



Integrity First - Service Before Self - Excellence In All We Do

Virginia Air National Guard

192d Fighter Wing

May 2003



Inside

VaANG Heritage: *How many F-84's can you fit in a hangar?*

Pages 10-11

AFT in Savannah: See pictures... *Pages 8-9*

Family Readiness

News: Get the latest news from Family Readiness. *Pull-out*

Photo by Andy Anderson



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.

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

Check out the electronic Vanguard on the base Intranet.

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Next UTA:
May 17-18

Cover:

The VaANG's F-84s are fitted carefully but tightly into the hangar during a hurricane threat. The unit's maintenance chiefs used model airplanes to figure out how to fit the F-84s in the hangar most efficiently.

Some Gave All

All gave some and some gave all
And some stood through for the
red, white and blue
And some had to fall
And if you ever think of me
Think of all your liberties and
recall
Some gave all

That's the chorus of the patriotic ballad, "Some Gave All," by country music star Billy Ray Cyrus. The song was inspired by a chance meeting Cyrus had with a Vietnam veteran in 1989. Oddly enough, it was recorded on the day the Gulf War started in January 1991.

Now here it is, a dozen years later, another Gulf War, and the lyrics remain just as true as when they were written.

No wonder they have been embraced by so many American patriots. "Some Gave All" is more than just a catchy tune. It's a statement that we recognize and appreciate the great sacrifices made, in the past and in the present, by the men and women in the Armed Forces.

And talk about sacrifices! To ramp up for Operation Iraqi Freedom, the nation's military reservists knew we would have to play a key role. Many of you were taken from your civilian jobs and called on to put to use your military skills in a life-or-death struggle. Many left families behind as you took part in a war to liberate an honorable people from a sadistic dictator.

As in any war, there are no guaranteed round-trip tickets. War is a risky, dangerous environment. Our leaders equip us with the best equipment in the world to give us

the military advantage. We have incredible high-tech tools – real-time satellite imagery, smart bombs, laser-guided missiles.

But war is war, and a war has never been fought without considerable death and destruction. This one even had some added twists.

Operation Iraqi Freedom was the world's first prime-time-all-the-time, live television, Internet-accessible, embedded-reporter, 24-hour-a-day, in-your-face war. We were treated – if that's the proper word – to non-stop images, from Nasiriyah to Kut to Baghdad. Some will remain seared into our memories for decades to come.

That applies especially to those Americans whose loved ones have been killed or wounded. More than 145 coalition forces have paid the ultimate price for fighting to secure freedom for others. Nearly 400 American military personnel have been wounded.

Some of the images are heart-rending, others heart-warming.

Take the case of Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch, from Paradise, W.Va., or of Army Spec. Shoshana Johnson, from Fort Bliss, Texas.

Lynch became the "poster child" of the modern military. A pretty 19-year-old blonde from an economically depressed area, she enlisted in the Army for the educational opportunities. She was captured and presumably held as a POW. Then, in a testament to American intelligence-gathering capabilities and the skill of our special operations teams, she was rescued from the hospital where she was being kept.

When her rescuers arrived, one told her to stay calm. "Jessica Lynch, I'm an American soldier, and I'm here to rescue you," he said.

Lynch answered, "I'm an American soldier, too."

(Continued on next page...)

...Commander's Call Continued

...continued from previous page)

I don't know if you've seen the photos of her being rescued. She had an expression of pain, fear, pride and joy, all at the same time. And covering her chest she had an American flag.

Lynch's rescue told the nation that the U.S. Armed Forces would stop at nothing to bring back one of their own.

My heart also went out to Spec. Johnson, a 30-year-old cook who fell into Iraqi hands after her convoy made a wrong turn. She and the other soldiers with her were held captive until the fall of Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown. No one knew for sure that they were alive. Many Americans prayed for them but honestly wondered whether those prayers would be answered.

Her face, judging from photographs broadcast around the globe while Johnson was being held prisoner of war, revealed worlds about the emotional anguish she was experiencing. There she was, a single mother of two, thrust into a situation few of us can adequately prepare for.



An image from video shown during a U.S. Central Command news conference April 2 shows the rescue of Private First Class Jessica Lynch on April 1.

Again, we were thrilled – we heard about it during the Sunday drill in April – to learn that she and six other POWs were released after the fall of Baghdad.

Here were two support personnel – not the conventional, heavily armed warriors we expect to see on the front lines – who found themselves as the focus of the nation's attention. It reminds us all that no matter what job we might have, whether piloting an F-16 or fueling one, whether issuing battle-dress uniforms or providing medical care, we must train to the highest standards to be ready for whatever sacrifice we might be

called on to make.

I thank each and every one of you for the sacrifices you have already made. No doubt you will be asked to make more.

The events of 9/11 showed clearly that the 21st century will present some unique challenges. Let's make sure we're ready to meet them.

