



Hometown Heroes Salute campaign

by Senior Airman Chasity Johnson
183rd Public Affairs

Members of the 183rd Fighter Wing were presented with Hometown Heroes Salute awards Nov. 8 in the base auditorium.

The Hometown Heroes Salute Campaign was designed to honor more than 70,000 citizen-Airmen who have deployed in contingencies since Sept. 11, 2001.

The award ceremony was facilitated by Capt. Brian Hodge, 183rd Fighter Wing Executive Officer.

Col. Michael Meyer, 183rd Fighter Wing Commander, provided the opening remarks and briefly explained the purpose of the campaign. He said the campaign will recognize those Airmen from the unit who deployed for more than 30 consecutive days in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Col. Meyer said the program will be executed in two phases. The first phase – which is the phase we are currently in – will be the “catch up phase.” In this phase, Guardsmen who deployed from Sept. 11, 2001, to Dec. 31, 2008, will be formally presented a rosewood encased letter of appreciation signed by Chief of the National Guard Bureau and

the Air National Guard Command Chief, enclosed with commemorative coins.

The second phase is scheduled to begin in January, in which a complete, three-tiered recognition system will begin. In this phase, awards will be distributed based on length of deployment. In addition to the above mentioned letter and coins, members will be awarded a framed American flag with inset coins for succeeding deployments of 180 to 365 consecutive days, and an eagle statuette for deployments more than 366 consecutive days. The spouses of these members will receive a Hometown Heroes Salute-engraved pen and pencil set, and their children will receive a set of personalized dog tags.

Although Airmen can earn all three awards, they cannot receive an award more than once.

“This will be quite a project, but it will be well worth it,” said Col. Meyer during the ceremony.

Brig. Gen. John Hughes, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, addressed attendees of the ceremony before the awards were presented. “The 183rd has always risen to the challenge, whatever the challenge may be,” said Brig. Gen. Hughes. “I want to thank you for all you do and all you will continue to do.”

Brig. Gen. James Schroeder, Chief



(Photo taken by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr)

of Staff for Air, and Chief Master Sgt. Kent Sunderland, Illinois Air National Guard Command Chief, presented the first two awards to Brig. Gen. Hughes and Col. Meyer.

Master Sgt. Robin Meyer, Human Resources Assistant with the Illinois Air National Guard Headquarters, who received an award during the ceremony, said she feels honored and surprised by the recognition of her service. “It makes you feel great,” said MSgt. Meyer. “You don’t expect it, but it’s really nice.”

Master Sgt. Natalie Durbin, NCOIC, Nursing Services, for the 183rd Medical Group, also received an award during the ceremony. “It was an honor to receive the award,” said MSgt. Durbin. “We have never done anything like this before. It feels really good when you are recognized for your hard work and sacrifices.”

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Just the Facts

Unit Training Assembly Schedule and pay dates



Duty Performed Pays out (approx.)

DEC 5-6 DEC 15

JAN 9-10 JAN 20

FEB 6-7 FEB 16

PLEASE NOTE: Duty hours for each UTA/SUTA will be 0800-1200 and 1300-1700 unless otherwise scheduled in advance. Mark your calendar! For more pay information, see the DFAS website at <http://www.dfas.mil/index.htm>. Pay information is under the Money Matters heading.

Attention!

The deadline for the **JANUARY** issue of the **Falcon's View** is **SATURDAY, DEC. 5, at 1700.**



On Base Emergency

CALL 911 FOR ALL YOUR
ON-BASE EMERGENCY NEEDS.

Important Contacts

Commercial (217) 757-1XXX
on base use 3-digit Ext.

Main Gate.....	205
Base Commander.....	219
Base Operations.....	202
217th EIS Commander.....	700
Pass and Registration	481
Recruiting.....	285
Public Affairs	267
Customer Service	308
Military Pay	225
Clinic.....	221
Safety	237
Chaplain	367
Wing IG	770

Toll Free Number
1-800-392-1797

183rd Human Resource Advisor

Inspiration, motivation, and meaning

by Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Korte
183rd Human Resource Advisor

Throughout the course of 2009, the HRA Office has been running a theme campaign to inspire and motivate us to become better Airmen. The theme for November was Leadership and I have decided to carry it over for December. It is such an integral part of our military experience. So, continue to look for posters and tabletops promoting key concepts of leadership.

But don't worry; I still have an article to write! As I was researching the Leadership theme and reflecting back on my experiences in the military, I began thinking about the Air Force Symbol. I remembered hearing about the meaning behind the symbol and decided to research this information and refresh my memory. Once again, I am fascinated by the significance of this graphic. This month, I would like to share the meaning of the Air Force Symbol with you. Thank you for representing this symbol and for your service!

See the article "Air Force Symbol Meaning" on page 7.



Check It Out! Now that you are accessing the Base Community of Practice (CoP), you can have HRA information at your fingertips. Simply click on the WHQ – Wing Headquarters link, followed by HRA – Human Resource Advisor and you are there. The folder contains articles, highlights, leadership slides, and much more!

Goodbye 2009... Hello 2010

*by Lt. Col. Chaplain Jeff Laible
Base Chaplains Office*

Soon we will say goodbye to 2009 and start to focus on the new year of 2010. The past 12 months has introduced significant change in our lives. Some have changed jobs here at the unit or in the civilian world, others have moved to new communities, some have been deployed and are still adjusting to life after deployments, still others are mourning the loss of loved ones. 2009 was not an easy year. The economic meltdown and recession has affected almost everyone, creating uncertainty for both today and the future. I suspect that most everyone is hoping for a better year as we look to 2010.

The beginning of a new calendar year always brings with it the opportunity for brighter days ahead. And that is what we must focus on as we move into 2010. Despite the difficulties that we experienced in 2009, whether they be economic, the change or loss of a job, moving, deployments, the loss of a loved one, or any other significant change, we can begin the new year of 2010 with a positive attitude/outlook and a sense of hope that brighter days are ahead.



Those brighter days are possible when each of us makes a conscious decision each day not to buy into the doom and gloom attitude that is so pervasive in our modern world. We simply have to choose wisely what we read, watch on TV or listen to on the radio. I'm not suggesting that we be uninformed about the world around us. I am, however, suggesting that we be selective about who and what information we allow to influence our daily attitude.

