

WING TIPS

Scott Air Force Base

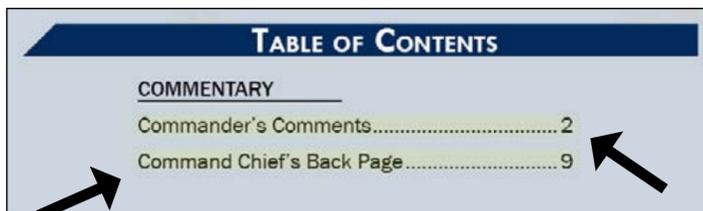
Illinois Air National Guard



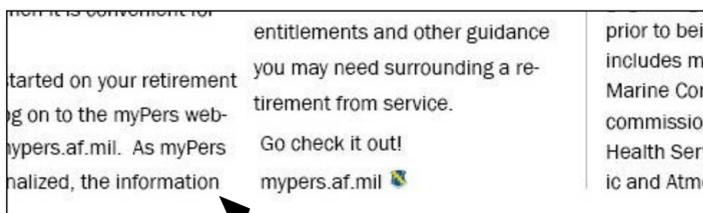
**Spotlight Feature:
Service
Before Self**

GETTING AROUND

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126th Air Refueling Wing

Wing Tips

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126 SCMS: Staff Sgt. Cassidy L'Hotte

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Summer is around the corner, and as temperatures climb, so do the number of accidents. Memorial Day marks the beginning of our 101 Critical Days of summer where we typically see the highest number of accidents. One thing I'd like you all to keep in mind this summer season is risk management. Before any activity, take a moment to consider if there is anything you can do to make any activity safer. Accidents are inevitable, but by applying proper risk management, we can reduce injury or loss of life this season.

While on the topic of risk management I want to touch on the controversial topic of marijuana legalization. Several states have legalized the recreational use of cannabis; however the military's position of zero tolerance remains clear! Recreational drug use, to include marijuana, is not compatible with military service. Please keep this in mind while attending informal and unofficial social events.

This past quarter we completed our Expeditionary Skills RODEO. Skills practiced during the RODEO are crucial for us to maintain our operational readiness as we enter

our next deployment cycle. These exercises allow the wing to hone our skills without packing up the wing and deploying to a training base such as the Alpena or Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Centers. I appreciate the work put into these events to make them a success.

April of this year marked the 2-year anniversary of the death of Capt. Brandon Cyr. His loss is still very real across this wing. I'm grateful to the men and women of the 906th who arranged a memorial event to help keep Brandon's spirit alive. Time will help us heal, but remembrance is important throughout the healing process.

During April and May we hosted over 30 of our spouses for an orientation flight. This event was a huge success and the spouses had a great time. Events such as these help families understand our mission and provide us the opportunity to thank them for all their support. We can't be truly successful in completing our mission without the continued support of our families. A huge thanks to all of you who supported this event.



Col. Peter Nezamis

Wing Commander

...the

military's

position is

still clear -

zero tolerance!



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



This June drill we will officially say farewell to Col. Rick

Keasey after over 30 years of dedicated service to our State and

Nation. Colonel Keasey's commitment, dedication and dynamic

leadership will be truly missed. His dedication to this wing took

our Maintenance Group to new heights. As we say "goodbye" to

Colonel Keasey, we welcome Lt. Col. Joshua Hendrix from the 182d

Airlift Wing out of Peoria, Illinois. Lt Col Hendrix brings a wealth

of experience to the wing and I am excited to welcome him.

Finally, our UEI-CAPSTONE is upon us! I know you all will do

a great job as each of you are professionals and I am proud to be

your Commander and serve alongside with you. Thank you for all

the hard work you've done to get us where we are now with the new

inspection system.

Enjoy the summer break after the UEI-Capstone and the time with

family and friends. Remember, there is no unit training assembly

in August so take advantage of that to get away, relax and spend

time with your family and friends. We will have plenty to do once

we get back! 



