

NEW YORK

The *AIR NATIONAL GUARD* **AIR** NATIONAL GUARD

Skibird



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

Spring / Summer 2016

ODF 2015-16 STATS

5.1 MILLION POUNDS OF CARGO TRANSPORTED

3,820 PASSENGERS MOVED

320 MISSIONS COMPLETE

152 INTER-CONTINENTAL SORTIES

2,511 FLIGHT HOURS

Mission execution continues

By Lt. Col. Christian Sander
109th Operations Group Commander

Greetings from the 109th Operations Group and happy summer of 2016 to all of us. I am hoping for a fantastic warm-weather season for both personal and professional reasons. Today as I sit here contemplating what to write, I am compelled to convey to you what a tremendous honor it is to be selected as the 109th Operations Group commander. I greatly appreciate the opportunity; it is truly the greatest honor of my professional life.... and here is why:

As part of the 109th Airlift Wing, the 109th Operations Group (OG) is by far, the most complete Air Force Operational package in the Air Force. Our people plan, negotiate, refine and execute missions like no other Air Force Wing on the planet. We take planning to a greater than MAJCOM level, primarily because of being the only ski-equipped heavy lift capable unit in the military as well as the lead Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in the Air National Guard. Our mission designs are fiscally efficient in costs/people, highly comprehensive and are consistently executed in a flawless manner. "Really?" Am I saying that we are the best in the whole Air Force?? Yes!! Here are a few examples from just the last six months as to why we are "The Best."

109th Operations Support Squadron (OSS)

The 109th OSS mission is to provide specialized support to the 139th Airlift Squadron and 109th Operations Group to meet 109th AW mission goals.

Most of our Wing personnel know that we are the only LC-130 equipped unit. However what is not commonly known is the level of detailed, behind the scenes, planning that makes LC-130 mission execution look easy. To plan for our unique missions, the 109th OSS has special planning shops not found in other C-130 units. Our Antarctic Operations and Greenland Shops respectively do significant coordination with the National Science Foundation, civilian contractors and Department of Defense organizations to develop the Air Tasking Orders and detailed flying schedules. They, along with Polar Plans often represent the Wing to coordinate detailed logistics requirements such as facilities, lodging, communications support, etc., to ensure a successful and seamless Operation Deep Freeze deployment. Furthermore, our one-of-a-kind Polar Tactics shop single-handedly develops specialized tactics, techniques, and procedures needed to safely operate in remote polar locations. This includes coordinating and analyzing satellite imagery of proposed landing sites to evaluate surface conditions; developing poor weather arrival and departure procedures to avoid terrain; and publishing the flying products aircrews need to safely execute their assigned missions. This is important because there is no higher headquarters to provide these needed services. Virtually all planning is done "in-house" with an attention to detail and zero fail focus on safety and mission accomplishment seldom found in other flying organizations. The other OSS shops, such as

Aircrew Flight Equipment and Intel, perform strong Polar support functions that require specialized training and focus that no other AFE or Intel shop can provide.

On top of all that, the Arctic continues to grow in geopolitical importance and there is renewed DOD interest in Arctic military mission sets that only the LC-130 can provide. This is why we have been participating in Canada's Operation Nunalivut for the past three years; to showcase to the DOD the ability to provide tactical airlift reach into the Arctic. Flawless execution of this planning is on display every season and practically all year round with nearly zero dwell time. Just take a look at this year's Nunalivut 2016 (NU16) exercise where an eight-person Maintenance's SCT (Skiway Construction Team) and Ops' SLACO (Skiway Landing Area Certifying Officer) team established 5,000 ft. sea-ice ski landing zone at Polaris Bay in the remote Canadian arctic. Eleven operational LC-130 landings were conducted transporting 92,000 pounds of cargo and validating the bilateral cooperation with allied partners to support NORAD/NORTHCOM. All logistics, air mission planning and waivers of "normal" procedures were conceived, developed and coordinated by our own 109th OSS personnel.

139th Airlift Squadron (AS)

Some may think of the 139th AS as the execution branch of the Wing and OSS, however the flying Squadron was a key planner to Operation's new strategic plan. The key impetus to the change was the two tail reduction in wheeled combat-



File Photo

coded aircraft and a significant increase in Polar activity. The implementation of this plan continues to evolve, but the goals and objective have created a clear path for the future of the unit. Already we have put the plan into action in getting all of our new full-time aircrews fully qualified in Polar Airdrop. We accomplished this during the highly successful Airdrop Rodeo the week of May 14. Extensive planning by our training department and outstanding support by the Maintenance Group and Mission Support Group made this week a success resulting in 19 of 20 flights flown, 24 students trained with nearly 30 actual airdrops.

However, most would agree that Antarctica's ODF mission execution is the mainstay of the Airlift Squadron and the ODF 15-16 season was executed phenomenally! This Antarctic season was highly successful despite a record number of weather cancels. The 139th AS transported 5.1 million pounds of cargo and 3,820 passengers (MOST EVER) with 320 missions, 152 inter-continental sorties (MOST EVER) and 2,511 flight hours. We were required, for the second time in three seasons, to accomplish ODF's end of season close out when

See 109th OG, page 4

109th Airlift Wing



Commander

Col. Shawn Clouthier

Vice Commander

Col. Alan Ross

Command Chief

Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto

The Skibird

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The Skibird

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

VOLUME 52, No. 1

Inside

Leadership

German assumes duties as TAG

[Page 6](#)

Rice assumes helm as Air Guard director

[Page 7](#)

Zautner takes command of MDG

[Page 8](#)

Mission Talk

109th AW wraps up Antarctic support

[Page 9](#)

Airmen take on mission at South Pole

[Page 10](#)

109th AW aids Australian researchers

[Page 11](#)

Airmen build ski-way in High Arctic

[Page 12](#)

Readiness

Firefighters complete live fire training

[Page 14](#)

Base hosts CODE RED training

[Page 15](#)

Citizen Airmen

Firefighter coaches youth rowing club

[Page 16](#)

Airmen come to aid of civilians

[Page 18](#)

Airman works as NYS corrections officer

[Page 19](#)

Airman of the Year

[Page 20](#)

History

[Page 21](#)

In the Community

[Pages 22-24](#)

Chaplain's Corner

[Page 25](#)

Recruiting

[Pages 26-29](#)

Spotlight

[Pages 30-31](#)

On the cover:

An overview of the South Pole Station. Read coverage on this year's ODF season on [Page 9](#) (Courtesy Photo /139th Airlift Squadron)

Airmen go above and beyond

By Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto
109th AW Command Chief

As Guard Airmen the roles and statuses we serve in differ from those of the active component yet we maintain the same readiness and are evaluated to the same standards. Whether federal, state, or civilian status, the Air National Guard will foster career development plans for Guard Airmen to ensure their deliberate professional development in both military and civilian careers.

Here at the 109th we have been doing just that through the Airmen Development and Leadership Development Courses, staff rides, student flight cadre rotations and additional duty First Sergeants to name a few.

Now we can add "Professionalism: Enhancing Human Capital" course presented by Profession of Arms Center of Excellence (PACE) to be held here at the 109th. PACE is committed to developing Air Force personnel with a professionalism mindset, character, and core values required to succeed today and well into the future. This course is an inspiring, optimistic and enjoyable opportunity that helps us focus on bringing out a better version of ourselves as

well as a better version of those around us. These are "people skills" that determine the health of our daily relations (at work and at home).

We are extremely fortunate to have PACE come here and provide this invaluable training. This course will be offered June 20 for master sergeants through chief master sergeants and June 21 for officers. Please see me if you are interested in attending and haven't already signed up.

The 109th is always in a state of constant improvement. In all that we do, whether attending a course, deployed or performing a UTA, our appearance and military bearing are key to our success. Let's strive not to be complacent about our appearance. As an Air Guard unit it can be easy to stray away from high standards, but we still fall under the same uniform standards as the active component.

We must make it everyone's responsibility to prevent this. Inspect your uniform before you wear it. Pay close attention to haircuts, hair color and grooming. You will soon realize how much better you will feel about yourself and this unit. Please check your fellow Airmen and don't be afraid to correct a fellow Airman. I know there are those who are hesitant and feel they are meddling. It's



File Photo

everyone's job. However, be polite about it, everyone makes mistakes and we are not out to embarrass anyone. Look the best you can look: Look like an Airman!

Last, but certainly not least, there are a few stories in this issue of the Skibird that highlight Airmen who go above and beyond their normal duties here at the base. This is what you do. You are highly trained, reliable professionals who always pay it forward. Doesn't get much better than that! Thank you for all that you do every day.

109th OG

Pegasus Ice runway was unsuitable for wheeled aircraft until the end of February. Then, just when we thought the extended season was over, we agreed to hold back two LC-130 aircraft for a mission to Davis Camp located on the other side of Antarctica to pick up 33 stranded Australians due to their Icebreaker running aground. This very complex mission late in the season was a true testament of the 139th AS ability to real-time plan, refine as needed and execute... flawlessly!

And currently, we are off to a great start in Greenland. So far we have completed 23 Arctic missions including 15 SAAM's (Special Assigned Airlift Missions) and eight training sorties accomplished with seven check rides, completed on time and on budget.

139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES)

The 139th AES has established a reputation of excellence and can-do attitude in the ANG and are recognized as AE subject matter experts. When the National Guard Bureau needed to establish the initial Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Team embedded into a Patient Evacuation Coordination Cell in Iraq earlier this year, the 139th AES was their first call.

Our own Capt. Katie Burnell established the processes and continuity plans, and Maj. Jeff Burns developed a new Patient Movement Request tool that is currently being utilized by three different COCOMs. This clearly demonstrates how the 139th AES sets the standard for AE in the Air Force!

On the subject of flawless execution, to

date in our ongoing deployment, we have been employed in 12 different UTCs scattered across eight time zones and have executed more than 100 AE missions transporting 17 "Urgent", 54 "Priority" and 811 "Routine" patients to higher echelons of care. We have cared for nearly all of the battle injuries transported out of Iraq and Afghanistan since January 2016. Additionally, we moved victims from the Brussels Airport Bombing in March to "Burn Centers of Excellence" in the United States. In my proud opinion, truly one of the most patriotic services that a member can provide for a fellow Airman/Soldier/Marine/Sailor, and epitomizes "Service before Self".

