



173d Fighter Wing 2011 Goals

- Produce the world's best F-15C Pilots with zero mishaps
- Fully Support the Air Expeditionary Force and Global War on Terrorism
- Fully Support State Emergencies
- Continue to emphasize Fit-to-Fight mentality as a way of life
- Meet or exceed mandated energy conservation requirements



**See Page 2,
Commander's Corner**

173rd parades down Main Street



173rd Fighter Wing members took a moment to pose in front of a winning parade float before rolling down Main Street. Parade participants included from right to left: Chief Master Sgt. Leslie Tyree, Airman 1st Class Shawn Blodgett, Airman Amanda Blodgett, Senior Master Sgt. Michael Jones, Senior Master Sgt. Dominic Ingle and his two sons, Master Sgt. Eric Storer, and Capt. Joshua Downs and family.

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Inside the Chronicle...



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Commander's Corner

Team Kingsley made 2010 a success

By Col. James Miller, Commander 173rd Fighter Wing

Congratulations Team Kingsley on a very successful 2010. The past year was filled with a constant beat of exercises and inspections; all of which paid off tremendously in your well deserved "Excellent" rating in the Air Education and Training Command's Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI). The unprecedented unit results and individuals recognized as superior performers are evidence of all your teamwork and pride in your mission. Although we have had a few setbacks, to include the loss of one of our own, you should be very proud of all your accomplishments and mission success.

Congratulations Team Kingsley on a very successful 2010. The past year was filled with a constant beat of exercises and inspections; all of which paid off tremendously in your well deserved "Excellent" rating in the Air Education and Training Command's Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) ... you should be very proud of all your accomplishments and mission success.

-- Col. Miller,
173rd Fighter Wing Commander

As the New Year arrives, we must embrace the challenges on the horizon as opportunities to showcase our flexibility and adaptability. The current fiscal shortfalls are one of the many challenges we face as evidenced by the cancellation of our deployment to Australia. What this means overall is yet to be determined as we continue to assess between our mission needs and mission wants. I am positive you will succeed and continue to set the tone as the F-15C Training Center of Excellence.

I want to thank you for embracing the 2010 wing goals as your own and focusing on these as an avenue for success. The ability of our suppliers and maintainers to continue to provide operations with aircraft during one of the busiest years yet, is unbelievable. Accepting 19 aircraft, transferring 14 and converting our fleet to -220 engines all within a 5-6 month period is laudatory. Conversely, the only goals we didn't achieve were a couple of repeat write-ups for the UCI and increasing our fitness pass rate; although, I will have to add, that we exceeded media expectations for the latter based on the new fitness testing criteria. Congratulations to all.

Our goals have not changed as we enter the New



Year as they are derived from our Mission and Vision Statements.

I look forward to another great year with Team Kingsley and as always remember these:

173d Fighter Wing Mission

Produce the best air-to-air combat pilots and to serve our Nation and State in times of peace and war

173d Fighter Wing Vision

Citizen-Airman achieving a world class training center to serve the community, the State of Oregon and the Nation

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Autobody mechanic and artist: Structural Maintenance

Story by Senior Airman Bryan Nealy, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. –

Many would agree that adaptability is a virtue every Air Force unit must possess. At Kingsley Field six drill status guardmembers and 12 full-time Airmen of the structural maintenance shop have made “adaptability” a way of life. Whether it’s painting the screaming eagle on an F-15 tail, or fabricating a key F-15 part, these Airmen can make just about anything—from scratch!

Staff Sgt. Paul Allen explains, “If you spend the time to learn every aspect of this job, you’ll be doing something different every single day,” he said. “You talk about going from drawing cartoons one day, to the next day walking out to an airplane with power tools and cutting a hole in the side of it, fishing broken ribs out of the plane and fabricating a new one and heat treating it, going to reinstall it and patch it back up, and the next day you could be drawing cartoons again.”

The easiest way to understand the work the structural maintenance Airmen perform is to picture an autobody shop.

“We do bodywork on airplanes,” Master Sgt. Dave Chinander explains. “Most people can relate to an automotive bodywork guy, pounding out dents, replacing broken and buckled parts, we do a lot of that,” he said. “These aircraft are max-performed and they get cracks in them—we repair all those cracks.”

According to Chinander, the most common type of aircraft repair they do is on the aircraft skins.