Col. Jeffery Jacobson, commander of the 126th Operations Group, and Lt. Col. Mark Chapman, a pilot for the 108th Air Refueling Squadron, pose for a photo at the retirement ceremony for Chapman at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., May 2, 2015. (Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Kleiser)



New non-commissioned officers from the 126th Air Refueling Wing were invited to attend a luncheon put on by the 126th 5/6 Council at the O'Fallon Veterans of Foreign Wars to welcome them into the NCO Corps in O'Fallon, Ill., May 2, 2015. The 5/6 Council is a newly formed council for Staff Sergeants and Technical Sergeants in the Illinois Air National Guard. (Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Cesaron White)



Expeditionary Skills Rodeo

April 19, 2015



Members of the 126th Air Refueling Wing participated in the expeditionary skills rodeo at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., April 19, 2015. The rodeo trains the Illinois Air National Guard for a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incident response as well as self-aid and buddy care. (Air National Guard photos by Airman 1st Class Clare Wallace, Illustration by Senior Airman Elise Stout)



Airman makes community impact

By: Senior Airman Elise Stout, 126th Air Refueling Wing

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill.- Citizen Airmen not only make an impact in the nation's security but also in their local communities by working to make their neighborhoods better. Many of these Airmen are also members of the Illinois Air National Guard's 126th Air Refueling Wing at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

Many of those that have a large impact are humbled by the events that they have been a part of and do not expect recognition. One of the many Citizen Airmen that try to make an impact, is Tech. Sgt. Kris Randolph, a crew chief for the 126th Maintenance Squadron.

Randolph is the Post Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7682 in Mascoutah, Illinois. While being the commander, Randolph helps multiple organizations around the Mascoutah area.

"Programs where we can help veteran's families and children. We also reach out to our community helping other organizations like Hospice of Southern Illinois, the Jaycees, the Scouts, or even just providing our hall for a benefit for someone in need," said Randolph.

While other people have wondered why some feel the need to go out of their way to help those that cannot help themselves, Randolph does not. Instead he makes an effort to seek out those that are in need.

According to Randolph, he has seen poverty and pain in his life while traveling around the world.

"I have also been to veterans' facilities and visited with veterans who felt forgotten and have little or no family left to come see them; men and women who haven't cracked a smile in months."

This has influenced his desire to give back to the community any way he can. While not looking for any public recognition, Randolph does get a reward that is close to his heart. His simple reward is the satisfaction he receives simply by helping people.

"In my heart I knew I could, and "should" give something back. I'm glad I did; now I look forward to the next smile, whether it's a veteran or a child, or one of our seniors; or just someone we were fortunate enough to help." 



The 906th Air Refueling Squadron held an outdoor memorial walk at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., for Capt. Brandon Cyr on the second anniversary of his death, April 27, 2015. Capt. Cyr died in a plane crash in Afghanistan. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ken Stephens)



The 126th Air Refueling Wing hosted multiple refueling flights for members' spouses to observe the mission of the 126 ARW and to see how their spouse contributes to that mission at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., April 13, 2015. The flights took place over four different days. (Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Kleiser)



**Tech Sgt
John Spain**
126th Operations Group
Den Leader
Scout Pack 40
Shiloh, Illinois

**Senior Airman
Trevor Stout**
126th Civil Engineer
Squadron
Volunteer Firefighter
Columbia Fire Department
Columbia, Illinois

