roxanne Strassburg and SSgt Amy Brown. We would like to recognize and thank these individuals for their outstanding performance and congratulate each and every one of them.

This year's award recipient was SSgt Amy Brown. Sgt Brown came to the 192nd with prior service Army experience and has been with 192nd Medical Squadron since July 1998. When asked about being this year's winner, SSgt Brown said "I am totally shocked, I have never received any recognition of this caliber, and I thought I was just doing my job." SSgt Amy Brown is also the Honor Graduate Award winner for academic excellence for the first Virginia Airman Leadership School class.

SSgt Brown received an individual

plaque for her outstanding contributions and leadership capabilities presented to her by last year's winner, TSgt Dawn Wilson. In addition, a presentation was made to Lt Col Biernacki, MDS Commander by Chief Stanley of the perpetual plaque which will bear the name of each annual Leadership Award recipient. The award will be presented each January on an annual basis to a Noncommissioned officer in the grade of E-4 to E-6 who demonstrates a higher degree of leadership, professionalism, enthusiasm, camaraderie, duty performance and supervisory concern for unit members and their career.

We would also like to personally thank Brig Gen Seifert, Col Hicks, Lt Col Turner, Wing Command CMSgt Kinsey, and the local First Sergeant's Association for their attendance at this Awards Ceremony.

Invest In Your Future

By 2LT David R. Lands

Professional Military Education (PME) is a requirement for career progression that applies to all ranks and specialties. There are two ways to accomplish this requirement, by correspondence or in-residence. Having personally experienced both methods, I would like to encourage all members to consider attending the various levels of education in-residence. The interaction with other Air National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty personnel is invaluable. As with most things in life, your experience is directly related to the effort you contribute.

Many of our members are currently activated and therefore excused from their civilian employment

to support our mission. This situation may be the perfect opportunity to attend PME in-residence without further hardship on civilian employers. The sacrifices of being away from civilian jobs, families, and friends are well worth the benefits of experiencing PME "up close and personal."

I recommend discussing this opportunity with other members who have attended PME in-residence, and your immediate supervisor. If you have further questions, please call the Education and Training Office @ ext 6590.

2 LT David R. Lands has recently been assigned to the 192 MPF as the Education and Training Officer

...Continued from cover

towns. Several folks went to Lake Tahoe and San Francisco.

"We fished a lot," said TSgt. Randy L. James. "Overall, people tried to make the best of the situation. The hardest part was probably being gone for the holidays. Being gone for me was manageable. I think it was hardest on everyone's kids."

TSgt Ginaulo G. Poulos, who was

assistant NCOIC at Beale, thought morale stayed great despite it all. "Even though we weren't with our families at home during the holiday season, we were family for each other," she boasted on behalf of everyone. "It was a different experience for me, but to sum it up, I am thankful for being part of this unit."

Virginia Air Guard Retiree's Association to meet in February

Anyone interested in finding out more information about the 192nd and its history are invited to attend the next Virginia Air Guard Retiree's Association set for Feb. 18 at 9 a.m. The breakfast meeting will be held at the Cold Harbor Restaurant located at 8153 Mechanicsville Bypass (746-4333). Spouses are invited. Also, meet the newly elected officers for 2002-2003: President (Ret) Maj. Mike Carter (266-8366); Vice President (Ret) Robert Brockmeier; Secretary SMSgt Sheryl Clark (236-6322) and Treasurer MSgt Valerie Murphy (236-6646).

For more information contact any of the above individuals. Annual dues are \$12.

A General Message of Thanks

The events of 11 September have been felt throughout this nation and in many ways around the world. This tragedy has affected our lives in many ways. Members of the Virginia Air Guard, and in particular the Fighter Wing, have had to adjust to accommodate the mission we have been given in this fight against terrorism. Our participation is important and it does make a difference. I want to thank all of you for what has been done to meet our commitment to this effort.

I know the sacrifices have been many as your work and family situations have had to meet this new reality. National security is our highest priority and people in uniform are our first line of defense. You are important to your nation and you deserve their thanks. I also offer my thanks for the superb job that is being done.