Sincerely,

Colonel Stephen R. Hicks,
Wing Commander

Detachment 1, 192nd Fighter Wing

Six Virginia Air Guardsmen are turning purple in Norfolk. These six members make up Detachment 1, 192nd Fighter Wing and are attached to Joint Forces Command (JFCOM), where purple is the color to symbolize joint forces, instead of the traditional Air Force blue or Army green.

Headquartered in Norfolk Virginia, JFCOM, is one of nine unified commands and is responsible for joint training, interoperability and experimentation. It is also the force provider to combatant commanders. Det. 1, currently lead by Colonel Robert Newman, is part of the Joint Reserve Directorate (JRD). The full JRD is made up of Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine reserves in addition to Air and Army Guard from Virginia and North Carolina.

Det. 1 personnel work in either the J-3 (operations) or J-7 (joint training) directorate of JFCOM. Guardsmen working in J-3 support the Joint Operations Center and monitor worldwide operations for the commander of JFCOM. J-7 is housed in the Joint Training and Analysis Center in Suffolk, Virginia. J-7's job is to train senior commanders and their joint staff in theater-level war-fighting. This is done through live exercises and through computer simulation.

Guardsmen working in J-7 support joint force training in a variety of capacities. They operate computer simulators to replicate "red forces" or "blue forces" so senior commanders receive training, without having to deploy large numbers of actual troops. Det. 1 members bring operational expertise to exercise scenarios which brings enhanced realism to simulated events. When troops are deployed for live exercises, Det. 1 personnel may deploy as observer/trainers to monitor the exercises to insure joint training tasks are completed as planned.

Det. 1 personnel have supported major multi-service exercise including Millennium Challenge, Roving Sands and Unified Endeavor.

By Major Vern Bennett (Det. 1 trainer/observer)

2002 Air National Guard Outstanding Flight Surgeon of the Year

The 192nd Medical Squadron Commander was named the 2002 Air National Guard Outstanding Flight Surgeon of the Year. Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Biernacki will now compete for Air Force-level recognition in San Antonio, Texas on 5 May 2003. Colonel Stephen Hicks, 192nd Wing Commander nominated Lt Col Biernacki for the Award. "Colonel Biernacki led the 192nd Medical Squadron to a warfighting-sharp edge through dogged pursuit of task mastering and realistic training. He has developed the squadron's combat readiness to an all-time high." As the 192nd Medical Squadron Commander, Lt Col Biernacki led the squadron's successes in 2002. Lt Col Biernacki oversaw the transition of the medical squadron from a traditional Guard clinic to a fully functional active-duty medical treatment facility to support Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. During this time, he also led the planning and implementation of the 192 medical Squadron's first-ever humanitarian mission to El Salvador. In spite of operating in harsh field conditions the unit was able to care for more than 5,100 Salvadorian's in a 10 day period. He formulated and put into practice a Guard first ever "Metabolic Syndrome Prevalence Study" that will help better the health and welfare of the Virginia Air National Guard. He has also pioneered a "physicals for

fly" program lending Virginia Air National Guard flight surgeons to other Air National Guard units that are deficient in flight surgeons in exchange for flights. This program is a win-win program for both units. The 192nd MDS flight surgeons keep current in their flying requirements. The gaining units are able to keep up with their flight physical examination load. He is also a Senior FAA Aviation Medical

Examiner. These and many other accomplishments during the year culminated in the squadron's selection as the 2002 "Founders and Patriots Award" as the Outstanding National Guard Unit for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Lt Col Biernacki will be leaving the 192nd Medical Squadron to be the State Air Surgeon for Virginia in September.



VaANG OEF BLOOD DRIVE MAY 18



Operation Enduring Freedom needs blood. Specifically they need blood from people in the military. **Have you been wanting to help the war effort in some way?** Have you been anxious to do something, anything to show your support for our folks on the front line in some meaningful way? The wounded need blood and the only people who can presently donate blood to the military are

people in uniform. **We have a unique and timely opportunity** to have our donated blood go directly overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom by donating blood at the Virginia Air National Guard Blood Drive through the Armed Services Blood Program Office.

In November of 1992 the Virginia Air National Guard gave a record number 144 pints of blood to the Red Cross for a frozen blood program. I believe we can top that number because we feel the urgency of the current mission. **The Armed Services Blood Program Office from Portsmouth will be here on Sunday, May 18, to collect blood, process and ship it directly overseas.** There are currently around 500 wounded military members related to the war in Iraq. Please help them by signing up to **donate blood next UTA on Sunday, May 18, in the club, all day.** We will schedule time slots for each squadron but there will be 15 beds so we can also take you on a random basis as you have time. What's a worthy goal? I think the number **192** has a good ring to it!

-David J. Kinsey, CMSgt, VaANG

Chaplain's Corner - by Ch(Maj) Ed Moran

In the Aftermath of War

We were all amazed by how fast the war went.