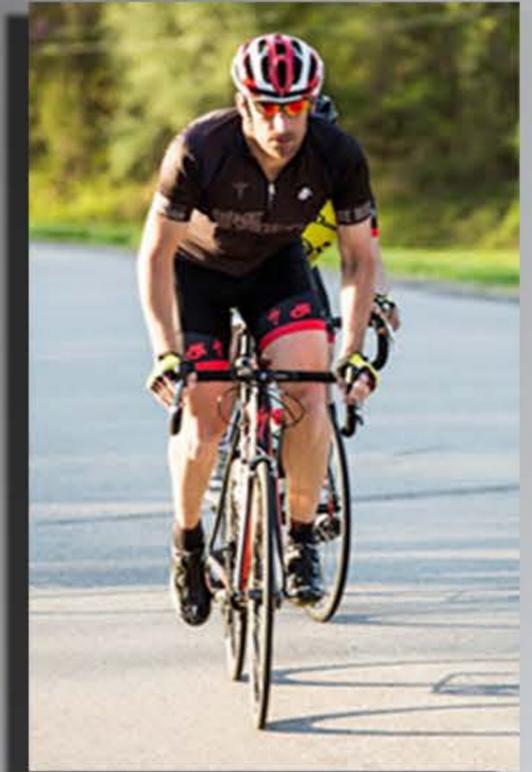


Service Before Self



**Major
Viveca Lane**
108th Air Refueling
Squadron
Big Sister
Girl Scout Volunteer
St. Louis, Missouri

**Lt Colonel
Tom Jackson**
126th Operations Group
Endurance Coach
Event Director
O'Fallon, Illinois





**Senior Airman
Philip Gray**
126th Civil Engineer
Squadron
Emergency Medical
Technician
Sugar Creek Ambulance
Trenton, Illinois



**Senior Master Sgt
Richard Hosman**
126th Logistics Readiness
Squadron
Advancement Coordinator
Boy Scout Pack #47
O'Fallon, Illinois



**Staff Sgt
Brian Weiser**
126th Maintenance
Operations Flight
Teacher for exceptional
needs children
St. Louis, Missouri

**Staff Sgt
Chris Nikonovich**
108th Air Refueling
Squadron
Voulnteer Firefighter
Nokomis Fire District
Nokomis, Illinois

**Lt Colonel
Mike O'Koniewski**
108th Air Refueling
Squadron
Boy Scout Leader
Pack 1034
Glen Carbon, Illinois

**Captain
Randy Rodgers**
108th Air Refueling
Squadron
Boy Scout Leader
Pack 1034
Glen Carbon, Illinois

**Lt Colonel
James Avery**
126th Medical Group
Bone Densitometrist
Bone Health Program
Washington University
St. Louis, Missouri

**Major
Patrick McCann**
126th Medical Group
Cardiologist
Columbia, South Carolina

**Tech Sgt
Terry Kahrhoff**
126th Maintenance
Squadron
Volunteer Firefighter
Sugar Creek Fire Dept
Trenton, Illinois

**Tech Sgt
Kris Randolph**
126th Maintenance
Squadron
VFW Commander
Hosts Fundraisers
Mascoutah, Illinois

**Senior Airman
Corey Harter**
126th Maintenance
Squadron
Volunteer Firefighter
Belleville Fire Dept
Belleville, Illinois

**Staff Sgt
Christopher Adams**
126th Supply Chain
Managment Squadron
President of Armed Forces
Aganist Drunk Driving
Belleville, Illinois

**Tech Sgt
Larry Thomas**
126th Force Support
Squadron
Paster at Nu Yu Youth
Movement
Washington Park,
Illinois

**Master Sgt
Randy Millerman**
126th Logistics
Readiness Squadron
Boy Scout Volunteer
St. Louis, Missouri

**Captain
Cody Hoylman**
126th Operations Group
Tutors students at Evans
Elementary
O'Fallon, Illinois

**Captain
Jennifer Oeffner**
126th Operations Group
Tutor for
underprivileged children
St. Louis, Missouri

**Tech Sgt
Holyenne Steppe**
126th Operations
Support Squadron
Director and Founder of
Grace Acheieves
Voulnteer for TAPS
St. Louis, Missouri

