



Outstanding!

by Capt. Sonja L. Gurski
183rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer

The members of the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron have distinguished themselves by meritorious service as part of the 251st Combat Communications Group, Ohio Air National Guard, who

OUTSTANDING, continued on page ten



Members of the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron pose for a group photo in March to help celebrate their recent presentation of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

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Just the Facts

Unit Training Assembly Schedule and pay dates



Duty Performed Pays out (approx.)

APR 5-6 APR 15

APR 19-20 APR 29

MAY 3-4 MAY 13

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 MAY issue of the Falcon's View is COB Saturday, April 5.



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
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Chaplain	367
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Toll Free Number
1-800-392-1797

Wing Human Resource Advisor

Building relationships and promoting partnerships

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

The 183rd Fighter Wing is part of several communities. We belong to the Air National Guard community, the United States Air Force community, and the civilian community of Springfield and the surrounding area. In order for a community to thrive, members must cooperate, depend on one



another, and strengthen their relationships. In an effort to build these relationships and promote partnerships in the Springfield and surrounding communities, the 183rd is hosting a Diversity Orientation Flight.

On April 18, 2008, an exciting, positive event will take place at the 183rd. Community members that are involved in diversity and decision making in the Springfield area will be invited to participate in this experience. They will attend a presentation about the 183rd and our roles and missions in the Air National Guard, Illinois, and their communities. After the morning presentation and a brief tour, the community members will board a KC-135 from the 126th Air Refueling Wing and observe our F-16s refueling in the air. The intent of this adventure is to create positive relationships that will extend to the communities around the 183rd.

A function such as this involves time, planning, and cooperation at all levels. It can only be successful with the support and assistance from the members of the ANG and communities that we serve. Thanks to everyone that will play a role in this endeavor. It's an honor to be a part of the 183rd community.

Set New Year's priorities ... not resolutions

Commentary by Lt. Col. Susan Schlacter
375th Mission Support Squadron commander

1/25/2008 - SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. -- It's the time of year to make New Year's resolutions, isn't it? We promise to lose weight, get in better shape, study more for promotions, finish degrees and countless other things. Often, though well-intended, we find ourselves never acting upon these commitments. So rather than beginning this new year with a long list of resolutions, let's focus on the things that are truly important priorities. When it comes to priorities that make a difference for both ourselves and the Air Force, self-renewal and making quality time for friends and family are the best places to start.

In order to make progress in any area of our lives, we must first focus on renewing ourselves mentally, physically and spiritually. Every other effort draws the proverbial water from that well. There are numerous ways to improve in these areas. For example, reading selections from the Air Force Chief of Staff's reading list will prepare you mentally to be a better Airman. Physical fitness is critical in boosting your immune system and increasing your life expectancy. Things as easy as taking the stairs versus an elevator or walking versus driving to meetings contribute to making you more fit. Spiritual fitness may be as focused as attending religious services or as simple as reserving some quiet time to reflect. Simply put, emphasizing self-renewal activities is the first step to taking care of yourself, so you can take better care of others.

Closely linked to self-renewal is making quality time for friends and family. How many people on their deathbeds wished they'd spent more time in the office? I realize we are in the profession of arms and are expected to serve selflessly. However, we often have options and we choose to focus on events that are urgent versus important and deplete time available for those who are important to us. In an article "Important vs. Urgent," U.S. Army Col. Mark Blum, 212th Field Artillery Brigade commander, reflected on his boss' three rules for determining if something is truly important:

1. It is important to someone who's important to you.
2. Your personal presence makes a difference.
3. The opportunity is not going to come around again.

Distinguishing between what is important and urgent can preserve precious time with our friends and family, while ensuring we make choices wisely and remain focused on what is really important.

Whatever priorities you set, the key is to align your daily routine with them. Decide what is important to you, prioritize these areas and set goals. So while making New Year's resolutions is a start, let's set New Year's priorities instead. It's a much more effective way of making life-changing improvements.

'Important' vs. 'Urgent'

by Col. Mark Blum
Commander, 212th Field Artillery Brigade,
U.S. Army

Efforts to locate the original publication of this article were unsuccessful, although its reference in several other military publications and resources is indicative of its value to professional military members everywhere.



My wife and I took our daughter to college a week ago. She's our last child to leave the house as our son has been in college for a couple of years now, and it seems a little empty right now.

Phone calls and e-mail will be poor substitute for kitchen conversations, and it is difficult to envision exactly what she's doing, with whom, through a phone line.

I suppose we'll have to get used to her being grown up, but I still remember the little girl who loved gymnastics and didn't like to play with dolls.

As I look back, I wonder what I might have done differently if I'd known everything I know now.

The Army is a great place to raise a kid, but I think I'd make a few changes given the chance.

For instance, I remember a Thanksgiving in Germany as a major when I worked through the day and all night, only going home for an hour to wolf down some Thanksgiving dinner and then going back to work again. I don't even remember what the subject was, but I now know it wasn't important enough to miss Thanksgiving with my family.

There are a lot of good reasons to spend time with your family, and far fewer good reasons not to. I've been in the field on my share of birthdays and holidays, and there's not too much we can do about that.

Still, here's what I'd change:

I'd leave work every day by 1800 if at all possible and earlier if I could. We work from before our children go to school until after they go to bed at night sometimes when they're small. How many hours might I have spent with them in the evening if I'd realized the chance doesn't come around again?

I'd save less money and have more fun.

I think I'd take more long summer vacations to really memorable places with the kids instead of making the PCS move part of the vacation. I'd make it a priority for them to see their grandparents more often, regardless of where we lived.

