

THUNDERBUMPER

South Dakota

AIR NATIONAL GUARD



VOLUME THIRTY EIGHT NUMBER 3

July - September 2011



*Family Day
Fun*

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Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. Wayne Shanks

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Contact the Public Affairs Office at (605)988-5946 or DSN 798-7946.

Send submissions to 114 FW/PA or e-mail to PA.114FW@ang.af.mil.

On the cover...

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. CHRISTOPHER STEWART

Family Day 2011 and the third Wings and Wheels were held at Joe Foss Field, S.D. August 7. Family and friends of unit members enjoyed games, a pancake breakfast and automotive displays at the annual event.

A word from the commander

THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM IS GUIDELINES FOR SOUTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA PUT OUT BY COL. RUSS WALZ ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2011.

1. Social networks and blogs are an increasingly popular means of communication. They enable our Airmen to communicate in a public forum and create their own content on the Web. As these types of emerging technologies begin to replace traditional modes of communication, it is incumbent upon leadership to not only familiarize itself with the trends, but also to ensure that our mission is not adversely affected within this new online context.

2. Operations Security is paramount. Any information you share on these sites should not compromise OPSEC and will not be allowed. This includes information about upcoming Unit Training Assemblies that would include the dates of such or information that could lead to the deduction of when our UTAs and upcoming deployments will be held.

3. Per National Guard News, dated August 11, 2010, by Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke, NGB Office of Public Affairs and Strategic Communications; the following applies to all SDANG members when using social networks and related means of communications.

a. As with other forms of communication, Guard members must also adhere to federal laws, National Guard regulations, and governing policies when making unofficial internet posts. They are personally responsible for all content that they publish on social networking sites, blogs or other websites.

b. Many social media sites have policies that give them ownership of ALL content and information posted or stored on their sites. When communicating online about the National Guard in unofficial internet posts, Guard members should make it clear that they are speaking for themselves and not on behalf of the National Guard.

c. Guard members should use privacy settings on social networking sites so posted personal information and photos can be viewed only by their "friends." They should also recognize that social network "friends" and "followers" could affect determinations in background investigations for security clearances.

d. Guard members should not post information that would infringe upon the privacy, proprietary or personal rights of others or use any words, logos or other marks that would infringe upon the trademark, service mark, certification mark, or other intellectual property rights of owners of such marks without the permission of the owners.

4. In keeping with above NGB guidelines, those members of the South Dakota Air National Guard who wish to start up any social media sites that are titled with "114th Fighter Wing" or "South Dakota Air National Guard", in any manner or abbreviation, will first contact the 114th FW Public Affairs office for specific guidelines and assistance for usage. Each of these sites will contain the disclaimer that states: "The postings on this site are my own and do not constitute an endorsement or opinion of the National Guard or Department of

Defense."

5. Be cognizant of how you represent yourself in your personal social networking sites such as Facebook, Flickr, or Twitter. If you are posting information to those sites that may reflect poorly on the National Guard, reconsider. Information posted to personal profiles resides in the public domain. You never know who might see it or use it.

6. All photos and videos posted to social networking sites taken while in a duty status must be cleared by Public Affairs before posting. Those taken by non-DoD civilians of you while in uniform are not the "property" of the Department of Defense and this rule does not apply to those photos and video. If you don't know if the photo is OK to post, just ask. 114th FW Public Affairs can be contacted by calling (605)988-5946 or e-mail 114fw.pa@ang.af.mil.

7. Just remember, we encourage the proper use of unofficial social media, we just want to ensure that all members are keeping OPSEC in mind and not misrepresenting the unit or releasing unauthorized content.

8. POC for this memorandum is Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland, 114FW/PA, 988-5946.



The South Dakota Air National Guard's new Block 40 F-16 aircraft are poised and ready on the ramp at Joe Foss Field, S.D. August 25, 2011 and below on the morning of August 26th.



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

Twenty years and counting

PHOTOS AND STORY BY MASTER SGT. NANCY J. AUSLAND

The Base Exchange on Joe Foss Field is celebrating its twentieth year at the South Dakota Air National Guard in 2011.

A twenty year celebration was held on August 6th with a customer appreciation event attended by senior leaders of the unit as well as Anna Stanton, the general manager from the Base Exchange at Offutt Air Force Base.