**Staff Sgt
Mark Trapp**
906 Air Refueling
Squadron
Vounteer Firefighter
Shoal Creek Fire Dept
Sorento, Illinois

**Airman 1st Class
Keagan Bogard
126th Security Forces
Squadron
Volunteer Firefigter
Keensberg, Illinois**

**Airman 1st Class
Corey Grammer
126th Security Forces
Squadron
St. Louis Stray and
Rescue
St. Louis, Missouri**

**Airman 1st Class
Sharea Rhodes
126th Security Forces
Squadron
Feed my Starving Children
Schaumburg, Illinois**

**Airman 1st Class
Brittany Babb
126th Security Forces
Squadron
Anime St. Louis benefits
for public libraries
Collinsville, Illinois**

**Senior Airman
Michelle Wills
126th Security Forces
Squadron
Event Volunteer for Big
Brother Big Sister
Belleville, Illinois**

**Senior Airman
Timothy Piper
126th Security Forces
Squadron
Volunteer Firefighter
DuQuoin, Illinois**

**Staff Sgt
Robert Lyons
126th Security Forces
Squadron
Value of People Volunteer
Granite City, Illinois**

**Staff Sgt
Alec Williams
126th Security Forces
Squadron
Volunteer for VFW
Post 1117
Toys for Tots and
Easter Egg Hunt
Caseyville, Illinois**

**Staff Sgt
Christopher Jackson
126th Security Forces
Squadron
Vounteer Firefighter
Mascoutah Fire Dept
Special Olympics
Mascoutah, Illinois**

**Staff Sgt
Christopher Gottschall
126th Security Forces
Squadron
Police Officer, Shop with a
Cop, Specal Oympics
O'Fallon, Illinois**

**Staff Sgt
Joseph Heiligenstein
126th Security Forces
Squadron
Volunteer for
Blessed Teresa Calcutta
Catholic Church
Ferguson, Missouri**

“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of another.”

-Charles Dickens

126th Civil Engineers go to Guam

By Capt. Matt Boice and Staff Sgt. Nicolette Watson, 126th Civil Engineer Squadron

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, GUAM - The 126th Civil Engineer Squadron recently returned to Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, from a Deployment for Training to Andersen Air Force Base at Northwest Field, Guam.

Previously a World War II airfield, Northwest Field is home to the 554th Red Horse Squadron whose motto continues to be “semper ducimus” which translates to “always leading.” Members of this squadron are responsible for sustaining the newly-relocated Pacific Air Force Silver Flag training site among other training missions.

While at Northwest Field, members of the Illinois Air National Guard’s 126th Civil Engineering Squadron arrived at the 5,976 square foot 554th Red Horse Squadron’s Combat Warrior Simulator facility, which has been vacant for five years. The civil engineers were tasked with the construction of all interior improvements of the facility, to include HVAC, electrical, structural walls and plumbing. The local Security Forces Squadron intends to utilize the facility as a Humvee Assault and Assault Rifle simulator, which will consist of a drop-in ceiling mount projector and assault rifle simulated firing range.

The squadron sent 36 members to take part in the deployment for training which provides the opportunity for personnel to apply their knowledge to hands-on training around the world to provide necessary improvements and support for host personnel. The trip to Northwest Field was a team effort by the 126th Mission Support Group. Multiple personnel contributed to this training mission, to

include the support group first sergeant, two personnel from the 126th Force Support Squadron, one personnel from the 126th Comptroller Flight and four personnel from the 126th Security Forces Squadron. The security personnel worked closely with their active duty component on Andersen to allow 28 of the Guardsmen to qualify on the M4 rifle, which improved the readiness capability of the squadron.

During the three-week training period, the Structures shop worked tirelessly to install 5,000 square feet of metal stud framing and associated drywall for the three simulator firing lanes, entrance hallway, and one bathroom compliant with the federal Americans with Disability Act.

The Waters and Fuels System Maintenance shop worked diligently to complete their tasks, which included installation of 37 linear feet of two-inch PVC pipe for waste and vent piping for an ADA bathroom. This three fixtures bathroom included a lavatory, urinal, and water closet. The shop also installed a point of use water heater for the lavatory, a one-inch backflow prevention device which was placed into service. In addition to the bathroom, the troops installed over 2,000 lineal feet of fire suppression pipe to service the entire building.

