

**A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE  
AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND ITS ANTECEDENTS**

**December 1908 - 2008**

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**4 December 1921.** The 136<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Tennessee National Guard, received federal recognition as a Corps Aviation unit. (It was redesignated the 136<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron on 25 January 1923 and then the 105<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron when assigned to the 30<sup>th</sup> Division on 16 January 1924.)<sup>1</sup>

**5 December 1943.** Equipped with Bell P-39Q's, the 110<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron (Fighter), originally the 110<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron, Missouri National Guard, arrived in Australia. It then moved to New Guinea to support General Douglas MacArthur's offensive against Japanese forces.<sup>2</sup>

**20 December 1943.** The 107<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, formerly the 107<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron, Michigan National Guard, commenced combat operations over France from the United Kingdom with its F-6A's (the reconnaissance version of the P-51B Mustang) in preparation for the Allied invasion of Europe.<sup>3</sup>

**16 December 1950.** After massive Chinese communist forces intervened in the Korean War, President Harry Truman declared a national emergency. Among other things, the declaration authorized the Air Force to raise its active duty manpower from approximately 539,000 in mid December 1950 to 1,061,000 no later than 30 June 1952.<sup>4</sup>

**29 December 1950.** Because of the deteriorating situation in Korea following the Chinese intervention in that conflict and the growing fears of another world war, the Continental Air Command requested that all 38 ANG fighter squadrons which it had asked to be mobilized earlier that month be called into federal service as soon as possible.<sup>5</sup>

**2 December 1951.** The 159th Fighter Bomber Squadron dispatched 16 F-84Es, pilots, and support personnel from Japan to Teague AB, Korea where they flew their first combat mission that same morning.<sup>6</sup>

**4 December 1952.** Headquarters, U.S. Air Force authorized the Air Defense Command to place 10 ANG pilots on active duty at Hancock Field, New York and Hayward, California to test the Air Guard's runway alert concept at those locations.<sup>7</sup>

**December 1953.** The 183<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (Night Photographic) of the Mississippi ANG performed its first state active duty when its C-47 administrative support aircraft was used to transport medical supplies, blankets and Red Cross personnel to the city of Vicksburg which had been devastated by a tornado. The unit had been extended federal recognition on 1 July 1953.<sup>8</sup>

**December 1959.** After a huge snowstorm isolated ranch families in eastern New Mexico, the state's lone ANG C-47 dropped 60 to 70 tons of hay over a seven-day period saving an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 sheep and an untold number of cattle.<sup>9</sup>

**1 December 1960.** The Alaska ANG's 144<sup>th</sup> Air Transport Squadron (Medium) completed its conversion from C-47As to ski-equipped C-123Js. It was the only ANG unit to be equipped with the C-123 as its mission aircraft.<sup>10</sup>

**December 1964.** *The National Guardsman* magazine reported that a handful of enlisted ANG technicians from Massachusetts' 276<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron, operating out of a trailer at their Wellesley headquarters, were helping to operate a satellite tracking station for the Air Defense Command's USAF Space Tracking Service. Other members of the unit were helping to staff the communications center at the Space Track Research and Development Center at nearby Hanscom AFB. The 267<sup>th</sup>'s technicians had been first assigned to the Hanscom facility on a fulltime basis in 1961 to learn to handle special message traffic there.<sup>11</sup>

**December 1965.** Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara announced that the Department of Defense planned to eliminate two Air Guard heavy transport groups and three ANG flying squadrons by 1 October 1966. Effective lobbying in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill by Guardsmen and their supporters killed McNamara's unit closure initiative.<sup>12</sup>

**21-29 December 1967.** Aircrews and C-97s of the Arizona Air Guard's 161<sup>st</sup> Military Airlift Group flew 56 sorties and dropped more than 400 tons of hay to isolated livestock after heavy snows blanketed the state. They also airlifted a load of skimobiles from Denver, Colorado to Phoenix, Arizona and flew 17,000 pounds of food to Window Rock, Arizona from which it was flown by helicopters to the Navajo Reservation where thousands of Indians were stranded in remote area.<sup>13</sup>

