



# Falcon's

# View

183rd Fighter Wing

Illinois Air National Guard, Springfield, IL

May 2008, Vol. VIII, No. 4

## And the winner is...

by Capt. Sonja L. Gurski

183rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer

*Below: Members of the 183rd Security Forces Squadron proudly gather in April in front of the aircraft hangar on base for a group photo to commemorate the Squadron's selection as the 2007 Air Force Outstanding Security Forces Unit, Air National Guard category.*



Leadership at the Illinois Air National Guard's 183rd Fighter Wing, Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport, Springfield, Ill., received confirmation March 4, that the 183rd Security Forces Squadron (SFS) has been named the 2007 Air Force Outstanding Security Forces Unit, Air National Guard category.

"These awards bring much deserved credit to the units, installations and the U.S. Air Force," read the confirmation from Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, Washington D.C. "Sincere congratulations go to the winners on this significant achievement."

The 183rd Security Forces Squadron underwent final

observations by the Director of Air National Guard Security Forces, Col. Mark G. Allen, Feb. 2 and 3.

"This is an exciting time to be in security forces," Allen said during his visit to the 183rd. "We are expanding our mission and doing things we've never done before."

Indeed, the Springfield Air National Guard is doing things it has never done before. Capt. James E. Robinson, Commander of the 183rd Security Forces Squadron, shared his thoughts on what winning this award means to him and the Squadron.

"We are all very proud of this accomplishment," said

**WINNER, continued on page ten**

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## Just the Facts

### Unit Training Assembly Schedule and pay dates



#### Duty Performed      Pays out (approx.)

MAY 3-4                      MAY 13

MAY 17-18                MAY 28

JUN 7-8                     JUN 18

**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  
JUNE issue of the  
Falcon's View is COB  
Saturday, May 3rd.



## 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**

## 60th Anniversary Celebration

### 60th 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 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)



#### 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)

#### Accommodations:

Although there are many fine hotel accommodations available in the Springfield area, a block of rooms have been reserved for the weekend's events at the Hilton Hotel Springfield, 700 E. Adams. Rooms may be reserved for Thursday night (\$80), Friday night (\$100) and Saturday night (\$125).

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

[www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/SPFSHHF-FYT-20080904/index.jhtml](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/SPFSHHF-FYT-20080904/index.jhtml)

#### 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@ilspri.ang.af.mil](mailto:public.affairs@ilspri.ang.af.mil) or call 757-1267 to pre-order and reserve your DVD and coin for \$10 each.

# The Journey Continues

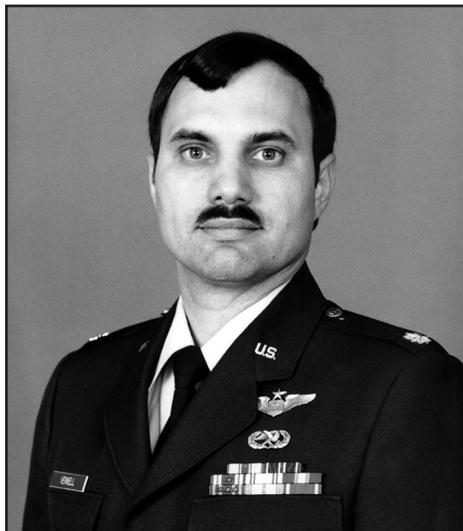
by Lt. Col. Kenny Vennell  
Maintenance Squadron Commander

Planning for the 60th Anniversary is well under way. Lt. Col. Rich Neely has been chairing the planning committee. Personnel from around the base have stepped up to tackle the multitude of tasks associated with such an event.

Maj. Tracy "Turf" Timmons has been contacting F-84 and F-16 pilots. Former WSO Dave "Chops" Blair has been contacting F-4 crews. The 170th underground email train between former members and retirees is running at full steam collecting addresses, phone numbers and other pertinent information.

Turf and I raided the Public Affairs archives with the zeal of 18th century tomb raiders. We struck the mother load discovering old photos and newspaper clippings! Turf had to procure a new scanner and mine is just barely hanging on. We were attempting to put names to the faces which is no easy task when you're trying to identify someone in a photo with an F-51 or F-84 in the background! Realizing that we were in over our heads, we began contacting retirees.