Sherri Oster(left), Joe Foss Field Base Exchange Manager, Colleen Wilde (center) and Melody Thomas (right), pause for a photo during the Base Exchange 20th Anniversary celebration here August 6.

The BX has had three different locations over the past twenty years at Joe Foss Field. The first BX was located in building 47 which has just recently been demolished. In 1995 the BX was moved to building 61 and shared this space with the Club. The final move, in 1999, set the BX up with its largest and current location in building 63.

Future plans for the BX include the addition of an outdoor patio area in front of the building for members to use to gather and enjoy refreshments purchased at the BX.

“We don’t just say we have the best customers in the world, we really believe it,” said Sherri Oster. “It is the members of this unit that visit the BX that keeps us vital and we hope to be able to stay here another 20 years.”



Members of the 114th Fighter Wing gather at the Joe Foss Field Base Exchange to celebrate the stores twentieth anniversary August 6.

From the desk of the Wing Command Chief

BY COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SGT. KEVIN UTHE

Summer has come and gone, much like the waters of the Missouri River where many of you spent some of your summer vacation. South Dakota National Guard members spent time in the Pierre area and many more spent time in Dakota Dunes. I would like to pass on my thanks to all of you that stepped up and helped those communities; it was a huge sacrifice for you, your families and your employers.

In July, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Funk was recognized as the Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer Academy Graduate Association Outstanding Graduate of the Year. Sgt. Funk received his award at Seminar 43 held in Fort Wayne, Ind. This award is to recognize a current enlisted member of the Air National Guard NCOAGA, who is truly outstanding when measured against his or her peers during the last fiscal year. Sgt. Funk is the fourth member of Chapter 70 of the NCOAGA to receive this award.

Family Day was held on Sunday of August UTA and from what I saw it was a huge success. It started with a pancake feed by Chris’s Cakes. The Wings and Wheels event provided the opportunity for members to showcase their special possession. Entries

included new cars, old cars, specialty cars, race cars, motorcycles, airplanes and military equipment. Inflatables for the youngsters were set up and were busy all day.

November Unit Training Assembly will be another busy one. As usual, we will be having the annual Turkey Feed. Music following dinner will be provided by the United States Air Force Band, Nightwing, Offutt Air Force Base. Prior to the Turkey Feed we will be hosting our second Hometown Hero’s Salute. Invitations will be sent out to all members and their families that will be receiving the awards.

We are looking for a little help locating some of our unit members that have retired or separated from the unit that have earned the awards. If you know someone that may have been on orders in support of a contingency since September 11, 2001 and has retired, separated or transferred from the unit and you have their address or contact information, please contact myself or Command Chief Master Sgt. James Welch so that we can get their invitation sent. We have some members that continue to serve in contingency operations across the globe and they will be receiving their awards on this day as well.

Hometown Hero Award ceremony to be held



The second Hometown Hero Award ceremony will be held at Joe Foss Field, S.D. on Saturday afternoon of the November Unit Training Assembly.

“We are going all the way back to 9-11 for this set of awards,” said Chief Master Sgt. Diane Bitner, HQ SDANG. “We have awards for current members as well as many separated and retired members.”

With this in mind, if you are a separated or retired member who deployed with the 114th Fighter Wing since September 11, 2001 and you feel you may be receiving one of these awards, please help us out by contacting Chief Master Sgt. James Welch with your address so the information can be sent to you about the ceremony. If you are a current member of the unit, you do not need to contact Chief Welch. Contact Chief Welch at 605-212-9690 or by e-mailing him at james.welch.2@ang.af.mil.

The event is being held the same day as the unit’s annual Turkey Feed in order to facilitate maximum participation at both. For tickets to the 33rd Annual Turkey Feed, contact Master Sgt. Sara Hilmoe at 605-988-5702.

Retirees have you met Bob?

BY MASTER SGT. NANCY J. AUSLAND



So why would you need to know Bob Funk if you're a retiree? Well, because Senior Master Sgt. Robert Funk, Fabrication Element supervisor for the 114th Maintenance Squadron, has taken it upon himself to keep retirees informed about what's going on at the 114th Fighter Wing.

"I was talking with a retiree at one of our member's retirement parties and he told me he had a hard time keeping up with what goes on out here at the base," said Funk. "I told him it would be no problem for me to send him an e-mail periodically and let him know what's happening. It's just grown from there."