Despite the nay-saying from media sources, our service members distinguished themselves by a consistent, powerful and professional application of directed force against the Iraq regime. We are now living in the aftermath. Questions move to the forefront about rebuilt infrastructure and sources of succeeding governmental rule. Often lost in these considerations are the service members still abroad with indefinite return dates for their overseas deployment. Separated from family and loved ones, theirs is a wait and a service that does not receive much media coverage.

Only those here who are connected by way of family and unit know the extent of their sacrifice and their desire to return home as soon and safely as possible. We will not forget their service and sacrifice.

This is another important moment of faith especially when answers cannot be made as to when they will return. We have always dedicated those who serve to the protecting and powerful 'arm of the Lord'. In



USAF illustration by W.C. Pope

these ambiguous times of extended deployment, it is important to rededicate ourselves and our service members abroad to the Lord who protects and defends His faithful. For those who 'live by faith and not by sight', it is another opportunity to offer up our fears and hopes in the sure and

certain hope that God's providential plan will be accomplished. This is particularly important for those who may have lost a family member or friend in the midst of the conflict. Our minds and hearts search for reasons that may never be known this side of heaven. Instead, we are left with the distinguished example of service before self. "No greater love hath a man than he lay down his life for his friend". This example reveals to us the individual greatness of a person who serves. It sets a high bar of what it means to give oneself for the freedoms we hold dear. It is that 'full measure of devotion' each generation is called on to give so that our

way of life with the God-given freedoms we enjoy may continue.

Take time out from your schedule this week to thank God for such examples of service. Rededicate yourself in faith to serving to the fullest measure possible so that we might be seen in full affiliation with those abroad and those who have died as the true defenders of freedom we are.

MOVING IN, MOVING UP, MOVING ON

April Promotions

SMS Gary M. Bradley
MSG Philip N. Thomas, Sr.
MSG Thornton Williams
TSG Jose L. Mejia
TSG David K. Pack
TSG Louis M. Dafoe
SSG Michael K. Steward
SSG Roy D. Miller
SSG David M. Buttner
SSG Lowell R. Ivy
SRA Heidi L. Schroeder
A1C Haany Halim
A1C Will B. Martin

To

CMS
SMS
SMS
MSG
MSG
MSG
TSG
TSG
TSG
TSG
SSG
SRA
SRA

April Promotions

A1C Shadeed R. Jones
A1C Jennifer M. Tank

To

SRA
SRA

April Gains

MAJ John T. Garmack
CPT Andrea M. Stewart
SSG Danita T. Watson
A1C Lacey C. Birdsong

Unit

Medical Squadron
Social Actions
Logistics Squadron
Security Forces

April Retirements

LTC Shirley Douglas
MSG Lorraine Jackson
MSG Geoffrey Miltenberger
TSG Pattie M. White

Unit

MDS
MSF
SFS
203RD Red Horse

News You Can Use/Announcements

Student Flight

Student Flight Training
ALL Available Student Flight Members
OPS Briefing Room
Saturday, 17 May 2003, 1300 to 1530

Education Benefits Presentation
First Sergeant Presentation

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

192FW Student Flight
0800 Saturday 17 May 2003
Bldg 3665, Maintenance Support Conference Room
(building between the hangar and OPS)

Purpose: review base processing requirements and training schedules

Retirement Dinner

Retirement Dinner For: Col James E. Grogan, HQ VaANG
When: 7 Jun 03
Where? Holiday Inn Airport, Williamsburg Road
Time: 6:30PM
Cost: \$25. per person
POC: MSgt Simmons 236-6014 NLT 3 Jun 03

VaANG Headquarters announces Command Chief selection board for impending vacancy

Chief Master Sergeant Robert Barnette, Virginia Air National Guard Headquarters Command Chief Master Sergeant, will complete his tour in this position before the end of 2003. The VaANG Headquarters is currently accepting applications for his replacement.

The Headquarters Command Chief Master Sergeant's duties include advising the Adjutant General of Virginia, and the Deputy Adjutant General for Air, on matters concerning welfare, morale, and compliance of regulations of the enlisted force. For a complete list of duties and responsibilities and qualifications applicants should refer to ANGI 36-2109.

Anyone interested in applying for the position must be a chief master sergeant or a promotable senior master sergeant. Interested applicants must submit a letter of interest, with a resume to: VaANG Headquarters (building 3630), to the attention of CMSgt. Barnette, no later than 4 p.m. Sunday, May 18 (May 2003 drill weekend). Applications received after the deadline won't be considered. Full time technicians or AGR personnel must have approval of their immediate supervisor and commander, before applying for this three-year position.

Candidates will be notified of the date, place, and time to appear before a selection board, which is scheduled to take place during the June drill weekend (June 7-8). The individual selected to fill the position must be available to begin taking over as Headquarters Command Chief during the July or August drill weekends.

