

102nd SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

LINEAGE

STATIONS

Otis ANGB, MA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

group of Otis Airmen was welcomed home from a deployment to the Middle East this spring. Fourteen 102nd Security Forces Squadron Airmen landed safely May 21 at T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, R.I., after successfully completing a six-month tour of duty in Saudi Arabia. While deployed, the Massachusetts Air National Guardsmen were tasked with providing base defense and force protection for military and civilian personnel living and working in their area of responsibility. Moments before his Airmen came into view, Lt. Col. Christopher Hamilton, 102nd Security Forces Squadron commander, praised their efforts. "As a commander, it's tough to send away troops...but when the mobilization order came in I asked for volunteers and I got all volunteers to go. They all stepped up and while they were over there they did a phenomenal job. We were getting reports back weekly about (an Airman) that was "getting coined" or receiving an award. The accolades were flowing for the entire deployment," said Colonel Hamilton. One Airman receiving an accolade was Airman 1st Class Marc McAndrew who was interviewed and selected while deployed to become the newest 102nd Security Forces Squadron operations officer.

Airman McAndrew's mother, Judy McAndrew, put things into perspective while joyfully waiting on pins and needles for her son's return. "(Marc) may be 6 feet 3 inches tall but he's still my little boy," said McAndrew. While every Airman who deployed played a critical role in achieving mission success, the tireless efforts of Master Sgt. Robert Miller, who served as team leader for the Otis Airmen, were not lost in the excitement of the homecoming. "Sergeant Miller did an excellent job keeping the team together and united during the time they were away. I couldn't be more proud of how he performed," said Colonel Hamilton. This deployment was the second notch in Sergeant Miller's "mobility belt" and his wife of 20 years has learned the best ways to keep in touch with a deployed loved one. "E-mail was the best way to stay in touch. And there's also Skype. We could actually talk and videoconference for free using Skype which was awesome. You just accept each other on your "friends list" and you can talk. It's like calling on the phone...and its free," said Teresa Miller. With the mission complete and the initial wave of emotional greetings simmering down, Staff Sgt. Edward Rene shared a sentiment that was common among his 13 returning comrades. "I'm looking forward to my two weeks of leave and getting life back to normal," said Sergeant Rene. 2009

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