

# VANGUARD

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

Virginia Air National Guard

192d Fighter Wing

January 2004

## Inside

**Lots going on during December UTA:** See photos.... *Pages 10-11*  
**New nametag is now mandatory:** See story...  
*Page 3*

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

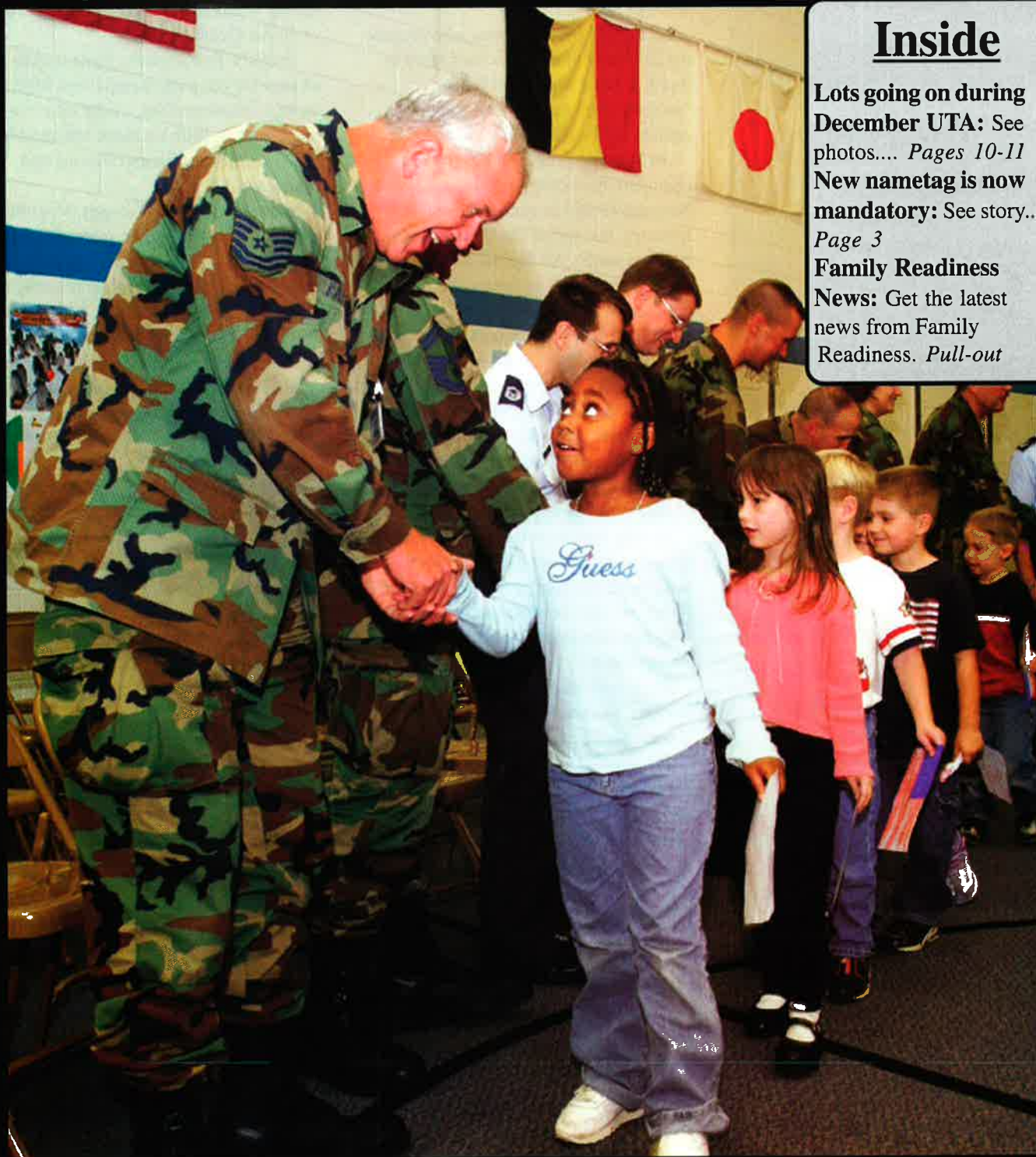


Photo by TSgt Dave Buttner



# Commander's Call



## 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

1st. Lt. Mark Widener

#### Public Affairs Staff

TSgt. Sabrina Reynolds-James

#### Photographic Support

Multimedia Support Center

.....

