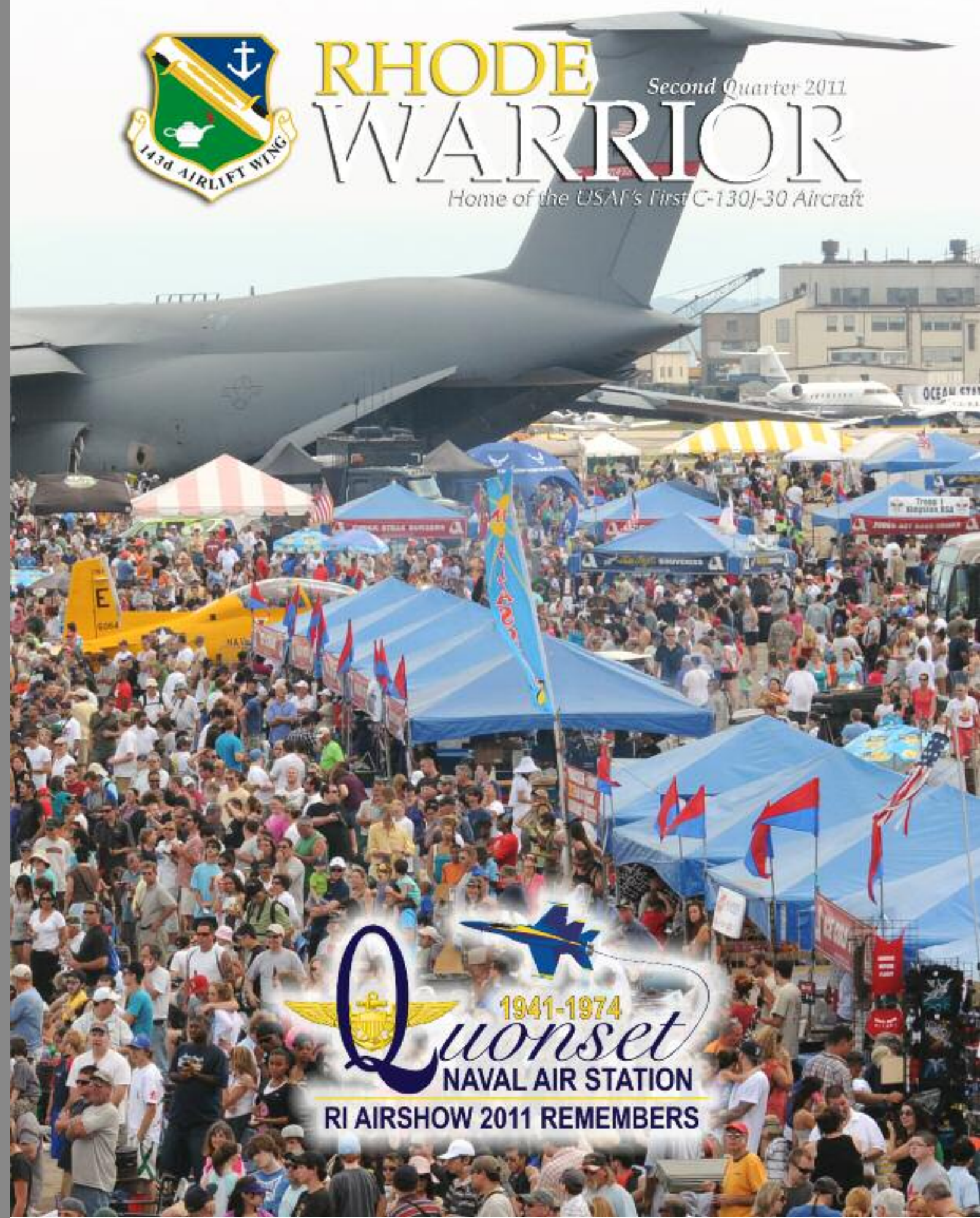




# RHODE WARRIOR

Second Quarter 2011

Home of the USAF's First C-130J-30 Aircraft



1941-1974  
**Quonset**  
NAVAL AIR STATION  
RI AIRSHOW 2011 REMEMBERS



# WHAT'S INSIDE...

3

*Up Front*  
Col. Larry Gallogly

12

*RING Open House*  
*Air Show 2011*

5

*RIANG Legacy Graduates from UPT*

14

*Military Heritage*  
*Quonset Naval Air Station*

6

*Assumption of Command - MG McBride*

15

*Operations Group*  
Col Arthur Floru

7

*Fitness Council News*

16

*Maintenance Group*  
LtCol Daniel Walter

10

*BITS & PIECES*

17

*Mission Support Group*  
LtCol John Reed

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the second quarter 2011 edition of the Rhode Warrior! I hope that everyone is enjoying the new digital Rhode Warrior format. For information about when new editions are released please become a fan of the 143d Airlift Wing on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/143dairliftwing](http://www.facebook.com/143dairliftwing)) or check out the Wing's website at [www.143aw.ang.af.mil](http://www.143aw.ang.af.mil) We will be setting up an e-mail blast soon so keep your eyes open for a request for your e-mail addresses.

As usual the Wing has been very busy! Getting ready for deployments and of course hosting our world famous Open House and Air Show. Thank you for your support of this outstanding event! As most of you already know our show was so successful this year that we had to close our gates on Sunday!! We've also welcomed a new Adjutant General, MG Kevin McBride. Read about that on page 6.

I would like to invite all of our readers to make suggestions and submit photos and information for articles for the Rhode Warrior. This means families too! If there is something that you would like to see more of (or less of) please e-mail me or LtCol Fletcher and we will work to make your Rhode Warrior the best it can be! The deadline for the third quarter Rhode Warrior is 2 Oct 2011.

**HAPPY READING!**

*MSgt Janeen Miller*  
401-267-3229

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Front Cover: Record Air Show crowd on Sunday! Photo by: Master Sgt. John McDonald



## Up front with THE COMMANDER



### What I See

On a recent sunny afternoon, as I looked out my window, I couldn't help but think about how much the base and our unit has changed over the years. I see the new 102d Network Warfare Squadron Building, the Security Police and Communication building, the beautiful Army Aviation Support Facility and soon I will even be able to see the new Air Traffic Control Tower rising above the Electric Boat Hangars. Our facilities are finally catching up to match the quality of the people we have.