I could go on indefinitely ... Did I tell you I am deeply honored to be the Commander of the 109th Operations Group!?

109AW CHAIN OF COMMAND



Barack H. Obama
President of the United States



Ash B. Carter
Secretary of Defense



Deborah Lee James
Secretary of the Air Force



Andrew M. Cuomo
New York Governor



Major General
Anthony P. German
The Adjutant General



Brigadier General
Timothy J. LaBarge
NYANG Chief of Staff



Col Shawn A. Clouthier
109AW Commander



Col Alan N. Ross
109AW Vice Commander



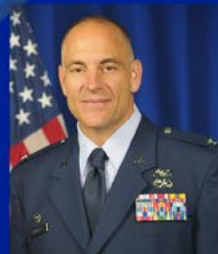
CMSgt Amy R. Giaquinto
109AW Command Chief



Lt Col Christian E. Sander
109OG Commander



Col Denise M. Donnell
109MXG Commander



Col Jeffrey L. Hedges
109MSG Commander



Lt Col Janice M. Zautner
109MDG Commander



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Raymond Drumsta

Maj. Gen. Anthony German assumes duties as TAG

By Eric Durr
New York National Guard
Public Affairs

ALBANY, N.Y. — Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has announced his selection of Air Force Maj. Gen. Anthony German as the 53rd adjutant general of the New York National Guard.

German is an Oneonta, New York, resident who previously served as assistant adjutant general.

German will replace Army Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, who has served as adjutant general since 2010, and is leaving the position to serve as director of strategy,

plans, policy and international affairs for the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

“Gen. Anthony German has a distinguished record as a National Guard leader dedicated to serving our nation and state,” Cuomo said. “He brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge in military affairs and in his new role will continue his commitment to strengthening the readiness of our military.”

“I would like to thank General Patrick Murphy for his many contributions to the New York National Guard,” Cuomo continued. “Gen. Murphy has done an exceptional job as adjutant general. He embodies the service and leadership that the National Guard stands for and I wish

New York State Lt. Gov. Kathleen C. Hochul (right) hands the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) colors to Maj. Gen. Anthony German (left), making him the 53rd adjutant general of the New York National Guard during a change-of-command ceremony at DMNA on April 7, 2016. German assumed adjutant general duties from Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, who became the 52nd adjutant general of New York State in 2010. The adjutant general of New York is responsible to the Governor of New York for the readiness and training of the 10,300 members of the New York Army National Guard, and the 5,600 members of the New York Air National Guard.

him the best as he begins an important new challenge.”

“I’m honored to be selected by Gov. Cuomo to lead the men and women who serve in our New York National Guard,” German said. “The current adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy, has been an outstanding leader and mentor for our Soldiers and Airmen and I look forward to taking on this new responsibility.

“In the past decade, the men and women of the New York Army and Air National Guard have been in combat in Afghanistan, responded to natural disasters here at home, and served around the world, and they have done it all well. I am humbled that the governor has trusted me to lead them,” he added.

German was commissioned in the United States Air Force in 1983 as an aircraft navigator and joined the New York Air National Guard’s 109th Airlift Wing in 1989. The 109th Airlift Wing, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, flies the LC-130 aircraft, the only ski-equipped aircraft in the U.S. military. The wing provides support to the National Science Foundation’s research efforts in Antarctica and Greenland.

German commanded the wing from 2006 to 2010. He served as chief of staff of the New York Air National Guard from 2010 to 2015 and played a key role in coordinating New York Air Guard participation in the New York National Guard response to Tropical Storms Irene and Lee in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

German has also served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs as the Department of Defense Liaison Officer to the National

See German, page 7

Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice assumes helm as Air Guard director

By Staff Sgt. John E. Hillier

Air National Guard Readiness Center
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. — Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice assumed the duties and responsibilities of director, Air National Guard in an assumption of responsibility ceremony held at the Air National Guard Readiness Center, May 10.

Rice, who was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general during the ceremony, takes the reins as ANG director from Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke, III, who retired in March.

A command pilot with more than 4,300 hours in the F-111 Aardvark and A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft, Rice assumed his current position after serving as adjutant general of the Massachusetts National Guard.

“There’s three things we talk about

German

Science Foundation. He recently completed a 30-day assignment as acting director of the Air National Guard.

German is a master navigator with over 4,900 flying hours and in the C-130 Hercules and other aircraft.

As adjutant general, German will be responsible for the readiness and training of the 10,300 members of the New York Army National Guard, and the 5,600 members of the New York Air National Guard.

The adjutant general is also responsible for



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Young

Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice assumed the duties and responsibilities of director, Air National Guard in an assumption of responsibility ceremony held at the Air National Guard Readiness Center, May 10, 2016. Rice, who previously served as the adjutant general of the Massachusetts National Guard, became the 14th Director of the ANG.

in the National Guard that we do every day,” said Army Gen. Frank Grass, chief, National Guard Bureau, who hosted the ceremony. “There’s a warfighter mission, a homeland mission for the governors and our communities, and there’s a partnership mission. [Lt. Gen. Rice has] all the right tools to do this job. All of us are so excited to have you here.”

“There will be times it will be hard,” Grass said. “But, [he] will lead the best National Guard I have seen in my 46 years of serving. The men and women are truly the best of the best.”

Rice spoke about the unique skills and experience that the Guard provides.

the New York Naval Militia, a force of 2,900 personnel, the bulk of whom are currently serving members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve who also volunteer to serve on state duty during emergencies.

Another 600 people serve as volunteers in the New York Guard, a state force that assists the National Guard during emergencies.

German holds a degree from SUNY Oneonta and is a graduate of the United States Naval War College and the Senior Reserve Component Officer Course, Carlisle

“Our experience gives us an edge when it comes to doing new things, enduring things,” said Rice. “But there’s a dark side to that too. When you live in one place for five years, ten years, you become resistant to change. We have to work with the things we’re strong at, but understand the things we may be weak at.”

While thanking the many women who had influenced his life, from his mother, a WWII Army nurse, to his wife, sisters, daughters and granddaughters, Rice discussed the Guard’s commitment to diversity.

“It is our job to work towards diversity where diversity is not something that we have to work on,” he said. “I want to get to the point where women in our service are not special. Individuals are special, but as a group we want everyone to be equal.”

Rice concluded his remarks with a challenge for Airmen to come together.

“This is the moment where I get to say to you all ‘Are you ready?’ he said. “We are going to be on a trip, and this trip is going to take us to crazy places, and crazy adventures. We’re going to do unbelievable things. And when I say ‘we’ I mean we the Air National Guard, we the Air Force Reserve, we the active duty – we, the U.S. Air Force. We, our families and friends and the whole country we serve are all in this together.”



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Lt. Col. Janice Zautner assumes command of the 109th Medical Group from Col. Shawn Clouthier, 109th Airlift Wing commander, during a ceremony here Feb. 7, 2016. Col. Douglas Cromack, outgoing commander, was the 109th MDG commander November 2014 through January 2016.

Zautner assumes command of Medical Group

By Master Sgt. William Gizara
109th AW Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Janice Zautner assumed command of the 109th Medical Group during a change of command ceremony here Feb. 7.

Zautner, previous 139th Aeromedical Squadron flight nurse, assumed command from Col. Douglas Cromack in a ceremony officiated by Col. Shawn Clouthier, 109th Airlift Wing commander. Changes of command are a military tradition representing the transfer of responsibilities from the presiding official to the upcoming official.

"I look forward to Lt Col Zautner joining my team of group commanders," Clouthier said. "She brings an impressive resume with a broad range of professional experiences to the 109th MDG. She will bring a fresh, innovative approach in leading the Medical Group into the future."

Cromack, a 42-year veteran, came to the 109th Medical Group in 2005 and is the State Air Surgeon. He became the 109th MDG commander in November 2014.

"To the 109th Medical Group staff, you've made it easy and possible to keep things going," Cromack said. "For the traditional members of the group, thank you very much. You really represent the whole concept of the citizen soldier. Coming in on your weekends and basically raising your hand many years ago to be a member of the Guard."

Zautner started her career in the Air Force in 1983. She joined the New York Air National Guard in 1985 as an Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron technician, then got her nursing degree and commission in 1992.

Along with co-workers, friends and family in attendance, Zautner's son, Airman Glenn Zautner, was able to watch the ceremony live as he streamed in on his

iPhone. He is currently attending F-16 Armament Maintenance technical school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

"You don't get here by yourself," Zautner said to the audience. "It takes a village of people to get to this point of your career. Thank you for having the faith in me and my abilities and selecting me in this group commander position. To my aeromed family, I've learned so many life lessons over the 30-plus years with you."

"We've been through a lot together; deployments, everyday life and what we have done is stand strong and support one another as a family. And to the 109th Medical Group, thank you for having me as part of your family now. We have a great team. We are set to face the new challenges, and I know we will be successful. I am very excited to be here and look forward to this opportunity."

109th Airlift Wing wraps up Antarctic support

By Eric Durr

New York National Guard
Public Affairs

The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing transported nearly 3,900 people and carried 5.1 million pounds of cargo to stations around Antarctica during its annual support five-month mission for the National Science Foundation which ended this week.

The wing, which flies the LC-130, a Hercules transport equipped with skis, began flying missions in support of the U.S. Antarctic Program in October, 2015, as part of Operation Deep Freeze, the U.S. military's support for Antarctic research.

The wing wrapped up its mission at the end of February and the six LC-130 Skibirds – the only ski-equipped aircraft in the U.S. inventory – and support personnel began returning to the air base

near Schenectady, New York.

During the support season 500 Airmen served at McMurdo Station, the main American base in Antarctica, in support of the mission.

The last of the Airmen and aircraft are expected home on Saturday.

During the 2015-2016 season, the wing flew 18 missions using a system known as IcePod. The pod latches onto the standard rear paratroop door of the LC-130 Hercules and the system can be easily switched from plane-to-plane. A GPS system records the plane's location every 10 seconds so scientists can pinpoint the data they are getting on what is below the ice.