Bob's list of retirees' e-mail addresses has grown to over 125 names just by word of mouth. He sends out information on upcoming events to include retirement parties, fundraisers, golf tournaments, obituaries, club events, and annual events such as the Turkey Feed.

Hearing of Bob's list, the 114th Public Affairs office is planning to work closely with him to ensure that once the Thunderbumper is no longer provided that we send him information to share about our public website.

Currently, Bob has an opportunity to get the e-mail address of anyone retiring from the unit but if you didn't get with Bob before you retired, you can contact him now and he will add your name to his list and create a guard email account for you.

Psychological Health Program now available to unit members

BY CHAR SKOVLUND
DIRECTOR OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH



I would like to introduce myself and the new Psychological Health Program at the South Dakota Air National Guard.

Service members are the most important asset the military has and your well-being is of utmost

importance.

As the Director of Psychological Health, I will work with the Family Readiness Program, Chaplaincy, and the Military Family Life Consultants to extend the range of services offered to Airmen and their families. This service is available to those having difficulty with an emotional, behavioral, or psychological issue within themselves or someone they care about.

I am a therapist with experience in general mental health issues, coping, behavioral and chemical addictions, as well as work-related

stress. Issues addressed do not have to be related to deployments or military life. National Guard members face the same issues as the civilian population does: parenting, relationship stress, or even just goal setting and motivation issues can become overwhelming at times. I am here to consult with Airmen and their families about these issues. I will see persons for individual sessions or consult with them on the phone. In some cases I will make a referral to a provider in the service member's community.

The providers I refer to are a carefully selected panel of professionals who have established themselves within the professional community. I will also work as an additional resource for leadership and first sergeants to learn what ways I may be the most helpful.

My services are free and confidential. Please contact me if you are interested in talking with me further about this new program. I can be reached at 605-988-5539 and will soon be on the base website.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. ROBERT FUNK

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Funk, 114th Maintenance Squadron, was selected as the 2011 Non-commissioned Officer Academy Graduate Association's outstanding graduate. The NCOAGA presented Sgt. Funk with his award during the national seminar in Fort Wayne, Ind. on July 21. There were 106 submissions from chapters across the nation and this is an Air National Guard nationwide award. Sgt. Funk commented he was humbled and honored to receive the award and encourages all NCOs to get involved in the association. Pictured at that ceremony are from left to right; Julie Funk, daughter, Lori Gottman, daughter, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Funk, Gayle Funk, wife, and Bonnie Funk, mother.

Thunderbumper nears retirement

BY CAPT. MICHAEL FRYE
114th Public Affairs Officer

www.114fw.ang.af.mil



As the final editions of the Thunderbumper begin to take shape, the 114th Fighter Wing moves to the internet to deliver our news.

Popular social media sites such as Facebook and Flickr enhance our already established public website and connects our unit to Airmen, our retirees, families, friends and public with timely news as it happens at Joe Foss Field and around the world.

In the coming months readers will see the Thunderbumper retired as the focus grows in our social media world, allowing us to not only feed news and information about what is happening at the unit, but also gives our followers the ability to communicate and discuss topics with other users.

For those wishing to read in-depth about the 114th Fighter Wing, go to www.114fw.ang.af.mil. Our public website is rich with content featuring current and

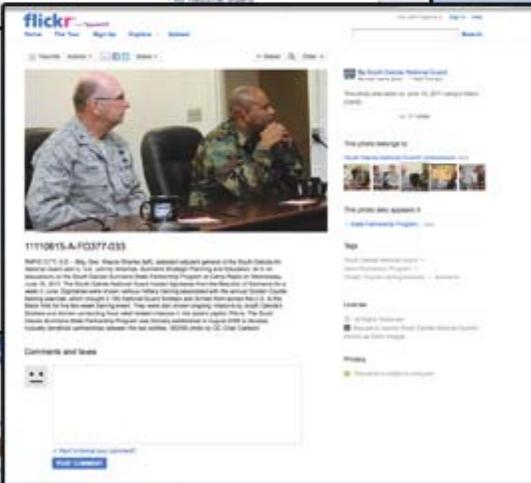
past news, photos, stories, links to our history and even job opportunities and information with the Guard.

