

To: The 194th Fighter Squadron

I want to thank all of the fighter pilots of the 194th. I thank the ones who flew F-51, and F-86s and paved the way before I got into the outfit. I thank the ones I had the privilege of flying with in F-106s, F-4, T-33s and F-16s. Thanks to you new guys that I met, but unfortunately did not get to fly with. Finally, I thank all of those who died serving their country as pilots of the 194th. Thanks for making my nineteen years with the 194th the finest adventure a man could ever desire.

The 194th Fighter Squadron has a rich history with a long list of great fighter pilots. They flew fighter escort missions in P-47s and P-51s over Germany in WWII. They fought in the Pacific Theater flying P-38s against the Japanese. Korean War veterans who flew F-84s and F-86s. We had our own pilots from Fresno go to Viet Nam and fly in the war as Guardsmen. Others flew F-100s, F-105s, and F-4s against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese before coming to us. Most recently we have pilots who flew in Operation Desert Storm and the Gulf War. Many of the finest fighter pilots in the 194th were former enlisted men sent to flying school as Guardsmen.

Members include fighter aces, congressmen, bankers, test pilots, lawyers, teachers law enforcement, contractors, airline pilots, and just about every occupation found out "on the other side of the fence". We have a proud and colorful past that includes a lot of distinguished people. Never forget your roots. Continued the tradition and be proud of who and what you are.

I dreamed of flying fighters ever since I can remember. Being allowed to fly fighters in my hometown was truly a dream come true. Flying with you guys just made it that much better.

I leave this fine bunch of warriors with fond memories of good flying, good fighting, good parties, and good times. Thanks again for letting me share in the experience. It's been a hoot!

B.O.B.

January 1994

To all the people of the 144th Fighter Wing:

As I wrap up a 21-year career in the Fresno Air National Guard, I want to thank all of you for making it the wonderful experience it was. It was a privilege to be a part of such an outstanding group of people.

We shared a mixed bag of events over the years. We battled our way through many inspections and evaluations. We succeeded in getting through several aircraft conversions. From Air Defense Command, to Tactical Air Command, and now to Air Combat Command.

We worked hard and played hard on many deployments all around the world. We shared tremendous pride in many great achievements. We laughed and enjoyed the good times. We cried at the loss of those close to us. We fought our way through adversity and emerged with our honor intact.

Flying fighters was always a dream of mine. The combined efforts of so many people made that dream come true. It's unfair when a fighter pilot gets all the glory. The glory belongs to all of you. At Fresno I got to see the *best* of everything. I flew in the best maintained aircraft in the world. I flew with the greatest bunch of fighter pilots in the world. A lot of people behind the scenes worked to make it happen. People in shops and offices all over the base. Some I saw fairly often. Some I've never even met. Forgive me if I haven't thanked you before now.

I owe so much to the Guard. I could never begin to repay the Guard for all it's done for me and my family. Thank you again for allowing me to share in such a great experience. You will always be in my thoughts. Good luck and the very best to you all.

Sincerely,

Major Jim McNab
(B.O.B.)

Tour De Cure

**A Day of Cycling to
Beat Diabetes
Saturday, April 30,
1994, at Woodward
Park**

Register now and enjoy a day of safe, challenging cycling. The routes are designed for all levels of riding ability, with fully catered rest stops and a delicious lunch at the finish. For more information contact MSgt. Tim Decker at BD 5280.



Gum Disease From Kissing?

submitted by Capt. Michael J. Madrigal

If your significant other has gum disease, check it out — you may be passing the problem back and forth to each other, warns the Academy of General Dentistry.

In a University of Helsinki study of 20 couples, researchers found that partners in four of the couples harbored the same type of bacteria that causes gum disease, a leading cause of adult tooth loss. This study adds to the evidence that

suggests adults living in close proximity may infect each other with harmful bacteria.

"It may give us a clue as to why some patients with gum disease become reinfected after being treated successfully," said Myron Bromberg, D.D.S., an Academy of General Dentistry spokesdentist. "It may become necessary to treat partners together for long-term results."

Further study needs to be conducted to determine how bacteria is transmitted from person to person, said Dr. Bromberg, who added, "it's probably done through kissing, not by sharing food, drink or utensils."

Couples should see their dentists regularly—and perhaps together—to evaluate their home oral care. If detected in early stages, gum disease can be reversed and teeth saved.