**Next UTA:  
January 10-11**

#### Cover:

Members of the 192d FW line up to thank students from 7 Pines for their Veteran's Day celebration.

### Joint.

Now, there's a word that's been around the English language for a while.

Now "joint" is very much a part of the military.

Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Forces Command, joint operations, jointness, joint.

It's the wave of the present; it's the wave of the future.

Lt. Gen H. Steven Blum, who became the 25<sup>th</sup> chief of the National Guard in April, wasted no time in setting "jointness" as the key item on his agenda as soon as he took command.

In May, he proposed a significant change in the command structure of the National Guard in each state and territory. Instead of the current setup, where a state's Air Guard has one headquarters and its Army Guard has another, Blum proposed a joint, or combined, state headquarters.

That approach, he said, "more adroitly addresses the challenges that face the nation's military forces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. "[Greater] jointness can only improve the Guard's ability to serve alongside our active-duty counterparts in any contingency."

It only makes sense. Just as Air Guard members need to maintain the same level of training as the active Air Force, we also need to interact closely with our counterparts in the Army (or Army Guard.)

Blum said nearly 150,000 citizen-soldiers and airmen were serving in the United States and 44 other countries.

He vowed that the National Guard would transform into "a more efficient and accessible force...we fight jointly, and we need to train and operate on a daily basis in a joint environment so we can make the transition [from citizen to soldier] very quickly. After all, our symbol is the Minuteman."

Again in September, at the 125<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States, the NGB chief beat the drum for greater joint planning and joint operations.

"Jointness means interservice, two or more services—that's Army and Air Force, Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, the mix of it any way that you want to do it, but two or more is interservice. That starts to be joint." In effect, the Air National Guard and the active-duty Air Force need to become seamless, to the point that visitors would have a hard time telling whether they're on an Air Force base or an Air Guard base.

Frankly, that requires some degree of change on our part. It requires a little bit more professionalism, a little bit more spit and polish, a little bit more attention to the uniform and to military customs and courtesies.

Maj. Gen. Claude Williams, Virginia's adjutant general and the man who reports to the governor on the commonwealth's military readiness, remarked recently that we should constantly strive to improve our "culture" as military professionals. He wasn't talking about skill or accomplishments; he was talking about snappy salutes, respect for rank and that sort of thing.

The bottom line is, at a time when any of us could find ourselves on the front lines together as a unit or embedded in another unit, we need to practice the good order and discipline that might save our lives and the lives of those who depend on us.

Many of you have been involved in joint operations and/or multinational exercises. You know the drill. It's not rocket science, but it does take an extra degree of commitment.

Lots of people have a natural resistance to change, especially if it casts us into the unknown. But as we move farther into the era of "jointness," lets try not to get out of joint by thinking this is something too overwhelming for us to handle.

We can only learn from it, and if we learn all we can, it can only make us better.

Sincerely,

*Colonel Stephen R. Hicks,*  
Wing Commander

## **A Resolved New Year in Partnership with God - by Ch(Maj) Edward Moran**

This is the time for parties and taking down Christmas decorations. For many, plans for family unity activities worked out. For others, there was sadness because of separation due to deployments, divorce, or thwarted travel plans. While we read this, others stand guard halfway around the world taking up the daily deadly duty to root out insurgents and take the fight to the backyards of international terrorists.

It's also a time to stop and take time. We are in a new year. While a few may pause to make or even write down the traditional New Year's resolutions, many will not. They will miss the opportunity to see where personal growth could happen from those many incomplete sides that remind us of our presence by the detrimental effects they have on us.

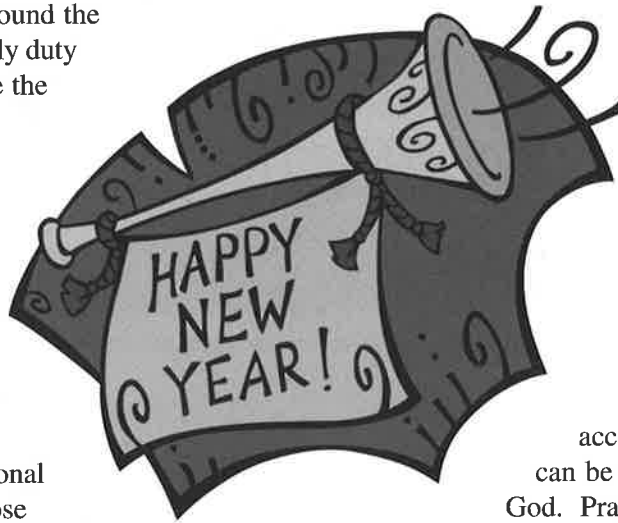
Faith teaches us that God is not finished with us. He wants us to cooperate with the work He has begun in

