



## Breaking ground

*New front gate construction begins*

*by Maj. Nancie Margetis  
183 FW Public Affairs*

November's unit training assembly marked another day in the unit's history as the groundbreaking for the new front entrance took place Nov. 6. Several unit members, guests and dignitaries braved the chilly morning to watch the ceremonial shovels dig into the ground to signify the beginning of the official construction.

The project is a win-win for the unit and the airport. It will provide enhanced force protection for the unit by bringing security measure up to Department of Defense requirements. For the airport, it will provide improved traffic flow to and from the airport and increased driver and pedestrian safety.

Some of the key features of the project are the widening of Route 29, an upgraded intersection and traffic light at the intersection of Route 29 and new airport entrance road, increased parking for airport customers and employees, and a new main gate complex for the unit.

The new entrance project costs approximately 6.9 million dollars and will take a little over a year to complete. This project was especially meaningful because it has been in the process for over seven years. It came to reality when the State provided the balance of funding (3.3 million) to the federal's allocation of 3.67 million. Perry Broughton Trucking and Excavating Inc. of



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr*

Springfield was awarded the contract.

The ceremony was hosted by Mr. Frank Vala, Springfield Airport Authority Chairman, and speakers included Mr. Roy Dolgos, Illinois Department of Transportation Deputy Director of the Division of Traffic Safety, Maj. Gen. William Enyart, Adjutant General for the State of Illinois, and Col. Michael Meyer, Commander, 183rd Fighter Wing.

During Col. Meyer's speech, he commented that the new front entrance will "insure that the men and women who serve their country are adequately protected from harm while within the confines of the base. One of the buildings that will greatly benefit from this increased protection will be our newly renovated and state-of-the-art main hangar."

The project is due to be completed by Spring 2012.

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**Just the Facts**

*Unit Training Assembly Schedule  
and pay dates*



<u>Duty Performed</u>	<u>Pays out (approx.)</u>
DEC 4-5	DEC 15
JAN 8-9	JAN 19
JAN 29-30	FEB 9

**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 web site at <http://www.dfas.mil/index.htm>. Pay information is under the Money Matters heading.

**Attention!**

The deadline for the **JANUARY** issue of the **Falcon's View** is **SATURDAY, Dec. 4, at 1200 hrs.**



**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

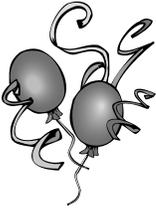
**Toll Free Number**

**1-800-392-1797**

**Announcements**

**183rd HOLIDAY  
CELEBRATION – 2011**

“Welcome to Southcom”



**Date:** January 8, 2011

**Time:** 7-12 p.m.

**Place:** Springfield Firefighters Club  
940 West Lake Drive, Springfield, IL

**Band:** Inspected by 12

**Ticket Price:** \$10 per person

Finger foods, soda, water, coffee, tea and beer included. Cash bar. Door prizes.

Purchase tickets at Dining Facility during lunch Dec. UTA or call ext. 414

**Annual Children's Christmas Party**



Sunday December 5

Begins at 2 p.m.

Aerospace Dining Facility

There will be crafts, refreshments, maybe a surprise or two, and of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

Please contact Mr. Joe Ward at (217)757-1569 for more information.

**183rd Website**

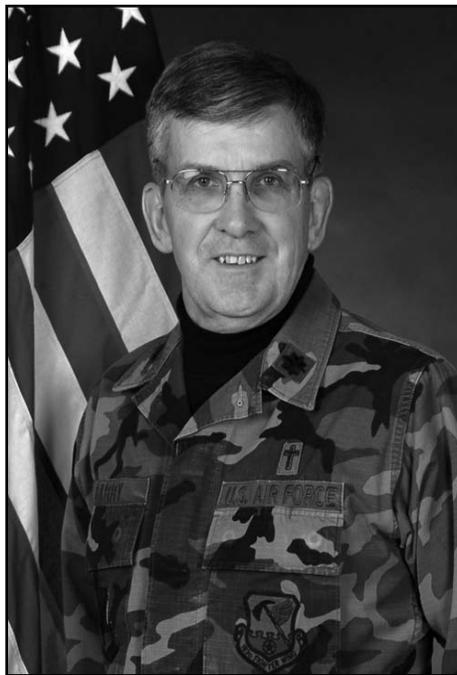
[www.183fw.ang.af.mil](http://www.183fw.ang.af.mil)

### It's time to party!

*Chaplain (LtCol) Robert Barry  
183 ASUS/HC*

Just a few days ago, a student informed me that because it was the holiday season he had a moral duty to party hard. "Really," I said. "Why," I asked. "I'm young and strong now and I will never be able to party harder than I can now. If I don't party now, I might never be able to do so, and that would be unjust," he answered. I couldn't disagree with his argument, and it spurred the thought in me that to have a really good party, you have to have a really good reason to celebrate.

