



Falcon's

View

183rd Fighter Wing

Illinois Air National Guard, Springfield, IL

June 2008, Vol. VIII, No. 5

60 YEARS IN A FLASH!

by Staff Sgt. Michael Shamma
183rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Sixty years. What does that mean to you? Perhaps it's the age of a grandparent. Maybe it's the number of years plus 40 since the Cubs have won a World Series. To the people of the 183rd Fighter Wing, 60 years is another milestone to a legacy forged by the hard work and dedication of so many that came before us. But to truly know what 60 years means to the people of the 183rd, we need to examine a little bit of the history behind this unit.

The unit was founded on September 30, 1948. The unit was the first Air National Guard unit in the State of Illinois. As a fighter wing, the unit was given P-51 Mustang's. The famed fighter during World War II was, considered by many, to be the best fighter in the Air Force. The P-51 was a very good plane for a great unit. Soon there after in 1953, the unit was given F-86 Sabre's. Two years later, the unit received F-84 Thunderjets. The unit continued to be in the forefront of Air Guard units having the Air Force's first jet fighter during the



"Thanks to Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Winterbauer, Master Sgt. Doug Haenni, Master Sgt. Samuel Kassis, Master Sgt. Jay Seymour, Staff Sgt. Kevin Auth, Staff Sgt. Richard Hembrough, Staff Sgt. Jason Sandburg, Senior Airman Jason Clauser, Senior Airman Christopher Schaefer, various Crew Chiefs and other on-lookers for the design and production of the 60th Anniversary tail flash," said Col. Michael A. Meyer, Wing Commander.

Korean War era. During the Vietnam War the 183rd was thrust into action again and again with a new fighting tool. In 1972 the 183rd was delivered the F-4 Phantom II. The 183rd was the very first National Guard unit to convert to the Phantom's. After proving themselves during the Vietnam era the 183rd was thrust again into a new age of fighting. The F-16 Fighting Falcon was introduced to the unit in 1989. The F-16 was the most modern, maneuverable and durable fighter in the Air Force. Once again the Air Force introduced a great fighter for a great fighting unit.

Webster's dictionary defines



a legacy as "anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor." Eleven base commanders, five different fighters, thousands of missions flown, thousands of members current and past, and four successful war campaigns could define the 183rd as having a legacy. So it should come as no surprise to anyone that the legacy of this unit continues to live on through the inspiration of members currently a part of it.

In keeping with our rich tradition of excellence, a few 183rd members worked together to come up with a tail flash for an F-16 celebrating

FLASH, continued on page four

IN THIS ISSUE

Vietnam Memorial 20th Page 3	Flashback Retiree News Page 8	News from the Field Pages 9-11	A Day at the 183rd Page 12	Plans for the 60th Page 13	Incentive Flight Program Page 14	Heritage Spotlight Page 16	FLY THE FLEET Page 17
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------	------------------------------

Just the Facts

Unit Training Assembly Schedule and pay dates



<u>Duty Performed</u>	<u>Pays out (approx.)</u>
JUN 7-8	JUN 18
JUN 21-22	JUL 01
JUL 12-13	JUL 23

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
JULY issue of the
Falcon's View is COB
Saturday, June 7th.



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

TAG Policy Review

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL: MEMO 2003-11 FOR YOUR REVIEW



by Capt. Sonja Gurski
183rd Public Affairs Officer

With every right there is a responsibility that goes with it. As military members, we may be more familiar with that concept as we have assumed the responsibility to protect every American's right to be free.

This month we will review Illinois Department of Military Affairs Memo 2003-11, Dec. 01, 2003, Right to Communicate with an Inspector General (IG).

All members of the Illinois National Guard have the right to present complaints, grievances or requests for assistance to an IG. Furthermore, military and civilian personnel of the Departments of the Army and Air Force are prohibited from taking any action that restricts a member from filing a complaint, seeking assistance, or cooperating with an IG. They are also prohibited from taking any disciplinary or adverse action against a member for such communications with an IG.

Now, for the responsibility part: A member who lies or knowingly makes false statements to an IG will be subject to disciplinary action.

Also, before contacting an IG, you should first consider whether your concerns can be addressed more quickly and simply by referring them to the chain of command. This is not a requirement; you do not have to tell anyone why you want to contact or visit an IG. However, you must obtain permission to be absent from your duties if you wish to visit an IG during your duty hours.

All Inspectors General have a duty to protect confidentiality to the maximum extent possible. This is particularly true when it is specifically requested of persons who ask an IG for help, make a complaint, give evidence, contact or assist an IG during an inspection or investigation, or otherwise interact with an IG.

The Inspector General for the 183rd Fighter Wing is Lt. Col. Jeffry A. Rice. His office is located in building P-48, room 336 or you may call him at 757-1770.

In the event that you are dissatisfied with the Wing IG; or if you feel his response is not fair, complete or in accordance with law and regulation; or if you believe that your interests may be jeopardized by dealing with him, you may contact one of the following:

the State IG at Camp Lincoln, National Guard Bureau IG, Army IG, Air Force IG, or Department of Defense IG. Contact information for each of these is available in the official policy memorandum.

REMEMBER

by Staff Sgt. Michael Shamma
183rd Public Affairs

Members of the Springfield, Illinois community gathered at White Oaks Cemetery on May 3, 2008 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam War Memorial.

The ceremony began with the singing of the national anthem followed by introductions of honored guests. In attendance were 24 Vietnam Prisoners of War (POW). These men, with their families, paid their respects to those who have served and died in defense of this country.

Shortly after the ceremony began, F-16's from the 183rd Fighter Wing performed a fly-by over the memorial. The jets were flying in the missing man formation. This formation was flown to honor those men who still remain missing in action.

The keynote speaker for the event was Vietnam War Veteran and former POW Col. Don Hei-



Former POW Col. Don Heiliger, U.S. Air Force retired, gave the keynote address at the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam War Memorial in Springfield on Saturday, May 3rd.

liger, U.S. Air Force retired. Don spoke about the importance of remembering those who have gone before us.

“We must never forget those that paid the ultimate sacrifice for the defense of this country. We answered our countries call to arms and young men and women today continue to carry on the legacy we created for them just like the legacy we carried for the men and women before us.”

After the speech, a torch was lit and carried to a post that had the word ‘REMEMBER’ written on it.

The torch then lit the flame coming from the post. The flame symbolizes the current war we are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan and how we will continue to fight just as the flame will continue to burn. They passed the torch to us to carry on just as they did.

Following the lighting of the torch, bagpipers played traditional Irish march songs as POW's from each branch

of service laid wreaths around the memorial to pay homage to the men and women of each military branch that has served and died in the defense of this country.

Col. Heiliger added after the ceremony concluded, “My message to the young airmen in today’s Air Force is to serve with honor. I was captured on May 15, 1967 and was a prisoner of war until February 18,

1973. During my time at the Hanoi ‘Hilton’ I was able to get to know myself better and that translated into me becoming a stronger man. Getting shot down over Vietnam was bad but the brotherhood I formed with my fellow prisoners ended up being something I can carry forever.

“People say that today’s generation is nothing special. I assure you that it is. I constantly see young faces like yours anxious to serve. I am very proud of this generation of airmen and soldiers. I’m not worried about the status of our military. You boys are doing a fine job. My message to everyone is that come home safe. We hope you all return. Godspeed to everyone. Thank you for your service,” concluded Heiliger.

Thank you Col. Heiliger for your service as well. Men like you remind us that even under the toughest circumstances, we can persevere. With inspirational men like Col. Heiliger, we will continue to serve and continue to make him proud.



A path lined with empty combat boots led to a wooden cross bearing the word “REMEMBER”, service member identification tags, and a helmet at the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam War Memorial ceremony in Springfield on May 3rd.

Communications for the next era!

by Chief Master Sgt. Victor Wurtzler
Info Systems Branch Chief

A new era is about to begin. As I look back on my life, one of the things I am the most proud of is having once been a part of Aircraft Maintenance as an Avionics Technician at the 183rd Fighter Wing. The 183rd has always been a quality organization.

As far back as I can remember and further, we were setting and holding records in sortie numbers, FMC (Fully Mission Capable) rates and we were always leaders in how whatever aircraft we were assigned, were maintained. We have always been people who thought outside the box, performed our missions well and were authorities in our respective fields of aircraft maintenance. The same has always been true all over the base whether it be a direct part of the flying mission or some other support role. I am proud to have been connected in this way to each and every one of you!

So, here we are approaching some new challenges. It is sad but also a very exciting time to be a member of the 183rd Fighter Wing. In the Communications arena, we do not intend to end the era of being leaders in our field and doing the assigned mission better than the rest of the Air Force. We have a legacy to continue. So here is what we are doing.