On our expanding aircraft ramp I see 8 beautiful aircraft that are the envy of the airlift community. In fact it was not too long ago that we flew aircraft that we couldn't give away and now there isn't a C-130 unit in the country that wouldn't want our planes. Of course the landscape of our ramp has also changed considerably now that the old maintenance hangar is gone making way for some new ramp space that we think will happen this year.

The Air Traffic Control tower is not just another new facility but a new way of doing business for us. The current tower is a state owned building and therefore the responsibility of the state for maintenance and repairs. The Guard, through a federal contract, pays for all of the equipment in the tower cab and the controllers who run the tower. We constantly battle over fixing the aging building and/or replacing our equipment that gets damaged when the roof leaks. The new tower will be 100% Guard property and responsibility. This helps the State by removing the burden of the facility from them while at the same time providing an operating control tower at Quonset which makes the airport more valuable from an economic development standpoint. It's a good deal for us since we will have complete control over the facility and ensure we have a state of the art tower that will provide the best service possible for our crews.

All of what I see is inspiring. It suggests we have worked hard, will enjoy a prosperous future and can pass on a base that many of our predecessors wouldn't even recognize. But our retirees would be mistaken if they think the only change has been in the buildings we see. You, our people, have changed immensely over the last two decades and that is what I really see when I look at the base.

It is a level of dedication and initiative that has made us a leader in the Air Guard, and I am talking about the entire Air Guard, not just C-130 units.

You are proud Airmen and fit for duty in every way possible.

At this moment we have 2 flights from Security Forces deployed to Afghanistan and yet our security here and our preparation for the ORI hasn't missed a beat. We have Medical Group folks supporting the effort at Landstuhl Hospital which is where all of the war wounded go until they are healthy enough for a return to the States. In addition, to prepare our aircrew for a new type of airdrop, low cost low altitude (LCLA), the small Air Terminal super-stars have been working tirelessly to rig the bundles just as quick as ops could drop them. Because of their efforts 100% of our aircrew are checked out and ready to use this new drop method under the harshest of circumstances...combat!