Volunteers needed to help with June ChalleNGe prom

The next ChalleNGe prom party will be June 14, 2003 at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, and always begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday. The Virginia Air National Guard hosts the party twice each year (December and June) for the graduating classes. Anyone or duty section interested in helping with the June party is invited to attend the planning meeting at the VaANG State Headquarters on Sunday, May 18 and June 08 at 3 p.m.

The Challenge Program is designed to help high school dropouts get their lives back on track, complete a high school general equivalency diploma program, and receive money for follow-on education and job training. Volunteers are needed for the prom party to help with decorating, food preparation and service, cadet photos, and clean up.

Call Cpt Toni Vanderspiegel ext. 6012 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. Vanderspiegel said, "Come join us in this fun, worthwhile project."

Wing Human Resources Advisor Position

The 192d Fighter Wing is soliciting applications for the Human Resources Advisor(HRA) position at Fighter Wing. This position is open to all E-8's and promotable E-7's. If interested, please submit your resume to LTC Turner no later than 1200 hours on 16 May 2003. Interviews are planned for May UTA. Please contact LTC Turner for any additional details.

Family Readiness News

Virginia Air National Guard
192d Fighter Wing 203rd Red Horse 200th Weather

Pull Out
Section

192d FW Volunteer Support Group gets into High Gear

The Family Support group of the 192d FW held an urgent support group meeting in April due to the breakout of the war in Iraq.

"I decided that the families needed to meet each other after making our weekly calls to them and detecting a certain amount of stress in the voices," explained Angie Wade, Wing Family Program Coordinator.

"So, I contacted all of the various members of the support team, which included Col. Hicks, the base commander; Chaplain Moran and SMSgt Brenda Kirby from the chaplain's Office; MSgt Jose Mejia and MSgt

Rodney Ruble from finance; MSgt Toni Vincent of security forces. They made a point of adjusting their schedules to be there because our families are very important to them!"

The meeting also included a program for the young people. Special guests from Henrico County Public, Becky Nall, counselor; Bonnie Connor-Gray, P.E. Supervisor; Lloyd Mercer, social worker, assisted our Family Readiness Support Group volunteers who coordinated the program and provided babysitting for the littlest ones.

Both spouses and parents joined us in the chapel,

while the children and youth activities were in the dining facility. June Murphy, Principal of seven Pines Elementary and Debbie Hollowell, resource teacher from Seven Pines also came to offer support and to receive support due to many Air National Guard members participating in the Lunch Buddy program. It seems as if some of their children were experiencing stress because of their concerns.

An airman's dad joined his daughter-in-law, Wendy, for the 80 mile trip to the Thursday night meeting. It was just too important for them to miss.

(Continued on Page 2)

Volume 2 Issue 5 May 2003

Asides:

NMFA Saturday, May 17, the FR Volunteer Group will be hosting a visit from **National Military Family Association Deputy director, Lillie Cannon**, who will be discussing legislative issues before Congress that affects military families quality of life. Please plan to join us in the Ops Briefing room at 10:00 a.m. Bring your concerns and be ready to share at the end of her presentation. For more information, please call 804-236-7036 or email frs@varich.ang.af.mil.



Kings Dominion Tickets

Season passes are available to us now at a discount. Individual passes are \$79.99 each, and family passes are \$249.99. Daily tickets are also now available for \$25.00. Our prices will not be going up. Contact Angie Wade 236-7036.

The Ft. Lee Commissary Sidewalk Sale was a big success!

A big thanks goes out to DeCa and Ron Smith, Manager of the Ft. Lee Commissary for bringing the store to us!

The Family Readiness and Support Volunteer Group also wants to thank all of the family members and guard members for stopping by the FR Volunteer table on your way to shop, and a special thank you goes out to you all for supporting them with your purchase of Krispy Kreme Donuts and vehicle magnets to support FR&S Volunteer activities.



Inside this issue:

A Husband Learns to Cope	2
The 203rd Red Horse "Charlie Club" encourages families and troops	3
Resources for Those Who want to Support Our Troops	3
Volunteers Support Historic Send Off	4

A Husband Learns How To Cope during a Deployment

The Family Support Group makes a point of keeping in touch with families during deployments. It is not always a wife left behind, but sometimes a husband. Either way, keeping in touch with the deployed spouse and starting and completing a surprise project can keep your mind off of the stress of the separation.

I recently contacted Scott Samuel whose wife is deployed overseas. Scott is with the 192d FW and his wife is in the Navy.

I asked him if he would mind if I shared his email. He was surprised that I asked, but as you read it, I am sure you'll find his response inspiring:

*"Hey there,
It's nice that you thought of me.
My wife is still over there. I am won-
dering if they are going to keep them as
long as they originally intended. She
seems to be doing well, though she is*

ready to come home.

