

The

Skibird

Spring 2007

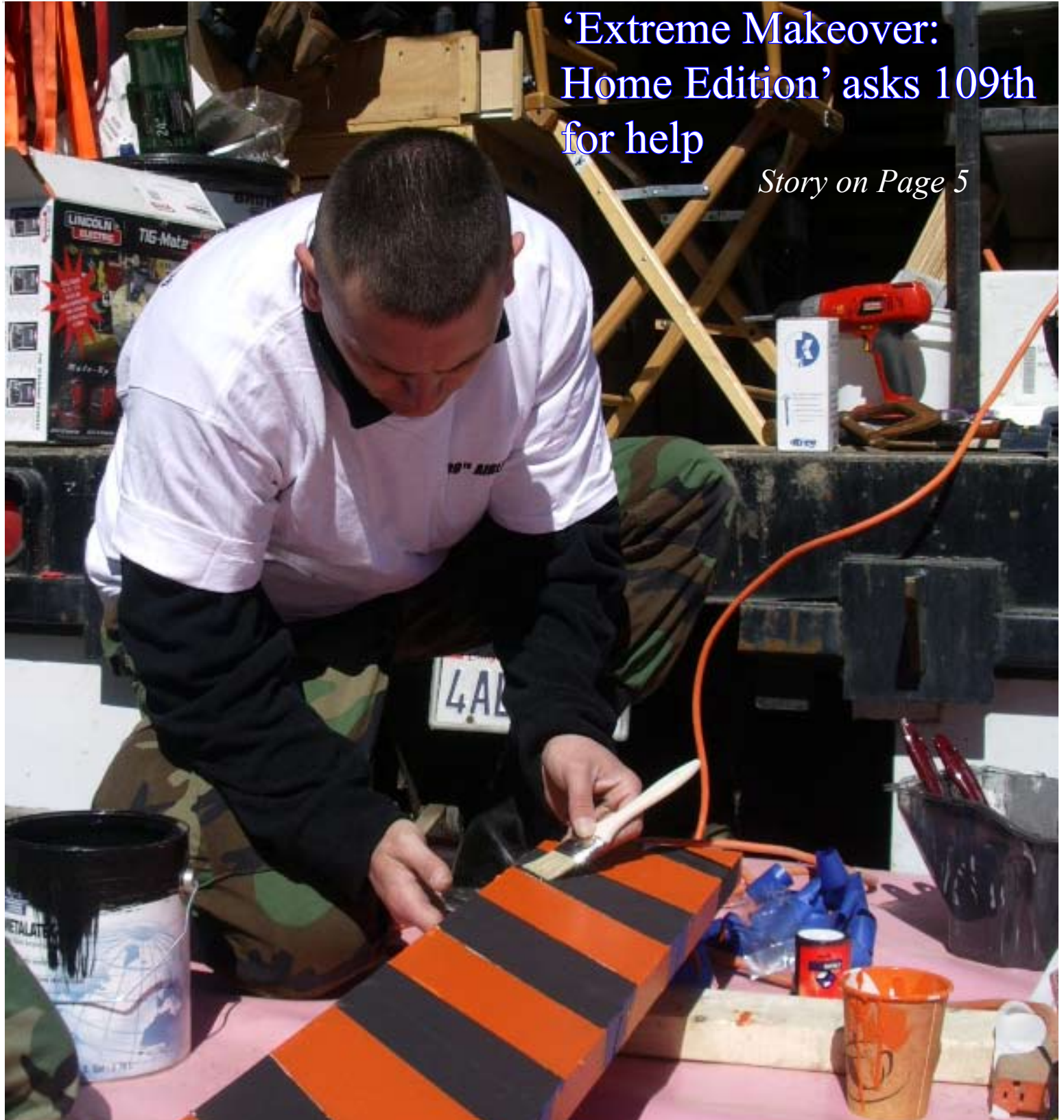
www.skibird.us



Magazine of the 109th Airlift Wing, Stratton Air National Guard, Scotia, N.Y.

*'Extreme Makeover:
Home Edition' asks 109th
for help*

Story on Page 5



Focusing on worldwide operations

By Lt. Col. Gary James
109th Operations Group commander

This is my first time writing to the Wing from a command perspective. I'd like to take the time here to discuss some issues on my mind. More specifically, Operation Deep Freeze and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Operation Deep Freeze

It's easy to forget, yet important to remember where we were six months ago. As we were running Greenland operations and getting ready to deploy south for ODF, the summer months brought to us a fuel tank issue from which we still feel the effects.

For most of the summer, our entire LC fleet was grounded while we and HHQ worked a solution to "peeling poly."

A plan was put into action to salvage some of the Greenland season, and we started to focus on ODF.

As Warner Robbins in Georgia assets were brought in to clean the fuel tanks, a big piece of the puzzle was over looked: Warner Robbins had never successfully cleaned a C-130 Hercules that did not have Explosion Suppressive Foam installed.

Their initial cleaning results were poor and in order to make our ODF deployment timeline, foam was put back into the L1s.

In order to deal with the added weight of foam, we were able to get a partial foam configuration approved. We also stripped the airplanes of non-ODF essential gear.

I can't stress enough that these actions were both innovative and non-conformal C-130 mainstream ideas. We seemed to be fighting Warner Robbins on each issue that arose.

But, we did prevail and were able to somewhat offset the loss of mission capability that adding foam took away. Combined with the ACL gain from a plan that maximized the L2s, we went on to yet another banner year.

During the ODF season, the obstacles from the invasive fuel tank cleaning were significant and too many to list.

Cols. (Anthony) German, (Brian) Gomula, (Karen) Love and I are very proud of the many maintainers, operators and support personnel who helped to turn this season's starting dark omen into yet another shining 109th AW example of superior performance.