The new year of 2010 can be the beginning of brighter days for each one of us, our family, community and world. But this means that each one of us must make a conscious effort to "brighten" our days by having a hope-filled, positive attitude. And the greatest source of strength to accomplish this is to connect every day with God (or your Higher Power).

Base Chapel Office:

Bldg. P-48, Room 302
Phone 217-757-1367, DSN 892-8367
Fax (217)757-1509

Religious Services
Protestant Service:
Saturday 1500hrs Chapel
Catholic Mass:
Saturday 1600hrs Chapel



† † † † † **CHAPLAINS INFORMATION** † † † † †

Roman Catholic Chaplains:

Lt. Col. Bob Barry
3700 103rd Street
Chicago, IL 60655
phone: 773-296-3857
email: RLBarry@worldnet.att.net
or robert.barry@ilspri.ang.af.mil



Lt. Col. Jeff Laible
316 S. Logan Street
Lincoln, IL 62656
phone: 217-732-4019
email: frlaible@familylincoln.com

Handwashing - are your hands really clean?

by Tech. Sgt. Amy Murphy
183rd Medical Group

According to the Center for Disease Control, hand washing is the most important ways to prevent the spread of infection. This simple habit requires only soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitizer, but is one of the best methods in preventing diseases, such as colds, flu and food borne illnesses. So, you ask yourself - what will happen if I don't want my hands? You can pick up germs from other sources, such as food to hands, hands to foot, hands to others and hands to objects. Your hands will infect you when you touch your



eyes, nose or mouth. Another good question comes to mind - How often should I wash my hands? Here are some good times to do this: After coughing or sneezing, before, during, and after you prepare food, before you eat, and after you use the bathroom, when your hands are dirty, and more frequently when someone you live with is sick.

According to recent studies by the Wirthlin Worldwide, found that 95% of the participants say they always wash their hands after using the restroom. However, when watched closely in New York City, males only washed their hands 43% of the time and females 54%.

Let's now focus on how to properly wash your hands. First, wet your hands and apply liquid soap. Next, rub your hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces. Continue with this method for 10-15 seconds, or about the length of a song (happy birthday, or twinkle twinkle little star.) It is the soap combined with the scrubbing action that helps dislodge the germs. Rinse your hands well and dry your hands, either with paper towels or an automatic hand dryer.

So as you can see, hand washing is a very important aspect in your daily life. It is a simple, cost-effective way to prevent the spread of germs and infection. Following these easy, simple steps could save you from a possible life-threatening disease.

Parking lot safety

submitted by Security Forces Squadron
from: Tom Patire's Personal Protection
Handbook

The best way to keep yourself and your loved ones safe is to be aware of your surroundings and avoid putting yourself in situations that could be potentially dangerous. The following checklist for parking safety contains a list of things worth keeping in mind when walking to your car in public parking areas:

Hide or remove your valuables when leaving your car.

Park close to your destination, especially if it's going to be dark when you return, even if it means waiting for a space to become free.

At night, try to park under a street light.

Leave your engine running until you've gathered everything and you're ready to get out of the car. Check your surroundings to make sure they look safe before you get out of the car.

If you're comfortable backing into parking spaces, it's a good way to park, because it means you can leave quickly if the situation becomes dangerous.

When you're walking back to your car, keep your keys in hand, so you can get into the car quickly or use them as a weapon if needed.

Always take the most brightly lit path to and from your car.

After you open the car door, check the front and back seats to make sure no one is hiding inside.

Lock your doors once you get inside the car.

If someone suspicious approaches you, honk your horn and flash the lights to draw attention.

If your sixth instinct suggests danger when you are parking or coming back to your car, leave the area until you're sure it is secure.

In Memory of Chief Joseph Stephen Woods

by retired Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin L. White

With heavy hearts, on Nov. 6, 2009, we laid to rest one of our very own, Chief Master Sgt. Joseph "Steve" Woods.

No words can adequately express what we are feeling right now. While many will shed tears - this is also a moment for rejoicing, a time to be thankful that we were given the chance to have known such a man named Steve, and a time to celebrate his life. At his passing Steve was 56 years, 6 months and 7 days old. Steve was simply too young for his life to be cut short - but in retrospect we realize that Steve indeed lived his life fully and wonderfully.

Steve had a passion for life and an undying love for his family. Steve enjoyed cooking, flying, carpentry work, tinkering, helping others, kicking back listening to blue grass music, and spending time with family. He enjoyed working with his bees, Boy Scout Troop 1, toiling in the fields of Flower Creek Farm and looked forward to moving there with Karen.

Steve impressed his peers as someone who lent us his knowledge, skills, and expertise generously. There was never an occasion when a request to Steve went unanswered. He was a master at getting things done and done correctly.

Steve lived his life as honorably as he could. He never had enemies nor did he step on anyone to advance himself. Steve's integrity was above reproach and he was well respected. - *Integrity First*

Steve was living proof of how fine a person can be. As the Operations Superintendent, he was a good boss to the people in his charge. Master Sgt. Jay Watts shares, that "Chief was always the 'go to guy.' He always made sure his troops knew what their requirements were; he made sure all the right blocks were checked, 'I's dotted and 'T's crossed. On one occasion in particular, the firefighters were scheduled to deploy to the AOR, but had no transportation to St. Louis. Steve dropped everything without a second thought and took us to the St. Louis airport. You always knew Steve was just a phone call away." - *Excellence in All We Do*

It was transparent to the many who knew him, that Steve was dedicated in his service to his country, deeply concerned with improving quality of life for his troops and he was very keen on assuring they were equipped to meet all mission challenges that confronted them. Maj. Jack Elston summarized and illustrated Steve's dedication to service with the following comment, "The anecdote I think that sums up Chief Woods most is that after learning he had cancer he asked the doctor if he could still deploy and take care of the cancer when he got back. He was so disappointed he didn't get to deploy with the squadron." - *Service before Self*. Steve's service to his country embodied all three of the Air Force Core Values.

During his tour of duty from May 6, 1975 to October 29, 2009, Chief Woods was the recipient of numerous awards and decorations. Chief Woods served two tours of duty overseas in support of our nation. First, in 2004, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at Talil Air Base, Iraq and then again in 2006 at Diego Garcia.