Over the next few years, we will be completely re-engineering and re-configuring the communications infrastructure of this base. We have been awarded two million dollars to do just that. The two million dollars does not include the money that will be spent specifically on the



communications facets of the new missions and their related buildings and facilities. It is money we will spend to make the communications infrastructure of the base, one that meets the needs of the future and the future missions here whatever they may be.

We will also be welcoming some of you who have been doing other jobs on base and we are looking forward to working more closely with a lot of you. We have always been proud to take some of the best and brightest people from around the base and make them quality communicators. We welcome those of you who move to base Communications, or to the communications portion of the C-NAF, with open arms!

I said I was proud to have once been an aircraft maintainer here at the 183rd. I am not proud of that because of the aircraft. I am proud of that because of the people. The exceptional people of the 183rd made it a quality unit, not the aircraft. I know that legacy will continue into the future.

In the Communications Flight, we are taking those first steps today toward making sure the next 60 years are just as rewarding and successful as the last 60 were for the 183rd. I am, and have been, proud to be a member of the 183rd no matter what our mission happens to be.

A lot of work is yet to be done to make the next era successful. We in Communications will need the help of a lot if not most of you to do that. We thank you now for the attitude and professionalism that is a hallmark of what it means to be the 183rd.

If you have questions about this or anything else Communications related, call the Helpdesk at 241!! Or, you can always call me at extension 576!

FLASH, continued from page one

members worked together to come up with a tail flash for an F-16 celebrating 60 great years of service to the state of Illinois and the United States.

Master Sgt. Samuel J. Kassis, 183rd Public Affairs, Tech. Sgt. Jason E. Sandberg, Weapons Release Mechanic, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey A. Baer, 183rd NCOIC Component Repair and Master Sgt. Richard H. Shanner, Jet Engine Mechanic, became a committee assigned with the task of coming up with something to celebrate 60 years of flying for this unit. Everyone would soon find out, the right men for the job were on top of things.

Sandberg, who currently is finishing up a bachelors degree in sculpting, has been painting since as long as he can remember.

“Since the Air Force does not fund me to have clay and a hot oven to take with me on deployments, I decide to take up painting during my down time,” said Sandberg jokingly. “Painting is something I love to do. I’ve done paintings in the Middle East on concrete barriers to show everyone that the 183rd was there. People were so impressed I even did one for the United Kingdom’s Royal Air Force. Painting is a hobby of mine that fortunately I get to share with others.”

Once the ideas were set and final drafts were made, it was up to Kassis to put the image onto a computer and graphically illustrate it.

“It was an incredible experience,” said Kassis. “It’s one thing to be a graphic designer, but it’s something truly special to design something for an aircraft. The work we did is now on the plane and we are forever part of history. It’s a really special feeling.”

Once the final draft was approved, work began around the clock to paint the tail. Sandberg was supervising the painting of the tail while coordinating with numerous shops to make sure every detail was covered and nothing was left forgotten.

“It took hundreds of man hours and nearly a month to complete this project from start to finish,” said Sandberg. “We had great support from everyone including our base commander. It was a complete honor to do something related to the jets using my art skills.”

“It looks fantastic,” said Col. Michael Meyer, 183rd Fighter Wing Commander. “It looks even better than the designs. All those who worked on this project should be proud of their accomplishments. This will be a source of great pride for all who have served in this outstanding unit since its inception.”

Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do; the core values of the United States Air Force are living strong in the 183rd. So 60 years could mean the number of year you want to be alive before retiring or the number of years we’ll have to wait before the Cubs finally do win a World Series but to the people of the 183rd, 60 years means pride and honored service to the city of Springfield, the state of Illinois, and to the United States. Happy 60th 183rd!! Here’s to many more!!

Strong Bonds in the Air National Guard

by Lt. Col. Robert L. Barry
183rd Wing Chaplain

Critical to sustaining our mission is sustaining order and peace in our personal lives. As all of us know, this has become increasingly difficult in recent years because of deployments, separations and reunions, the increased operations tempo and BRAC. Mercifully, we are not alone in this, and assertive measures are being taken by all branches of the military to assist us.

Recently, Air National Guard Leadership allocated \$1 million to enable Air Guard personnel to participate in the "Strong Bonds" program initiated by the Army. While some details are not yet clear, it is hoped that Guard members will avail themselves of these programs to strengthen their families and marriages and to form stronger and deeper relationships. It is our hope that 183rd members who feel they could benefit from these programs will participate in them.

There are three kinds of programs in which ANG members



and their families can enroll, and we would especially recommend these for deploying members and their families.

Strong Bonds for Singles is a program aims at enabling singles to make good relationship choices through an off-site retreat weekend. During the retreat, there will be skills training and teachings, recreation, relaxation and fellowship.

The Strong Bonds for Couples program seeks to say "thank you" to couples for the sacrifices couples make to support the world's premier fighting force. The off-site weekend retreat program enables couples to develop com-

munication and relationship building skills as well as share intimate moments. The program is based on a proven curriculum that has been developed over many years.

The Strong Bonds for Families is a program for families to help them cope with long deployments and to sustain healthy relationships throughout the years of military life. Through teachings and skills training, it aims at maintaining closeness during relocations, separations and repeated reunions.

The Illinois National Guard is planning on hosting a number of these events throughout the state, and ANG members who wish to attend should contact their wing chaplain's office. The dates and places of these events have yet to be set, but notice will be given when they are established.

Religious Services (Room 308)

Protestant Service:

Saturday 1500hrs Chapel

Catholic Mass:

Saturday 1600hrs Chapel

Base Chapel Office:

Bldg. P-48 (new bld)

Room 302

Phone 757-1367

Fax (217)757-1509

DSN 892-8367



† † † † † **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

Maj. Jeff Laible
316 S. Logan Street
phone: 217-735-4019
email: Frlaible@
holyfamilylincoln.com

Protestant Chaplain:

Maj. In Suk Peebles
310 South 4th Street, PO Box 186
Clinton, IN 47842
Office: 765- 832-3159
e-mail: clintonfirst@gmail.com

Bobber or Chopper... Bikers, Start Your Engines!

by Master Sgt. Michael D.
Niepert
183rd Safety Office



It has become a rite of summer: the low rumble of motorcycles cruising along highways, back roads and downtown streets. There is no better time than this for the state's growing number of motorcycle enthusiasts. Winter has passed and they can enjoy riding in warm temperatures, but the dangers are clear.

The 101 critical days of summer are upon us and the statistics show riders have an 80 percent chance of injury or death if they are involved in a crash, while people riding in cars have about a 20 percent chance. Now there are more motorcycles on the road than ever before, with registrations topping 40,000 for the first time last year.

Here are some common sense safety rules to follow while on the road and before you ride:

Get Trained and Licensed
- Take an MSF Rider Course and get licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Visit www.msf-usa.org, or call (800) 446-9227.

Check your motorcycle. If your bike has been parked in the garage all winter, check the tire pressure and make sure your brakes work.

Leather up. The sun may shine but don't think it's OK to wear flip-flops and tank tops while riding. The road doesn't care how hard you hit it.

Wear a good helmet. Those approved by the Department of Transportation protect your head the best, and throw away your thin novelty helmet. They're cool until you need it, then it's useless.

Ride Unimpaired. Never use alcohol or other drugs when riding.

Avoid heavy traffic and stay off busy highways. Instead take back roads that are less crowded and often more scenic.

Start earlier in the day. If you start in finish your ride earlier, you don't have to share the roads with drunken drivers coming back from their holiday partying.

Report debris. Call 911 to report road hazards so riders behind you aren't injured by fallen rocks and winter potholes.

Ride Within Your Limits
- Don't ride faster or longer than your abilities allow.

Be a Lifelong Learner
- Regularly return for refresher rider training courses to brush up on skills and knowledge.

Ride defensively. Lane sharing for motorcyclists is legal, but use your head and limit it to low speeds. Never assume that someone sees you in the lane and always be ready to react.

For car drivers and other motorists:

Look out for motorcyclists. Use your eyes and mirrors to see what's around.

Don't Be Distracted.
Hang up and drive, put down the food, the pet, the personal grooming gear, the MP3 player, and the reading material and save it for later.

Give two-wheelers some room. Don't tailgate or get too close.

Use Your Turn Signals.
Signal your intentions. It's also the law.

Keep it in the car. Don't throw trash out the window, and secure cargo that can fall out on the road and become a deadly hazard.

All of these are all doable, real-world actions that will cut down crashes and fatalities.

Above everything else, it's about the human element, the attitude, the mind-set that motorcyclists and motorists have, and the choices they make out there on the road. Until next time be safe!