Summertime is also time for the CE gang to take center stage and this summer will be extra busy. The club/personnel processing center is being all spruced up and has a nice new coat of paint. It looks great and will help us protect this resource into the future. They will be adding a second "covered storage" or pavilion to enhance the grove area and allow us to accommodate larger groups for outdoor events. While they are at it, they are throwing in a beach volley ball court and a couple of horse shoe pits. These folks just don't quit. Perhaps most importantly, they are standing up and have volunteered for a new homeland defense mission called the Chemical, Biological, Radiological Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package or CERFP. This additional duty mission will give our State and Nation a fully trained response team that will help decontaminate those involved in a CBRN incident and restore operations as quickly as possible. It has been a lot of work to get trained and certified but they are tackling it with enthusiasm just as they do all other projects.

In short, I see a culture of professional Airmen ready to take on the world. Your dedication and enthusiasm is infectious and it inspires and motivates me. Sure the new buildings are nice, but it's the people with their take no prisoners, no job too tough attitude that makes us special. It's you!

Thank you and your families for serving and making us the great team we are!



# OUR STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.



**PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IS PART OF OUR DUTY.**

**DoD Self Helpline**  
1-877-995-5247(24/7)



**MyDuty.mil**



Maj Lynne Hannon - 401-267-3535 - Alt Wing SARC  
MSgt Judy Jannitto - 401-267-3409 - Victim's Advocate  
TSGt Georgina Kalwak - 401-267-3504 - Victim's Advocate  
CMSgt Lori Ashness - 401-400-6026 - State SARC



## Vigilant Observers Wanted



**U.S. AIR FORCE**  
**EagleEyes**  
WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

### >>Surveillance.

Someone recording or monitoring activities, including the use of cameras (video & still), note taking, drawing diagrams, writing on maps, or using binoculars or any other-vision enhancing device.

### >>Dry Run.

Putting people into position and moving them about without actually committing a terrorist act such as kidnapping or bombing. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

### >>Acquiring Supplies.

Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges (or equipment to manufacture them), or any other controlled items.

### >>Elicitation.

Anyone or any organization attempting to gain information by mail, fax, telephone, or in person about military operations or people.

### >>Tests of Security.

Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures.

**The first step is knowing what to look for.**  
Always keep an **Eagle Eye** out for these suspicious behaviors.

**CALL THE 143d SECURITY CONTROL DESK**  
**401-267-3530**

### >>Suspicious Persons Out of Place.

People who don't seem to belong in the neighborhood, business establishment, or anywhere else. This also includes suspicious border crossings, stowaways aboard ship, or people jumping ship in port.

### >>Deploying Assets.

People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is the last opportunity to alert authorities before the terrorism occurs.



## RIANG Legacy Graduates from Undergraduate Pilot Training

Story by: LtCol Rick Hart

Lt David Buckley recently graduated from undergraduate pilot training this past March with high honors. Lt Buckley, son of Mrs. Leslie Buckley and the late LTC David Buckley, graduated from UPT as a Distinguished Graduate winning several awards including the AETC Commanders trophy award, Military Training Award and Flying Excellence Award.

The old saying, "the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree" couldn't be more true in Buckley's case. His father, our own LTC Dave Buckley served as a Pilot, OSF Commander, Flight Commander and Mobility Officer during a long and distinguished career with the 143rd RIANG from 1980-2006. His military career actually began in 1971 when he enlisted in the US Navy. Dave sr. spent 4 years enlisted as active duty Navy, then continued in the Navy reserves until 1979. Between the Navy and the ANG, LTC Buckley accomplished over 35 years of military service. He was not only committed to the Guard, but deeply dedicated to mentoring and helping his friends and co-workers. LTC Dave Buckley treated his guard family as his own family; on several occasions taking the time to mentor others and help them with their military and civilian career progression. Unfortunately, we lost Dave to cancer in 2008. He is dearly missed by all of us who had the pleasure of serving with him.

We often refer to our organization in the Guard as "one big family", but in Lt Buckley's case, as in many others in the RI Air Guard, it is literally a family tradition. His father exposed his kids to the Guard at an early age and eventually his love of flying and dedication of service to his country and state was passed on to young David. Inheriting his father's values, he set military aviation in RIANG as a personal goal early on in his life. He began his service to the Guard as a young kid by volunteering along side his father at every airshow. He began flying civilian light aircraft at an early age and worked hard in school earning a college degree. After "checking all the boxes" to qualify for an Undergraduate Pilot Training slot, young David interviewed for a position and was selected by a hiring board to attend UPT. After performing well above average in officer training and flight screening, he ultimately achieved his goal by graduating with honors at the top of his pilot training class. There is no doubt that Lt Buckley has continued to carry on his father's long time tradition of excellence and service to the Rhode Island Air Guard.

