



June 2009

Airman goes above and beyond

By Senior Airman Peter Dean

107th AW Public Affairs Office



During a recent deployment to Baghdad, Master Sgt. Kevin Huff preformed his duties well beyond the call of duty. Upon arriving in theater, the sergeant faced a momentous task of epic proportions putting his expert management skills to the test. Single handedly the sergeant managed all administrative matters for more than 1300 coalition forces stationed at Sather Air Base, Baghdad. Within the first week of arrival, Master Sgt. Huff tracked down more than 300

awards and decorations, and processed more than 650 packages from the previous AEF ensuring that the men and women were duly recognized for their efforts. The sergeant's relentless attention to detail achieved a 0 percent return on submitted packages, almost unheard-of. The sergeant's expertise didn't end there. He managed more than 650 critical staff packages, ensuring the smooth transition for more than 116,000 passengers, 43,000 cargo and 5,700 combat mis-

sions. Master Sgt. Huff also recognized an existing problem with the lack of tracking and storing mission critical higher headquarters correspondences. He used his acute knowledge and computer skills to design and implement a state of the art electronic tracking system. The results lead to efficient tracking, reviewing and returning of mission critical documents, which will be used for years to come. During an extended time when the executive officer was unavailable, the sergeant stepped into his shoes, working a dual role, ensuring that day to day operations did not falter. Constantly seeking self improvement and a

desire to leading by example, the sergeant maintains a strict physical fitness route and a pristine military appearance that echo's all that the military stands for.

Photo caption: Master Sgt. Kevin Huff was recently recognized as the Armed Forces Week Honor Awardee. From left: Ret. Chief Master Sgt. Robert Clark, Col. Timmy Ray Vaughan, Master Sgt. Kevin Huff and Command Chief Richard King.

The IG's corner

By Lt. Col. Blair Webster

107th Airlift Wing Inspector General

"The IG is coming, next drill!" I'm sure you've heard that over and over by now. We're having a Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) in August that I'm confident we're going to pass with flying colors. We should look at a compliance inspection as a chance to demonstrate and document the outstanding work we do here on a regular basis, and I know many of you do look at it that way.

And while we're rightly focused on the upcoming UCI, remember that your wing IG is not involved in UCIs or self-inspections; the wing IG office is a separate office dedicated to resolving complaints. So, don't worry that bringing an issue or complaint to the wing IG will somehow have a negative impact on your UCI. Questions?

Contact your wing IG, Lt. Col. Blair Webster, at extension 3276, for help and/or assistance with your complaint or situation.



107th Airlift Wing

Commander

Col. Patrick D. Ginavan

Vice Commander

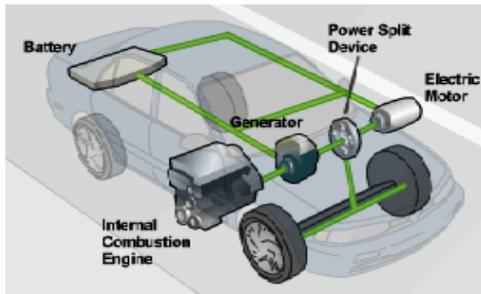
Col. Dale Howard

Executive Officer

Lt. Col. Deanna Miller

Energy saving tips

U.S. Department of Energy



Hybrid-electric vehicles (HEVs) combine the benefits of gasoline engines and electric motors and can be configured to obtain different objectives, such as improved fuel economy, increased power, or additional auxiliary power for electronic devices and power tools

Regenerative Braking. The electric motor applies resistance to the drivetrain causing the wheels to slow down. In return, the energy from the wheels turns the motor, which functions as a generator, converting energy normally wasted during coasting and braking into electricity, which is stored in a battery until needed by the electric motor.

Electric Motor Drive/Assist. The electric motor provides additional power to assist the engine in accelerating, passing, or hill climbing. This allows a smaller, more efficient engine to be used. In some vehicles, the motor alone provides power for low-speed driving conditions where internal combustion engines are least efficient.