On the north side of the building, HVAC personnel fabricated 225 linear feet and insulated 305 linear feet of supply and return ductwork to create climate control. Although materials were scarce, HVAC personnel were able to complete ventilation for the

north side of the simulator and ten trapeze supports for the supply and return.

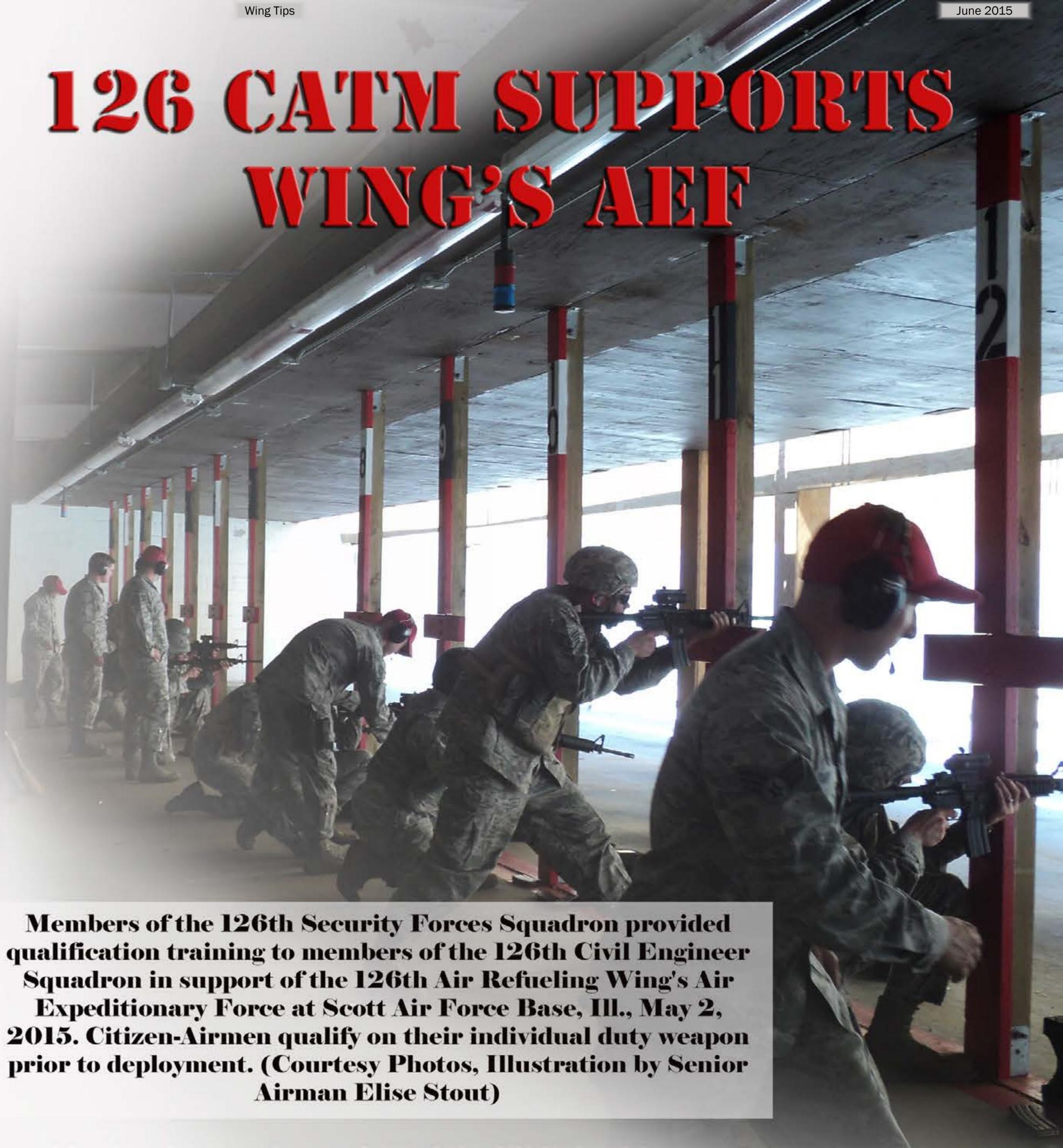
While the HVAC crew completed the north side of the Combat Warrior Simulator, Power Production and Electrical shops were faced with no power. As a result, a generator was used to provide temporary electricity to the 126th Civil Engineer Squadron as they worked to construct the simulator. In order to provide power for an overhead door and projectors, both shops worked hand in hand to install 1,900 linear feet of conduit to run electrical wire for lighting and outlets. Furthermore, Power Production and Electrical installed the fire panel, six pull station and fire strobe boxes to lay out the basic lines for the fire detection and alarm system. Also the two shops completed the lay out for lighting and communication for the building.