The IcePod imaging system allows scientists to measure the depth of the Antarctic ice sheet and produce three dimensional models of the sea floor beneath Antarctica's Ross Ice Shelf, an area as large as the state of Texas.

At the end of this season, the 109th Airlift Wing gave a lift to 35 Australian Antarctic

researchers heading back home on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Eight members of the 109th flew an LC-130, based at McMurdo Station, the U.S. Antarctic Program's logistics hub at the southern tip of Ross Island, to the Australian Antarctic Division Davis station, 1,400 miles away on the other side of the continent.

The Australian researchers had been scheduled to leave Davis station on board the icebreaker RVS Aurora Australia. The ship, though, ran aground at Australia's Mawson research station after it broke its mooring lines in a blizzard.

The 109th has been supporting the National Science Foundation's research since 1988.

Since 1999, the unit has been the sole provider of this type of airlift to for science research in Antarctica and Greenland. The 109th has also supported Canadian Forces exercises in the High Arctic.



An LC-130 "Skibird" from the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, New York, sits on the ice runway near McMurdo Station, Antarctica, Nov. 9, 2015. A total of seven 109th AW LC-130s were deployed this season and 320 missions completed through the season which ended in February. This is the 28th season that the unit has participated in Operation Deep Freeze, the military component of the U.S. Antarctic Program, which is managed by the National Science Foundation.

Photo by Capt. David S. Price

Airmen take on mission at South Pole Station

Story by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs



Three Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing were tasked to build and inspect pallets of excess and obsolete materials in January 2016 currently stored at the South Pole. The team built 73 pallets in 11 days.

Courtesy photo

The 109th Airlift Wing recently completed its 28th season supporting the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze, the U.S. military's logistical support of the NSF-managed U.S. Antarctic program, by transporting people and cargo to various locations throughout Antarctica. This year, however, three Airmen completed a new mission in Antarctica, not at NSF's McMurdo Station where the rest of the Airmen are based at throughout the season, rather out of Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, where they provided support for the newly established South Pole Retrograde Initiative (SPRI).

Tech. Sgts. Justin Carkner, Caleb Brumleve and Adam Myers were handpicked for the task of building and inspecting pallets of excess and obsolete materials currently stored at the South Pole.

Those unneeded items will be airlifted out later this year to McMurdo and eventually taken off the continent by sea.

The team was given a goal of building 70 pallets in 12 days; they built 73 in 11 days.

Carkner is assigned to the 109th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Air Transportation Operations section, the section that received the tasking, and has deployed to McMurdo Station as a joint inspector in previous years. Brumleve, who works with the 109th LRS fuels section, and Myers, who is a firefighter with the 109th Fire Department, were brought on the team as augmentees; neither had

ever built a pallet or been to Antarctica.

"The first pallet we built was used as a training aid," Carkner said. Carkner trained Brumleve and Myers along with two civilians with the NSF who helped out as needed. The team took the first few days to get acclimated to not only the process of completing the job they were sent to do, but also to the harsh environment. Not only are the temperatures well below zero, the station sits at over 9,000 feet of elevation.

"After the first day of work we all said the same thing – the most simple of tasks seemed difficult," Carkner said. "Just by netting the cargo our arms hurt. We chalked it up to not getting the oxygen we normally get so the recovery isn't the same. ... Back home it's a simple task of building a pallet, it was much more strenuous (than at home)."

The team went toward the end of the season, in late January, to have the retrocargo ready to be airlifted at the beginning of next season, when the 109th's LC-130s are already flying missions to the South Pole.

"The pallets will sit on the snow berm over the winter, and when the season starts, they'll start pulling out the cargo we built this year, and it will be a continuous cycle," Carkner said.

Once they had their process streamlined and each had their own task, the pallets they built in their 10-hour work days increased from seven to 10. On Day 11, the team headed back to McMurdo.

All agreed that the new mission is a tremendous opportunity for the 109th to continue demonstrating the wing's value to the U.S. Antarctic Program.

Brumleve said this mission is a great way to retain people who normally don't get to support the unique missions the wing is known for.

"When I first joined, what attracted me to this base was the missions that we do," Brumleve said. "Unfortunately the career field that I held, we don't have a hand in it. ... This is a great opportunity to get a chance to be part of it."

Carkner and Myers said this is a great way to build on the unit's relationship with the NSF and the people working at the Pole.

"It helps the people at the South Pole Station get to know us," Carkner said. "Having a military presence living among the 150-200 people who live at the station, this was an eye opener for them. ... We're not just there anymore flying people and supplies; now there's a military presence working among them every day."

The team agreed that the overall experience was a great one.

"The Aerial Port is a great group, and I learned a lot on the trip," Myers said.

"It was a great experience," Brumleve said. "I would go back again and do it, but at the same time if I go back that means someone else isn't getting the opportunity. It's great that the leadership was willing to share (this mission) – we need more people

working together."

Leaders within the 109th Mission Support Group said the team did an outstanding job at completing this first mission.

"As (air transportation) we go anywhere, anytime, to get the mission accomplished," said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Mann, 109th ATO superintendent. "Deploying members to the South Pole Station just goes to show what we are capable of doing, from doing a site survey in 2015, to having boots on the ice in 2016 building cargo, shows the dedication our members have to getting the job done."

"Chief Mann and team did a lot of planning and coordination with NSF leading up to this first season of support for the South Pole Retrograde Initiative, and it paid off," said Lt. Col. Tammy Street, 109th LRS commander. "From all reports, our team on the ground surpassed all expectations. The lessons learned from this successful first trip will form the groundwork to plan for future seasons of this multiyear effort. I'm proud of our team's hard work in the harsh Antarctic climate, their flexibility, and their outstanding results!"

"We're proud that the 109th AW is able to support polar research in dynamic ways that demonstrates our commitment to meeting programmatic needs of the National Science Foundation," said Col. Jeffrey Hedges, 109th MSG commander. "The effort by this select team of Airmen exceeded all expectations and highlights the diverse capability that our wing offers."

109th AW aids Australian Antarctic researchers

By Eric Durr

New York National Guard
Public Affairs

McMURDO STATION, Antarctica – New York Air National Guard Airmen who fly the only ski-equipped aircraft in the American military gave a lift to 35 Australian Antarctic researchers heading back home on Feb. 27.

Eight members of the 109th Airlift Wing flew one of six LC-130s, which have been based at McMurdo Station, the U.S. Antarctic Program's logistics hub at the southern tip of Ross Island, to the Australian Antarctic Division Davis station, 1,400 miles away on the other side of the continent.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) manages the Antarctic Program through which it coordinates all U.S. research on the southernmost continent, makes awards to support the research, and coordinates the infrastructure to facilitate the research.

The 109th flies in Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze, the U.S. military support component of the Antarctic program.

After arriving at Davis station, the New York Airmen flew the 35 Australian researchers, who were heading home before the Antarctic winter hits, back to McMurdo Station. From there an Australian Airbus A319 will fly them home.

The Australian researchers had been scheduled to leave Davis station on board the icebreaker RVS Aurora Australia. The ship, though, ran aground at Australia's Mawson research station after it broke its mooring lines in a blizzard.

The ship was refloated on Saturday, Feb. 27, according to the Australian Antarctic Division.

The Australian requested help in transporting the researchers at Davis from the U.S. Antarctic Program because the Aurora Australia was not readily available.

See Aid, page 13



(From left) Two contractors with the National Science Foundation helped Tech. Sgts. Adam Myers, Justin Carkner and Caleb Brumleve build pallets of retrocargo at the South Pole Station in January 2016. The team was tasked to build and inspect pallets of excess and obsolete materials currently stored at the South Pole Station as part of the newly established South Pole Retrograde Initiative.

Courtesy photo

Braving temps of -47, Airmen build ski-way in High Arctic

109th AW Public Affairs Staff

Eight Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing spent two weeks carving a snow and ice “ski-way” on this uninhabited High Arctic Island so ski-equipped LC-130s could transport supplies in support of the Canadian Forces Operation Nunavut, 2016.

Beginning on April 4, the American Airmen braved temperatures that averaged -47 degree Fahrenheit, to prepare a snow runway, or ski-way for the LC-130s.

After the mile-long skiway was marked with flags, the Airmen used snowmobiles to drag specialized groomers – similar to those used to prepare a snowmobile trail – along the route. Working two snowmobiles at a time, the groomers worked from the center outward in a circular motion to keep the ski-way clear.

The eight Airmen who were part of the team were among 50 109th Airmen who participated in Canada’s Operation Nunavut; a three-week joint exercise conducted annually among U.S., Canadian and Danish forces in the Canadian Arctic.

This is the third year the New York Airmen, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base, Schenectady, New York, have participated in the Canadian military exercise.

The ski-way construction team completed the ski-way construction in a matter of days. They continued to maintain the ski-way against the austere weather conditions until the first LC-130 could land on April 13.

Within two days, the 109th flew six missions to the camp, hauling 47,500 pounds of cargo and nearly 60 passengers. In support of the entire exercise, including deployment and redeployment, the 109th flew 11 missions and hauled a total of 91,700 pounds of cargo.

“What we do is an extremely big asset to other entities up in the North, both foreign and domestic,” said Maj. Matthew Sala.

This is the third year Sala has been part of the ski-way construction team for this exercise.

“By partaking in these exercises, we hope to show those other agencies that we’re out there because people have no idea the 109th can do what we do. And every year, time and time again, I get introduced to these people who are like ‘Wow, we had no idea that the New York Air National Guard had the capability of doing this,’” Sala said.

Along with Little Cornwallis Island, the remainder of the group of Airmen, consisting of aircrew and maintainers, operated out of Resolute Bay, Canada, and Thule Air Base, Greenland, with two LC-130s.

“Our support for Operation Nunavut allows us to demonstrate our full range of polar expeditionary airlift capabilities in a joint U.S. and Canadian environment,” said Col. Shawn Clouthier, the



Photo by Senior Airman Jamie Spaulding

Tech. Sgt. Abraham Gadway grooms the ski-way at Little Cornwallis Island, Nunavut, Canada, on April 10, 2016, in support of Canada’s annual Operation Nunavut.

109th Airlift Wing commander. “I’m proud of our Airmen for the great work they are doing in showcasing our unique mission all over the world.”