With the power of Flickr behind the South Dakota National Guard, we have the ability to share with you high resolution images instantly from anywhere in the world allowing friends and family to stay connected to our Airmen, whether at Joe Foss Field or deployed to anywhere in the world. Flickr's high resolution image data base gives users the power to print and share photos with anyone, anywhere they may be.

With more than 750 million users worldwide on Facebook the Army and Air National Guard of South Dakota can share our wins, our successes, our losses with you and you can comment. Not following us on Facebook yet? Just sign in, search for South Dakota National Guard, and click like.

The Thunderbumper will be retired after just two more editions. Catch up with us on any of our online sites to see what's happening within the South Dakota National Guard.

www.flickr.com
search South Dakota National Guard



www.facebook.com
search South Dakota National Guard

Family Day and Wings and Wheels 2011



August 7

Joe Foss Field



What's the story with that damn duck?

BY STAFF SGT. TRISHA R. SMEENK

When members of the Ammo shop of the 114th Maintenance Squadron were called to help with flood duty in Pierre and Dakota Dunes, they deployed with a specially qualified member accustomed to water. This webbed footed member is none other than the official mascot for Ammo. An old duck decoy fittingly named 'Ammo Duck' accompanies new members from the Ammo Shop on their first deployments.

The duck will usually find a good hiding place in a deploying member's bag-most of the time unbeknownst to that member- only to be found once they arrive on location. It is then the member's responsibility to keep the duck safe and make sure it has fun until it can be returned to the 114th Ammo shop. The duck is older than many of the new members challenged with keeping track of it.

Master Sgt. Tracy Hornstra, ordnance system mechanic, explained the long history of this symbol of morale. Retired Chief Master Sgt. Gunther Kondert acquired the duck decoy on a trade for a few scraps of wood from retired weapons technician Master Sgt. Terry Gannon.

"The tradition started in 1985 when someone hid the duck in Master Sgt. Brad Hoas' chemical bag on his deployment to Royal Air Force Waddington, United Kingdom. "It was much to Brad's surprise, as well as the British Airmen, when the chemical bag was dumped out," explained Hornstra.

"Since then, the duck has made appearances all over the world," said Hornstra. "It's been on every deployment with Ammo members from Turkey, Korea, Belgium, Israel, Hawaii, Iraq and more."

Other shops have been known to capture the duck and hold it for ransom. There are even written rules explaining conditions to get the duck back.

Ammo Duck is adorned with several souvenirs from its deployments. It wears dog tags, zip ties, and necklaces. The Airman is responsible for getting Ammo Duck a new souvenir from each deployment. Not only is Ammo Duck a morale booster it also reinforces the wingman concept with their motto: no duck left behind.



PHOTO BY LT. COL. REID CHRISTOPHERSON

Airman 1st Class Michael Bailey holds the Ammo Duck as he prepares to deploy on state active duty May 30.

Chaplains Corner

BY CHAPLAIN MAJOR WILLIAM T. TESCH



From March 30th to July 2nd I was stationed at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan. The transit center is the staging area for all troops going into and out of the war zone. It was humbling to provide some small comfort to the young men and women of our armed

forces who, over the last ten years, have been making daily sacrifices in repeated and dangerous deployments. There are countless stories to tell, but I thought that on this anniversary of 9/11, it would be appropriate to share this story which was my final reflection written on the airplane home from Kyrgyzstan.

My deployment comes to a close with an especially poignant duty. One day last week the command post of the Transit Center at Manas issued a warning order to the wing commander, the Force Support Squadron commander and the Chaplain on Call;

“later today a C17 will transition through the Transit Center on a human remains mission. Make all necessary preparations.”

A few details come in. The remains will arrive at about 1300 hours. The deceased is a Marine. Paperwork accompanying the human remains will reveal name and rank.

The news that the human remains was a Marine is shared with the small platoon of Marines who work here at the Transit Center.

When the C17 makes its first pass over the airfield at 1321 hours under a piercing blue central Asian sky, a considerable welcoming party has assembled. The merciless heat of the sun reflects the brutal circumstances. Sunglasses are stowed; everyone squints. Dozens of personnel have dropped everything to be present.

As the aircraft lands, many of the 376 Expeditionary Maintenance Group are in formation near the parking place where the C17 will come to a stop.