Automatic Start/Shutdown. Automatically shuts off the engine when the vehicle comes to a stop and restarts it when the accelerator is pressed. This prevents wasted energy from idling.

T HUNDERBIRD

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Have you checked your attitude?

“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference,” – Winston Churchill

We all are aware that dotting your “i’s” and crossing your “t’s” is an absolute must in when preparing for an inspection, but there is a more subjective and less quantitative measure of equal importance....attitude.

As we in aircraft maintenance undergo our Maintenance Standardization Evaluation Program inspection from July 8 through 14, the rest of the 107th will be putting the final touches on a series of checklists in preparation for the Air Mobility Command Unit Compliance Inspection a month later in August. However, despite all the AFI’s, NGB Directives, Wing/Group OI’s, MOA’s and MOU’s there is not a single reference that will point in the direction of how to prepare oneself mentally and emotionally for an inspection. I am of the belief that as Air Force professionals in service of our country, our positive attitudes are a large reason we are members of the armed forces. They also play a significant role in how each one of us advance in our military careers.

The true challenge we are faced with today is taking that positive attitude that we possess and really letting it show. As we have learned from past ORI, UCI and MSEP experiences, inspectors from Higher Headquarters will come to the 107th and take a long hard look at us. They will run their (and our) checklists, examine our processes, and look at our programs for compliance with governing directives. Invariably, they will find areas where we may fall short, where we need to improve a bit, or where we flat-out missed the mark. However, all is not lost when this happens.



From what I have seen in 24 years of past inspection experience, when confronted with such input from the inspection team, how we react to this information (attitude) can make all the difference. Negative feedback is something that is rarely sought or expected. However, given this circumstance we must look an inspector in the eye, show a clear understanding of the discrepancy at hand, and exhibit a genuine sense of urgency to rectify the “wrong.” Arguing, quibbling, throwing one’s hands up in disgust, rolling one’s eyes etc., are all tell-tale signs of a negative attitude, and a surefire way of failing an inspection. In every inspection out brief I’ve attended or published results I’ve read, the positive attitudes exhibited from the shop worker on up have made a significant impact on the both specific graded areas as well as overall inspection score. We must remember this now and ensure that we pass this along to every airman up and down the chain-of command. The next three months are the most critical we’re going to be faced with since the BRAC decision in 2005. Let us all do what the 107th is best known for: Meet a challenge and excel with a smile on our face!

Since I opened with a quote from a personal hero of mine, I’d like to end with another quote from a man I’ve grown to lean about and admire as well.

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me is more important than facts.... We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our attitudes,” – Dr. Viktor E. Frankl, Auschwitz survivor.



The passing of a legacy

By Chief Master Sgt. Richard King

Command Chief 107th Airlift Wing



May 28, 2009 was the last official duty day for the 9th Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. Smith. Chief Master Sgt. Smith completed a five year tour of duty as the senior enlisted advisor to the director of the Air National Guard. Chief Smith, who assumed these duties as the first drill status Guardsman CCM, was formerly the State of Ohio Command Chief, as well as the wing CCM at Mansfield Ohio. Chief Smith served his tour since May 2004, during this time in Chief Smith's words "breaking in" three new Air National Guard directors, Lt. Gen. James, Lt. Gen. McKinley, Lt. Gen. Wyatt. Chief Smith was a outspoken supporter of the 94,000 enlisted members of the Air Guard, served in what may be later seen as the most defining times for the Air National Guard, and as a total force component. Chief Smith who had a seat at the Air Force senior enlisted table worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for Airman, better education benefits, pay increases, and BRAC issues. Chief Smith was a strong supporter of the 107th Airlift Wing he closely monitored and was involved with the 107th Air National Guard and 914th Air Reserve Association here at Niagara. Chief Smith the 107th Airlift Wing, wishes you good luck

in your retirement.