Two trips to Deck Ape's house have resulted in the identification of former fighter squadron members whose names were long ago lost to history. Deck also told us some great stories ranging from WWII to



*Maj. Kenny Vennell, 1991, one of the few photos the "tomb-raiders" missed from the Public Affairs archives.*

the Berlin call up. Even Mrs. Rawlings provided us with some squadron "Intell!" She also gave us a copy of a 1988 183rd News and a 35th Anniversary year book! The newspaper had a feature with pictures of all of the previous commanders. That was the Rosetta stone of information that we had been desperately seeking! We can't thank her enough!

Another wealth of information and photo identification was provided during the retirees' breakfast. The first Tuesday of each month retirees from the unit meet at the King Pin for breakfast. As the black and white photos were passed around, names were shot at me at the rate of bullets fired on a strafe pass! I could barely keep up! Not only have we been able to talk with someone who flew the F-51 but also with someone who crewed it!

Although our journey is well under way, we have a long way to go. Another raid is being planned on the Public Affairs archives and some of the retirees are going to search their own. We are still seeking Maintenance and Operations photos. Any war stories, photographs or information on our unit's history would be

greatly appreciated!

Hearing Deck's stories about the Berlin call up prompted me to read "Stranger to the Ground" by Richard Bach. Bach was a pilot with the New Jersey Guard when the Berlin call up sent his unit with its F-84s to France. I soon realized that if you changed Berlin call up to AEF and changed F-84 to F-16, we have a lot more in common with our retirees than one would think.

The more things change, the more they remain the same. The weather in the target area is usually crummy. If the weather is ok the radio is intermittent. If the radio is ok then there are so many "Trons" in the air that communication is almost impossible. Flying on the wing at night sucks. Flying on the wing at night in the weather really sucks! Pucker factor is inversely proportional to fuel state.

Maintenance crews are either freezing or baking. Step on the red line just by ¼ inch and you eat concrete. When deployed, chow hall hours and the flying schedule are never compatible. Aircraft configuration required for the flying schedule and FMC (Fully Mission Capable) aircraft available seldom matches. The ESTA (Enroute Support Team Aircraft) always breaks at a choice location, AND they have the tool or part that you need! ETIC's (Estimated Time In-Commission) have a lot in common with fairy tales. You're about to make an ETIC, one last screw to install, almost there,... and you drop the washer in the cockpit! Usually followed by a barrage of expletives!

Pappy Boyington said: "Show me a hero and I'll show you a bum!" Still true today. Whether you're a pilot or maintainer, if you "make it happen" there is usually paper work to follow! The spirit of a fighter unit transcends time!

### Lupus - what you need to know

by Tech. Sgt. Amy Murphy  
183rd Medical Group

Lupus is an autoimmune disease that affects your skin, joints, heart, lungs, blood, kidneys, and brain. The immune system can not tell the distinction between foreign substances and its own cells and tissues. The immune system then generates antibodies directed against itself. In a nutshell, lupus is your body's immune system attacking your own body tissues instead of attacking bacteria and viruses.

Studies show that 1.4 million Americans develop some form of lupus every year. More than 90 percent of the cases are women and usually occur between the ages of 15 through 45. Lupus is more commonly found in African Americans, Latinos, Asians and Native Americans than Caucasians.

Most people often express symptoms in only a few body organs. Here are a few: Achy joints, fever greater than 100 degrees, arthritis/swollen joints, fatigue, skin rashes and finally, anemia.

The cause of lupus is currently unknown, but there are several environmental factors involved. These factors would include: Infection, antibiotic use (sulfa and penicillin), ultraviolet light, extreme stress, and hormones. There are four types of lupus: discoid, systemic, drug-induced and neonatal.

Discoid Lupus is on the skin and is a rash on the face, neck, and scalp. This accounts for 10% of cases.

The Systemic type affects any organ or organ system. This accounts for 70% of cases.

Drug-induced Lupus is xxx after use of certain medications, i.e. hydralazine, which is used to treat high blood pressure, and procain-



amide, which is used to treat irregular heart rhythms.

Finally Neonatal Lupus, the passage of maternal auto-anti-

bodies from mother to newborn via blood. This is characterized by a rash within the first few weeks of life and usually clears up by the sixth month of life.