MEN'S HEALTH-WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

by Tech. Sgt. Amy K. Murphy
183rd Medical Group

Men's health is an overall concern in America today. Women are 100% more likely to visit the doctor than men and often times, men do not realize they have a disease or disorder until it is too late. Men die at higher rates than women from these top ten causes of death:

- Heart disease
- Cancer
- Unintentional illnesses
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Diabetes
- Pneumonia
- Suicide
- Kidney disease
- Alzheimer's disease

This article will touch on the top three men's health conditions, which are prostate cancer, erectile dysfunction and testicular cancer.

Prostate cancer is cancer of the prostate, which is a small walnut-shaped gland in males that surrounds the urethra (tube that carries urine from the bladder out of the body) below the bladder. Prostate cancer is one of the most common types of cancer, affecting one in six men in the United States today. Prostate cancer usually grows at a slow rate and stays confined to the prostate gland. Prostate cancer typically has no signs and symptoms so it is generally not detected until it has spread beyond the prostate gland. Some common signs and symptoms are trouble urinating, starting and stopping of urine flow, decreased force in the urine stream, and blood in urine and or semen.

Some common risk factors associated with prostate cancer include males over age 50, race (African Americans), family history, and increased testosterone levels.

The American Cancer Society recommends yearly prostate screenings. These would include a PSA (blood test), digital rectal exams (I think you know what that entails!), and a biopsy of the prostate.

Treating Prostate cancer can be done in more than one way; radiation therapy, radioactive seed implants and prostatectomy, which is the actual removal of the prostate gland itself and chemotherapy.

Another common male disorder is erectile dysfunction. This is the failure to maintain a firm erection long enough to have sexual intercourse. This disorder can occur at any age but is more frequent in older men. Erectile dysfunction can be caused by numerous factors such as: Increased blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, medications, previous treatment for prostate cancer, multiple sclerosis, surgeries or injuries that affect the pelvic/spinal cord area, depression, anxiety, stress, and fatigue.

Treatment options are readily available if you are willing to ask for help from your doctor. There are medications (Viagra ring a bell?), vascular surgery (surgery to help increase blood flow to the penis area) and penile implants.

Last, but not least, is testicular cancer. This type of cancer happens in the male testicles. This is a rare type of cancer, most common in men aged fifteen to thirty-four. Signs and symptoms of testicular cancer can include lump in the testicle, a dull ache in the abdomen or groin area, pain in the testicle, fluid buildup in the testicle area, and unexplained fatigue.

Some factors make some men more susceptible for developing this type of cancer. Risk factors include an undescended testicle, ones family history, age, and race.

Treatment options could be removal of the diseased testicle, radiation and chemotherapy.

There are many ways to live a healthy life, if you are a man or a woman. Going to your doctor with these mentioned diseases is not a sign of weakness by any means. Go to your doctor on a yearly basis and get the much needed screenings.

Taking the time to de-stress for both your physical and mental health is not a luxury, but a necessity. A healthier, happier you make you a better spouse, brother, friend and father.

Promotions

Lieutenant Colonel

Jeffrey G. Laible

Captain

Matthew S. Hodges

Staff Sergeant

Roy C. Clapp

Joseph D. Daugherty

Rodney J. Halford

Alex M. Hampton

Adam J. Logue

Louis Scroggins

Laura L. Tibbs

Airman

Lindsay M. Smith

On a Personal Note

Birth Announcement



Master Sgt.
Misty L. Blair
(183MDG) and
Mr. Trevor Duncan

are the proud new parents of a baby girl.

Macie Hope was born May 3rd, weighing seven pounds, six ounces and was 20.5 inches tall.

Macie is the first child for the happy couple.

Congratulations Trevor and Misty!

THINK OPSEC



It is essential that we protect our critical and sensitive information from compromise or disclosure.



Welcome Aboard

Maj. Charles R. Coderko, Civil Engineering Squadron, Nov. 2, 2007

Airman 1st Class Christopher D. Bergbower, Security Forces Squadron, Mar. 20, 2008

Capt. William R. Dolosic Jr., 217th Engineering Installation Squadron, Apr. 1, 2008

Senior Airman Jacob A. Blome, Security Forces Squadron, Apr. 17, 2008

Airman 1st Class Kyle W. Kulenkamp, Security Forces Squadron, Apr. 17, 2008

Airman 1st Class Lakin E. Stock, Security Forces Squadron, Apr. 17, 2008

Airman Ryan M. Armstrong, Security Forces Squadron, Apr. 17, 2008

Airman Aaron M. Eldridge, Civil Engineering Squadron, Apr. 17, 2008

2nd Lt. Matthew A. Clements, Headquarters Illinois ANG, Apr. 25, 2008

2nd Lt. Melanie K. Crays, Wing Headquarters, Apr. 25, 2008

2nd Lt. Maureen A. Didonato, Headquarters Illinois ANG, Apr. 25, 2008

Lt. Col. Jonathan R. Payne, Headquarters Illinois ANG, Apr. 30, 2008

Master Sgt. Matthew A. Hemann, Civil Engineering Squadron, May 8, 2008

Airman 1st Class Justin H. Hamilton, Security Forces Squadron, May 8, 2008

Airman 1st Class Eric P. Schildmeyer, Security Forces Squadron, May 8, 2008

Announcements

5th ANNUAL AIR NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT OPEN BUDDY BASS TOURNAMENT

The 5th annual Air National Guard Family Support Open Buddy Bass Tournament will be held at Lake Springfield, Lindsey Boat Ramp, on June 15, 2008. The tournament will begin at 6 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m., with a pre-tournament meeting at 5:30 a.m.

There is a \$130 entry fee per boat (\$100 tournament entry, \$5 big bass, \$25 donation to family support). There is a 60 boat limit and payouts are based on 60 boats:

1st Place-----\$2000.00

2nd Place-----\$1500.00

3rd Place-----\$750.00

4th Place-----\$500.00

5th Place-----\$250.00

Take off positions will be determined by the order in which the entries are received. A number of temporary lake permits for June 14 & 15 are available, if needed.

Contact: Steve Parker for more info and entry forms Steven.parker@ilspri.ang.af.mil 217-741-4255 or 217-757-1454.



New Family Readiness and Support Manager Selected



Senior Master Sgt. Joe D. Ward, NCOIC of Avionics Systems, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He has been selected as the new Family Readiness and Support Manager for the 183rd Fighter Wing.

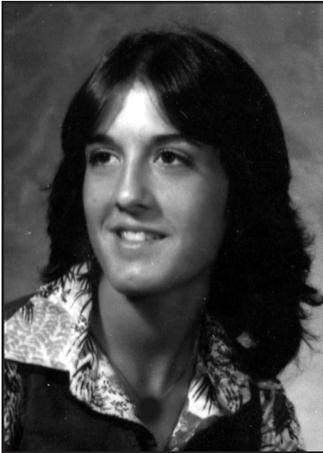
The Family Readiness and Support program serves an educational and support function.

They help to prepare family members for the possible deployment of the Guard member and a support role for assistance resources while

the Guard member is deployed.

Congratulations Senior Master Sgt. Ward and best of luck!

Flash Back



Last Month:

*Senior student
Theresa Boyle
Sacred Heart
Academy and
recently enlisted IL
ANG member
Springfield, Ill.
May 1979*

*Senior Master Sgt.
Theresa M. Snyder
NCOIC of
the Financial
Management office
Wing Headquarters
May 2008*



This Month:



Are you harboring some "price-less" old photos of one of your Air Guard co-workers? Waiting for just the right moment to share that vintage look of yester-year? Well, here's your venue!

Feedback received by Public Affairs

indicates that most of our readers enjoy seeing the old photos and how our members have changed... or not changed.

No one knows our members like their co-workers. We have just about exhausted our level of recognition on who we can accurately identify in the history files photos. For the Flashback to continue, we will need your submissions.

So, got some chin-length sideburns, handlebar mustaches, or bouffant hairdos you'd like to share? Bring it on!

"There I was..." (Retiree News)

New Retirees

Chief Master Sgt. James D. Hill
Civil Engineering Squadron
April 2008

Lt. Col. James R. Lund
Civil Engineering Squadron
April 30, 2008

Tech Sgt. Robert A. Rogers
Logistics Readiness Squadron
June 1, 2008

Breakfast gathering

Retirees gather on the first Tuesday of each month to share breakfast and talk about the good ol' days. Join them at King Pin Lanes, on the corner of Sangamon Ave. and Dirksen Parkway, Tuesday, JUNE 3RD.

They say they meet at 8 a.m. but if you're not there by 7:30, the early birds have taken the good seats!

Wing Spotlight

183rd Maintenance Group Chief Honored by Peers

*By Master Sgt. Sharon K. Gabriel
183rd Maintenance Operations Flight*

Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin L. White, NCOIC of Quality Services, 183rd Maintenance Group, was honored at the Air National Guard Mega Conference in Reno, Nev., in April.