At the pinnacle of his career he was awarded the rank and title Chief Master Sgt. While we are sure that Steve was rightly proud of that title and distinction, we are even more certain that the greatest titles he bore were: obedient son, devoted father, proud grandfather, and soul-mate to Karen. Steve valued and loved his family above all measure.

Steve's tour of duty here is now complete. His PCS - permanent change of station orders have been processed, certified, verified and approved by the highest authority. While Steve will live on here on earth in our hearts - his new manufactured home is with his Almighty Father. Until we see one another again - Godspeed.



Promotions

Lieutenant Colonel
Kevin E. Strine
Terence D. Felton

Chief Master Sergeant
Brenda R. Korte
Jonathan A. Wheeler

Master Sergeant
Wade S. Valente
Vance E. Thomas
Nicolas Sanchez
Shane D. Duzan

Technical Sergeant
Daniel G. Guthridge
Kayla M. Pickford
Matthew R. Harris
Sean A. Rosenthal
Wade E. Boyd

Staff Sergeant
Krystle L. Stolleis
Aaron D. Rath

Senior Airman
Aaron L. Whitaker
David T. Schildman
Samuel C. Peabody
Derek D. Nord
Patrick V. Moreth
Jeffery K. Hammitt
Tyler J. Pier

Veterans Recognition

Military recognized at local hockey game

*by Master Sgt. Deb Schmitz
NCOIC, Base Honor Guard*

The Springfield Jr. Blues hockey team hosted a military appreciation night on Nov. 6 and were wearing special edition camouflaged jerseys for the game at the Springfield Parks Nelson Center. Twenty-four military members from the 183d Fighter Wing volunteered to support this event. The Base Honor Guard carried the colors with one member singing the National Anthem. The other Airmen carried the 50-foot American flag onto the ice. We also had nine Illinois Army National Guard soldiers and two Marines involved in the flag ceremony. This event gave some of our wing leadership and non-Honor Guard members an opportunity that doesn't come along very often. "It's a great way for the public to see that we are still here and that our personnel didn't go away with our planes," said Chief Master Sgt. Vic Wurtzler. This was a perfect opportunity and environment for us to be a recruiter, represent our service, and show off our pride and professionalism. Thanks to all members who volunteered and the wing leadership for their support in making this a successful event. The President of the Jr. Blues, Chris Kolb, was so impressed that he has already asked if the 183d Fighter Wing could do this again next year.

Any members interested in being a part of the Base Honor Guard or possibly singing the National Anthem during base or community events, please get in touch with Master Sgt. Deb Schmitz at ext. 551.



Welcome Aboard

New Enlistees

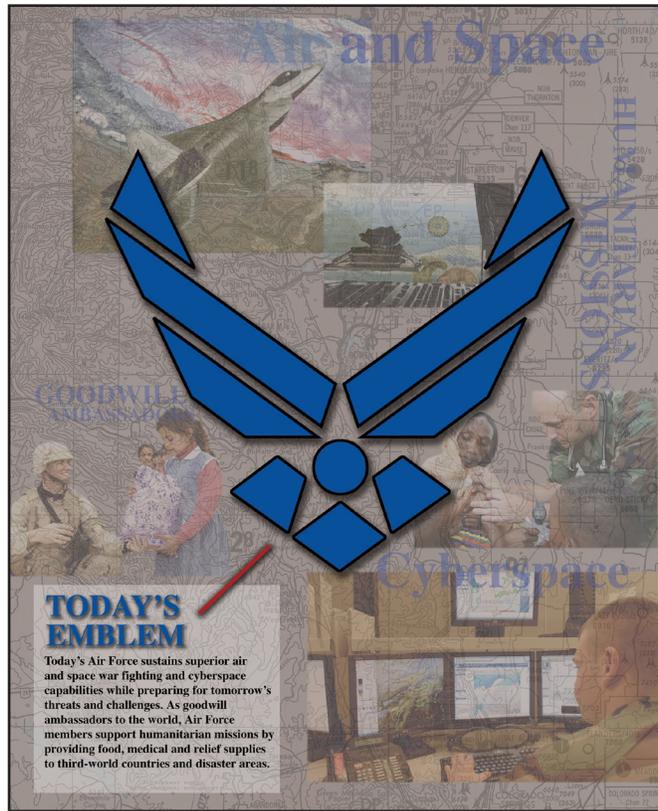
Col. Patrick H. Durbin	183rd Medical Group	September 12, 2009
Capt. Jonathan M. Edwards	Detachment 1	October 2, 2009
Lt. Col. Robert J. McCullers	Headquarters	October 2, 2009
Lt. Col. Richard L. Cline	Detachment 1	October 3, 2009
Capt. Willie E. Horne Jr.	Detachment 1	October 3, 2009
Capt. Trevor J. Orsinger	Headquarters	October 10, 2009
Senior Airman Dana M. Baisden	Civil Engineering Squadron	October 18, 2009

Air Force symbol meaning

Submitted by Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Korte
 183rd Human Resource Advisor
 from: Air Force Trademark and Licensing Program Office

The U.S. Air Force symbol honors the heritage of our past and represents the promise of our future. It retains the core elements of our Air Corps heritage -- the "Arnold" wings and star with circle -- and modernizes them to reflect our air and space force of today and tomorrow.

The symbol has two main parts. In the upper half, the stylized wings represent the stripes of our strength -- the enlisted men and women of our force. They are drawn with great angularity to emphasize our swiftness and power, and they are divided into six sections which represent our distinctive capabilities -- air and space superiority, global attack, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superiority, and



agile combat support.

In the lower half are a sphere, a star and three diamonds. The sphere within the star represents the globe. It reminds us of our obligation to secure our nation's freedom with Global Vigilance, Reach and Power. The globe also reminds us of our challenge as an expeditionary force to respond rapidly to crises and to provide decisive

aerospace power, worldwide. The area surrounding the sphere takes the shape of a star. The star has many meanings. Its five points represent the components of our Total Force and family -- our active duty, civilians, Guard, Reserve and retirees. The star symbolizes space as the high ground of our nation's air and space force. The rallying symbol in all our wars, the star also represents our officer corps, central

to our combat leadership.

