

Seagull

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A New Path to Education

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Satellite
Airman Leadership School

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ON THE COVER



The cover photo shows seven recent graduates of Otis Air National Guard Base's first Satellite Airman Leadership School. See the full story on page 5.

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Commander's Comments

with the concepts of OPSEC at work: protecting our weapon system capabilities and limitations, details of unit deployments and troop movements, and sensitive tactics, techniques, and procedures; few of us are equally vigilant when it comes to our "personal OPSEC"? Following the five-step OPSEC process at home can reduce the vulnerability of you and your family. Tightening up access to personal 'critical information lists' will ultimately protect you from threats ranging from fraud or identity theft to physical harm or attack.

With the proliferation smart phones, wireless Internet, and our ubiquitous social networking culture, many members who would never think of releasing critical information about their 102nd Intelligence Wing missions are regularly exposing significant amounts of personal data. There are plenty of cautionary tales highlighting 'personal OPSEC' risks, threats, and vulnerability associated with social media. A quick check of the headlines will show you the risks of exposing your personal 'critical information.' "Checking In" from Hawaii on an unsecured, publicly accessed Facebook account gives a savvy burglar the green light to break into an unoccupied home. Clicking on a sensational story link posted by a friend ends up redirecting a computer to a site extracting confidential data for an identify thief ...and the list goes on.

Going back to the risk formula, where Risk = Threat x Vulnerability x Impact, your exposed personal 'critical information' can result in impacts ranging from nuisance to very real danger. At the high end of the threat/impact spectrum, the Al Qaeda Handbook instructs terrorists to search online for data about "Government personnel and all matters relating to them (residence, work place, times of leaving and returning, children and places visited.)" In late September, Islamic State sympathizers appeared to follow that playbook when they identified and harassed an Air Force member who had posted pictures on Facebook of a fighter flying in support of an ongoing campaign in Iraq and Syria. A Fox News article from October noted that ISIS found the airman's social media profile and then linked it to his teenage son's Facebook account, which was "swarmed" with derogatory messages. A November 30th Joint Intelligence Bulletin issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Homeland Security reinforces the seriousness of the threat, and urges all active and former military members to review their online social media accounts and exercise OPSEC in their interactions online.

During commercial breaks in this weekend's NFL playoff games, take a few minutes to "google" yourself and your family. Depending on your social media 'signature', you may want to run through the five-step OPSEC process at home, identifying the critical personal information that you and your family are putting out on social media, gleaning a better understanding the threat, and taking appropriate measures to reduce your online signature. Simple steps include controlling the number of applications automatically "geotagging" a device's location and updating Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn privacy controls. For a comprehensive list of suggestions, the Federal Bureau of Investigation provides a host of recommendations for securing online information at www.fbi.gov under "social networking risks".

With so many life events to share on social media, it is easy to forget that unwanted eyes may be watching. Without realizing it, 102nd members may unknowingly invite criminal activity, risk identify theft, or even jeopardize the safety of themselves, their family, their friends or fellow airmen.

Col. David V. McNulty

Commander, 102nd Intelligence Group

All members of the 102nd Intelligence Wing enjoy annual training on Operations Security (OPSEC). The intent of the training and larger program is to promote operational effectiveness and reduce risk by identifying, controlling, and protecting unclassified information through a five-step process:

1. **Identify critical information. Determine what information must be protected.**
2. **Analyze threats. Identify adversaries and how they can collect information.**
3. **Analyze vulnerabilities. Identify/quantify what critical information friendly forces are exposing.**
4. **Assess risk. Decide what protective measures should be implemented.**
5. **Apply appropriate OPSEC measures to protect critical information.**

The U.S. Air Force Instruction places OPSEC under the umbrella of Information Operations and tends to characterize the program's emphasis as "signature management", profiling observable activities/operational trends and synchronizing OPSEC efforts with Military Deception tactics, techniques, and procedures.

In the end, OPSEC is about reducing risk. A simple risk formula looks like this: Risk = Threat x Vulnerability x Impact. The combination of threat—the likelihood that an adversary will use critical information for harm, vulnerability—the quantity/quality of unprotected critical information, and impact—the significance or level of the damage, helps us to assess risk. Through the five-step process, 102nd OPSEC program managers and units identify the critical information we are exposing and secure it against the assessed threats, thereby lowering risk by reducing our vulnerability.

