



North Albany Post 1610

American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, New York 12204

April 5, 2010

Dear Legion Family Member and Friends,

Spring is here, I hope everybody had a Happy Easter. Can you attend some of our meetings? They take approximately one hour. The next regular meeting will be held on **April 19th at 7:00 PM**. The May executive board meeting will be held on Monday, May 3rd, at 7:00 PM and the May regular meeting will be held on May 17th, also at 7:00 PM.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Operation Iraqi Freedom is changing its name as of September 1, 2010 to Operation New Dawn. This aligns the name change with the change of mission status. It also presents opportunities to synchronize strategic communication initiatives, reinforce our commitment to honor the Security Agreement, and recognize our evolving relationship with the Government of Iraq.

WALKATHON WITH THE AUXILIARY AND SONS

The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of Albany County are sponsoring the 3rd annual "They Marched for Us, Let's Walk for Them" Walkathon on April 17th from 10 am to noon at the Colonie Crossings on Albany-Shaker Rd. Registration begins at 9:00. All donations will go to the VA Hospitals, nursing homes and our own Albany Fisher House. Statewide the goal is to raise \$100,000. Please help Albany County by walking, or making a donation. For more information, contact Judy Benner, jbenner1@nycap.rr.com, or 869-8668. All checks should be made out to Dept of NY Sons of the American Legion.

TIP OF THE IRISH HAT

A special thanks to all of the following, Bartenders – Brian Wilson and Herky Rider, Waitresses – Emma Wilson, Sue Wilson, Nicola McCormick, Peggy Norton, Theresa Jennings and Tracy Burns, Volunteer workers – Charles Kelly, Mike Swezey, Pat Dolan, Albert Payne, Ken Holmes, Skip Egan, Butch Ryan and Mike Jennings.

PILOTS TO GET NEXT-GEN FLIGHT SUITS

Northwest Florida Daily News

The new generation of Nomads will have a new generation of flight suits. Joint Strike Fighter pilot instructors were fitted for their new gear in Nomad Hall during a press conference.

Representatives from the suit and helmet manufacturers fielded questions. They shared the number of measurements taken to fit pilots into the gear and safety measures taken to make the suits. They also detailed features of everything, including the socks.

But they would not talk prices.

"It costs more than your house," said Bob Foote, chief technology officer of helmet manufacturer Vision Systems International.

Rumor had it the helmets cost about \$250,000 each, but Foote would not confirm it.

The flight suits were a greater mystery. Because they are being bought and produced in a small batch for the instructors, the initial cost per uniform is more than it will be in the future,

said Dale Hensley, JSF support equipment logistics lead at Lockheed Martin. He did not offer an estimate.

Graham Robertson, JSF trials and integrated logistics manager for RFD Beaufort, helped design the flight suits. He said a lot of money was saved on the project but did not know how much.

"We're just engineers," he said. "We're just trying to tailor our equipment to the needs and we know there will be many needs."

The suits will be worn by pilots from the Navy, Air Force and Marines and student pilots from allied countries.

Each branch of service and country can tailor the suits according to its use. For example, the U.S. Navy and British pilots will fly over water more often than the Air Force. They will have options, such as integrating life preservers into the suits.

RFD Beaufort took a flight suit already in production and made improvements based on F-35 specifications and trial runs.

Those improvements included tailoring the sleeves for safer ejections during an emergency and creating two different g-force protection suits that would keep pilots from blacking out in an emergency.

A pilot who tested the g-protection suits during flight demonstrations showed a notable improvement to current suits.

"When in the Legacy suit (worn flying F-16's), he was fatigued after one display," Robertson said.

The pilot then changed into the new protective gear. "After three displays, he was fresh as a daisy," Robertson said.

Socks are sewn into thermal suits and create a barrier against water in case a pilot ejects and lands in water. Other garments whisk away summer heat and have coolants pumping in them.

Pilots will wear flame retardant undergarments that Roberts said would have saved thousands of lives had they been used years ago

"This equipment will protect and give the pilots a chance to get out," Roberts said. "It integrates with the ejection seat and helmet."

Fitting and issuing the gear is a two-day process that includes testing the gear in a cockpit to ensure pilots can function safely and comfortably.