Your success elicited accolades from the Commander 13th AF (also Commander Joint Task Force Operation Deep Freeze), Lt. Gen. Chip Utterback and the Commander NYANG, Maj. Gen. Robert Knauff.

It's amazing to remember where we were when ODF started, compared to the success of this year! You all deserve the credit. Thank you for a great ODF season!

Operation Enduring Freedom

Just before we were hit with the poly problem, we were tasked to support the Global War on Terror (GWOT) efforts.

What has become "the Long War" has stretched the nation's military assets, especially the Guard.

To help, leaders committed airplanes and crews for a 60-day deployment. Volunteers were assessed and OEF deployer picked, plus alternates.

To train, we planned for a "stair-step" capability. We trained an initial cadre in order to train the deployers. We relearned tactical arrivals, then became night-vision goggle qualified. Next we added NVG assault. As ODF wound down, we started training the deployers.

We qualified a crew on JPADS (Joint Precision Air Drop System) and scheduled our crews for the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center at St. Joseph Air National Guard Base, Mo.

We scheduled the wheelbirds for combat gray paint and ensured the Air Defensive suites were operational.

We sent crews to VTRAT (Visual Threat Recognition and Avoidance Trainer). Over the April Drill, we asked the NCANG, Charlotte, to come and brief us on OEF. They sent their OG/CC, their former OG/CC (just back as theater Deputy Director of Mobility Forces) and their Chief of Tactics (back from OEF for just nine days).



File photo

My goal was to assess our preparation. After talking to Charlotte and listening to their briefings, I'm confident we are on the right track. You should be, too.

When I say "we," I mean every member of the 109th AW. Deploying airplanes is why we are here and every member, whether operations, maintenance, support or medical, plays a big part in getting airplanes to the fight.

OEF "spin-up" has been a Herculean effort by all. Deployments are nothing new to the 109th AW. Since 9/11/2001 we have deployed people to worldwide locations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, OEF, Joint Forge and others.

Almost all base agencies, minus the Airlift Squadron have deployed to the war. During 06-07, the 139th AES alone has deployed to Iraq, Qatar, Djibuti and Germany.

But we have never sent our airplanes until now. Rest assured our crews will be trained and ready to deploy.

They will actively use the tactics proven in theater to effectively and safely deliver war fighting material.

As they prepare to deploy, please pass to them your words of encouragement as they step up to the plate to serve their country.

109th Airlift Wing



Commander
Col. Anthony German
Vice Commander
Col. Edward Kinowski

The Skibird

Spring 2007
Volume 45, No. 2

Editorial Staff

Maj. Jody Ankabrandt
Public Affairs Officer
Staff. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
Public Affairs Journeyman
Staff Sgt. Terry Sommers
Information Management Specialist

The Skibird

1 Air National Guard Road, Scotia, NY
12302-9752; PHONE: (518) 344-2396,
DSN: 344-2396, FAX:344-2331,
EMAIL: skibird@nyscot.ang.af.mil

This funded Air Force publication is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Military services. Contents of *The Skibird* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 109th Airlift Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

DEADLINE NOTICE: All items for *The Skibird* must be received in the Public Affairs Office the Friday PRIOR to each UTA. Address changes for individuals not in the 109AW should be directed to: 109AW/PA, 1 Air National Guard Road, Scotia, New York 12302-9752 or by phone at (518) 344-2396 or DSN: 344-2396.

The Skibird

SPRING 2007
VOLUME 45, No. 2

Inside

Senior leader viewpoints 4

By SECAF, CSAF

Airmen help 'makeover' house 5

By Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

MSF Change of Command 8

Courtesy photos

Deployed Airmen 8

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Deborah Davis

Easter dinner at 99 9

By The Gazette

MyPay gets new security feature 10

By Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Base exercise 13

Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

Plus:

Chaplain's Corner 7

Firehouse Facts 10

Under Advisement 11

Alumni News 11

Recruiting Update 12

Promotions, Awards 14-15

On the cover:

Staff Sgt. James Touchette paints a bed post for a "sports" bedroom in the house "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" came to remodel. 109th Airlift Wing members were asked to assist with the project. Courtesy photo

SECAF Letter: Cyberspace Operations

The following is a letter from Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne:

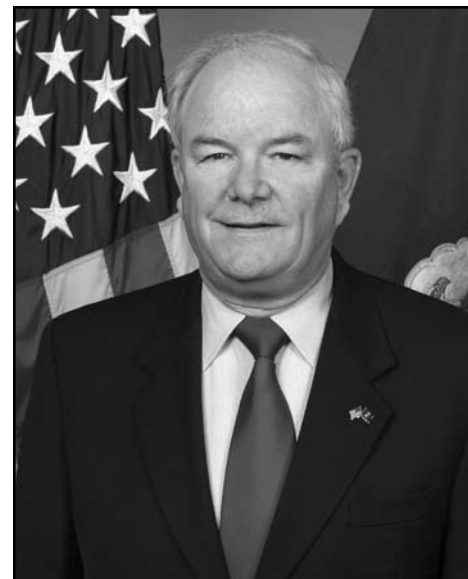
“As I travel the world to see our Airmen in action, they continually impress me with their incredible courage, enduring dedication, and amazing innovations. We’re harnessing this spirit of innovation as we redefine air power by extending our Global Vigilance, Reach and Power into cyberspace.

“Just as Billy Mitchell endeavored to prove the potential of air power to a skeptical nation, we must now prove the critical importance of cyberspace as a warfighting domain. In the past, we viewed electromagnetic energy (e.g. computer networks, communications systems, GPS) as an enabler to air operations. Today, the Air Force recognizes cyberspace as a warfighting domain, along with air and space, in which we must fight to gain and maintain

dominance.