The Canadians have ski-equipped Twin Otter aircraft that don’t have the lift capacity or range the 109th LC-130s have.

The LC-130s are able to provide up to 9,000 pounds of cargo per flight as opposed to 1,200 pounds the Canadians’ Twin Otters can carry.

The LC-130 is able to transport in one trip what the Twin Otters would need 10 flights to move.

Operation Nunavut is a sovereignty operation conducted annually since 2007 in Canada’s North. According to the Canadian Forces Joint Task Force-North, the exercise provides an opportunity for the Canadian Armed Forces to assert Canada’s sovereignty over to northernmost regions; demonstrate the ability to operate in the harsh winter environment in remote areas of the High Arctic; and enhance its capability to respond to any situation in Canada’s North.

Nunavut means “land that is ours” in the Inuktitut language of the eastern Inuit people who live in the region.

The 109th Airlift Wing’s LC-130 aircraft – the largest aircraft in the world which can land on skis – are used to provide support to National Science Foundation research operations in Greenland and Antarctica.

(Background photo by Senior Airman Jamie Spaulding) A group of eight Airmen from the New York Air National Guard’s 109th Airlift Wing set up camp and then prepared a ski-way for LC-130 operations at Little Cornwallis Island, Nunavut, Canada, in support of Canada’s annual Operation Nunavut.



Photo by Senior Airman Jamie Spaulding



Photo by Senior Airman Jamie Spaulding

Airmen with the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing prepare ski-way grooming equipment to be loaded onto an LC-130 aircraft at Little Cornwallis Island, Nunavut, Canada, on April 13, 2016, in support of Canada's annual Operation Nunavut. (Left) Maj. Matthew Sala and Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Jemmott place markers on the ski-way for LC-130 operations. A group of eight Airmen from the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing prepared the ski-way for LC-130 operations. Nearly 50 Airmen and two LC-130s from the 109th were part of the exercise which also had operations in Resolute Bay, Canada, and Thule Air Base, Greenland. This is the third year the 109th has participated.

Aid

The mission was passed onto the 87 Airmen on duty at McMurdo Station.

"We are pleased to help out the Australians because we have an excellent working relationship with them," National Science Foundation spokesman Peter West told the Albany Times Union.

"The 109th has supported our mission for a very long time, and we're always happy with the relationship we have in the Air Guard," he said.

The 109th Airlift Wing is based at Stratton Air National Guard Base outside Schenectady, New York, and sends personnel and LC-130 "Skibirds" to the Antarctic every October. The LC-130s fly supplies and people around

the continent until the onset of the Antarctic winter season in March.

With this mission complete, the 109th Airlift Wing crews will begin moving aircraft back home.

During the summer months the 109th supports science research in Greenland. For the past two years the wing has also participated in the Canadian Forces Operation Nunavut exercise in the high Arctic.

In 2015 the wing's LC-130s helped fly in equipment used to locate the wreck of the HMS Erebus, one of two ships lost on the ill-fated Franklin expedition to find the Northwest Passage in 1845, during the Nunavut exercise.

In 1999, a crew from the 109th Airlift Wing flew Dr. Jerri Nielsen, a staff member at NSF's Amundsen-Scott Station at the South Pole who was suffering from breast cancer safely out of Antarctica. An LC-130 from the wing landed in bitter cold, far earlier in the season than they normally fly, to retrieve the doctor.

In 2008 another 109th LC-130 rescued an Australian researcher who had broken his leg in an accident and flew him to Hobart, Australia, from Antarctica.

Each season the 109th Airlift wing deploys about 700 personnel to Antarctica and back, with about 125 people and six to seven aircraft at McMurdo Station during each period.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin German

Tech. Sgt. Joshua Meyers, 109th Fire Department training officer, briefs participants on proper procedure during a live fire exercise in Saratoga, New York, on Dec. 5, 2015.

Base, community firefighters complete joint live fire training

By Staff Sgt. Benjamin German
109th AW Public Affairs

Firefighters with the 109th Civil Engineer Squadron's Fire Department at Stratton Air National Guard Base participated in a joint live fire training exercise with the Schuyler Hose Co. at the Saratoga County Fire Training Center on Dec. 5.

The goal of this structural fire exercise was to train participants on fire development and dynamics giving them controlled experience with live fire behavior. The training was completed in compliance with the annual requirements for the 109th Fire Department; structural drills are one of the two primary live

fire exercise types (the other being aircraft) the firefighters complete yearly.

Airman 1st Class Adam Derepentigny, 109th firefighter, said training like this is imperative for job competency.

"It's the bread and butter," he said. "If you don't know how fire is going to react, you're just going at it not knowing what you're doing."

One of the exercise instructors, Tech. Sgt. Joshua Meyers, 109th fire training officer, agreed. "(Training) is very important ... this is real world stuff, this is really what's required in life or death situations."

Lt. Col. Robert Donaldson, 109th CES commander, donned a fire suit for the day to observe the drill firsthand. "(This is a great

opportunity to) check out all the good stuff I've been hearing about," he said. "With the fire department and all the great people and professionals who are able to do that job, day in and day out, saving lives."

Many of the traditional guardsmen at the 109th also work as firefighters in the civilian sector, including Tech. Sgt. Adam Meyers, a guardsman who works for the Schuyler Hose Co. and participated in the drill. This background in related disciplines (as civilians) provides "a wealth of experience that they bring to the table," Donaldson said.

"(This was a) great opportunity," Donaldson said. "Great training, a great bunch of people and professionals; I'm proud of what each of them do ... every day."

Base hosts CODE RED training

By Maj. Chuck Longlois
109th Inspector General Office

Nearly 50 Airmen and community emergency responders attended a CODE RED class here April 20. The three-hour training, led by Alan Antenucci, all hazards training coordinator, focused on New York State biological threat response protocol.

Various sections throughout the Wing joined local community FBI, Glenville Police and Scotia Fire for the training. CODE RED stands for Control the scene, Open dialog, Determine biohazard credibility, Employ collection protocol, Remove contamination, Enter information, and Dispatch specimen.

Antenucci is an expert in the biological threat field from the Biodefense Laboratory of the New York State Department of Health, David Axelrod Institute – Wadsworth Center. He presented an overview of the laboratory response network and testing capabilities of several high priority pathogens and toxins and the field response associated with biological threats. He covered biological agents, detection devices and their capabilities, assistance resources, agent collection/sampling/transportation protocols. He interspersed his field and laboratory experiences to make the presentation varied, interesting, and relevant. The one-hour hands-on portion covered bulk collection, swipe sampling, and evidence collection from a powder contaminated mail sample.

Local FBI Special Agent Thomas Stewart, whose office responds to threats or incidents involving WMD materials or devices throughout the capital region, was also on hand providing comments and contributions.

Students were actively engaged in the classroom and hands-on training. Feedback from students on the course was positive; they said they felt it was an interesting and worthwhile experience.

Col. Shawn Clouthier, 109th AW commander, presented Antenucci with the wing's commander coin acknowledging Antenucci's experience and dedication. (Lt. Col. Benson Louie, 109th MDG, also contributed to this article)



Photo by Maj. Chuck Longlois

(Top and bottom) Airmen from various sections at the 109th Airlift Wing joined local community FBI, Glenville Police and Scotia Fire for CODE RED training, which focused on New York State biological threat response protocol.

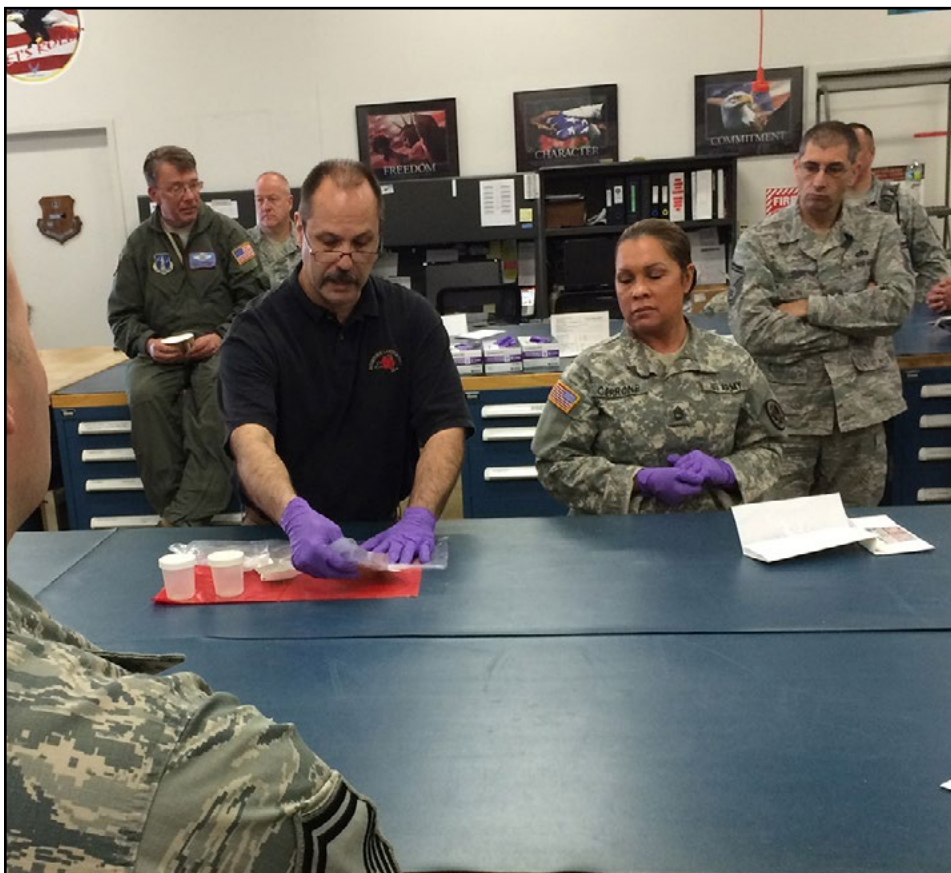


Photo by Lt. Col. Ronald Ankbrandt

Firefighter coaches youth rowing club

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

PHOTO CAPTIONS (Right) Isaac French, 15, has been part of the Mohawk Rowing Club for about three years. Isaac, a double amputee, recently went to a weeklong Paralympic training camp and could be a contender for the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo. (Bottom Left) Staff Sgt. Christopher Meyer is a firefighter with the 109th Fire Department. On his off time he coaches a rowing team for homeschooled students. (Bottom right) About 25 homeschooled students are part of the Mohawk Rowing club Meyer coaches. The team was founded in 2003 and recently expanded by adding an adaptive rowing program. (Background photo by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt) Meyer coaches a team out on the water on May 12, 2016. The team practices nearly every day and competes against other schools during the weekend.