**29 December 1968.** Capt Joe O'Neil, an F-100 pilot with the Colorado Air Guard's mobilized 120<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, was shot down and recovered near Bihn Thuy, South Vietnam.<sup>14</sup>

**December 1970.** *The National Guardsman* magazine reported that the Air Guard's first commissioned WAF, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Connie Kreis, had graduated from the Air Force's Officer Training School and had been assigned to the finance section of the Texas ANG's 136<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing.<sup>15</sup>

**December 1970.** Personnel and two EC-121 aircraft from the Pennsylvania Air Guard's Tactical Electronic Warfare Group completed a six-month deployment to Southeast Asia.<sup>16</sup>

**23 December 1972.** Following a disastrous earthquake, 7 ANG KC-97Ls from Illinois and Wisconsin hauled 70 tons of food, medical supplies, and radio parts to Managua, Nicaragua. In addition, two ANG C-124s from Georgia and Tennessee flew outsize cargo to that nation.<sup>17</sup>

**21 December 1973.** Due to soaring oil prices induced by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Pentagon cancelled all ANG and AFRES training flights. Effective 7 January 1974, the Pentagon lifted the total flying stand down.<sup>18</sup>

**December 1974.** Personnel and C-130s from the Air Guard's 146<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing participated in Operation Gold Bear, a statewide exercise testing the ability of the California National Guard to assist other state agencies in dealing with domestic emergencies.<sup>19</sup>

**27 December 1979.** Responding to a call for help from a commercial sailing vessel, the John F. Leavitt, two Sikorsky HH-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopters and paramedics from the New York Air Guard's 102<sup>nd</sup> Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron saved nine crewmen whose vessel was sinking in storm tossed Atlantic Ocean about 260 miles southeast of the unit's base at the Suffolk County Airport on Long Island. The HH-3s were refueled enroute shortly before sighting the sinking ship. All aircraft plus crewmen from the Leavitt and the Air Guardsmen returned safely to the Suffolk County Airport after the eight hour mission.<sup>20</sup>

**16 December 1982.** Col. Russell C. Davis, Commander of the 113<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, District of Columbia ANG, was promoted to brigadier general becoming the first African-American to hold that rank in the Air Guard's history.<sup>21</sup>

**December 1982.** Maj. Byron K. Lichtenberg, an Air Guard A-10 pilot assigned to the 104<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Group at Westfield, Massachusetts, was selected by NASA to be the payload specialist on the first Spacelab shuttle mission. Dr. Lichtenberg was a biomedical engineer and an MIT research scientist.<sup>22</sup>

**11 December 1988.** Starting on this date, Air Guardsmen flying C-141Bs from Mississippi's 172<sup>nd</sup> Military Airlift Group (MAG) and C-5As from New York's 105<sup>th</sup> MAG participated in an airlift of clothing, food, and supplies to Armenia after a powerful earthquake devastated that region of the Soviet Union.<sup>23</sup>

**20 December 1989.** President George H. W. Bush launched Operation Just Cause to remove Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega from power and replace him with a democratically elected government. Air Guard A-7 fighters and C-130 transports already deployed to Panama on continuing rotations participated in the operation which ended on 3 January 1990. They were joined by ANG C-5s and C-141s which flew 35 airlift missions from the US plus EC-130 aircraft from the 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Group that flew 18 unspecified missions.<sup>24</sup>

**2 December 1990.** Astronaut and former California Air Guard fighter pilot Vance DeVoe Brand commanded the Space Shuttle *Challenger* (STS-35) which was launched on this date. It was his fourth space flight. Former Texas Air Guard fighter pilot, astronaut John M. Lounge, served as flight engineer on the mission. It was Lounge's third space flight. The *Challenger* returned safely to earth on 10 December 1990.<sup>25</sup>