Diagnosis is done by a thorough review of your medical history with your doctor. Then he/she may order certain blood tests aimed toward diagnosing lupus. To be officially diagnosed with lupus, you must exhibit four out of eleven of these symptoms: Rash over face, neck and scalp area, red, raised patches on the skin, ulcers in the nose or mouth, reaction to sunlight, resulting in a rash, inflammation of the heart and lungs, which is seen by diagnostic testing, pain, swelling or redness in joints, seizures, increase in the amount of protein in your urine, a positive ANA test, and/or Positive anti DNA antibody test.

In addition to medications, treatment for lupus includes avoiding the sun, use of sunscreen and regular exercise, which keeps your joints loose and flexible.

The medications most widely used for treating lupus are: NSAIDS (reduces the swelling and inflammation of the joints), corticosteroids (reduce inflammation and suppress the activity of your immune system), antimalarials (for the skin and joint lupus patients), and anticoagulants (medications to thin the blood).

If you follow the treatment directions of your doctor, take your medications as prescribed, and know when to seek help, lupus can be kept under control.

Lupus patients can sustain an increased quality of life overall. Understanding the disease and realizing its impact on your body will strengthen the quality and decrease the severity of lupus and the effects it has on your body.

### Last Month:

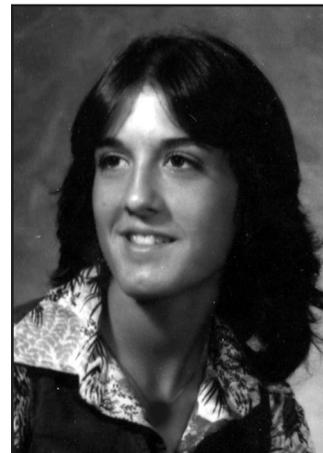


Airman 1st Class  
Alana Franklin  
Radio Operator  
Communications  
Flight  
Summer 1996



Tech. Sgt. Alana S.  
Franklin  
Telephone Systems  
Technician  
Communications  
Flight  
March 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!

# Ready for Summer?

by Maj. Jeff Laible  
183rd Wing Chaplain

Are you ready for summer? I am! Seems like this has been a very long winter. The dreary days, the damp cold air, the ice and snow: it all seems so exciting in December as we celebrate the holidays, but as soon as mid-January rolls by, the season of winter seems to have "worn out its welcome"!

The more relaxing days of summer have always been a welcomed change of pace, especially for those directly involved in public or private education. The challenging days of the school year, with so many extra-curricular activities, while enjoyable, also take a great deal of energy and time. A slower pace during the summer season gives that much needed "break" from the heavy demands surrounding the school year.

In just a few weeks, the "official" summer season will begin with Memorial Day weekend. While we take time to welcome the summer season over a long holiday weekend, gathering with family and friends, we also know the tremendous sacrifices so many have



made so that we might enjoy the many freedoms that we have as American's. Memorial Day is a sacred day – sacred because we pause to remember, thank and pray for our loved ones who have died, especially those who have served in our Armed Forces.

Over the past few years, countless members of our unit have been deployed throughout the world. Some have been involved in combat, others have flown into combat zones, while others have supported the war effort in various roles. Whether you have been deployed overseas or provided support from home station,

you know from first hand experience the great price we pay daily for freedom. The upcoming Memorial Day weekend provides us a particular day to pause, to remember, to pray and to be grateful for the many blessings that we have received in the United States.

The Chaplain's Office stands side by side with every airmen at the 183rd as we "take our turn," deploying overseas in support of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. Whether it is ministry in the AOR, with the Wounded Warriors at Landstuhl Medical Center, Germany or assisting in the pre or post deployment phase at the Unit, we are here to serve you and your families.

During the upcoming Memorial Day weekend I urge you to stop and remember, in gratitude, the veterans (and their families) of our Country. Their devotion to duty and sacrifices has provided us many blessings!

### 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

### Spring into safety

by Senior Master Sgt. Steve Stewart  
183rd Fighter Wing Safety

For many of us, working outdoors on the lawn and in the garden is a great way to exercise and to relax. Experts warn that if you are not careful with lawn and garden tools, you could be spending more time indoors, starting with a trip to the hospital emergency room. The most frequent injuries are from lawn mowers. Statistics tell us that each year lawn mower accidents send 84,000 people to the emergency rooms. Nearly 15,000 others need medical treatment for injuries from trimmers and other power garden tools. As lawn and garden work begins this spring, we have found some precautions recommended by safety professionals when working with power equipment.