“Our adversaries realize the asymmetric opportunities of cyberspace. They attempt to access American industrial servers that contain sensitive data, exploit electromagnetic energy to try and jam or misdirect our precision weapons, and use radio transmitters to detonate improvised explosive devices, killing Americans, Coalition allies, and innocent civilians. In response to these threats, Airmen are actively ‘flying and fighting’ in cyberspace. Our cyber Airmen’s work is a prerequisite to all military operations: ensuring freedom of action across the electromagnetic spectrum (EMS), which in turn contributes to freedom from attack and freedom to attack in all other domains - land, sea, air and space.

“To help us operate more effectively in cyberspace, we created a new command



File photo

- AFCYBER at Barksdale AFB - and are developing new career fields dedicated to cyber. Under Lieutenant General Bob Elder’s visionary leadership, AFCYBER’s mission is

See *CYBERSPACE*, page 10

CSAF’s Vector: Air Mobility’s Strategic Impact

The following is from Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley:

“On 12 May 1949 the Soviet Union tacitly admitted defeat and lifted its blockade of Berlin, ceding the first major Cold War victory to U.S. air power. Although Airmen would continue to fly Berlin Airlift sorties until 30 September 1949, by December 1948 Soviet leader Joseph Stalin recognized his political failure. It was clear that the Airmen of the Berlin Airlift - who ultimately flew over 280,000 sorties and delivered over 4.6 billion pounds of cargo while feeding and fueling a city of 2.5 million people for fifteen long months - had prevailed.

“To this day, the Berlin Airlift remains the premier example of the strategically decisive impact mobility forces can - and do - have. It was the first major test of one of the newly independent U.S. Air Force’s core competencies, and our mobility Airmen

aced it.

“Two of the most recognizable Airmen heroes from the Berlin Airlift are Major General William H. Tunner and First Lieutenant Gail Halvorsen. Tunner - named to lead the Airlift by our second Air Force Chief of Staff, General Hoyt Vandenberg - is renowned for his brilliance, meticulous organization and visionary leadership. He’s credited with the Airlift’s machine-like precision, with cargo aircraft flying as close as three minutes apart in the crowded air corridors connecting West Germany with Berlin.

“He and his team took full advantage of technological advances that helped them push the limits of all-weather flights, and they optimized the ‘delivery end’ of a worldwide logistics and supply chain that overcame countless challenges. Halvorsen, a young C-54 Skymaster pilot better known



File photo

as the ‘Berlin Candy Bomber,’ ensured the Airlift would be loved and remembered by a generation of Berliners, delivering chewing gum and candy in handkerchief parachutes through his plane’s flare chute. Tunner appreciated Halvorsen’s initiative

See *STRATEGIC*, page 6

Airmen help ‘makeover’ house, family

Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A new house and a new life. That’s what more than 60 Airmen here were able to help provide to a local family when “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” traveled to Colonie on March 23.

The base got the call March 24 that the home makeover crew needed the base’s help that night while they poured cement for the foundation of the house.

Scrambling, about five Airmen were able to go provide help right after their shift ended.

“We got there at about midnight and stayed until about 4 a.m.,” said Tech. Sgt. Joanna Walters, a 109th Airlift Wing recruiter who led the feat of getting volunteers. “There were tons of people there, and the neighborhood was just lit up.”

Although not a lot of Airmen were able to show up last minute that Saturday night, Sergeant Walters was overflowing with volunteers when Amedore Homes, the builders tasked with building a house in five days, asked her to round up about 60 volunteers for “reveal” day March 29.

“I sent out an e-mail for volunteers, and the 60 we needed we got just like that,” she



Courtesy photo

Volunteers gather in front of the completed house “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” came to build for a local family.

said. “I had to turn some people away and put them ‘on-call.’”

Volunteers were asked to work a morning shift or an afternoon shift. Most of the morning shift crew ended up staying all day for a chance to see the family’s reaction when the house was revealed.

Airmen had the chance to get up close and personal with designers and some even got the opportunity to see the inside of the house.

“Some people took furniture, others got to paint, some set up the VIP tent and others were crowd control,” Sergeant Walters said.

Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto was one of the volunteers who stayed the entire day.

A fan of the show, she was able

to see the work behind the cameras and how much effort went into creating the hour-long show.

“They practiced the ‘Move that bus’ more than 10 times,” she said. She was able to meet the stars of the show and had nothing but good things to say about the designers.

“They were all really nice,” she said. “But at the same time they were all completely focused on the family, which was great.

“I was glad I got the chance to volunteer,” she said. “It’s a great thing to be a part of something that’s helping out a family.”

The family getting the new house was that of Debbie Oatman. She is the single mother of four boys – one biological and the rest adopted.

Two of her adopted sons were born HIV-positive, which gave the show the inspiration to not only build the family a new house, but to also build a camp for HIV-infected children in downstate New York.

The special two-hour season final ran Sunday, May 20, at 7 p.m. on Channel 10.



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgts. Kathleen Rogers and James Touchette paint a bed post for one of the “sports” bedrooms. Sergeant Rogers is with the Stratton Base Honor Guard, and Sergeant Touchette is with the 109th Maintenance Squadron.

The Enlisted Perspective: Taking Care of Wounded Airmen

The following is from Command Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley:

Our Air Force is engaged in the Global War on Terror. On a daily basis, our Airmen are involved in air and ground combat actions. Because we are Airmen warriors, many have been wounded -- and many have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Our Service has a long history of taking care of its Airmen. It's important that every one of our Airmen know the Air Force is committed to providing the same level of resources, planning and implementation toward caring for our combat-related ill and injured as it does in preparing Airmen for deployment and combat.