The star is framed with three diamonds, which represent our core values -- integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. The elements come together to form one symbol that presents two powerful images -- at once it is an eagle, the emblem of our nation, and a medal, representing valor in service to our nation.



**Catered
 Served 1100-1300**

♥ Roast turkey	S	Cauliflower	Lasagna	S	Garlic toast
Sage dressing	A	Cranberry sauce	Broccoli	U	Tossed salad
Garlic mashed potatoes	T	Rolls	Sweet corn	N	Devil's food cake
Asparagus	U	Tossed salad	Green beans	D	
Cauliflower	R	Apple and cherry pie		A	
	D			Y	
	A				
	Y				

*Menu is subject to change
 ♥ Heart healthy

YOUR HHS AWARD IS ON BASE!

ATTENTION RETIRED, SEPARATED AND TRANSFERRED MEMBERS!

While you were an active member of the 183rd FW, did you deploy for 30 days or longer after the events of Sept. 11? If so, there are some very nice awards waiting to be presented to you on base – or shipped to your home. NGB funded the Hometown Heroes Salute (HHS) campaign. It is an unprecedented opportunity for the Air National Guard to honor our Airmen, their families and others who were supportive as our members answered the President's call to duty.

The awards consist of: a special letter of appreciation signed by General McKinley - Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and CMSgt Richard Smith - the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard. The letter is encased in a high quality 16" X 19" rosewood frame. Mounted below the letter are two Hometown Heroes coin representing the front and the back of the coins. The plaque has been personalized with a plate containing the deployer's name and rank at the time of the first qualifying deployment. Each member will also receive a pen and pencil set, encased in a wooden rosewood box, for their spouse and/or significant other. Additionally, there is a Center of Influence Medallion to be presented to someone the member feels best supported them during their extended absence. Finally for those with children at the time of deployment, HHS dog tags are provided.

Again, if you deployed from Sept. 11, 2001 through Dec. 31, 2008, please contact your respective point of contacts below. If you are within 50 miles of the base, please call or e-mail a time when you will be able to pick of your awards. If you are farther than 50 miles and are unable to travel to the unit, your awards will be mailed to you. Please contact the appropriate POC to make arrangements.

- Aircraft Maintenance: MSgt Robert Stults (217-757-1275) Robert.Stults@ang.af.mil
- Civil Engineering: Matt Vincent (217-757-1306) Matthew.Vincent@ang.af.mil
- Communications Flight: MSgt Mari Moore (217-757-1344) Mari.Moore@ang.af.mil
- 217th EIS: MSgt Cory Moore (217-757-1710) Cory.Moore@ang.af.mil
- Logistics Readiness Squadron: Lt Col James Bentley (217-757-1326) James.Bentley@ang.af.mil
- Medical Group: CMSgt Wayne Vorreyer (217-757-1221) Wayne.Vorreyer@ang.af.mil
- Military Personnel Flight, Services and Mission Support Group: Lt Col Kevin Mulcahy (217-757-1244) Kevin.Mulcahy@ang.af.mil
- Operations: Lt Col Tracy Timmons (217-757-1390) Tracy.Timmons@ang.af.mil
- Security Forces: SMSgt Andrew Thompson (217-757-1406) Andrew.Thompson@ang.af.mil
- Fighter Wing: MSgt Jennifer Aurora (217-757-1219) Jennifer.Aurora@ang.af.mil

Come join the retirees for breakfast.

Some are new, some are old, and some are even older than that, but it's always an enjoyable way to start the day. The monthly retiree's breakfast will be on Tuesday, Dec. 1, at King Pin Lanes on the corner of Sangamon Ave. and Dirksen Parkway. They say they meet at 8 a.m., but if you're not there by 7:30 a.m., the early birds have taken the good seats!

COME JOIN US



The Holiday Technician Party will be held on Monday, Dec 21. Contact your previous squadron/unit for further details.

New Retirees

Chief Master Sgt. William Bokina 217th Engineering and Installation Squadron
Maj. Gerald E. Roate Detachment 1

October 3, 2009
October 17, 2009



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 183d Family Readiness and Support Group will be hosting a Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 6, in the Aerospace Dining Facility in building P-48.

The event is scheduled to run from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and is geared toward children ages 12 and under.

There will be games and activities for everyone. Refreshments will be available.

Of course, it wouldn't be the same without the big guy. Santa will be present to hand out gifts to all the children in attendance.

Please come and join in the fun and festivities. We look forward to seeing you there!



Environmental News

What's happening in the parking lot

by Lt. Col. Deborah Hamrick
183rd Environmental Manager

A lot of personnel have been questioning on the work that has been ongoing in the asphalt parking lot by P-46 and P-48. This has been an ongoing effort to clean up past contaminated sites on guard bases. It has been a long process as the paperwork trail on this site has been in the works for about 10 years and now we have reached remediation. We have three active sites on base and I will discuss the activities at Site 4. Site 4, referred to as the munitions area, is located on the northern section of the base between buildings P-35 and P-6. From approximately 1955 to 1970, base personnel reportedly tipped the bullets used at the gun range with paint for identification purposes. The

solvent trichloroethene (TCE) was routinely used as a cleaning agent during paint cleanup and was released on the ground. The groundwater plume in the area across the parking lot is above the acceptable EPA standards so we are now in the process of cleaning up the groundwater. This groundwater plume has not migrated off base and is confined to the parking lot area. For those that do not know groundwater is that water which is underground, surface water runs above the ground. The contractor is injecting edible soy bean oil, anaerobic water and a bio-augmentation culture KB-1 (which is nano-sized microbes – bugs in layman's terms) into the groundwater. This in time will destroy the solvent in the groundwater. Long term monitoring will take place for a couple of years. For those that have questioned me, the bugs die off after there is no solvent left to thrive on. This type of remediation will

also take place at southeast corner of P-1. All site remediation activities are estimated to be complete by mid-December so the parking should return to normal parking before the Christmas holiday. I thank all those for their patience during this time-frame and apologize for any inconvenience that may have occurred. If you would like to see or read further information on the sites for the base they are maintained in the base environmental office administrative record. Contact Lt. Col. Hamrick if you would like to review at 217-757-1329.



