

INSIDE:  
Nighthawk  
to Curacao

# AMERICAN

Magazine of the 1st Air Force

Summer 1999

# DEFENDER



- 1AF units to Northern Watch

- Photojournalist goes up with Minnesota

# COMMENTARY

THE FIRST WORD

## NORAD MISSION MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER

by Maj. Gen. Larry K. Arnold  
*1<sup>st</sup> Air Force commander*

Guardsmen and women throughout the Continental NORAD Region, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force and its flying wings and Air Operations Centers, are not only "Guarding" America's skies, but are supporting missions overseas, from operations Northern Watch to Allied Force to Coronet Nighthawk. The citizen-airmen of 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force are busy protecting our freedom, keeping the skies safe, at home and abroad. Providing this service is an important part of our overall mission, and we'll see more of this as we continue to "mainstream" 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force.

I recently attended the Air Combat Command/NORAD commander's conference and left energized with the importance of the NORAD mission. Although the "detractable enemies" that prompted the NORAD Treaty no longer pose the primary threat to our nation, our mission remains viable and important. Non-detractable threats, such as rogue nations and terrorists, make our job more crucial and challenging than ever.

My focus is now on our

near-term capability to detect, track, intercept and destroy cruise missile-type targets coupled with seamless command and control capability. At this year's Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment, we will focus on this capability. We are committed to providing air and space security and protecting America against this new threat.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force Vice Commander Brig Gen. Kenneth J. Stromquist Jr., and his wife, Edna, as they embark on a new civilian adventure in retirement. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force family will sorely miss them. General Stromquist is pursuing what he jokingly termed his "secret desire" to become an airline pilot. So, if the pilot's voice on your next commercial flight sounds familiar, you'll know you're in good hands — there may be a retired general on the flight deck! Best of luck, Snowman.

As we say good-bye to old friends, we also welcome new ones. I am pleased to announce the selection of Col. Michael W. Corbett, Northeast Air Defense Sector commander, as vice commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force, effective the spring of 2000. Col. Corbett will be assigned as 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force chief of operations until that time. He brings with him years of air defense experience and we all look forward to working with him.

Col. William A. Scott, former chief of operations, will serve as vice

commander until his projected retirement in the spring of 2000. Having seen his professionalism, I know we are in good hands.

Welcome to both of you!

It's also time to welcome the summer season, when many of us will spend more time participating in outdoor activities with family and friends. It's the "101 Critical Days of Summer," and unfortunately, this increased outdoor activity results in a corresponding rise in safety mishaps involving our airmen and their families.

As you embark on your summertime activities, use common sense and practice basic safety procedures. Let's continue to lower the number of senseless deaths on our nation's highways. Drive defensively, wear seat belts and always arrange for a designated driver.

Let's play it safe. You are our most valuable asset. Take care, because we can't afford to lose you.



# AMERICAN DEFENDER

Summer 1999  
Volume III, Issue 2

## STAFF

Maj. Gen.  
Larry K. Arnold  
Commander

Capt. Don Arias  
Public Affairs Officer/  
Editor-in-Chief

Leslie Filson  
Writer-Editor

Lt. Col.  
Bryan M. Brummett  
Editorial Advisor

Address:  
1AF/PA,  
501 Illinois Ave., Suite 1  
Tyndall AFB, FL  
32403-5549

Phone:  
(850) 283-8657  
FAX: (850) 283-1057  
DSN: 523-8657

e-mail:  
donk.arias@1staf.tyndall.af.mil  
web site:  
www.1staf.tyndall.af.mil

This funded quarterly magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Military Services. Contents of *American Defender* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau or 1st Air Force. *American Defender* uses materials supplied by the Armed Forces Press Service, the Air Force News Service and the Air Combat Command News Service.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office, Headquarters First Air Force, 501 Illinois Ave, Tyndall Air Force Base, FL 32403-5549.

Submissions are subject to editing. Full names, titles and phone number must be submitted by author. No anonymous submissions will be printed. Interested parties should call the editor, (850) 283-8657.

# CONTENTS

SUMMER 1999

## NEWS

### Home, sweet home

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, returns from Operation Northern Watch.



### 5 Total Force supports Northern Watch

Four 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force units fly over Iraq.

### 6-7 Coronet Nighthawk to Curacao

Oregon Air National Guard flies last "Eagles" in Panama; Hooligans kick off Curacao mission.



## FEATURES

### 8-9 International exposure

Italian photojournalist to feature 148<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard, in upcoming book.



