



## Jump Start

by Staff Sgt. Mike Shamma  
183rd Public Affairs

If we, as a country, have learned anything since September 11th, it is that we must be ever vigilant in protecting our own country against potential enemies that may attempt to strike us. One of the greatest risks to that security is the lack of protection we have in guarding our border with Mexico. In response to this, the United States began Operation Jump Start to help the United States Border Patrol fortify the security of our southern border.

In a fact sheet from the White House, Operation Jump Start is a mission for National Guard members who are on duty supporting the Border Patrol in Texas, California, Arizona, and New Mexico. National Guard troops are providing immediate help with surveillance, construction, and logistics. Guardsmen are building fences, as well as manning detection equipment on the border and in command centers.

The arrival of National Guard reinforcements in four southern states has put more manpower on the border and allowed the Border Patrol to move more than 300 agents into front-line positions. This additional manpower is producing results.

With support from National Guard members deployed under Operation Jump Start, Border Patrol agents have appre-



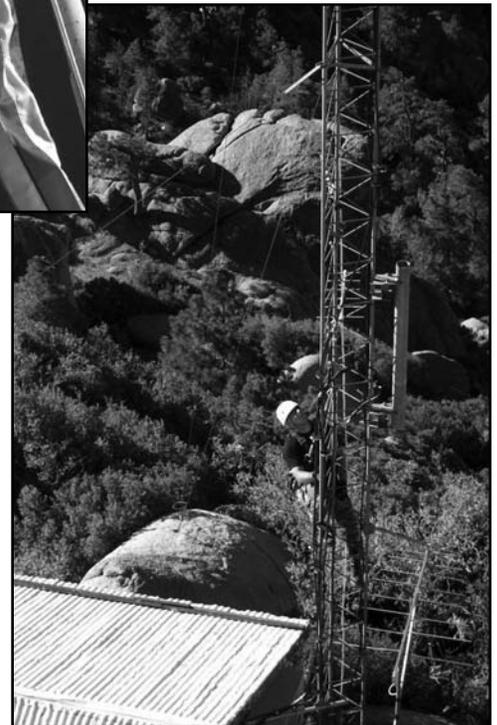
*Pictured left and below, Staff Sgt. Marco Barbosa, a cable antenna installer assigned to the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron, who returned home in July, served for 16 months in support of Operation Jump Start. Operation Jump Start is a mission for National Guard members who are on duty supporting the Border Patrol in Texas, California, Arizona, and New Mexico.*

hended more than 2,500 illegal immigrants and seized more than 17,000 pounds of illegal drugs since June 15, 2007.

This program was a great opportunity for some of our own people to step up to the plate and get in on the action. Staff Sgt. Marco Barbosa, 217th Cable Antenna Installer, was more than ready to do his part to help protect our borders.

"I was assigned to Tucson Sector, Task Force Diamondback when I

**JUMP, continued on page six**



### IN THIS ISSUE

**Professional Military Organizations**  
Page 3

**Retiree News**  
Page 8

**Wing Spotlight**  
Page 9

**News from the Field**  
Page 10

**183rd 60th Anniversary**  
Pages 12-13

**Incentive Flight Program**  
Pages 14-15

## Just the Facts

### Unit Training Assembly Schedule and pay dates



Duty Performed	Pays out (approx.)
SEP 6-7	SEP 15
SEP 27-28	OCT 8
OCT 4-5	OCT 15

**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  
OCTOBER issue of  
the Falcon's View is COB  
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 6TH.



## 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**

## Critical Information

### Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve - ESGR



The national committee for employer support of the Guard and Reserve's mission is to gain and reinforce the support of employers for a strong National Guard and Reserve system.

The government established policy to protect the rights of members of the Guard and Reserve through the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). The laws are enforced by the Department of Labor.

The ESGR committee is an assistant to USERRA by providing materials to help educate the guardsman and the employer on what rights they have according to the law. The committee provides training and support through the ESGR Ombudsman program. Ombudsmen serve as informal mediators when problems arise between the guardsman and an employer, when the problem or issue can NOT be resolved without assistance. They also provide for an awards and recognition program for supportive employers.

There are a few things that YOU should do to ensure that you have the support of your employer. First, always be honest and considerate. Give your employer as much advance notice as possible that you need to be away from your job for military duty.

Next, if you think that your employer is not familiar with his/her rights and responsibilities, provide them with the informational materials that are available through the website or on base. It may help you avoid unnecessary confusion and frustration.

Last, if you are fortunate to have an employer who is supportive of your service in the Air National Guard, take the time to recognize them with a "My Boss is a Patriot award" or request a thank-you letter from your commander and/or the Wing Commander. It is a very simple process to submit your employer for the "My Boss is a Patriot" award through their website at [esgr.org](http://esgr.org).

The local point of contact for information and resources concerning the ESGR program is Capt. Sonja Gurski. If you need resources for yourself or your employer, contact her at 217-757-1267, email at [Sonja.gurski@us.af.mil](mailto:Sonja.gurski@us.af.mil), or her office is located in building P-48, third floor, room 321.