While the OPSEC AFI and annual training encourage airmen "to share OPSEC awareness information with family members and social network friends," I doubt many of us run home to mom and dad and execute the five-step process. So while we're generally familiar

Wreaths Across America

By: Mr. Timothy Sandland, 102nd Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Dennis Mills is a man on a mission.

As the Cape Cod Location Leader for Wreaths Across America (WAA), Sgt. Mills organizes, plans, and implements the annual placing of wreaths on veteran's graves at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne each year. This year's event took place on Saturday, December 13th.

According to their website, Wreaths Across America began in 1992 by Morrill Worcester, owner of the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine. When he encountered a surplus of wreaths near the end of the holiday season, he decided to donate the excess wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. Since then, the program has grown and has established a longstanding tradition of ensuring the graves of the country's veterans are honored annually. Today, ceremonies are held at over 150 locations nation-wide.

Sgt. Mills, who is also a volunteer with the local Civil Air Patrol (CAP) squadron, initially got involved in the WAA program back in 2007, when the Worcester Wreath Company started approaching CAP units for help distributing the wreaths. During that first year approximately 300 wreaths were placed on veterans graves.

In 2010, Sgt. Mills leaned even further forward and became the Location Leader

for Cape Cod. Since then the number of volunteers, sponsors, and most notably wreaths has continued to rise each year. In that short amount of time the number of wreaths placed in Bourne has grown from the original 300 to the nearly 5,000 that were placed on Saturday.

That growth is no surprise. It stems from the generous donations of citizens in the local community and the commitment of volunteers who show up every year, helping unload, prepare, and place the large number of wreaths during the ceremony.

Realistically, it is a significant undertaking – from the delivery, storage, and distribution of thousands of wreaths, to the coordination and marketing of the event. The logistics of managing all this, along with the hundreds of volunteers who typically show up to help requires a solid maestro to orchestrate. Year after year, Sgt. Mills steps up and makes it happen.

The wreath laying ceremony itself is a very special event. It draws hundreds of local residents, family members, civil leaders, government officials, and military personnel. Most years there are one or more Gold Star family members who, if they choose to, address the gathering and share stories of their fallen loved ones. It is a solemn, yet celebratory remembrance of those who have lost their lives in

defense of the country.

Sgt. Mills' passion for the Wreaths Across America program is clearly evident. He works hard to ensure this patriotic program is administered effectively and veterans are honored appropriately. All of that hard work comes to fruition on the day of the ceremony, but the work doesn't end there. Although the wreaths are in place throughout the holiday season, they do need to be collected from the graves eventually.

On the second Saturday of every January, a group of volunteers assembles to collect the wreaths. Although there is less "pomp and circumstance" surrounding the collection event, it is no less important. Picking up the wreaths ensures that the cemetery remains free of debris and the graves are maintained properly. The collected wreaths are deposited in piles in each section of the cemetery where grounds people from the Department of Veterans Affairs pick them up and use them as mulch to further beautify the grounds.

Sgt. Mills is still looking for willing individuals to assist with wreath collection on Saturday morning on the 17th of January. If you would like to volunteer, please contact him at 508-968-4389.



MASSACHUSETTS

A New Path to Education

By: Mr. Timothy Sandland, 102nd Public Affairs

The first-ever Airman Leadership School (ALS) Course was conducted here at Otis Air National Guard Base via satellite.

The Otis Satellite site location is managed by a team of trained and dedicated facilitators led by Chief Master Sgt. Jason Mello, and administrated on a day to day basis by Tech. Sgt. Debra Hasley. They provide a valuable service to the enlisted corps of the base.

As pointed out by Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody during his visit here last month, Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) is critical in the development of airmen. He said "I want to make sure that there is an opportunity for every single airman in the United States Air Force, regardless of component, to be able to attend in-residence Airman Leadership School – distance learning needs to be available because there are circumstances where you can't get somebody into an [in-residence] class".

To put the challenge of routing the Air Force's airmen through EPME into perspective, consider that there are approximately 13,000 airmen waiting in the queue for this required career step. A number that is staggering when you consider that it is a requirement that cannot be waived.

As Chief Mello observed at last year's Air National Guard Command Chief's Symposium, less than a quarter of attending units reported having some sort of EPME at their bases.