## DEPARTMENTS

### 10-11 The Total Force

### 12 Last Look

#### ABOUT THE COVER

Photojournalist Giampaolo Agostinelli captured this image of two Minnesota Air National Guard F-16s flying through the clouds recently. Agostinelli visited the 148th Fighter Wing, Detachment 1, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., to shoot photos for an upcoming book.

# 102nd home from Northern Watch

■ *'Rock-solid' maintenance equals successful mission*

by Tech. Sgt. Ken Wheeler  
102<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing

An aerial ballet of surveillance, detection and, when necessary, self-defense has been going on over Northern Iraq since 1991.

And for much of April and May, pilots and support personnel from the 102<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, were part of this effort, helping enforce the Northern no-fly zone over Iraq.

The first group of maintenance and support personnel, pilots and aircraft left Otis Air Force Base during the first week of April for Incirlik Air Base in Southeastern Turkey. The wing's mission was to patrol the area north of the 36<sup>th</sup> parallel, ensuring that none of Saddam Hussein's aircraft flew there. In all, more than 250 members of the 102<sup>nd</sup> deployed to Turkey. The deployment was the first time in almost 40 years that the unit had been put into a potential combat situation.

According to Maj. James Bowman, who was in charge of the operations section, the 102<sup>nd</sup> was among the first units to fly over Iraq after the holy month of Ramadan, when coalition aircraft were not allowed to fly. "On our first day out, after coalition pilots hadn't flown for 25 days, we really didn't know what to expect," he said.



Maintenance personnel from the 102nd Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, smile for the camera shortly before the unit's deployment.

For some in the unit, this was not the first time fighting Hussein's forces. Maj. Tim Duffy flew during Operation Desert Storm and knows exactly how dangerous things can be over Iraq. "Everyone has to be very careful when they cross the border. It's not every day that someone is trying to kill you. It's not just training. The situation in Iraq is still a threat, but not as high as during Desert Storm."

On days when coalition aircraft were flying, it meant an early wake-up call for aircraft maintainers, who were first on-scene, usually before the sun rose.

Unit members say the maintainers' preparation was the key to the successful deployment. Long hours at Otis

getting the F-15As ready meant fewer problems on the ground in Turkey. "(Maintenance was) very professional, solid as a rock," Duffy said.

"That's why the engines that were brought along as spares were still in their cradles on the fourth week of the deployment," said Staff Sgt. Mike Turner, engine mechanic. "Because of all of the prep work at Otis, the engines were great. If we hadn't done our homework — double-checking everything before we got over there — we would have had problems. We still had all the spare engines we brought."

Maj. Charles White, F-15 pilot, summed it up this way: "The maintainers bent over backwards to make sure everything was right."

# No-fly zone a Total Force effort

■ *Mission evolved from Provide Comfort*

by **Capt. Manning Brown**  
*Northern Watch public affairs*

Almost daily, the roar of jet engines reverberates across the flight line at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, as coalition aircraft head east to the skies over northern Iraq. As NATO forces conduct military action in the Balkans, the men and women of Operation Northern Watch continue to carry out their mission.

The Northern Watch mission has its roots in Operation Provide Comfort, which began shortly after the end of the Gulf

War. Provide Comfort was mainly responsible for the protection and humanitarian relief of Kurdish people living in northern Iraq. As the situation evolved, so did the mission.

On Jan. 1, 1997, Northern Watch stood up, replacing Provide Comfort. Northern Watch is primarily responsible for monitoring compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 688, which prohibits Iraqi development of weapons of mass destruction, and authorizes the enforcement of the no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

The U.S., Turkish and British coalition partners are a com-

bined task force of nearly 1,400 people and more than 50 aircraft. People and assets from every branch of service come together to complete the mission.

There have been dozens of aggressive actions taken by Iraqi forces against coalition aircraft. In every instance, coalition aircraft have responded in self-defense, and have returned safely.

Northern Watch is a prime example of the "Total Force" concept at work. At any given time, a large part of the force is made up of Air National Guardsmen and Reservists, who work side-by-side with their active duty counterparts.



Members of the 125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard, board a C-141 on its way to Incirlik Air Force Base, Turkey.

Sensor Master Sgt. Bob Tanner/125th Fighter Wing

■ The Air National Guard's Deployment Helpline is there to assist personnel and their families with issues arising from deployment. The number is (800) 443-2985, Option 3.