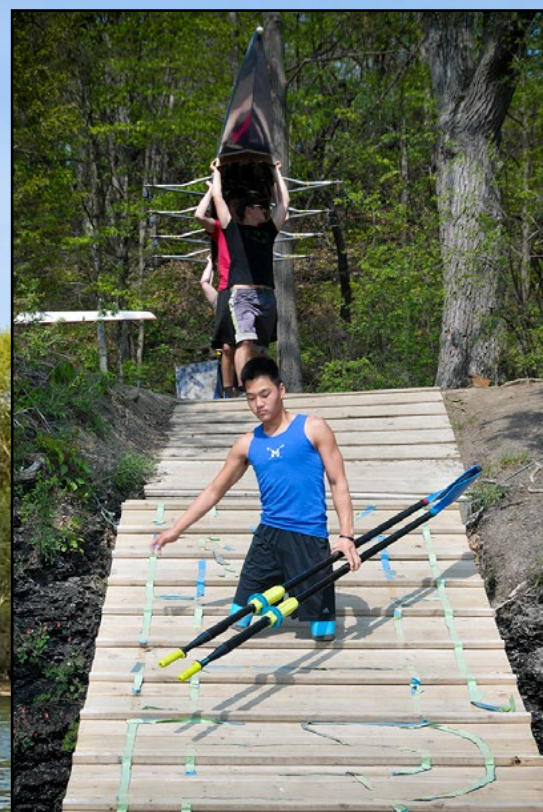


Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Nearly every day after work, Staff Sgt. Christopher Meyer heads over to the Mohawk River with about 25 kids and a few boats. Meyer, who is a firefighter with the 109th Airlift Wing, coaches a rowing team for homeschooled students.

According to its website, the mission of Mohawk Rowing is “to prepare homeschooled youth for a life of service through teamwork and physical fitness demanded by the sport of competitive rowing.”

“He was the assistant coach when I first started; I’ve been here with him the entire time,” said Paul Lawry, 18, who has been part of the club for seven years. “He’s got a lot of experience under his belt, and he’s often working on the equipment on his own time, which is really great. It’s really awesome to have a coach who is committed as he is.”

Kids start off practice with a warm-up, and then bring their boats down to the water, which is where they spend the majority of the practice as Meyer and his assistant coach direct them on forms they should use and encourage them to give it their all.

The team was founded in 2003 and recently expanded by adding an adaptive rowing program. Adaptive rowing refers to both the equipment adaptations for rowers with disabilities and the sport as a whole.

Isaac French, 15, is a double amputee through the knee and joined the club when he was 12 years old. Right away, Meyer said he realized he could go far with the sport. Possibly even as far as

Tokyo in 2020 as a member of the U.S. Team in the Paralympics.

Meyer joined Isaac in Sarasota, Florida, in February, at a weeklong Paralympic training camp. Their mission was to try different pairs throughout the week and find the fastest boat and send them off to the trials. “Isaac was really there for development, but it really opened his eyes of the possibilities for him.”

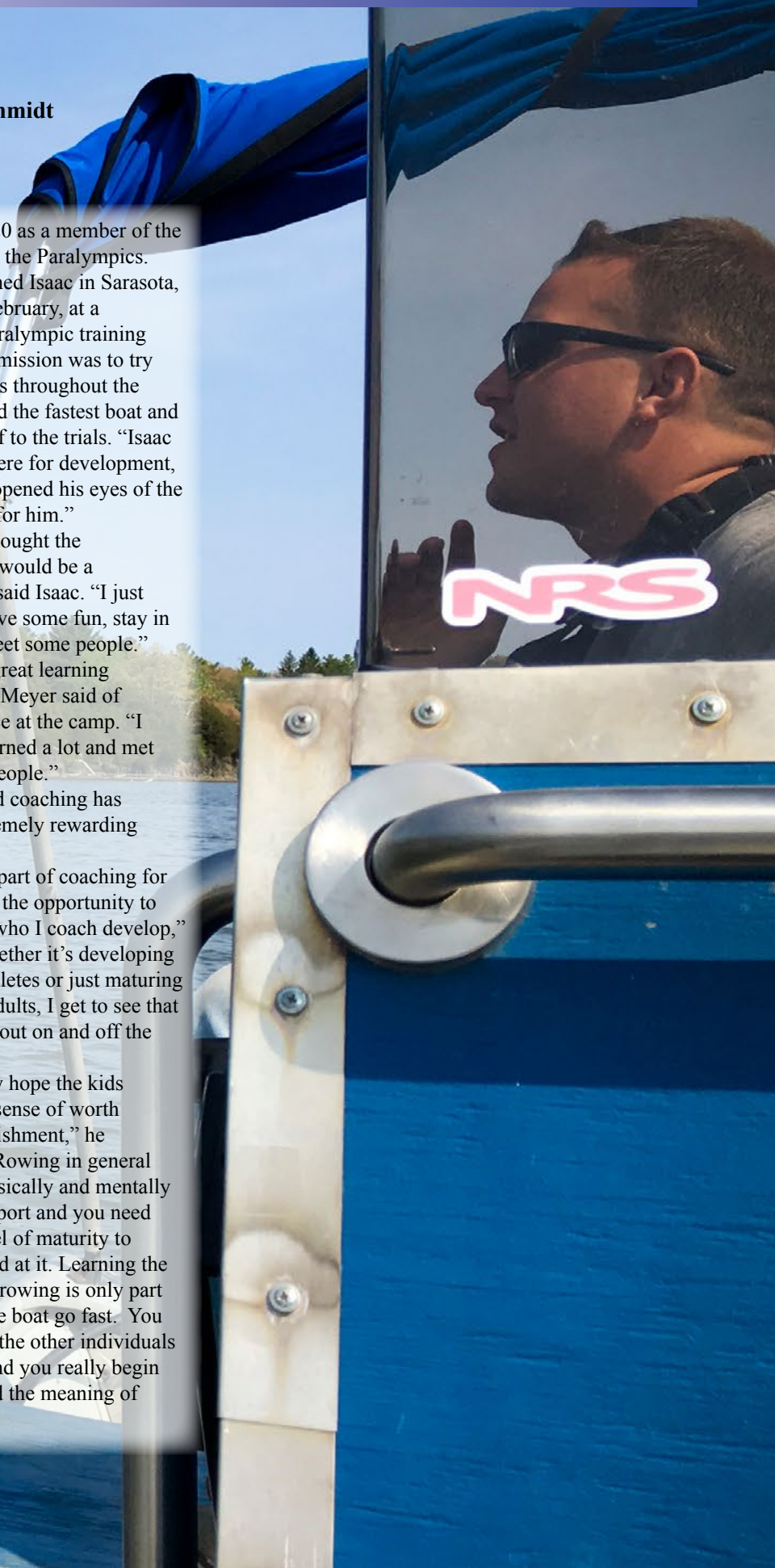
“I never thought the Paralympics would be a possibility,” said Isaac. “I just wanted to have some fun, stay in shape and meet some people.”

“It was a great learning experience,” Meyer said of his experience at the camp. “I definitely learned a lot and met some great people.”

Meyer said coaching has been an extremely rewarding experience.

“The best part of coaching for me is having the opportunity to see the kids who I coach develop,” he said. “Whether it’s developing into great athletes or just maturing into young adults, I get to see that process play out on and off the water.

“I honestly hope the kids take away a sense of worth and accomplishment,” he continued. “Rowing in general is a very physically and mentally demanding sport and you need a certain level of maturity to really succeed at it. Learning the technique of rowing is only part of making the boat go fast. You truly rely on the other individuals in the boat and you really begin to understand the meaning of teamwork.”



Airman uses SABC training in real-world incident

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

“This type of training will be very beneficial ... as well as just being able to know what (you need to do) in a time of need,” said Tech. Sgt. Adam Winters during last April’s ancillary training rodeo. He had no idea he would be put in a situation where that specific training would come into play. Just a month ago, it did, as he came to the aid of a pedestrian who had collapsed, potentially saving the man’s life.

On Jan. 8, Winters, who is assigned to the 109th Small Air Terminal, was driving home when he noticed a man suddenly collapse in the road in front of him. “Just thinking instinctively, the way I was driving and where he was positioned, I just angled my truck and turned on my hazards so no one would hit him,” he said.

When Winters got to the man he noticed he fell face first into the concrete and had broken his nose. He was also in what appeared to

be a seizure. “I just held onto him to make sure he wasn’t going to keep shaking and his head wouldn’t slam into the concrete,” Winters said. “So I held his head – he was wearing a winter hat. I put that under his head to protect his head from slamming into the concrete.”

A pedestrian passing by called 911 as Winters kept reassuring the man that help was on the way and he would be okay. “I knew he could hear me he just wasn’t able to talk. I kept telling him to relax, that help was on the way and to keep breathing.

“After his shaking had subsided, I proceeded to place the man into a recovery position, to ensure he did not choke on his own blood, and to hopefully control some of the bleeding and placed his hat between his head and the concrete to protect him from further harm should another seizure occur,” he said.

When medical help arrived, Winters informed them of the situation and what he had done prior to their arrival. They thanked

Winters for what he had done and said he did very well. Winters said the training he has received in self-aid buddy care over the last few years is single-handedly what helped him with the situation.

“(That training) was what made me able to respond and not freak out,” he said. “My instinctive ability from all the years of self-aid buddy care training gave me the knowledge to generally control the bleeding and place him in the proper position to prevent any further damage to him.”

Chief Master Sgt. Mark Mann, 109th Air Transportation Operations superintendent, said Winters’ action didn’t surprise him at all.