So, where do airmen get this training if not via satellite at their home base? They fight for training slots at their closest Air Force schoolhouse. Typically there are not a lot of quotas available for guardsmen as the class sizes are typically not very large and there are plenty of regular Air Force and Reserves personnel waiting to fill them. One of the challenges that Active Duty airmen face is that they have a requirement to attend the course in-residence. That, along with impending High Year of Tenure and ETS timelines gives the full-time force priority by default.

Needless to say, opportunities to attend are very competitive.

That's where distance-learning comes in. It is the same content, the same course work, and a very similar experience to in-residence. It is an accredited course so in addition to getting a 'box filled' for your career, you also end up with college credits.

In many ways distance-learning can actually be better because it reinforces time-management skills. Students in the distance-learning classroom, unlike their in-residence counterparts, typically work all day,

go home to family each night, but also have to balance their classroom and after-class work. It takes real commitment to take on this kind of work load but it is well worth it.

The seeds for a locally-grown ALS course were planted back in early 2013 when Sgt. Hasley recognized the need. After getting the necessary buy-in from the leadership and the green light from the schoolhouse at McGhee-Tyson ANGB, the dominoes were set into motion to stand up a site.

Shortly after, in May 2013, the Instructor Certification Course Mobile Training Team from McGhee-Tyson arrived to provide the Instructor Certification Program (ICP). This is necessary and required for all instructors and facilitators. The training prepared our facilitators for the duties they would face during the molding of our young airmen and it ultimately allows Otis to be a remote site.

In addition to Chief Mello and Technical Sgt. Hasley, Senior Master Sgts. Leonard Perkins and Beth Hernandez, Master Sgt. Sean Sullivan, and Technical Sgts. Richard Hamel and John Casey are trained and qualified course facilitators.

Facilitators are the key with distance learning. They serve to keep the classroom under control, act as advisors to the students, perform



many of the administrative tasks that are critical to keep things running smoothly, and are an extension of the instructor. Although they aren't full-fledged instructors, they are able to lead discussions, guide, and advise students on their projects.

Chief Mello reflected on the reason he volunteers his time the program, "we owe it to our airmen to give back to them." A sentiment likely shared with the rest of the facilitators as they all put in their time, above and beyond their jobs, to make sure students get the best available support and education.

With upwards of 12 remote sites and 8-14 students at each, the instructors at McGhee-Tyson have their hands full. The facilitators are an important part of the classroom structure – the process wouldn't flow nearly as smoothly without them.

The satellite portion of the class consisted of five weeks of weekend classes (both Saturdays and Sundays) for a total of 10 training days. Students performed all of the same tasks and assignments as their in-residence counterparts, including drill and ceremonies, completion of lessons, and submission of individual and group projects.

Written assignments were submitted using Sharepoint on the Air Force Portal. The cloud-based service allows for quick and efficient

dissemination of lesson guides, changes and announcements, and of course submission of assignments.

Upon completion of the five week satellite portion of ALS, students traveled to McGhee-Tyson to complete the in-residence portion of the school.

The McGhee-Tyson staff noticed how well our personnel had grasped drill and ceremonies, a credit to the instruction of Tech. Sgt. Maria Escobar, who recently returned from a 4 year tour as a Military Training Instructor at basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. She volunteered her time to ensure the students were nothing less than perfect.

"We had a 100 percent graduation rate for Otis and our first DG [Distinguished Graduate] this time around" Chief Mello spoke proudly of the Otis students.

Senior Airman Christopher Winship of the 267th CBCS took Distinguished Graduate honors. Rounding out the class were Staff Sgts. Steven Francis and Giselle Rodrigues and Senior Airmen Torrey Cox, Sean Foote, Lee Jamison, and Joseph Smolinsky. During the broadcasts the Otis site was known as "Wicked SMAAHT", a nod for the Boston-area.

EPME is a requirement; a box

to check but it is much more than that. It is about challenging yourself, learning new things, connecting with your peers, and making long-term friendships.

One would be hard-pressed to find someone who doesn't recall their time spent in EPME, regardless of whether it was in-residence or via satellite, as a fun and positive experience. Most usually consider it one of their favorite memories of serving.

The future is bright for EPME at Otis. The establishment of the ALS course here potentially paves a path for more ALS classes and perhaps a satellite NCO Academy class. None of which would be possible without the solid dedication of the NCOs who step up and volunteer their time.