### 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](mailto:public.affairs@ilspri.ang.af.mil)

# Professional Military Organizations

by Col. Stephen F. Baggerly  
183rd Vice Wing Commander

Did you know that nearly all “quality of life” enhancements we receive as military members come from Congress – not the Department of Defense (DoD)? Did you know that many of our normal benefits are continually being challenged by many lawmakers to reduce costs? Military coalitions, or Professional Military Organizations as we call them, lobby (fight) for these perks and continued benefits at State Capitals and on Capitol Hill. They speak daily to our US Representatives in the House and the Senate on legislative initiatives on our behalf. Their agendas focus on “improved” and “continued” benefits for members of the National Guard. And the first two questions always asked are: (1). Who do you represent? and (2). What is the strength (in numbers) of your organization? This is why membership numbers in professional organizations are vital to improving and sustaining benefits for all military members – and this includes retired members as well.

Organizations such as the National Guard Association of Illinois (NGAI), which is a state organization for both officers and enlisted, federal organizations such as the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) (for Officers) and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) (for enlisted), are our Professional Military Organizations. They are non-profit, non-commercial organizations that exist to support, promote and develop the interest of all Army and Air National Guard members.

Now, more than ever, they need our help. In addition to the normal lobbying taking place at the national level, the “Commission of the National Guard and Reserve” delivered their report to Congress on 31 Jan 2008 – after two years of deliberation. There are numerous recommendations that, if enacted, would be harmful to the Guard. In a macro sense, NGAUS and EANGUS disagrees with many of the Commissions recommendations and they are hopeful Congress gives little credence to them. One of recommendations – Duty Status

Reform – mandates we will be paid for one day per UTA day, versus the two days per UTA day we now receive. This would not only negatively affect your pay, but it also reduces the retirement points you earned and eventually, your retirement compensation. There are many additional findings that are equally damaging to the way we perform our missions and ultimately reducing current benefits.

As you can see, there are many issues being worked, continues to be challenged, on our behalf; however, our professional organizations are only as effective as their numbers and finances allow. These are turbulent and financially trying times. Everyone in our business is fighting for the same DoD dollars, an increase in membership numbers in Illinois is extremely vital right now. Large membership numbers will only enhance our voice at the State Capital and on Capitol Hill.

If you are interested in joining one of these three organizations, there are applications throughout the base. Please contact your supervisor or your Orderly Room. NGAI has an especially appealing membership drive on-going - for a limited time, you can receive an annual membership for \$1.00, or for \$20.00 you will receive a Lifetime membership. (Need to add EANGUS (\$10.00 per yr) NGAUS membership dues here \$30.00 to \$85.00 per year).

Over the past few years, these three organizations have made numerous contributions to your “quality of life” and include but not limited to the following:

### NGAI

- Increased military pay on state and federal duty
- Exemption of Illinois State Income Tax for all military pay
- Full time health and medical benefits for active members of the Guard
- Illinois National Guard Scholarship program. This program is year to year and is in continues to be a challenged with the State’s funding restraints.
- Tuition assistance at public Illinois universities and colleges
- Increased job protection and insurance protection benefits
- Enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses
- Free \$1,000 Life Insurance for all active members of the Guard
- Survivor benefits to cover the period between retirement and age 60

NGAI continues to work to:

- Reduce the military retirement age from 60 to 55
- Pursue tax incentives to business that employ Guardsman
- Continue to strengthen USERRA
- Pursue a reduction in license plate fees for National Guard plates

### NGAUS / EANGUS

- 2008 military pay raise of 3.5%. DOD recommended 2.0%. This is an on-going annual battle.
- Lobbied for the early military retirement eligibility – was successful in 90-day reductions from age 60 for every 90 days served on active duty for contingencies
- Increased retirement point credit for Guardsman
- Acquired TRICARE Select health coverage for all National Guard members
- Stopped DoD attempts to increase TRICARE fees, co-payments and deductibles
- Stopped DoD attempts to mandate use of mail-order pharmacy for all medications
- Increased VA medical care
- Fought to maintain Air Guard end strengths despite DOD push for reductions

NGAUS / EANGUS continues to work to:

- Change the 90-day early retirement provision to make retroactive for time served from Sept 11, 2001. Currently is it 28 Jan 2008.
- Reduce the military retirement age from 60 to 55
- Working for continual TRICARE coverage between actual retirement and age 60
- An increase in dental funding
- Veteran status for retirees
- VA mileage reimbursement
- Enhancements to the new GI Bill Authority

For additional information, please consult following websites:

NGAI: [www.NGAI.com](http://www.NGAI.com)

NAUGUS: [www.NGAUS.org](http://www.NGAUS.org)

EANGUS: [www.EANGUS.org](http://www.EANGUS.org)

BOTTOM LINE: Have you taken

advantage of any of these benefits? Is there at least one benefit above that you’d hate to lose? If you answered “yes” to either question, can you afford not to join? Please give serious consideration to joining our professional organizations so that they can be the strongest possible advocate for our concerns in the State Legislatures and in Congress. Your membership serves as your “voice” at the state and national levels. ....make it heard! Join today!

### Communications Helpdesk! Call x241

by Chief Master Sgt. Victor Wurtzler  
Information Systems Branch Chief

I thought this month I would cover some topics relating to computers that might be helpful at home. Most of this pertains to your systems at home.