**13 December 1990.** Several ANG air refueling units were mobilized for service in the Middle East. They were the: 126<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron (ARS), Wisconsin; 116<sup>th</sup> ARS, Washington; and the 117<sup>th</sup> ARS, Kansas.<sup>26</sup>

**20 December 1990.** The following ANG air refueling units were mobilized for duty in the Middle East during the Persian Gulf crisis: 132<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling Squadron (ARS), Maine; 108<sup>th</sup> ARS, Illinois; 151<sup>st</sup> ARS, Tennessee; 133<sup>rd</sup> ARS, New Hampshire; 145<sup>th</sup> ARS, Ohio; 150<sup>th</sup> ARS, New Jersey; and 147<sup>th</sup> ARS, Pennsylvania.<sup>27</sup>

**26 December 1990.** The 191<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Squadron, Utah ANG, and the 142<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Airlift Squadron, Delaware, were mobilized for service in the Middle East during the Persian Gulf crisis.<sup>28</sup>

**28 December 1990.** The 180<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Squadron, Missouri ANG, was mobilized for service in the Persian Gulf region.<sup>29</sup>

**29 December 1990.** The 169<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Group, South Carolina ANG, deployed pilots and 24 F-16As to Saudi Arabia for a possible war with Iraq.<sup>30</sup>

**12 December 1992.** The first 2,900 Marines of the 28,000 U.S. troops

scheduled to intervene in Somalia landed at Mogadishu. To support the operation, the ANG had 31 personnel deployed in the continental US, 385 overseas (mostly in Spain), and 9 in Somalia. All were volunteers.<sup>31</sup>

**4 - 6 December 1993.** Volunteers and aircraft from four ANG F-16 fighter squadrons arrived at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, to participate in a composite or "rainbow unit" to support Operation Provide Comfort, the protection and relief of the Kurdish population in northern Iraq. The units were the: 120th Fighter Squadron (FS), Colorado; the 149<sup>th</sup> FS, Virginia; the 175<sup>th</sup> FS, South Dakota; and the 185<sup>th</sup> FS, Iowa.<sup>32</sup>

**10 December 1993.** Due to faulty wiring within a fuel pump housing, a KC-135R assigned to the 123<sup>rd</sup> Air Refueling Group, Wisconsin ANG, exploded on the ground killing six enlisted members of the unit and destroying the aircraft.<sup>33</sup>

**1 December 1994.** The 124<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Idaho ANG, deployed personnel and F-4G "Wild Weasel" aircraft to Turkey to participate in Operation Provide Comfort II, the protection of the Kurdish population in northern Iraq. The Idaho Guardsmen ended their rotation on 31 December 1994.<sup>34</sup>

**10 December 1994.** After nine mid-air refuelings, an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter and crew from the New York ANG's 102<sup>nd</sup> Rescue Squadron pulled a sailor from a sunken Ukrainian freighter out of 30-foot seas about 750 miles off the coast of Nova Scotia and returned him safely to shore.<sup>35</sup>

**8 December 1995.** President Bill Clinton authorized the mobilization of units and individuals from the Guard and Reserve to augment U.S. military operations in the former Yugoslavia.<sup>36</sup>

**18 December 1995.** Maj. Gen. Russell C. Davis was assigned as the Vice Chief, NGB. General Davis, a District of Columbia Air National Guard officer, had been the Commanding General, District of Columbia National Guard. He was the first African American to hold the former assignment.<sup>37</sup>

**2 December 1996.** Maj. Gen. Donald W. Shepperd, the ANG Director, announced that additional Air Guard officers would be assigned to 2 of the 9 unified commands, the Joint Staff of the JCS, and the Air Force's major air commands as part of an ANG staff integration plan that had been approved by the Secretary of Defense.<sup>38</sup>