Chief White was recognized amongst his Quality Assurance Chiefs by Chief Master Sgt. Jim Honeycutt, National Guard Bureau Aircraft Maintenance Superintendent.

White has served as the F-16 SPOC, Team Chief Lead on the Logistics Standard Evaluation Team (LSET), as the Quality Superintendent on the LSET, as the Team Lead on unit-requested staff assistance visits, served on the committee for the rewrite of Air Force Instruction 21-101 Aircraft and Equipment Maintenance Management, and numerous other Guard Bureau activi-



ties.

Due to his expertise and dedication, his QA peers honored him with some well deserved recognition. Congratulations and thank you for your many sacrifices outside our local unit!

Airmen respond to coalition forces' fire

by Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan
407th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs



4/14/2008 - ALI BASE, Iraq
-- Airmen from the fire department and provost marshal's office along with Army medics responded to a structure fire in the Romanian Coalition Force Camp here at 8:26 a.m., April 11.

The 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters and military police Airmen from the 407th Provost Marshal's office immediately responded to the scene after a wooden building in the camp caught fire only minutes beforehand. There were no injuries or deaths.

"We caught the blaze in a crossfire and attacked it with everything we had," said Master Sgt. Jay Watts, 407th ECES assistant fire chief, deployed from Springfield Air National Guard Base, Ill.

To combat the fire, the fire department deployed every available truck to "safeguard our Romanian brothers," said Master Sgt. Jay Watts, 407th ECES assistant fire chief, deployed from Springfield Air National Guard Base, Ill.

"The building was fully engulfed when we arrived and there were flames shooting out of the eaves and windows about 15 to 20 feet and there was massive amounts of smoke," said Sergeant Watts.

The team immediately dispatched a majority of the firefighters to the rear of the building because that was where

ALI BASE, Iraq -- The 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron fire fighters repond to a blazing building in the Romanian camp here April 11. The Air force emergency response forces respond to all emergencies here including coalition partners, such as the Romanians, or other services, like the U.S. Army and Navy. (U. S. Air Force photo / Tech. Sgt. Sabrina Johnson)

most of the fire was. Sergeant Watts said they then sent the remaining firefighters to the front of the building to begin pushing the flames toward the rest of their team.

"We caught

the blaze in a crossfire and attacked it with everything we had," said Master Sgt. Watts. "Within forty minutes of the initial call, we had the fire completely extinguished."

The emergency response forces remained on scene until 10:26 a.m. while they "went through the building to clear any hot spots and remove any salvageable items," said Tech. Sgt. Walsh, 407th ECES firefighter, deployed from Misawa Air Base, Japan.

According to fire department officials, the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

"It was a total loss," Sergeant Walsh said.

Air force emergency response forces respond to all emergencies here including those involving coalition partners, such as the Romanians, or other services, like the U.S. Army and Navy.

"They're our coalition partners; they are our brother-in-arms," said Capt. Kevin Lombardo, 407th PMO provost marshal, deployed from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. "They help us outside the wire so we are doing everything we can to help them inside the wire."

The Air Force firefighters and military police, regularly train with the Army medics stationed here and respond to emergencies.

"We work hand-in-hand with these guys during training and almost every emergency on [Contingency Operating Base] Adder," the captain said. "We are a fully trained, equipped and disciplined emergency response force here to assist anybody from any country requiring help and assistance."

AT/FP Road Show

by Capt. James E. Robinson
183rd Security Forces Squadron Commander (deployed)

As two Antiterrorism Officers from the 183rd Fighter Wing, Master Sgt. Edward M. Ferguson and I deployed to provide Antiterrorism/Force Protection services for the 447th Air Expeditionary Group. The 447th Air Expeditionary Group, located at Sather Air Base, adjacent to Baghdad International Airport, was established in April 2003. It's a self-sufficient and geographically-separated unit of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad Air Base.

Sather Air Base is one of the busiest airfields in Iraq, with hundreds of transient aircraft activities each week. The mission at Sather accommodates thousands of passengers and tons of cargo weekly. During each Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotation, about 750 active-duty, Reserve, Guard, and civilian personnel are assigned to the group. One of ten bases (known as Victory Base Complex) that surround the Baghdad International Airport, Sather Air Base is a hub of activity.

We've met members of the "183rd Heard" along the way. Staff Sgt John Moyer, 183rd Finance office, was the first friend we met after our arrival at Al Udied, Qatar. He seemed to be fairing pretty well, but equally as eager to redeploy too. We've run across many Civil Engineering Squadron troops throughout Sather Air Base, like Tech. Sgt. Heath Jordan, Tech. Sgt. Greg Gardner, Tech. Sgt. Edward Autery, and many more. Each of them should be home by the time you read this article. We have intentions of meeting Master Sgt. Kevin Skibbens up at Balad too. It seems the 183rd is well represented all over the AOR!

Our team hit the ground running once we arrived at Sather. Due to a scheduling conflict, the team we were sent to replace departed the country before we arrived. That made the job difficult, but we quickly gained situational awareness and identified our "way ahead".

The office was lacking much of the required supporting documentation that would outline how certain end-states were reached. With a Joint Services Integrated Vulnerability Assessment scheduled during our rotation, we had little time to get the program in shape. Despite indirect fire attacks, regular power outages, and the general difficulty associated with working in a deployed environment, we pressed ahead. We started from scratch developing relevant threat and force protection working groups. Through these two groups, we have been successful in completing a Criticality Assessment, Threat Assessment, Vulnerability Assessment, and an overall Risk Assessment. The Random Antiterrorism Measure Program was limping along, so



Capt. James E. Robinson with two Iraqi soccer "pros"! Robinson deployed in March to provide anti-terrorism and force protection services for the 447th Air Expeditionary Group at Sather Air Base, Iraq.

a web-based RAMs program was developed that is easier for the Unit Antiterrorism Officers to utilize, while allowing our office to develop trend analysis data for the Group Commander. Additionally, Master Sgt. Ferguson became a webpage

guru, and has developed web pages on both SIPR and NIPR networks.

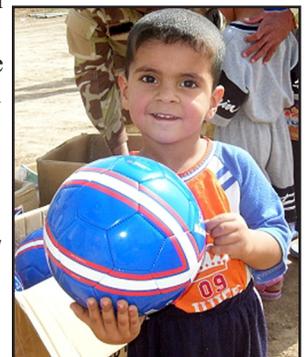
In our spare time, we both have become involved with local professional organizations: Top Three, and Company Grade Officer Council. Both organizations are important to the health and morale of all Sather Air Base residents. Through our involvement with these organizations, we both were able to participate in the Good Neighbor Program.

Through the Good Neighbor Program, the 447th provides food, clothes, toys, and personal hygiene products to Iraqi families. We spent several hours at a local village and had a great time not only meeting and providing goods to these families, but we also were able to play a game of soccer with the kids and some Iraqi Army soldiers. Needless to

say, neither Master Sgt. Ferguson nor I will be drafted by the Los Angeles Galaxy any time soon! We were able to meet the local Sheik, have some Chi with them, and enjoy each other's company.

We have a vision of constructing a playground for the kids. Seeing their "playground" really brought home how lucky our kids are to be born and raised in the good ole' USA! They are currently using a combination of rusty bed springs and metal fence material for a trampoline and an old piece of equipment with one seat on it as a merry-go-round. We'll have to see what we can do to make them a real play ground; one that is actually safe to play on!

Capt. Robinson and Master Sgt. Ferguson participate in the 447th AEG Good Neighbor Program which provides food, clothes, toys and other goods to Iraqi families. During a visit to a local village through this program, they had the opportunity to play soccer with some of the village children like this future soccer pro.



Master Sgt. Edward M. Ferguson is pictured here with a local Sheik while visiting areas in the community. Ferguson deployed in March to provide anti-terrorism and force protection services for the 447th Air Expeditionary Group at Sather Air Base, Iraq.

The Human Element

Part one of two

by Capt. Sonja Gurski
183rd Public Affairs Officer

Not the usual 12-hour work day, it was time for the three young women to rise and shine. Also unusual, the uniform of the day would be civilian clothes. But Senior Airman Krystle L. Stolleis, Airman 1st Class Chelsea M. Harris, and Senior Airman Aja C. Blair also weren't going to perform their usual duties today for the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Services Squadron at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan.

The three airmen were part of 10-person Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) package from the 183rd Services Flight that deployed in January for just over four months. It was during their in-processing briefing at Manas Air Base in January where they learned about the Manas Air Base Outreach Society or MABOS. MABOS is a volunteer program that works with existing Kyrgyz organizations and provides community service support to 10 organizations that work with children, the elderly, handicapped and other disadvantaged groups. Deployed service members that choose to become a part of MABOS pay a small membership fee to receive information about a multitude of opportunities. Airmen Stolleis, Harris and Blair were preparing for one of these opportunities.