While attending Chief Smith's retirement ceremony I was also able to attend the assumption of the ANG command chief position by Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, also a State of Ohio

Command Chief. Chief Master Sgt. Muncy just as impressively has been serving at Ohio Joint Forces Headquarters as the state senior enlisted advisor to the adjutant general (Ohio). Chief Muncy has an impressive background as the chairman of the enlisted filed advisory council, which meets quarterly to field issues that affect the enlisted force of the ANG, and find either solutions or forward those issues to the air guard director if needed. Chief Muncy has a strong Air Guard background, and has several of his family serving in the Ohio Guard or on active duty. Chief Muncy is fully aware of the association process here at Niagara and looks forward to visiting very soon.

The highlight of the week's activities was the opportunity to attend the internment at Arlington Cemetery of Chief Master Sgt. (ret) Paul K. Airey. Chief Airey was the first chief master sergeant of the air force. Chief Airey was a B-25 radio operator in the U.S. Army Air Corps, who was shot down on his 29th mission over Austria during WWII and spent two years as a prisoner of war. Chief Airey upon his liberation by U.S. forces weighed less than 100lbs. Chief Airey then Cpl. Airey re-

mained on active duty serving in numerous maintenance positions as well as 11 years as a first sergeant. Chief Airey was instrumental in the Weighted Airman Promotion System; still in use that made the promotion system in the Air Force in the late 60's early 70's more equitable throughout the air force in all AFSC's. Chief Airey remained after his retirement a loud and respected voice for the Air Force enlisted as an often sought advisor, and advocate on Capitol Hill. Chief Airey attended 100's of professional military education graduations, often spending time with the classes sharing his leadership styles and ideas with the students. I had the pleasure of meeting Chief Airey at a first sergeants conference in 2002, and at 82-years-old Chief Airey had one word of advice for every first sergeant in the room. All could sense his sincerity, when he spoke, powerfully shook your hand and looked you in the eye. Telling each of us to get over ourselves and our ego's, and that we as Senior NCO's, chiefs, first sergeant have one responsibility and that is too "take care of our Airman".

As we stood on the cemetery lawn at Arlington with Chief Airey's immediate family and his extended Air Force family of old chiefs and young airman. Fittingly a B-52 Bomber commenced a low level approach up the Potomac River turned over Arlington and did a final fly by over the grave site of Chief Master Sgt. Airey. Chief Airey will be sadly missed by the U.S. Air Force. But his legacy, style of leadership, and pride of service can be seen at every level of Air Force training today and tomorrow.

Photo caption: Chief King on right had the pleasure of meeting Chief Airey. Chief Airey had one word of advice for every first sergeant in the room "get over yourself."



Antiterrorism & Force Protection



Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Shopping Malls and Centers

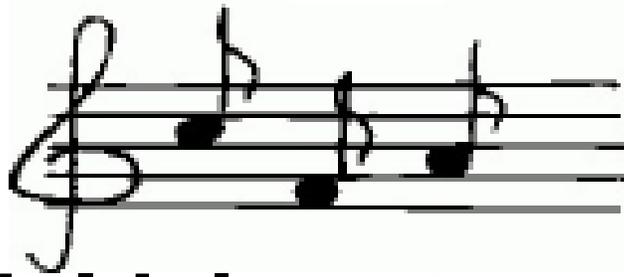
What Should I Consider Suspicious?

- Efforts to surveil or “case” the shopping center (e.g., taking pictures, making videos, or drawing diagrams of the location).
- Unusual inquiries about security procedures.
- Tests of security responses.
- Extremist literature distributed at the mall or posted on public bulletin boards.
- Extremist graffiti spray-painted at the center.
- Vandalism accompanied by a message or claim.
- Threats to the mall with particular concern to those that are extremist in nature, very specific, or that mention a known terrorist group.
- Individual(s) with unseasonal bulky attire.
- Unattended packages, briefcases, satchels, or bags.
- Unattended, unfamiliar delivery vehicles in loading zones or in front of store entrances.
- Thefts of official vehicles, uniforms, identification, and access cards.
- Attempts to access restricted areas, including the roof, hallways, and electrical rooms.
- Extremist attacks on other malls, especially those with similar tenants.
- Loitering, vandalism, or unusual activities around mall tenants who may be targets of extremists

What Should I Do?