I'd be more selective about the social engagements I accepted, even if it was "expected" that I attend. My kids "expected" that I'd be with them too, and I don't recall any banquets where my presence determined the outcome of the evening. Sometimes I made the wrong choice.

I would pay more attention to which teachers my children had and less attention to the grades they made. I'd be more help on school projects and less irritated when they brought one to me for help at the last minute. I get things every day at work at the last minute, for a lot of reasons. I would be more understanding that it happens to kids, too.

I'd go to all the PTA meetings, not just some, and every sports

IMPORTANT continued, page 15

Memo 2004-01 for your review

by Capt. Sonja Gurski
183rd Public Affairs Officer



This is not something new, the policy or the fact that we are all inundated with so much information, it is a challenge to stay abreast of it all and what WE are responsible for. Whether command policies are posted on your local bulletin boards, placed in read files, or reviewed at roll-calls, ultimately the responsibility is the Guard member's to be aware. Ignorance of the law, or policy, has never been a viable excuse.

So, to assist with staying on top of things, this month we will review Illinois Department of Military Affairs Memo 2004-01, Feb. 01, 2004, Reporting Requirements for Arrests, Pending Criminal Charges and Convic-

tions.

The policy states that ALL personnel are required to report arrests, charges and/or conviction concerning AGR and traditional Guard members of the Illinois Army National Guard and Illinois Air National Guard. Paragraph one specifically reads:

Commanders and military supervisors must be informed when any member of the ILARNG or ILANG has been arrested, charged with or convicted of any criminal offense, except for minor traffic offenses. In this regard, arrests, charges or convictions may affect a member's security clearance, duty performance and assignment, or the member's ability to possess firearms or ammunition (i.e., under the Lautenberg Amendment). Arrests, charges or convictions for serious criminal offenses or alcohol-related offenses, especially Driving Under the Influence (DUI), may also undermine good order and discipline and reflect a negative image on the Illinois National Guard.

For a complete copy of this memo or any other TAG policy memo, go to the base network J:/Read/TAG Correspondence.

Health News

Some elective surgery could disqualify you

By Maj. Ronald S. Weingart, BSC
183rd Medical Group, Chief of Optometry

Eye surgery for vision correction is a popular elective medical procedure. There are a number of procedures available – PRK, LASEK, LASIK and Custom LASIK are common examples.

However, not all corneal refractive surgery procedures are accepted by the US Air Force and undergoing a non-approved procedure may cause a member to be medically disqualified.

As a member of the Air National Guard, you must follow the guidelines established by the U.S. Air Force Refractive Surgery (USAF-RS) Program for any type of corneal refractive surgery. The AF guidelines apply to Active Duty (AD), Active Guard/Re-



serve (AGR) and traditional Guard members seeking civilian or military surgical services. A copy of these guidelines may be obtained at the 183rd Medical Group front desk or at https://kx.afms.mil/kxweb/dotmil/kj.do?functionalArea=RS_USAF

The important points are that you may not undergo refractive surgery until you have received “permission to proceed”; and that upon receipt of this authorization you must coordinate treatment within three months of the date of your commander's signature. You should also allow for approval time, 90 days, when planning/scheduling procedures.

The application process is not difficult, but will require:

1. Completing an application
2. Meeting with a Health Benefits advisor for direction (Chief Master

Sgt. Devra Schoby or Tech. Sgt. Misty Blair at the 183rd)

3. Coordinate completion of the application with your chosen eye clinic –civilian or Active Duty Medical Treatment Facility (MTF)

4. Submit the completed package to the USAF-RS Registry for “Permission to Proceed” Determination.

If your application is approved, contact your surgical center for the treating physician to make the final determination for your surgery to proceed.

After the surgery, consult with AF eye care provider and your primary care manager to ensure timely and appropriate evaluations are accomplished.

Active duty members are not authorized convalescent leave unless recommended by a military health care provider.

If you have any questions, contact Chief Schoby at 757-1221.

You are alive!

by Maj. In Suk Peebles
183rd Wing Chaplain

While in seminary, I saw myself working as a pastor to an American congregation and not a Korean one, so subsequently tried to make up lost ground by deconstructing and reconstructing my identity. I was unhappy with the way I spoke English first and foremost. My intonation didn't have the Hoosier rhythm; my accent gave away my identity. I was a foreigner, and my American citizenship didn't matter. TV programs about that featured some Koreans like M*A*S*H embarrassed me. I cringed every time I saw or heard some shabby Korean characters speaking terrible English. Even in the late 1980's in this country, people judged Koreans as people not "with it," out of kilter. I wanted to disassociate myself from it all.

I worked hard to change my accent, vowel after vowel, consonant after consonant, intonation after intonation. I especially paid very close attention to long and short vowels such as "ship" and "sheep" and words that have letters "L" and "R" in them like "lice" and "rice." One at a time I tried to conquer them. Moreover, I fought to gain control of my emotions so that they became my servants, not my master. When I felt I was making progress, I tried even harder by reading the Bible aloud in order to remove such linguistic binders.

By and large the makeover worked, giving me a personality that has fit comfortably in the last decade or so. I became less vulnerable and more confident and flexible in my speech and personality. I



now often hear people telling me over the phone by saying, 'Oh I didn't recognize your voice. You sound just like one of us now.' Each time I heard such comments made about

me, I was elated and became ecstatic. Well, finally the ghosts vanished and I thought I had escaped my past.

To my surprise, the problems showed up a few years ago when I began to realize the limits of a self constructed personality. In most ways important to God, I had failed miserably. I was impatient, arrogant, joyless, and lacked compassion. I had become rude and loveless. I couldn't stand myself. In other words, I had become dead spiritually. To make matters worse, I became a person difficult to live with. I didn't make much room for my family and while I appeared to be normal if not wonderful in public, I was a different person at home. How they survived during those years is a miracle.