us. Taking some quiet time in prayer as the New Year begins could help each of us see where we could use some personal improvement. Instead of making resolutions that are doomed to be forgotten by February, try something

different this New Year. Make your resolutions and then take them to God in prayer. The resolve to start a new diet or work out more often has a better chance of success if you allow God to help you. Our incompleteness, weaknesses and faults are God's ways of reminding us where and how often we need Him in our daily lives. St. Paul tells us that "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me". This is a plan for successful action when God

accompanies us. New Year's resolutions can be the first step in seeing where we need God. Prayer can help us hold the course of action to a successful completion.

Take that quiet time. Make that list. Keep it to no more than three items. Off them to God in prayer. Review them weekly again in prayer. Watch and see how God will help you accomplish them!



## **Wearing Of The New Nametag**

**AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER** — The Air Force has established both the mandatory wear date and proper wear for the new metallic nametag on service dress uniforms.

According to personnel officials, effective Jan. 1, the nametag must be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the nametag level with the bottom of the ribbons. It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel.

If a duty badge is worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket, men will center the badge a half-inch below the new nametag; women will center the badge a half-inch above the new nametag. An exception is when a command insignia is worn by either men or women, then the command insignia is worn either a half-inch above or below the nametag and the duty badge is worn either a

half-inch above or below the command insignia, depending on whether the individual is a current or former commander.

When the maternity jumper is worn as the maternity service dress, the nametag should be centered on the right side and placed even to, or 1 1/2 inches higher or lower than, the first exposed button.

The nametag will also be worn on all pullover sweaters on the wearer's right side with the bottom of the nametag level centered between the middle of the sleeve seam and the seam of the neckline. It will not be worn on the cardigan sweater.

For more information, members should direct questions to their servicing military personnel flight or commanders support staff.



# 192 Picture Gallery



Photo by TSgt Dave Buttner

Munitions Maintenance flight received outstanding recognition from the Air Force for the way they take care of their business.



Photo by SrA Michele Misiano

Fire in the hole! 192d firefighters continue training during drill weekend.

The 4th Annual Golf and Sunset Outing was held this month at the Tartan Golf Course in Weems, Va. The tournament was open to active and retired members of VaANG and as it turned out, the retirees won the day. The prizes were won by Bill Murphy, Roy Madison, Walter Davis, and James Tomko. Will Nash and Tommy Duncan watch as Mike Mahoney makes another great putt. The tournament donated the proceeds to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.



Photo by TSgt Dave Buttner



Photo by SrA Michele Misiano

Change of Command Ceremony from Lt Col Greg Pietrocola and Lt. Col Craig Campbell of 149th OPS.

Tech Sgt Robert Gentry talks about different parts of the engine in the F-16 to personnel from the Defense Supply Center Richmond while they were participating in the Aviation Academy that visited the base during the month. They toured through different areas and heard what each shop's function is. The visit was a two way street because members of the tour work on one of the wings main supply points in Richmond.

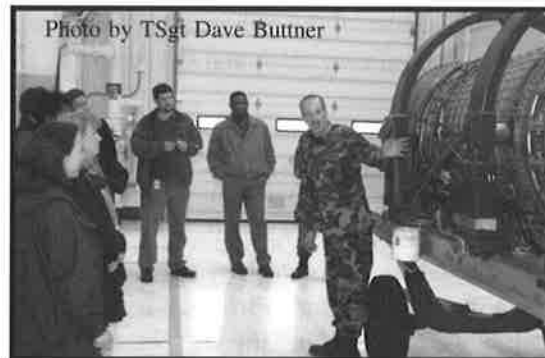


Photo by TSgt Dave Buttner



Photo by SrA Michele Misiano

MSgt John Pickard, a Disaster Preparedness Assistant for the Virginia Air National Guard's 203rd Red Horse Unit, plays Santa Clause for Guardsmen and their children. After a sixth month deployment to Al Udeid AB, the members of the 203d Red Horse Flight from the Virginia Air National Guard, hold a welcome home party for returning members.