**Question:** Are backups of my system important?

**Answer:** YES! Nature can surprise us with earthquakes, lightening, and disasters which can cause power surges and hardware damage. There are many options for backing up your system. Removable USB drives can backup selective files but seldom have the capacity to backup an entire system. There are specific backup drives that also can connect to a USB port and on line systems provided at a cost that offer you backup also. Some internet providers offer this service at an additional cost. On base, save critical and important data on a network drive to assure backup. Network drives are backed up regularly. For your own personal data use the L drive but be conservative with how much you have out there.

**Question:** I've heard the terms "freeware" and "shareware" used to describe software programs. What exactly do these terms mean?

**Answer:** Freeware is software that is made available by its originator for unlimited use by anyone at no charge. By contrast, shareware is software that is freely distributed but for which the author expects payment from people who decide to keep the software after a trial period and continue to use it. Freeware and shareware are widely available online in many different software categories. Neither is allowed on government computer systems. Only approved software can be installed on our systems on base. Before you download anything, however, research the website and software to make sure both are reputable. You should also have antivirus software installed on your computer and keep it updated

**Question:** The pop-ups that appear when I visit websites can definitely be annoying since they clutter up the screen. But can they pose a serious threat to my computer?

**Answer:** A pop-up is a small Web browser window that automatically appears on top of the website you're viewing. Most often, pop-ups display advertising from legitimate businesses. They can, however, be tied to threats such as phishing scams designed to trick you into revealing personal or financial information. If pop-ups open even when you're not surfing the Web, it could be a sign that your computer is infected with intrusive spyware or malware. Not all pop-ups are annoying or potentially harmful. Some trusted websites use pop-ups for specific tasks and you may need to view them in order to complete the task. For example, a bill pay site or hotel reservation site may generate a pop-up with a calendar inside to assist with scheduling. Most leading browsers have pop-up blockers turned on by default. As a user, you have the ability to enable, disable, or adjust pop-up blockers to fit your needs. Air Force systems are automatically configured to block pop-ups. In some cases these settings need to be modified to make official sites and programs work correctly.

If you have questions about this or anything else Communications related, guess where you should call? Yep! Call the Helpdesk at extension 241.

### Wreath laying ceremony planned!

The NCOAGA is planning a Wreath Laying Memorial Ceremony. The purpose of this event is to honor deceased member's of the unit. The event will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 4, outside the front gate, under the static displays.



If you would like to participate in the ceremony or assist with the planning, please attend the next regularly scheduled NCO AGA meeting on Sunday, September 7th at 8:15 a.m. in the P-48 auditorium. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to be involved in this ceremony please contact Senior Master Sgt. Theresa M. Snyder by calling 757-1224 or email her at Theresa.snyder@ilspri.ang.af.mil.

### Bring your aluminum for recycling

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

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

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



### A day at the park

Once again, the NCO AGA, Chapter 75, has discounted tickets for Six Flags in St. Louis. Season dates are Apr. 5th through Nov. 9th. **A new promotion since last month, buy three one-day tickets and receive the fourth one FREE!**

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" & 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>

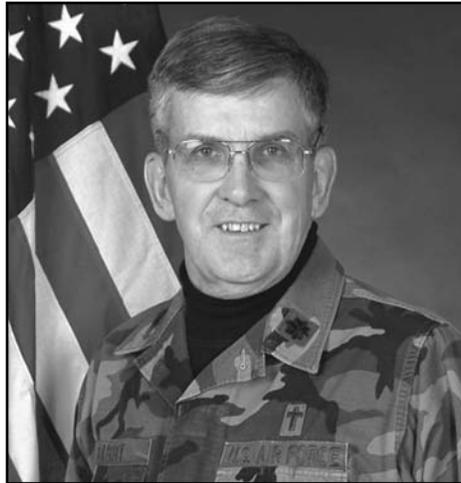
# The "Strong Bonds" Marriage Enrichment Program

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

In coming months, the 183rd Chaplains and Family Support will be preparing for a "Strong Bonds for Couples" weekend retreat for members of the Wing. This retreat will be open to all married members of the 183rd and its purpose is to give married couples who are in good marriages the opportunity to improve their marriages through development of communication skills, new insights, and other means.

Offered by 183rd chaplains this coming winter or spring, the "Strong Bonds for Couples" retreat will be at an off base location. While the precise date has not yet been set, the program will begin on Friday evening and end late Sunday morning. The program is based on a very successful series of video presentations recently made and couples will view the videos and then discuss their content between themselves. The content of the program is not religious in its content or direction, it does not challenge, reject or doubt any religious teachings.

We wish to encourage couples to consider participating in this program. Begun in the late 1990's by the Army, it has proven to be highly successful



for them and has won the approval of Congress. It is an understatement to say that life in the unit has been challenging and difficult at times, and the insights, activities and perspectives presented in this program can be very helpful to couples seeking to strengthen their marriage and improve their relationship and family life. We do not recommend this for couples who are experiencing serious problems in their relationship or who are in the process of a divorce.

The program will emphasize the need to develop communication, dynamically create new goals and objectives in marriage, and be open to change, growth and maturation in one's self and partner. The retreat will take place in an atmosphere of quite privacy where couples may share openly and honestly with one

another to deepen and strengthen their relationship.