Wanting to be alive, I read many books on matters of spirituality, prayed, practiced meditation and I realized that I could not construct the qualities of God's gifts at my will; they must be grown, cultivated by God's indwelling presence. I made a 'listening space' in my life; about an hour in the morning in the guest bedroom I sat and emptied myself in meditation. Spirituality be-

ing alive is not something we can intentionally strive for but rather it's something as simple as making room so that God can live with us.

I came to see that my entire project of reconstructing my personality was absurd and foolish. God did not want to work with a different personality. I don't know when, but God chose me and decided to live in me. A spiritual person is one who possesses the qualities of God and displays the fruits of the spirit. These fruits are love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. Without those qualities, I am dead.

Lately, I hear lots of people talk freely about spirituality. Every week, I encounter someone who says, 'I want to be more spiritual.' Can you examine your life and see if you possess those qualities and manifest those qualities in your daily life? If not, can you come up with a list that keeps you spiritually dead? What drives you to leave God out of your life? If God is apart of your life, then celebrate. You are alive!

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

Fear Factor

submitted by Lt. Col. Paul J. Young
183rd Fighter Wing Chief of Safety

resource: Money Magazine

We all worry. The problem is, we're scared of the wrong things.

The world sure looks scary. The TV bombards you with images of crime, disaster and mishaps that have you fretting about your own demise. From the guy in India who wants your job, to the plummeting value of your home, to the need for identity theft insurance because not even your name is safe – it's enough to make you FREAK OUT! And for no good reason.

The way we perceive danger is driven by emotional responses than by reasoned calculation of actual risk. We act now and think later. We think we're safer when we have control – even though it's 65 times more dangerous driving our car than letting a pilot fly the airliner we're in. These feelings can wreak havoc with our decisions in life. However, we can outwit our impulses by understanding why we err in evaluating risk: thus leading to fewer bad decisions. Read on to learn of some common fears and how to mitigate your fears of them:

Fear No. 1: You Die Young (13% chance you die before 65)

Real Danger: You're disabled and can't work. (28% chance a worker is disabled for an extended time before 65). Half of those declaring bankruptcy do so because of health problems or medical bills.

1. Make sure you have adequate insurance in case life puts you on the disabled list.
2. If your employer offers a supplemental plan at group rates, buy it.

Fear No. 2: The stock market crashes (According to investors the chance of a stock market crash 1 in 2)

Real Danger: Decades of mediocre returns (Likelihood of a crash 1 in 50)

1. Diversify your holding in two dimensions: space and time.
2. Space: hold all types of investments-U.S., foreign, stocks, bonds, real estate.
3. Time: buy steadily through dollar cost averaging.

Fear No. 3: Your Identity is Stolen (Chance you're a victim of high-tech identity theft 1 in

200).

Real Danger: Your credit report is riddled with errors (7 in 10 chance your credit report contains an error). A bigger danger than thieves wrecking your credit rating is that it is being wrecked by accident.

1. Leave ID's you don't need at home. SSN is not something to carry and don't give it out unless it is absolutely necessary. Ask why the clerk needs your SSN and if there are other means besides giving it to them.

2. Monitor your credit for free. You get a free credit report from the 3 agencies every year. Go to annualcreditreport.com every 4 months and get a free report from a different agency and keep on top of what's happening with your financial information. Note: ignore the similar freecreditreport.com and the offers to monitor your credit monthly for a fee.

Fear No. 4: The Housing Bubble will continue to pop.

Real Danger: You're in over your head

1. Downsize. If you used an interest only loan to get than five bedroom on the lake, but can really only afford a 2 bedroom, then consider what happens if you "have" to sell immediately.

2. Look at locking in your adjustable rate to a fixed rate.

3. Read the fine print in the contract – it makes all the difference.

Fear No.5: Your job is outsourced (number of U.S. jobs outsourced in a year 350k).

Real Danger: You're obsolete (number of jobs lost to technology, competition 13 million).

1. Pick up tech skills so that you're comfortable around new technology.
2. Get out of your own little world. Try to understand what skills will be of value tomorrow.
3. Network and socialize to build outside contacts that may lead to new opportunities.

Fear can be good if you are able to understand how to recognize the true risks associated with life and use that fear to better your situation before that 200 lb rock falls on your head and you failed to look up and step aside.

We usually talk about your physical safety and how to do things safer and better. Your mental safety is just as important to your security and enjoyment of life. Don't take anything you read here as gospel, however, do analyze your particular situation and build your tool chest of knowledge so that you can make better decisions for you and your family on the various issues that modern life throws at you.



Major

Dale A. Bush
Craig W. Reichert

Captain

Justin P. Short
Aaron D. Steffanus

Senior Master Sgt.
Fredrick W. Ausmus

Master Sergeant

Misty L. Blair
Christopher D. Cape
Carl W. Hill

Technical Sergeant

Jason Bennett
Elizabeth Bruce
Brian Crollly
Amy J. Greenan
Richard A. Jackson
Carrie L. Redpath
Travis R. Tapscott

Staff Sergeant

Richard J. Barfield
Matthew R. Davlin
Nicholas R. Jeffers
Ryan E. Lynch
Katherine G. Maglia
John W. Moyer
Shane MA Schuh

Senior Airman

Aja C. Blair
Michael J. Davis
Stephanie A. Lane
Kimberly Pappenfoht

Airman

Tyler J. Pier

Welcome Aboard

Staff Sgt. Jordan R. Matulevich
Engineering Installation Squadron, Dec. 13, 2007

Personal Note

Wedding

Retired Master Sgt.'s Lisa Thomas (LRS) and Bruce Smith (AMS) were married on October 6, 2007 at 2 p.m. at the Springfield Southern Baptist Church. A reception immediately followed the wedding ceremony at the Springfield Ski and Boat Club with family and friends.