(Photo taken by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr)

The mission of maintenance - CIRF's up

by Lt. Col. Kenny Vennell
183rd Maintenance Commander

BRAC directed that we were to transition to an Engine Centralized Intermediate Repair Facility (CIRF). Little did we know the challenges that lie ahead. First we received a manning document. We soon discovered there were some major pieces of the puzzle missing. There was no backshop support listed. No Structural, Metals Technicians, Non-Destructive Inspections (NDI) or Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) shops. "How can that be?" we asked. It didn't take us long to figure that one out. Other CIRFs were located on bases with a flying unit and had the existing support shops. Next we discovered there were no munitions personnel listed. You may be wondering why we need munitions personnel if we don't have fighter aircraft. Security Forces has explosive items that are required for deployment and there is a requirement for a qualified munitions inspector to ensure proper storage, inspection and accountability of these items, as well as the bullets that are used for small arms qualification.

So we contacted the National Guard Bureau (NGB) for guidance. Their response was for us to build a unit manning document (UMD) to remedy the shortfalls. Does the old saying fox guarding the hen house ring a bell? Too say the least, we were tempted. However, we had to utilize some self-control because we discovered another issue that would require we maintain a good working relation-

ship with NGB. The issue was that no square footage model existed in the civil engineering (CE) world for an engine CIRF at an Air Guard base.

Most of you have probably seen the UPS television commercial where the guy is drawing on the white board. That was our life. We were at the white board everyday solving CIRF implementation problems ranging from UMDs to square footage and building layout (P-1, P-17 & P-26) issues. NGB sent a CE contingent to meet with us, walk the base and discuss our plan. Initially we thought it would be a tough sell, but to our surprise they were very accommodating.

We then moved to the next phase. I'll tell you up front that I would rather stick myself in the eye with a sharp stick than go through this again. Meeting with the engineering firm to determine how the \$6.2 million dollars would be spent to convert P-1 into an engine maintenance facility was excruciating to say the least; lots of horse trading and concessions.

In the middle of all this we went through the Reduction in Force (RIF) on the Air Technician side. That's when Human Resources Office (HRO) looks at the full-time manning documents for the CIRF and Air Operations Center (AOC) and determines who gets placed where. This was a very anxious and stressful time. We had some guys take the early buy-outs for retirement and some took jobs with the Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) at Scott AFB. I have no idea how this all worked out, but no permanent full-time personnel lost their job.

Ok, the worst is over, or so we think. We have personnel applying for tech school dates and then NGB directs us to stand up a Transitional Phase Mission. Each time an F-16 accumulates 300 flight hours, it's required to go through Phase mainte-

nance. This consists of inspecting the jet from nose to tail for defects that may have occurred during this time. Depending on where the jet is during the maintenance cycle it may involve some major inspections and maintenance such as a 600 hour line inspection or a landing gear overhaul. So it was back to the white board to determine who would go to engine shop, who would remain in phase and where we would accomplish the inspection because of the hangar refurbishment.

Initially we continued the phase maintenance in the P-1 (the main hangar), while we performed a major self-help project in P-26 (the hangar next to P-1). This project was spearheaded by our former weapons personnel. It turned into more than just a self-help project. We had assistance from CE, Contracting and Environmental. Thanks Guys!

Wing Contracting informed us that they were going to issue a "Notice to Proceed" for the hangar rehab. So we relocated the Phase operation into P-26. During this time we were in the process of turning in equipment that was no longer needed. We also had an enormous amount of office equipment such as desks, file cabinets, bookcases, and TVs that we no longer had room for. We moved it all into the center of the hangar and had the "P-1 Garage Sale." "Everything must Go... Will take any offer... All Sales Final... No Refunds!" Actually, everyone on base took whatever they needed and the rest was either sent to DRMO or salvage.

The word spread faster than a prairie fire throughout the National Guard that we were going into the phase business. We were inundated with e-mails and phone calls. Due to the BRAC of F-16 Air Guard units, the remaining flying units would face increased operations tempo with less time between inspection cycles and

Wing Organization Series

AEF deployments. To keep pace, they would have to outsource some phase work. NGB approved our Memorandum of Agreement for Phase Operations and we were in business. Within the past year we accomplished 13 Phase Inspections adding 3900 hours of available flight time into the ANG F-16 fleet. That's the equivalent of one year's worth of flying hours for one unit!

As the end of the fiscal year approached, we were looking forward to winding down the phase operation and concentrating all of our efforts on the Engine CIRF. We were planning on scheduling tech school slots, sorting through all the engine equipment we accumulated over the past year and forecasting an aggressive Service Life Extension Program (SLEP). SLEP consists of a major engine overhaul and had previously been accomplished by the engine depots. When we had our F-16s there was a backlog of engines requiring SLEP and we were granted special authorization to accomplish this maintenance.

We were also looking at transitioning to "Lean Operations." Lean Operations is the term used to describe a more efficient operation. Basically we were looking at transitioning from an engine dock maintenance operation where one crew overhauls the entire engine to Lean Operations where the engine is disassembled into its different sections and the work is completed simultaneously. The price you pay for Lean Operations is more floor space.

So we're standing at the plate looking for a fastball and get thrown a changeup. We were directed to continue Phase operations for another year! OK, ... The Master Caution Light just illuminated and the Teelight panel is lit up like a Christmas tree! Take a deep breath, wind the clock, maintain aircraft control, ana-

lyze the situation, take proper action and land as soon as conditions permit. Someone find the UPS guy and get his whiteboard because ours disappeared during the garage sale! We've inherited a whole new set of problems. So began the process of sorting it out.

First we met with the Human Resource Office and built a Phase UMD. Up to this point, it was like the Nike commercial...Just Do It. Now with our manpower pool attrition due to technicians attending engine schools it was time to build a Phase UMD and fill it. This would add some normalcy to the Phase technicians lives. They could plan ahead for the next year and schedule their tech school dates from there. The UMD would also delineate a clear and concise command and control structure.