“That’s just the type of individual he is,” he said. “He’s an asset to the unit. It takes a special person to do what he did, and military people are the type of people who would do something like this. He stopped and he reacted and that was definitely service before self. He provided that service to that individual with no worry about himself, and traffic going by and just not



File Photo

Tech. Sgt. Adam Winters

knowing the individual at all.”

Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto, 109th Airlift Wing command chief, recognized his efforts Feb. 6 during a commander’s call, presenting him the 109th AW command chief coin.

“I don’t consider myself a hero for it,” Winters said. “I was just able to be at the right place at the right time, and that’s what mattered.”

EM Airman comes to aid of woman at local shop

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

Senior Airman Patrick Irwin, 109th Civil Engineer Squadron’s emergency management office, came to the rescue of a woman May 24 who was suffering from an apparent heroin overdose at a Stewart’s shop.

According to a news report, police said Irwin rushed to help the woman, performing chest compressions until the woman’s pulse was restored and paramedics arrived on the scene. The woman is expected to survive.

“I was at the right place at the right time,” Irwin said in a news interview. “My training kicked in, and I am glad I was able to assist

her. Hopefully this experience will propel this young lady to get the treatment that she needs so she can end her battle with addiction.”

Irwin has been with the 109th Airlift Wing for four years and is also a three-year veteran of the Schenectady Police Department.

“When I heard of Senior Airman Irwin’s actions to save a life, I was extremely impressed not only by his quick response to the situation but also his compassion towards the young lady and her battle with addiction,” said Capt. Shawn Rulison, 109th Civil Engineer Squadron. “He represented the Air National Guard and Schenectady PD to the highest degree, and we are thankful he was there to assist.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

Senior Airman Patrick Irwin assists an Airman during hands-on CBRNE training in April 2015.

“An incredible story that encourages all of us,” said Col. Jeffrey Hedges, 109th Mission Support Group commander. “No doubt this Airman will continue making contributions!”

Keeping the balance

Airman works as New York State corrections officer

Story by Tech. Sgt.
Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Pierce, 109th Air Transportation Office, is a New York State corrections officer. He has been with the 109th Airlift Wing since 2001. Pierce was part of the team involved in the massive manhunt of two escaped prisoners in upstate New York in June 2015.

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Pierce spends his drill weekends at the 109th Air Transportation Office, processing passengers and cargo for missions such as Antarctica and Greenland. Just like many other Citizen Airmen at the 109th Airlift Wing, after the drill weekend is over, he's out of his ABUs and putting on a different uniform. For him, it's the uniform of a New York State corrections officer.

Pierce joined the 109th Airlift Wing in 2001. Like many, he joined for the college benefits, but he chose the 109th AW for its unique polar missions.

"I talked to some people I knew who were part of the unit, and they told me about Greenland and Antarctica," Pierce said. "It seemed very exciting and I just wanted to be around something unique."

A few years later he took a full-time job as a corrections officer with New York State. "Again, I wanted something that was different and unique. It's a good job that you can structure around your own schedule, and I don't mind the risk, it doesn't bother me."

The risk is there, though. In June of 2015, Pierce was part of the correctional emergency response team (CERT) involved in the massive manhunt of two escaped prisoners in upstate New York that lasted for more than three weeks.

"I joined the team in 2007," Pierce said. "We trained for all those years and then this happened."

The team manned various posts armed, checking vehicles and

watching their surrounding area.

"You just didn't know – you didn't know where they were. Helicopters were flying all over the place – everyone was up there," he said. "It was the most intense thing we'd done because it was real."

"It's basically a culmination of everything you're trained for," Pierce said. "It's real – it's not a video game."

Pierce and his team were out at the location for about a week when the escapee was captured. The other prisoner had been killed a few days earlier.

About a year and half before the manhunt, Pierce was in a different real-world scenario he had spent years training for. He was part of the Air Transportation Office group who deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in 2013-2014.

"Bagram was (intense) – it seemed like we took IDF (indirect fire) every other day. I was concerned, not scared – I just knew that was part of where we were," Pierce recalled.

Pierce said both being in the military and being a corrections officer have challenges, but they are challenges he thrives on.

"The challenges that you do face are so different than an average job," he said. "But you thrive on the challenge as opposed to getting crushed by it. It just makes you able to deal with things you're not prepared for."

"Even with the risks, I love both the jobs," Pierce said. "Both of my jobs have given me a lot of great experiences."

Airmen of the Year

109th Airmen receive state recognition

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

Two Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing were selected among six as the New York Air National Guard's 2015 Outstanding Airman of the Year.

Senior Master Sgt. Deborah Nordyke, 109th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, and Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Mahan, 109th Medical Group cardiopulmonary lab technician, were selected as the NYANG First Sergeant of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year, respectively.

"This is a major accomplishment for SMSgt Nordyke and TSgt Mahan," said Chief Master Sgt. Amy Giaquinto, 109th AW command chief. "Their personal character, devotion to duty, and leadership performance have led them to be highlighted as the New York Air National Guard's best of the best."

Nordyke, who is a substitute teacher on the civilian side, has served as the 109th MXS first sergeant for more than three years and said the job has been very rewarding. According to her biography, Nordyke is responsible for matters influencing the health, morale and welfare, and professional development of more than 200 Airmen assigned to the squadron.

Nordyke said the support she has received from her family, the base and the teaching community have helped contribute to her selection as the NYANG

First Sergeant of the Year.

"She was chosen because she was a dedicated first sergeant for the largest squadron within the 109th," said Lt. Col. Ty Randall, 109th Maintenance Group deputy commander. "She is committed to the morale and welfare of Airmen within the squadron and across the wing. She was very active and engaged in programs and councils that had direct impact on families and careers of our Airmen."

Mahan is a respiratory therapist on the civilian side at both Ellis Hospital and the Stratton VA Medical Center. She's currently completing prerequisites at Hudson Valley Community College so she can apply for Physician Assistant school, with a goal of obtaining a commission.

Mahan said being selected as NCO of the Year at both the wing level and state level has been a very humbling experience.

"I couldn't believe it – it was definitely unexpected," she said. "I feel like there are tons of people who are out here working hard and do just as much as me if not more."

Mahan is currently the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of the Critical Care Air Transport Team. According to her biography, she is one of six fully trained cardiopulmonary lab technicians qualified to fly on the medical flying team and assists in transporting and furthering the care of the most critically ill and injured patients in the world.

"This spring I did a CCAT deployment to Germany," she said. "It was invaluable. It was really rewarding because you're bringing people home to their families, all while learning so much from the people you work with."

"TSgt Mahan is a true leader and has a fierce work ethic," said Capt. Elizabeth McNamara, 109th MDG. "She is a valued commodity to our CCAT team. I enjoy working with her, and we're proud to have her in our unit."

"TSgt Mahan is dedicated to the mission and strives to improve our effectiveness and capabilities," said Lt. Col. Brett Wood, 109th MDG. "She is an asset to CCATT, the 109th MDG, and the NYANG."

Mahan and Nordyke joined the other 109th AW Airmen of the Year at the annual Airman of the Year Dinner in April. The other Wing Airmen of the Year for 2015 are:

- Senior Airman Thomas Gallagher, 109th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron – Airman of the Year
- Senior Master Sgt. Karl Burghart, 109th Maintenance Squadron – Senior NCO of the Year
- Staff Sgt. Megan Lane – Honor Guard Member of the Year
- Master Sgt. Jennifer Dippo – Honor Guard Manager of the Year
- Capt. Joseph Ryan, 109th MDG – Company Grade Officer of the Year



Graphic by Master Sgt. William Gizara

A collage titled "A History Snap Shot" featuring various military and aviation scenes. The top left shows three men in uniform standing in front of a large aircraft. The top right shows a truck on a snowy field. The middle left shows a large aircraft flying over a snowy landscape. The middle right shows a large aircraft flying over a snowy landscape. The bottom left shows a group of people in a control room. The bottom right shows a group of people in a control room. The collage is a mix of color and black and white photographs.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Stephen Girolami

Memorial March

Members of the 109th Airlift Wing joined the community to march in the annual Scotia Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2016.

**Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:
SICM Summer Lunch Program
July 25-29, 2016**

**Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities:
Base Tour Guides**

Speakers to talk to groups about the 109th AW mission

**To volunteer, contact the 109th AW Community Manager,
Maj. Melissa Cucchi Santoro at 344-2500**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

Reading with Heroes

Staff Sgt. Megan Lane visits students at Woodlawn Elementary School in Schenectady on April 21, 2016. Each Thursday throughout the school year, Airmen volunteered a few hours to visit the students and also help them with reading. Lane is a full-time member of the Stratton Base Honor Guard.



Photographic Expressions Studio & Gallery, LLC. photo by V. Pilar Arthur-Snead

Plane Pull

Airmen with the 109th Airlift Wing pull an LC-130 aircraft at Richmor Aviation, Schenectady County Airport, on May 14, 2016, as part of the Unified Military Affairs Council's Corporate Challenge Airplane Pull. The 109th team came in fifth place with a time of 9:03 seconds.

109th AW officers' council donates proceeds to Veterans Miracle Center

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109th AW Public Affairs

The 109th Airlift Wing's Company Grade Officers' Council donated \$4,500 to the Veterans Miracle Center in Albany on April 14 from funds raised during the council's annual golf tournament in September. This was the first year the officers' council donated the proceeds from the tournament to the Veterans Miracle Center.

"We chose the Miracle Center in Albany because they are local and they provide direct assistance to veterans and active duty members in our community that are in need," said Capt. James Vendetti, CGO Council president.

The center opened in November 2014, and according to its website, its mission "is to offer veterans and active-duty military personnel real solutions that will enhance their lives. We seek to provide clothing, personal care

and hygiene products, houseware items, ambulatory equipment, toys for their children and much more – as well as specialists available in counseling for personal needs, jobs, housing or financing. All goods and services are available free-of-charge to veterans and their immediate household."

The golf tournament took place in September with more than 70 participants from the 109th Airlift Wing, including families and friends.

"The businesses and people in our local community help out immensely with sponsorship and donations. Without them the tournament wouldn't be possible," Vendetti said.