“The crew chiefs will be doing their walk-arounds before and



Top: Staff Sgt. Chris Call of the 173rd Fighter Wing Structural Maintenance shop, lays down a coat of grey paint on a disassembled piece of Aerospace Ground Equipment at Kingsley Field, Ore., Oct. 28, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Bryan Nealy)

Right: Staff Sgt. Paul Allen, 173rd Fighter Wing Structural Maintenance shop, flattens the edge of a piece of sheet metal at Kingsley Field, Ore., Oct. 28, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Bryan Nealy)

after flights and they’ll notice a little crack or something suspicious,” he said. “They call in the NDI (Non-Destructive Inspection) shop, and they’ll come out and do a scan of the area and see if it’s cracked or not. If it is, they’ll get a hold of us, and we’ll go and cut

(Continued on next page)



Structural Maintenance shop helps keep jets flying

(Continued from previous page)

out the bad spot and put a patch over it and fix it. And when we're done fixing it, we'll paint it to match."

While the Airmen compare themselves to auto body workers, they can also be compared to an artist of a more traditional medium: painters. The Structural Maintenance shop is responsible for all the base markings, minuteman symbols, nose arts, crew chief and pilot names and the tail markings on the aircraft.

"Our commander emphasizes the appearance of the jets, so we keep a nice paintjob on them and keep the tail flashes looking good," said Chinander.

The most recent painting project was the redesign and repainting of the eagle logo on the tails of the F-15 aircraft. Allen designed the new tail flash three years

ago when he arrived at Kingsley Field.

"I wanted to update the look of it because each one was kind of different; some of them were sloppy looking," Allen said. "I had a lot of experience doing computer graphics and paint schemes. I've painted anniversary airplanes for the Air National Guard for paint competitions and for morale projects, so they just kind of turned me loose on it."

Prior to the new design, the eagle logo was applied to the aircraft tail by taping and tracing around a large plastic template. The process wasn't very precise and the logos looked fairly generic and weren't completely uniform. With the help of computer design technology, Allen was able to add more detail to the logo and ensure that every single tail flash was identical.

"We have a digital plotter

where we can print out the stencil, rather than the big giant stencils they used to tape up there" Allen said. "We print them on removable vinyl; we spray everything on and each tail comes out looking the same."

Along with painting the aircraft, the structural maintenance crew is busy painting all the aerospace ground equipment. Previously all the AGE gear on base was painted green. The Air Force realized that most of the AGE is used on a concrete flight line, so they are being painted grey to be more tactical, by blending in, especially from the air. When one thinks of a maintenance man, the term artist might not be the first word that comes to mind. However, the Airmen in the structural maintenance shop bring a rare combination of mechanical ability and artistic vision not generally associated with the military.

"I think it takes an artistic person to excel at fabricating parts and to learn tooling techniques," said Allen. "This job combined all my favorite things to do in one AFSC. I always have a great time doing it."

An F-15 fuel tank painted by the 173rd Fighter Wing Structural Maintenance shop is nearly ready for display in front of the Fuel Systems Maintenance shop at Kingsley Field, Ore., Oct. 28, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Bryan Nealy)





CHAPLAIN'S CHATTER

By Capt. Kraig Kroeker, 173rd Fighter Wing Chaplain

I had to be about nine years old when I received my very first model airplane; a P-51D Mustang. I remember getting that big instruction sheet out, meticulously following the steps one-by-one. Of course I had webs of model glue everywhere. The paint was blotchy. The parts did not line up exactly. I had pieces of sprues sticking out. But, I was proud.

Many years later I am still putting things together. Instead of plastic models, I find I need to assemble entertainment systems, weed whackers, and table saws. In my excitement I sometimes toss aside the instructions and start right

in on the project at hand. Then, after scratching my head because I assembled something wrong or out of order, I say to myself, "self, when all else fails, read the instructions."

I recalled this simple phrase a while back when an Airman called me to help him intervene with another Airman who was thinking of suicide. It seems that no matter how prepared we are, when we face a crisis, we have a tendency to forget the instructions. Knowing repetition works, let us review the steps necessary for helping save a life of someone who is contemplating taking their own life.

First, if you see a fellow Airman who seems withdrawn, depressed, down, and their work may not be up to what it used to be, you need to ask them if they are thinking of hurting themselves. This is a very difficult thing to ask since we know it is a very personal question. However, remember at this point it is more important to save their life than for you to feel comfortable.