## JAX jets to Turkey; Fresno will follow

### 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force public affairs

The first contingent of personnel and equipment from the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard, Jacksonville, left for Turkey recently for Operation Northern Watch.

The unit will send six F-15 fighter jets and nearly 300 men and women to Incirlik Air Base over a seven-week period.

Personnel from the unit will rotate every two weeks. Approximately 125 personnel will be in Turkey at any given time. The unit will redeploy to the United States in July.

Another 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force unit, the California Air National Guard's 144<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, will support Operation Northern Watch later this summer. The 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, was the first unit in 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force to participate in the deployment.

# Flight of the Nighthawk

■ Oregon Redhawks fly last F-15s in Panama

by Staff Sgt. Elena O'Bryan

*142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing public affairs*

**HOWARD AIR FORCE BASE, PANAMA** — Oregon Air National Guard F-15 "Eagle" pilots flew some of the last counterdrug missions out of Howard Air Force Base, Panama, recently, just before the base is to be transferred to the Republic of Panama later this year.

Operation Coronet Nighthawk officially folded its wings May 1 and relocated to Curacao. The 119<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, North Dakota Air National Guard, was the last Air National Guard unit in Panama, and the first in Curacao, flying F-16 "Fighting Falcons."

Since 1990, when the Air Guard assumed the drug program from its active duty counterparts, sorties of F-15s and F-16s have led to the seizure of more than \$1 billion in illegal drugs each year.

The Air Guard, Coast Guard, U.S. Army and U.S. Navy cooperate with the armed services and governments of Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, the Netherlands, Panama and Venezuela under the umbrella interagency and coalition task force known as Joint Interagency Task Force - East to detect and monitor drug activity.

Central and South America are the focal point for transit of drugs in the Western Hemisphere; 99 percent of the world's supply of cocaine originates in the Andes mountain range.

Coronet Nighthawk is not involved in the apprehension of illegal drug traffickers, but is a link in the chain of evidence required for conviction. The mission began in the vein of deterrence, but, with advances in intelligence received by JIATF-E, has grown into an active anti-drug arm.



A 142nd maintainer launches a Portland F-15.

"We have recently changed our operational procedures, and it's surprising the drug transporters," said Lt. Col. Lanny McNeely, Coronet Nighthawk commander.

Coronet Nighthawk has already prompted a change in the mode of transport of drugs in the Caribbean region. When the mission began, 75 percent of drug trade was by air. That figure has been reduced to 25 percent.

The Guard has proved in Panama that it can be an equal partner worldwide with active duty forces, said Oregon Air Guard commander Brig. Gen. William Doctor. "It is routine for the Air Force commanders to brief me on the exceptional performance of our Guard men and women," he said.



An F-15 "Eagle" from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, takes off from Howard Air Force Base, Panama.

Louis Behrlich

## Happy Hooligans kick off mission in Curacao

by Tech. Sgt. David Somdahl

*119<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing public affairs*

**WILLEMSTAD, CURACAO, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES** — Operation Coronet Nighthawk has a new home.

The Air National Guard counterdrug mission is now located at Hato International Airport on Curacao, one of six islands in the Netherlands Antilles chain. Curacao is about 40 miles north of Venezuela.

First Air Force flying units typically rotate aircraft, mechanics and pilots for six-week periods to Coronet Nighthawk. Now they'll operate from an austere, forward operating location on Curacao.

Two groups from the 119<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, North Dakota Air National Guard, made the move possible. One element deployed to Howard in late April, maintaining F-16 fighter aircraft on five-minute alert status, simultaneously preparing to move the operation to Curacao. A second echelon deployed to the receiving end.

Staff Sgt. Mark Schwagel, a ground powered equipment mechanic, prepared several dozen pieces of equipment to air shipment. "I helped with the first three plane loads," Schwagel said. "Everything from dash-60s (electric generators), to air compressors, hydraulic mules, air conditioners and light carts."

Following a brief closure ceremony at Howard, four "Happy Hooligan" F-16 fighters departed May 1. On arrival at Curacao, provincial government leaders, the U.S. Consulate General and Dutch military personnel met the pilots. "In addition to getting our equipment moved from Howard, we also unpacked and stored numerous cargo loads for the Nighthawk staff," said Lt. Col. Terrance Shiers, the 119<sup>th</sup> detachment commander at Curacao. "During the first two weeks we had a lot of help from the Dutch military."