"Strong Bonds for Couples" is one of three programs we are seeking to make available to 183rd members. The second retreat program we are working to make available is "Strong Bonds for Singles" and it prepares singles for marriage and seeks to give them effective tools for building strong relationships. The third retreat program is the "Strong Bonds for Families" which gives tools to parents and children to help them cope with the unique stresses imposed on military families and gain skills that will help and sustain them through the trials of military life. Children older than eight will be able to participate in these retreats.

Again, we wish to strongly encourage members to give serious consideration to participating in these programs and they promise great benefit.

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.af.mil

**Maj. Jeff Laible**  
316 S. Logan Street  
Lincoln, IL 62656  
phone: 217-732-4019  
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: insukpeebles@gmail.com

### Drivers should be extra cautious during school year

by Senior Master Sgt. Steve Stewart, 183rd Safety Office



Parents typically do a great job of preparing their children for school throughout the year with appropriate clothes, necessary supplies, and even the perfect backpack. But one area that is often lacking, transportation experts say, is child safety driving awareness around school zones, school buses, and children care centers.

Child safety should be the first and foremost consideration when determining how a child is dropped off and picked up from school or daycare. Yet the very parent who is most tedious about exercising safety precautions around their own child is often the first to zoom off from the curb after making a safe drop-off of their child, and potentially endangering

other children. Motorists are so worried about their own child's safety and about being on-time for school and work, that they commit safety infractions afterward. School officials report double-parking, speeding through school zones, not being on the lookout for children darting between cars or careening off their bicycles, or even making a u-turn on a two-way street to turn the car into the direction they want to go. Familiarize yourself with the schools drop-off and pick-up procedures.

Daycare centers face the very same issues, as parents return to the school year work schedule, and are often trying to get school-aged children to school on time and then drop off younger children to daycare before they go to work. The extra drop-offs and fall routine add stress, time management issues; as a result child safety becomes an issue.

Each year tragedies are reported of children getting injured or even tragically killed by darting between cars, not using a cross-walk, or

motorists simply not being observant enough. Parents should take time to go over safety procedures with their children, not to walk or ride a bicycle between vehicles, and to use marked cross walks, if crossing guards are utilized, explain their purpose and how they must wait for approval to cross.

We have gone all summer driving through school zones at posted speeds and not worrying about school children being around the schools. We need to slow down and be more aware of schools being back in session. Resist the urge to speed or make any traffic rules exception because you are running late. Refrain from using your cell phone, palm, or any other distraction while around school zones. This common-sense advice really applies whenever a motorist is behind the wheel, but especially when in a driving situation around young children and their perhaps spontaneous actions.

Lets all leave a little earlier for school, daycare, or work, so we are not rushed to get to where we are going safely.

## Top Story

### JUMP, continued from page one

was down there," said Barbosa. "During my time down there I was doing everything from installing new radios into the Border Patrol vehicles to being a member on the airlift team."

Barbosa took part in the operation from March 6, 2007 until July 5, 2008.

"I enjoyed the work a lot; it makes you feel great to know that you are making an immediate impact," said Barbosa. "The people that I worked with were great. We had support from Engineering Installation units from all over the country coast to coast. I worked with units from Washington, Georgia, New York, Florida, and Oregon to name a few. I would definitely do this again. It was a hell of an experience!"

Barbosa was not the only person to take part in the fun however. Maj. Melanie McDonald, 183rd Medical Group Chief Nurse Executive, was deployed to New Mexico to work at a clinic there.

"The experience was very positive," said McDonald. "It

was really great to work there because of the joint environment we were apart of.

McDonald supported Operation Jump Start for two weeks.

"The members that I worked with were all Air National Guardsmen and one person from the Army National Guard," McDonald said. "Our goal was to provide support and medical assistance to the troops deployed to our area of operation. Most, if not all the troops in the area were Army. It was very positive to work as the Nurse Manager there and to be responsible for members of another branch of service. This is something I would definitely do again."

Operation Jump Start remains a crucial mission to the protection of our homeland. With our constant vigilance we are not only deterring narcotics from entering the United States but also would-be terrorists as well. Much more work remains but with troops like Barbosa and McDonald, we can be sure we will hear the words 'mission accomplished' someday.

## Promotions

**Chief Master Sergeant**  
Francis J. Melchert

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
Christy E. Long  
Kim M. Piskacek

**Technical Sergeant**  
Eric E. Bell  
Michael J. Bishop  
Michael J. Silius

**Staff Sergeant**  
Victor C. Beckley  
Jason D. Clauser  
Kristin M. Midiri

**Senior Airman**  
Brandie M. Ring



## THINK OPSEC



**Your trash could be an adversary's treasure.**

## Announcements

### First Shirts

Many of us will acknowledge a first sergeant played a vital role in our career. Whether through personal assistance, corrective actions, discipline, or simply being a role-model, we've all been touched by a first sergeant.

The role of first sergeants can be traced through history in militaries throughout the world. The "shirt" works to meet the needs of the troops. His job is to take care of his "airmen". Health, morale, welfare and discipline are all facets of the "shirt's" job. The first sergeant will continue to play a vital role in the future of the 183rd.

As stated above, it is hopeful that many of us have felt the desire to someday become a first sergeant – a position of mentoring, guiding and helping others to insure a more rewarding and satisfying career. However, due to these increased responsibilities and pressures realized by these positions, the tour of a first shirt is relatively short. A minimum of three years and a maximum of six years are the guidelines. Because of these reasons, there is a continual turnover of individuals in these positions.