Secondly, if they say they are thinking of suicide then you must step-up and care about this person. They may just need to talk. They may have been waiting for someone to notice something is wrong. Either

(Continued on next page)

Chaplain's Office Info.

Need to reach the chaplain?

Capt. Kroeker is on base each day from 7:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m. and here on UTA weekends. Maj. Linzy Laughhunn is here on UTA weekends. Drop by their office or call to make an appointment.

Contact information:

Chaplain's Base Line: x5-6239

Ch. Kroeker's Cell: 331-3739 Email:

kraig.kroeker@ang.af.mil

Ch. Laughhunn: Email: linzy.laughhunn@ang.af.mil

In between UTAs Ch. Laughhunn can be reached by email: Linzy.laugh7@yahoo.com and by phone (weekdays) by calling his work line, 541-228-3083 8a.m. to 5p.m. (please leave a message).

Chaplain's Assistant: Tech. Sgt. Osten Coaty: (541) 892-8784

UTA Services:

Catholic Service: LRS Main Conference Room Bldg 223, Sundays at 7:30 a.m.

Protestant Service: Medical Conference Room Bldg 211, Sundays at 7:30 a.m.



The 173rd FW Chaplains COP is up and running. Have you been looking for a place to worship? Got a suggestion? Need Buddhist Contact information? Did you miss a Chaplains Chatter article in the past? Want to comment on a prior article in Wings or Chronicle? Need to ask the Chaplain a question?

Find information and a whole lot more on the 173rd FW Chaplains COP!

Visit: <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/community/views/home.aspx?Filter=AE-OT-00-91>

Or go to our 173rd FW COP neighborhood at: <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/community/views/home.aspx?Filter=OO-OT-AE-90>

click on Chaplains Office. Don't forget to bookmark these pages!

Chaplain's Chatter

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way, take your time and find a way to show the person you care. Listen attentively. Find out what is wrong. Let them know there is hope.

Thirdly, escort this person to someone who may be of more help. Of course, sometimes people aren't physically available, but we have many sources available to us to help our fellow airmen. Call the National Suicide Helpline at (888) 273-TALK. Call Military One Source at (800) 342-9647. Call me at (541) 331-2611. In any event, do not try to handle the whole situation alone and find someone to help you help this person.

Ask, Care, Escort: Good instructions to remember and follow in order to save a life.

IMPORTANT EVENTS:

There has been a great response to the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace for the Military starting 11 January 2011. There is still room for a couple more people. If you are interested, please send an email to me at kraig.kroeker@ang.af.mil ASAP. Additionally, I am looking to offer a DSG specific Dave Ramsey FPU to be held during UTA weekends in Feb, and Mar. If you know of an out of town DSG who would like to attend, please let them know of this new opportunity. I also encourage you to watch the preview at: www.daveramsey.com/military/home

Oregon ANG leadership moves

*Excerpted letter from
Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees,
The Adjutant General, Oregon*

SALEM, Ore. -- Maj. Gen. Daniel B. O'Hollaren has announced his retirement after more than 37 years of faithful and dedicated service. His assignment as the Air National Guard (ANG) Assistant to the Commander at Air Force Materiel Command culminated a brilliant career with the Oregon Air National Guard. He epitomized our core values throughout his entire career.

I am pleased to announce the following changes for the Oregon Air National Guard:

Brig. Gen. Bruce W. Prunk has been selected as the new Special Assistant to the Director of the Air National Guard for A-7.

He will continue to serve Oregon as the Assistant Adjutant General for Air in addition to his national duties. Gen. Prunk has been a key leader in the development of a new ANG Domestic Operations agenda through his position on the Strategic Planning System Steering Committee (SPS SC).

The Director of the ANG asked him to accept this new position and focus his considerable experience on furthering the ANG domestic response to benefit not only Oregon but the rest of the Nation. During his tenure as the Oregon ANG Commander, we grew stronger in strength, maintained one of the highest retention rates in the country and maintained a higher level of readiness than any other time in our history.

Brig. Gen. Steve D. Gregg



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General for the State of Oregon

will succeed General Prunk as the Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Gregg brings a wealth of experience with him to serve as the new leader of the Oregon ANG. He has served in many different positions to include two squadron commands, vice wing commander, wing commander and assistant adjutant general for air. His recent deployment to Iraq was recognized with the award of the Bronze Star for his accomplishments while in-theater. He is charged with the responsibility to continue to lead this fine organization to even higher readiness standards and prepare it to meet future demands.