BG Bob Seifert
Headquarters Chief of Staff

Personnel Issues



Chaplains Smith, Hankins & Kelley receive the Bronze Star from the Commander.

Photo by SrA. Michele Misiano/192CF Multimedia

Va. Air National Guard Bronze Star Medal

by TSgt. Sabrina Reynolds-James

Immediately following the Jan. UTA service was a special awards ceremony for Chaplains Capt. David Kelley, Capt. Ron Hankins, and Lt. Col Charles Smith. All three received Va. Air National Guard Bronze Star Medal.

Chaplain Kelley received the medal for assistance in the aftermath of plane crash that took the lives of 18 members of the Red Horse unit. He was involved in the initial notification of the next of kin, numerous counseling sessions and 81 visits to families.

Chaplain Hankins also received the medal for assistance in the 203rd tragedy. He briefed relatives on the details of the accident, conducted several counseling sessions with family members, and participated in the memorial and funeral services.

Chaplain Smith too received the medal for his assistance in Red Horse tragedy. He worked closely with local and federal care agencies, conducted 15 Critical Incident Stress Management debriefings, and organized a series of weekly meetings where family member gathered for prayer and consolation.

These three leaders exemplified exceptional performance, which reflects greatly upon themselves, the Virginia Air National Guard, and most of all, God.

FOOD DRIVE FEBRUARY UTA TO BENEFIT CENTRAL VIRGINIA FOOD BANK (CVFB).

Please bring 2 or 3 nonperishable items to be collected by First Sergeants and volunteers at the gate each morning of the February UTA. *Together, we can fill the CVFB truck!*

MOVING IN, MOVING UP

Gains for January

	<u>Unit</u>
SSG David P. Bailey	CES
SSG Theodore M. Granger	Maintenance Squadron
SSG Herbert K. Quarles	Security Forces
SSG Karl B. King	CES
A1C Robert B. Austin, II	CES
A1C Daniel A. Reynolds	AGS
A1C Patrick O. Wilkinson	AGS
Amn Richard J. Longo	203 rd RH
Amn Jason A. Odum	LGS

Promotions

	<u>To</u>
TSG Lorraine Jackson	MSG
TSG Adrienne D. Smith	MSG

TSG John W. Pickard	MSG
TSG Floyd Brown	MSG
TSG Mike Garcia	MSG

SSG James R. Baldwin	TSG
SSG David G. Ellis	TSG
SSG Danny R. Stone	TSG
SSG Charles E J Stubbs	TSG
SSG Joseph B. Woolard	TSG
SSG Christopher Saxon	TSG
SSG Karen L. Lindsey	TSG
SSG Brian K. Thomas	TSG
SSG Patrick K. Downey	TSG

A1C Shelby L. Vessels	SRA
A1C Daniel K. Bittner	SRA
A1C Edward C. Barnes II	SRA
A1C Gerald J. Echols	SRA

Message from the FW Commander

By Col. Steve Hicks

As commander of the 192nd Fighter Wing, I'd like to extend my personal welcome to Angie Wade as the first coordinator of the wing's new Family Readiness and Support Program. Her office is located right down the hall from mine, and she has my full support in the job she is undertaking.

The development of this program comes at just the right time. The National Guard Bureau realized years ago that the Guard's increased OPS tempo required us to pay closer attention to the needs of our families. The current world situation only serves to underline those needs: Hundreds of Virginia Air Guard members

have been activated, and many of them are separated from their families.

Angie is quickly building a team of Family Readiness Group volunteers to help out. Please take a look at the attached volunteer form and ask yourself if you can assist in some way. I think you'll find it a rewarding challenge.

The Family Readiness & Support Group is here to serve

By Angie Wade, FRG Coordinator

It was with great appreciation and humility that I assumed the office of the Family Readiness Coordinator on December 1, 2001. Almost immediately, it was time to roll up my sleeves and get to work.