This early April morning, they would soon be on their way to Tokmok II Orphanage, about an hour and a half from the base. The facility houses about 100 children from age six to fifteen. This would be the first of more than one visit with supplies to Tokmok for some of the airmen.

"When I went, I knew it would be a little different with the language barrier, but it really wasn't too bad," said Stolleis. "The kids loved us and each of us immediately had a few that stuck to us the whole time we were there."

The MABOS members who participate in the Tokmok II Orphanage support mission take supplies, spend time with the



Right: (From left) Senior Airman Aja C. Blair, Airman 1st Class Chelsea M. Harris, and Senior Airman Krystle L. Stolleis (183rd Services Flight) volunteer to take supplies to Tokmok II Orphanage while deployed to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, in April.

Left: Since they didn't speak the same language, Senior Airman Aja C. Blair (183rd Services Flight) found other ways to communicate friendship with the residents at Tokmok II. She volunteered to help take supplies to the orphanage while deployed to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, in April.



Left: Senior Airman Aja C. Blair, Airman 1st Class Chelsea M. Harris, and Senior Airman Krystle L. Stolleis (183rd Services Flight) volunteer to take supplies to Tokmok II Orphanage while deployed to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, in April. The children, ages six to 15, are always happy to see the volunteers from Manas Air Base when they visit every two weeks.



children playing games, and sometimes the volunteers do what they can to improve the conditions at the facility itself.

"We took donated items such as school supplies, coloring books, crayons, hygiene items, stuffed animals, candy, and chips," said Harris. "Next time, Senior Airman Stolleis, Senior Airman Blair and I are taking some items we purchased online."

The supplies are donated items from churches, families, the service members at Manas, and items from care packages.

"We all enjoyed playing with the children," said Harris. "We played soccer and basketball and they showed us around the school."

"Even though we did not speak their language, we were still able to communicate, laugh, and have fun," Harris added. "Their smiles made the trip worthwhile."

Those who have deployed before have often commented on the shortage of coverage that the general public may get concerning opportunities like these, the

human element. Outside of the war and the professional on-the-job experience gained, there are likely hundreds of stories about soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines that spend the extra time, effort and resources to help someone in need in a foreign country.

"I think we make a difference for these children, seeing us brightens their day and the things we bring to them helps with their schoolwork and lifts their spirits," said Stolleis. "But I think I have taken way more away from this experience than we have given them."

"This experience was like no other. These children are amazing and happy," said Stolleis. "They seem to be able to smile from the simple things in life such as being given a pencil, things many children in America take for granted."

The Manas Air Base Outreach Society accepts donations of cash, shoes, clothing, toys, candy, bedding, toiletries and diapers. To donate, send the donations to: 376 AEW/EHC APO, AE 09353

A Day at the 183rd

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



Mr. Mario Jimenez, National Image, Inc., took advantage of the opportunity to view one of the 183rd Fighter Wing's F-16s being refueled from the boom area while on the Diversity Flight in a KC-135 from the 126th Air Refueling Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, Belleville, Ill.

In the April issue of the Falcons View, I wrote an article about building relationships and promoting partnerships. The 183rd Fighter Wing did exactly this on April 18, 2008. We hosted our first Diversity Orientation Flight for community leaders and it was a success!

Thirteen community leaders arrived on base at 0830 for a day at the 183rd and the experience of a lifetime. The day began with a presentation of our roles and missions, followed by a tour of the engine shop and the hangar. Participants heard about the future mission of the engine shop, saw an engine disassemble and were impressed by the knowledge of our Airmen. Once inside the hangar, a group photo was taken and participants had the opportunity to view the inside of an F-16, while having the expertise of our maintenance people to answer questions and discuss the aircraft's capabilities. As a stroke of luck, a four-ship take-off occurred around the same time and all were witness to the thrill of seeing our jets take off from the flight line. As the tour was wrapping up, a KC-135 landed. This aircraft came from the 126th Air Refueling Wing and was there to take our group on a refueling mission of our F16s. With passengers in place, the KC-135 took off and began the mission. Once the seatbelts were released, it was a big social hour to make connections and enter the boom in order to witness and photograph a refuel in the air. What an experience for our guests! Upon landing, I tried to take roll call, and everyone was busy discussing the event. They were on cloud nine! (and they were all present). We had lunch and then spent time touring OPS with a visit to life support and the simulator – where a few guests tested their F-16 flying skills. It was interesting to say the least. During the entire process, members of the 183rd talked with each participant and did a great job to promote our unit, learn about our visitors, and build relationships with the community.



The Diversity Orientation Flight participants board the KC-135 provided by the Illinois Air National Guard's 126th Air Refueling from

Belleville, Ill., on April 18.

The community leaders came from all walks of life and represented various organizations, institutions, and groups in the Springfield community. The guests included: Ms. Kristin Allen, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club, Springfield

Dr. Phillip Davis Provost, SIU Medical School

Mr. James Donelan, Executive Assistant, Mayor of Springfield

Mr. Bobby Hall, Administrator, IL DCFS

Mr. Mario Jimenez, National Image, Inc.

Mr. James Johnson, Executive Committee, NAACP, Springfield

Mr. Thomas R. Jones Sr., Chief Deputy Director, Budget and Fiscal Management

Dr. Christopher Miller, Vice-Chancellor Student Affairs, UIS

Mr. Robert Moore, U.S. Marshal (ret.), Central IL District

Ms. Linda Shanklin, Executive Director, Andre Iguodala Youth Foundation

Mr. Dalitso Sulamoyo, Executive Director, IL Community Action Association

Ms. Linda Douglas Williams, Board Member, Springfield Housing Authority

Dr. Allan Woodson, Director, Workforce Development, Spfld Chamber of Commerce

There were also five media people present and they ran several news stories on television and one in a newspaper from Belleville, IL. All of the stories were positive and showed the capabilities of the Air National Guard.

In the end, many positive comments were expressed and relationships were started in order to build solid partnerships with the Springfield community leaders. It was an awesome day and I am extremely proud to be a member of the 183rd. The members that assisted and participated in the event did a terrific job and the community leaders noticed. Common remarks referred to our professionalism and knowledge about our mission. They admired the way we worked together and knew each other by name and knew what each person brought to the table. The feedback was extraordinary! It is now our job to continue building those relationships and strengthening the partnerships created that day. Hopefully, we can participate in some of their community events and inspire members of the Springfield community to support the Air National Guard – and who knows, maybe one day, some of them will become a member of this fantastic unit.



The 13 guests who participated in the Diversity Orientation Flight on April 18 stopped for a photo opportunity after getting a close-up look at an F-16 in the hangar at the 183rd Fighter Wing.



Master Sgt. Richard H. Shanner, 183rd Maintenance Squadron jet engine mechanic, gave the guests a tour of the engine shop.

Calling All Cooks!!!

**RECIPE
DEADLINE
IS JUNE 7TH**



The NCOAGA is putting together a Heritage Cookbook and we need your recipes. Any and all recipes are wanted and encouraged. The only thing that we ask is that you have tried the recipe and it's a favorite of yours.

The recipe should include the ingredients required, along with the amount needed and mixing and baking instructions. Along with the recipe please include, name, rank, shop that you work in, and dates of service.

If you are retired please state so and include the shop you worked in while here and the dates you were in the unit.

Please submit all recipes to the following email address: TeeSnyder@gimail.af.mil. Get those recipes in and help us put together a great cookbook. Submit as many recipes as you would like. If you have questions, the point of contact for the Heritage Cookbook is Master Sgt. Karla Wheatley, (217) 757-1233. Stay tuned to this column for more information on our cookbook and its completion.

60th Anniversary Events

Plans are underway to celebrate our 60-year heritage of commitment and service to our community, state, and country. The 183rd Fighter Wing 60th Anniversary Celebration events will be held Friday and Saturday, Sept. 5-6, 2008. Although the finer details are still being planned and coordinated, the tentative agenda is as follows:

Friday:

What: Golf Outing
Who: Anyone
Where: Oaks Golf Course
Cost: \$60 (covers food, golf and cart)
Contact: Maj. Kevin Mulcahy (757-1244), Senior Master Sgt. Fred Ausmus (757-1383), Master Sgt. Bernie Riddle (757-1220)

Saturday:

What: Wing Reunion
Who: Wing members, previous members, and retirees
Where: On base at Capital Airport
Highlights: Final Flight
Contact: Capt. Sonja Gurski (757-1267)

Accommodations:

Although there are many fine hotel accommodations available in the Springfield area, a block of rooms has been reserved for the weekend's events at the Hilton Hotel Springfield, 700 E. Adams. Rooms may be reserved for Thursday through Saturday nights at a rate of \$80 per night for a single.