The CGO Council is made up of company grade officers (second lieutenant through captain) throughout the 109th AW.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

Pictured are (from left) 1st Lt. Jared Semerad; Capt. James Vendetti, CGO Council president; Melody Burns, VMC Director of Operations; Barry Feinman, Jezreel International CEO; and Capt. Shawn Rulison.

South Colonie school district dedicates new high school Hill of Heroes to honor military

**Story and photos courtesy of
South Colonie School District**

SOUTH COLONIE, N.Y. – South Colonie officials were joined by local military, veterans and community leaders on May 21, Armed Forces Day, to dedicate the new high school Hill of Heroes at Raiderfest 2016.

The Hill of Heroes, located opposite the school entrance, showcases emblems and creeds on granite slabs representing all five branches of the military. It was designed and created in high school classes under the supervision of teacher Tom Casey.

As a finishing touch by Colonie Central High School junior, Nick Morrison, a 9-foot tall steel flag was designed, welded and painted by Nick, parent Mario Gabriel and teacher Chris Hanley. The flag sits atop the hill tribute as a permanent, symbolic gesture of South Colonie's respect and acknowledgement of the sacrifices made by the men and women of the Armed Forces.

The inspiration behind the Hill of Heroes came from CCHS senior John Lawlor who worked with the iCARE team and advisor Thomas Kachadurian to make his idea come to life.

John designed the Hill of Heroes to honor his father, Chief Master Sgt. John Lawlor, who has served in the military since he, himself, graduated from CCHS. John was raised to respect those who serve and thought it would be a great idea to honor them through a beautiful, thoughtfully designed, tastefully patriotic tribute.

Following graduation in June, John will enlist in the Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing, where he is currently a member of the Student Flight, and carry on his father's tradition.

The Hill of Heroes monument dedication was especially significant this year as Raiderfest, iCARE, and community and school events throughout the 2016-17 school year focused on raising money for and helping three military support groups – Blue Star and Gold Star Mothers, Soldier On and the Veterans Administration Hospital in Albany.



Colonie Central High School senior John Lawlor speaks during a dedication ceremony of the new high school Hill of Heroes on May 21, 2016. John designed the Hill of Heroes to honor his father, Chief Master Sgt. John Lawlor. John is also a member of the 109th Airlift Wing's Student Flight, and his father Chief Lawlor is the Aircraft Manager for the United States Antarctic Program at the 109th AW.

South Colonie officials were joined by local military, veterans and community leaders on May 21, 2016, Armed Forces Day, to dedicate the new high school Hill of Heroes at Raiderfest 2016. The Hill of Heroes, located opposite the school entrance, showcases emblems and creeds on granite slabs representing all five branches of the military.



Chief Master Sgts. John Lawlor and Brian Bik attend the dedication ceremony of the new Colonie Central High School Hill of Heroes on May 21, 2016. Lawlor's son, John, a senior at the high school, designed the Hill of Heroes to honor his father. John is currently assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing's Student Flight and will be enlisting following his high school graduation.



Photo by Master Sgt. William Gizara

The 109th Airlift Wing Chaplain Corps (from left): Chaplain (1st Lt.) Julie Taylor, Chaplain (Capt.) Joshua Choquette, Senior Airman Nicholas Mancuso, Master Sgt. Damaris Santiago-Singer, Staff Sgt. Chad Alaimo, Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah Henderson, Chaplain (Maj.) Jacob Marvel and Chaplain (1st Lt.) Xiomara Diaz.

Creating communication bridge

By Chaplain (1st Lt.) Xiomara Diaz
109th AW Chaplain's Office

Hello Air force families! Many of you have probably seen me around the 109th lately as part of our Chaplain Corps. When I'm not here, one of the other hats I wear is as a mother. As a mother, I've found some very useful tips on how to talk to your children. As a parent of a teenage boy, I know that the way I communicate with him is crucial for the continued development of our mother/son relationship. Here are a few tips from the Family Wellness Series: Survival Skills for Healthy Families (part of our Strong Bonds

retreats we offer members of the 109th):

"The best way to get your children to talk about themselves is for you to listen. Keep your opinions and judgments to yourself. When you add your own opinions, or correct theirs, you shift the spotlight to you. Keep the spotlight on them – what you heard them say, adding nothing of your own. Remember, listening does not mean you agree. Steps for encouraging your children: 1) Praise efforts and identify success 2) Acknowledge your child's point of view, even if you disagree 3) Tell your child specific things that please you 4) Encourage your child to make choices and plans."

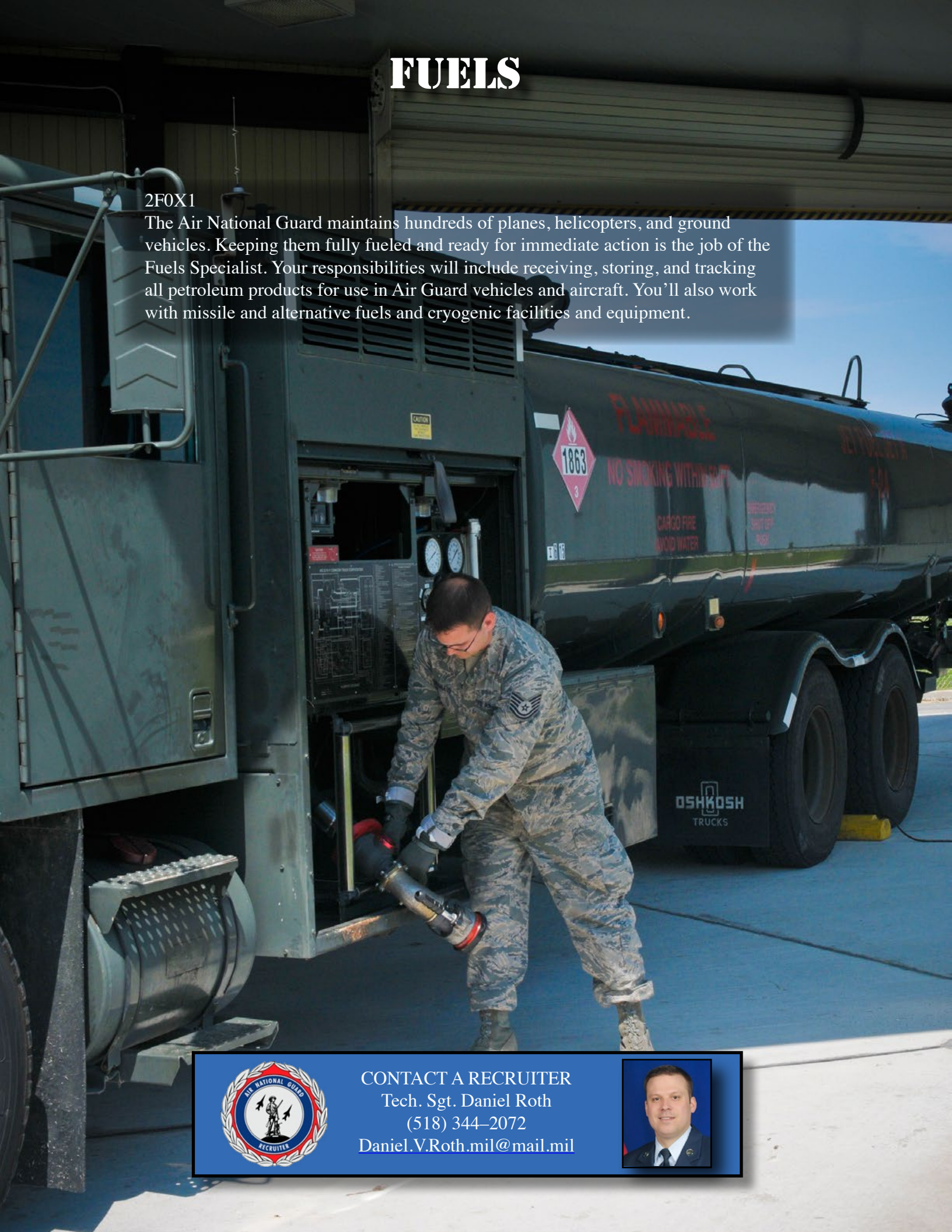
I am blessed to be my son's track and field coach; I try to make sure that I am extra aware of his frustrations as my son and as my athlete. Sometimes we may not agree in his choice of time management (school, athletics, video games, cleaning etc.), but I try to take a step back and utilize the steps above and successfully create a good communication bridge that can help him to feel heard.

I hope these tips can help strengthen your relationship with your children. Be on the lookout for future Family Strong Bonds Retreat to learn few more tools to help you strengthen your family ties!

FUELS

2FOX1

The Air National Guard maintains hundreds of planes, helicopters, and ground vehicles. Keeping them fully fueled and ready for immediate action is the job of the Fuels Specialist. Your responsibilities will include receiving, storing, and tracking all petroleum products for use in Air Guard vehicles and aircraft. You'll also work with missile and alternative fuels and cryogenic facilities and equipment.



CONTACT A RECRUITER

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MAINTENANCE/ AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE

2A5X1

Airlift/Special Mission Aircraft Maintenance Specialists are responsible for ensuring their aircraft is well maintained and in perfect working order to always be mission ready.

2A6X1

Aerospace Propulsion Specialists must inspect, maintain, test, and repair a wide variety of engines — from turboprop and turboshaft to jet engines and small gas turbines.

2A6X2

Aerospace Ground Equipment Specialists maintain and repair generator sets, air conditioners, hydraulic test stands, air compressors, bomb lifts and heaters — all equipment that stays on the ground and is essential to keeping the Air National Guard aircraft mission ready.

2A8X1

Mobility Air Forces Integrated Communication/Navigation/Mission Systems Specialists are trained in testing, troubleshooting, maintaining, and repairing multiple avionics systems, keeping our aircraft ready for any contingency.

2A8X2

Mobility Air Forces Integrated Instrument and Flight Control Systems Specialists review, analyze, interpret, and correct any deficiency of aircraft flight controls and cockpit instrumentation.