The first concerns to cross my desk involved interpreting your healthcare benefits. It became apparent that there were some issues with eligibility through the DEERS System. We also discovered that it would be beneficial to host a TRICARE briefing for clarification of

the entire program. Many of you attended and had questions answered. Thank you for your participation!

Other issues that were more practical in nature were also brought to the attention of the Family Readiness office. Just to address a few problems, I was able to direct community donations to appropriate needs to make the holidays better for all.

The Family Readiness and Support office is here to serve you. By your willingness to support me in this position,

you allow me to take care of you and your families.

I want to thank Col. Hicks and LtCol. Turner for their support and I look forward to working with Ann Hicks as chief volunteer for future projects.

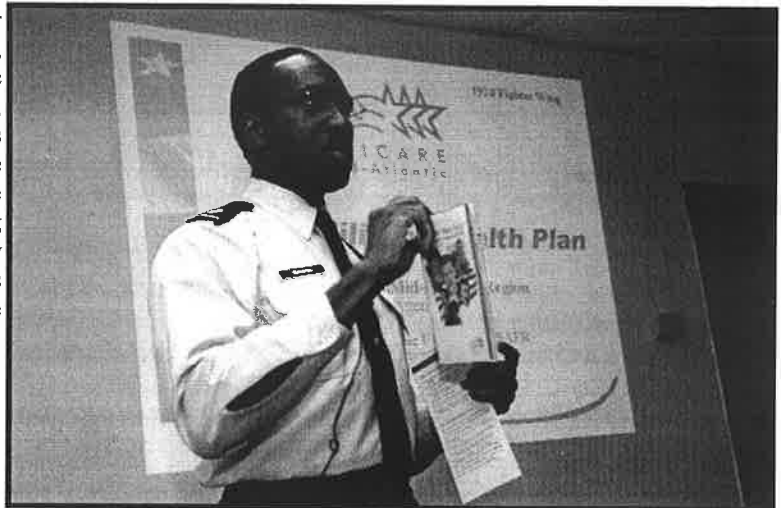
You can also help by considering what you and your families can do as program volunteers. We want to make this Family Readiness and Support office one of the most productive and effective support group in the Guard. Here's looking into 2002!

Thanks to
**Operation Network
Military Moms, Inc**

(www.milmoms.org) for providing prepaid 30 minute phone cards to our families of deployed members and out-of-towners. Thanks also go out to volunteer Rhonda Woods who looked into this project and funded the postage to get the cards to us.

Operations officer
& reserve liaison,
LTC Dominic
Ubamadu,
USAFR, explains
details of the
Tricare healthcare
benefits during
the Family
Readiness
Briefing at the
Jan. UTA.

Photo by
SrA. Michele
Misiano/
192CF
Multimedia



Employer Salute!

On 11 September 2001 at approximately 0900, a Philip Morris employee sadly mentioned that a plane had just hit the WTC in New York. Minutes later, another Philip Morris employee informed me that another plane had just hit the second WTC tower. At that moment I knew that these two incidents were not mere accidents but were the work of terrorist activity.

Later that day when I went home, I turned on the TV to get an update on the news. I viewed the footage of the planes plunging into the WTC towers. I was horrified as I saw what appeared to be two buildings opening up and swallowing a plane.

At that instant, I knew that, somehow I would get caught up in this incident.

At 2200 on 11 September, I received a call instructing me that I had been activated. I needed to report to base by 0800 on 14 September.

The next day when I arrived at work, I informed my manager, Rick Wilson, that I had been activated. He asked, "When do you have to report?" and he said to "go kick....and don't take any prisoners."

Prior to my leaving Philip Morris to report to duty, my manager and my work group took me out to lunch and thanked me for what I was doing.

Since reporting to base and giving notice to my manager that I would be gone for one year or longer, the PMUSA family (Cabarrus) has been very supportive.

I receive emails on a weekly basis and have received goodie boxes, cards and a gift basket. These gestures are their way of letting me know that I am constantly in their thought and prayers.