A bus pulls up just as the C17 is touching down. About 20 stone-faced Marines step off the bus, some with untended tears rolling off their defiant cheeks.

Suddenly, just as the aircraft came to a rest in its parking place, all 20 marines broke into an urgent, desperate sprint toward the aircraft. They ran with the fury of Marines coming to the aid of a brother Marine in battle. We all looked on in admiration and sadness.

The cargo ramp of the giant aircraft drops open, slowly, discouragingly. About a dozen weary soldiers, still carrying their weapons in their hands and the stink of Afghanistan on their bodies, shuffle down the ramp with heads deeply bowed.

A van backs up and comes to a halt about 50 feet behind the open ramp. Two columns form a gauntlet. The wing commander calls the formation to attention. I step forward and shout a greeting and read Psalm 23 at the top of my lungs in an effort to be heard over the giant generators of the aircraft. I offer a prayer using the just discovered name of the young Marine. I look out at a column of rock sold Marines, tears streaming down their faces. I step back into formation. The honor guard comes forward. Just as the six honor guard members begin bearing their precious burden, the commander calls “Present Arms” and we all give a slow silent salute. The flag-draped casket is placed in the waiting vehicle, and the commander calls, “Order Arms” and dismisses the formation.

A plan is made for a small team to reassemble at 0300 hours in order to accomplish the same transfer only in reverse. When we arrive at the darkened airfield at 0230 hours, people are already beginning to gather. Nearly a hundred Airmen and Marines have set their alarms for the privilege of accompanying a fallen Marine on his final homeward journey. The ground power unit is shut down; it is a quite and still



morning. I read the words of Psalm 139 and they echo off the gray walls of the large cargo aircraft.

“If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.”

“If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”

“If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you...”

The prayer includes all who have fallen in battle and all who watch and wait back home. The ceremony concludes and this valiant young Marine is on his way home for the last time. It was our sad honor to serve him in this very small way. We linger in the crisp dark morning air as we ponder what we have heard and seen.

The Vice Commander takes my hand, “Chaplain, now you can go home.”

“Yes, sir,” I say, “I believe I can.” But I also know that in truth, I never can.

Junior Enlisted Council selects member of the quarter

BY STAFF SGT. TRISHA R. SMEENK

Young Airmen know they can't just voice their opinion for change to just anyone. There is a special place where Airmen's concerns are formally heard and positive change can take place. The 114th Junior Enlisted Council provides that avenue of communication for junior enlisted members. A new program for the Junior Enlisted Council is the JEC Member of the Quarter.

Senior Airman Jenna Smeenk was selected as the JEC Member of the Quarter for 2nd Quarter 2011.. Nominees are selected based on volunteering, participation and devotion to the JEC. To win this special honor, Smeenk had to submit an essay on ‘How has the National Guard changed your life?’

Senior Airman Smeenk joined the South

Dakota Air National Guard in August of 2007.

“It was a huge turning point in my life. My experiences in the military have had a big part in turning me into the person that I am today,” said Smeenk

Any member of the JEC can nominate someone who they think that has done a good job or has volunteered more than normal. Senior Airman Smeenk says it was an honor to be nominated. She explained how the SDANG has developed her personality and set her up for success in life.

“Working at the 114th is a blessing. I am surrounded by a group of people who I consider to be some of the finest I have ever had the privilege of meeting. It makes me proud to be part of such a hard working group. It is easy to find plenty of positive people there that I look up to for career advice or as general role models, and that has given me a great example to follow. The military is a big part of my life, and it always will be,” said Smeenk

Senior Airman Smeenk will receive an engraved plaque and an all expense-paid trip to the State Enlisted Conference. Senior enlisted members will interview SrA Smeenk along with other Army and Air Guard members of the Quarter for JEC Member of the Year.



Who is the Air Force Association?

SUBMITTED BY DAVID HOLMAN

Many have heard of the Air Force Association, or AFA as it's called, but don't know *who* the AFA is.

The Dacotah Chapter of the AFA consists of five vice presidents. Each is explained below.

The Vice President of Education coordinates the education activities of the Chapter including programs such as the Visions of Exploration, Teacher of the Year, and Leadership series.