These position changes are effective Jan. 1, 2011. The Change of Command Ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 8, 2011 at 10 a.m. in Room 114 at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem.

National News

CMSAF: "Even one suicide is too many"

*Commentary by
Chief Master Sgt. James A. Roy,
Chief Master Sergeant
of the Air Force*

WASHINGTON -- An alarming trend is happening in our Air Force, and we need your help.

We've had a drastic increase this year in the number of suicides among our total force Airmen – active duty, guard, reserve and civilians.

Last year we lost 84 Airmen by suicides; this year, we've nearly reached that number, and it is only October.

Even one suicide is too many!

We all take Suicide Awareness training, but that's just the first step – we must take immediate action and get involved.

We need to look out for each other and understand that we're not alone. Be ready and willing to assist your Wingman and ask for help when you need it.

We must all take the time to care about those around us. That's what good Wingmen do, and that's what our Air Force needs.

Supervisors at every level must act now. Get to know your Airmen better and understand their personal and professional challenges. This is not a time to sit idle and think this won't happen in your unit. No one is immune.

Suicides range the spectrum of ages, locations, MAJCOMs and career fields.

The two most common factors we've seen are problems with relationships and finances.



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy speaks to Airmen during an enlisted call at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, July 7, 2010. Due to an increased trend of suicide in the U.S. Air Force and the Air National Guard he and the senior leadership of the Air Force have made suicide prevention a top priority going into the new year. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Grovert Fuentes)

We need to be good Wingmen for others and also need to develop and maintain trusted relationships and friendships where we can talk openly and honestly about things happening in our own lives. We need to feel comfortable exchanging ideas, views and experiences with those who are closest to us.

There is always someone available for you. So many people care about you – more than you may think; family, friends, co-workers, supervisors, first sergeants, commanders, chaplains, medical professionals and senior leaders are ready and willing to listen and help. Just give them a chance.

Don't ever think you are alone or that no one will understand. We will understand, and we will help you.

It doesn't matter whether you write, call or e-mail, please reach out.

We are an Air Force family and you mean a lot to all of us. If you feel you are at the end of your road, you are not – talk with someone. We care about you and will ensure you receive the help you need. You should never be afraid of seeking help for fear of reprisal. Our lives should be the priority. The Air Force also has many resources to help. Military and family life consultants, chaplains and medical professionals are all available. Also, Military One Source counselors are always available by calling 800-342-9647 or visiting www.militaryonesource.com.

With everyone's help, we can and must step up and reverse this devastating trend.

National News

McKinley: 'Relationship between National Guard, parent components strongest ever'

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy, National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON -- The relationship between the National Guard and its parent components has never been stronger, the Guard's top officer said Wednesday.

"I don't think I've seen relations between our parent services and the Guard be any better," said Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, while addressing representatives from various industries as part of a panel discussion at the Reserve Officers Association of America.

"Right now, the United States Army and the Army National Guard is as close as they've ever been in history, and the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard have always been close."

McKinley added that closeness has largely come from nearly a decade of the Guard supporting operations overseas, and maintaining a strong relationship is a vital part of his job.

"That relationship has to be strong and it has to be enduring," McKinley said. "My role is to make sure that the secretaries of the Army and Air Force and the National Guard are synchronized."

That includes support

for the Guard's domestic mission, McKinley said.

As budgets tighten over the next few years that means constrained resources and finding new ways to accomplish the mission, including the domestic one.

"In this new budgetary climate, it's going to be difficult for all of us to have the kind of support that we've had over the last eight to 10 years," McKinley said. "So, we're going to have to learn to live within a new set of means. We really haven't seen what that new bottom line is going to be."

However, those budgetary changes are largely not going to affect the way in which the Guard is equipped, where in years past the Guard and reserve components often got outdated or cast-off equipment from the active component.

"We know that the big savings ... is not going to come from weapons systems or equipment," McKinley said. "We do have to have a degree of modernization for all our services."

That is going to mean, said McKinley, revamping the way that day-to-day business within the Guard is done.



Gen. Craig McKinley, Chief, National Guard Bureau

"I've suggested to the adjutants general that we take a deep dive just to see how efficient we in the National Guard are, how much more efficient we can become and how much more value we can bring to the United States of America, to our governors and to our Department of Defense."

Ensuring the domestic response mission is met may mean a greater partnership with other agencies.