As a result of these time restraints and the realignment or reorganization created by BRAC, there are currently first sergeant positions open, and additional slots will open in the near future. So if you have a desire to fill one of these positions, now is the time.

There will be additional information forthcoming about the application process. We need all eligible, interested candidates, to start thinking about moving into a position that will allow you to help others.

If you are interested and have questions, please contact a first sergeant or Command Chief Master Sgt. Tom Hergenrother at extension 578 for additional information.



### Final 2008 Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Day Scheduled

Plan to participate Monday, Sept. 15, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The 183rd Fighter Wing has adopted the highway cleanup project as a community service project for the Wing. This is our way of thanking the Springfield community for their continued show of support and appreciation for what we do.

We need volunteers!!! Family members are also welcome but must be a minimum of ten years of age. All volunteers must meet in building P-48 at 4 p.m. for a safety briefing before proceeding to the cleanup site.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Stacy Ferguson at 757-1471 or Tech. Sgt. Deni Withrow at 757-387 to volunteer or to ask for more details.

### Wing Blood Drive Planned

The 183rd Medical Group will host a Wing blood drive during the October Unit Training Assembly in support of the Central Illinois Community Blood Bank.

**When: October 5, 2008**

**Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Where: Building P-48, second floor,  
Medical Group waiting area**

Mark your calendar! Last year's blood drives was a big success. Let's make this year's drive even better.

More information will be available concerning scheduling a time slot as the UTA approaches.



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

### 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, SEPTEMBER 2ND.

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!

### Semi-Annual Retiree Luncheon Planned

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, October 3rd, 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.)

## 183rd Emergency Management Office

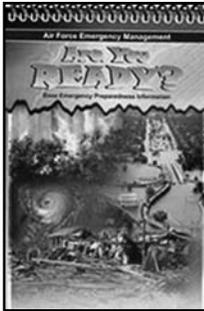
# ARE YOU READY?

Are you and your family ready for a Tornado, a Fire, Winter Storms, an Earthquake, or even a Terrorist attack?

Scary to think about but, the truth is that you

and your family might have to face one of these disasters someday and waiting till it happens is too late to prepare yourself for it.

The ARE YOU READY Guides can provide you and your family with useful information to help you be ready when disaster hits close to home. Guides are available through your Unit Emergency Management Rep or the Emergency Management Office. Call extension 305 or email [laura.radliff@ilspri.ang.af.mil](mailto:laura.radliff@ilspri.ang.af.mil) to get your copy.



## September IS National Preparedness Month

When disaster strikes, you may not have time to respond. How to prepare for an emergency:

### Before

Make a plan

Make sure everyone in the family knows the plan

Be trained in first aid and CPR

Build emergency kits

Volunteer

### During

Listen to local radio and TV for special announcements and instructions

Review your plan with your family members

Have your Disaster and Go Kits ready for possible use

Make sure your contact person knows your status and where you are going

Be ready to take appropriate protective actions

### After

Check on the status of your family's physical health and the safety of your home

If you have property damage, contact your insurance company and your local emergency management or local law enforcement agency to ensure your damage is included in a possible state or federal disaster declaration

Take one step at a time and pay attention to the mental health of your family

Restock your Disaster Kit and Go Bag

Review and update your Family Plan

Get trained and volunteer so you can help others in your community

### Suggestions and Reminders

- Store your kit in a place known to all family members
  - Keep a smaller version of your kit in your car
  - Keep items in air tight plastic bags
  - Change stored water every 6 months
  - Rotate stored food every 6 months
  - Re-think your kit and family needs at least once a year
  - Ask physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications
  - Don't forget to have a plan that includes your pets
- More Information can be found at [www.ready.illinois.gov](http://www.ready.illinois.gov)

## Wing Spotlight

### 217th EIS member receives leadership award

by Capt. Sonja Gurski, 183rd Public Affairs Officer

Senior Master Sgt. Mark J. Stevens, 217th Engineering Installation Squadron, was selected as this year's recipient of the Col. Philip D. Quintenz Leadership Award.

This award was established in honor of the late Colonel Philip D. Quintenz who represented the 183FW with honor and distinction by his ability to lead. This award is to be presented annually to an outstanding Enlisted Airman (E-1 – E-9) in Colonel Quintenz's memory.

"I am honored to have been selected for the Col. Quintenz award," said Stevens. "I appreciate this recognition from my peers."

The award is based on the individual's overall leadership,



character, initiative, integrity, skill and judgment. A committee composed of the First Sergeants are designated to review nominations and make a recommendation the 183rd Fighter Wing Commander for the award.

"I am also deeply humbled to have my name associated with the previous award winners, this years nominees and the late Col Quintenz-all of whom I hold in high esteem," said Stevens. "I would especially like to thank Lt. Col. Loux for nominating me and all the members of the 217th EIS who really made this award possible."

## Wing Human Resource Advisor

### Developing your personal leadership skills

by Senior Master Sgt. Brenda Korte  
Human Resource Advisor

What does personal leadership mean to you? We each have our own idea concerning leadership qualities and this is why there is diversity in leadership. In order to provide some guidelines, the Air Force has developed a list of five competencies under personal leadership: exercise sound judgment, adapt and perform under pressure, inspire trust, lead courageously, and assess self.