Smith retired from the Avionics shop in 1998 and Thomas is an October 2007 retiree from the Management and Systems section. Congratulations to the happy couple!



THINK OPSEC

Integrate it into your
daily routine!

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 vinternet homepage link to base publications and forms.



"The F-16 ride was an amazingly out of MY world experience," said Staff Sgt. Daniel J. Casson, electrician, 183rd Civil Engineer Squadron. "Thank you to everyone with direct

and indirect support of the flying mission. I feel so privileged to serve with my 183rd and 170th family."

New Retirees

Capt. Robin E. Kincaid, Medical Group, Jan. 23

Tech. Sgt. Michael A. Stauffer, Logistics Readiness Squadron, Jan. 31

Tech. Sgt. James B. Sator, Civil Engineer Squadron, Feb. 3

Tech. Sgt. Guy J. Bergschneider, Civil Engineer Squadron, Feb. 23

Senior Master Sgt. Darrell W. Wright, Logistics Readiness Squadron, Feb. 29

Master Sgt. Scott A. Schukar, Civil Engineer Squadron, Mar. 31

Master Sgt. Michael D. Shaw, Maintenance Squadron, Mar. 31

Master Sgt. Mark A. Gatons, Civil Engineer Squadron, Apr. 1

Announcements

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.

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.

“There I was...” (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 ANNEVERSARY LAST ROLL CALL.

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

Tracy.Timmons@ilspri.ang.af.mil Or 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, Harry Stoutmyer, 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, APRIL 1ST.

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!

Spring semi-annual retirees luncheon THIS MONTH!

Retirees of the 183rd Fighter Wing will be getting together to share stories of days-gone-by and catch up on what is new.

Every retiree is encouraged to attend and bring someone with you.

If you need more information or have questions, contact Capt. Sonja Gurski at 217-757-1267 or Mr. Walt Pierce at 217-787-1226.

What: Semi- Annual Retiree Luncheon

When: Friday, April 25, 2008 at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Diamond Buffet (formerly Shakey's Pizza and Buffet), 2441 S. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield.

Cost: \$7.25 per person covers a meal, drinks, dessert, and tax. (A gratuity basket will be available.)

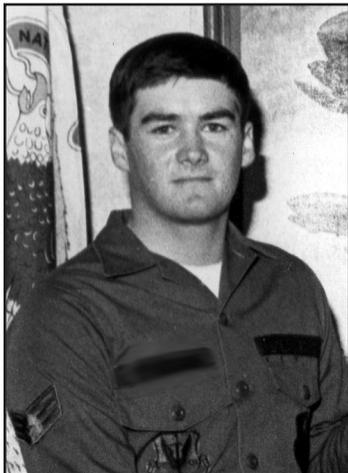
TRICARE Retiree Dental Program

Although you have to wait until you are age 60 to receive TRICARE medical benefits and retired pay, you and your family members are eligible for the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) as soon as you stop drilling and enter Retired Reserve status – even if you are under age 60!

The TRDP offers a comprehensive dental benefit program to the nation's Uniformed Services retirees, including members of the National Guard and Reserve who, regardless of their age, have transferred to Retired Reserve status.

For complete information about the program, eligibility, dentists, coverage, cost, and how to enroll, visit www.trdp.org or call toll-free at (888) 838-8737.

Flash Back



Senior Airman David L. Winkelman
183rd Consolidated Aircraft
Maintenance Sq.
F-4D Crew Chief & 1987 Airman of the Year

Master Sgt. David L. Winkelman
183rd Maintenance Squadron
AGE Craftsman, March 2008



Do you know this Airman?

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 yesteryear? 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!



I had a great career, THANKS!

by Mr. Perry Jackson
Family Readiness and Support
Coordinator

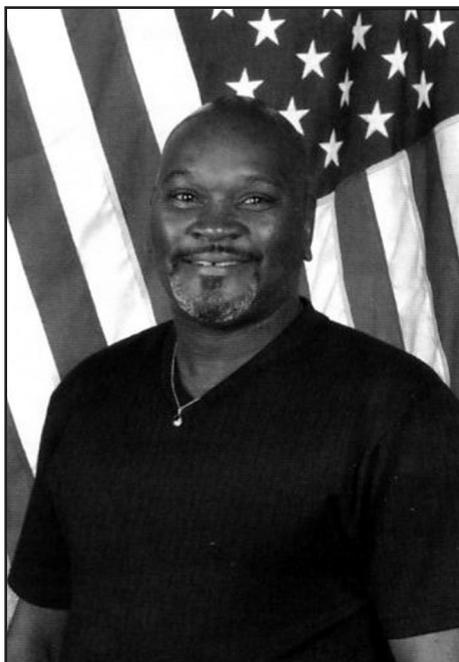
My dear friends, associates and coworkers, on June 19 of this year, I have a total of thirty-six years of proud service associated and affiliated with the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard, combined.

Please allow me to recap and summarize. I started my career in the active Air Force on June 19, 1972 and after basic training, was a Security Police Dog Handler for four years. Yes, I remember when they started wearing the Berets. I wore the blue dickeys, for you SP folks, after many years of walking around F-4s, KC -135, sleeping on bombs in the jungle of Guam and the B-52 bombers taking off for Vietnam.