Reservations can be made by calling (217) 789-1530 or online at:

www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/SPFSHHF-FYT-20080904/index.jhtml

Saturday August 2, 2008 7 P.M.
VFW Post 755
2211 Old Jacksonville Rd
Springfield, Illinois

183d Fighter Wing Trivia Night

To Sign up:
Call: Deni Withrow (217) 757-1387
or e-mail: spi183angtrivia2008@yahoo.com

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd
\$300, \$200, \$100 (Based on 25 entries)

Food & drinks for sale (You may bring snacks)

General knowledge categories

\$10/player (Up to 10 players per team)

50/50 Drawing \$1/ticket 6 for \$5

Hosted by the NCOAGA

Saturday Evening:

What: 60th Anniversary Party
Who: Wing members, previous members, and retirees
Where: Main aircraft hangar, on base at Capital Airport
Highlights: Dinner and music
Contacts: Lt. Col. Deb Hamrick (757-1329), Senior Master Sgt. Erin Roesch (757-1365), and Senior Master Sgt. Theresa Snyder (757-1224)

Pre-sale of 60th Anniversary Memorabilia:

In addition to the events being planned, you may pre-order your copy of the 183rd Fighter Wing 60th Anniversary Heritage DVD that includes vintage video footage of previous and current aircraft, photos from the history files dating back to the beginning in 1948 and much more!

A newly designed and limited edition 60th Anniversary Wing coin is also ready for production. Contact the Public Affairs office at public.affairs@ilspr.ang.af.mil or call 757-1267 to pre-order and reserve your DVD and coin for \$10 each.

Incentive Flight Program

Congratulations to our recent incentive flight recipients! For more information on the Incentive Flight Program, please refer to Base Instruction 11-5, which can be found on the "J" drive or the vipernet homepage link to base publications and forms.



"This was a very positive event from start to finish," said **Senior Master Sgt. Brenda R. Korte, Human Resource Advisor, Wing Headquarters.** "It was an opportunity of lifetime and I really appreciate everyone's efforts to make it a great experience!"



"I always thought it was a great experience to run these jets in afterburner at the Hush House but that doesn't even come close to actually strapping in and seeing what they are really capable of," said **Master Sgt. Kurt O. Ellrich, Jet Engine Mechanic, Maintenance Squadron.** "This opportunity was the greatest adrenaline rush I have ever had." "Not only was this an awesome experience for me but my family was thrilled as well. All my boys could talk about that night was Col. Patterson's pre-flight brief, our awesome take off, and of course the most asked question, did you get sick dad?," said Ellrich. "I want to thank everyone who made this great opportunity possible for me and my family it is something that we will never forget. The incentive flight program has come a long way and the people involved in making these flights possible are doing an excellent job."



"The ride was an awesome experience, one that I will certainly never forget," said **Chief Master Sgt. Kent W. Sunderland, State Command Chief Master Sergeant, Illinois ANG Headquarters.** "It gives you a very minor awareness of what our great F-16 pilots do on a daily basis and the physical stress that they endure. My thanks to all the Op's Group folks, but especially Master Sgt. Jeff Stott in Life Support, Maj Matt Jones for the great "ride", and to Master Sgt. Bill 'K-9' Kaltenbach for his attention to my wife and daughter."



Master Sgt. Douglas E. Haenni, Fabrication and Parachute Shop, Maintenance Squadron



"You guys really do have the right stuff," said **Master Sgt. Patrick L. Davis, Life Support NCOIC, 170th Fighter Squadron.** "The team effort that keep these jets flying mission after mission is amazing. Thank you for your service and dedication to your country. This was a once in a lifetime experience I am honored to have had the chance to see just how capable the 183rd is and always will be."



"Great experience," said **Lt. Col. Brent D. Arnold, Engineering Officer, 217th Engineering Installation Squadron.** "I've always respected the pilots, but even more so now. If I was 20 years younger, I'd seriously take a shot at getting my wings."



Chief Master Sgt. Thomas M. Hergenrother, Command Chief Master Sgt., Wing Headquarters

Wreath Laying Ceremony Planned!

The NCOAGA is planning a Wreath Laying Memorial Ceremony.

The purpose of this event is to honor deceased member's of the unit. The event will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 12, outside the front gate, under the static displays.

If you would like to participate in the ceremony or assist with the planning, please attend the next regularly scheduled NCO AGA meeting on Sunday, June 8th at 8 a.m. in the P-48 dining facility.

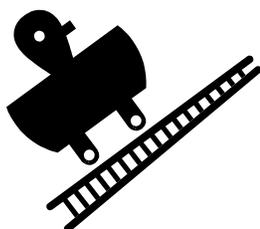
If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to be involved in this ceremony please contact Senior Master Sgt. Theresa M. Snyder by calling 757-1224 or email her at Theresa.snyder@ilspri.ang.af.mil.



Summertime fun!

Once again, the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Graduates Association, Chapter 75, has discounted tickets for Six Flags in St. Louis. Season dates are Apr. 5th through Nov. 9th.

Discount coupons are available in the Financial Management customer service area, building P-48, while they last.



The rates and discounts vary as follows:

Ticket	NCO AGA price	Gate price plus tax	Comments
1-day	\$28.00	44.99	*note one
2-day adult	\$41.00	47.99	
2-day child	\$31.00	32.99	48" and under
Season pass	\$46.00	69.99	*note two

NOTES:

- 1-day passes are available online for \$39.99
 - The Season pass is only valid for residences with a zip code outside a 50-mile radius of Six Flags St. Louis. You must first validate your season ticket at Six Flags in St. Louis and get your season pass, then you may use it at any Six Flags.
- For more information about the park, go to <http://www.sixflags.com/stlouis/info/parkininfo.aspx>

Bring Your Aluminum for Recycling

Don't know what to do with those pesky aluminum soda cans? Not sure where the nearest recycling center is? Maybe you just don't have enough aluminum to warrant a round-trip to your nearest recycling center.

Here's the answer to all of those dilemmas!

The NCO Academy Graduates Association has set up a trailer in the parking lot outside building P-48 on base to collect recyclable aluminum for anyone and any section who would like to contribute.

The NCO AGA uses fund-raising activities like this one to help host a variety of events on base and causes in the community. If you have questions about this recycling initiative or would like your items picked up from your area (on base only), contact Senior Master Sgt. Beth Skeeters (757-1305) or Lt. Col. Deb Hamrick (757-1329).

So, not being worth the hassle can no longer be your excuse for helping to keep the earth green. Come on, be a tree-hugger for another good cause, the NCO AGA!



Editor Notes

Get it while it's hot... electronically



We are trying something new. If you would like to receive the electronic version of the Falcon's View at your civilian employer email or HOME email address, which is usually available much sooner than the printed copies, please email us at public.affairs@ilspri.ang.af.mil

Military One Source

An excellent resource for all National Guard members is Military One Source. A plethora of resources, special offers for military members, and services can be found at their website: www.militaryonesource.com

Register for the site with a user ID and password and you can access information regarding advice about family issues, money matters, legal matters, health tips, and more.

Heritage Spotlight

In honor of the 183rd Fighter Wing's 60th Anniversary and at the suggestion of a few Operations Group members, the Falcon's View will attempt to regularly spotlight members of the Wing who have the most continuous years of service with the 183rd with no breaks in service. Please enjoy the first of these and celebrate 30 years of service with Senior Master Sgt. Peter A. Lewis, NCOIC of the Ground Safety office.

And These Are Just Some of the Highlights!

by Senior Master Sgt. Peter A. Lewis
NCOIC, Ground Safety
183rd Fighter Wing Headquarters



Senior Master Sgt. Peter A. Lewis, NCOIC of the Ground Safety office, pauses a memory in front of a 183rd F-16 while deployed to Kuwait in 2002.

There's not much in life more certain than change. It's hard to imagine life without satellites, color TV, FM stereo radio, CD's, cell phones, microchips, computers, internet, Blackberry, I-Pod, DVD, X-Box, one automobile per person, huge homes, fast food, plastic, Star Trek, space ships, missiles with nuclear bombs, lasers, turbine engines, Rock-n-Roll, instant color pictures, contact lens, interstate highways, high performance farm machinery, herbicides, fertilizers, supertankers, escalators, electron microscopes, jumbo jets, etc. I was born in 1951 and these items didn't exist yet. In August of 2008, I will have been a member of the 183rd for 30 years.

I started my Air Force career in December of 1971 as a temporary "time out" from college while I tried to decide what I really wanted to do with the rest of my life. The Vietnam War was going full blast and after about eight months of basic and tech school, I was a bomb loader.