The Royal Netherlands navy, marines and air force all have permanent facilities on Curacao, including the Hato Navy Air Station where Coronet Nighthawk personnel are currently operating.



Louis Behrlich



Tech. Sgt. David Somdahl

North Dakota F-16s stand ready in Curacao.

# International exposure

■ Photojournalist takes to the air with Minnesota unit

by Capt. Don Arias

*1<sup>st</sup> Air Force public affairs*

Italian photojournalist Giampaolo Agostinelli has a passion for planes and photography. He loves to fly and capture it all on film.

He recently took to the air with the Minnesota Air National Guard's 148<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Detachment 1, at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. "Giampi," as his friends call him, works for the Italian aviation magazine *Volare* which has a readership of more than 100,000 throughout Europe. He photographed the "det" for an upcoming issue of the magazine and a book due out early next year.

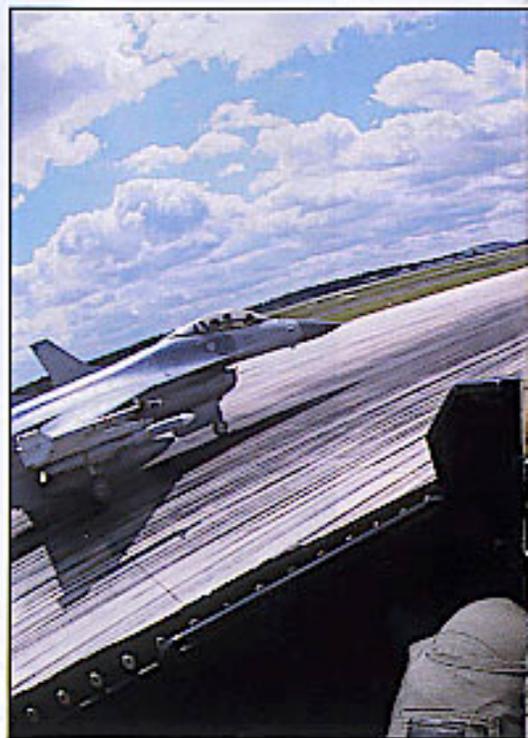


AGOSTINELLI.

"This is a great occasion to show the emotion and the great things of the Air National Guard," said Agostinelli.

A self-described F-16 buff, Agostinelli's book will feature F-16 Air National Guard units throughout the United States. He flew with the det to photograph the F-16 alert aircraft and learn more about the air sovereignty mission. Several 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force fighter wings will be featured in the book, and a chapter will be dedicated to 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force and its North American Aerospace Defense Command mission. "I'd like my pictures to give the readers a good impression of the many emotions of this great job," Agostinelli said. His flight with the Minnesotans marked his 13<sup>th</sup> in a Guard fighter.

Maj. Mark Aldrich, the pilot of the two-seat F-16B and 148<sup>th</sup> FW, Detachment 1, commander, believes the media flight benefits both the unit and the Air Guard. "Just letting the public in to have some insight into what we do is obviously good news," Aldrich said. "Getting the word out about our mission is important, and pictures say a lot."





Photos by Glampaolo Agostinelli



Italian photojournalist Glampaolo Agostinelli captured these images during a flight with the Minnesota Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing, Detachment 1, recently. The photos will be featured in his upcoming book about Air National Guard F-16 units.



## THE TOTAL FORCE

### WADS staff sergeant named ANG Airman of the Year

Staff Sgt. Jay Moore, Western Air Defense Sector weapons director technician, was recently named Air National Guard Airman of the Year.

"It's a really good accomplishment for me — I'm shooting for Noncommissioned Officer of the Year next year," Moore said.



MOORE

Moore was also named the Washington Air Guard's Airman of the Year and will be an Air Guard nominee for the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. He was promoted to staff sergeant in December 1998. "Staff Sgt. Moore is constantly hungry, always looking for new challenges. I wish I had 20 more like him," said Senior Master Sgt. Dave Gorham, Moore's flight superintendent.

### Secretary of Defense approves Cold War Recognition Certificate

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has approved a Cold War Recognition Certificate for all members of the armed forces and federal government civilian employees who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991.

The Department of Defense designated the Department of

the Army as the executive agent for the Cold War Recognition Certificate program. The Army has established a home page at <http://coldwar.army.mil> that explains the correct procedures to request a Cold War Certificate. Requests will be accepted by Internet, fax or mail.

For more information, call (703) 275-6279.