Lt David Buckley is currently in C-130J training at Little Rock AFB, Arkansas. He will return to Quonset in November 2011 as a mission pilot successfully completing a rigorous 2 year training program.

Congratulations David, nice work!



LtCol Parente, Col Johnson, LtCol Hart, Lt Buckley, Col Floru, LtCol Sullivan, Maj Desmond



LtCol Dave Buckley



RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL GUARD  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

## Assumption of Command

At a ceremony held on 30 June 2011 in the rotunda of the Rhode Island State House the Rhode Island National Guard welcomed a new Commanding General. Major General Kevin R. McBride was selected by the Governor, Lincoln Chaffee to succeed MG Robert Bray.

Prior to becoming the Adjutant General MG McBride served as the U.S. Army Materiel Command's Assistant Deputy Commanding General, Army National Guard. He was the senior Army National Guard officer in the Army Materiel Command and principal advisor to the Army Materiel Command's commanding general on all matters impacting the ARNG. He was also the liaison to the Chief, National Guard Bureau for all Army Materiel Command's National Guard issues. He coordinated support for mobilizing and demobilizing ARNG units to ensure equipment and logistical requirements were achieved.

In 2005, MG McBride deployed to Iraq as the Commanding General of the RING's 43rd Military Police Brigade, where he was responsible for all theater-level detention facilities. Among his duties in that role, he was responsible for shutting down Abu Ghraib prison.

MG McBride is a native of East Providence, RI and graduated in 1980 with a BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of RI where he earned his commission through the ROTC program. He also received a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the US Naval War College in 2000.

MG McBride also has an aviation background as commander of the 56th Troop Command (Airborne).

We at the 143d Airlift Wing congratulate MG McBride on his newly appointed position and look forward to working for him and with him in the future. We would also like to thank MG Bray for his years of service to the Rhode Island National Guard and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.



# FIT TO FIGHT!

RHODE WARRIORS ARE WICKED FIT!



Lincoln, Nebraska, May 1, 2011.

RI National Guard Marathon Team Competes in the 28th Annual National Guard Marathon

177 National Guard men and women representing 44 states and territories came out to Nebraska to compete in the Lincoln/National Guard Marathon.

Team RI was represented by 7 members: LTC John Nolan and MAJ Michelle Kiluk of the Medical Command, RIARNG, MAJ David Neary of the 56th Troop Command, Maj Ron Cloutier of the 143rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, CMSgt(Retired) Bob Christopher of the 102 Network Warfare Squadron, CMSgt Greg Houghton of the 143rd Maintenance Operations Flight, and MSgt James Lanctot of the 143rd Civil Engineering Squadron.

All Team RI members completed the 26.2 mile event with RETIRED CMSgt Bob Christopher finishing first for the team with a time of 3 hours, 41 minutes, 51 seconds. Major Cloutier, finished second for the team with a time of 3 hours, 43 minutes, 06 seconds. MSgt Lanctot, a six year team veteran, finished third for the team with a time of 3 hours, 44 minutes, 21 seconds. Fourth, was rookie sensation CMSgt Greg Houghton with a time of 3 hours, 46 seconds, 53 seconds, fifth for the team was LTC Nolan with a time of 4 hours, 6 minutes, 28 seconds. Sixth, was MAJ Kiluk finishing with a time of 4 hours, 9 minutes, 51 seconds, and seventh was MAJ Neary finishing in 4 hours, 10 minutes, 30 seconds. Through these efforts, the team finished 27th place overall.

The event takes place to determine the top runners in the National Guard. Each participant competes for a spot on the All Guard Marathon team, which comprises of the top 55 National Guard runners in the country. The All Guard team then becomes National Guard recruiting ambassadors, competing in other running events around the country selling the guard story. It's a great opportunity to serve and represent the Guard, which has been going on since its' inception in 1984.

Congratulations Team RI!

If anyone is interested in participating on this team, now is the time to train. Next May is just around the corner. Qualification times are for: males must run a previous marathon time in 4:15 hours or less in the last 18 months, and for females must run a previous marathon time in 4 hours, 30 minutes or less in the last 18 months. Please contact Major Ron Cloutier if you questions at (401) 267-3449 or by email at [ronald.cloutier@ang.af.mil](mailto:ronald.cloutier@ang.af.mil).