# Family Readiness News

## Virginia Air National Guard



### Special points of interest:

- Family Support Meeting
- January 10, 10 am - 11 am.

Let's plan the rest of the year together as we review our accomplishments from last year.

- Welcome Home Party committee are asked to bring lunch, invite your spouses to join us, and we can finalize plans for

### Inside this issue:

Tricare Update:	2
Demonstration Project Extended	
Reserve and Guard Receive Unlimited Commissary Benefit	2
Has Your Family Been Updated in DEERS?	2
Good Website Resources	2
New Initiatives Offers Veterans the Keys To Business Ownership	3
Tax Information for Members of the U.S. Armed Forces	3
New 2004 Guide to Military & Veterans Education	3
Nominate the Ones Who Support You	4
Red Cross Needs Assistance for Wounded Soldiers	4

**Happy New Year, all!** In waiting for the right thing to include in this space that will inspire all readers for 2004, I received an email from Susan Seay, super Family Readiness and Support volunteer and wife of MSgt Robert "Lennie" Seay.

It is called a "Chinese Tantra Totem", to be shared with others. I am sure you will agree that these simple points will be good to keep close to the heart all year.

#### ONE.

Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.

#### TWO.

Marry a man/woman you love to talk to. As you get older, their conversational skills will be as important as any other.

#### THREE.

Don't believe all you hear, spend all

you have or sleep all you want.

#### FOUR.

When you say, "I love you," mean it.

#### FIVE.

When you say, "I'm sorry," look the person in the eye.

#### SIX.

Be engaged at least six months before you get married.

#### SEVEN.

Believe in love at first sight.

#### EIGHT.

Never laugh at anyone's dreams.

People who don't have dreams don't have much.

#### NINE.

Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt but it's the only way to live life completely.

#### TEN.

In disagreements, fight fairly.

Please, no name calling.

#### ELEVEN.

Don't judge people by their relatives.

#### TWELVE.

Talk slowly but think quickly.

#### THIRTEEN.

When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, "Why do you want to know?"

#### FOURTEEN.

Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.

#### FIFTEEN.

Say "bless you" when you hear someone sneeze.

#### SIXTEEN.

When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

#### SEVENTEEN.

Remember the three R's:

Respect for self;

Respect for others;

Responsibility for all your actions.

#### EIGHTEEN.

Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.

#### NINETEEN.

When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.

#### TWENTY.

Smile when picking up the phone.

The caller will hear it in your voice.

#### TWENTY-ONE.

Spend some time alone.

-Angie Wade

Wing Family Program Coordinator

## AF Sponsors "Win the Perfect Prom" Sweepstakes

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) -- Air Force officials announced the start of the fourth annual "Win the Perfect Prom Sweepstakes" on Dec 1.

The sweepstakes, which runs through Feb. 29, offers high-school students a chance to win prizes, including the grand prize, an all-expenses-paid prom and a live prom concert by recording artists Wakefield.

Air Force officials are holding the prom sweepstakes to reinforce and expand a message for high-school students: "Be safe. Be smart. Be sober. Make the right choice."

More than 12,000 high schools across the country received promotional materials to show students how to enter the sweepstakes. Students can enter online at [www.airforce.com](http://www.airforce.com) or

[www.perfectproms.com](http://www.perfectproms.com).

The grand-prize winner will be drawn at random March 1. He or she will receive a \$1,500 cash allowance for personal expenses. His or her high school will receive \$20,000 toward banquet facility rental, catering, decorating, photography, mementos and a disc jockey.

Visit the website for all of the details.



## Demonstration Project Extended....

To ensure continuity of care for family members of the 163,000 National Guard and Reserve personnel called to active duty for more than 30 days in support of federal contingency operations, the Department of Defense Military Health System has extended the TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project for an additional year. The demonstration which began on Sept. 14, 2001, and was due to end Nov. 1, 2003, has been extended to Nov. 1, 2004.

Eligibility for this benefit be-

gins with orders are for more than 30 days and:

- may use TRICARE Prime, a benefit that has no co-payments or cost shares, if it is available.
- for Reserve and Guard families using TRICARE Extra or Standard, the TRICARE annual deductible, \$150 per individual or \$300 per family (\$50/\$150 for E4's and below) *is waived*.
- waives the non-availability statement (NAS) pre-authorization requirement for non-emergency inpatient care at a civilian hospital and authorizes pay-

ment by TRICARE to non-participating providers of up to 115 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge, enabling National Guard and Reserve family members continuity of care with their civilian providers.