The Visions of Exploration is a partnership involving the AFA, USA Today, our local Dacotah Chapter, and our schools to encourage the skills necessary for success in science, technology, engineering, and math education among our nation's students.

The Teacher of the Year is selected from teachers involved in the Visions of Exploration. This recognition yields the opportunity to compete statewide and nationally.

The Leadership series is planned to be an annual forum that will recognize three leaders from various walks of life to share their views and opinions as to what characteristics and skills are needed to be successful leaders.

The Vice President's of Education for the Dacotah Chapter of the AFA are Jessica Bak

and Casey Bullis.

Vice President of Community Partners for the Dacotah Chapter is Joseph Hardin. He coordinates the development and retention of two levels of community partners, gold and silver.

Our gold community partners are asked to contribute 600 dollars which includes their membership fee. These contributions are used to fund a variety of Chapter activities, specifically the education activities previously mentioned.

Our silver community partners are asked to contribute 200 dollars and their contributions are used to fund other Chapter activities such as communication efforts, special projects and membership activities.

Vice President of Communications coordinates the communication efforts of the Chapter and recently has been working with Wal-Mart for grants to fund the development of an interactive web page. The vision is that the web page would share chapter plans, newsletters and the plans of each Vice President.

The Vice President of Communication for the Dacotah Chapter of the AFA is Amy Farr.

Vice President of Special Projects is Mike

Haugen and was involved in two projects this past year.

An advertised program to attendees at a retirees coffee on TRICARE and the impact of recently passed health legislation. We are also working with the Family Volunteer Group of the 114th Fighter Wing to help raise funds for the group through the sale of a limited edition print (see story below).

The fifth and final Vice President for the Dacotah Chapter of the AFA is the Vice President of Membership, Sallie Ketcham.

This Vice President is interested in meeting you. The strength of any organization is its membership and the Dacotah Chapter is no different. Our membership, both individual and community partners, is what allows us to pursue a variety of activities and the success that we have enjoyed to date.

This article is intended to identify and outline the activities of the Dacotah Chapter and encourage you to consider membership either ongoing or new. Should you have questions or desire additional information please contact any Vice President or a member of the Executive Committee, David Holman, Ed Revell, Ron Mielke, or Chuck Nelson for more information.

September Retirees Coffee holds special event

BY MASTER SGT. NANCY AUSLAND

The first Tuesday morning of each month is a special time for retirees of the South Dakota Air National Guard. Old stories are told and old friends are remembered when they gather in the Dining Facility at Joe Foss Field.

September's coffee was especially memorable due to an event promoted by the 114th Family Volunteer Group, the Sioux Falls Airshow, Inc. committee and the AFA.

Members were invited to attend the coffee and a special limited edition print called "The Rides of the Lobos" was available for purchase. Not only could you purchase the limited print that day, but past pilots of the South Dakota Air National Guard were on hand to personally sign your print.

The print shows graphic replications of the aircraft flown by the unit since it's

inception and was designed by John Mollison who is a member of the Sioux Falls Airshow, Inc. committee.

Lt. Col. (Ret) Arden "Flip" Fjellanger was one of the units old pilots present to sign the prints. Fjellanger flew jets for the South Dakota Air National Guard from 1954 to 1984 and sat in more of these jets than any other pilot on hand that day.

"The F-51's were on the ramp when I left for training but were gone when I came

home." said Fjellanger. "I flew the F-94C, the F-89, F-102, F-100 and ended my career in the A-7."

Those present to purchase the prints were grateful for the writers cramps that Fjellanger and the other pilots who showed up may have gotten from signing so many signatures.

Other pilots present that day to sign and pictured left to right below were; John Kittelson, Verlyn Howe, Carl Palmberg, Arden Fjellanger, Tom Lien, Bob Jamison, Dan Robar, John Carlson and Steve Doohen. Justin Berger and Claude Hone, both F-51 pilots, were unable to attend but signed several prints ahead of time.

The prints can still be purchased, without the signatures, by contacting Nicole Wajer, Airman and Family Coordinator for the 114th Fighter Wing.





Moving Up

To Chief Master Sgt.

Donald McLeer, 114 HQ

To Senior Master Sgt.

Scott Leebens, 114 AMXS

To Master Sgt.