Next on the list was how to initiate Lean Operations if we lost hangars P-26 for phase and P-17 for aircraft fuels maintenance (part of the phase)? Also there were shops (Egress, Electric and Hydraulic) previously housed in P-1 that would no longer be needed when the phase mission was terminated. So where do we relocate them for the next year? Let's just say we sorted out the details with the bottom line of conducting lean operations in the present engine shop, P-23 former Weapons/Armament building and P-44 a de-sited munitions missile maintenance building. This was not the most efficient or ideal way of doing business, but you still have to play the hand you're dealt. That Nike Commercial is starting to get old!

The next issue was to determine the number of phase inspections to be accomplished over the next year. We accomplished 13 during the previous fiscal year, but this year we have less manpower and space. We called NGB and determined that nine inspections would be a good number. Initially, the

plan was to schedule four slots and as one aircraft rolls out, we would schedule another one until we get to our target number of nine. This will allow some flexibility at NGB to determine who has the most pressing need for phase priority without locking it up in case of changing circumstances.

Another issue was that the T-10 Engine Test Cell required some major scheduled maintenance. It was disassembled and the packing for sound proofing was replaced. This resulted in trucking engines to Des Moines, Iowa, Madison, Wis., and Fort Wayne, Ind., for engine runs and operational checks after maintenance. So for a while, every week we had engine and transportation personnel TDY. With the test cell refurbishment complete, there is no doubt in anyone's mind that we're "CIRFing". You can hear it and feel the vibration from the test cell runs!

In addition to accomplishing our job here at the 183d Fighter Wing, our people have been working hard to complete their retraining to meet mission requirements. So far we have had three graduates from 3-level school, three graduates from Field Training Detachment (FTD) at Hill AFB, Utah, eleven graduates from a home-station FTD and 4 attending a 3-level technical school. We will continue to send personnel to 3-level tech schools throughout the year and finish at the end of the fiscal year with home station FTDs to catch the remaining phase workforce.

Land as soon as conditions permit? Not Quite! But the Captain has told everyone to fasten their seat belts and prepare for decent.

Next month: 217th EIS

Wing Organization Series



MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



Family Readiness News

If you have a member of your family that is a past or current member of the 183rd, or have information that a past or current member of the 183rd has passed away recently, please contact Mr. Joe Ward, Family Readiness Manager. We want to ensure that no one is forgotten for the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony commemorating all past and current members that have lost their lives each year. The Family Support Group is still sending sympathy cards to all deceased members' families, as well, but once again, we need the information. You can contact Joe at by email joe.ward.1@ang.af.mil or by calling 217-757-1569.

HELP WANTED

The 183d Family Readiness and Support Group needs your help. We are trying to recruit members, both new and old. I would like to have your input. From previous members, what worked and what didn't. From new members, what do you have to bring to the group and what you would you like to see incorporated into the group? So, let's band together, combine our ideas, and build a Family Support Group that we all will want to participate in.

Volunteer Sign-up Form

Unit: _____

Email Address: _____

Name: _____

Specialty: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

City: _____

State & Zip Code _____

Please return to:

183d Family Readiness Group
3101 J. David Jones Parkway
Springfield, IL. 62707-5001

or email it to:

joe.ward.1@ang.af.mil
(217) 757-1569

1. AUTHORITY: U.S. Code: Title 10, Subtitle E, Part I, Chapter 1007, Section 10204, and other subsets of Title 10.
2. PURPOSE: To collect the information necessary to process the action indicated by the form you are completing
3. ROUTINE USES: This information will not be disclosed outside the Department of Defense.
4. DISCLOSURE: Voluntary. However, failure to provide the information requested will result in the form not being processed, and may result in a denial of the intended action.

Announcement

The Security Forces Squadron has a First Sergeant vacancy projected for May 2010. This is a position of mentoring, guiding and helping others to insure a more rewarding and satisfying career. The First Sergeant works to meet the needs of the troops - their job is to take care of assigned "airmen." Health, welfare, and discipline are all facets of the First Sergeant's job. The tour length is a minimum of three years and a maximum of six years.

Requirements:

GRADE: Individual must be a Master Sgt., or a promotable Tech Sgt.

PME: Applicants must have completed the NCO Academy in residence or through correspondence prior to submitting the application.

RETAINABILITY: Selected individual must have an ETS 3 years beyond assignment date. A reenlistment may be necessary.

MANDATORY AFSC ENTRY (ASVAB) SCORES:
(A). Administrative: 41 (B).
General: 62.

FIRST SGT ACADEMY (FSA): Selected individual must attend the FSA within 12 months of assignment.

FITNESS: Member must have a minimum score of 75 taken within the last 60 days.

If your are interested in applying, or have additional questions, please contact Command Chief Tom Hergenrother at ext. 578, or your assigned First Sergeant.

217th transfers to Air Force Space Command

by Lt. Col. James Loux
217th Engineering and Installation Squadron Commander

Effective Oct. 1 the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron transferred to the Air Force Space Command (AFSPC). Not only did the State of Illinois gain a new MAJCOM, but the Engineering Installation (EI) unit under AFSPC will be used for space and cyberspace capabilities. The realignment under AFSPC and 24th Air Force provided the Air Force with one operational command for the entire tactical space and cyberspace community including cyber units in the Guard. It will allow space and cyberspace capabilities to be more accessible to military ground commanders and more effectively resourced, said Gen C. Robert Kehler, AFSPC Commander, on Aug. 18 in a roundtable interview with military reporters.

As an ACC gained unit, EI units supported the Warfighter, but moving to AFSPC is actually a better fit for our capabilities and are more relevant for a cyber mission. The following comments were taken from an AFSPC Cyber Planning Status briefing.

The National Guard Bureau Integrated Process



Team developed the draft Air Force Cyberspace Roadmap and defined cyberspace as, “A global domain within the information environment consisting of the interdependent network of information technology infrastructures, including the Internet, telecommunications networks, computer systems, and embedded processors and controllers.” The Air Force considers cyberspace to be a physical domain, like air, land, sea and space. The ANG cyber force structure which exists today includes; Engineering Installation units, Combat Comm, Base Comm, Joint Communication units, Space Squadrons, Network Warfare and Information Operations Squadrons. Not all these units are gained by AFSPC, but the vast majority has been gained by AFSPC.