Because I did pretty well academically at tech school, I was one of two guys in my class to get their "Dream Sheet" assignment. I went to the 20th Munitions Maintenance Squadron at RAF Upper Heyford, England (1972-1974). The base was centrally situated about 20 miles north of the city of Oxford, in Oxfordshire. The wing flew the F-111E "Aardvark" aircraft. Those aircraft were transferred to the bone yard in 1995. The base itself was closed in 1994. I spent two wonderful years stationed in England.

In 1971 gas cost 40 cents a gallon, average cost of a new home was \$25,250, average home cost was \$5,632, average income was \$10,600 a year, a movie ticket was \$1.50. You could buy a Datsun 1200 Sports Coupe for \$1,866 and a postage stamp cost 8 cents. Some of the big things that happened that year were Intel released the first microprocessor, Texas Instruments released the first pocket calcula-

tor, voting age was lowered to 18 in the U.S. because of the Vietnam War, floppy disk was invented, and e-mail was invented.

In 1974 I received orders to move to Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., but at the last minute received a change that sent me to Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. The F-111 family was small and many folks I had worked with were there already. This time I worked on F-111F aircraft. I was fortunate to be selected to be placed on a Lead Load Crew where I taught loading to 36 load crews for the next 14 months.

Idaho is certainly a beautiful state but, I guess I didn't see myself staying in the Air Force forever. Certainly not the first time I've been wrong!

I joined the Illinois Air National Guard in 1978 after seeing an F-4C parked out at the Illinois State Fair. Walter Pierce, 183rd Tactical Fighter Group Contracting Specialist, once told me I was the only person recruited as a result of towing that aircraft clear over to the fairgrounds.

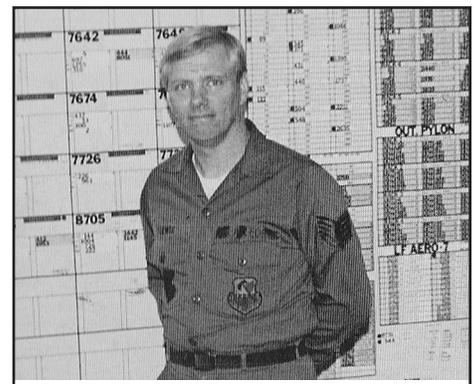
When I first arrived, Col. Ralph Bush was our Commander, Lt. Col. Eugene Pottenger was the Chief of Maintenance, Chief Master Sgt. Joe Slavens was the NCOIC of Weapons and Master Sgt. Bruce Melton was the supervisor in the armament shop. I was lucky enough to get hired on as a full-time technician a short time later.

Not very long after I joined, we went on our first "Checkered Flag" deployment to Ghedi Air Base, Italy. This trip marked the beginning of the 183rd flying travel circus for me. Travel with friends was certainly the best highlight of my career! (See Travel Highlights)

Great moments, there were so many over the years, usually relating to Operational Readiness Inspections or Exercises. We were usually deployed to Volk Field, Wis., or Gulfport, Miss. We worked hard and struggled a lot under the load placed by the IG Team, but we

Travel Highlights:

England (1972 to 1974)
Italy (1978 and three other times)
Germany (1986)
Hawaii (F4D)
Japan (F16 Accept)
Thailand (1994)
Guam (1994)
Panama (1998)
Saudi Arabia (1999)
Kuwait (1997 and 2002)
Qatar (2004)
Poland (2005 and 2007)
Las Vegas, Nev., Volk Field, Wis., Gulfport, Miss., Tucson, Ariz., and Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., on multiple occasions.



If it weren't for the rank and uniform, it would be difficult to determine if Staff Sgt. Peter A. Lewis had changed at all since this photo, taken for the Wing's 40th Anniversary yearbook in 1988!

still managed to have fun.

I was assigned to a Disaster Preparedness Mobility Team as an additional duty. It was the forerunner of the sweep teams we use today, only we were armed and we did chemical tests to identify the types of CW agents we were attacked with.

The fun was we got to shoot our M-16 at the aggressors when they attacked the base. One aggressor was crawling along a fence line trying to surprise us. We opened up on him about 50 yards away. When he crawled past our position with a big smile, he told us we got him way back there but he just kept crawling like nothing happened. Another day one of our armament shop guys took it upon himself to sneak up on one of the aggressors, take his machine gun, and Rambo-like, started shooting at all the other attackers from behind. It was great, he killed them all, but later we were all reminded about being overzealous and not to do that again.

If you've been to Volk Field you know
HIGHLIGHTS, continued on page 17

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from page 16

that there is a high hill right behind the flightline called Target Bluff. For some realism, the IG had an actual aircraft attack the base during the ORI. I remember an aircraft must have popped up over Target Bluff coming from the south and blasted over the flightline. We never heard it coming until it was on top of us screaming by. That one made the heart pound for a while and gave you a feeling about what could happen to you if it were real! Later in the ORI a B-52 flew over with its bomb bay doors open. That signaled the end of war.

Over the past few years I've been fortunate enough to be sent to Poland twice to help familiarize them with F-16s. The first time in 2005, I went to present information on the aircraft armament system and the second time in 2007 to present information on the Air Force safety program. I think we all had a sense that this was history being made and we had a part in it.

Summer Camps: Years ago, before we started deploying to the Middle East, we used to have some great summer camps at Volk Field and winter camps at Gulfport. We'd take all the jets and people together. Usually we'd fly a couple times a day with the last aircraft down around 1630. The vast majority of us were off work in the evenings. At Volk we'd hold horseshoe and softball tournaments. It was truly a family event when we went to Volk for two weeks. Many would bring their entire family to Wisconsin for a vacation and would stay at campgrounds in the local area. The guardsmen would go to work all day while the families had fun. Local watering holes like the base club, Jim & Kathy's and Target Bluff Restaurant were the scene of many memorable moments. Pay day was on the last day of camp as we were signing out from the orderly room. We got a check handed to us.

The most satisfying experience in my whole career was during our last ORI at Volk Field. I still worked in Armament as the Academic Trainer then and was one of the loading "bullets" supervisors in "Charlie" cell. It was a chance for me to use all my previous experience and training to manage the loading operations on the jets in the cell. I was to have been the assistant bullet since I'd never done this before, but Todd Stockton had a leg injury and couldn't attend the ORI. Trial by fire for me now. With the hard work of the load crews, together we managed to meet each crisis and complete our part of the mission.

Another highlight was being selected by NGB to attend the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy in 1995.

FLY THE FLEET

by Lt. Col. Kenny Vennell
Maintenance Squadron Commander

With Aircraft transfers on the near horizon, a Heritage Flight, or "fly the fleet" if you will, was scheduled for Sunday of April UTA. The D-Model had just come out of phase maintenance and we had five hard broke jets on Friday. So, we had to designate one of the hard broke jets as a CANN (Cannibalization) Jet. Maintenance was attempting the equivalent of an ORI aircraft generation without the down day. Suffice to say they were busy.

Saturday of UTA everyone held their breath and kept their fingers crossed hoping the bottom didn't fall out jet wise. We continued to work the broke jets and flew an eight turn eight plus two incentive rides. We could see light at the end of the tunnel with all the jets returning Code 1 and the broke jets coming back on line.

Saturday afternoon we had a meeting with some retired 170th members. They reviewed the squadron list for accuracy, provided leads as to the last know location and provided photo identification of former members. Some had to leave prior to roll call because of prior commitments. However, a few stayed and Deck Ape had the entire squadron's undivided attention as he told some WW-II stories. IMPRESSIVE!

By Sunday morning, all we had remaining maintenance wise was some follow on operational checks. That afternoon we had 15 jets flyable and the one CANN jet in the hangar that resembled a dinosaur skeleton.

While the crew chiefs were performing their pre-flight inspections the pilots were conducting their mission briefing. Prior to the flight briefing the pilots watched the F-4 Heritage Flight video. They determined that some of them who were flying this one had also flown it.

As the pilots stepped, anticipation filled the air. Pilots and maintainers posed for photo ops prior to strap in. Personnel from around the base gathered on the grassy knoll between Operations and POL, in front of the hangar and on the grass near the de-brief shack. There were also on-lookers on the airport terminal road. Some of the on-lookers were former crew chiefs and maintenance personnel who worked the F-4 Heritage Flight. Seeing them made us acutely aware of the fact that some of our guys working this one had also worked it.