#### Lawn Mowers

Read your lawn mower's owner's manual and know how to stop the mower instantly in an emergency. If you have a gasoline-powered mower, store the gas in an UL-Listed safety can. Always start the mower outdoors. Never operate the mower where carbon monoxide can collect, such as in a closed garage, storage shed or basement. Do not operate an electrically powered mower on wet grass. Use an extension cord designed for outdoor use and rated for the power needs of the mower. Keep your hands and feet away from the mower's blades. Never reach under the mower while the

mower is running. Make all adjustments with the motor off. Ensure all safety guards are in place. If you hit a foreign object or have a malfunction, turn off the mower and disconnect the power cord from electric mower's before inspecting the damage. Never leave a lawn mower 'ON' while unattended. Keep other adults, children and pets clear. Mowers can fling rocks at up to 200 miles per hour. Do not allow children to operate lawn mowers. Make sure your shoes provide good traction and have sturdy soles to resist punctures and protect toes. Never work barefoot or in sandals, canvas shoes, etc.

#### Lawn and Garden Tools

Use lawn and garden power tools bearing the UL Mark, which means that representative samples of that product have been tested to stringent safety standards with regards to fire, electric shock and related safety hazards. Read and follow the manufacturer's use and care instructions. Before use, inspect tools for frayed power cords and cracked or broken casings. If the product is damaged, have it repaired by a qualified repairman, or replace it. Always wear safety glasses. Always wear proper attire. Keep your clothing, hands and feet away from cutting blades at all times. Never wear loose jewelry when you are working with tools. Never alter a tool or remove safety features such as blade guards or electric plug grounding pins. Use only properly rated



outdoor extension cords with outdoor electrical tools. Check the switch on a power tool or garden appliance to make sure it's 'OFF' before you plug it in. Unplug all portable electrically operated power tools when not in use. These tools contain electricity even when turned 'OFF' but still plugged in. Pay attention to warning markings. Don't allow tools to get wet unless they are labeled "Immersible." When using tools outside, make sure they are appropriate for outdoor use. Use and store power tools and garden appliances away from water sources to avoid electric shock. Never use power tools and appliances in the rain. Never carry an appliance by the cord, and never yank the cord when removing it from the receptacle. When disconnecting the cord, always grasp the plug – not the wire. Keep the cord away from heat, oil and sharp edges.

Here are a few safety reminders before digging, even if it is just planting flowers: Call J.U.L.I.E. 1-800-892-0123, in Illinois before you dig, its free. The utilities that are members of J.U.L.I.E. will come out and locate their lines. You are responsible for your own privately owned lines. Look up before you prune trees or shrubs, to make sure there are no wires around.

Spring is kite season; educate your children to fly kites in open areas, and not around power lines.

Keep these tips in mind this spring so everyone can enjoy the summer to come.

### PA Resource

As members of the military, we are pretty easy targets for questions about service in the military, the Air Force, and more recently, all the changes inevitable at the 183rd Fighter Wing due to BRAC and Total Force Integration plans.

To a degree, we are all recruiters, and spokesmen and women of the 183rd Fighter Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, and U.S. Air Force. Being seen out and about doing our daily activities in community while in uniform, like fueling our cars at the service station, lunch at our local restaurants, or a gallon of milk on the way home, we are sometimes approached by our civilian neighbors with thanks and questions.

However, a friendly reminder, if someone, you don't know personally, approaches you to ask questions and you are uncomfortable with the direction of the questions, you can always refer them to the 183rd Public Affairs Office (217)757-1267, or Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs 9217)761-3569.



### 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](http://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.

## Announcements

### Bring in 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!



### 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

### 5th Annual Family Support Open Buddy Bass Tourny

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](mailto:Steven.parker@ilspri.ang.af.mil) 217-741-4255 or 217-757-1454.