For more up to date information, please visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/> or call the TRICARE Information Center toll-free at (888) DoD-CARE, (888) 363-2273.

## Reserve and Guard Receive Unlimited Commissary Benefits

The Department of Defense announced on November 24, 2003 that with the president's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, effective immediately, the following members and their dependents will be permitted unlimited access to commissary stores:

- Members of the Ready Reserve (which includes members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive Na-

tional Guard) and members of the Retired Reserve who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card.

- Former members eligible for retired pay at age 60 but who have not yet attained the age of 60 and who possess a Department of Defense Civilian Identification Card.

- Dependents of the members described above who have a Uniformed Services Identification Card or who have a distinct identification

card used as an authorization card for benefits and privileges administered by the Uniformed Services.

Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit.



*Ms. Dietra Jerles,  
Sales Store Checker, Germany*

## Good Website Resources: [www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org)

*For great instant information, visit the National Guard Family Program online at [www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org)*

It is the middle of the night and you find yourself needing some answers, guidance or just basic information about your situation as an Air National Guard family. Where can you go at that hour for assistance?

Try [www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org). This site is highly recommended because it is highly

informative. It has numerous resource links that address needs from health-care issues to your family's legal protections.

While a lot of the information is generic to the military family, there is a link that is designed just for Air Guard families.

The Youth link is also

extremely interesting and is quite high-tech in its presentation. This site addresses concerns from the youth perspective while being visually exciting to work through.

Review [guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org) soon to get the latest help on deployments, education opportunities and family readiness.

## New Initiative Offers Veterans the Keys to Business Ownership

What the VA loan program did to help veterans acquire a piece of the American dream—their own home, a program called "The Veterans Transition Franchise Initiative," or **VetFran**, is helping retiring vets obtain an even larger slice—their own business.

VetFran was introduced in the early 1990s and has since worked to attract and educate members of the armed forces about the opportunities through business

ownerships and franchising. VetFran works closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs to offer franchise opportunities for retiring veterans transitioning back into civilian life.

Retirees need to know their skills sets, what they feel passionate about. They need to know the interests and desires of their families, what their families would support. Seventy-five percent of many franchise initial investments

can usually be financed through commercial sources or the Small Business Administration.

VetFran has 113 companies participating in the program from the food service field to hotel and automotive services.

To learn more about franchise opportunities, visit the VA's Center for Veterans Enterprise [<http://www.vetbiz.gov>] Web site.

*By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, USA  
American Forces Press Service*



## Tax Information for Members of the U.S. Armed Forces

Tax laws provide some special benefits for active members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those serving in combat zones.

For federal tax purposes, the U.S. Armed Forces includes officers and enlisted personnel in all regular and reserve units controlled by the Secretaries of Defense, the Army, Navy and Air Force.

A great website to visit is <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom>.

From this site you can access Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide which addresses a wide range of issues that may affect members of the military.

By going online, you are able to browse the publication to find specific information.

There is a Portable Document Format (PDF) copy that is downloadable so that you can copy to read later or print select pages.

A hardcopy is also available by calling 1-800-829-3676.

### Other Items of interest:

Fact Sheet 2003-11 — Information for Taxpayers Serving in the Armed Forces

Tax Tip 2003-41 — Reservists, New Enlistees May Get Deferral for Back Taxes

IR-2003-43 — Tax Assistance for Military Families; [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) Page for Armed Forces

Notice 2002-17 — Tax Relief for those Involved in Operation Enduring Freedom

### Internal Revenue Service



## New 2004 Guide to Military & Veteran Education

Service members and veterans interested in using their GI Bill benefits now have a new resource.

The 2004 Guide to Military & Veteran Education has been released as is available at no cost to Military.com members.

The Guide provides valuable information and tips on

using GI Bill benefits, getting college credit for military service, accelerated degree programs, and finding additional money to fund education.

The Guide is free, and is available to all service members, veterans and dependants who request information on degree programs from military-friendly

schools. Request information at <http://www.military.com/Education/Lead1>.