During my travels, I've learned that few know about our Air Force programs for taking care of wounded warriors. Those are the Survivor Assistance Program and Palace HART (Helping Airmen Recover Together).

In 2003, the Survivor Assistance Program expanded to help commanders provide assistance to wounded-in-action and

seriously injured and ill personnel and their families. The backbone of the program is the family liaison officer. A FLO is assigned to each seriously ill or injured Airman at every stopping point and treatment facility from the time they leave their area of operations. The FLO's mission is straightforward: stay close to the family, help them with whatever they need, and serve as a go-between for those not familiar with the military's way of doing things.

Palace HART follows our Airmen and their families through treatment, recovery, and if needed, into a post-separation period. Palace HART leverages other outstanding Air Force programs and benefits like the Airman and Family Readiness Centers, Casualty Assistance Program, Emergency Family Medical Travel and Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance into a cohesive and productive force for our wounded Airmen. Palace HART Airmen can expect to receive world-class personnel services support, plus financial, entitlements and benefits counseling.

If their injuries necessitate a medical

discharge, Palace HART follows the Airmen and their families for up to five years to assist with extended transition assistance, employment applications, civilian job searches, financial planning and assistance, relocation and integrating back into civilian communities.

The program also helps wounded Airmen access Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor services and information.

We demand incredibly high levels of commitment, loyalty, and excellence from our Airmen; they expect the same from us. So please help us inform Airmen at all levels about these great programs. This knowledge will serve as comfort and assurance to our Airmen -- who are deploying in ever-increasing numbers -- that the Air Force is dedicated to providing comprehensive medical care and wide-ranging services should the need arise.

Through the Survivor Assistance Program and Palace HART, our wounded Airmen are getting, and will continue to get, the care they deserve.

85 tons of cargo around the world with aerial refueling.

These advances make today's Airmen even more capable of achieving significant impact across the spectrum of conflict. They fly over unsecured territory night after night to refuel strike aircraft.

"They drop millions of food rations to isolated indigenous populations or rapidly deliver massive amounts of life-saving aid in the wake of natural disasters around the globe. They resupply mobile units in nearly impossible to reach places with the remarkable Joint Precision Air Drop System's steerable parachutes and GPS guidance.

"They relieve nearly 3,500 vehicles and 9,000 convoy operators per month from

having to travel treacherous Iraqi and Afghan roads. And they provide "Intensive Care in the Air" with Critical Care Air Transport Teams, bringing wounded warriors home into the arms of their families in record time. Range and payload are the heart and soul of air power; our mobility Airmen keep our heart beating and sustain our soul.

"The success of the Berlin Airlift is a reminder that air power is all about creating strategic effects. Our mobility Airmen provide unrivaled Global Reach for our nation's Joint Forces, reconfirming every day what they demonstrated during the Berlin Airlift: air mobility is an Air Force core competency, and a vital aspect of the way we fly, fight and win for our great nation."

Strategic, from page 4

and encouraged its growth; it spread like wildfire.

Today, our mobility Airmen and aircraft follow the examples Tunner and Halvorsen set nearly 60 years ago.

"They are visible and recognizable signs of U.S. compassion and unyielding resolve, helping deliver justice to our enemies and comfort to the suffering. Day or night, operating from pavement or dirt, our Airmen deliver the goods, the gas, and the warfighters beyond oceans, into hostile territory, and across the last tactical mile. On average our mobility Airmen now take off from a runway somewhere on the planet every 90 seconds. And rather than carrying 10 tons over 4,000 miles - a C-54's payload and range - each C-17 can now carry about

Same water, different experience

By Chaplain (Capt.) Jake Marval
Chaplain

My wife and I took our two daughters to the swimming pool a few weeks ago. Our oldest is three and we prepared her for the event as we slid her into a bathing suit (for the first time with no swim diaper) and while driving.

The only water she'd seen since last fall was the bathtub, so we weren't sure how she'd react to being in a pool again after so long. "You can't go potty in the water, OK? ... Yes, you do have to wear a bathing suit. ... Yes, the bathing suit is under your other clothes now but we'll take those clothes off in a little bit. ... Yes, I know you don't wear anything in the bathtub but this is different. ... It just is."

She was full of bravado as we swept into the Y and into the family locker room. "I'm going SWIMMING!" she announced proudly. Our youngest, 13 months, was along for the ride. (Swim diaper? Check.) She giggled as we tucked and twisted her into the bathing suit. She trusted us.

My wife walked into the pool first,

holding the baby. I had been holding our oldest's hand (I'm going SWIMMING! she told another girl who was climbing out of the pool), but she abruptly dropped my hand when I stepped into the water.

I turned around and saw the horror on her face. "Come on, let's go in the water" was received with an incredulous look of, Are you kidding? I picked her up and, petrified, she spent about 10 minutes with a death grip on my neck as we walked around the pool. "Honey, please don't hold so tight, Daddy can't breathe." It took her a bit to loosen her grip, but she never did really enjoy the water. "Stand up taller, Dad."

On the other hand, the baby also started a bit scared, but was soon stretching her arms out, feeling the water.

We dipped her all the way under twice and she came up with a big smile each time -- before blinking and squinting to get the water out of her face. Her giggle drew the life guard's attention because she was so loud and happy.

It was the same pool, but different experiences. One daughter's bravado evaporated into terror when she actually saw



File photo

the challenge. Another daughter's simple trust allowed her to enjoy the experience.

When we face something new, when we face a challenge -- be it a deployment, new responsibility, a new stage in life's journey, a relationship changing -- does bravado mask our terror? Or do we simply trust that a new challenge will bring a new experience that we might enjoy?