**30 December 1997.** ANG C-130 units from Wyoming, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota and Idaho responded to a call for help from President Bill Clinton and dropped nearly 465 tons of hay to starving livestock in New Mexico after nearly 22 inches of snow had blanketed the state.<sup>39</sup>

**December 1998.** Six Air Guard fighter units were unable to deploy to Southwest Asia to enforce the no-fly zones over Iraq because their F-16s lacked the precision guided munitions and targeting pods that were now required to operate in that region. Air Guard officials reported that they had already begun moving to upgrade F-16s in many states with kits that would enable them to fly night and all-weather missions and fire precision guided munitions. That fighter upgrade program, developed in the Air Directorate NGB, was known as the “Combat Quadrangle.”<sup>40</sup>

**December 1998.** C-130E aircraft and aircrews from the Maryland Air Guard’s 175<sup>th</sup> Wing flew two relief missions to Honduras after Hurricane Mitch ravaged it. They delivered 49,500 pounds of food and equipment to that Central American nation as part of international relief effort that involved crews from 12 nations.<sup>41</sup>

**5 December 2001.** As part of Operation Noble Eagle, Florida Air Guard F-15s from the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing patrolled the skies over the Kennedy Space Center as the space shuttle Endeavor was launched. It was the first shuttle launch after the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S.<sup>42</sup>

**1 December 2003.** Col. Linda McTeague assumed command of the 113<sup>th</sup> Wing, District of Columbia Air National Guard. She was the first woman to command an ANG wing.<sup>43</sup>

**28 December 2003.** A C-130H and crew from the Oklahoma Air Guard’s 137<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing became the first U.S. Air Force assets to land in Iran in over 20 years when it delivered 27,000 pounds of purified water and blankets to an airport in Kerman, the provincial capital of a region that had been devastated by a 6.6 magnitude earthquake two days earlier. The Oklahoma Air Guardsmen had been participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.<sup>44</sup>

**1 December 2004.** Air Force officials announced that Virginia ANG pilots from the 192<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing at Richmond would be partnering with pilots from the Air Force’s First Fighter Wing to train on the F/A-22 Raptor, the service’s newest fighter aircraft. The Raptor was scheduled to deploy to Langley AFB in May 2005.<sup>45</sup>

**December 2004.** The Air Guard participated in Operation Unified Assistance, a multinational effort to deliver relief supplies and personnel to coastal areas in Southeast Asia after the region was devastated by a tsunami on 26 December 2004. At least one ANG aircraft – a C-5A from the 105<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York – took part in the massive airlift which ended in February 2005.<sup>46</sup>

**12 December 2007.** Effective this date, Gen. John D. W. Corley, USAF, Commander, Air Combat Command (ACC), declared Full Operational Capability (FOC) for the integrated 1<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing (USAF)/192 Fighter Wing (VA ANG). The unit flew the Air Force's premier new fighter aircraft, the F-22A Raptor.<sup>47</sup>

**20 December 2007.** The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of Maj. Perry H. Jefferson, a Colorado ANG pilot who went missing on 3 April 1969 during a mission over Vietnam, had been identified and would be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Jefferson, a pilot assigned to the 120<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS) which deployed to Phan Rang Air Base from May 1968 to April 1969, was serving as an aerial observer on an O-1G Bird Dog aircraft that crashed in a mountainous region of Ninh Thuan Province, Vietnam. He was one of two pilots lost during the unit's Vietnam War deployment to Southeast Asia.<sup>48</sup>

#### NOTES

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<sup>1</sup> Francillon, *Air Guard*, p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> Francillon, *Air Guard*, pp. 34-35.

<sup>3</sup> Francillon, *Air Guard*, p. 34.

<sup>4</sup> Gross, *Prelude*, p 63.

<sup>5</sup> Ritchie, "History of the 116th FIS, 1951-1952," p 2.

<sup>6</sup> McLaren, *Republic F-84 Photo Chronicle*, p 114.

<sup>7</sup> Study (S/RD/NOFORN), "The Air National Guard In Air Defense," pp. 25-26, info used was (U).