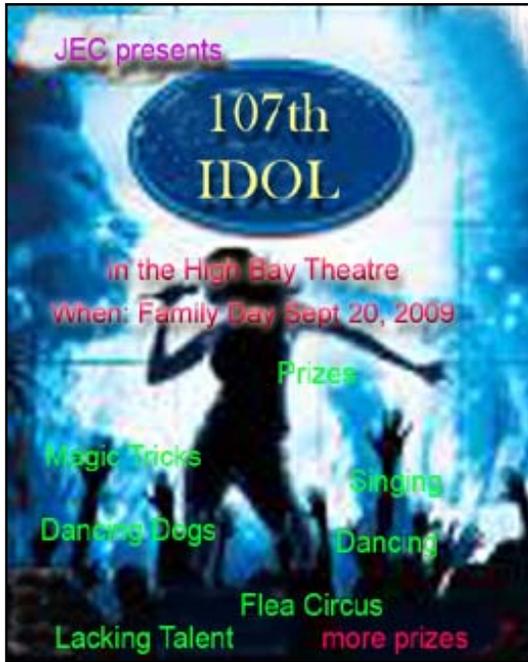
- Establish security procedures and a threat alert system, including a go-to person or telephone number for mall tenants to report suspicious activity.
- Establish terrorism training programs for security staff.
- Maintain an open line of communication with local law enforcement.
- Know the delivery vehicles and staff who are routinely on the property.
- Install security cameras around the property and facility.
- Inform tenants and local law enforcement if there is a concern about a special event that is to be held at the mall.
- Maintain close liaison with tenants who might be logical terrorist targets.
- Watch for people and actions that are out of place.
- Be aware of protests or demonstrations conducted at the mall.
- Make note of suspicious statements, people, items, and/or vehicles.
- If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.
- Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.

Preventing terrorism is a community effort. By learning what to look for, you can make a positive contribution in the fight against terrorism. The partnership between the community and law enforcement is essential to the success of anti-terrorism efforts. Some of the activities, taken individually, could be innocent and must be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine whether there is a basis to investigate. The activities outlined on this handout are by no means all-inclusive but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years. Credit Bureau of Justice Assistance.



The 107th Idol contest wants you

Show case your talents or lack their of, in the first 107th Idol contest



1) Open to all members and their families

2) Valuable prizes such as an all expense paid trip to the NFARS Dining Hall, where you and your closest friends will enjoy a mouth-watering meal served by the 107th Airlift Wing Services Squadron. (Winners and their guests must be on UTA status to claim prize)

3) Contestants to be judged in Numerous categories

- Singing
- Dancing
- Comedy
- Magic
- Squadron/flight/group skit
- Lack of talent



4) Limited number of slots available, call today

5) For more information and official rules contact Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Weerhiem ext. 2482, Tech. Sgt. Gary Gouchie ext. 2544 or e-mail 107AW.JEC@ang.af.mil

Retirement Party for:

Chief Master Sgt. Donald Hurley & Master Sgt. Billy Trichel



July 11 at 6:00 PM

Falcon club, Niagara Fall Air Reserve Station

\$ 35.00 per ticket; Includes Dinner, Open Bar & Gifts

For more information contact:

Master Sgt. David Starr ext. 2368, Maj. Todd Guay ext. 2588,



Pass the muffin dish

Catholic Mass

Saturday 4 p.m., Base Chapel

Protestant

Worship

Saturday 4 p.m.,

Wing Conference Room, Building 901

The Rosary

Fridays prior to UTA at noon,
Wing Conference Room, Building 901

For service schedules of **Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, and Orthodox** communities, call extension 2395.

If you need to see a chaplain, please call Chaplain Services at extension 2395, or at the numbers listed below. Chaplains are always on call.

Catholic Chaplain

Lt. Col. James P. Jaeger
St. Mary's Church
32 E. Morris St.
Bath, NY 14810
Phone: (315) 597-4571

Protestant Chaplain

Maj. Jackie Ann Rose Kraft
Asbury United Methodist Church
3750 Millesport Highway
Getzville NY 14068
Office: (716) 688-8677
Home: (716) 625-6266

1st Lt. Keith A. Manry
Akron First United Methodist
7 Church St.
Akron, NY 14001
Office: (716) 542-2060
Home: (716) 542-9567



From left to right: Chaplain Jackie Kraft, Father James Jaeger and Chaplain Keith Manry.