Juan Harrington, 114 MOF

James Anderson, 114 MXS

Brent Garner, 114 MDG

Kyle Tobin, 114 MXS

To Tech. Sgt.

Jason Brown, 114 SFS

Joel Goodale, 114 CF

Eric Guenther, 114 CF

Cody Horstman, 114 AMXS

Jennifer Masterson, 114 AMXS

Adam Rayburn, 114 MXS

Joshua Slieter, 114 FSS

Ryan Sullivan, 114 AMXS

To Staff Sgt.

Jonathan Baumgartner, 114 MXS

Karie Gremse, 114 AMXS

Seth Horstman, 114 AMXS

Jordan Huska, 114 AMXS

Ryan Kappel, 114 AMXS

Nicholas Thielen, 114 AMXS

Troy Pock, 114 MXS

Colin Tobin, 114 MXS

To Senior Airman

Shaun Brown, 114 AMXS

Max Bunkers, 114 AMXS

Blake Carda, 114 AMXS

Nash Eickholt, 114 AMXS

Caitlyn Engebretson, 114 MXS

Wade Farland, 114 MXS

Zachary Frank, 114 AMXS

William Gregory, 114 AMXS

Alexander Hanson, 114 AMXS

Scott Kirchner, 114 MXS

Cody Krutsinger, 114 MXS

David Langer, 114 MXS

Brandon Lentsch, 114 MXS

Johathan Lounsbury, 114 AMXS

Matthew Mathison, 114 MXS

David Meyer II, 114 MXS

Derek Mortinsen, 114 AMXS

Kullen Mueller, 114 MXS

Justin Murphy, 114 AMXS

Andrew Pearson, 114 MXS

Alexander Rodriguez, 114 AMXS

Jed Smeenk, 114 AMXS

Jordan Snyder, 114 MXS

To Senior Airman (cont.)

Todd Suurmeyer, 114 AMXS

Daniel Tribby, 114 AMXS

Garret Werkmeister, 114 AMXS

Jim Wynia, 114 AMXS

Katrina Vanmoer, 114 MDG

Moving In

Airman Basic Malorie McCarthy, 114 STUF

Airman 1st Class Shanon Davis, 114 STUF

Airman 1st Class Aaron Engebretson, 114 STUF

Airman 1st Class Hayden Erickson, 114 STUF

Airman 1st Class Micah Hofman, 114 STUF

Airman 1st Class Brendan Muchow, 114 STUF

Airman 1st Class Alex Portice, 114 STUF

Staff Sgt. Todd Anderson, 175 FS

Staff Sgt. Jessi Davis, 114 FSS

Moving On

Senior Master Sgt. Dorian H. Gatchell, 114 AMXS, retired July 15 with over 26 years of service.

Senior Master Sgt. Thaddeus P. Openowski, 114 SFS, retired September 10 with over 29 years of service.

Master Sgt. Robert H. Huyser, 114 FW, will retire September 26 with over 32 years of service.

Master Sgt. Chad W. Reynolds, 114 LRS, will retire September 30 with over 22 years of service.



PHOTO AND STORY SUBMITTED BY MASTER SGT. SCOTT CARPENTER

Another Air Guard motorcycle ride has come and gone and like the last several years, the ride this year to Duluth, Minn. was absolutely wonderful. The weather cooperated and so did everyone's motorcycles. We had 20 motorcycles this year with many of them doubled up with people. Everyone stayed at the Black Bear Casino Resort and they were great hosts. Although no one hit it rich, Debbie Wheeler got to collect one thousand nickels!

The first day's ride consisted of a terrific scenic view along Lake Superior, with stops in places like, Two Harbors, Grand Marais, and Grand Portage. Some of us even made it all the way up to the Canadian Border. The second day allowed the group to see many of Minnesota's lakes as we traveled to several towns like Ely and Tower. The day ended with a stop in downtown Duluth as we got to watch a large bridge raise up to let a boat pass. The entire four day trip consisted of more than 1450 miles!

If anyone is interested in joining up with these crazy travelers in the future, it is open to anyone and is traditionally held the last weekend in August. In the past we have rode to the Black Hills, Devil's Tower, and Lacrosse, Wis. As of yet it has not been determined where next year's ride will take us.

I will end by saying "thank you" to Brian and Shannon Voges for organizing and leading the group on this year's ride.

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