<sup>8</sup> TSgt Bob Mason, Editor, *30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: 172<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Airlift Group [1953-1983]*, (Thompson Field, Jackson Mississippi: 172<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Airlift Group, Mississippi ANG, 1983), p 14; Francillon, *The United States Air National Guard*, p 137.

<sup>9</sup> News Item (U), "Troops Feed Snowbound Livestock," *The National Guardsman*, February 1960, pp. 21-22; Rpt (U), NGB, Subj.: "Annual Report of the Chief National Guard Bureau, Fiscal Year 1960," undated, p. 23.

<sup>10</sup> Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, pp. 100, 188.

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- <sup>11</sup> Article (U), "Space-Age Air Guardsmen Track Satellites for USAF," *The National Guardsman*, December 1964, p. 32.
- <sup>12</sup> Hist (S/NOFORN), ANG, CY 2001-CY 2004, pp.136-137, info used was (U).
- <sup>13</sup> News Item (U), "Guardsmen From Four States Aid Snowbound Areas," *The National Guardsman*, February 1968, pp. 32-33.
- <sup>14</sup> *Colorado Pride*, p 217.
- <sup>15</sup> News Item (U), "First Air Guard WAF Graduated From OTS," *The National Guardsman*, December 1970, p. 39.
- <sup>16</sup> Rpt (U), NGB, Subj.: "Annual Report of the Chief, National Guard Bureau, Fiscal Year 1971," undated, p. 52.
- <sup>17</sup> News Item (U), "ANG Mercy Flights Aid In Managua Earthquake," *The National Guardsman*, February 1973, p. 30; Memo (U), Subj.: "U.S. Air Force History (Your ltr, 16 Dec 74)," 23 December 1974, **DOC 2006-25**.
- <sup>18</sup> Rpt (U), NGB, Subj.: "Annual Report Fiscal Year 1974, Chief, National Guard Bureau," undated, p 161; 110<sup>th</sup> FW History Office, *Future Minus 50: History of the Battle Creek Air National Guard, 1947-1997*, (Battle Creek, MI: 110<sup>th</sup> FW, June 1997), p 63.
- <sup>19</sup> Article (U), SSgt Michael W. Ritz, California ANG, "50 Years Service Marked by California Air Guard," *Valley News*, Van Nuys, California, 11 February 1975, **DOC 2008-2**.
- <sup>20</sup> Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1979, p. 115; Article (U), "New York 'Jolly Greens' Rescue a 9-Man Schooner Crew For a total of 24 Lives Saved in 1979," *National Guard*, Special Issue 1979 (undated), p. 2..
- <sup>21</sup> Hist (U), ANG, CY 1982, p. 110.
- <sup>22</sup> Hist (U), ANG, CY 1982, p. 204.
- <sup>23</sup> Article (U), Maj. Leonid Kondratiuk, NGB, "The National Guard in Armenia," *National Guard*, March 1989, pp. 19-21; News Item (U), "Mississippi C-141 is Second US Aircraft to Assist Earthquake Victims," *National Guard*, January 1989, p. 18..
- <sup>24</sup> Gross, *American Military Tradition*, pp. 132-133; Article (U) Lt. Col. Frank J. Adinolfi, CPT Ken MacNevin, 1LT Randell and SSG Jerry Deyo," Operation Just Cause: 'This Is What We Train For'," *National Guard*, March 1990, pp. 18-19, 21; Article (U), GlobalSecurity.org., "Operation Just Cause,"

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[http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/just\\_cause.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/just_cause.htm); Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, p. 163.

<sup>25</sup> Biographical Data (U), NASA, Subj.: "Vance DeVoe Brand," June 2001; Biographical Data (U), NASA, Subj.: "John M. 'Mike' Lounge," March 2003.

<sup>26</sup> Gross, *American Military Tradition*, pp. 188-189.

<sup>27</sup> Gross, *American Military Tradition*, pp. 188-189.