Staying faithful, dedicated at home, in war

By Chaplain (1st Lt.) Sung Hee Lee
Chaplain

For this year, the Day of Pentecost in Christian tradition falls into the same weekend of the Memorial Day.

For Christians, the Day of Pentecost is very significant because this is the birthday of Christian Church. At the same time, for American people, the Memorial Day is also important because it is the day of remembering the dedication and service for many men and women throughout our nations' history.

Yet both these days remind us one common thing -- the dedication of faithful people. When we come to think of it, the day of Pentecost is not only the birthday of Christ's Church but also the beginning of cruel persecution.

Since the Pentecost of Acts 2, so many

people of faith dedicated their lives to witness what they believe. They were not famous, powerful, or wealthy people. They were not high officials of Roman Empire.

Yet, how they lived and how they dedicated their lives surely made enormous impacts in human history. Would those people of faith have known how the world would change because of their lives and death? I doubt it. They did not live to change the world. They simply lived according to their belief and faith. Yet God used their lives and dedication to refresh and re-create human history.

I believe this is true for the fallen soldiers of our country. In the battlefield, who would think about a grand philosophical implication of human history? They would have been too busy carrying out their operations and defending their battle lines. However, we all know what the dedication of these fallen

soldiers brought to us and today we are enjoying the fruit of their sacrifices. We are here today serving together in this wonderful base.

Not many of us always think about grandiose idea of how to change the world on our UTA day. Most of us are busy arriving on time and carrying out the tasks of our units. A lot of things we do as airmen might seem "mediocre."

However, the Scripture claims that God will be glorified through ALL things we do when we carry them out as if we are standing before God. (1 Peter 4:11) We might not know, but God is glorified even by the little things we do in our daily lives, if we let God be part of our lives.

Little things we do before God and before our country, but who knows what they will bring to our world when God takes them into His hand and work with us?

109th Mission Support Flight change of command



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Tom Mason, outgoing 109th Mission Support Flight commander, relinquishes command to Col. Karen Love, 109th Mission Support Group commander, as Col. Garlic Wendell, incoming MSF commander, (left) and Master Sgt. Eric Cullum, MSG first sergeant, stand by.



Courtesy photo

Col. Karen Love, 109th Mission Support Group commander, hands over command of the 109th Mission Support Flight to Col. Garlic Wendell as Lt. Col. Tom Mason, outgoing MSF commander stands by.

Deployed Airmen



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Deborah Davis

Preparing for wounded warriors

Capt. Ben Meadows (right), 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, and Senior Airman Josh Green, 379th EAES technician, load up a C-130 Hercules with medical supplies and equipment in preparation for a mission. The Air National Guardsmen are part of a Total Force team composed of active duty, Reserve and Air National Guard personnel. Airman Green is a Guardsman with Stratton Air National Guard Base.

Guard, families enjoy Easter dinner at 99

By Greg Coffey
Gazette Reporter

More than 100 Air National Guard personnel and their family members enjoyed an Easter dinner courtesy of the Ninety Nine Restaurant on April 8.

"It's a nice recognition not just for us but for the Stratton community," said Tom McKone, who was stationed here for 30 years. McKone was eating dinner with his daughter, Master Sgt. Kelly Archambeault and her husband, Master Sgt. David Archambeault, both of whom are stationed at Stratton.

"This is a day when families are together anyway, so to be here is great," McKone said.

Diners at the restaurant on Clifton Park Center Road enjoyed prime rib, baked scrod, tomato chicken and anything else on the menu that struck their fancy, according to Mike Helly, the restaurant's general

manager.

"And lots of candy from the Easter Bunny for the kids," Helly said.

This is the second year that a Ninety Nine Restaurant in the area has hosted an Easter dinner for military personnel. Last year, the dinner was held at the Colonie restaurant.

"The Ninety Nine is always looking to be part of the community," Helly said. "It's the right thing to do."

Many of the restaurant's staff members volunteered to work that Sunday, said Helly. He also got some help from the general managers of the chain's three other Capital Region locations.

Tech. Sgt. Brian Brewer recently returned from a four-month tour of duty in Iraq.

"It's fantastic to see that there are people out there who support us," said Brewer, who ate dinner with his wife, their two daughters and his father, Senior Master Sgt. Pat Brewer who has been stationed here for 30 years.

Kelly Archambeault's 3-year-old daughter



Courtesy photo

The Easter Bunny gives out a hug during an Easter Dinner held for 109th Airlift Wing Guardsmen and their families at the Ninety Nine Restaurant.

was more interested in the Easter Bunny than dinner, but she said the dinner was a good message for the kids.

"It lets them know how important serving in the military is," she said.

(Courtesy of "The Gazette" newspaper)



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cathy Perretta

Movin' on up

Master Sgt. Frank Pingelski II, of the 109th Logistics Squadron, gets tacked on by his son, Army 1st Lt. Frank Pingelski III, and family friend, retired Master Sgt. Gilbert Wendt. Lieutenant Pingleski is assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, and Sergeant Wendt is a World War II veteran.

DFAS adds new security to myPay system

MyPay officials announced another new security feature has been added to protect customers' data on the pay account system.

As part of our ongoing commitment to strengthen password and account security to protect our customers' data, Defense Finance and Accounting Service has implemented the "virtual keyboard" to assist in protecting against malicious software such as spyware, trojans and keylogging.

The virtual keyboard became available in May. Each time a user arrives at myPay to log on, the virtual keyboard will appear on the screen. The user will type in their LoginID and then the user will "press" the keys on the screen by clicking on them

with their mouse to enter their Personal Identification Number (PIN) instead of typing the actual keys. The virtual keyboard is to be used only for the user's PIN.

