



# THE TANKARD

Newspaper of the 128th Air Refueling Wing - Milwaukee WI

July/August 2013



Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Matthew Wierzba of the 128th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces prepares to fire his weapon while conducting a sniper qualification exam at Hardwood Range, Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Camp Douglas, WI, June 11, 2013. (Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Wilson/Released)

## Welcome...

to the first issue of the electronic version of The Tankard. As the publication evolves, enjoy the information presented in five categories:

### Messages from the Top

Words of wisdom from our leaders, including commanders, chiefs, first sergeants, and chaplains

### 128th News Feature

Short news and photo story of unit members, base events, training, and deployments

### Portrait of an Airman

A glimpse into the military and civilian lives of our newly enlisted Airmen

### Pieces of History

Vintage images and explanations of our units' past assets and endeavors

### Announcements

Words of wisdom from our leaders, including commanders, chiefs, first sergeants, and chaplains.

**1 2 8 t h   A i r   R e f u e l i n g   W i n g**  
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Photojournalist

**TSgt James Michaels**  
Broadcaster

**SSgt Chris Wenzel**  
Broadcaster



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## Colonel Edward Metzgar, Past Wing Commander

I wanted to take a moment and say goodbye. It has been my distinct honor to represent you over the past four years.

Over July UTA, I will receive an award for my service here. The tradition in the military is for the commander to receive credit for the accomplishments of the organization he or she is charged with leading. The narrative of that citation will outline your achievements as members of this Wing during my tenure.

I want you to know that even though I will be receiving the award, it belongs to all of you, I will merely be the custodian who takes care of it. You are members of a great team of professionals and



deserve huge accolades for all this unit has accomplished during the past four years. It has been a challenging period filled with deployments and inspections. Through it all, you maintained focus and impressed everyone in the Air Guard and the Air Force.

I believe Col. Yenchesky will provide you with exceptional leadership in the future. Working with him on a daily basis has been a privilege and I cannot thank him enough for all he and the other members of the Wing leadership team have done to make

this unit what it is—the best tanker unit in the ANG.

Farewell to you and may God bless you and protect your families. I will miss the 128th.

## Major Matt Friese, Wing Chaplain

### *From Alaska To Wisconsin*

Last year at this time, we were on an adventure of a life time! We were transitioning from life in Alaska to our new life in Wisconsin. With everything of value to us in our SUV or in the trailer we were pulling, all nine of us were excited about the possibilities. It was on this 3800 mile road trip, that our 3 year old decided it was time to be a little man and join the ranks of those of us who use the restroom – in an actual restroom. For many reasons, this was a trip we will never forget – and are able to laugh about now.

While getting settled in Wisconsin, we have already experienced so much that we had not experienced in Alaska – a fall corn maze and hay wagon ride to the pumpkin patch; harvest season; spring planting; replacing moose in the freezer with venison; the distinct smell of farms as you drive down the road. One thing that has helped me to make “change” something exciting is to embrace the change and the challenge as an opportunity to GROW! Change is inevitable, but growth must be intentional!

Too many times people focus on what they cannot change or control rather than on what they can. I am a firm believer we see most what we focus on which a wrong focus will cause frustration. I would often tell my kids, there is never a bad weather day, only bad gear! We cannot control the weather, but we can control how we interact with it. When I look at life and realize how little control I have, I am very thankful for my relationship with God and the grace He gives me to face each day for what it is – a GIFT!

I am so grateful to be part of the 128th! If you would like to visit more, your Chaplains and Assistants are here to serve!



M e s s a g e s f r o m t h e T o p



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*“It has been my distinct honor to represent you over the past four years.”*  
-COLONEL TED METZGAR



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## Equal abilities demonstrated at 128 SFS annual training

by Staff Sgt. Jenna V. Hildebrand  
128th Air Refueling Wing

"Fire!" commands an instructor over the loudspeaker, as he overlooks a firing range full of security forces members.

A long row of M14 rifles are pointed at targets down range. Individual shots fired turn into a continuous, thunderous rumble and dust begins to rise from behind the long line of targets.

One security forces member takes a breath, holds it, and then slowly squeezes the trigger. The echo of the single shot is lost in the thunder.

"Recover!" says the instructor in a firm voice.

After switching on the safety, she stands up from the prone position and brushes a wisp of chin-length blonde hair behind her ear and under the straps of her Kevlar helmet. Though she is one of the shortest on the firing line, her small frame is donned with the same heavy equipment as the others in her squadron. She rests her hands on her flack vest lined with bullet proof plates and waits for the next command from the Combat Arms Training and Maintenance instructor.

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Courtney R. Metzger, a security forces member with the 128th Air Refueling Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard, is one of seven women who participated in the 128th Security Forces Squadron annual training at Fort McCoy, Wis. June 10 through June 15, 2013.

Members of the 128 SFS completed small arms familiarization, heavy weapons qualification, all-terrain vehicle training, the Wisconsin National Guard Leadership Development Course, land navigation and urban assault training in order to maintain their readiness and efficiency as well-trained law enforcers.