<sup>28</sup> Gross, *American Military Tradition*, p. 188.

<sup>29</sup> Gross, *American Military Tradition*, p. 187.

<sup>30</sup> Gross, *American Military Tradition*, pp. 153, 188.

<sup>31</sup> Chronology (U), "ANG in Restore Hope and Provide Relief," p 14.

<sup>32</sup> Hist (S), History of the Air Combat Command, 1 Jan - 31 Dec 93, ACC/HO, June 1994, p. 127, info used (U); Article (U), "Fighter Units Coming Home," *Air Force Times*, 24 January 1994, p. 18.

<sup>33</sup> Article (U), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Scott Waters, Wisconsin National Guard, "Wisconsin explosion mystery solved," *The On Guard*, June 1994, p 3.

<sup>34</sup> Hist (U), ANG, CY 1995-CY 1997, p. ix.

<sup>35</sup> Hist (U), ANG, CY 1992 – CY 1994, p. xxix.

<sup>36</sup> Executive Order, President William J. Clinton, Subj.: "Ordering The Selected Reserve Of The Armed Forces To Active Duty," 8 December 1995, CHRON SUPDOC No. 8, Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1996-CY 1997, info used was (U).

<sup>37</sup> NGB Bulletin 96-1, "NGB Welcomes New Vice Chief ... ," January 1996, p 2. LAN Msg (U), LTG BACA to NGB, Subj.: "Assignment of Maj Gen Davis as Vice Chief, NGB," 14 December 1995, 16:31:44 EST, CHRON SUPDOC No. 10, Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1995-CY 1997, info used was (U).

<sup>38</sup> News Item (U), "NGB Calls for Support of Air Guard Commanders For Staff Integration Into USAF Major Commands," *National Guard*, January 1997, p 8.

<sup>39</sup> Article (U), Dave Troyanek, Wyoming National Guard, "'Hay haulers 'bale' out New Mexico," *The On Guard*, February 1998, p 4.

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<sup>40</sup> News Item (U), “Air Guard Units Denied Mission,” *National Guard*, February 1999, p. 14; Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1995-CY 1997, pp 108-110, info used was (U); Hist (U), ANG, CY 1998-CY 2000, pp. 39-40, info used was (U). See Charles J. Gross, NGB-PAH, interview notes, Col Coln, 169 FW/CC, SC ANG, Dec 2006 at the ANG SLC for info on the “Combat Quadrangle.”

<sup>41</sup> Article (U), Lt Col Jean Marie Bell, Maryland National Guard, “Delivering Hope for the Holiday,” *The On Guard*, January 1999, p 16.

<sup>42</sup> Article (U), 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Steve Alvarez, “Guard Fighters Fly Patrols To Protect Space Shuttle Mission,” *National Guard*, February 2002, pp. 29-30.

<sup>43</sup> Hist (S/NOFORN), ANG, CY 2001- CY 2004, p. xxiv, info used was (U).

<sup>44</sup> Article (U), “Guard delivers aid to Iran,” *The On Guard*, February 2004, p 2; Francillon, *The United States Air National Guard*, p 156.

<sup>45</sup> Hist (S/NOFORN), ANG, CY 2001-CY 2004, p. xxvii, info used was (U).

<sup>46</sup> Brfg (U), PACOM, Subj.: “Operation Unified Assistance,” n.d., Unified AssistanceBrief.ppt.; Article (U), Otto Kreisher, “Operation Unified Assistance,” *Air Force Magazine*, April 2005, pp 62-66.

<sup>47</sup> Email (U), Lt Gen Craig R. McKinley, NGB/CF, to Maj Gen Robert B. Newman, Jr., NGVA, et. al., Subj.: “Fw: F-22A FOC Declaration,” 9 November 2007, 7:02 AM, **Doc 2007-9**.

<sup>48</sup> Article (U), “Remains of ANG pilot killed in Vietnam to be returned to U.S.” *The On Guard*, February 2008, p 15.