Cyber is a mission tailor made for the ANG. The Air National Guard is ideally suited for surge requirements. Traditional Guardsmen provide very advanced skill sets not likely to be retained on active duty. They are immediately attuned to industry advances, inherently “joint” at the state level; there is an inherent homeland security (militia) role in cyber operations and the Air National Guard provides continuity to the mission.

EI is excited to be part of Air Force Space Command and Cyber Operations. Our mission will be to organize, train, and equip cyber forces to conduct sustained operations in and through cyberspace, fully integrated with air and space operations.

In the Spotlight

Who: Master Sgt. Bradley D. Allen

What: Engine Manager

When: Enlisted April 5, 1984 (Active); Sept. 6, 1988 (ANG)

Why: Looking for a job; initially came out to see what the 183d was about. Liked the base and decided to stay.

Civilian Employment: Technician

Civilian/Military Correlation: N/A

Recent/Favorite Deployment: Recent = three month in technical school at Sheppard AFB, Texas (graduated top in class). Favorite = Volk Field, Wis. and Eielson AFB, Alaska.



(Photo taken by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr)

Holiday shopping tips to prevent identity theft

submitted by the Base Legal Office
from: www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov

As you begin your shopping this holiday season, remember to take precautions to guard against identity theft and financial fraud. The joy and celebration of the holidays can be dampened by would-be thieves who seek to profit from your good name and credit. Whether you shop online or in a store, it is important to protect yourself.

Q. The holidays are approaching and I'm ready to shop! But with so many people victimized by identity theft these days, I'm worried about keeping my financial information safe. How can I protect myself as I purchase gifts for my loved ones?

A. By taking some simple precautions, you can help to ensure that your information remains safe. Before you go shopping, clean out your wallet or purse and take only the identification and financial information you'll need. If you know you'll be paying with one particular credit card, leave your other cards and checkbook at home in a secure place. Other items best left locked up at home include your Social Security card and anything with sensitive personal or financial information.

While at the store, keep track

of your purse or wallet, and be careful of old-fashioned, low-tech pick-pocketing and theft. Thieves count on your being distracted and leaving your purse open or unattended, so it is important to remain alert. Once you make a purchase, keep track of your receipt and make sure your full credit or debit card number is not printed on the customer copy. By law, the full number should not appear on the receipt you take home – if it does, notify the Attorney General's Office. Keep all of your receipts in a safe place in case you need them to return or exchange an item.

After your shopping trip, check your statements. Examine credit card account statements each month and dispute unauthorized or fraudulent charges immediately. As always, review your bank account statements and pay close attention to bank account balances between statements. While federal law limits your liability for unauthorized credit card charges up to \$50, purchases made with your debit or ATM card, as well as ATM withdrawals, may not be similarly protected. You may be liable for unauthorized charges or withdrawals, especially if you do not report the problem within 60 days. If you notice a withdrawal or debit card charge that you did not authorize, contact your bank immediately to dispute the charge.

Q. This year, I have decided to shop from the comfort of my own home. How can I keep my personal and financial informa-

tion private as I purchase gifts online?

A. Before shopping online, be sure to update your computer with spam filters, anti-virus software, antispyware software and a firewall. Once your computer is protected and you are ready to shop, look for reputable stores with secure Web sites. To determine that a Web site is secure, make sure that the Web site address changes from "http" to "shttp" or "https" at the point in the transaction when you are asked to provide payment information. The addition of the "s" in the address indicates that the site is secure.



Do not respond to phishing e-mails or enter personally identifiable information into pop-up screens. Phishing

is a widespread scam wherein con artists posing as legitimate financial institutions request your private information via e-mail. Remember that legitimate companies do not ask for personal information in e-mails. Similarly, legitimate companies will not ask you to provide personal information in a pop-up window. If you get such a request, it is probably from an identity thief. Use pop-up blocking software to reduce the number of pop-ups.

Remember that a little bit of common sense goes a long way. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. For more information on identity theft, please visit www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov or call 1-866-999-5630 (TTY: 1-877-844-5461).

Holiday safety

by Tech. Sgt. Chris Rosser
183rd Base Safety Office

It's easy to let safety go to the back of our minds with all the stress, distractions and fun to be had during the holiday season. Annually, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. These numbers justify a focus on fire safety from the many subjects that could be highlighted during the holiday season.

First let's focus on the Christmas tree itself. A few tips for preventing fires associated with the tree include:

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.



Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Most people use some form of electrical lighting to illuminate the tree and the home during the holiday season. Think about the following when you are putting up holiday lighting.

Maintain Your Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed

by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.

Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended

When putting up decorations consider where and how all decorations will be used. All decorations and artificial trees should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and not placed near heat sources. Disposing of wrapping paper in a fireplace could result in a much larger than expected fire. Please dispose of it in the trash. Avoid using candles, but if you must use them make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Finally, always have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Keep the above in mind and use common sense when celebrating. Please have safe and happy holiday season.

Mission Support Flight Customer Service

MPF Customer Service Hours:

- Mon/Wed/Fri: 0745-1645 (Closed on down Fridays)
- Tue/Thur: 1000-1645

UTA Weekend:

- Sat: 0800-1630
- Sun: 1230-1630

New lodging program at 183d

What is the Automated Lodging Reservation System (ALRS)?

The ALRS is an automated system to be used by ALL 183d personnel who are authorized lodging. All IDT/ADT lodging requirements are coordinated through the ALRS. The ALRS offers the member an assigned hotel at time of call. It eliminates the necessity of going through Services for hotel assignments. If you enter incorrect dates, ALRS will automatically prompt you to leave a phone number. The lodging point of contact will contact you if it is unclear what you are requesting.

How to make a reservation:

1. Call 217-757-1411
2. Put in SSN and PIN (last 4)
3. Select MAKE/CHANGE/CANCEL reservation
4. Enter arrival date (mmddyy)
5. Enter departure date (mmddyy)
6. Confirm information

NOTE: IDT = UTA/BUTA/SUTA/RUTA
(unit pays) ADT = on orders (self pay -
but reservations are made through ALRS)

Responsibilities:

Lodging accommodations are a privilege the 183d Wing Commander extends to his people. 183d members are required to cancel rooms by 4 p.m. on the day of arrival, otherwise the room will be paid for whether used or not. A list of no-shows will be provided to the Group or Wing Commander. 183d will pay for rooms that have been coordinated through the ALRS system only. Any lodging secured by the member directly may be subject to the the member's expense.