### ANG Bowling Tournament

The 45th Annual Air National Guard Bowling Tournament is scheduled for May 8-10, 2008. This year's tournament is being hosted by Selfridge Air National Guard, Mich. The event is open to active or retired members of the Air National Guard, spouses and immediate family members over 18.

The itinerary is as follows:

- May 8 - Registration
- May 9 - Bowling of singles and dbles
- May 10 - Team Bowling
- Awards banquet, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Entertainment Band, 8:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Cost should be approximately \$66.00 per person. Participants may sign up by individuals or by a five person team. Names and money are due by Mar. 15, 2008.

Contact Master Sgt. Bernie Riddle at (217) 757-1220 or (217) 652-2267.

## Welcome Aboard

2nd Lt. Jeremy J. Woods  
183rd Medical Group  
Nov. 15, 2007

2nd Lt. Teschlyn T. Woods  
183rd Medical Group  
Mar. 24, 2008

1st Lt. Darrin J. McDermott  
183rd Medical Group  
Apr. 04, 2008

## Retiree News

### MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY... CALLING ALL SNAKES

THIS IS THE SOF ON GUARD. ALL SNAKES BE ADVISED... TURF & KENNY ARE COLLECTING 170TH FIGHTER SQUADRON PHOTOS FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION FOR THE 60TH ANNEVER-SARY LAST ROLL CALL.

Review your photo albums and, if possible, scan your photos, provide names, and email to:

[Tracy.Timmons@ilspri.ang.af.mil](mailto:Tracy.Timmons@ilspri.ang.af.mil)  
Or [kenneth.vennell@ilspri.ang.af.mil](mailto:kenneth.vennell@ilspri.ang.af.mil)

They have found some great photos in the archives. Also send photos of your memorabilia items. We have some of the old belt buckles, squadron T-Shirts and TDY beach attire.

Special thanks to Deck Ape, Bob Beabout, John Patterson, Tracy Timmons and Kenny Vennell for their contributions. SOF OUT!

### 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, **MAY 6TH**.

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!

## News from the Field

*Hello from the frozen tundra, ok, well it's actually getting warmer over here as I write. I couldn't say that last month because it hit negative 23 degrees, which I have never experienced before nor do I want to again.*

*I am working at the gym here at Manas Air Base and on Mar. 4, I got here around 5:45 a.m., made myself a protein shake and looked up to see one of my favorite players on, of course, my favorite team, Mr. Tommy Harris of the Chicago Bears.*

*It kind of startled me because I knew some guys were coming in but didn't know when. He asked me what I was drinking and I told him whey protein and, of course, offered him my shake.*

*We started talking about me being from Illinois and what I did back home and then we started talking football. I informed him I was a huge Bears fan and had pictures of myself, Staff Sgt. George Wilson and my brother-in-law at a Bears game we went to last year. I asked would he sign them. He said "I would love too."*

*I ran to my room about as fast as I could, tripping over rocks on my way there, of course. When I got back to the gym, not too many people in the gym besides me knew who he was. One of my coworkers shouted out "man-crush," but I didn't care.*

*We started talking about football again and how he was negotiating his new contract that expires this year. We then talked about Lance Briggs and Brian Urlacher. He went ahead and signed those photos for me and we took a couple pictures together. He told me to meet up with him later and we would get a few more pics and sign a couple more pictures.*

*The whole experience was sort of crazy in a way because you always see these guys on T.V. and, of course, you love them when they make a tackle or sack but then you hate them when they miss one also.*

*In a way you kind of forget what they do once you start talking and find out what they are all about. I mean we just hung out and talked about our families and what we liked to do in our spare time. He was an all around super nice guy.*

*Of course, when it's game time these guys are machines, trained to either protect a quarterback or try and smash them. The other guys in the photo are Mike Rucker from the Carolina Panthers and Luis Castillo from the San Diego Chargers. I didn't really talk to them much because I was trying to hang with Tommy the whole time.*

*But all in all, it was nice to not think about home and what you left behind for a few hours and just to hangout with one of the guys you watch 16 times a year during football season.*

**Staff Sgt David M. Vice, From Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, 183rd Services Flight**



**Greetings:**

*My schedule is very busy with my day usually beginning at 0600 and lasting until 2100. Visitation ministry takes up most of the day and then we have bible studies and worship services in the evening. Of course there is no such thing as an actual schedule because we never know when a crisis may arise or some new project presents itself.*