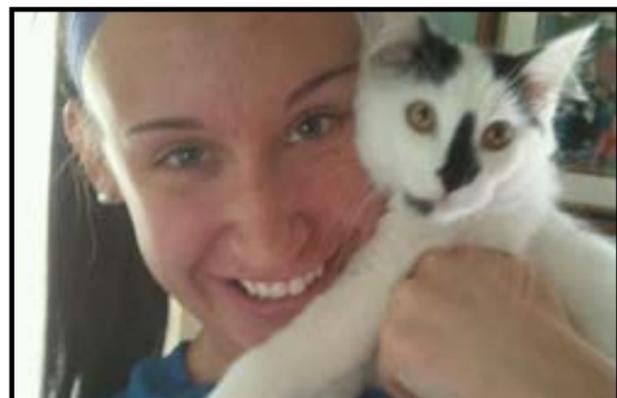
[\(See full story here\)](#)





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## Airman 1st Class Jessica Helminger



**Job:** Sustainment Services, Flight Support Squadron

**Age:** 22

**Hometown:** Batavia, WI

**Civilian:** Student at University of Wisconsin Stevens Point majoring in Health Promotion and Wellness

**Interests:** Playing sports (volleyball, basketball, softball), helping her mom at their bar in Batavia, cuddling with her cat Ajax, going to country music concerts, camping, bonfires, going to fairs, hanging out at the lake swimming and tanning, spending time with her sister Callie, and watching action and horror movies



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## P-51 Mustang, Post World War II Era, 1946

In 1946 the wartime 362nd of the Second Air Force under Continental Air Forces was equipped with P-51 Mustangs and was re-designated as the 128th Fighter Group. The group that was organized at General Mitchell Field in Milwaukee, Wis. was allotted to the Wisconsin Air National Guard on August 2, 1946. The National Guard Bureau extended federal recognition to the 128th Fighter Group on June 29, 1948 and bestowed the history, honors, and colors of the 362nd.

The 128th Fighter Group was comprised of the 126th Fighter Squadron, the 176th Fighter Squadron, 128th Headquarters, 128th Material Squadron (maintenance), 128th Combat Support Squadron, and the 128th USAF Dispensary. The 176th Fighter Squadron operated from Truax Field, near Madison. The group was allocated to the Air Defense Command with a mission of air defense of the lower Great Lakes.

Adapted from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/128th\\_Air\\_Refueling\\_Wing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/128th_Air_Refueling_Wing)

P i e c e s o f H i s t o r y



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## Events

### July

- July 14 – Change of Command Ceremony
- July 29 – EAA Airventure, Oshkosh

### August

- August 3 – Milwaukee Air & Water Show
- August 6-12 – Camp Yellow Ribbon
- August 11 Wisconsin State Fair – Free admission to active military/veterans + up to 3 family members.
- August 18 Irish Fest – Free admission to active military/veterans + 1 family member.



## News

### 128th Air Refueling Wing

#### 128th ARW Hosts Media Engagement Event

7/2/2013 - MILWAUKEE -- The 128th Air Refueling Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard, hosted a media engagement event for members of the local media to experience the Boeing KC-135R flight simulator, to observe the maintenance phase, and to talk to subject matter experts of the operation of the KC-135R here June 28, 2013.

### Air National Guard

#### First Air National Guard Weapons Instructor Course graduate from 178th

7/10/2013 - SPRINGFIELD, Ohio -- A recent graduation at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., provided the 178th Fighter Wing here with the distinction of having the only U.S. Air Force Weapons Instructor Course graduate in the Air National Guard who flies remotely piloted aircraft.

### US Air Force

#### SecDef details 'Plan B' should sequestration continue

7/11/2013 - WASHINGTON (AFPS) -- If sequestration continues into fiscal year 2014, the Defense Department will be forced to consider involuntary reductions-in-force for the civilian workforce, draconian cuts to military personnel accounts and a virtual halt to military modernization, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in a letter to Senate leaders today.



Enhance your military career as an E-5 or below by joining the Junior Enlisted Council.

#### Objectives:

- Military education
- Volunteerism
- Socials

Contact President SSgt Steve D'Addio  
steven.daddio@ang.af.mil



To better serve the needs of our military and families -we have moved our business office location to:

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414-763-2214 Fax: 414-763-2367

# A n n o u n c e m e n t s



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## To the Airmen of the United States Air Force:

As you all know, Department of Defense (DoD) civilian furloughs begin this week. With few exceptions, our civilian Airmen face involuntary furlough one day per week from the pay period starting July 8 through the pay period ending September 21.

Civilian furloughs are a measure of last resort, and we deeply regret that the arbitrary across-the-board cuts imposed by sequestration led to this result. Despite standing down combat flying units, reducing space and mobility operations, reducing weapon system support, cutting installation support and facility repairs and cancelling most travel, training and exercises, we must still take this painful action. We recognize that this action inflicts personal and financial hardships on our civilian Airmen and their families. We need all of our great Airmen to do the Nation's

work, and furlough is not the way to reward our dedicated civilian workforce for their service. We're sorry this is happening.

While furloughs have real consequences for civilian Airmen, the reduction in productivity and capability resulting from this action will affect all Airmen. We appreciate your professionalism in dealing with this situation and promise we will continue to work with DoD and Congress to seek repeal of sequestration and an end to the frustration and mission impact it causes.

We could not be the world's greatest Air Force without the contributions of every part of our Total Force - active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian Airmen. Thank you for your service to our Air Force and our Nation. We're proud to stand beside you.

Eric K. Fanning  
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

Gen. Mark A. Welsh III  
USAF, Chief of Staff

A n n o u n c e m e n t s