Any NCOs interested in becoming facilitators are asked to contact Sgt. Hasley for requirements and details.



Chapel Call

By: Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David G. Berube



Share good will. When someone greets me with a genuine smile and a sincere hello or other greeting, I feel that sincerity. It doesn't solve my problems or lessen my challenges in life, but it connects me in a positive way to another human being. That reminds me I'm not alone, and encourages me to persevere through my problems and challenges. When you greet someone, turn off your auto pilot, be really present, and share some good will.

Share concern. Have you ever had someone ask, "How are you," and then stick around to hear your "real answer?" For me, whether the rest of the conversation is 5 minutes or 5 hours isn't important. The fact that another person shows their real concern for me by actually listening reminds me how I'm doing does matter to other people. This encourages me share my concern by listening more deeply to others. When you ask how someone is doing, commit to hearing the answer.

Share yourself. I've really benefitted from times when folks have said to me, "I've got to run out and do a couple errands/have lunch. Do you want to come?" Usually there's no heavy agenda involved, but their willingness to share space with me is another way of connecting. These invitations are encouraging to me partly because they are agenda-free. They tell me the person cares enough about me to just want to spend time with me. When you're engaged in life's "light lifting," bring someone else along for the ride.

We all benefit when we practice simple encouragement. Our positive and encouraging words and behaviors answer life's primal and profound questions with clear, affirming responses -- I am here. I'm really listening. I really care.

Simple Encouragement

Father Brian Cavanaugh, in his book, *The Sower's Seeds*, describes a scene from the play 1776 when a lone actor walks onto a darkened stage, asks three questions, and walks off stage. The questions are: Is anyone there? Is anyone listening? Does anyone care? There is no response to these inquiries, only the sound of the actor's footsteps as he turns and walks away behind the closed curtain.

It seems to me these are three of life's most primal and profound questions. I think we all ask them at different points and places in our lives. The responses we get (or don't get) can have a significant impact on us. The responses we give (or don't give) to others, by our words and behaviors, can have a significant impact on them as well. And, it seems to me, one of the most profound ways we can positively answer those questions is through routinely sharing simple acts of encouragement with others.

UTA WORSHIP TIMES AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Roman Catholic Mass: 0900 Sunday at the Coast Guard Chapel

1100 Sunday, Building 158, 3rd Floor (next to Chaplain's Office)

Contemporary Christian Worship: 1130 Saturday, Building 158, 3rd Floor. (This is a new offering we'll be testing out about once a quarter.)

Interdenominational Christian Worship: 1145 Sunday at the 102nd IW, Building 158, on the 3rd Floor

Contact the Chaplain's Office for information on other faith groups or other times of worship (968-4508)

Family Medical Leave

By: 102nd Intelligence Wing, Legal Office

1 02nd Family members' employers are required to give them leave under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for many life events that are made more challenging by military deployments. This is a fairly well known federal Act, yet many of our members are not aware that these benefits can also extend to eligible family members. A covered employer must grant an eligible employee FMLA covered unpaid leave for up to 12 weeks per year for any "qualifying exigency" that arises from foreign deployment of the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent with the Armed Forces.

There are three steps to determine if your family member is eligible for relief under this Act. First, the employee must be a spouse, child (of any age), or parent of the military member. Second, the military member must be on "covered active duty". For 102nd members, this refers to a deployment to a foreign country or an order to active duty due to a contingency operation. Finally, the leave must fall within the parameters of what the FMLA allows for.

This Act is of special concern to us at the 102nd as many of our traditional airmen have civilian employers who are subject to FMLA regulation. If you have any questions or concerns please contact 102 IW/JA at 557-4336.

There are nine qualifying categories for qualifying exigency leave:

1. Any issues arising from the military member's short notice deployment (7 days or less of notice). Up to 7 days after notice is given, the employee may qualify.
2. Attending military events and related activities related to the member's deployment. Examples include official ceremonies, programs, events and informational briefings, or family support programs sponsored by the military, military service organizations, or the American Red Cross.
3. Childcare and related activities and issues arising from the military member's deployment to include arranging for alternate childcare, providing childcare on a non-routine, urgent basis, enrolling to transferring a child to a new school.
4. Issues arising from the military member's deployment related to care of a parent who is incapable of self-care, such as arranging for alternate care.
5. Updating financial and legal arrangements to address the military member's absence while on deployment.
6. Attending counseling for the employee, the military member, or the child of the military member when the need for the counseling arises from the deployment AND is provided by someone other than a health care provider.
7. Taking up to 15 calendar days of leave to spend time with a military member who is on short-term, temporary Rest and Recuperation leave during deployment.
8. Post-deployment activities within 90 days of the end of the military member's deployment, including arrival ceremonies, reintegration briefings and events, and other official ceremonies or programs sponsored by the military.
9. Any other event that the employee and employer agree is a qualifying exigency. This is a very broad category and should prompt discussions between 102nd family members and their supervisors to come to an understanding of the kind of leave the employer is willing to give. It never hurts to ask!