Front L-R: CMSgt Bob Christopher (Ret), MAJ Michelle Kiluk, and MAJ David Neary  
Back L-R: Major Ron Cloutier, LTC John Nolan, CMSgt Greg Houghton, and MSgt James Lanctot



CMSgt Houghton, MSgt Lanctot, and Major Cloutier sport their hard earned marathon medals



# Retirements

Thank you all for your Selfless Service



MSgt Dave Cormier  
143d LRS



SMSgt Martin Haggarty  
143d CF



MSgt Gerald Chevalier  
143d LRS



T'Sgt Christina Gibbons  
143d LRS



## 143d AIRLIFT WING RETIREE PAGE

MISSION  
ACCOMPLISHED



LT COL (RET) BOB URQUHART

SECOND QUARTER 2011



### RETIREE SPOTLIGHT Chief Kevin McDonnell

Chief Kevin McDonnell sent me a summary of his experience at the 143AW. It reads as a great story, so here it is (with just a couple of editor changes)!

"In 1972 I joined the Air Guard; I had no clue what I was getting into. I walked into (now Chief, ret) Wally Musto's office and the next thing I know I am on Doc Moreno's table getting my first finger wave! I returned from basic training and reported to my first drill. I was assigned to the 143rd Special Operations Squadron at TF Green Airport; we were flying the C-119's and the U-10's back then. As I crossed the hanger to report to the operations counter in my newly starched 1505's and buzz cut, I heard someone yelling at me from a distance "what the !@#\$ are you doing in my hanger, airman?" I looked over and saw the biggest guy I've ever seen, TSG Dominic Vacca (now Col, ret), glaring at me. Naturally I got nervous, just getting back from basic training; I stuttered that I was going to OPPPPS.

"That's where I met my new family. Angelo Maiorisi, Frank Landy, Mike Deletto, Kenny Rossi and many more. I grew up at the 143rd. Back then we were a family; Angelo became like a dad to me. I stayed with Ops until 1984 when an opportunity to go to Recruiting came along. In 1995 I transferred to Retention, and finally completing my career in Personnel.

"In Operations, my first "summer camp" was at Aviano AFB where I became friends with a couple of young pilots LT.'s Bob Urquhart and Paul Chinago. I also met Lt. Bob Shore, Capt. Dick Hart (base Commander, ret), Mo Sylvestre, John Carroll, Stan "the man" Wilbur, and Capt. Archie Berberian (became Major General, NYNG). What a way to start you military career!



Chief McDonnell graduated from Roger Williams University with a BS degree in marketing and completed several Air Force Community college courses. Among the Chief's awards were the Meritorious Service Medal, with one oak leaf cluster, and the Outstanding Senior Non commissioned Officer of the Year. Additionally, Kevin taught "Leadership and Motivational Skills", was the Site Administrator and Instructor for the Satellite NCO Academy, served on the Board of Directors for Magown-Roberts Scholarship Fund, and served on the Regional Committee that developed the Recruiter training program. As Retention Office Manager, he resurrected the State Career Counseling Program resulting in excellent unit level programs to retain quality individuals. As recruiting Supervisor, Kevin efforts resulted in two outstanding recruiting excellence awards and a 12% increase in productivity.

Chief McDonnell is currently employed by CMW and Associates as the Family Assistance Center Coordinator, RI National Guard. He now has the "distinct privilege and honor to work with Military Families. This is where I think I should be having learned and experienced so many things and gathered so much knowledge, that it's only natural that I get a chance to share those things with the people that mean the most to me, my other family: the men, women, and their Families of the RI Guard".

Chief McDonnell resides in Warwick, RI. One son, Kevin Jr, is a Major in the 143rd Operations Squadron, once a navigator, now a C-130J pilot. His younger son lives in Davenport, Fl, and works for Disney World and also sells real estate.

We thank Chief Kevin McDonnell for his 32 years of service and for continuing his passion for the Guard Family. We wish him well in his busy "not yet" civilian retirement!