Things here are going well also.

I have my hands full with the kids, school (only one class), and the house. I am trying to do some nice things for my wife prior to her return.

I put marble laminate floor and painted the walls in the master bath, so it is remodeled.

I also put in a new yard. She has wanted nice grass for years and at our other house it wasn't practical due to it being on the water where it would flood. Anyway, hopefully she will be excited when she returns.

This deployment is going fairly well. Being busy helps, as does the Lord's peace.

We have been able to communicate fairly well, though we haven't talked in a couple weeks. We are able to email each other which is nice.

I am glad to see this all go on (the war) as hopefully the patrolling of the skies over there will end and she won't have to leave every year...

Scott"

Scott also wrote that he was not concerned for his wife's safety at all, that he felt that her diligence would keep her safe.

Thank you, Scott, for sharing.

*The Virginia National Guard Family
is cordially invited to join*

*The Family Readiness and Support
Group of the 192d FW
in welcoming*

*Deputy Director, Lillie Cannon and
Fonta Footman-Mitchell
Of
NMFJA
(National Military Families Association)*

*On Saturday May 17, 2003
Ops Briefing Room*

*For a discussion of legislative issues before
Congress that affect military families.*

Refreshments will be served.

192d FW Volunteer Support Group gets into High Gear
Cont'd from page 1

After refreshments of Italian subs, pizza, and exquisite desserts, the family members introduced themselves and were encouraged to share at least three wonderful things about their loved one.

Michelle commented that her husband seems to be growing just as she is through this separation due to the deployment. She is anxiously awaiting her husband's return.

Naomi commented how nice it was to be in a room with others who understood how she felt. The others agreed.

Naomi attended the meeting with her two sons. In an email sent later, she wrote, “Thanks for a great evening last week, I and the boys enjoyed it; it was most helpful.”

Jill brought her mother-in-law, who shared her own coping stories as well as support stories of helping Jill and the baby, who just turned 1 year old.

Sabrina and “little Andrew” came to the meeting as well as Elaine her daughters. Mary and her two sons made new friends at the children’s program.

The success of the event was

obvious when no one rushed home and the children were not in a hurry to rejoin the parents.

The adults swapped email addresses and phone numbers and promised that they would see each other again.

Clarissa whose son is deployed, assisted with the clean up and was one of the last to leave.

The next meeting will be held at on Saturday May 17 at 9:00 am in the Ops briefing room.

If you would like to be a part of this growing group, please join us! For more information, contact Angie Wade, 804-236-7036 or email at frs@varich.ang.af.mil.

The 203rd Red Horse "Charlie's Club" encourages Families and Troops

The Family Readiness Group of the 203d Red Horse Unit in Virginia Beach has decided to establish their identity by name and by activities.

The volunteer support group recently voted to call themselves, "**The Charlie Club**" reflecting on the base mascot, Charging Charlie. They also decided that the mascot should get to know each family personally.

Debbie Turlip, leader of the group, recently shared how all of this came about:

"Another activity we have started involves a stuffed red horse named "CHARLIE" who is our mascot. Charlie is going to be shared by families who will each keep him for a week or so, take pictures of him "participating" in family activities, then put the pictures in a scrapbook which has already been started.

This great idea was initiated by

Emily Elliott, wife of Maj. Quinton Elliott.

Emily started the scrapbook off with a great picture of Charlie on a VDOT truck. The Virginia Department of Transportation is where Maj. Elliott works when he is not at the 203d Red Horse Unit.

Charlie was passed to me next and I can tell you we had a lot of fun with him. I took him to the ribbon cutting for the new Navy Exchange at Little Creek Amphibious Base where my husband was the Project Manager and had just finished the building before being called to active duty.

My husband was deployed during the ribbon cutting, so we made sure to take some great pictures.

The purpose of this activity is to have some family fun, and to help unit members bond with one another. I have since passed Charlie on.

I really appreciate Emily's initiative and enthusiasm for this great unit activity. Thank you Emily!

Charlie was also recently seen saying goodbye to troops who were leaving for a classified location.

"Yes, Charlie came and we took pictures of him on the bus, in the luggage compartment, on top of the goody bag cart, etc."



Debbie Turlip, wife of Lt. Col Tom Turlip, Commander of the 203rd Red Horse Unit, with "Charlie", looking at the scrapbook documenting his adventures.

Resources for Those Who Want to Support our Troops

A recent Gallup Poll showed that without question, the majority of Americans support our efforts in Operation Iraqi Freedom. They support our President, our strategy, and our troops. They really support our troops!

Many church groups and community service groups want to send care packages and letters and cards. However, due to the limited space available to send the packages as well as for security reasons, unsolicited mail is now being discouraged. Close family members still need to support their "personal troop", but the general population is being guided in different directions.