I then cross trained into the Antenna Cable career field. I must say, I truly learned and understood the meaning of the Air Force motto: Aim High. Of the antenna's I have climbed, the highest was in turkey at 560 feet above ground! I have climbed many different types of fixtures, wood or metal from as low as ten feet to the height of 560 feet, and in some of the strangest places. I say all that to say this, my career kept spiraling upward; getting better as I gained in knowledge, position, confidence, and responsibilities. As I rose in rank, I earned the respect of my supervisor and my subordinates as well. What an emotional rush for me.

I traveled and worked in places I never dreamed I would ever see. I met and worked with people I still keep in touch with from time to time.

The questions I have always struggled with is caring about people, what I did on and off the job, showing how proud I was to be an airman in the Air Force, how I did it and did it matter? Did I make a difference in the positions I



held or the job I am doing? Did I touch or affect someone in a positive manner in some way along my life's highway? I continue to ask myself those questions as well as; did I leave the position better than I found it?

As important as those questions are, I do not know the answers and only when I get feed back from those people will I ever know the answer to those questions. It is also a question for you, the people I leave behind, to decide. Did I?

I do know this; I got as much if not more from any position I held than I think I could possibly give to it. You see, in those thirty-five years, I learned to be patient, I learned to listen, I learned to attempt or try to understand, placed my mind, heart and soul into someone else's point of view, to learn how they felt why they felt and to better assist them when asked of me. I learned that the end result is what really matters. After the day is done, could I sleep well with what I did with and to my comrades that day?

One of many Chief's that I felt helped me along my path to obtaining the rank of Chief Master Sergeant once told me: "Perry, all I expect and demand of you is an honest day's work for and honest day's pay."

He could have told me a lot more than those few simple words, he could have cussed at me, he could have told me as a young staff sergeant that I was dumber than a box of rocks. He could have used harsh words, such as get out of the way and I will do it myself. Instead, he taught me, he counseled me in a positive manner, he encouraged me, he mentored me well before mentoring became mandatory. His words and, more importantly, his actions have served me well to this day.

Now add to that the fact that I not only watched but understood the meaning behind the movie PAY It Forward, this sums up what I am trying to convey to all of you interested in what I have to say. In some way I hope my time here has been an asset to someone I have come in contact with over these last years.

When the sun has set on your careers as it now sets on mine, I hope you take the time to remember that you had help climbing the ladder of success. I suggest you do not forget those below you that helped you climb that ladder.

I say to you now, farewell to you and yours. I wish you the best in this time of change you are going through because of the BRAC implementation. Be patient, be open and above all be flexible to change.

The reason for the title is the Air Force/Air Guard is and always will be a family and being part of a family makes it so hard when you leave. It is tearing my heart out to write this. I will move on but I will never find a group of people that I have cared for as much as I have about my military families. I will continue to pray for your safety as you continue to be the best organization I have ever had an opportunity to be affiliated with.

The position of the Family Readiness Manager here at the 183rd has been one of the highlights of my life. If you have not ever taken a word of advice from me please heed this advice, take care of your families because they will always be there for you no matter what!

May God Bless and keep you all!

OUTSTANDING, continued from page one

were recently recognized as an Air Force Outstanding Unit! The citation read, in part:

From 1 August 2005 to 31 July 2007, the professionalism, esprit de corp, and technical expertise demonstrated by unit personnel was exemplary. The 251st Combat Communications Group aggressively pursued opportunities to support the Total Force, and astutely served as Deputy J6 during the largest DOD/coalition exercise ever conducted - Joint Red Flag in 2005. The 251st Combat Communications Group was the US-NORTHCOM J6 at Camp Shelby, MS. directly supporting all Title 10 active duty Katrina, Rita, and Wilma hurricane relief efforts and all subordinate units provided equipment and personnel UTCs supporting multiple sites in Louisiana and Mississippi – over 150 personnel total executing 4500 man days. The 251st Combat Communications Group and its 7 subordinate squadrons (217 EIS, Illinois ANG, 218 EIS, Missouri ANG, 220 EIS, Ohio ANG, 239 CBCS, Missouri ANG, 241 ATC, Missouri ANG, 264 CBCS, Illinois ANG, 269 CBCS, Ohio ANG) significantly contributed to the mission success of Global Patriot 05/06/07, JFCOM sponsored Joint User's Interoperability Communications Exercise 05/06/07, EUCOM sponsored Austere Challenge 2006 and JTF validation for HQs 3AF during Flexible Leader 2007, Operation Deep Freeze, Eagle Vision, Eagle 06/07, and the Hurricanes Ivan, Jeanne, Katrina, Rita, and Wilma relief efforts. The support and dedication by the Engineering Installation Squadrons proved to be a great asset with engineering projects supporting the AEF, RAF Croughton, England, Offutt AFB, Nebraska, and Ramstein AFB, Germany. Last, units of the 251st received excellent or higher ratings on all ACC/IG ORI, UCI and Command COMSEC Inspections during the period. The 251st Combat Communications Group's active involvement in community activities has successfully increased their rapport with the citizens and veterans in the surrounding area. The distinctive accomplishments of the members of the 251st Combat Communications Group reflect great credit upon themselves, the Air National Guard, and the United States Air Force.

Congratulations to all of the members of the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron and those who support them, co-workers and family, for the part they contributed to this distinguished award.

Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Graduates Association

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/parkinfo.aspx>



THE BIG DEAL

by Capt. Sonja L. Gurski
183rd Public Affairs Officer

It would be nearly impossible to meet someone who has accomplished so much and still remains so humble about their success.