The 107th AW Chaplains invite you to be a part of the newest ministry, at a squadron near you! Come save your sole while you and your friends each enjoy a freshly brewed cup of coffee. Refreshments provided by the Akron First United Methodist Church are being offered to various units on the Saturday of UTA.



The cookies and pastries are homemade and the coffee has been donated to the church by Starbucks.

The traveling ministry has already tempted the taste buds and cleansed the soles of the Security Forces squadron and the Medical Group. You could be next, to experience this unique opportunity contact Chaplain Keith Manry at ext. 2395.



We want to take this opportunity to get to know you better. So come, grab a cup of coffee, a muffin and engage us in conversation. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Team Name: **Team Niagara**
 Team Captain: **Virginia Ballester**
 Phone/Email: **236-6347**
 Fundraising Goal: \$ **1000**

For information or to register for this team, call 716-THE RIDE (843-7433) or email RideForRoswell@RoswellPark.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH
 UB North Campus, Baird Point

- Choose from 8 Ride Routes: 3-mile Family Fun Ride, 8, 20, 30, 33, 44, 62.5 mi. & 12-mile Extra Mile Club Peloton
- \$100 minimum pledge per rider. Have friends, family and co-workers sponsor you!
- Ride as an individual or as a team (4 member minimum).
- Be a virtual rider, or create a virtual team.
- Attend a Ride Rally in your neighborhood to learn more.
- Register or donate today!

Presented by *Wegmans*

Supporting Sponsors



Join Our Team!

Riding Together to Cure Cancer!



Ride For Your Family, Ride For A Friend, Ride For Roswell Park.
 Visit www.RideForRoswell.org



From Your Human Resource Advisor

By Senior Master Sgt. Scott Green
107th Airlift Wing Human Resource Office ext. 3251

Monthly Theme: “High Performance Teams”

High Performance Teams “E pluribus Unum.” Out of Many, One.” With a commitment to work together as high performing teams, we maximize our strengths and capabilities to rise above any challenge. As an Airman, you are never alone!



- ✪ High Performance Teams seek opportunities to capitalize on the synergy of its Airmen to maximize and improve overall fundamental strength and the highest standards for efficiency.
- ✪ A leader’s ability to form a complementary, winning team happens as the leader understands individuals and engages their full potential towards the goals of the team. The objective is to find an Airman’s unique talents and distill that into their highest contribution that they are passionate to give.
- ✪ Achieve more together ~ Contribute, Cooperate and Collaborate!

New at Niagara; Airmen Advisory Council / A Diversity Council

I am in the initial stage of forming an **Airmen Advisory Council / Diversity Council** that will recognize and capitalize on the diversity amongst our membership. This forum will also be an avenue to increase our leadership skills each UTA by discussing techniques of proven effective leaders. I am searching for members of all ranks, sections, positions, gender, race, and demographics to be involved in this valuable council. The council will meet each month, for a one hour session. If you are interested in being an effective component in “**Pushing the 107 AW’s Flywheel**” and increasing your leadership skills and style, please email me. Ask yourself, “**Do I only meet the standard requirements or am I going Above and Beyond to support the 107AW’s mission?**”