When you are questioned about how a group can support the troops, consider these options:

- **"Gift of Groceries"** : The commissary is one of the best benefits for the military family. A gift certificate to a family of choice or to be distributed through the Family Support Office is a great idea. The program allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates via the DeCA Website at <http://www.commissaries.com>, or by calling a toll-free U.S.-only number, 1-877-770-4438. Certificates are good in any of DeCA's 280 stores worldwide. Only authorized commissary shoppers can redeem them.

If a commissary gift certificate is not convenient, consider a local grocery chain gift certificate. Either way, supporting the troops by supporting the family is a great idea.

- **USO Operation Care Package:** Contribute to the purchase of a care package of items forwarded troops

such as sunscreen, disposable cameras, prepaid calling cards, and toiletries via: <http://www.usocares.org/home>. The cost is around \$25 and the contribution can be made online.

- **Community volunteer service helps to replace valued volunteers who have been deployed.** Local opportunities for volunteer service such as mentoring a child, teaching someone to read, working in a local police department or serving at a local food shelter can also show the world that we stand as one behind our troops.



Virginia Air National Guard
192d Fighter Wing 203rd Red
Horse 200th Weather Flight

50 Falcon Rd Ste.6
Sandston, VA 23150

Phone: 804-236-7036

Email: angeli.wade@varich.ang.af.mil



Family Readiness and Support

Vision

An enhanced quality of life for National Guard members, their families and the communities in which they live.

Mission

To establish and facilitate ongoing commander involvement, support and recognition between National Guard families and the National Guard in a partnership that provides the best in both.



Happy Mother's Day- May 11
Happy Military Spouse's Day- May 9

Volunteers Support Historic Send-Off for the 203d Red Horse Flight

The 203rd Red Horse Flight is a Geographically Separated Unit of the Virginia Air National Guard, formed in 1987 out of the 192d Civil Engineer Flight. While using bulldozers instead of flying jets, they "provide Civil Engineer, Fire Fighting, and Disaster Preparedness forces to meet the peacetime, wartime, and emergency response needs of the Wing, State and Nation."

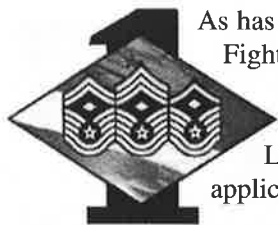


203d Red Horse "Charlie Club volunteers", Maureen Phillips, Debbie Turlip, and Maureen Garner take a pause with the goody bags before the troops loaded onto the bus for deployment for a classified location.

Volunteer Maureen Garner stops one more time to show "Charlie" hanging on to the side of the cart trying to sneak on the bus with the goody bags. Watching the "situation" is Major Pete Garner and TSgt Andrew Rhinard.



First Sergeant Positions



As has been described in the VANGUARD over the last two months, two First Sergeant positions in the 192d Fighter Wing will be advertised by MPF. The positions are for First Sergeant of the 192d Fighter Wing/192d Operations Group (combined), and the 192d Medical Group. Applicants may be in other organizations within the Virginia Air National Guard. Applications should be forwarded to SMSgt Larry Harris no later than 1600 on May 18, 2003. MPF will screen applications to ensure that the applicant:

- Is a Master Sergeant with the ability to serve at least three years after attending the First Sergeant Academy; or,
- Is a Technical Sergeant eligible for promotion and has the ability to serve at least three years after attending the First Sergeant Academy and being promoted;
- Meets the minimum weight and body fat standards;
- Has completed the NCO Academy Course (either in residence or by correspondence).

The 192d Fighter Wing Command Chief will review the applicant's records for eligibility according to AFI 36-2113, Chapters 1, 2, 10, 12, 13, and 14, and determine if the applicant's total profile supports consideration by a board. The Board will consider eligible applicants during the June UTA (June 7-8) at a time and day to be determined.

The Board will rank or prioritize all applicants, for both positions, as a single group and provide that listing to the two commanders to assist them in making their selection. The ranking/prioritization is not a recommendation for selection. The Commander is free to choose from the entire applicant pool based on his or her needs.

At a minimum each applicant shall submit the First Sergeant Vacancy Application (available through MPF), a resume of 1-3 pages in length, a cover letter describing their specific interest or qualifications for the job of First Sergeant, and a letter of recommendation from your current Commander.

For more information about the job of a First Sergeant, see any First Sergeant! There is also a First Sergeant web page under "Special Services" on the Virginia Air National Guard intranet site.

Contingent of 203rd RED HORSE Flight members deploy to Middle East

After awaiting a deployment order for more than two months, approximately 50 members of the 203rd RED HORSE Flight set off for an undisclosed location in the Middle East on – of all days – April 1. This was no April Fools joke; it was the real thing.

