

# **102<sup>nd</sup> FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON**

## **LINEAGE**

## **STATIONS**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj Timothy Gordon

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Just when we all thought that major re-structuring within the 102nd was behind us, we are now facing yet another big change, this time within the Mission Support Group, with the stand-up of the Force Support Squadron. Effective April 1, the Mission Support Flight and the Services Flight merged into a new Force Support Squadron. Although this change should be transparent to the majority of Wing members, for those of us within the old Mission Support and Services Flights, it is a very exciting time, a time to embrace our new organization and re-emphasize the services we provide to the Wing. The creation of the Force Support Squadron was initially part of a program-action decision approved by the chief of staff of the Air Force in 2007 and implemented by the Air Force in 2008. The logic was to merge the two flights in an effort to streamline processes, increase efficiencies, maximize customer service and cut costs associated

with maintaining two separate organizations. Recognizing the value and synergy generated through combining personnel and services, the Air National Guard adopted the model this year and it was implemented Guard-wide on April 1. For the 102nd, the merging of the Mission Support Flight and Services Flight results in a Force Support Squadron consisting of 36 members plus approximately 20 student flight members awaiting Basic Military Training. The main Flights within the Squadron include; Manpower and Personnel, formerly known as the Military Personnel Function; the Sustainment Services Flight, formerly the Services Flight; and the Force Development Flight, formerly Base Training. Many titles and roles have changed for the officers and senior enlisted members within the Squadron. Senior Master Sgt. Chopper Lynds and his hard working and talented staff will continue to provide the Wing with outstanding meals each Unit Training Assembly (UTA). For those that visit the Dining Facility (DFAC) on a regular basis, you are well aware of the quality, service, and variety that is provided each month. For those who have not been to the DFAC in awhile, I strongly encourage you to come visit us – you won't regret it! In addition to their hard work in the 102nd DFAC, our Sustainment Services Airmen have been busy elsewhere. In 2008, eight members deployed to Savannah, Ga., in support of the 102nd Security Forces Squadron's training, and last month seven deployed to Tyndall AFB, Fla., to sharpen their wartime skills while supporting a Silver Flag exercise. On the Personnel side, the dust is just beginning to settle after 18 months of record-breaking volume mostly relating to the Wing's re-organization into an Intelligence Wing. The number of accessions, transfers, full-time position changes, and formal training requirements has been overwhelming; and the ability of our personnel lists to manage it all "in stride" has been remarkable. During this past year, personnel also initiated a new student flight training program designed to prepare student flight members for Basic Military Training. This full-day program meets every Sunday of the UTA and has recently been developed into a quarterly weekend program in coordination with the 104th Student Flight. This past year has also seen many new faces within personnel, some new to the field, others established veterans all eager to assist you! For me, it is a great honor to be the Wing's first Force Support Squadron commander. As we "build" the Squadron I look forward to establishing a sustainable structure that best meets the mission needs of the 102nd. Although the nature of the work of the legacy Flights may be very different, the commonality rests in our mutual role of providing critical services to all members of the Wing. Our "cradle to grave" support brings new recruits into the Wing and promotes them throughout their career. We feed them, lodge them, provide Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) services, and then eventually we separate them or hopefully retire them after a long distinguished career. The key to our future success in providing these services will be a continuation of the dedicated professional service displayed each UTA in the DFAC and behind the desk/counter of our personnel lists. Through these efforts we will maintain a keen focus on the Force Support Squadron's mission to "Support the Force." To all the members of the new FSS, welcome to the team! It is a privilege to be your commander and I look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead. I encourage you to view this change as an opportunity; an opportunity to reinforce your important role within the Wing, to take on new additional duties (letters of delegation are being prepared as we speak!), to train with new people and hopefully make new friends along the way. And keep in mind that which is new, different and unfamiliar today, will be business as usual tomorrow!

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Sources