To enhance security, the keyboard layout changes or keys are displayed randomly every time the page is refreshed.

"This is a significant move toward adding yet another layer of security to our myPay system," said Pat Shine, director of operations for DFAS. "We want to reassure our customers that we are proactively working to secure their pay account information."

DFAS uses a variety of security features to protect your data on the myPay system, yet we ask that customers do everything they can to protect data from being compromised

or captured on home computers. Under frequently asked question on the myPay homepage (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>) customers can find more information on steps to secure their home computers.

To Login to myPay using the Virtual Keyboard:

1. Type LoginID under Account Access on the homepage.

2. Next, click on the numbers and letters (if using a restricted access PIN) of your PIN using the mouse and virtual keyboard on the screen. (Each number and/or letter will appear as an asterisk in the textbox above the virtual keyboard.) When finished, click the "GO" button.

3. Once in myPay, users will continue to navigate as usual.

Firehouse Facts

By Master Sgt. John Saupp
109th Fire Protection

Spring has finally arrived. Firefighters have been busy weather it be training, performing building inspections, day to day operations or handling various emergency calls both on and off base. It has been an eventful 2007 so far for the Stratton ANGB Fire Department.

A few of the recent incidents the fire department has responded to so far in 2007 include the following:

— Two separate incidents were handled at Bldg. 2 when snow and ice caused roof top gas lines to break and create a hazardous condition. Firefighting crews and civil engineers quickly and safely brought the situation under control and made the necessary repairs.

— A crew responded to a porch fire in the

village of Alplaus on March 7.

— Firefighters were called to the Glendale Nursing Home on March 12 for a heavy smoke condition in the kitchen area. Crews worked alongside area fire departments in bringing this incident under control. Upon investigation a roof mounted venting unit had malfunctioned and sent smoke throughout the kitchen and dining area.

— On March 21, a crew of firefighters responded mutual aid with the Thomas Corners Fire Dept to a working house fire in the Town of Glenville. Crews assisted five other local agencies in extinguishing this destructive blaze.

— As usual, crews handled various medical emergencies, in-flight emergencies, hazardous conditions and other situations that occur here at the base.

We would like to welcome back all of the 109th

firefighters who have returned to work here at the base fire station after being deployed to the Middle East. They are all back safe and sound and did a super job while deployed. It is great to have them back in the fire station.

We would like to wish the best to Master Sgt. David Paul who recently retired from the 109th fire department. Sergeant Paul had more than 21 years of military service. He remains on as a captain with the Troy Fire Department.

A special congratulations goes out to Senior Master Sgt. Bill Pryor on his retirement from the 109th Civil Engineering Squadron. Sergeant Pryor was always a great friend and supporter of the fire protection section and all of the CE Squadron. He will be sorely missed both professionally and personally, but all of us wish him and his family the best in their new endeavors.

America's Airmen will continue to dominate air and space in the 21st Century. We're now also applying that same innovation, energy, and determination in cyberspace. As we extend our Global Vigilance, Reach and Power into this vital new warfighting domain, we must continue to draw upon the pioneering heritage that has made us the world's premier Air, Space, and now, Cyberspace power.

Cyberspace, from page 4

to provide combat-ready forces, trained and equipped to conduct sustained offensive and defensive operations across the EMS.

To fully integrate cyber with air and space operations, the command will leverage, consolidate, and integrate Air Force cyber capabilities and functions, creating synergies among organizations and teaming more effectively with the joint community.

We are partnering with industry and academia to build cyber innovation centers allowing us to gain and maintain a technological advantage over our Nation's adversaries.

And we are finding new ways to harness cyber's unique capability - delivering operational effects using non-kinetic means at the speed of light - to set the strategic and tactical conditions for victory.

Mentoring: Friend or foe?

By Senior Master Sgt. Lou Salerno
109th Human Resource Adviser

Key questions that face us on a daily basis are how do you communicate the vision, mission, membership, role and responsibilities of the Air National Guard, be more successful, and help those around you achieve greater success?

Whatever level of success you have achieved in your life, you didn't do it alone. Think of those who helped you; supervisors, teachers, coaches, parents and friends.

They were your mentors and whether you knew it or not at the time, you were their mentee. Simple as it sounds, this is the key to success—mentoring.

Mentoring is the act of one person with knowledge, teaching or counseling someone of less knowledge. It's a form of further developing people for maximum mission accomplishment, while enhancing their professional and personal life. Although some may view mentoring as a bothersome process, Gordon F. Shea, illustrates in his

book, *Mentoring*, "...mentoring has become a way to knit the organization together; to extend the organization's impact beyond the corporate walls to society at large; and to create a healthier, more prosperous business world".

Results of effective mentoring include promoting team building, maximizing the advantages from the diversity in our workplace, and, in the Air Force, enhancing the attributes of our Core Value System; Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do.

Mentoring allows an organization to take full advantage of diversity in the workplace. Look around your workplace; you'll notice co-workers from different ethnic groups and social backgrounds.

These people bring different values, beliefs and behaviors to their jobs; these differences define diversity.

Effective mentorship helps us understand differences and assists mentees in remaining alert to detect adverse moral trends,

'(Mentoring is) a form of further developing people for maximum mission accomplishment ...'

stereotypical attitudes, prejudices, and discrimination. Successful mentoring teaches mentees to recognize and correct violations. It ensures personnel have every opportunity to receive fair treatment regardless of race, gender, or cultural values. Organizational objectives can not be accomplished without everyone's contributions.

Mentoring is a healthy process that affords a win, win situation for both the mentor, mentee, and is the answer to the question, how do you communicate the vision, mission, membership, role and responsibilities of the Air National Guard, be more successful and help those around you achieve greater success?