Surrounded by family members and fellow RED HORSE men and women, the group departed the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach via bus around 6 a.m. They joined up with a similarly sized group from their sister unit, the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron out of Camp Blanding, Florida, before deploying overseas in support of 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group activities supporting U.S. military actions in the Middle East.

In early January, the unit received an Executive Order calling for the mobilization of a significant portion of the 203rd for active federal service. The mobilization order called for a phased activation of the 203rd and the 202nd for up to one year, with the possibility of extending that period an additional 12 months, based on the operational needs and requirements of the Department of Defense.

This is the first time since the 203rd's activation in 1985 that it has been federally mobilized and deployed, according to Lt.Col. Tom Turlip, 203rd commander. "Our people are ready to go," Turlip told news media covering the deployment departure. "We train for this. We're ready to do our job."

RED HORSE is a rapid-response, self-contained USAF civil engineering force capable of performing the full range of horizontal and vertical construction activities (e.g. heavy equipment operations, earth movement, road grading and paving, facilities construction, airfield runway repair, drilling wells and setting up operational military bases in undeveloped areas).

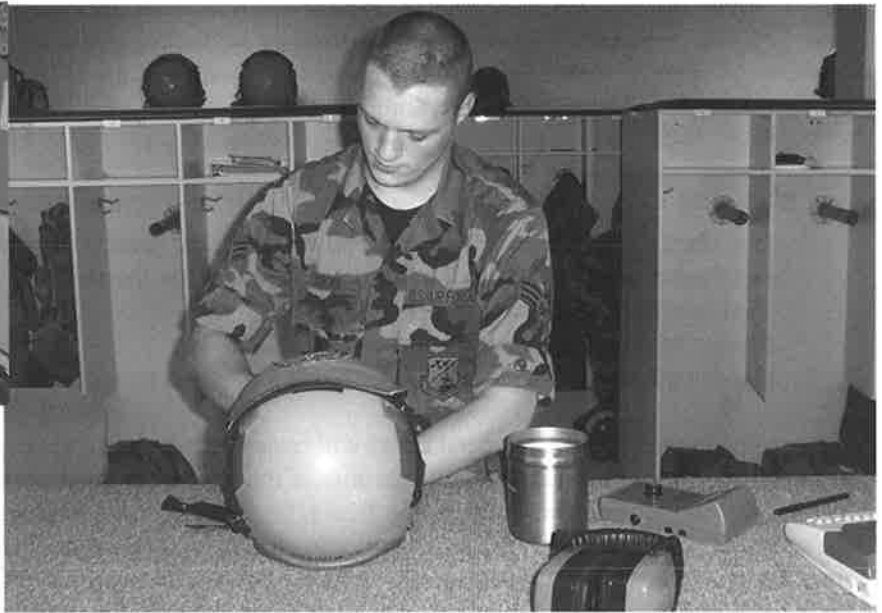
The 203rd had anticipated going through an Air Force Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) during its scheduled January 25-26 drill weekend. However, instead of performing the UCI for an Air Force Inspector General team, the unit spent the drill weekend preparing for deployment. Medical, Legal, Personnel, Finance, Chapel and Family Support personnel from the 192nd Fighter Wing were on hand to provide pre-mobilization support. Tri-Care specialists also started briefing 203rd members on their active-duty medical benefits.

A handful of 192nd Fighter Wing members are augmenting the 203rd. Additional members of the 203d and the 192d will be deploying in the coming months. *-by Maj. Deborah Magaldi, State Headquarters*

AFT in Savannah. 192d FW at work...



SRA Michael Soroka of Life Support preps a pilot flight helmet.

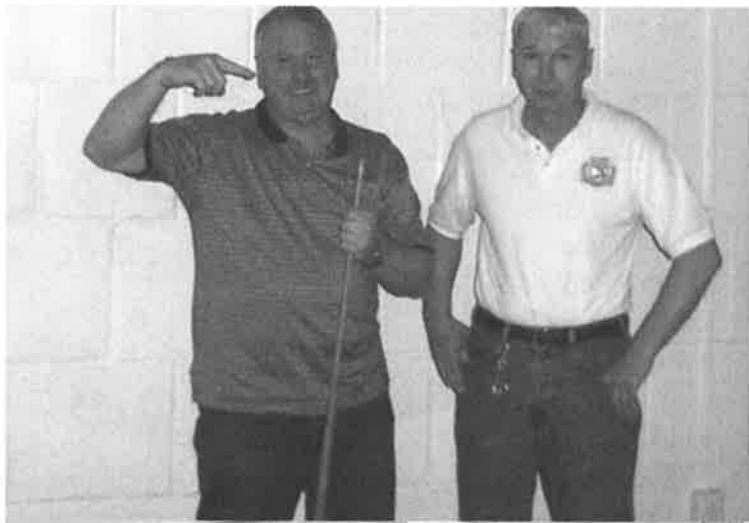


Right: The crew chiefs work diligently to get these birds off the ground and in to the Savannah skies. Tried and tested they are ready to go. Bottom Right: TSG Paul Wayne receives an F-16 after completion of a sortie. Bottom Left: SMSG Greg Leonard and AIC Jamila Williams conduct Counter Chemical Warfare Concept Operations training to deployed members.