Frequently asked questions:

What do I do if I am on orders prior to/following the UTA? Make reservations through the system.

Follow prompt that suggests both ADT and IDT.

How do I change my PIN? You may change your PIN through the ALRS.

What if I forgot my PIN? You will need to contact Services at 217-757-1573.

What if I forgot to make a reservation and just walk in? Once you have been given a PIN you are required to use this system. Non-compliance reports will be provided to commanders.

What if I walk into a hotel without calling the ALRS to make lodging reservations? If you walk into a hotel and make your own accommodations you will be subject to pay the bill. All hotels know not to accept walk-ins.

47th Annual National Guard Bowling Tournament

The 47th Annual Air National Guard Bowling Tournament will be hosted in Salt Lake City, Utah, May 6 – 8, 2010.

Registration/check-in will be on May 6, at the host hotel hospitality suite with a chance to say hello to all of the bowlers participating in the tournament. Bowling will be May 7 and 8 with singles and doubles events on one day and team event on the other. Each event will cost \$28.00 per bowler with an optional \$3.00 charge for an all events category. The host hotel is The Radisson Downtown Hotel with a special room rate of \$90.00 per night. There will be buses providing round trip transportation from the host hotel to the bowling center.

This event is open to all current, retired, and civilian employees of the Air National Guard and their immediate family members.

To obtain more information or sign up, contact Master Sergeant Bernie Riddle in the NDI Lab at (217) 757-1220 or (217) 652-2267.

All names and money need to be turned in by March 7, 2010.



Unit members conquer first marathon

by Maj. Nancie Margetis
183rd Public Affairs

For runners, fall not only brings cooler temperatures and better training conditions, but the culmination of their running season. And for many runners, the marathon is the grand finale. Three 183d members were amongst the thousands of fall marathon runners to complete their first marathon this past October.

Maj. Melanie McDonald, Air Operations Group, and Tech. Sgt. John Coleman, Base Finance Office, completed the 32nd annual Chicago Marathon, Oct. 11. Senior Airman Aaron Rath, Air Support Squadron, travelled to Washington DC, to complete the 34th United States Marine Corp Marathon, Oct. 25.

These first time marathoners all shared three distinct challenges to ensure their success. Each runner had to find the right motivation, proper training program and personal support needed to complete the grueling 26.2 mile run.

For Tech. Sgt. Coleman, his motivation came from a challenge from his girlfriend's church minister who challenged the congregation to run the Chicago marathon to raise money for the children and people of Liberia. Similarly, Maj. McDonald's motivation involved raising money for Children's Memorial Marathon Team/Chicago.

Senior Airman Rath had a more personal reason, "I wanted to get in tip-top shape and thought that it would be a great goal to set for myself. Marathons are very challenging and not many people can say they have completed a run of 26.2 miles."

Another common thread these three runners shared were they all participated in the Lincoln Memorial Half-Marathon

in Springfield last April, where many unit members either ran the race, or help support runners by providing support at a water stop table.

Once they had the motivation, the next hurdle was how to train. Anyone can search the internet for a marathon training program and get thousands of hints. These runners had to find the training program that worked for them and each member took a different approach.

Maj. McDonald turned to Nike Novice Marathon program. "I began running regularly in Dec. 08, and began the Nike program four months prior to the marathon. In addition I trained with a couple of very close friends."

"My initial training began with a program called P90X. After the first month of this workout I wanted to begin running so I joined a running group in Springfield that met three days a week. So for the next several months I stayed determined and focused to complete the 90 program and to get into a regimented running routine," was Senior Airman Rath's plan of attack.

Tech Sgt. Coleman's training program was a 30-week Marathon Novice Supreme Training program that he downloaded from Hal Higdon's website. He picked up the training about week four and tried to follow it as well as he could. He also ran with the church group a few times for the Saturday long runs, but most of his long runs were by himself on the Rochester Trail.

With two of the three challenges under control, these runners could not have completed the training and ultimately the marathon without support. While support comes in many forms and fashions, the 183d provided vital support for these unit members.

"Members in particular that helped motivate me was Col. Meyer (always helps to get advice from someone who has actually ran the full 26.2 miles a couple times!), Lt. Col. Kevin Mulcahy, Maj.



Senior Airman Aaron Rath stands below the USMC Marathon finish line after he completed the October marathon. Courtesy Photo.

Shawn Green, Capt. Tara DeJanovich, 2nd Lt. John Moyer, Senior Master Sgt. Erin Roesch, Master Sgts. Jennifer Aurora and Jay Johnson, Tech. Sgt. Nate Bostic, and most importantly Senior Airman Rachel Canny," commented Coleman.

Maj. McDonald couldn't have done it without the support she received from the 183d. "The unit supports an hour of fitness each work day and also worked hard to put together a team for the Lincoln Memorial Half-Marathon in Springfield. We ended up with a pretty good sized group of highly motivated endurance athletes (including our base Commander, Col Meyer). The run included a well-manned 183d station for runners! Being a part of this team motivated me to complete my first half-marathon and started a great running habit that eventually led to the 26.2 in Chicago."

Senior Airman Rath agreed, "During my training, I ran with my friends who are also in the 183rd. These individuals were very positive, inspiring and motivating."

All members successfully completed their first marathon this past fall, and have made future plans to complete marathons in the future. Congratulations to these unit members and any other 183d members who completed a fall marathon. Less than 10% of the population can say they have completed a marathon. Now these members are part of two elite teams, the 183d Fighter Wing and marathoners.

183D HOLIDAY CELEBRATION - 2010

“80’S THEME”



Date: 9 January 2010

Time: 1900hrs – 2400hrs



Place: Springfield Eagles Club
2700 East Ash Street, Springfield, IL 62703

Finger foods, soda, water,
coffee, tea and beer provided
Festivities will include a cash bar

Door prizes and a 50/50 drawing

MSgt and above: \$10.00 per person
TSgt and below: \$5.00 per person

Ticket sales available during December UTA

HAPPY NEW YEAR

183d FW/PA
Illinois Air National Guard
Capital Airport
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Springfield, IL 62707-5001



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