Alumni News

By Retired Lt. Col. Tom Noel
Alumni Representative

The annual March St. Patrick's day dinner was a great success. There were a lot of volunteers helping to prepare the dinner. The All Ranks Club paid for 100 dinners. There were many takeout meals with no leftovers at all. Thanks to all the leprechaun alumni volunteers who made our annual St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage meal a success.

The Summer Wednesday Noon Lunch Program began the last Wednesday of April and will occur every Wednesday 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. through the end of August at the All Ranks Club.

The Annual Alumni Summer Picnic date has been set for Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Guan Ho Ha Fish and Game Club, West Glenville, NY. The picnic committee will be named at

the next meeting.

The final C-130 Hercules flight of the 517th Airlift Squadron "Firebirds" at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, took place March 23. The final flight paved the way for a new chapter in the squadron's esteemed history as they begin their transition to the C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

While recently visiting The National Museum of Naval Aviation, located in Pensacola, Fla., I had the exciting opportunity to meet and have lunch with retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Conrad C. "Gus" Shinn. On October 31, 1956, at 8:34 p.m. the first aircraft ever to touch down at the South Pole skied to a halt atop the Antarctic ice sheet at 90 degrees South latitude. The U.S. Navy R4D aircraft was piloted by Gus Shinn. His aircraft the R4D was named the "Que Sera Sera", the title of a popular song

that won the Academy Award for Best Song in 1956.

Gus Shinn lives in Pensacola, and his aircraft is on display at the Museum of Naval Aviation. He is a member of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association (OAE) of which I am a lifetime member. I will write more information about the OAEA in next month's alumni news.

There are a lot of new 109th AW retirees. If you alumni know one of these retirees, invite him or her to join our Alumni Association.

All meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the All Ranks Club in Bldg. 24 at Stratton Air National Guard Base.

We always look forward to seeing new faces at our meetings. Until the next issue, stay happy, healthy, safe and think "Spring."

Recruiting

By Master Sgt. Jim Reeves
Recruiting Office Supervisor

SkillsUSA! Thanks to the support of the entire 109th, the base was able to host more than 150 students and educators March 21 for the 2007 NY SkillsUSA regional competitions. This program gives local vo-tech students the chance to compete within their respective trade skills and earn a chance to compete at state and national



Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Reeves

Vo-tech students compete during the 2007 NY Skills USA regional competition. The Air National Guard is a national sponsor for the event.

levels! Competition winners can receive tools, prizes and even full scholarships! The ANG is a national sponsor of this program, and it's a vital link for the unit to our local vo-tech schools. To find out more, head to www.skillsusa.org and thanks for your continued support!

Unit Referrals remain the best way for us to fill our vacancies with great applicants. Mainly because our unit members have known the people for quite some time and can give us a good idea what to expect when we meet the referrals. We always appreciate the chance to share the same opportunities with new members, whether it's career training, travel, or the educational benefits. Contact us with your referrals!

How can you earn \$2k for an enlistment?
Answer: G-RAP! For more information go to www.guardrecruitingassistant.com and get started in the program.

All Retraining Actions must be coordinated with the Retention Office

Manager, MSgt. Roe. One reason for this requirement is that a member who is an incentive program participant may be faced with recoupment of bonus money if voluntarily retraining to a non-bonus AFSC. For information about retraining opportunities, or to coordinate a retraining action, contact MSgt. Roe at 344-2315. There are many retraining opportunities throughout the base.

On a side note, this will be my last article as the Recruiting Supervisor at the 109th. I've just been selected as the NY State Recruiting and Retention Superintendent and will be transferring to JFHQ in a few short weeks. Over the last 10 years, I've come to know the 109th as my home, and I'm proud of it. I look forward to serving the 109th in my new role. Thank you all.

Long and Successful Careers in the Air National Guard often begin with a simple call to our Recruiting Office at 344-2454 or 1-800-524-5070.

Local News



Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

Exercise!

Airmen unload a firetruck off an LC-130 here during the April UTA exercise.

From the Family Support Center

Would you like to know about events on base? Would you like information on new programs for military families? Would you like to know what is available for military families when a family member is deployed?

The Family Readiness and Support Office provides this information. If you would like this information and it doesn't always make it home, put your email address on my distribution list. Send your email address along with the service member's name, your name and your relationship to the service member to Joanna.pritchard@nyscot.ang.af.mil

These are just a few of the events we have had in the last year:

- Family Deployment Briefings
- Return and Reintegration Briefings
- Family Appreciation Day
- Galaxy Camp
- Fright Fest at Great Escape
- Children's Holiday Party

Information is given on: benefits, scholarships, camps, financial management, counseling, resources for families and children during deployment, support groups, parenting, and much more!

Take advantage of this great resource of information!

From the Chief's Council:

COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

Current or Retired members of the 109th can be recognized by buying a brick for \$35.00. Each brick will be inscribed with the name, rank and unit assigned of the 109th veteran. The bricks will be placed at Stratton Air National Guard Base memorial area.

The base of the Wing flag pole.

You can purchase one for yourself or you can recognize other members of the 109th. The number of bricks is limited and will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. Profits will be used to purchase bronze plaques commemorating the unit's past aircraft, Wing Commanders and Command Chiefs.

A certificate will be presented with purchase of each brick.

For more information or to purchase a commemorative brick for yourself or someone else, call Chief Master Sgt. Mike Cristiano at 344-2062 or Chief Master Sgt. Davis Willoughby at 344-2463.

To submit an article or story idea to the Skibird, e-mail skibird@nyscot.ang.af.mil, or call the Public Affairs office at 344-2396 or 344-2352.