Change and Perspective

By: Ms. Jill Garvin, Director of Psychological Health



With the onset of the New Year, we begin to think about the upcoming year. There are many changes here at the wing, and many anticipated changes in the future. Some of us are energized by change and others will resist it. It feels uncomfortable and different. It is foreign to our routine or thinking patterns. Others embrace change and press on with excitement, curious about what is waiting around the bend. Whether in our personal or work lives, for some, change can be a process of initial shock or denial, guilt or anger, exhilaration and eventually acceptance.

Whether you are approaching a new year, a relationship with a new supervisor, mission changes, onset of retirement, or a first time deployment, keep in mind that others either share in the change experience or have sometime during their life experienced a similar experience. Keep the communication networks open and share.

Change can be frightening and it can be disruptive. With the right attitude and sharing with others, however, change can bring great opportunities.

Here are a few suggestions to help with negative reactions to change.

It's not events that cause us suffering, but our opinion about events.

We can transform emotions by understanding how they're connected to our beliefs and attitudes. Often what causes us suffering is not a particular adverse event, but our opinion about it. We can make a difficult situation much worse by the attitude we bring to it. This doesn't mean relentlessly "thinking positively"—it simply means being more mindful of how our attitudes and beliefs create our emotional reality.

We are not always aware of our opinions and beliefs, but we can bring them to consciousness by asking ourselves questions.

Socrates said we sleepwalk through life, unaware of how we live and never asking ourselves if our opinions about life are correct or wise. The way to bring beliefs into consciousness is simply to ask yourself questions: Why am I feeling this strong emotional reaction? What interpretation or belief is leading to it? Is that belief definitely true? Where is the evidence for it?

None of us can control everything that happens, but we can control how we react.

We don't control other people, the weather, the economy, what people think, or things in the past and future. The only thing we have complete control over is our belief and how we react. We all try to gain control over something or we fail to take responsibility for our own reactions, thoughts and beliefs. Focusing on what you can control is a powerful way to reduce anxiety and bring a little stillness.

Choose your perspective wisely.

Stoics (a philosophy) practiced what was called the View From Above: If you're anxious, worried or annoyed, project your imagination into space and imagine the vastness of the universe. From that cosmic perspective, the annoyance doesn't seem that important anymore—you've made a molehill out of a mountain.

Another technique the Stoics used (along with Buddhists and Epicureans) was bringing their attention back to the present moment. I always encourage people to bring their attention back to their breath when they find they are in the future or past. This will reduce your blood pressure and calm the nervous system.

Email Etiquette

By: Senior Master Sgt. Julie Santos

Though some communication guidelines are universal (FOCUS principles, the Seven Steps to Effective Communication, etc.), email is a unique medium.

Remember the three e-mail advantages: It's fast. It can get to more people and it's paperless.

Remember the three e-mail disadvantages: It's fast... a quickly written e-mail can fan as many fires as it extinguishes. It can get to more people... too many copies can clog the network and can be forwarded into the wrong hands.

It's paperless ... but leaves an electronic trail and power fluctuations can make things disappear. E-mail started off as a very informal communication technique, but today it covers the spectrum from professional to personal. Professional or official e-mail is different it's more like a business memo. It does affect the Air Force and the rules you follow should conform to military courtesy. The same care and attention to detail should be taken with professional e-mail as with "paper copy" correspondence. The following are guidelines to help

keep you on track with your official correspondence. Only reply to messages that require a response and minimize the use of the "REPLY TO ALL" function.