### RING MEMORIAL UPDATE



The Statue Takes Shape

Pictured at left - LtCol (RET) Bob Urquhart and Capt (RET) Dave Gray Please see our website for more pictures [www.ringretirees.homestead.com](http://www.ringretirees.homestead.com)

Bob Urquhart, Chairman  
RING Retirees Association Memorial Committee





The 143d AW conducted a Cargo Deployment Function (CDF) exercise and a Personnel Deployment Function (PDF) exercise during the May UTA. These exercises help the Wing get ready for upcoming inspections and real world deployments. (Photos by: Staff Sgt. Jessica Rivard)

143d MXG - Newly promoted Chief Master Sergeant Paul Hennessey is pinned and read the Chief's Oath during a ceremony held at building 575 during the June UTA. Congratulations to Chief Hennessey and his family! (Photos by: Technical Sgt. Jason Long)



# Bits and Pieces...



Left: Members of the 143d Communications Flight spent the day at Camp Varnum in June to participate in team building exercises. The day of training was designed to allow members of the flight to get out of the work center and get to know each other better while also giving them the opportunity to work together on various fun projects. (Photos by: Master Sgt. Janeen Miller)



Mr. Peter Chevalier, owner of Gardner's Wharf Seafood in Wickford, RI and brother of LtCol Andy Chevalier of the RI Army Guard, held a raffle at the RING Open House and Air Show to set 90 pound lobster, "Mr. Claws" free. If he raised \$2500 he would let the monstrous lobster go back to his home in the ocean and donate the money raised to the National Guard Association of RI's Soldiers and Airmen Relief Fund. Although the \$2500 mark was not met, Mr. Chevalier set Mr. Claws free! The raffle raised \$1350 for the fund. Thank you Mr. Chevalier for helping to raise money for this important fund. For more information about the Soldiers and Airmen Relief Fund visit [www.ngari.org](http://www.ngari.org) (Photos by: Master Sgt. Janeen Miller)









# Military Heritage

## Quonset Naval Air Station

By TSgt Arthur Deslauriers and SSgt Erin Brogan

Walking down the flight line, it is hard not to notice all the proud Naval aircraft on display and the abundance of “Navy Retired” hats. This may seem a little odd at an Army and Air Force-dominated air show, but this year is all about honoring heritage. The 2011 National Guard Open House and Air Show is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Naval aviation.

In the summer of 1941, the 143d Airlift Wing as we know it today looked vastly different as the newly commissioned Naval Air Station Quonset Point, a massive Naval base that in its heyday sprawled an impressive 1,748 acres. Decommissioned in 1974 as a result of defense budget cuts, it would not be until 1980 that the land would be re-envisioned as the Quonset Air National Guard Base, currently the home of the 143d Airlift Wing.

For many visitors to the Air Show, seeing the naval aircraft displays bring back a lot of memories that reflect the changing times that have affected the evolution of naval aviation. As airmen and soldiers, the annual Air Show affords an opportunity for us to reflect upon the history of our base and the extent to which it is steeped in the rich history of naval aviation.

Romeo Robitaille of Pawtucket, R.I., was stationed at the Naval Air Station between 1957-1959. As a Petty Officer 3rd Class, he was an electronics technician working in navigation and radar. “Oh, I have lots of good memories here. Our unofficial motto was ‘have sea bags, will travel.’” Tasked to the A-1 Sky Raider in ‘Hunter-Killer’ groups, Robitaille flew on what is referred to as ‘Hunter’ aircraft, using radar to find targets and radioing in coordinates for the ‘Killers’ to potentially shoot down. “I’ve been to just about every air show they’ve had here. My kids still come with me. Brings back a lot of memories,” he says.

Allen Hale of Groton, Conn., still remembers his first air show at Quonset, in 1971. It is hard for him not to compare the evolution of the air show. “The Blue Angels were flying the F-4 Phantom then. Now, they’re flying the [FA-18] Hornets. The shows much tighter and secure than back then too. We were at war with Vietnam, but it’s not like it is today; the threat was over there, not at home in our backyard.” Sitting with his wife on the flight line, they shield their eyes to watch Sean Tucker climb the sky in a spiral pattern, leaving a trail of smoke in his wake. “I love this stuff,” Hale says. “I’m grateful that the show can balance security and access to the public.”

Paul Latinski of North Hatfield, Mass., is a retired Master Chief Petty Officer who served from 1957-1972. While stationed at the Naval Air Station South Weymouth, Latinski’s tasking included hunting for Russian Submarines using P-3 Orion aircraft off of George’s Banks on the coast of Massachusetts. “It was the Cold War, and the Russian submarines carried nuclear missiles with a short-range of 150 miles. They would hide with the Russian fishing fleets, getting their supplies from them at night,” he says.