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Tech. Sgt. John Leggett
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SECURITY FORCES

3P0X1

The safety and security of the people, property, and resources of the Air National Guard is the sole mission of Security Forces. A career as a Security Forces Specialist requires extensive training in law enforcement and combat tactics since you'll work both stateside on bases and overseas where you'll often patrol off base. In this role, you'll ensure the safety of all base weapons, property and personnel from hostile forces, conduct investigations into any on-base incidents, apprehend and detain suspects, secure crime scenes, and testify in judicial proceedings. You will also be involved in team patrol movements, tactical drills, battle procedures, and military operations other than war. You'll receive the highest quality law enforcement training available, which can prepare you for a successful career in civilian law enforcement.



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VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

2T3X1

If you think you like tinkering around in the car shop, imagine how much you'll love working on the vehicles that the Air National Guard maintains and operates. As a Mission Generation Vehicular Equipment Maintenance Specialist, you'll inspect, troubleshoot, and repair a variety of vehicles such as dump trucks, bucket loaders, fork lifts, and even firefighting and refueling equipment. When disaster strikes or an enemy attacks, it's your job to make sure the Air Guard vehicles are maintained and ready to go.

2T3X2

The Air National Guard helps to support and maintain hundreds of aircraft, and directly supporting that mission are hundreds of specialized vehicles designed specifically to work with these complex aircraft. As a Special Vehicle Maintenance Specialist, you'll inspect, troubleshoot, and repair vehicles used in support of Air Guard flying missions. This means you'll be an expert in gasoline and diesel engines, electrical systems, drive-train components, steering, brakes, and suspension, hydraulic and air systems. Special Vehicle Maintenance Specialists receive first-class training, making them experts in a specialized field.



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Awards

Nov. 2, 2015 – May 1, 2016

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Douglas Daeffler – JFHQ
Maj. Kimberly Peregrim – AS
Maj. Jacob Searles – CF
Chief Master Sgt. David Archambeault – MXS
Senior Master Sgt. Siobhan Macaulay – MOF
Senior Master Sgt. Richard Rueda – AW
Master Sgt. Michael Cousineau – AS
Master Sgt. Carmelo Modesto – OSS
Master Sgt. David Vesper – AS



Air Medal

Staff Sgt. Wesley Fool – AS

Aerial Achievement Medal

Lt. Col. William Carraher – AS	Capt. Eric Chan – AS
Lt. Col. Joseph DeConno – AS	Capt. Jesse Endres – AS
Lt. Col. Joseph Hathaway – AW	Capt. Daniel Godfrey – AS
Lt. Col. Blair Herdrick – AS	Capt. Emery Jankord – AS
Lt. Col. Dean Johnson – AS	Capt. Patrick Newton – AS
Lt. Col. James Maunz – AS	Capt. James Nicholson – AS
Lt. Col. Joshua Nielson – AS	Capt. Jacob Papp – AS
Lt. Col. Carlyle Norman – AS	Capt. Joseph Shanahan – AS
Lt. Col. David Panzera – AS	Capt. Jefferson Wood – AS
Lt. Col. William Salvaggio – OG	1st Lt. Jessica Algier – AS
Lt. Col. Christian Sander – OG	1st Lt. Anthony Amico – AS
Lt. Col. Clifford Souza – OSS	1st Lt. Richard VanPatten – AS
Maj. Steven Cousineau – OSS	Master Sgt. Christopher Collins – AS
Maj. Joshua Ellithorpe – AS	Master Sgt. Michael Cousineau – AS
Maj. Joshua Hicks – AS	Master Sgt. Paul Fobare – AS
Maj. Mark Jacobson – AS	Master Sgt. Adam Gardner – AS
Maj. Matthew Johnson – AS	Master Sgt. Daniel Swatling – AS
Maj. Marc McKeon – AS	Tech. Sgt. Joseph Axe – AS
Maj. Timothy Novak – AS	Tech. Sgt. Kyle Ray – AS
Maj. Matthew Sala – AS	Tech. Sgt. Joel Sainsbury – AS
Maj. Steven Slosek – AS	Staff Sgt. Brett Giaconia – AS
Maj. Eric Wood – AS	Staff Sgt. Matthew Piombino – AS
Capt. Paul Benintende – AS	Staff Sgt. Casey Preyer Blakney – AS
Capt. Brandon Caldwell – AS	Senior Airman Samuel Comini – AS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. Jeffrey Hill – MXS
Capt. Patrick Newton – AS
Capt. Joseph Ryan – MDG
Senior Master Sgt. Karl Burghart – MXS
Senior Master Sgt. Kimberly Carmody – JFHQ
Senior Master Sgt. Deborah Nordyke – AW
Master Sgt. Jennifer Dippo – AES
Master Sgt. Marlene Frankovic – SFS
Master Sgt. Brian Gifford – JFHQ
Master Sgt. David Morrison – MDG
Master Sgt. Matthew Winnie – LRS
Tech. Sgt. Michael Crouse – AES
Tech. Sgt. Jason Gardinier – MOF
Tech. Sgt. Shawn Keating – AW
Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Mahan – MDG
Tech. Sgt. Daniel Roth – AW
Staff Sgt. Jared Diehl – CF
Staff Sgt. Dakota Finch – AMXS
Staff Sgt. Thomas Gallagher – AMXS
Staff Sgt. Megan Lane – MDG

Air Force Achievement Medal

Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Orth – SFS
Master Sgt. Jason Babiarz – LRS
Tech. Sgt. Matthew Bohigian – MOF
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Hayes – CF
Tech. Sgt. Derek Monaghan – AW
Staff Sgt. Come Ketchakeu – AW
Staff Sgt. Brittany Rankin – MXS
Staff Sgt. Joshua Spagnola – JFHQ
Staff Sgt. Zachary Villano – SFS
Senior Airman Alanna Guay – SFS
Senior Airman Meya Rayner – AW

Retirements

December 2015 – May 2016

Col. Steven Fukino
Col. Michael Steindl
Lt. Col. Sherrie Murray
Maj. Patric Brew
Maj. Aaron Lancaster
Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Begin
Chief Master Sgt. Tammy King
Chief Master Sgt. Orlando Rodriguez

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Gifford
Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Graham
Senior Master Sgt. Scott King
Master Sgt. John Blackburn
Master Sgt. Joseph Casal
Master Sgt. Joseph Defoe
Master Sgt. Robert Helligrass
Master Sgt. Michael Hojnicky

Master Sgt. Richard Kirker
Master Sgt. Ottavio Lopiccio
Master Sgt. Edward Lovett
Master Sgt. Darren Rutigliano
Master Sgt. Michael Silver
Tech. Sgt. Annee Milewski
Staff Sgt. Anthony Schultz

Officer Promotions

Lieutenant Colonel

Nicholas Dean
Joshua Nielson

Major

Nicholas Garren
Richard Legault
Ronald McCarthy
James McCauley Jr.
Heather Miner
Joshua Rogers

Captain

Eric Chan
John Hughes
Sanning Pingitore
Shawn Rulison
Jared Semerad

First Lieutenant

Brian Alexander
Matthew Cotter
Gregory Durrant
Andrea Jensen
David Koscinski
Tiernan Nolan

Enlisted Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant

Kimberly Carmody – JFHQ
Michael Lazzari – AW
Siobhan Macaulay – MOF
Frank Vallsdelosreyes – CES

Master Sergeant

Katy Behany – LRS
Carlos Bonilladiaz – AMXS
Sean Carty – MDG
James Czwakiel – MXS
Richard Hall – MXS
William Hanrahan Jr. – MOF
Matthew Kergel – MXS
Dean Lansley – JFHQ
Michael Lee – AW
Timothy Macaulay – AS
Michael Pietkiewicz – LRS
Jason Robelotto – MDG
William D. Roe – MDG
Daniel Spiewak – AMXS
Mark Swiderski – OSS
Gary Warn – MXG
Roger Yurko – CF

Technical Sergeant

Brian Berg – LRS
Matthew Bohigian – MOF
Nickolas Cross – MXS
Justin Carkner – LRS
John Drzewiecki – MXS
John Fountain – AS
Damon George – SFS
Jeffrey Hayes – CF
Frank Kennedy – LRS
Kimberly Labunski – LRS
Ashley Leonard – MDG
Aaron Muha – MXS
Abby Nelson – MDG
Patrick Nowacki – MXS
Jamie Richter – OSS
David Saddlemire – LRS
Linda Smith – LRS
Patrick Tanella – SFS
Robert Vanauken – MXS
Ryan Wolf – LRS

Staff Sergeant

Christopher Audi – MXS
Keith Belak – LRS
Karl Burghart – LRS
Stephanie Dirolf – SFS
Brittany Foster – LRS
Thomas Gallagher – AMXS
Brett Giaconia – AS
Trevor Gillian – LRS
Matthew Gleason – LRS
Bradley Linendoll – MXS
Christopher Lovelock – AMXS
Justin Miller – AS
Lauren Minholz – MXS
Philip Piombino – STUF
David Read – STUF
Kevin Rice – MXS
Anthony Rituno Jr. – SFS
Jonathan Saunders – FSS
Jeffrey Valk – OSS

Senior Airman

Jennatte Berger – MXS
Stephen Cernack – SFS
John Cox – LRS
Andrew Congdon – SFS
Adam Derepentigny – CES
Darren Durfee – LRS
Samantha Gifford – OSS
Alanna Guay – SFS
Melissa Hardcastle – MXS
Joseph Hart – LRS
Samuel Hartz – AMXS
Jacob Hentnik – AMXS
Jacey Hill – AW
Brendan Leach – SFS
Rafael Lopez – CES
Gregory Markel – LRS
Samuel Mitchell – MXS
Jessica Peck – AS
Justin Pierce – AW
Luis Parrilla – AW
Joseph Quist – MXS
Dominic Scaringe – SFS
Jamie Spaulding – AW
Sean Winters – SFS

Airman 1st Class

Jaclyn Lavin – FSS

Airman

Taylor Wetsky – MDG

Nov. 2, 2015 –
May 15, 2016

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



File Photo illustration

Mission statement

The 109th Airlift Wing employs the Department of Defense's only ski-equipped aircraft to conduct operations in remote Polar Regions. We train, equip and deploy premier, combat-ready Airmen to support state and national objectives.

Vision statement

Unparalleled tactical airlift to remote polar environments, propelled by highly trained, combat-ready Airmen.