109th Mission Support Group Airmen of the Year: 2006

Senior NCO of the Year:

Master Sgt. Joseph
Longobardo
SFS



NCO of the Year:

Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Bowman
MPF



Airman of the Year:

Senior Airman Daniel E.
Chevette
LRS



Feb. 3, 2007 through June 3, 2007

Meritorious Service Medal

Col Timothy Labarge – JFHQ
Lt Col Richard Edwards – CES
Lt Col Wendell Garlic – MSF
Lt Col Thomas Mason – JFHQ
Lt Col Karen Riley – AW
Lt Col Erik Smith – AW
CMSgt Samuel Bursese – MXG
CMSgt Scott Connelly – LRS
CMSgt Gina Helbling – MSF
SMSgt Robert Panarese – AW
SMSgt William Prior – CES
SMSgt Mark Theilemann – LRS
MSgt Wayne Blair – LRS
MSgt Clarence Ballou – SFS
MSgt Ronald Hanna – MXM
MSgt Mark Lounello – AW
MSgt Craig Secore – AMXS
MSgt Sherry Trefzger – LRS
TSgt Joseph Axe – AS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt Jacob Marvel – AW
CMSgt Joseph Fedor – LRS
SMSgt Ford Chambers – MXM
SMSgt Douglas Miller – CF
MSgt Frank Cardamone – MXM
MSgt Michael Pingitore – LRS
MSgt David Roe – MSF
MSgt Donna Roper – MSF
MSgt Michelle Shafer – MSF
MSgt Michael Smith – CF
MSgt Daniel Trask – CES
TSgt Nicholas Casey – CF
TSgt Jason Demania – LRS
TSgt Catherine Erwin – LRS
TSgt Rebecca Graham – MG
TSgt Steven King – LRS
TSgt Tammy Kirwan – MXM
TSgt Deborah Nordyke – MSF
TSgt Edward Reis – MG
SSgt Lance Martineau – MXM

Air Force Achievement Medal

Maj Cheryl East – AS
Maj Martha Wadsworth – AS
Capt Deon Beckford – AS
Capt Bridget Crouch – LRS
SMSgt Garry Quick – AS
SMSgt John Yuen – LRS
MSgt Adam Gardner – AS
MSgt Kevin Hart – LRS
MSgt Beverley Schoeffler – CES
TSgt Kimberly Bowman – MSF
TSgt Jason Bull – AS
TSgt Michael Dixon – LRS
TSgt Andrea Glick – SVF
TSgt William Staiger – MXM
TSgt Grace Varney – LRS
SSgt Paul Benintende – AS
SSgt Michael Lewis – MG
SSgt Mark Messare – SVF
SSgt Adam Raymond – SVF
SSgt Andrew Stearns – MSF
SSgt Joanna Walters – MSF
SrA Patrick Bornt – AS
SrA Andrew Gawinski – SVF
SrA Ryan Wolf – SVF

Feb. 3, 2007 through June 3, 2007

Enlisted Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant

Mark Giaquinto – CF
Denny Richardson – AS

Senior Master Sergeant

Timothy Eldred – CES
Mark Mann – APF
James Reeves – JFHQ
Robert Thivierge – AMX

Master Sergeant

David Carsno – CES
Steven Hidden – LRS
Robert McCormick – MXM
Frank Pingelski – LRS
Beverley Schoeffler – CES

Technical Sergeant

Jason Bach – AW
Jeremy Bartman – MXM
Paul Benintende – AS
Jerod Chapko – MXM
Mark Clements – AES
Garrett Cowsert – CF
Rick Cowsert – APF
Brian Gifford – CF
Adam Helligrass – AMXS
Edwin Kuhl – CES
Candace Lundin – MG
Christopher Moore – CF
Charles Powers – CES
Edward Reis – AS
Raymond Roberts – SFS
Henry Smith – MSF
Anthony Villacis – MXM
Joanna Walters – MSF
Joshua Walters – SFS

Staff Sergeant

Matthew Christman – AS
Russell Coonradt – CES
Michael Jenks – MSG
Justin Kruzinski – MXM
Charles McGuirk – MXM
Christopher Menge – CES
Kevin Murphy – MXM
Shawn Rulison – APF
Kimberly Smullen – AES
Ross Stepp – APF
Louise Wilson – SVF



Senior Airman

Sarah Chambers – MXM
Brett Gatta – AS
Salem Jacobsen – MSF
James Lance – CES
Andrew Rought – AS

Officer Promotions

Colonel

Mary Brandt – AES
Jasvant Surani – MG

Lieutenant Colonel

Ronald Ankabrandt – LRS
George Alston – AS
Bruce Jones – AS
Dorine LeBlanc – JFHQ
Christine Lennard – AW

Captain

Brian Shad – AS

First Lieutenant

Cassandra Ayott – AW



Is there someone in your office who deserves special recognition?

How about an Airman just arriving to the base?

If you answered yes, highlight them in the next issue of *the Skibird* for the **Who We Are** section!

Call or e-mail Staff Sgt. Catharine Schmidt for a copy of the form and/or to set up a time for an interview. Don't miss the chance to get your Airmen recognized for a job well done!

To contact Sergeant Schmidt, you can call the Public Affairs office at 344-2396 or e-mail her at catharine.schmidt@nyscot.af.mil. Or e-mail the skibird at skibird@nyscot.af.mil.

109th Airlift Wing
1 Air National Guard Road
Scotia, NY 12302-9752

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 47
Schenectady, NY



Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Brett Bouchard

Mission statement

Provide the most professional theatre combat forces, ready to rapidly deploy statewide, worldwide and pole to pole.

Vision statement

A united military organization of empowered individuals building on our proud tradition of serving country, state and community; leaning forward, ready to meet combat and peacetime challenges throughout the world.