SatPME NCOA, Force Development at Niagara

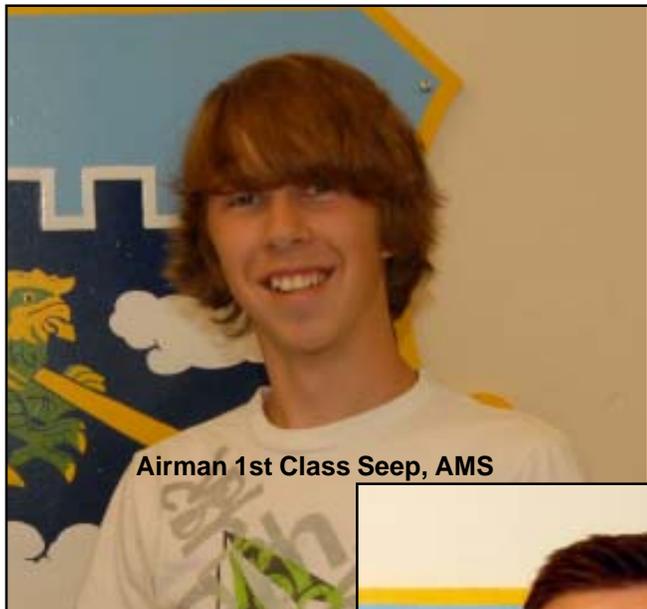
Registration for the next SatPME NCOA class begins this UTA and must be completed by 01 Aug. This class is for Tech. Sgt.’s eligible to enroll in the class and is an avenue to obtain In Residence PME for promotion to master sergeant. Tech. Sgt.’s have priority but TEC has also authorized limited numbers of Staff Sgt.’s to attend. Class dates are; Home Station, every Tuesday and Thursday, Sept. 8 through Nov. 24 and In-residence Nov. 30 through Dec. 15.

Facilitators Wanted: If you are interested in earning part time military pay and assisting our members complete their PME, consider being a SatPME Facilitator. The next scheduled class is Aug. 3-6. Basic requirements are In-residence PME credit and a 2-yr college degree.

Contact your Unit or Base Training Office for more details.



Newcomers



Airman 1st Class Seep, AMS



Tech. Sgt. Jastin Huett, PA



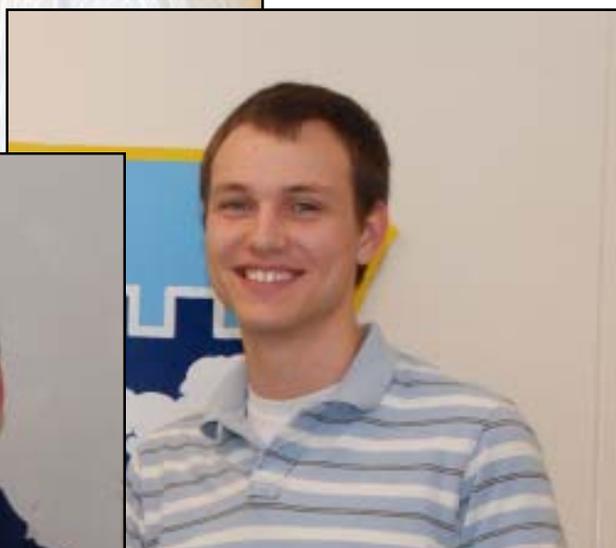
Capt. Wisniewski, JAG



Airman 1st Class Bores, MX



Airman 1st Class Nicholas Ruhland, AMS



Airman 1st Class Joshua Strange, LRS



Making the ranks



Above: Col. Patrick Ginavan on right along with Lt. Col. Michael Mack promote Camille Langenfeld to senior master sgt. Below: Sue Clark is promoted to master sgt. by Col. Patrick Ginavan and her husband Ret. Chief Master Sgt. Robert Clark.



107th awards and promotions



Lt. Col. Michael Mack



Lt. Col. Bob Kilgore



Master Sgt.

Sue Clark
Robert Farina



Tech. Sgt.

Steven Beckett
Jeffery Boyer
Kerrie Carlson
Brian Hawk
Kenya House
Sylvia Kirchner



Staff Sgt.

Christopher Bauer
Dana Borget
Markos Drossos
Shawn Lavin
Nicole Martin
Sabrina Woodworth



Senior Airman

David Butterbaugh
Seth Sampson
Jeremy Zeames

Climbing the ladder of success



Above: Senior Master Sgt. Paul Wiencek is promoted to the rank of chief master sgt. by Col. Patrick Ginavan and the chief's wife Penny. On left: Master Sgt. Gary Henning is promoted to the rank of senior master sgt. by Col. Patrick Ginavan and the sergeant's wife Cathy.