Even though these skills are listed separately, when applied together, personal leadership can be strengthened and improved.

Exercising sound judgment and adapting and performing under pressure work well together. As members of the Air National Guard, we all have additional responsibilities where we must make sound judgments. Decisions need to be examined thoroughly and we must make accurate assessments. Often, these decisions and as-



sessments have to be made under pressure. And we all know that there are some unique "pressures" in a military environment. Learning to adapt and perform in this environment brings out personal leadership qualities in some people. Consequently, making sound judgments and working under pressure are the building blocks for the next two competencies under AF Personal Leadership.

The next two skills are to inspire trust and lead courageously. In order to lead others, there has to be an element of trust or little forward movement will occur. Again, this trust is started by demonstrating sound judgment and working well under pressure. Next, it comes time to be courageous – willing to move forward and execute

an idea, a task, or a mission. As steps 1-4 develop and leadership qualities begin to emerge, good leaders will need to assess their skills and make adjustments if necessary.

Self-assessment is the final Air Force Personal Leadership competency. It can be challenging to review personal leadership decisions and behaviors, but an honest assessment can improve future experiences. Are judgments sound? Is the climate controlled or crazy? Is there follow-through or a lot of questioning? Was there doubt or courage? A candid self-analysis can provide great insight and knowledge for a person in a leadership role.

Again, the five competencies of personal leadership described by the Air Force are guidelines to point leaders in the right direction. Personal leadership begins by using sound judgment and being able to perform well under pressure. Next, leaders inspire trust and lead courageously. Finally, leaders will take a self-assessment and make the necessary adjustments for future successes. Leaders may approach each competency a little differently and that is what makes them unique and diverse, yet still effective.

# Air Guard medics cast off for Continuing Promise

By Air Force Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va.

– Eight Air National Guard medical technicians boarded the USS Kearsarge in Norfolk, Va., Friday to participate in the second phase of Continuing Promise 2008, a four-month humanitarian and civic assistance mission to six Caribbean islands.

During the deployment, the Kearsarge, a Navy amphibious ship, will visit Nicaragua, Colombia, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Air Guard members include:

Staff Sgt. Daisha McCuskey and Senior Airman Alexandra Olson, 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn.

Master Sgt. Melanie Armstead-Williams, 131st Fighter Wing, St. Joseph, Mo.

**Tech. Sgt. Angela Rankin, 183rd Fighter Wing, Springfield, Ill.**

Staff Sgt. Alan Reynolds, 151st Air Refueling Wing, Salt Lake City, Utah

Staff Sgt. Ladrew Price, 146th Airlift Wing, Channel Islands Air National Guard Base, Calif.;

Senior Airman Danae Eskridge, 142nd Fighter Wing, Klamath Falls, Ore.;

Master Sgt. Cassandra McNeal, 177th Fighter Wing,

Atlantic City, N.J.

McNeal, a lab technician at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, N.J., said she has been deployed twice before to Iraq.

But she has never been on a Navy ship. “It will be a good opportunity just to work alongside different military organizations ... to try to make a difference in people’s lives,” she said.

About 80 Air Force personnel have volunteered for this mission. McNeal said that in Balad, once everyone was placed in their different departments, “everyone pretty much blended, worked as a team. The same thing will happen once we are on board.”

McNeal said she expects the work to be steady. “It will be a little challenging on shore in the communities, because that will entail painting buildings and doing clean-up work.”

But the hardest part of the mission will be adjusting to the ship. Although she has been on several cruises, “not being on land for a length of time going from port to port” will be a challenge, McNeal said. But once they are in port, “being docked for two weeks is not so bad.

“Because it is a humanitarian mission, I am really hoping to help the native people ... to make an impact and difference in their lives.”

McCuskey, an aerospace medical services specialist with the 148th Fighter Wing, is a nursing student at the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College. She is taking the fall semester off to participate in the operation, and she said she also is very excited to help people, work with the Navy and travel to these countries.

This is the first deployment for both members if the



U. S. Air Force Sr. Airman Alexandra Olson (left) and Staff Sgt. Daisha McCuskey, both aerospace medical services specialists attached to the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minn., administer an IV to the METI Man, a new emergency casualty simulator. The two airmen boarded the USS Kearsarge in Norfolk, Va., Friday to participate in Operation Continuing Promise. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Brett R. Ewald) download hi-res photo ARLINGTON, Va. – Eight Air National Guard medical technicians boarded the USS Kearsarge in Norfolk, Va., Friday to participate in the second phase of Continuing Promise 2008, a four-month humanitarian and civic assistance mission to six Caribbean islands.

148th. “They should get quality hands-on training,” said Lt. Col. Steve Wabrowetz, deputy commander of the 148th Medical Group. “They will see a wide variety of maladies that we don’t experience much of in the U.S. and get real world training that we cannot provide here.”

Col. Frank Stokes, the 148th’s vice commander, agrees. “Operation Continuing Promise is a tremendous opportunity for our Airmen to practice the skills they have learned in the Air National Guard,” he said.