Well, this holiday season presents us with just such a reason. To have a good celebration you have to have something really good to celebrate, and in the holiday season the primary reason for celebration is that all religions celebrate the drawing close of God to them. They all celebrate during this season that God has broken down the barriers that separated us and we can be reunited. This is a season when religions celebrate new revelations and manifestations of God and the hope, peace and joy that brings. Because of the hope this gives, there is no reason for gloom in this season. The holiday season is a good time for us to celebrate because God has so many good things waiting for us if only we remain faithful. Celebrating is the right thing to do if it will increase our enthusiasm for serv-



ing God and expressing to others the good that God holds out for us. If done properly, these parties will buoy our enthusiasm for serving God and will draw us closer to God.

By celebrating to show others what God has and will do for us, our celebrations have to be unique and distinctive. They have to be celebrations where there is nothing but kindness and forgiveness, generosity and charity, love of God and genuine love of others. They have to be occasions which convey the message that lives are to be changed and all are to turn to God to love and serve him. A party that leads to God cannot have any injustice, cruelty or malice present, but only charity and generosity. There should not be anything that betrays the good that God is and will do.

The whole focus of these celebrations is to celebrate God's reconciliation with us, and this

demands that we reconcile as well. Certainly we should celebrate with good friends, but use the atmosphere created by great celebrations to draw closer to those who may not be quite as close as they should be. And by the way, do not forget to be generous to anyone and everyone you meet. Party on!

### CHAPLAINS' INFORMATION

#### Roman Catholic Chaplains:

**Lt. Col. Jeff Laible**

316 S. Logan Street  
Lincoln, IL 62656

phone: 217-732-4019

email: [Frlaible@hotmail.com](mailto:Frlaible@hotmail.com)

**Lt. Col. Bob Barry**

3700 103rd Street  
Chicago, IL 60655

phone: 773-296-3857

email: [RLBarry@att.net](mailto:RLBarry@att.net)

or [robert.barry@ang.af.mil](mailto:robert.barry@ang.af.mil)

#### Protestant Chaplain:

**1st Lt. John Bormann**

16595 N. Meadow Ln.  
Petersburg, IL 62675

phone: 217-361-8833

email: [jonbormann@gmail.com](mailto:jonbormann@gmail.com)

#### Religious Services

Protestant Service:

Saturday 1500 hrs Chapel

Catholic Mass:

Saturday 1600 hrs Chapel

#### Base Chapel Office:

Bldg. P-48, Room 302

Phone 217-757-1367

DSN 892-8367

Fax (217)757-1509



# An honor to serve

by Maj. Nancie Margetis  
183rd FW Public Affairs

Ever wonder who those people are that have those cool uniforms and carry the flags at ceremonies and events? They are our unit members and they are part of the elite Honor Guard (HG) team. The HG provides military HG support for base and community events such as parades, approved military burials and casket vigils, sporting events, school events, memorial services, holidays, color guards, building dedications, etc. These members are volunteers from our unit; their participation on the HG highlights our dedication as Airmen to the community and other military branches.

The HG started out being just members of the security forces squadron back in 1990/91. That was before they had HG uniforms so they just did missions in their dress blues. Master Sgt. Dean Abeln, 183rd Air Support Squadron, procured HG uniforms in 1992 when they became a more formal program and started to recruit members outside of security forces.

One of those members recruited early on was Master Sgt. Debra Schmitz from the 183rd Communications Flight. She first heard about it in 1992 and volunteered for the joint Army/Air National Guard team. Her first mission was in Chicago for a governor sponsored dinner hosting the King and Queen of Norway.

She is now serving her second term as the unit NCOIC for the HG. In addition she served as the NCOIC for the joint team for three years. She describes the HG as an elite group of diverse personnel who emulate the core values of the Air Force.

"It is an honor to be able to serve this team by being their NCOIC and being involved with this high visibility responsibility. It allows me to be involved with so many different aspects of the community and to give back to military and

community as a way of doing my part, in addition to my war time responsibility by deploying," says Schmitz.

Her most memorable experience during her 20-year tenure in the HG was getting to represent the 183rd Fighter Wing, Illinois Air National Guard and United States Air Force during the 2009 Medal of Honor Conference in Chicago, Sept. 2009.

She was the NCOIC of approximately



58 military escorts and was able to meet some true American heroes of not only past wars, but some of the escorts themselves were decorated war veterans from current campaigns.

"I am still in awe of getting to be a part of something so special and memorable. It was a career high for me and an experience I will treasure for the rest of my life," says Schmitz regarding last year's event.

So how does a unit member volunteer for such a prestigious duty? Any military member of our installation can be on the HG team. A member would need their leadership's approval, as well as time and commitment, military bearing, dress and

personal appearance adherence, sense of volunteerism, military pride, professionalism, and respect for the military are also required. However, outfitting a member can be expensive so only committed members who have the time and can volunteer should apply.