Lt. Col. Joseph P. Maslar, 183rd Medial Group Chief of Hospital Services and Deputy Chief of Aerospace Medicine, was named the 2007 Air National Guard Outstanding Medical Corps Officer of the Year in January.

A hint to one of the bullets on the award nomination submitted by his commander, Col. Amy L. Walker, 183rd Medical Group Commander, is that Maslar had to be notified via email because he was deployed to Antarctica as a volunteer with the 109th Airlift Wing, Scotia, New York Air National Guard. He spent 30 days there "on the ice" serving as the compound Flight Surgeon for Operation Deep Freeze.

"Congrats Joe!!! You can now quote anchorman," said 2nd Lt. Jennifer A. Stoner, 183rd Medical Group Nurse. "You can rehearse, 'I don't know how to put this...but, I'm kind of a big deal.'"

Maslar still shied away from accepting all of the credit.

"It is flattering but, Col. Walker is so supportive, so lavish with her praise," said Maslar. "It's really a reflection of her support and the advocacy of my co-workers."

"Whatever good things she submitted," said Maslar. "I was only able to do because of the support of the people here and because of the contributions from the entire Medical Group."

Even though he has only graced our unit for the past three years, Maslar has more than 17 years of satisfactory service, beginning his career with the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard in 1990. Since that time, the



credentials and list of accolades included within the nomination are still very impressive.

"Lt. Col. Maslar came to the 183rd Medical Group in February 2005," wrote Col. Walker. "Dr. Maslar was our 'jackpot' accession of the year; a decorated F-16 Pilot with over 15 years of service, and a board certified Emergency Room physician."

The memo goes on to document volunteer deployments to Balad Air Base, Iraq, and Tbilisi, Georgia to support Cooperative Archer 2007. He served as the lead physician for a tri-state disaster response exercise, Vigilant Guard, in Indiana. In all of these instances, he went above what was asked or required, seizing the opportunity to lead, teach, and learn.

For example, while serving in his unit training code (UTC) of Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT) physician during his AEF deployment to Iraq, he identified a critical training gap. On AEF CCATT missions, he was not trained to assist in rotary wing medical evacuation, an area that periodically needed Air Force assistance. After the deployment, Maslar researched and attended the Navy Helodunker Course,

Pensacola Naval Air Station, a helicopter water egress training course. He is now certified to fly with rotary wing operations during his next deployment.

As if the dedication to his military commitment wasn't enough, he also works as the Emergency Medicine Attending Physician in a Chicago area hospital, teaches emergency medicine technique at every opportunity, is a guest speaker at ER conferences, teaches and tests paramedics for the local EMS Academy, serves on the Emergency Medical Council and Bioterrorism Committee, and still finds the time to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics and gives his time to a free clinic for underserved and uninsured. Whew!

"He is talented, he is giving, he is an All-Star officer and doctor," said Col. Walker. "And lastly, Joe is the nicest guy you'll ever meet."

Although a pretty far stretch from the arrogance of Anchorman's Ron Burgundy, Maslar's co-workers are obviously aware of his modesty. They presented him with a token of congratulations during the March UTA, a t-shirt that stated "I am a BIG deal."

"Great job Joe!!! You deserve it," said Maj. Teresa J. Morrell-Riech, 183rd Medical Group Physician. "Now you need to get some mahogany and leather-bound books in your office!"



Add photographer to his list of skills. Lt. Col. Joseph P. Maslar, the 2007 Air National Guard Outstanding Medical Corps Officer of the Year, captured this photo just north of McMurdo Station while deployed to Antarctica earlier this year.

Air controllers practice rappelling from 185 feet

by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Allen
U.S. AFCENT Media Outreach Team

3/14/2008 - SATHER AIR BASE, Iraq -- Like spiders riding down a thread of silk, Air Force air traffic controllers rappelled down a 185-foot control tower and learned a skill that could one day save their lives, March 3.

For the controllers of the 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, working in the Baghdad International Airport tower provides a great vantage point for controlling airfield traffic. In the event of an emergency, however, it could prove to be a death trap. Left with rappelling as their only means of escape, speed is of the utmost importance.

“A lot of us have husbands, wives, children, family and friends [who] we want to get back home to. In a fire seconds count, with this training the workers should be able to get to the roof of the tower and be ready to go within a short time,” said Staff Sgt. Grant Gimpel, 447 ECES firefighter, who is deployed from the Minnesota Air National Guard 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn.

Armed with what seemed like enough rope and climbing gear to summit Mount Everest, firefighters assigned to the 447th Air Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron provided their fellow Airmen with the life-saving training, but first they had to get to the top of the tower. After making their twisted ascent to the roof using a combination of the elevator and stairs, the firefighters began unpacking bags and tying off ropes with knots that would leave the saltiest of sailors breathless.

Just peeking over the edge of the tower for the first time instantly freezes some people in their tracks; coping with sweating palms and flipping stomachs could waste precious seconds.

For the firefighters, however, the tangle of ropes as well as the sea of



SATHER AIR BASE, Iraq -- Staff Sgt. Katie Maglia, 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's fire department, deployed from 183rd Fighter Wing, Springfield, Illinois, has the area surrounding the Baghdad International Airport air traffic control tower reflected in her glasses as she looks over the edge of the tower March 3. Sergeant Maglia is one of a group of fire fighters training personnel to rappel in case of an emergency in the 185 foot tower. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Allen)

SATHER AIR BASE, Iraq -- Staff Sgt. Katie Maglia, a fire fighter from the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, deployed from 183rd Fighter Wing, Springfield, Illinois, adjusts the rappelling harness of Tech Sgt. Tracy McDonald, an air traffic controller with the 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, before rappelling from the Baghdad International Airport air traffic control tower during a training event March 3. The training is necessary in case personnel working in the 185-foot tower need to escape during an emergency. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Allen)



straps and buckles is a typical sight. “I do this stuff at home,” said Senior Airman Todd Cooper, 447 ECES firefighter, as he secured the rope to a bolt on the top of the tower radar stand. The Airman is deployed from Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan.