And while you are visiting the website, you will find immediate topical resources that you can download for later perusal from scholarship searches to finding military friendly schools.





## Virginia Air National Guard

50 Falcon Rd Ste.6  
Sandston, VA 23150  
Phone: 804-236-7036  
Email: frs@varich.ang.af.mil

### Family Readiness and Support

#### Vision

*To provide 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.*

## Nominate the Ones Who Support You



**Award your employer!**  
Recognize your boss

for his or her support of National Guard and Reserve members. Nominate him for a **"My Boss is a Patriot"** award. Your employer will receive a Department of Defense Certificate of Appreciation and a Patriot lapel pin. All members of the National Guard and Reserve are eligible to nominate their employers.  
Visit : [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org) to fill out an application.

**Award Your Parents!** Let your parents know how much you appreciate them for their support and partnership with the Air National Guard by submitting their name to [www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com](http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com) to receive the handsome Parents lapel pin. The pin arrives in a card with a note of thanks by the Air Force Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force.  
Parent Support is needed now more than ever. Recognize them!



### Red Cross Needs Assistance for Wounded Soldiers

The American Red Cross at Walter Reed Army Medical Center is looking for incidentals/comfort items for sick and wounded Armed Forces Personnel now recuperating at the hospital. When someone is stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan or elsewhere and is wounded or falls ill, they are immediately evacuated, and it can take weeks for their personnel effects to catch up with them.

All items should be addressed to:  
ATTN: Barbara Green,  
American Red Cross  
Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Ave, N.W.,  
Washington, DC 20307-5001.

Checks should be made out to the American Red Cross.  
For more information, call (202) 782-2080 or  
e-mail [Barbara.Green.1@AMEDD.army.mil](mailto:Barbara.Green.1@AMEDD.army.mil)

The Red Cross is asking for donations of any of the following:

- sweat pants and shirts (all sizes)
- small), totes, carry-ons - individually wrapped
- magazines
- notepads, pens
- playing cards and games
- telephone cards of at least 30 minutes
- rolling luggage



## 192 Picture Gallery

Photo by TSgt Dave Buttner



Saturday drill the entire available Security Forces showed up in blues and posed for a group shot.

Photo by TSgt Dave Buttner



Capt. David Schlager, the Commander of the 192d Mission Support Flight, escorted a group of about 40 Cub Scouts on a tour of the Base on Sunday. The boys visited several areas including life support, the fire house, and the hangar for a tour of an F-16. Schlager explains the different pieces of equipment in the life support shop that the pilots to function and survive while flying the F-16.

Lt Col Joe "Bull" Early flew his last mission for the Virginia Air National Guard at Saturday's drill.

After landing he was treated to the traditional wet down reserved for those flying their last mission. Present for the festivities included family, friends and colleagues. Early got a face full of water on a cold day.

Photo by TSgt Dave Buttner



There was plenty of pain to go around at the shot clinic on Saturday, however the benefits to personnel and the unit are immeasurable. Staff Sgt Leigh Pollard of the 192 Medical Squadron administers a flu shot to Staff Sgt Diana Smith with moral support delivered by Staff Sgt Kelly Kallio.

Photo by TSgt Dave Buttner



Master Sgt Gary Coles has passed gas for the last time for the Virginia Air National Guard. Coles has been a member of POL for the last 28 years. He served active duty at Travis AFB in California and came to VaANG three years after leaving active duty. He was quickly volunteered to be activated after September 11th and worked the night shift in support of Noble Eagle. He joined the service to follow in the footsteps of his brother and uncle who were both in the Air Force as well.

Photo by TSgt Dave Buttner



# News You Can Use/Announcements

## **VIRGINIA AIR GUARD RETIREE's ASSOCIATION MEETING IN JANUARY**

Anyone interested in more information about the 192nd and its history are invited to attend the next Retiree's meeting set for January 8, 2004 at 5:30pm. Hear some of the best unedited wars stories from the men and women who made this unit great and from some of the recent members who have served overseas. The meeting will be held at the VFW Post 8529 in Sandston located at 1501 Old Williamsburg Road (737-8921). Pizza is served at about 6:30pm and the business session at 7:30. Any member of the Virginia Air National Guard with over 20 years service is eligible to join even if they have not actually retired yet.

