BIOGRAPHY

MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Headquarters, 104th Fighter Wing

Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis
Public Affairs Manager / 3N074

Senior Master Sergeant Robert J. Sabonis is a United States Air National Guard photographer working on his 25th year of military service, all of which has been within the Multimedia and Public Affairs career fields. Sgt. Sabonis began his military career as a graphic artist, graduating as an honor graduate from the Air Force Graphic Arts Technical Training Center at Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, Colorado in July 1986. Sgt. Sabonis was the Graphic Arts NCOIC from 1989 through 1994 when he took over as the Multimedia Manager. Following the 2007 merger with Public Affairs, he was selected to be the Public Affairs Manager for the 104th Fighter Wing, Barnes Air National Guard Base, Westfield, Massachusetts.

Sgt. Sabonis uses his strong art and design background while taking stunning photographs in his current duty assignments which have brought him all around the country documenting the many deployments and events of the 104th Fighter Wing. While serving as a graphic artist, he understood the value of versatility and trained with unit photographers; learning many photography skills, including the use of multiple camera formats, darkroom black and white processing, and studio portraits. Sgt. Sabonis was integral in the unit's conversion from film to digital photography, demonstrating early on the variety of applications in graphic design.

Sgt. Sabonis is now using his talent and skills to provide photography support using Public Affairs communication venues and documenting the unit's history by capturing the many deployments and activities of the 104th Fighter Wing. The unit has recently converted from the A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft to the F-15 Eagle, and is now preparing to take on the Air Sovereignty Alert mission for the northeast, and Sgt Sabonis is a valuable tool in communicating and documenting this historic event.

In addition to his work with the Air National Guard, Sgt. Sabonis owns a successful professional wedding and portrait photography business which has steadily grown over the last few years. Sgt. Sabonis is constantly learning new photo techniques, both in the Air National Guard and his wedding business, and sharing this info between the two jobs, and his coworkers.

Sgt. Sabonis resides in Westfield, Massachusetts with his wife Deborah and his four children, Ashley, Brandon, Jordan, and Alyssa.