The most advanced step in the fitting process is the personalized helmet fitting. A laser scanner maps the head of each pilot and creates padding tailored to the individual in a matter of hours.

The fit of the helmets impressed Maj. Eric Smith, assistant director of operations for the 58th Fighter Squadron. He said it felt like the helmet was suctioned to his head.

"They also have noise reduction. They're very nice," he said.

The technology in the 4-pound helmet does not stop at the fitting. The helmets make flying the F-35 seem like flying an invisible aircraft. When pilots look down, they see the view under the aircraft. A glance to each side also shows them the view outside the aircraft.

"It's like playing a virtual reality game," Foote said. "The plane helps a little. But I prefer to think they built the plane to the specifications of this helmet."

UPCOMING EVENTS

North Albany Reunion – Saturday, August 14th, contact Tim Ryan (461-3411) or Dick Sherry (785-9243) for tickets and information

VETERAN ACTIVITIES

HONOR-A-VET

May's Honor-A-Vet ceremony will be held Monday, May 3rd at 8:30am at North Albany Post 1610. Honoring Donald Brady.

POST INFORMATION

SMOKING IN THE BAR

The time has come for North Albany American Legion Post 1610, to put it to a vote about smoking in the bar area, we are looking for pros and cons about this subject. Discussion will be on the floor at the general meeting April 19, 2010 the final vote coming on May 17, 2010 general meeting.

25 WEEK CLUB

The 25 week club is full. First drawing is April 5th. Full payment must be in by April 30th, you can pay at the bar or mail it to Emma Wilson, 4 Pawling St., Menands, NY 12204-1818 or Bev Pach, 44 Hendrick Ave., Menands, NY 12204-1812.

POST CUSTODIAN NEEDED

Anyone interested call 465-4800 and leave a message. We will call you back and let you know the details of the position.

MEMBERSHIP

Please keep your mailing address up to date! I have been getting a lot of Return to Sender letters and postcards back at the post. Ways to keep it up to date, US Postal Service, email (nap1610@yahoo.com), or phone (465-4800). We try to make it easy for everyone.

We are in need of **NEW MEMBERS**, please send us anybody that you know that may be interested and qualified. We have 281 paid members to date, our goal is 319. We are trying to get 100% this year. All members should remember that 2010 dues are now \$30.00 for a regular membership or \$27.00 if you are age 62 and retired. Retirees should disregard the national dues notice indicating \$30.00 and pay only the \$27.00 rate. Those notices for 2010 dues were in the mail. We do appreciate those that send their dues in promptly. **Active duty personnel** should email nap1610@yahoo.com so we can now that if you are active or not, when verified your card will be sent out within a couple of weeks.

Members confined to home due to a long-term illness or nursing, assisted living residences should contact the Post at 465-4800 or email nap1610@yahoo.com to indicate their present status.

**POST EVERLASTING
ROBERT REYNOLDS
THOMAS V. ADAMS**

For God and Country,

Mike Swezey, Commander

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|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Mike Swezey, Commander | 783-9409H, 462-8304O, 330-3938C | mike_swezey@ml.com |
| Charles Johnson, 1 st Vice Cmdr | 465-4800 | |
| Joe Ferraiolo, 2 nd Vice Cmdr | 209-2762C | |
| Roy Van Amburgh, 3 rd Vice Cmdr | 465-4800 | |
| William Parker Jr., Adjutant | 533-8140C | nap1610@yahoo.com |
| William Parker Jr., Membership | 533-8140C | nap1610@yahoo.com |
| Matthew Quackenbush, Service Officer | 465-4800 | mquacken@verizon.net |
| Harry Harbour, S.A.L. Commander | | harry.harbour@albanycounty.com |
| Judy Benner, Auxiliary President | 869-8668 | jbenner1@nycap.rr.com |
| Rentals | 465-4800 (Answering Machine) | |
| Post Bar & Information | 465-1402 | nap1610@yahoo.com |
| Post Fax | 518-320-0589 | |
| Post Web Page | http://www.northalbanypost1610.org/ | |
| Chuck Kelly, OIC Color Guard | 465-4800 | |