PMUSA has also made sure that changes to my life style are minimized by continuing to subsidize my income while I am on active duty. The partnership that PMUSA has with its employees is not just about business, but we also family.

***I salute Philip Morris USA
(Cabarrus facility) as my HERO.
First Sergeant Antonia Vincent
192nd FW/Security Police***



Attendees of the Tricare briefing at the Jan UTA listen to explanation of benefits provided by representatives from Tricare/Health and United Concordia Dental.

Photo by
SrA. Michele
Misiano/
192CF
Multimedia

Our Special Thanks go to:

Rhonda Woods for her Christmas eve midnight delivery of hot cider and homemade cookies to the Dining Hall and security at the 192d and the Army National Guard gate patrols.

Susan Bullock of Mechanicsville United Methodist Church represented their congregation in an extraordinary show of support by bringing platters of Christmas cookies, and cards, and adopting a family who needed assistance this year.

BAX Global for shipping a Christmas package out to our folks at Beale AFB.

192nd FW Multimedia and SRA Ann Bey for assisting us with setup, equipment and video taping the TRICARE briefing.

LtCol Dominic Ubanmadu and Kelly Sneeringer for taking time from their schedules to be our special guest speakers for January's TRICARE briefing.

Cathy Horton and the Bon Air Junior Woman's Club for assisting us with our surprise welcome back party of our airmen from Beale AFB. They provided a beautiful fruit tray and goodie boxes filled with homemade baked delicacies for each returning member.

Seven Pines Elementary School for providing special music at the surprise welcome back party for the airmen returning from Beale AFB.

Involuntary orders and your civilian job

By LtCol Regina Kane, 192nd FW JAG

Since the involuntary activation of our unit, the most frequent asked question presented to the Legal Office is "What will happen to my civilian job?"

The short answer is that your job is protected by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment rights Act (USERRA), Title 38 United States Code, Sections 4301-4333. This federal law gives members of the National Guard the right to go back to a civilian job they held before military service. The law applies to private employers, state governments, and all branches of

federal government. The only exception is if the employer can prove the job was truly a temporary position.

The following are highlights of the law:

- You may be gone from your civilian job up to five years (total).
- On written request for reinstatement, you are entitled to prompt reinstatement in the same position, or a position of similar seniority, status, and pay.
- The company must carry you and your family on the company health plan for up to 30 days of service, at the normal cost to you. You can get

up to 18 months of coverage, but your employer can pass the full cost on to you.

- If you drop your company health plan, you are entitled to immediate reinstatement of health benefits when you return to work.
- A person reemployed cannot be discharged from employment (except for cause) within one year after the date of reemployment.

For more information please come to visit the Legal office located at the FW Headquarters, Room # 8, or call 236.6494

Chaplain serving among the airmen

By Chaplain Kelley

Your 192nd FW Chaplain section is here to serve you! Worship services, family counseling, and Bible Studies are just some of the services that are provided for the members and families of the VA Air National Guard. As a matter of fact, we provide most of the services comparable to what the

civilian ministries offer. If you need spiritual guidance, counseling help, or simply not sure where to start, give your chaplain section a call at 804.236.6387 or 6870. MSgt Brenda Kirby and Ch (Capt) David Kelley are standing by to serve the greatest fighter wing in the world!

Please join us for the
Family Readiness & Support
briefing on Saturday, 9
February 1400 - 1500 hr in
the Chapel. Our focus will be
"Understanding Your Legal
Rights and Benefits." LtCol
Regina Kane, 192d FW/JAG,
will be our guest speaker
assisted by Maj Carpenter,
192d FW/JAG.

Family Readiness Group seeks volunteers

By Ann Hicks, wife of 192nd FW Commander, Col. Steve Hicks

Following the events of September 11th, hundreds of VA Air Guard members statewide were activated, bringing about major changes in both family life and employment status. Abrupt disruptions such as these can bring about difficult times and hardships for family members.

Given the magnitude of the call-up, the 192nd Fighter Wing, Family Support Group is seeking additional

volunteers, serving alongside base personnel and the Family Readiness and Support Program coordinator, Angie Wade, making families aware of their benefits and assist them as needed in resolving problems.