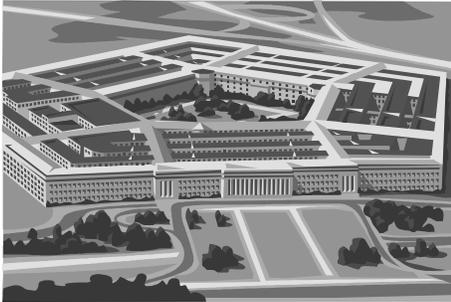
The first phase of Continuing Promise ended in June. The medical professionals aboard USS Boxer saw more than 14,000 patients, performed 127 surgeries, dispensed 40,000 medications and saw nearly 4,000 optometry patients, distributing about 3,500 pairs of eyeglasses, according to U.S. Southern Command’s (US-SOUTHCOM) Web site. They

also performed 14,000 dental procedures and made 66 repairs to biomedical equipment in the various clinics and hospitals where they worked.

Wasp-class amphibious assault ships, like Boxer and Kearsarge, are designed to conduct a variety of expeditionary missions, including rapid, projected humanitarian assistance worldwide, according to USSOUTHCOM’s Web site. They can also transport large amounts of medical and engineering supplies and equipment to most locations around the globe. An earlier Navy ship Kearsarge gained fame for sinking the Confederate raider Alabama off the French coast during the Civil War.

Each ship is a floating hospital with medical facilities that include six operating rooms, 13 intensive care unit beds, 40 ward beds, three dental operating rooms and a laboratory, X-ray and blood bank.

## Federal Voting Assistance Program for Reserve Component Members



### A reminder from the Chief of the National Guard Bureau

from Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum  
Chief, National Guard Bureau

The right to vote is one of the many freedoms that our National Guard men and women protect every day of the year at home and abroad.

I encourage every state to make sure that all its National Guard members, particularly those who are serving away from home, be provided the information necessary to successfully participate in both primary and general elections.

Please encourage your fellow National Guard members to maintain open communication with their local election office and to update their current status and address changes, particularly upon their return from mobilization.



## Important Information for Guard and Reserve Members Concerning Voting in Illinois

### Important Dates and Deadline

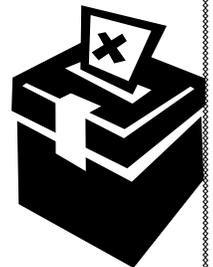
- GENERAL Election Day: November 4
- Registration Deadline: Not Applicable
- Ballot Request Deadline: October 25
- Ballot Return Deadline: November 4

### To Register and Request a Ballot:

- If in a Federal status, complete and sign the Federal Post Card Applications (Standard Form 76) and send it to your local election official.

- State instructions and an electronic version of this form are available at: [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

- You may also fax your ballot request form to your local election office. You must also submit the original FPCA by mail to the local election official. Fax to: DSN 223-5527, (703) 693-5527, or use a toll free fax number, listed at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).



### Remember!

Keep open communication with your local election official by giving them your up-to-date address. You can do this by sending them an updated FPCA or by contacting them directly via phone, fax, or email.

### Visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

Got to the website if you need forms, electronic voting tools, or state and local election official contact information.

### Questions?

You can contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program at:

**Mail** – Department of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1155

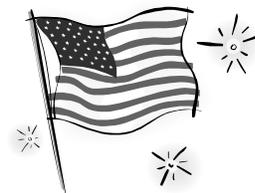
**Phone** – 1-800-438-VOTE (8683); (703) 588-1584; DSN 425-1584

**Email** – [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)

## 60th Anniversary Celebration

# THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION DINNER IS SEPTEMBER 1ST!

For the most up-to-date 60th Anniversary information, go to:  
[WWW.183FW60THANNIVERSARY.COM](http://WWW.183FW60THANNIVERSARY.COM)



## 60th Anniversary Events

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

### Friday:

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

### Saturday:

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

### 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 has been reserved for the weekend's events at the Hilton Hotel Springfield, 700 E. Adams. Rooms may be reserved for Thursday through Saturday nights at a rate of \$80 per night for a single.

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

[www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/SPFSHHF-FYT-20080904/index.jhtml](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 has been produced and is available for sell. Complete the form on the next page to reserve your place at the dinner and to order your coin!



## 60th Anniversary Celebration

### 183 FIGHTER WING 60th ANNIVERSARY EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

FIRST NAME:		STREET	
LAST NAME		ADDRESS:	
PRIMARY TELEPHONE		CITY	
		STATE, ZIP	
ALTERNATE TELEPHONE		EMAIL ADDRESS	

#### GOLF OUTING - 5 SEP 2008

OAKS GOLF COURSE - BEST BALL SHOTGUN START AT 0900

\$60 FEE COVERS LUNCH, BEVERAGES, AND CART

TO SIGN UP & RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY CONTACTING: SMS AUSMUS (757-1383),  
MSGT RIDDLE (757-1220) OR LT COL MULCAHY (757-1244) - SPACE IS LIMITED

#### 60TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY - 6 SEP 2008

**\$8 A TICKET FOR DINNER**

NUMBER OF TICKETS: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$8 = \_\_\_\_\_

\$8 DINNER TICKET INCLUDES DINNER, SALAD, DESSERT AND NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS-  
*ALCOHOLIC DRINKS WILL BE SOLD SEPARATELY*

