



# Strat Roost News

www.stratroost.org

Association of Old Crows · Strategic Roost P.O. Box 13146, Offutt AFB, NE 68113

Volume 16 Issue 1

January 2009

## January Pizza Luncheon

January 30, Mr. Hoffer set to speak on evolution of Cyberspace

## Change of Command

February 5, Lt Col Krishna takes command of the 343RS

## Science and Engineering Fair

March 27-29, Come see extraordinary high school students explore their creativity in science and engineering

## Tales of the 55th

March 27, Make plans to join us in this annual event remembering and recounting the wing's history

## Scholarship Award Reception

April, Saluting the future of America with ideals of service

## OFFICERS 2009

Tony Loper · **President**

pres@stratroost.org

Mitch Houchin · **Vice President**

vp@stratroost.org

Will Eby · **Secretary**

sec@stratroost.org

Michael Cook · **Treasurer**

treasurer@stratroost.org

Dan Rocha · **Awards Chair**

awards@stratroost.org

Stu Martin · **Scholarship Chair**

scholarship@stratroost.org

Mark Barnett · **Historian**

ho@stratroost.org

## Greetings, Strategic Roost Chapter Membership-

I am honored to return as your President for 2009. Thank you for once again entrusting me with the lead...I look forward to another successful year. Your outstanding Board of Directors are also all returning for another year of service. We met early this month to begin planning Roost activities for 2009--it's shaping up to be another informative and productive year. The objectives of the Board continue to be to promote the exchange of new ideas and information and to award educational scholarships and grants to assist military enlisted personnel and undergraduate students. We rely on volunteers for our work and events and it all goes to a good cause...your participation is crucial.

If you haven't attended a meeting recently, January's event is the time to rejoin us. On January 30, Mr. Bob "Hobo" Hoffer is our luncheon speaker. Hobo is a retired Navy Commander and EA-6B Prowler Electronic Countermeasures Officer (ECMO) currently assigned as a Cyberspace Programs analyst and Deputy Chief, Cyberspace Capabilities Branch, US Strategic Command. Hobo will be speaking to the Roost on "Cyberspace Warriors - The Next Generation;" how we got to where we are today in cyberspace while proposing similarities between EW and cyberspace operations. Our luncheon will be at the 343rd Reconnaissance Squadron main briefing room in Building 497. Pizza and sodas will be served beginning at 1115 at a cost of only \$5.00. Hobo will speak at 1145. Please come out, see your friends, and enjoy Hobo's presentation.

In addition to our monthly luncheons your Board of Directors has been busy planning activities for the next several months. We will once again be judging and awarding prizes at the Greater Nebraska Science and Engineering Fair on March 27-29 in Nebraska City. On March 27, the Roost helps sponsor the "Tales of the 55th" featuring speakers with stories from throughout the 55th Wing's history. Planning has also begun for our annual "Salute to the Future" Scholarship Award Reception in April. If you are willing to lend a helping hand please feel free to call or contact me. Keep your eye on these spaces for further information.

Membership continues to be an emphasis area for the Board this year--help us recruit new Crows! Bring a new member to the January luncheon we'll buy both of your lunches. As always, please feel free to call or e-mail me at anytime. I am anxious to hear your concerns and discuss suggestions you may have for chapter improvement. I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon on the 30th, and at the rest of our events in 2009.

-Tony Loper

President, Strategic Roost

## On the Calendar

### *Change of Command*

At 10:30 AM, on 5 February 2009, Lt Col Mohan Krishna will assume command of the 343<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron. The ceremony will take place at the Offutt Club. Lt Col Krishna is a Master Navigator flying as an Electronic Warfare Officer aboard the venerable RC-135 RIVET JOINT platform. Lt Col Krishna has volunteered on numerous occasions at fund raisers as well as serving as judge at the Science and Engineering Fair. Should you have opportunity, come out to the club and cheer on one of our own.

### *Science and Engineering Fair*

On the topic of judging events, the Greater Nebraska Science and Engineering Fair is scheduled for March 27—29 at the Nebraska City High School in Nebraska City. The Strategic Roost takes pleasure in providing judges for this event and sponsors valuable prizes for contest winners. As you may know, one of the keys of the Roost is in providing opportunity for young people demonstrating aptitude in the sciences. This is an excellent venue to show our appreciation and help out motivated students.

### *Tales of the 55<sup>th</sup>*

On 27 March the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association will once again put on the event which marches us back in time through the amazing history of the 55th Wing. This is an excellent opportunity to see past and present come together and salute our heritage. The Strategic Roost takes pride in helping sponsor portions of this event. Please see our website for more details as they become available.

### *Scholarship and Award Reception*

Scholarship applications have already been mailed out to high schools in the Omaha metropolitan area. If you were to read the resumes of some of our past winners you can see promise in our future. The scholarship and award event is what we do to salute those students who have put forth a serious effort to excel in the sciences and to contribute to society in some capacity. The reception is scheduled for the first week of April. Further details will be posted to the website and in subsequent news letters.

## Strat Roost Info

### *StratRoost Board Elections*

The Strategic Roost re-elected Tony Loper as president last November. Your board will remain nearly unchanged as last year's board members volunteered for another term. The change to the board is that we no longer have a Speaker Chair. Given that, if you would like to fill the position please see Tony for information. Should you have any ideas for people you would like to hear speak at our luncheons please contact anyone on the board so we can give it due process to make it happen.

### *Cyber Warfare*

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) plans to build a national cyber range in order to develop technologies to counter future cyber threats. In a dimension where the U.S. has substantial adversaries who can influence operations at relatively low cost, with great speed, and at times without warning, this program is essential. Given the success of a short-term strategy of asymmetric warfare DARPA is taking the lead to create a test management system where a scientific approach can be brought to bear on the cyber threat our country faces every day.

To put the threat into perspective, it was once thought that the "pond" between the west and the east was a sufficient barrier. The arms race during the cold war put that thought to sleep. But now, how much closer is the threat given the network through which anyone with a cell phone can contact and upload information onto an information system halfway around the world—at the speed of light? It is no longer far fetched to give an alien a virus as in the movie "*Independence Day*".

It is self evident that our society is highly dependent on the electronic information grid... the internet. And, a primary factor in every day life is the dollar. Commerce in industry is a very real target that can adversely affect the U.S. economy.

The Undersecretary of Defense for Estonia, Lauri Almann, details a distributed denial of service cyber attack on her country which, according to the New York Times, nearly shut down Estonia's digital infrastructure in 2007. There is a structure built without paper checks making the impact on business all the more severe.

DARPA's role in computer security is not new. When the Morris worm struck in 1988 disabling 10's of thousands of computer systems including those on military installations, DARPA worked with Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute and created the Computer Emergency Reaction Team (CERT) Coordination Center whose task is to respond to security threats. until 2003. DARPA is clearly thinking ahead on this issue.

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The Strategic Roost Chapter of the Association of Old Crows  
cordially invites you to attend our next monthly meeting

*featuring*

**Mr. Robert Hoffer**

U.S. Strategic Command  
Cyberspace Capabilities

*speaking on the topic*

“Cyberspace Warriors — The Next Generation”

**Friday, 30 Jan 2009 - 11:15 — 1300**  
**343rd—Briefing Room**

Bring \$5 for pizza and soda  
Mr. Hoffer speaks at 11:45