If you have a positive attitude, good listening skills, and a desire to help our families, please consider joining the FRG. Volunteers may be family members or current Guard members.

By becoming a FRG volunteer, you will be joining a group of highly motivated individuals, who like yourself, share a love for their country and pride in the 192nd Fighter Wing.

If interested, please contact Angie Wade, Wing Fighter Family Readiness Group Coordinator, 50 Falcon Road, Sandston, VA 23150, 804.236.7036, angeli.wade@varich.af.mil, or Ann Hicks, Unit Volunteer, at 757.258.3931 annuhicks@hotmail.com.

Family Readiness News

Family Readiness Group Volunteer form
Virginia Air National Guard
192^d FW/203rd RH/200 WS
Richmond, VA

Volunteer Application Form

Name: _____ Home Tele: _____

Address: _____ Work Tele: _____

City: _____ State: _____ zip: _____ Email: _____

Rank/Name of Service Member: _____

Svc Member's Duty Tele: _____ Relationship to Svc Mbr: _____

When/how much time available: _____

The best time to contact you: _____

Areas of specialty: ☐ Program Admin Assist ☐ Regional Rep

☐ Plan Social Events ☐ Telephone Tree Caller ☐ Provide Refreshments

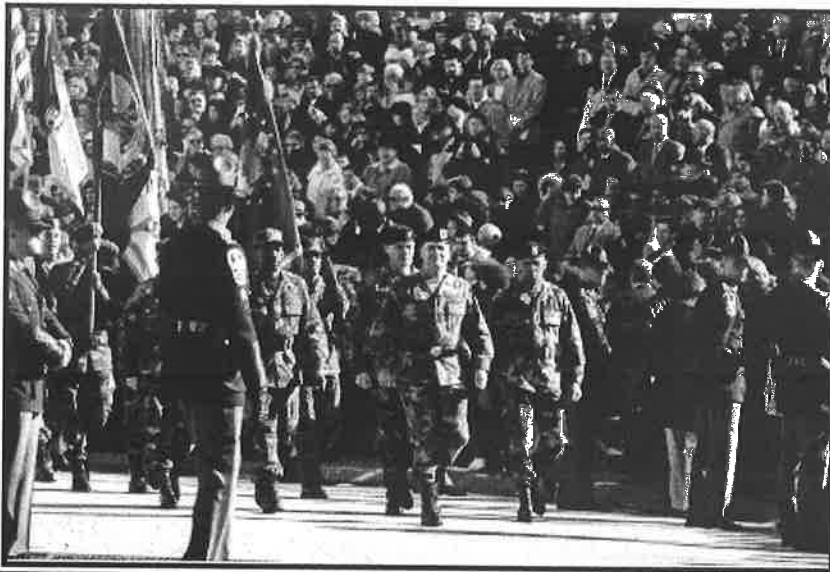
☐ Special Projects

Other skills you would like to offer: _____

Please take this form and deliver to:
Angie Wade, Family Readiness Group Coordinator
VA Air National Guard 192nd FW
50 Falcon Road, Suite 6
Sandston, VA 23150
804.236.7036 (V)/236.6933 (F)/DSN 864
angeli.wade@varich.ang.af.mil

THE 192D FIGHTER WING/ 203RD RED HORSE VA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Warner sworn in as Virginia's 69th Governor



Brig. Gen. Joseph Godwin leads the massing of the colors of the Virginia Army and Air National Guard in Governor Warner's inaugural parade. (Photo by Maj. A. A. Puryear, Va-ARNG)

What's for Lunch?

SATURDAY UTA

Hamburgers
Cheeseburgers
Hot Dogs
Pizza
French Fries
Baked Beans

SUNDAY UTA

BBQ Spareribs
Fried Chicken
Corn on the Cob
Cole Slaw
Baked Potatoes

PRE-SORT STANDARD
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192d Fighter Wing/PA
Virginia Air National Guard
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