*We recently built a new classroom for the chapel and remodeled our coffee shop. Our schedule this week will be particularly active in celebration of the Easter season and will include Army chapel staff. I am teaching out of the book of Daniel which has been popular because of all the prophecy and that it took place in Iraq. As always, we respond to medical emergencies and are available at any hour for crisis intervention. We have a small staff (4) and it can be very exhausting to serve nearly 4,000 troops plus civilians.*

*Please continue to keep us in your prayers for strength to serve and protection for all assigned here.*

**Master Sgt. James W. Iaun, NCOIC, Chaplain Service, 506th Air**

**Expeditionary Group, Kirkuk RAB, FOB Warrior, Iraq**

## News from the Field

Things are fine here at Ali Base, Iraq. The weather is ever changing. We have seen everything since January, from freezing and rain with the worse mud I have dealt with in some time, to sand/dust storms, and now high 70s and sunny. That is sure to change shortly though. I believe that I even received a slight sun burn yesterday while grilling burgers.

At the Fire Department, we have been keeping busy with the ops tempo and call volume. There has been some slack time but it has been filled with active duty meetings, commanders calls, training, and other various duties that active duty personnel are used to.

Not too much else to talk about for now. It is about 2015 for you military folk and 8:15 for us civilians. Have a good week and thank you for thinking of us.

**Master Sgt. Richard J. Reimann,**  
Assistant Chief For Operations, Ali Fire and Emergency Services, 183rd Civil Engineering Squadron

*I just completed this painting last night and wanted to share it with you. It is on a 15-foot tall T-barrier that surrounds the fire department.*

*Our base back home has F16's and used to have "Flyin' Illini" painted on all of the aircraft's tails, along with the orange stripes that you see. I took a little bit of liberty to honor our beloved Chief Illiniwek!*

*The characatures at the bottom represent the six firefighters that are here from my unit in Springfield, Ill.*

*I had a lot of fun painting this and got great input from everyone.*

*I just wanted to share my latest adventure!*

*I'll be home SOON!*

**Staff Sgt. Katie Maglia,** 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, Sather Air Base, Iraq, deployed from the 183FW, Springfield, Ill.



## 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.**

*"The experience was awesome, but the way they treated my family was even better," said Senior Master Sgt. Rex L. Arkebauer, Warehouse Supervisor, Logistics Readiness Squadron. "We all got to enjoy my once in a lifetime opportunity and I will remember it the rest of my life!"*



*"I am very, very thankful to all the people that*

*made this possible. This experience really makes you appreciate the men and women who make a rare opportunity like this happen," said Master Sgt. Jeffrey Lopian, NCOIC, Fuels Distribution Section (LRS). "That was the single greatest thing I have ever done! This experience was like an adrenaline shot and opened my eyes to the role each of us plays."*

## You Think You Are So Smart! Calling All Cooks!!!

### Dust Off Your Thinking Cap



After a long, lazy summer, think you'll need to spin-up your brain power before heading back to classes or tackling your 4th-grader's homework this fall?

Make a note on your calendar that the NCO AGA is planning a Trivia Night event hosted by VFW-Post 755, 2211 Old Jacksonville Road in Springfield.

Watch future issues of the Falcon's View for specific details such as time, how to sign-up to play, and prizes!



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@gmail.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. Stayed tuned to this column for more information on our cookbook.

### 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.

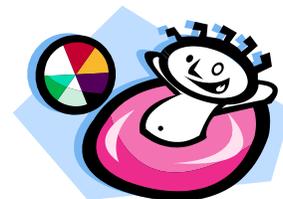
The rates and discounts vary as follows:

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. 1-day passes are available online for \$39.99
2. 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/parkinfolo.aspx>



## Top Story

### WINNER, continued from page one

Robinson. "It is the first time in the 60-year history of the Wing that our Squadron has received this award."

Robinson also has his opinion on what made the 183rd SFS stand out above the rest.

"Without a doubt, it is our people. We have great Airmen within our Squadron who have worked hard over the last several years getting our unit to the point where we were able to compete and eventually win the Outstanding Unit Award," said Robinson. "We also have been very suc-

cessful at leading Guard-wide projects that all ANG (Air National Guard) Security Forces units benefit from. That definitely gave us an advantage when comparing our contributions and successes to other units."