"It takes everybody -- all of our voices -- to make sure that we have adequate resources expended on the types of things we are going to be expected to perform," McKinley said.

National News

New Air Force Motto: "Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win"

Story courtesy Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON -- Incorporating extensive inputs from all ranks and career fields in the development effort, Airmen have selected "Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win" as the service's motto.

An enduring statement of Airmen's pride in their service, the motto is a two-part expression -- a call to action, with a response of commitment.

"The call and the response are two sides of the same coin," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz. "Airmen indicated 'Aim High' and the response 'Fly-Fight-Win' as indicative of their enduring commitment to do just that in defense of our nation."

When the Air Force motto team embarked on the project, they committed to Airmen buy-in in an inclusive, well-researched effort, rooted in Air Force culture and identity.

"Airmen recognize a motto should represent something enduring," General Schwartz said. "It must be bigger than any single person, something that gives voice to the pride of service of all who've worn this nation's Air Force uniform -- past, present and future."

"We took the time to try to get this right," General Schwartz said. "A service motto belongs to those who serve, and we've done our best to

give voice to how Airmen feel about serving this nation."

The chief master sergeant of the Air Force, the director of Air Force Public Affairs, the Air Force director of force management policy, and the commander of Air Force Recruiting Service provided the leadership oversight for the motto team research experts.

In early 2010, the motto team engaged in almost nine months of hands-on research that began with extensive face-to-face meetings with nearly 300 total force Airmen from all job specialties and in every major command. Airmen described to the team what they thought it means to be an Airman, to serve and what is unique about the Air Force.

"The exhaustive research process showed that Airmen

they serve in, Airmen consistently told us they see themselves, and they see the heritage of the Air Force, as those entrusted by the nation to defend the modern, complex security domains -- first air, then space and now cyberspace," General Lorenz added. "Airmen take this sense of mission very seriously."

An Air Force-wide survey to validate and quantify input from discussions indicated Airmen have a shared pride in their abilities to adapt to meet any threat, and they feel empowered to bring innovation and excellence to the mission of national defense.

After understanding the shared identity, the motto team began transforming words and concepts into a unifying, enduring and credible motto, said Lt. Col. Clark Groves, Ph.D., the lead scientist for the project.

"The research team held more meetings with nearly 250 Airmen on bases in each major command, discussing scores of identifying words and concepts tied to the core Airman identity," he added.

"These discussions, information from Air Force historical archives, and input from total force Airmen, Air Force civilians, retired Airmen, and the public provided the basis for identifying the ideal motto candidates," the colonel said. That led to an Air Force-wide survey.

share a core set of identity concepts that serve as a basis for an Air Force motto," said Gen. Stephen Lorenz, Air Education and Training Command commander.

"No matter what career field



(Continued on next page)

SARC, SAPR and what it means to you

Commentary by Lt. Col. Martin Balakas, 173rd Fighter Wing Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.-- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) are two Department of Defense-wide programs aimed at preventing and responding to sexual assault in the military. The latest statistics are eye-opening: 1 in 3 females and 1 in 6 males have been sexually assaulted; half of all perpetrators are under 25 years old and over 75 percent of assault victims know their perpetrators.

So what is sexual assault? The definition for the military is any intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, physical threat, abuse of authority, coercion, or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of

sexual assault there are people and programs to help. As the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, I (Lt. Col. Martin Balakas), or one of Kingsley's Victim Advocates (VA), Senior Master Sgt. Linda Brown or Staff Sgt. Sandra Fugate, can provide information, assistance, and resources to aid in healing. The 173rd Fighter Wing Sexual Assault Response hotline number is (541) 885-6198. This number can be used to report an assault, receive assistance, or schedule prevention training. Depending on your military status, many options are available and regardless of your status, the SARC and VAs are here to help.

Remember, too, that the most important thing you can do is be a good wingman. 80 percent of assaults in the Air Force involve alcohol. Be alert when consuming alcohol and look out for your wingman. Don't let them get into situations where they can be taken advantage of. Be an active bystander and intervene early

**173d Fighter Wing SARC,
Lt Col Martin Balakas
Call: (541) 885-6198 or
(541) 205-2302**

**You
are
not
alone**



before there is a problem.

Sexual assault is a serious issue and effects unit cohesion and mission accomplishment. The impact it leaves behind can have a negative effect on a victim for a lifetime. But it is 100 percent preventable and you are key in making sure your wingman doesn't become a victim.