## Quonset Point A Look Back



Quonset's Old Logo



Rush hour at the main gate



Reinforcing the pier



Brand new building 4.  
Later known as P-13!



Interior of building 4 (P-13)



## 143d Operations Group

Lieutenant Colonel John Sullivan, 143d AS Commander



### The Willingness to Serve

It was 0400 hours on January 17th 1991 and I was sitting in the Flight briefing room at Columbus AFB, Mississippi, completing the final month of Undergraduate Pilot Training, when the Flight Commander burst into the room with an intense look on his face. We were all still wiping the sleep from our eyes when he blurted out: “Gentlemen, our nation is at war and most of you will be in harm’s way soon after you graduate training. I suggest you study hard.” The Flight Commander was talking about the beginning of the first Gulf War, which was in response to Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait. He left the room as quickly as he entered and the magnitude of his words slowly took hold in each and every one of us. The sobering reality was that I wasn’t only in pilot training to learn how to fly jets; rather I was training to become a warrior who will soon go into battle. In a flash, my perspective of the military changed from the Cold War era to the current era of active hostile engagement.

When I joined the Air Force in 1985 as an ROTC cadet, our country was enduring its fourth decade of tension with the former Soviet Union. Even though there were flare ups such as the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, the Soviet Union was a known “enemy”, who was mainly predictable and easily identifiable. As I entered the Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant, the likelihood of going to war was far from my mind. That relaxed, comfortable feeling instantly vanished after my Flight Commander briefed us and for the first time I was nervous about being in the military.

Since that day in pilot training, I have deployed in support of many hostile contingencies including my upcoming 6th deployment this summer with the 143d Operations Group. I have served for over 22 years and I am amazed, as well as proud, of all the young airmen who volunteer to serve in the Rhode Island Air National Guard. Unlike me, these airmen volunteered to serve knowing they will go into harm’s way. The 143d Operations Group will deploy around 55 people this summer to one of the most challenging spots in the world: hot, dusty and hostile. About 20 percent of these folks are first-time deployers and I can’t be any more proud of their enthusiasm and preparation. I will eventually retire and I feel very comfortable knowing our country’s defense will be guarded by the current generation of youth. I am asked frequently by my neighbors and relatives why I am still serving in the military and willing to deploy multiple times. My answer is simple: there were over 3,000 Americans killed on 9-11 and their families are counting on us to prevent those horrible events from ever happening again.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of 9-11, I thank each and every one of you for your willingness to serve.





# 143d Maintenance Group

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Walter, Commander

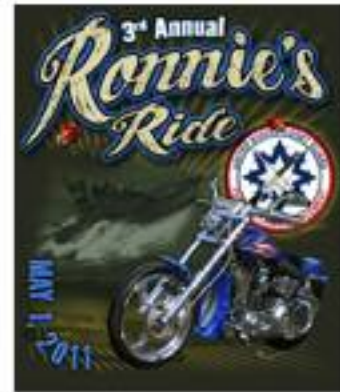


Photos and story by SMSgt Sean Givens  
143 AMXS

## 143 MXG Members Participate in the 3rd Annual PS3 Ronald A. Gill Jr. Motorcycle Run

On May 1st, members of the 143 Maintenance Group put on their riding gear and set out to honor a fallen Coast Guardsman and fellow Rhode Islander, PS3 Ronald A. Gill, Jr. PS3 Gill, Jr, a native of Cranston, RI, was a member of the Coast Guard Reserves based at Cape Cod Coast Guard Station, Massachusetts. It was when September 11, 2001 that would change the course of his service to our country. He was later activated and found himself serving his country with the Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST 911111) in Anchorage, Alaska. He was then deployed on a mission in Seattle, Washington where he was killed in the line of duty on 25 March 2007, while serving on a 25 foot Defender Class Boat conducting operations north of Vashon Island in Puget Sound.

Motorcycle enthusiasts from several motorcycle clubs and from across the state set out to participate to honor Ronnie and help raise funds to benefit the PS3 Ronald A. Gill, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Foundation. The foundation in turn, grants scholarships to students in Rhode Island. To date, the scholarship has provided over \$85,000 to students wishing to continue their education.