Individual electronic messages are considered official when the sender is conducting mission-related or official business. Users are required to retain official record emails by filing in an approved electronic record keeping system. For us at Otis, that would be our ERM on the "O" drive. If an approved electronic record keeping system is not available, users will print the official record emails to paper copy and file. Management of both official and individual messages is determined by the Chief of an Office of Record (COR) and is based upon the message originator's authentication authority. See your COR if you are not sure how to save your email in the proper format for the ERM. The table and rule for official emails is Table 33-49 Rule 24.00.

Consider whether e-mail is the best choice. Face-to-face conversations, phone calls, personal letters, or posted documents to a collaborative site may be more appropriate.

Use appropriate greetings and closings.

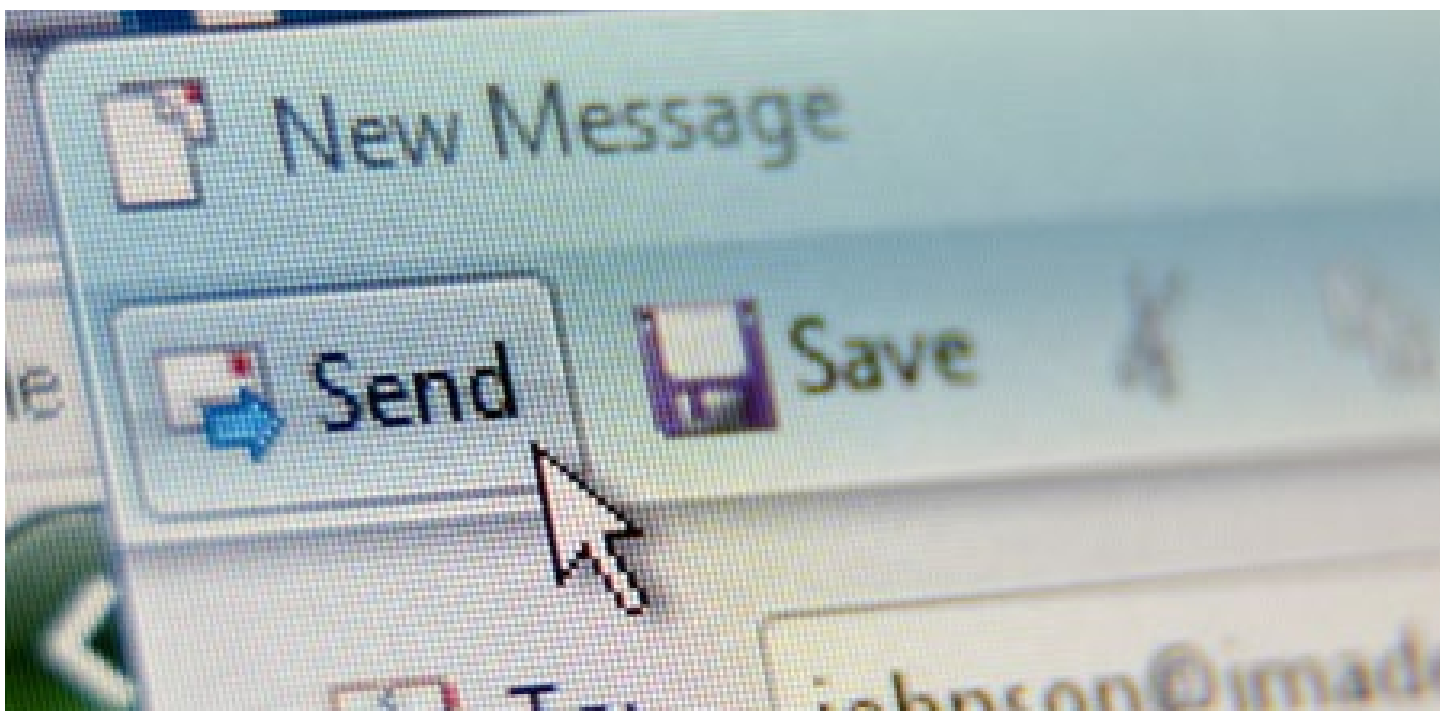
Address people with their titles when appropriate.

All official e-mail will include // SIGNED// in upper case before the signature block to signify it contains official Air Force information (e.g., instructions, directions or policies). At a minimum, official signature blocks should include name, rank, service affiliation, duty title, organization, telephone numbers (both commercial and DSN), addresses (both physical and email) and social media contact information, if applicable. DO NOT add slogans, quotes or other personalization to an official signature block.

Follow the chain of command.