New Motto adopted for Air Force, Air National Guard

(Continued from previous page)

Five potential mottos emerged and were presented at CORONA for final consideration.

"This really was a process grounded in inputs from Airmen," Colonel Groves said. "We went Air Force wide four times, including face-to-face discussions at bases in every major command twice, and in two Air Force-wide surveys."

"The data provided quality information on everything from accessions and retention, to diversity and

broader Air Force cultural initiatives," said Gen Lorenz.

Airmen can expect to gradually hear and see more of the motto as it is included in Air Force presentations, correspondence and products.

It will also be introduced in the coming year into basic training, professional military education, Reserve Officer Training Corps and U.S. Air Force Academy courses.

"This motto encompasses what Airmen say about what it means to serve in this great Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

James Roy. "'Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win' gives our service a new and lasting tradition for voicing our pride."

The chief noted an important distinction between slogans and mottos.

"Slogans and ad phrases come and go, but a motto is meant to be passed from one generation of Airmen to another," Chief Roy said.

"This is for the hundreds of thousands of Airmen who now serve, who have served and who will serve in the future."

173rd Fighter Wing honored for Snowflake Parade floats

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the 2010 Snowflake Parade sponsored by Walmart of Klamath Falls.

Among the winners the 173rd Fighter Wing gladly accepted awards for *Best Theme* and *Judges' Choice*.

The 173rd Civil Engineer Squadron was presented their award for the *Best Theme* at a ceremony held Dec. 15, 2010, followed by the 173rd Vehicle Maintenance Flight who accepted the *Judges' Choice* award at the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce.

When asked why it's important to participate in community events like this Senior Master Sgt. Michael Jones, the 173rd Civil Engineer Chief of Operations, said.

"I think it is important to show the community that we appreciate them as much as they appreciate us," said Jones. "It happens all the time when you make a quick stop by the grocery store after work in uniform and someone makes a point to say 'thank you for your service' or you eat lunch downtown and someone pays your tab while you eat, we are trying to give some of that back."

Lt. Col. Lance McCuiston, 173rd Civil Engineer Squadron commander, presented all of the awards on behalf of the chamber to recipients ranging from the Bill Collier Ice Arena to the Klamath Basin Snow Drifters.

Two Kingsley members, Airman Amanda Blodgett and her husband Airman 1st Class Shawn Blodgett also participated. They carried a sign for the Marquis Care at Plum Ridge parade float, and later said they appreciated the good wishes of the community evidenced by big smiles and a big turn-out on a somewhat rainy Klamath night.

Chief Master Sgt. Leslie Tyree, the 173rd Fighter Wing has participated in the parade for several years appearing as the character Sparky the Fire Dog.

"It is great to hear the kids calling for Sparky. They want to shake hands or give high fives with him



Top: Airman Amanda Blodgett of the 173rd Finance Office carries a sign on behalf of Marquis Care at Plum Ridge down Main Street in Klamath Falls, Ore. during the Snowflake Parade Dec. 9, 2010. Military volunteers from Navy recruiting also participated escorting three residents of the retirement home on the float.

Above: The 173rd Vehicle Maintenance Flight accepts the award for Judges' Choice presented by Lt. Col. Lance McCuiston and Walmart store manager Harold Young (2nd from right), at the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce Dec. 15, 2010.

and their faces light up," said Tyree. "It is another way for us to connect the fire safety message to the younger generation."

According to Heather Tramp the Snowflake Festival was conceived in a local coffee shop booth in 1984. "The first days were dedicated to fun and frolic while the last day focused on the real meaning of Christmas," she said. "As for the parade, police estimated that at that time it was the largest crowd to ever watch a parade in Klamath Falls."

Kingsley members brighten retirement home holiday

Story by

**Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Five members of the 173rd Fighter Wing volunteered to serve the residents and their guests of Plum Ridge Retirement Home for the holiday meal including Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wigen, Airman Amanda Blodgett, Senior Airman Brandon Dye, and Staff Sgt. Justin Love.

According to activities coordinator Tammy Sneed, the residents appreciate the interaction with the community.

"Many of our residents have some connection to the military as servicemembers, military spouses, or have children who serve. Most of our residents are very passionate about what the military does for our country," Sneed went on to detail a visit by a Kingsley member on Veteran's Day when the volunteer left after visiting with an elderly military retiree, "he

said with tears in his eyes that is was the best Veteran's Day he ever had because a servicemember came and talked with him.