Everything was checked three times and equipped with back-up safety mechanisms, to include the large, class-three harness, which with its layers of straps and buckles, is more than sufficient to safely support the weight of even the largest tower worker. “It [the harness] is designed to carry your weight and someone else’s during a rescue, but you guys will only have a rigger’s belt if you need to do this for real.” Tech. Sgt. Ed Autery, a 447 ECES firefighter deployed from 183rd Fighter Wing, Springfield, Illinois, told the controllers while holding up a comparatively tiny rigger’s belt.

A rigger’s belt is a thin nylon strap that folds through a buckle and is held closed with a fabric fastener. The only dis-

tinguishable difference from a regular belt is the small metal ring about two inches right of the buckle where the rappelling rope attaches.

The reality of going over the edge of the nearly 200-foot tower tethered by a single rope and a harness, let alone a small belt, would make even the bravest person pause. Just climbing over the railing was the hardest part for controller Senior Airman Brandi Nesladek, deployed to Iraq from the 259th Air Traffic Control Squadron, Louisiana Air National Guard, out of Alexandria, La. “When they told me to lean back, all I could do was argue,” said Airman Nesladek, a Fort Walton Beach, Fla., native.

For most, going over the rail requires conquering primal fears, but reaching the ground safely leaves them with the confidence they need to save themselves. “Once I reached the bottom, it was a rush! I almost wanted to do it again -- almost!” Airman Nesladek said.

News From the Field



The weather here is cold at night and warm, 60-65ish during the day. Everyday though is different. Sunny, sand storm, or rain for 12 hours! The training we have received at UTA weekends does help. Things are a little different here, but like finding an UXO, (they pop out of the ground like weeds here) is done right from the Airmans manual.

Our fire department consist of personnel from 12 bases. For the most part, we have worked as one unit from the first day. I think that is amazing!

As for the tent living, 3-minute showers, and dust/sand storms, I am will be happy when this is over!

Again, thanks for the shout-out and tell all that we appreciate that they are thinking of us.

This is one of the last paintings left in the country!

Staff Sgt. Rian R. Brassell
Fire Fighter
183rd Civil Engineer Squadron, deployed



"Balad is intresting to say the least. Very Active duty, with it's benefits and it's disadvantages. 12 hour days standard! I am with a good group of troops that are real go getters. Here is a picture of me clowning to Green Acres during arm up."

Master Sgt. Kevin J. Skibbens
332 ECES Emergency Management Flight, NCOIC
183rd Cvil Engineer Squadron, deployed



Staff Sgt. Christopher Izydorek, 183rd Civil Engineer Squadron, pauses for this photo while deployed to Southwest Asia in February.

I'm doing good. The weather is great. The work is going good.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy R. Bell
183rd Civil Engineer Squadron (deployed)

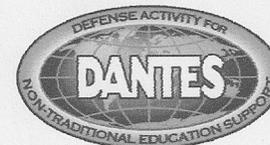
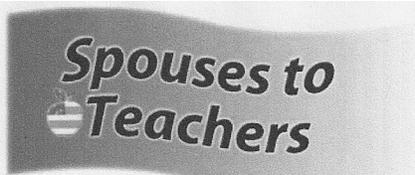


Hey, Tech. Sgt Autery here, from the Fire Department.

There are six firefighters deployed from home to this location (pictured above from left: Tech. Sgt. Edward L. Autery, Tech Sgt. Heath R. Jordan, Staff Sgt. Katherine G. Maglia, Staff Sgt. Rian r. Brassell, Tech Sgt. Gregory J. Gardner, and Tech. Sgt. Eric C. Benson).

One exciting task that has been assigned to me while we are here is to train fire fighters on rappelling for high angle rescue. In turn these fire fighters will train various other personnel on base. One of our own has been trained for this task while here and will be helping to train others, newly promoted Staff Sgt. Maglia. She is always eager to do new things and has jumped (literally and figuratively) into this opportunity with both feet. She completed her first rappel, a 70-foot rappel, this past week. The next step in the process for them is a 185-foot rappel off the control tower, which Staff Sgt. Maglia will be a part of. She will then be helping train the air traffic controllers to rappel, in case of an egress event or emergency within the tower. (See related story on page 12) Thank you.

Tech. Sgt. Edward L. Autery
183rd Civil Engineer Squadron, Fire Fighter (deployed)



**A MOBILE CAREER SUPPORTING A MOBILE SPOUSE
STATESIDE**

BACKGROUND / PURPOSE

The Spouses to Teachers Program is a Department of Defense initiative of the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy. It is managed and operated by the Defense Activity for Non Traditional Education Support (DANTES). Spouses to Teachers provides support to spouses interested in teaching K-12 students in public, private, charter, Department of Defense Dependent School (DoDDS), or high school at a community college.