Comply with standard procedures to correspond with superiors. Be professional and watch what you say, since e-mail is easily forwarded.

Please refer to AFMAN 33-152, User Responsibilities and Guidance for Information Systems and AFH 33-337, The Tongue and Quill for more guidance on Official Email.



Promotions



JOEL LEWANDOWSKI
STEVEN MESCHWITZ



SHAWN DOYLE
CHRISTA FREY
SARA LAFRANCHISE
BRENDAN SIMISON
CHRISTIAN LEIGHTON
MICHAEL MOULIS



CHRISTOPHER QUBECK



BROOKE MARSH



THOMAS NUNNELLEY



ROBERT MONK
KEVIN SULLIVAN



JWILLIAMLOVERING
AARON HERO



GALEN POWERS



ALEX BAUMGARDNER
LISETH VELEZ

Commander's Cup

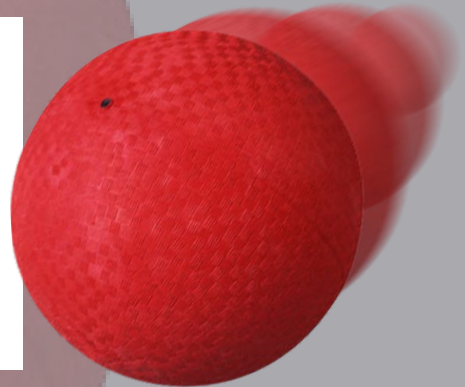
DODGEBALL! JANUARY 10TH

The next event will be Dodgeball on Saturday, 10 Jan., at 1600 in the Bldg 158 hangar. Get your teams ready now and remember...

***"If you can dodge a wrench,
you can dodge a ball*."***

--Patches O'Houlihan

Contact Capt. Dennis Swift for more information about the upcoming Commander's Cup events at dennis.swift@ang.af.mil



* Don't throw wrenches

SEAGULL IDEAS?

Do you have an idea for a *Seagull* article? Is your unit or shop doing something impressive? Is there something on base you don't think gets enough attention? Or do you simply have an announcement? Stories and ideas are always welcome. Email us at 102iw.pa@ang.af.mil (Please limit articles to 500 words.)

The next *Seagull* deadline is FRIDAY, JAN. 30, 2015.

Announcements

1



Satellite ALS

There is an upcoming opportunity to complete Airman Leadership School (ALS) at Otis. The Spring Satellite ALS Course starts on May 9, 2015 and goes until July 2, 2015. Phase 1 of the course meets at Otis ANGB on weekends from 0930-1800 until June 17, 2014. Students then continue on to McGhee Tyson ANGB, TN for Phase 2 which starts on 17 June 2015 with a Graduation Date of 2 July 2015. For more information and exact dates click [HERE](#).

2



The Massachusetts Tuition and Fees Reimbursement

Eligibility for the Massachusetts Tuition and Fees Reimbursement Certificate for State schools is determined by your status as a member of the 102nd Intelligence Wing. Members are eligible for the benefit the day they enlist or appoint with the Mass. Air National Guard. The benefit may be used at any point during your membership with the 102nd IW. Contact Senior Master Sgt. Shvonski for more information at douglas.shvonski@ang.af.mil or 508-968-4189

3



Multiple Red Cross Blood Drives Planned

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 12th and Saturday, May 2nd 2015. The American Red Cross will be on base on both dates to conduct blood drives. Details to follow as they become available. Thank you for your continued support of the American Red Cross.

4



DeCA Scholarships for Military Children Program

Applications for the 2015-2016 school-year awards become available starting Dec. 15. Applicants should ensure that they and their sponsor are enrolled in DEERS and have a military ID; and must attend or plan to attend an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2015. Applications must be received by COB Feb. 13, 2015. Learn more at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

5



2015 ESGR Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is now accepting nominations for the 2015 SecDef Employer Support Freedom Award. The award is the Nation's highest honor presented to civilian employers for exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR encourages Guardsmen, Reservists, or family members acting on their behalf, to submit nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil by January 19, 2015.

6



New Government Travel Credit Card

Please see the link below concerning the rollout of the new Citibank issued government travel cards with the new chip and pin technology. All GTC cardholders should verify their home address on record with Citibank to ensure they receive their card. Roll out of the new cards will start in January and finish by October of 2015. More information [HERE](#).