We weren't very far into the start sequence before hearing the distinct sound of a JFS (Jet Fuel Starter) spin up and shut down. "RED BALL JFS NO START" was transmit-



Our infamous maintainers and pilots of the 170th Fighter Squadron enjoy the weather provided for the day of the Heritage flight, Apr. 6.



ted over the maintenance net. The red ball team jumped on it like a NASCAR pit crew. They tried a couple of quick fixes to no avail. Engine shop changed a DESSC (Digital Engine Start System Controller). Next they had to perform a data down load prior to flight. While trying to perform the down load, they encountered software problems with the down load computer. They kept at it until they ran out of time. Ground Abort! Expletive! The only saving grace about this was that it was the "Tail End Charlie" jet and Op's wouldn't have to reshuffle the flight. While all this was going on "RED BALL HYDRAULICS" was transmitted for another jet. Another red ball crew jumped on it, changed a pressure switch and made the sortie.

Fifteen scheduled with fourteen airborne. The pilots of the fourteen airborne jets had a combined total of 30,667.7 hours and 19,353 sorties in the F-16 prior to takeoff. They flew IR-614 to the Pruitt MOA with a dry run attack on the railroad bridge located near Pearl, Ill. Next they flew to the Howard MOA and accomplished a post strike air to air refueling sortie with the 126 ARW. After that they returned for a fourteen ship fly by. The arrowhead formation of four ships and a two ship looked picture perfect as they flew down initial for Runway 22.

Upon landing it was discovered that one of the "young-uns" achieved a milestone on this flight. 1000 hours of F-16 time! Congratulations Pigeon! Add one more sortie and 1.5 hours to the log book.

After engine shut down there were more photo ops and handshakes with pilots and maintainers lingering longer than normal outside the debrief shack discussing the flight.

Cyber Space Command!

by Lt. Col. James Loux
217th EIS Commander

It's been called Cyber Space Command, Global Air Command and AFCYBER. The new command has not officially been stood up nor has an official location yet been determined. When you see Cyber Command or AFCYBER in writing you will also see the symbol (P) designating this as a provisional command. What we do know is that the Program Action Directive (PAD) has been approved and signed by Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne as of December 31, 2007. The PAD states that all Engineering Installation units; active duty and the Air National Guard, will move to the new command. The decision on where to locate the Command has been delayed a few times and the latest word is that it will be announced late in 2008. The Initial Operations Capability (IOC) mandated by Secretary Wynne is Oct. 1, 2008. The IOC will have a portion of the staffing needed and the organizational structure in place to build the command until full

operational status can be reached.

AFCYBER (P) Vision Statement is as follows: The vision statement captures the essence of Air Force Cyber Command--who we are, why we exist, and what we seek to achieve. Our mission is to provide combat ready forces trained and equipped to conduct sustained combat operations through the electromagnetic spectrum and fully integrate these operations within air and space operations. Our vision statement defines our non-negotiable commitment to deliver sovereign options for the United States through cross domain dominance of air, space, and cyberspace.

Cyberspace is defined as domains

characterized by the use of electronics and the electromagnetic spectrum to store, modify, and exchange data via networked systems and associated physical infrastructures. The United States is increasingly dependent on the use of cyberspace to maintain its way of life and to employ the instruments of national power. The rapid development and use of networks, telecommunication systems, and other technologies that use electronics and the electromagnetic spectrum (EMS) have led to the recognition of cyberspace as a domain. Our adversaries already recognize America's dependence on cyberspace as a national center of gravity, and are actively seeking ways to

exploit our reliance on the domain to further their own interests.

AFCYBER will have four wings which include the creation of a new Electronic Warfare Wing and a new Cyberspace Wing. Joining the new wings will be the AF Information Operations Center, located at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Finally, the 67th Network Warfare Wing, located at Lackland Air Force Base, will round out the command. The Cyberspace Wing will consist of primarily communications and information functions and various deployable communications capabilities. This wing will assume functions performed currently by the AF Communications Agency located at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and the Global Innovation Center located at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

ANG EI units will be assigned to the Cyberspace Wing under Engineering Management. The function of Engineering Management is to coordinate and prioritize the command's engineering capabilities ensuring integration and interoperability of Cyber networks and systems.



New Command Chief Assumes Authority

by Staff Sgt. Michael Shamma
183rd Public Affairs

A change of authority ceremony was held in the P-48 auditorium here at the 183rd Fighter Wing on April 6, 2008. Former Command Chief Master Sgt. Clyde McCaherty passed the reins of authority to newly appointed 183rd Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Hergenrother. Both chiefs had family in attendance.

Chief Master Sgt. McCaherty spoke first.

“Tom remember one thing; you are the eyes and ears of the enlisted now. You are not only a listener but also a teacher. You are now the principle enlisted advisor to the senior leadership. It’s a huge responsibility but a fun one,” said McCaherty. “I have been supremely blessed

to work with some of the finest people the Air Force has ever known and it was a privilege and an honor serving you. Thank you all.”

After a nice standing ovation, Command Chief Master Sgt. Hergenrother was introduced to speak.

“Thank you, Col. Meyer for the opportunity to work with you and serve the wing in this capacity. Clyde believes in the blue and gold of the 183rd and so do I. We have to remember that there is never a problem here that is too serious for us



Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Hergenrother gets a “friendly” welcome aboard as the new Command Chief from Col. Michael A. Meyer, Wing Commander, and Chief Clyde McCaherty, the former Wing Command Chief, during a change of authority ceremony here at the base in April.

to solve,” said Hergenrother. “The other advice I would give everyone is to not make going away routine. Every time we deploy we need to remember that it’s in service of this country and we should treat every deployment seriously. We have an amazing task of protecting our state and our country. We must

never forget the people that have gone before us to do their part in helping keep our way of life true.”

Congratulations Command Chief Hergenrother. Good luck in your new position and serve with pride!

The Enlisted Perspective

by Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley

submitted by Command Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Hergenrother

Maintaining a Healty Lifestyle

The 21st Century Air Force is truly expeditionary, so it is imperative we are all prepared to meet mission challenges. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is often the first step to accomplishing this goal. A healthy lifestyle not only boosts energy levels, endurance, and reduces stress in every day duties; it can potentially save an Airman’s life in a deployed environment. Improving life routines will also help Airmen achieve and maintain Air Force fitness standards and enhance their quality of life.

Achieving a healthy lifestyle has a great deal to do with total physical fitness to include aerobic, strength, and flexibility training. It also includes eating well to achieve and maintain a healthy weight, and avoiding destructive behaviors like using tobacco and drinking alcohol excessively.

Making healthy eating choices is a critical component to staying fit and decreasing meal portion sizes help to avoid weight creep and unhealthy fat reserves. Eating right, coupled with physical activity, helps maintain proper weight and decreases the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and many injuries.

Tobacco use in any form damages an Airman’s health. Smoking causes shortness of breath, decreases lung capacity and energy levels, and damages blood vessels -- all very counter-productive to a healthy lifestyle. Second-hand smoke harms the health of everyone around -- including family and friends. In a deployed environment, tobacco use may impact safety and the mission through impaired night vision, slowed response time and impaired wound healing.

Drinking alcohol in excessive amounts can also degrade a fit warrior force. If Airmen choose to drink alcohol, moderation is key. Responsible drinking minimizes a negative effect on an Airmen’s personal and professional life.

Sharing healthy lifestyle activities with family and friends can be great fun and extends the benefits to those within an Airman’s circle of influence. Preparing tasty, healthy meals together, going for walks, bicycling or playing organized sports adds to the quality of time spent with family and friends. Participating in physical exercise activities with co-workers adds an outstanding opportunity for team and morale-building and helps Wingmen meet their goals.

Health and fitness professionals at our Health and Wellness Centers, Fitness Centers, and Medical Treatment Facilities are uniquely qualified to assist Airmen and their family’s quest for better health. I encourage everyone to take advantage of their support and expert guidance.

Striving to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle is a worthy goal. I know Airmen and their families will find the rewards well worth the effort in both work and play.

COMMANDER

Colonel Michael A. Meyer

183D PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Captain Sonja Gurski
Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr
Master Sgt. Samuel Kassis
Staff Sgt. Michelle Ingram
Staff Sgt. Michael Shamma
Staff Sgt. Shelly Stark
Senior Airman Sarah Pherigo
Airman Christine Teer

PRINTING

Helmer Printing, Beldenville, Wis.

NEWS SERVICES

AFPS – The American Forces Press Service and ACC/NGB News Services; other base newspapers.

This funded Air Force Newspaper is an authorized publication for the members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Falcon’s View are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, DoD, the Department of the Air Force or the Air National Guard. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 183d Fighter Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.



Stop Delivery

If you are **not an active member** of the 183d Fighter Wing or 217th EIS and you don’t wish to receive the Falcon’s View, call (217) 757-1267 or email public.affairs@ilsfri.ang.af.mil to be removed from the mailing list.

183d FW/PA

**Illinois Air National Guard
Capital Airport
3101 J. David Jones Parkway
Springfield, IL 62707-5001**