Security forces scores bull's-eye



Above: Col. Patrick Ginavan presents Senior Airman Ryan Mang a plaque for 2nd place in the New York Military Forces Combat Matches 2009. Mang along with other 107th Security Forces Members traveled to Camp Smith, Peekskill, N.Y. to compete against other New York State military units. The competition matched their skills in both group and individual contests using unmodified M-16A2, M-16A4 and M4's. Pictured below: (left to right) Overall the team which consisted of Master Sgt. Mark Hajduk, Staff Sgt. Christopher Doherty, Senior Airman Ryan Mang and Senior Airman Alan Rowswell came in 5th place.



107th AW Military Ball

Oct. 24

Crown Plaza Hotel

300 Third Street

Niagara Falls

Cocktails 6:30 p.m.

Dinner 7:30 p.m. Ballroom

TICKETS *(Estimated)* E7 thru O10 - \$55.00 ea.
E6 and below - \$40.00 ea.

POCs: CES- Master Sgt. Mahoney ext 2527, LRS- Chief Master Sgt. Gianiodis ext 3075, Master Sgt. Devole ext 2580, or Senior Airman Higley ext 3590, MXS- Chief Master Sgt. Irwin ext. 2483, SFS- Master Sgt. Hajduk ext 3482, MDG- Capt. Mills ext 3400, MSF Chief Master Sgt. Wohleben ext 6300.

***All others or if above POC is not available Call Senior Master Sgt. Robert Ward Ext 3588/3590 **Retired Personnel call Senior Master Sgt. Ward or Senior Airman Higley (716) 236-3588/3590**

Seating arrangements: 8 or 10 to a table.

**Contact Your POC or Senior Master Sgt. Ward, Senior Airman Higley
with names for specific table assignments.**

Room Rates

\$105 per night

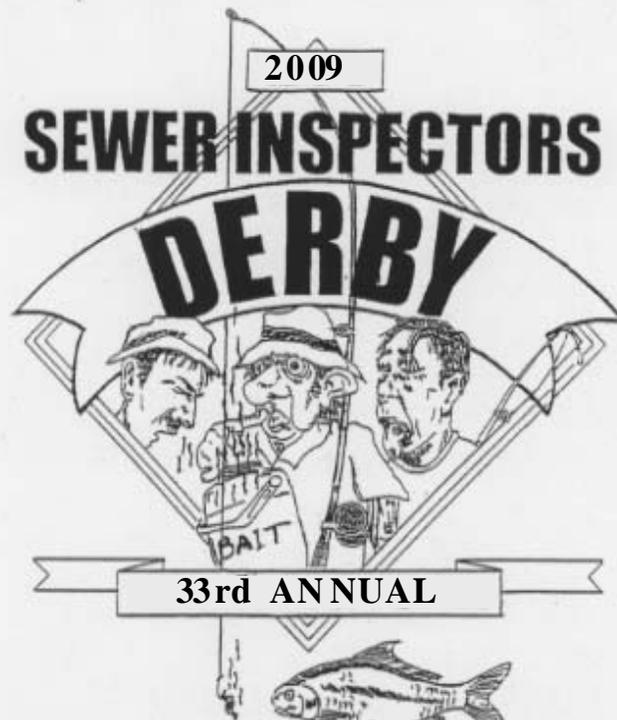
For reservations call
Senior Master Sgt. Ward

Uniform/ Attire at Dining-out

Military Members: Mess Dress or Semi-formal Uniform (with white shirt and blue issued tie/tab) through formal military portion.

Guests: Men - Suit and tie

Women - gown, tea-length or cocktail dress



June 27, 2009

Upper Niagara River and Lake Erie

Fishing starts at midnight runs till noon, party at noon, judging at 1 p.m.

VETERANS PARK, RIVER ROAD

TOWN of TONAWANDA, N.Y.

ENTRY FEE: \$25.00 Due when making reservations

*Boat launch is free if you launch before 7 a.m. at Isle View Park
across from Veterans Park. Subject to change.*

No fishing license required for this weekend.