Throughout the project, the 126th exceeded the expectations of the 554th Red Horse Squadron, who, on a daily bases, commented on a job well done. 🇺🇸





126 CATM SUPPORTS WING'S AEF



Members of the 126th Security Forces Squadron provided qualification training to members of the 126th Civil Engineer Squadron in support of the 126th Air Refueling Wing's Air Expeditionary Force at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., May 2, 2015. Citizen-Airmen qualify on their individual duty weapon prior to deployment. (Courtesy Photos, Illustration by Senior Airman Elise Stout)



126th Air Refueling Wing Retirements

Col. Richard Keasey, 126 Maintenance Group ~ 29 yrs

Lt. Col. Mark Chapman, 126 Operation Support Squadron ~ 29 yrs

Lt. Col. James Pauling, 108 Air Refueling Squadron ~ 25 yrs

Tech Sgt. Franklin Smith, 126 Force Support Squadron ~ 20 yrs

Senior Airman James Walker, 126 Maintenance Squadron ~ 20 yrs

New Director of Psychological Health

by Ms. Linda Schuh, 126th Medical Group



I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the 126th Air Refueling Wing.

My name is Linda Schuh and I am the new Director of Psychological Health. I took the path that many of you are currently on. After high school, I enlisted in the military and ended up serving 20 years. Five of those years were spent on active duty as an Army Military Policeman and fifteen years were with the Illinois Army National Guard as an Administrative Specialist.

After leaving active duty, I attended college at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and Washington University St. Louis, where I received a Masters

of Social Work degree. I am a licensed clinical social worker and have worked in the field for 15 years.

My work experience includes, school social work, clinical social work, working in community mental health and private practice settings and also counseling services for the Air Force.

I am married and have three children, one of which is currently serving in the Navy. As part of the 126th I hope to use my military background as well as my social work experience to serve you and your family in any way that I can.

Our program offers free confidential professional consultation and referral, and 3-5 counseling sessions available to you and your family. Some topics discussed are stress management, anger management, relationship issues, depression, anxiety and self-esteem.

If you need assistance please come by my office or call me at (618) 256-7585 to reach me at the office or my cell phone at (618) 365-0159. 🇺🇸

18th Air Force Visits

126 ARW

Lt. Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II, 18th Air Force commander, visits with Airmen all around the 126th Air Refueling Wing March 7, 2015, at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Everhart received a tour of the 126th ARW by Col. Peter Nezamis, wing commander, to observe the mission capabilities and professionalism the Illinois Air National Guard wing contributes to the global force. (Air National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Andrew Kleiser, Staff Sgt Laura Muhel, and Senior Airman Elise Stout)



COMMAND CHIEF'S COMMENTS

From the Command Chief

A Good Word!

Giving that word of encouragement, motivation, or inspiration has its own unique timing to those for whom it is meant. Sometimes we may feel as if the timing is off when we hear someone else sharing or when we finally get around to sharing with someone, but it's never too late.

Here's why – it's not meant for you. When you find yourself in that position of leadership or influence you'll appreciate that your ability to encourage, motivate or inspire the men and women in your care will not be based on timing, but the sincerity of your intention.