BENEFITS OF A TEACHING CAREER

- A professional and portable career which is marketable in most locales
- The spouse's teaching profession is established prior to separation or retirement from the military
- Military spouses can easily identify with children of deployed parents
- Family finances supplemented

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

- Spouses of active duty personnel
- Spouses of members of Selected Reserve and National Guard
- Spouses of members of Individual Ready Reserve recalled to active duty

AUDIENCE SUPPORTED

- Spouses with little or no college seeking guidance on starting or completing a college degree
- Spouses with a bachelors degree or higher and seeking certification
- Spouses that are certified and seeking additional state certification

COUNSELING / INFORMATION PROVIDED

- Guidance towards starting or completing a degree
- Certification requirements for the 50 states to include reciprocity agreements
- Different routes to certification
- College transcript reviews
- Reimbursement of state certification examinations, GRE (if in the education field), and the ABCTE Program up to \$600
- Scholarships and financial aid resources available to assist with tuition expenses
- Study references for state certification examinations
- Networking resources available in each state for teaching opportunities and application process

HOW TO REGISTER / REIMBURSEMENTS

- For spouses seeking guidance on teacher certification in the Continental United States contact the representative in the Troops to Teachers/Spouses to Teachers State Office for registration
- Reimbursement procedures consist of a voucher issued by the Spouses to Teachers State Office
- The voucher will accompany verification of the amount paid for certification examinations, GRE, or ABCTE (to include the registration fees), and a voided check or direct deposit form mailed to the National office listed below
- No reimbursements are authorized prior to 45 days of registering with the Spouses to Teachers Program
- All reimbursements will be made electronically into your bank account from DFAS Pensacola within 3-4 weeks of processing

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

DANTES
Spouses to Teachers
6490 Saufley Field Road
Pensacola, Florida 32509-5243

Email: stt@navy.mil
Toll Free: 800-231-6242
Commercial: 850-452-1166 ext 3224
Fax: 850-452-1194/1096

Rev 01/15/08

IMPORTANT, continued from page three

through the door at night I'd be more absorbed in their worlds. I could have thought about most of those problems after they went to bed.

I'd throw a Frisbee more often with the kids and do less yard work. I can rake leaves anytime. We'd clean the house less and spend more time messing it up doing fun stuff. I'd never again lose a day of annual leave. One year I lost 24 days – what a waste.

I once had a boss who talked about the difference between what's "urgent" and what's "important." He hadn't learned that lesson until late in his career, and didn't want others to make the same mistakes. He always worked long hours, even once missing his son's Eagle Scout initiation because of something happening he felt he needed to deal with, but later wished he'd left to someone else.

He had three rules to determine the difference between "important" and "urgent," and if an event were important he'd offer that you should think long and hard before missing it. To him, an event is important if:

1. It is important to someone who's important to you;
2. Your personal presence makes a difference; and
3. The opportunity is not going to come around again.

If those three conditions are satisfied you have a pretty good idea what you should focus on. He would always use this one example: As a Division Commander his unit was having a Warfighter Exercise – a major event for a Division. One of the Brigade Commanders' daughters was starting her freshman year in college, and he indicated he was going to take her and get her settled, and would miss most of the exercise.

As might be expected he was not real excited about one of his senior commanders missing the Warfighter, and pressured him to just have his wife take his daughter. The Brigade Commander insisted, even knowing he could be killing his career. After the Warfighter ended he said he gained a great deal of respect for that commander as a result of his decision, and took a hard look at some of the choices he'd made in his own career. His own wife had made him see the wisdom of the man's choice.

Overall, I think military life has been great for my family, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. The choices I've made have been mine, and I haven't always made the right ones for the right reasons. Even so, kids survive parents learning "as we go."

My advice is to make your choices wisely. The object for all of us is to make sure we run out of career before we run out of family. For more than 20 years we've had at least one kid in the house at all times. Now it's just as, which is what we had when we started, at least until Thanksgiving. We're already looking forward to that time this year.

THIRD ANNUAL ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD RETIREE RENDEZVOUS

Join us for retiree dinner 2008, held at the Sangamon Prairie Reception Center, Chatham, Ill., and a weekend of camaraderie and excitement. This is an excellent opportunity to socialize with friends, meet new retirees and hear why we need you to continue to serve.

WHO: All Illinois National Guard members, retirees and spouses

WHAT: A good meal – and a chance to share good food and great memories with friends

WHEN: 25 April 2008, 1800 hours

WHERE: Sangamon Prairie Reception Center, 202 S. Main, Route 4, Chatham, IL

WHY: To honor IL retirees and their families

ATTIRE: Causal Attire

NOTE: There is no charge for retirees and their spouses. There is an \$18.00 charge for current military members and their attendees. Make checks payable to IL National Guard Family Readiness

Other Activities in the area that weekend: NGAI Conference (Saturday, Apr. 26), Lincoln Presidential Library Social (Saturday Evening). The Abraham Lincoln Hotel is extending a special room rate of \$76.00 for the Illinois National Guard. Reservations must be made by Apr. 1, 2008. You may contact them at 1-866-788-1860, group name is NGAI.

Please RSVP to Col. Heard-Thompson with the below information at l.heardthompson@us.army.mil with the subject line "Retiree Dinner" or call 217-761-3781 to **RSVP no later than Apr. 10, 2008**. You can also fax in the below information to 217-761-2247. You **MUST** RSVP if you are going to attend as meals will be ordered per number of guests. If your plans change and you are unable to attend, please call or email to cancel. This is critical to stay within budget.

Name
Rank
Status (current member/retiree)
Phone #
Address
Email
Guest Name

Other Hotels in the area:
Crown Plaza: 217-529-777
Drury Inn: 217-529-3900
Hampton: 217-529-1100
Holiday Inn: 217-529-7771
Hilton: 217-544-0477
Route 66: 217-529-6626

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Colonel Michael A. Meyer

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Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr
Master Sgt. Samuel Kassis
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Staff Sgt. Michael Shamma
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Stop Delivery

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183d FW/PA

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