### Air National Guard members make history with Thunderbirds

When F-16 crew chiefs Tech. Sgt. Kim Long and Staff Sgt. Larry Herrera made the long walk across the Thunderbird hangar for their patching ceremony, they walked into Thunderbird history.

In the team's 46-year history, Long and Herrera are the first two members assigned to the team that aren't active duty — they're members of the Air National Guard.

Long came to the team from the Oregon ANG's 173<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field. Herrera was assigned to the New Mexico ANG's 150<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base.

The team's leader, Lt. Col. Brian Bishop, said he thinks it's a great step forward for the Air Force. "Our mission is to show the American people what their Air Force is doing for them every day," he said. "The Air National Guard is a big part of our Air Force team."

The idea of assigning Guard personnel began last year as a Year of the Enlisted initiative.



### Department of Defense warns of Y2K scam artists

Scam artists are preying on people fearful of year 2000 computer problems. Among the schemes:

- Con men telling people to withdraw money from banks to invest with the cons;

- Unsolicited e-mail asking people to invest in miracle Y2K fixes; and

- Credit card insurance or Y2K-compliant strips for credit cards are offered to victims via phone solicitation; caller asks for credit card number.

Deputy Defense Secretary John J. Hamre said, "The year 2000 computer problem won't affect DOD's ability to pay service members, and troops

## THE TOTAL FORCE



Photos by Lisa Carroll/Bryten-Clair Corp.



**CANADIAN FORCES CELEBRATE 75 YEARS.** A large group of people braved wet and windy weather at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., recently, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Canadian Air Force with the planting of a maple tree at the continental NORAD Region Headquarters. Brig. Gen. Jim Hunter, CONR deputy commander, kicked off the 75th anniversary activities, which also featured a mess-dinner and a fly-by of a Canadian CF-18 "Hornet" and CT-33 "T-Bird," above. At left, Hunter; retired Brig. Gen. Jack Watts; Lt. Col. Dave Peart, commander of the Canadian component at Tyndall; and Maj. Gen. Larry K. Arnold, CONR and 1st Air Force commander; pitch in to plant the tree.

don't need to do anything special to protect their personnel or medical records."

Anyone receiving such solicitations should contact the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, local law-enforcement agency or National Fraud Information Center at (800) 876-7060.

### California Air Guard pilots honored for heroic actions

Lt. Col. Paul Gruver and Capt. Mark Jansky, F-16 pilots with the California Air National Guard's 144<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, received the Order of Daedalians' 1998 Lieutenant General Harold L. George Civilian Airmanship Award recently.

Gruver and Jansky were members of the flight crew for Delta Air Lines Flight 1783, which was damaged in-flight due to multiple bird strikes on Jan. 9, 1998. The Daedalians recognized the pair for successfully recovering the damaged Boeing 727-200.

The Daedalians' Lieutenant General Harold L. George Civilian Airmanship Award is presented annually to the captain and crew of a United States certified commercial airline that has demonstrated the most outstanding ability, judgment and/or heroism above and beyond normal operational requirements. The selection committee is composed of several aviation agencies.

### 1st Air Force officer selected for pilot training

Capt. Joseph Patrick, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force intelligence officer, has been selected for Undergraduate Pilot Training.



PATRICK.

He will return to the regular Air Force after nearly four years of active duty time at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, and Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.; followed by almost three years in the Air National Guard.

Patrick was the 1998 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force Company Grade Officer of the Year and the 1998 Air Combat Command Reserve Company Grade Intelligence Officer of the Year.

### 1st Air Force news show airs on Warrior Network July 1

The latest edition of 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force Now!, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force's 30-minute news show, will be re-broadcast on the Warrior Network on July 1, noon, Eastern Standard Time.

For information on how to receive the broadcast, call DSN 523-8669, or email [louis.biehlich@1staf.tyndall.af.mil](mailto:louis.biehlich@1staf.tyndall.af.mil)

### American Defender wants your stories, photos

To submit stories and photos to the *American Defender*, call Capt. Don Arias, (850) 283-8657 or DSN 523-8657.

# LAST LOOK

GUARDING AMERICA'S SKIES



John Long/Dean Fletcher Co.

**"FINI" FLIGHT.** Brig. Gen. Kenneth J. Stromquist Jr., former 1st Air Force vice commander, completes his last flight in an F-15 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., recently. He retired April 1 with nearly 31 years of service.

HEADQUARTERS 1st AIR FORCE  
501 ILLINOIS AVE, SUITE 1  
TYNDALL AFB, FL 32403-5549