Your "thank you" or "well done" may be the difference between a bad day and a great day for that person and everyone they come in contact with.

Go back and say thanks or well done...if it's sincere the timing will be perfect! 🇺🇸



Community College of the Air Force graduates

I wish to extend my personal congratulations to the following 126th Air Refueling Wing enlisted members who graduated in the October 2014 class with an Associate of Applied Science degree from the Community College of the Air Force. The Community College of the Air Force is the largest community college in the nation serving all enlisted personnel in the U.S. Air Force. All that is required to earn your degree from CCAF is a collection of various semester hours totaling 64. Many of these credit hours are earned from military education and training you may have already completed. I strongly encourage all enlisted members to further their civilian education. For more detailed information regarding CCAF, contact your unit Education and Training Manager.



Master Sgt. Erica N. Aycock

Master Sgt. Bradley M. Bishop

Master Sgt. Colleen A. Buzenski

Master Sgt. Brian B. Goldenstein

Master Sgt. Steven A. Sabatino

Tech. Sgt. Angelica M. Knecht

Staff Sgt. Luke A. Bement

Staff Sgt. Cornelius R. Harris

Staff Sgt. Anthony M. Mason

Senior Airman Elise M. Stout

Senior Airman Robert A. Watson

Keeping in touch...

Don't forget to email us if you change your email address or have any comments about Wing Tips.

You can also provide any other feedback to this email:

126ARW.PA@ang.af.mil

You can keep up with Wing events on the web at these sites:

Website

www.126arw.ang.af.mil

Facebook

www.facebook.com/126arw

Flickr

www.flickr.com/photos/126arw

DVIDS Hub

www.dvidshub.net/units/126arw

Wing History

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126th AIR REFUELING WING

WING TIPS

MARCH 1981

VOLUME XXIV, NO 3

ILLINOIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

126 SPF IS ANG'S BEST



The 126th Security Police Flight (SPF) has received the Air National Guard's (ANG's) Outstanding Security Police Unit Award for calendar year 1980 - an award that places the 126th on top of 91 other ANG units. In addition, the ANG has nominated the 126th for the Reserve Forces Unit Award, whose competition will take place later this year in Headquarters, USAF Security Police.

Competition was tough, with each USAF Major Command forwarding nominees to the National Guard Bureau after separate competitions. The 126 SPF was Strategic Air Command's top ANG security police unit.

Major John F. Schmitt, 126 SPF commander, said the competition's purpose is to acknowledge and encourage a sense of pride in a unit's collective performance of official duties, community relations, and personal behavior of its members.

"The achievements of the 126 SPF, as exhibited by this award, are in large measure based on the outstanding support received from other units within the 126th Air Refueling Wing," Maj. Schmitt said.

(Continued on Page 5)

THREE IN A ROW FOR 108TH

Another 108th Air Refueling Squadron (AREFS) navigator has taken three top honors during recent navigator training school graduation ceremonies at Castle AFB, CA.



Lt. Richard W. Gungel was presented the Ira J. Husik Memorial Award for Flying Excellence, the Air Training Command's Commanders Trophy for ending up top in his class, and a Certificate of Outstanding Performance for his skill and excellence in airmanship as a combat crew navigator while in training at Castle AFB.

Lt. Gungel becomes the latest of three 108th navigators to receive top awards. In January 1980, 2Lt. Boyd K. Bender received two awards during graduation ceremonies: the Distinguished Graduate Award for Flying Excellence and the Certificate of Excellence in Advanced Navigator Training. Earlier, 2Lt. Michael R. Stack received the Outstanding Graduate award from his combat crew training class.

Before commissioning in November 1979, Lt. Gungel was an enlisted member of the 126th CAMRON. He said his prior knowledge of navigation systems, through working in the Avionics Maintenance Section, helped him excel during navigator training.

After 60 days of training at O'Hare, Lt. Gungel plans to return to studying electronics in college. He and his wife, Karen, live in Westmont.

(Continued on Page 5)