For the Kingsley members who volunteered during Thanksgiving week it represented a small sacrifice of about three hours and according to Blodgett it was a worthwhile investment.

"Volunteering at Plum Ridge is a great way for me to put things in perspective," she said. "It's so refreshing to see how something as simple and easy as giving my time has so much value to the residents. It's a great feeling to know that just my presence can brighten someone's day."

Retirement homes are grateful for volunteers who can interact with their residents, many of whom no longer receive visitors, said Sneed. With this in mind she extended a



Staff Sgt. Justin Love of the 173rd Fighter Wing Finance Office serves up Thanksgiving turkey and all the trimmings to residents and guests at the Plum Ridge retirement home Nov. 23, 2010.

warm 'thank you' to the 173rd Fighter Wing, "Marquis Care at Plum Ridge has been blessed by the willingness of Kingsley Field to come to many of our special events in the past and those you continue to come to. We thank all of you who are so willing to share your time."

173rd elevates member to top enlisted rank



In his 29th year of service Senior Master Sgt. Richard Brown donned his service dress jacket with the rank of chief sewn on the sleeve for the first time, Nov. 9, 2010 at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore.

Members from around the wing attended and Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk, the Oregon Air National Guard Commander, Col. James Miller, the 173rd fighter Wing Commander and Brown's wife, Senior Master Sgt. Linda Brown comprised the official party.

During the remarks Gen. Prunk congratulated him citing recent wing achievements including the recent unit compliance inspection and the upgrade of Kingsley jets to the -220 GE engines. He went on to say the rationale for his

selection to chief was rooted in the potential he demonstrated during these accomplishments and not simply in lieu of the accomplishments themselves.

"A senior leader has to personify the core values and bring those values to every aspect of the mission," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Cynthia Gauntz, the top enlisted member at Kingsley Field. "Chief Brown is that person every day. His record as the Production Superintendent during increased flying hours and transitioning aircraft reflects the highest standard of excellence."

Brown is the equipment maintenance flight chief and in that capacity oversees phase dock, munitions, aerospace ground equipment and the fabrication shop.

Announcements



Welcome to the Unit!

A1C Robert A. Altieri
 SSgt Daniel M. Anderson
 SSgt Joshua T. Erickson
 A1C Bryce R. Fugate
 A1C Loretta E. Hamiltondixon
 A1C Kyle H. Hankins
 A1C Skyler J. Hensley
 A1C James B. Owens
 A1C Maria S. Rodriguez
 SSgt Dane C. Sherin
 SSgt David L. Smith
 Capt Shana M. Stroh
 SSgt Joseph W. Tschetter

Blues Mondays moved to summer months of 2011

Due to the unsuitability of the blue uniform for the inclement weather encountered during the winter months in Klamath Falls, 173rd Fighter Wing members will not be required to wear the blue uniform on Mondays as of Dec. 1, 2010 until April 30, 2011. 173rd Fighter Wing members will wear blues on Mondays from May, 1, 2011 to Nov. 30, 2011.

Menu: January UTA

Saturday, Jan. 8

Manicotti, Spaghetti, Parsley
 Buttered Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables,
 Italian Vegetables, Salad Bar, Italian
 Wedding Soup, Tiramisu/Cakes

Sunday, Jan. 9

Tri-Tip, Lemon Chicken Pasta, Baked
 Potatoes, Lemon Chalet Vegetables,
 Broccoli, Salad Bar, Rolls, Beef Barley
 Soup, Crème Pies/Cakes


Free Friday Night Movies!!!



Join us every Friday,
 7:00pm at the Kingsley
 theater for free movies

*Volunteers are needed to keep this
 program going. Please contact the
 Public Affairs office at x5-6677 if you
 would like to volunteer or learn more
 about the Friday Night Movies.*

Movies subject to change or cancellation without notice.



Craylene's Family Haircare

Haircuts for Men, Women and Children
 Regular Haircut \$10.00 - Style Haircut \$13.00

**Open Monday
 through Friday 9-3
 Closed Down Mondays**

Located in the Barber
 Shop next to the BX

If you have any questions please call 885-6370.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Six 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagle aircraft sit on the Kingsley Field tarmac under a dramatic sky on a clear day in December 2010.

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Vice Wing Commander:

Col. Chris J. Gatz

Wing Public Affairs Officer:

Lt. Col. Martin G. Balakas

State Public Affairs Officer:

Capt. Stephen S. Bomar