BUSINESS CASUAL DRESS EVENT - QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO  
LT COL HAMRICK (757-1329) SMS ROESCH EXT (757-1365) OR SMS SNYDER (757-1224)

#### 60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMERATIVE ITEMS

60TH ANNIVERSARY HERITAGE COIN - \$10 EACH: NUMBER OF COINS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*(LIMITED QUANTITIES)*

60TH ANNIVERSARY HERITAGE DVD - \$10 EACH: NUMBER OF DVDs \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

60TH ANNIVERSARY AIRCRAFT PHOTO - \$10 EACH: NUMBER OF PHOTOS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

60TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHBALL DRINK GLASSES - \$3: NUMBER OF GLASSES \_\_\_\_\_ X \$3 = \_\_\_\_\_

60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COOKBOOK - \$20: NUMBER OF BOOKS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL FUNDS ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*IF SHIPPING IS REQUIRED, CONTACT MSGT DEB SCHMITZ - 757-1551*

*\*\* CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO "60TH ANNIVERSARY"*

**COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE MAILED TO: 183 FIGHTER WING/SCBI**  
3101 J. DAVID JONES PARKWAY  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62707-5001  
ATTN: 60TH ANNIVERSARY

1. AUTHORITY: US Code: Title 10, Subtitle E, Part I, Chapter 1007, Section 10204, and other subsets of Title 10.

2. PURPOSE: To collect the information necessary to process the action indicated by the form you are completing.

3. ROUTINE USES: This information will not be disclosed outside the Department of Defense.

4. DISCLOSURE: Voluntary. However, failure to provide the information requested will result in the form not being processed, and may result in a denial of the intended action.

## 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.



*"It's the greatest experience I have ever had," said Staff Sgt. Robert L. Johnson III, 183rd Security Forces Squadron. "Its gonna be hard for anything to come close."*



*Lt. Col. Robert L. Barry, Chaplain, 183rd Wing Headquarters.*



*"Thank you to anyone and everyone who had a part in making this happen," said Master Sgt. Michael W. Irwin, 183rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "Thank you."*



*"The flight itself was indescribable. My brain is still processing some of the experiences, particularly those with the aerial acrobatics and the take off climb," said Dr. Michael Ayers, Executive Vice President, Illinois Chamber of Commerce. "I will have the 'diploma' and picture framed and up on the walls at home very quickly."*



*"It was an experience of a lifetime. I appreciate all the work that was done to prepare me and the jet," said Tech. Sgt. Shawn M. Coventry Sr., 183rd Maintenance Squadron. "I especially want to thank Lt. Col. Nicholson for an amazing flight and the time he spent with my family before and after. The whole experience was beyond what I imagined."*



*"Lt. Col. Young was really awesome about making sure I had a wonderful flight and I had a great time. My favorite part was the acrobatics," said Tech. Sgt. Deni M. Withrow, 183rd Wing Headquarters. "I am really glad that my family was able to come out here to share some of the experience with me. Everyone in the Operations building treated them really well and they were impressed by how nice everyone here is."*



*Following the 'test drive': "I'll take it! It was so much fun," said Tech. Sgt. Travis R. Tapscott, 183rd Maintenance Squadron. "I also let Milt know that since I have about 30min of time on the stick, I'll be glad to take anyone up that wants to go."*

*"It was great to see the other side of things, and get a full scope of what we do here," said Tapscott. "It is a great program and I am grateful that I was able to participate in it. Everyone involved was very helpful in getting me ready for the ride of a lifetime."*

## Incentive Flight Program



*"The day I rode in an F16 is an experience I will never forget," said Senior Master Sgt. Matthew F. Winterbauer Jr., 183rd Maintenance Squadron. "My thanks to all involved in making a special day for my wife, daughter and me."*



*"A once in a lifetime opportunity and an awesome experience, one I will remember the rest of my life," said Master Sgt. Steven E. Parker, 183rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "I would like to thank those in the Ops and Maintenance Squadrons that made this incredible experience possible."*



*"Words cannot describe the experience," said Staff Sgt. Andrew J. Whalen, Aircrew Life Support, 170th Fighter Squadron*



*Staff Sgt. Kendra N. Bonam, 170th Fighter Squadron, with her husband, Staff Sgt. Jerry W. Bonam, 217th Engineering Installation Squadron.*

*"It's too bad that I don't have a commission, because I think that I might have to show those guys (pilots) a thing or two!! Well, maybe not, I'm sure Safety wouldn't like that," said Master Sgt. John C. Endzelis, 183rd Operations Support Flight. "Has anyone ever received two incentive flights? I'm ready to nominate myself for that one!!"*

*"I loved it and would fly every day if I could," said Endzelis. "The incentive flight was an absolutely amazing experience! It was everything that I thought it would be and more."*



*Master Sgt. Mari E. Moore, 183rd Communications Flight.*



*"I got the honor and privilege to have an incentive flight yesterday," said Tech. Sgt. Amy K. Murphy, Physical Standards Specialist, Medical Group. "Wow was it cool!"*

**COMMANDER**

Colonel Michael A. Meyer

**183D PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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

**PRINTING**

Helmer Printing, Beldenville, Wis.

**NEWS SERVICES**

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

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



# Stop Delivery

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

**183d FW/PA**

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