Annual dues are \$12. Come meet the newly elected officers; President TSG Tom Carter (236-6318), Vice President SMS Sheryl Clark (236-6416); Secretary MSG Valeria Murphy (236-6646) and Treasurer (Ret) MAJ Mike Carter.

For more information about the Retirees Association or possibly joining your local VFW, contact any of the above individuals. Members who recently served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom are eligible to join the VFW.

## **CLEP Paper-Based Exams**

Starting in January of 2004 the popular CLEP (College Level Exam Program) tests will be temporarily unavailable in paper form. This is part of a planned phase out of the paper-based exams as they are replaced by an Electronic Computer Based Test (eCBT). However due to incompatibility and security issues, the military will not be using the new eCBT system and will be issued all new paper-based exams in April. This means that from January to April 2004 you will not be able to take CLEP exams at your base Educational Services Office. Servicemembers who wish to take the CLEP exams during that period of time will have to take an eCBT version at a National Testing Center. For more details on CLEP and other Credit-by-Exam tests, visit Military.com's <http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0,13964,34045—1,00.html>.

## **Scholarships for Military Children program evolves for 2004**

The Scholarships for Military Children program administered by Fisher House Foundation has awarded \$2.5 million in scholarships to nearly 1,500 children of active duty, retired and Guard and Reserve families since 2001. The Scholarships for Military Children program can be

accessed through DeCA's Web sites: <http://www.militaryscholar.org> and <http://www.commissaries.com> or at any commissary worldwide for the 2004 program starting Nov. 3. The application period runs until Feb. 18, 2004.

## **Troops To Teachers Program**

Contact SMSgt Dates in The Wing Human Resource Advisors Office at ext. 6499 for information regarding eligibility for The Troops To Teachers Program.

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — The following is a holiday message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

"During this holiday season, Americans have placed their hopes for peace with those who have answered the call to secure freedom: the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines of our nation's armed forces.

"Indeed, there is no mission more vital and no cause more noble than to be a defender of freedom, particularly when the values we cherish are under attack and when our citizens are going into harm's way.

"We know this has been a challenging year, as we remain engaged on several fronts supporting the Global War on Terrorism. Over the past year, we have traveled to many places just to look you in the eye and to offer our thanks for what you're doing for the Air Force and for America. No matter where we go we're always amazed with your talent, dedication and professionalism.

"Your service has been stellar. You are why we have the best air and space force the world has ever known.

"We are also humbled by the sacrifices made by your families as you work long hours or deploy far from home. Our families are the source of support that enables us to serve with pride and enthusiasm and defend the democratic ideals of our great country. During this special season, our thoughts and prayers will be with them.

"Americans are grateful for your selfless service. You have earned their trust and support through your courage, bravery and sacrifice. And, simply put, we are honored to serve with you.

"It is our hope that you will have a joyous holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year."

# Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003

On Nov. 11, 2003, President Bush signed into law the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003. Among its provisions are these tax breaks related to military personnel:

## Death benefits

The death gratuity paid to survivors of deceased Armed Forces members rises to \$12,000 and is not taxable (was \$6,000, with \$3,000 tax-free). Effective for deaths occurring after 9/10/2001. Taxpayers amending a return to use this provision should put "Military Family Tax Relief Act" in red in the top margin of Form 1040X.

## Sale of principal residence

A taxpayer on qualified official extended duty in the U.S. Armed Services or the Foreign Service may suspend for up to 10 years of such duty time the running of the 5-year ownership-and-use period before the sale of a residence. This applies when the duty station is at least 50 miles from the residence – or while the person is residing under orders in government housing – for a period of more than 90 days or for an indefinite period. This election, which is an option for the taxpayer, applies to only one property at a time. Retroactive for home sales after May 6, 1997. Although taxpayers normally have only three years to file an amended return, qualifying taxpayers who sold a residence before 2001 have until Nov. 10, 2004, to amend their returns for this purpose. Taxpayers amending a return to use this provision should put "Military Family Tax Relief Act" in red in the top margin of Form 1040X.

## Deduction for overnight travel expenses of National Guard and Reserve members

Reservists who stay overnight more than 100 miles away from home while in service (e.g., for a drill or meeting) may deduct unreimbursed travel expenses (transportation, meals and

lodging) as an above-the-line deduction. The deduction is limited to the rates for such expenses authorized for federal employees, including per diem in lieu of subsistence. Effective for tax years after 2002. For 2003, taxpayers will use Form 2106 or 2106-EZ to figure the deduction amount and carry it as a "write-in" to Form 1040, line 33, putting the letters "RC" and the amount on the dotted line and including this subtraction in the entry for line 33.