All photos and layout on these two pages by TSG Ike Rawlings, PA



...and at play



Virginia Air National Guard Heritage Series

By TSgt. Ed Kelleher
192d Fighter Wing Historian



F-84's taxi out getting ready for takeoff.

The late 1950s were a time when the United States seemed to be settling into its newfound role of world watchdog and peacekeeper.

In 1957, World War II hero Dwight D. Eisenhower was beginning his second term as president, the so-called "Korean Conflict" had evolved into just another tension-filled arena of the Cold War, Russia and the U.S. were building up their nuclear arsenals and missile defenses, and the Virginia Air National Guard was trying mightily to leap into the jet age.

In the 18 months between June 1957 and November 1958, the VaANG underwent four changes in its mission and squadron designation. Ultimately, Virginia would become the last of the nation's Air Guard units to convert to jet aircraft.



A three ship formation of VaANG F-84 Thunderstreaks fly over the skies of Virginia.

The silver F-84's eventually got camouflage painting.

Retired Brig. Gen. Claude Heath described the period as "a hell of a mess."

It's a story worth retelling.

The VaANG's 149th

Bombardment Squadron (Light),

equipped with propeller-driven Douglas B-26 Invaders,



Pat & Mike Harmon in front of a Martin RB-57 Canberra reconnaissance plane in 1957 here at the 192d.

had been in operation since 1954 but had never reached full mission capability. B-26 navigators were hard to find, and it wasn't the career field of choice for up-and-coming fliers.

On June 15, 1957, the unit was reorganized, designated the 149th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, and assigned F-86E Sabre Jets. It was placed under the direction of the Air Defense Command.

The Guardsmen (there were no women in the 149th at that time) went off to summer camp at Travis Field outside

Virginia Air National Guard Heritage Series



This F-84 was involved in an accident at Patrick Henry Airfield where it landed. The plane was taken apart and shipped back up to the 192d and later put back into flight status.



Savannah, Ga., that July and studied the operation and maintenance of the F-86 interceptor.

That training wouldn't do them a lot of good. Three months later, in October 1957, the VaANG commander, Maj. William E. Haymes, announced that the 149th would lose the F-86s and be given a new, yet-undisclosed assignment.

At that point, only two 149th pilots had been checked out in the F-86, the unit still had 18 B-26s on hand, and the four F-86s that were assigned to the 149th were being kept at Charlotte, N.C., because the runway extension at Byrd Field was still not finished.

Eventually Haymes learned that the VaANG would become a tactical recon squadron using about a dozen twin-engine Martin RB-57A jets. On April 10, 1958, the change was official: the 149th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron was born.

It died two months later, only to be reincarnated as the 149th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron.

The squadron was assigned the Republic F-84F Thunderstreak (the "Hog"), which would serve as mission aircraft for the next 13 years.

The unit had finally entered the jet age, but the changes had not ended. In November 1958, the unit was redesignated as the 149th Tactical Fighter Squadron (SD).

The SD stood for Special Delivery, the term applied to delivery of nuclear weapons. Eventually, that mission was

deleted and the squadron concentrated on fighter-bomber tactics using conventional weapons.

The 13-year F-84 era – from 1958 to 1971 – would prove to be a microcosm of changes going on throughout the world, both geo-political and social.

The unit would be activated from October 1961 to August 1962 for the Berlin Crisis, would later cope with the impact of the Vietnam War on the military, and would begin to evolve from an all-male, all-white organization to one that represents American society as a whole.

But that's another story.

(Next month, the F-105 Thunderchief comes to the 192d)

A row of F-84's on the flightline.





Members of the 203rd set off on the first leg of their deployment as they prepare to leave the State Military Reservation. Unit members not involved in this phase of the deployment, family members and local news media saw the group off. See complete story on Page 7.

Photos by Maj. Deborah Magaldi, State Headquarters

What's for Lunch?

SATURDAY UTA

Pizza Assorted
Chicken Fillet
Nuggets w/Honey
Mustard Sauce
French Fries
Corn on the Cob
Buttered Peas
Peach Cobbler

SAT.SANDWICHLINE:

Hot Dog
Ham, turkey, and roast
beef submarine sandwich

SUN.SANDWICHLINE:

Chicken Salad
Sandwiches
Ham, turkey, and roast
beef submarine sandwich

BOTH DAYS:
Asst Beverages,
Bread & Salad Bar

SUNDAY UTA

Polish Sausage
With Sauerkraut
Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
Home Fried
Potatoes w/Onions
Gravy
Green Beans
Apple Cobbler

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