1st Lt. Kevin C. Pennell, Security Forces Officer, and Senior Master Sgt. Andrew P. Thompson, Security Forces Manager, will travel to the 2008 Security Forces Executive Council and Banquet at Lackland AFB, Texas in April to accept the award on behalf of the Squadron.

Robinson departed from Springfield shortly after the announcement was made concerning the award. He

will be deployed to Southwest Asia for approximately six months. He shared his departing thoughts with fellow Airmen.

"This was truly a team effort by all our traditional Guardsmen and women, full-time AGRs (Active-Guard-Reserve), technicians, and state employees. We had a very successful year beginning with the April Unit Compliance inspection and culminated when our Squadron received this prestigious award," he said. "We recognize, however, that this is the beginning, not the end of our continual commitment to being the best Squadron possible."

# 183rd Airman Recognized Nationally

by Capt. Sonja Gurski  
Public Affairs Officer

Receiving a congratulatory handshake from your boss. There could be many reasons one might earn such a gesture: successfully completing the next skill level in your Air Force specialty, a recent promotion, completing the next level of PME, or a welcome home following a successful deployment.

There is not much doubt that Master Sgt. Jeffrey A. Lopian Jr., NCOIC of the Fuels Distribution Section of Logistics Readiness Squadron has received the handshake on just such occasions. However, the handshake he received first from his supervisor in early March was even more special.

In an official message from Col. Richard B. Howard, A4 at the National Guard Bureau, the selection of Lopian as the 2007 Air National Guard Fuels Senior NCO of the Year was announced. Additionally, the message indicated that all 2007 Logistics Readiness Squadron individual award winners are the nominees for the Air Force level competition.

"Initially, I was shocked," said Lopian. "Co-workers, family and friends were all very excited to hear the news. My family was especially thrilled!"

Hopefully Lopian's family was "thrilled" enough with the significance of this award to make some of the sacrifice a family must make



during deployments, a little more worthwhile.

"Master Sergeant Lopian has selflessly volunteered for many deployments for Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom since 2001," said Senior Master Sgt. John T. Hemberger, Fuels Superintendent, Logistics Readiness Squadron. "Sergeant Lopian is an outstanding senior Non-Commissioned Officer whose exceptional leadership skills and dedication have produced unparalleled results, which have contributed immeasurably to the success of the 183d Logistics Readiness Squadron."

Hemberger's experiences working with Lopian are only a mirror of those he has worked with while deployed.

"I have the great distinction of working with one of your best! TSgt Lopian is an outstanding performer, as you already know I am sure," said Tech. Sgt. Charles P. Bean, Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, in an email to Lt. Col. James Bentley, Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander. "Since his arrival here he has hit the ground running and hasn't stopped!"

"I have been active duty for 15 years and TSgt Lopian changes

my perspective of the Guard," wrote Bean. "I would truly go anywhere, anytime with Tech. Sgt. Lopian."

Lopian credits his parents for his attitude and work ethic.

"I owe a great deal of credit to my father and mother who showed me the meaning of working hard," said Lopian. "My Parents have always had to work hard and still found time to help others in need. I have always tried to follow down their path and demonstrate this quality to my children."

It's not just his work ethic that likely set Lopian apart from the rest. It is his overall approach and attitude toward the job. Anyone who has worked with him would likely find it difficult to catch him in a bad mood or tackling any task in anything other than a positive, can-do manner.

"He oversees a continuously improving training program for all assigned personnel and maintained excellent teamwork within fuels operation," said Hemberger. "He has clearly provided superior service, outstanding logistical knowledge and exemplary leadership skills to the Wing."

Lopian did share that it's not just his work ethic or his attitude. A significant part of what drives Jeff to excel at this job is patriotism.

"The most rewarding part of being in the ANG has been the ability to serve my country and community when necessary," said Lopian. "Deployments have been something very rewarding to me as well! I have had the pleasure of meeting some great people, working with equipment that I would normally never get to use, the opportunity to demonstrate my abilities and knowledge of my career field, and most of all, love for my country."

**COMMANDER**

Colonel Michael A. Meyer

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**183d FW/PA**

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