This year's event started at Ronnie's high school, Cranston West High School. The parking lot quickly filled to 375 riders whom embarked on a beautiful 65 degree clear sunny ride traveling first to RI Veterans Cemetery for a memorial service. Following the memorial service, the group traveled to Scarborough Beach in Narragansett for a quick stop and then finishing up at the Cranston Country Club to celebrate the life of PS3 Gill, Jr. and help raise funds for the scholarship. The efforts of all participants in this year's bike run helped raise \$11,000 for the scholarship.

The members of the 143 Maintenance Group include CMSgt Scott Lunn and SMSgt Sean Givens of the 143 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, SMSgt Dave Laroche of the 143 Maintenance Operations Flight, and MSgt Joe Delfino, TSgt Christine Gail and TSgt Derek Hackney of the 143 Maintenance Squadron.

Further information about PS3 Gill, Jr, the event and scholarship fund can be viewed at <http://www.rongilljr.org> or contact [info@rongilljr.org](mailto:info@rongilljr.org) via email. The 4th annual bike run is scheduled for April 22, 2012. We look forward to participating in next year's event.



L-R: MSgt Joe Delfino, SMSgt Sean Givens, CMSgt Scott Lunn, TSgt Christine Gail, TSgt Derek Hackney, and SMSgt Dave Laroche at Scarborough Beach, Narragansett, RI



143 MXG members line up for the start of the bike run at Cranston West High School.



L-R: 143 MXG members MSgt Joe Delfino, SMSgt Dave Laroche, and CMSgt Scott Lunn talk with another motorcycle enthusiast at their stop at Scarborough Beach.



# 143d Mission Support Group

Lieutenant Colonel John Reed, Commander



## An Esteemed Military Career Comes to a Close LtCol Richard Taito, 143d LRS Commander

CMSgt Roberta (Robin) da Rosa, 143rd LRS, retired on the August UTA after 34 years of military service. CMSgt da Rosa enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in June 1973 and was the second female to be assigned to the 645th Maintenance Company. Upon completion of Basic Military Training at Fort McClellan, AL and Administrative Training at Fort Jackson, SC she transferred to active duty Army. During this time, she experienced the transition from "Women Army Corp" to "Women in the Army," then transferred to the 25 Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, HI. Chief da Rosa was one of 30 females to be initiated in this elite unit. CMSgt da Rosa's next assignment was with the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood TX in December 1976. She worked in the Standard Installation Division Personnel (SIDPERS) section and completed her tour as the Key Punch and Distribution Section Chief.

CMSgt da Rosa transferred to the Air Force Reserves in 1980 with the 406th Combat Logistics Support Squadron, McClellan AFB, CA in the Supply AFSC. After a Federal Civil Service position transfer, she enlisted with the 144th Evacuation Hospital, Utah Army National Guard and again served as a SIDPERS Section Chief. She then enlisted with the 405th Combat Logistics Support Squadron, Hill AFB, UT, returning to the Supply career field and became unit Team Chief. Chief da Rosa continued her career in the Air Force Reserves at the 87th Aerial Port Squadron as the Supply NCOIC. In 1995, CMSgt da Rosa transferred to the Air National Guard, 102nd Fighter Wing, MA followed by a final transfer in 2000 to the Rhode Island Air National Guard.



Throughout her extensive military career, she selflessly volunteered for numerous duties. Her deployments included Operations New Life, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Red Flag, Coronet Oak, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. She is also an exemplary member of the Rhode Island Military Funeral Honors Program and has served nationally on both the National Guard Bureau's Supply Chiefs Council and Materiel Management Advisory Group.



Chief da Rosa lived by the Air Force Core Values and mentored her subordinates using those values as her guide. She believed in and always supported the "people" in the LRS. As a matter of fact, during my decision process on issues facing my unit, she would always remind me, "Col, it's about what's best for the squadron (people)!" She was a respected leader, skillful mentor, and positive role model for the younger members of the Logistics Readiness Squadron. On behalf of the men and women of the Logistics Readiness Squadron, we thank her for her selfless contributions to the Army, Air Force, and our unit. She made each of us better airmen and helped improve our squadron to become one of the best in the ANG! Enjoy your well earned retirement Chief!



# Proud Airman

Photo by: SSgt Jessica Rivard



Staff Sgt. Jason Dambra of the 143d Maintenance Group pauses for a moment during a busy UTA for a photo opportunity.