## Dept. of Defense Homeowners Assistance Program

Payments made after Nov. 11, 2003, under this program to offset the adverse effects on housing values of military base realignments or closures will be excludable from income as a fringe benefit.

## Combat zone extensions expanded to contingency operations

The various extensions granted to combat zone participants to file returns or pay taxes will also apply to those serving in Contingency Operations, as designated by the Secretary of Defense. Effective for any acts whose deadline has not expired before Nov. 11, 2003.

## Dependent care assistance programs

Clarifies that dependent care assistance programs for military personnel are excludable benefits. Effective for tax years after 2002.

## Military academy attendees

The ten percent tax on payments from a Qualified Tuition Program or Coverdell Education Savings Account that are not used for educational expenses does not apply to attendees of the U.S. Military, Naval, Air Force, Coast Guard or Merchant Marine Academies, to the extent the payments do not exceed the costs of advanced education. Effective for tax years after 2002.

## MOVING IN, MOVING UP, MOVING ON

### Gains

Maj Steve Garman  
SSgt Christopher Boehm  
SSgt Hillary Moore  
SSgt Herman Williams  
SSgt Robert Williams  
SrA Richard Campbell  
SrA Gerard Currie  
SrA Joseph Nickerson  
SrA John Olverson  
A1C Terry Harris

### PROMOTIONS

Maj Christine Tabatzky  
SSgt Ann Bey  
SSgt David Grubbs  
SSgt Antonio James  
SSgt Michele Roach  
A1C Tamika Ellis  
A1C Linda Johnson

### TO

LtCol  
TSgt  
TSgt  
TSgt  
TSgt  
SrA  
SrA

### Gaining Unit

Medical Squadron  
Logistics Squadron  
Logistics Squadron  
203rd Red Horse Squadron  
203rd Red Horse Squadron  
Maintenance Squadron  
Security Forces Squadron  
Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
203rd Red Horse Squadron  
203rd Red Horse Squadron

### Retirements

### DEC

LtCol Lori Leonard  
MSgt Jay Brown  
MSgt Joseph Diehr  
MSgt Paul Tucker  
TSgt Benjamin Cobb

### Unit

Fighter Wing  
203rd Red Horse  
Security Forces Squadron  
Civil Engineering Squadron  
203rd Red Horse



Col. Stephen Hicks, wing commander of the 192d Fighter Wing, spoke to Hermitage High School during their Veterans Day celebration on November 11. Hicks spoke to the students about remembering those who served and especially the servicemembers who gave their lives for our freedom. Other people who were in attendance included other guard members, active duty and retirees whose service include duty in Korea and World War II.

Photo by TSgt Dave Buttner

## What's for Lunch?

### SATURDAY UTA

Fried Fish  
Baked Ham w/ Macaroni  
& Tomatoes  
Oven Brown Potatoes  
Buttered Green Beans  
Marble Cake w/ White Icing

#### **BOTH DAYS:**

Asst Beverages,  
Bread & Salad Bar

### SAT. SANDWICHLINE:

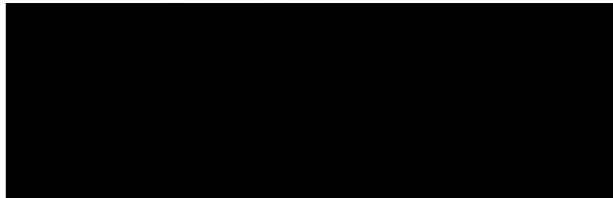
Hot Dogs  
Cold Cuts: Submarine  
(ham, turkey, & roast beef)  
w/ chips

### SUN. SANDWICHLINE:

Hot Dogs  
Cold Cuts: Submarine  
(ham, turkey, & roast  
beef) w/ chips

### SUNDAY UTA

Ruben Sandwich  
Chicken Stir-Fry  
Steak Fried Potatoes  
Steamed Rice  
Blackeyed Peas  
Buttered Peas & Carrots  
Peach Crisp



PRE-SORT STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
RICHMOND VA  
PERMIT 999

192d Fighter Wing/PA  
Virginia Air National Guard  
50 Falcon Rd.  
Sandston, VA 23150-2524