*Hamburgers, hot dogs, Italian sausage and
trimmings*

RESERVATIONS BY JUNE 14, 2009

Contact: Duane Bores 236-2417 or x-2417, Doug Eoute x-2474, Steve
Buja x-2359, Joe Hodkin x-2463, Gary Henning or Todd Guay X-2588

News from the flight line

By Chief Phillip Tavenier

107th Maintenance Group

Let me give you an update on how the aircraft maintenance squadrons are doing. I'll not write so much of the conversion from our beloved KC-135R's to the C-130's. The 107th has a long history of successful conversions from one aircraft or mission to another and this has been no exception for maintenance. It seems appropriate however that after one year now we look back and see how much progress that we have made in our association. The development of the association with our Reserve counterparts has been the most challenging undertaking that we have had in maintenance. It is one of only three associations like it in the Air Force and it will be our security for the future. From the beginning popular belief was that if everyone above the worker level were removed the association would be a lot easier. It is a tribute to the professionalism and dedication of maintainers from both units that in spite of all the difficulties during the past year our flying and safety programs were not affected.

One year ago the maintenance association



tions, memorandums of understanding, and memorandums of agreement that define how two independent maintenance groups will work together and manage one fleet of aircraft. Work schedules and shifts have been developed so that both units can operate effectively as one workforce. Many of the shops have collocated and more will in the future which will ensure continuity and efficiency. Our workforces are blended now, 107th and 914th personnel working together on common goals yet each retaining its own command and supervision authority. All of this progress has been accomplished in the space of one year through a lot of hard work, compromise, and a lot of long endless meetings.

The way we did business in the past will not work for us in today's Air Force and this association has given us a unique opportunity to work together and write our own future. It is the only way that both the 107th and 914th can stay viable in an ever changing Air Force. The hardest thing to that we have had to do is accepting the changes that were necessary to move ahead. What we initially feared was the loss of our unit identity and becoming nothing more than a workforce. That has not happened because what we have learned is that unit identity does not exist in aircraft or buildings but within ourselves as a culture handed down from one generation to another. Although there have been setbacks and there are still many obstacles to overcome will move forward and jointly we will make this association work.

And that's the news from the Flight line



Air Force photos / Tech. Sgt. Catherine Perretta

was just a concept. At that time we were all too busy training and preparing for a new aircraft. Today we have written guides, maintenance operating instruc-





Niagara can now rest easy

By Senior Airman Peter Dean

107th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office

After enduring more than 3 month of intensive training that included entering smoke filled rooms, fighting walls of fire and rescuing simulated victims, Staff Sgt. Davy Lam realized his childhood dream, an Air Force Firefighter. Some would say that a firefighter is one of the toughest jobs in the military. Always on the ready, waiting for the call they hope they'll never get. For when the whistle blows, loss of life or property is imminent. Firefighters are a rare breed, trained with skills and a wiliness to put their lives on the line at a moment's notice, most times for people they don't know.

During the sergeants training he endured prolonged hours in full gear, fighting fires, pulling hoses and climbing ladders in the sweltering Texas heat.

"We had to stay in full gear without water for hours," said Lam. "It was brutal," he added.

Designed to set the bar high and weed out the underachievers, the course was not only physically demanding but also mentally challenging.

"Not everyone's cut out to be a firefighter," said Lam. "We started with 24 and only 14 graduated," he added.

Now that Sgt. Lam is fully trained, back on base he may be called upon to provide around the clock base protection. He is trained to offer assistance for a wide array of base contingencies both on and of the flight line. Of-flight-line contingencies may include automo-

bile accidents, clearing buildings and containing fires. On-flight-line contingencies may include pilot/crew extraction, spill containment or a maintenance mishap. The sergeant may also be called upon to share his knowledge with the base populace, training members on correct fire extinguisher procedures, building evacuation procedures and fire prevention practices.

"It's a big change from my prior AFSC, as an F-16 Avionics Technician," said Lam. "I'm looking forward to the new challenges" he added.

Although the sergeants training was quite extensive, he will endure a lifetime of new and refresher instruction to maintain his readiness to spring into action when the whistle blows.