One of the newest members, Staff Sgt. Ashley Ball, joined the HG because she felt that it was time in her career to venture into new avenues of involvement, other than the usual help around the base. She felt it was a way to be able to interact and network with individuals and show pride in our country and military.

When asked about her most memorable experience on the team she recalls, "When we participated in the Junior Blues Hockey event last year. It was very overwhelming, in a good way. The support that was shown was just unbelievable.

Since I have joined the Honor Guard, I feel more pride and enjoyment knowing that I am representing my unit and the military as a whole," says Ball.

The team receives support from the unit as well as the community. Recently they have been involved with many base and State Headquarters events, such as the ground breaking for the new entrance Saturday of Nov. drill. Their mission numbers are up by 10 this year and their membership is up by 15. They have added some information to our public ([www.183fw.af.mil](http://www.183fw.af.mil)) web page so the public can request the team for local events. They have received many thank-you cards and letters from the community.

If anyone is interested in joining this wonderful organization and wants to give back to the base and the community, please contact Master Sgt. Debra Schmitz at (217)757-1551 or by email: [debra.schmitz@ang.af.mil](mailto:debra.schmitz@ang.af.mil)

There are numerous Air Force Instructions (AFI) and resources for additional information: AFI 34-1201 Protocol; AFI 34-503 USAF Base Honor Guard; AFI 36-2209 Dress and Personal Appearance; AFMAN 36-2203 Drill and Ceremonies; and the Base Honor Guard Handbook.

# T-Bird in the pattern

by Master Sgt. Richard Shanner  
183rd Maintenance Squadron

T-Bird! Many probably do not know a T-bird, other than the car from Ford. Lockheed produced over 5,400 T-33 "T-Bird" jet trainer airframes between 1948 and 1959 for the United States Air Force. They also equipped 30 other countries for pilot training. Many pilots just stepping out from propeller driven aircraft to the early jet powered aircraft and tricycle landing gear started with the T-33.

Beginning in 1955 and through the 1970s, the T-33 served with the Air National Guard and here at the 170th/183rd. This aircraft covered the period of time when the 170th/183rd flew the F-86E Sabre and F-84F Thunderstreak and into the early F-4 Phantom II days. Both the F-86 and F-84 had no two seat trainers to familiarize pilots with jet techniques and the differences between the propeller training they received earlier. Three to six T-33s were here for training at any given time.

Over the past couple of years we were talking about examples of the T-33 being offered up by various schools as they were no longer needed. One such aircraft was found at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC). When discussions revealed that we could use this aircraft in our memorial park, we set out to obtain this T-33. It seemed appropriate because this aircraft was very instrumental in the growth at the 183rd in its formative years. By the beginning of this past summer, plans were being made and permission received to acquire the T-33 from the university.

Basic information we received about aircraft tail number 57-0553 was that it arrived at SIUC around the mid-1970s and it trained many of today's mechanics on jet technology and maintenance. But by the new millennium it was no longer needed due to being out paced by newer equipment and technology. The aircraft was then relegated outside where it bore the

brunt of the Midwest weather. One such weather system blew across southern Illinois and its canopy was blown off striking the tail and shattering upon impact. Some aircraft skin was also wrinkled in the storm.

Through the summer, several reconnaissance trips were made to see if the damage was repairable and if we could fix it up and place it in the memorial park. It was decided that we could repair it and proudly put it on display. In October, members of the 183rd Maintenance Squadron and the Director of Aviation at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) journeyed to Carbondale to bring it home.

Master Sgt. 's Brexton Hall, Leo Leonhard, Jay Seymoure, Tech. Sgt. Dan Daugherty, Mr. Jim Vankleek (Director of Aviation at LLCC), and myself arrived Oct. 18. We quickly set up shop and began the disassembly process. Throughout the previous summer we gathered information from web sites, magazines and sources at museums around the country, including the Smithsonian, on how a T-33 came apart. We split up on the airframe; one group went after the wing fairings and the other group went after the tail assembly. As we had discovered, early single

*See T-Bird, continued on Page 6*



*The fuselage of a Lockheed T-33 "T-Bird" is lifted off the wings during its disassembly. The plane was located at Southern Illinois University/Carbondale and was recently acquired by the 183rd. The plane will be restored and displayed in the unit's memorial park.*

*Photo by Master Sgt. Leo Leonhard*

***T-Bird Continued from Page 5***

engine jets have to have the tail removed to remove the engine. Things progressed well and soon the tail was off and being set in a modified stand. Next was the engine; it too was out with no problem. With the engine out and most of the fairings off over the wing, we called it a day.

Day two was another beautiful day and we were back attacking the wing to fuselage joint. We expected to encounter a little difficulty in these areas because they were probably not taken apart since it was originally assembled. With a little bleeding, it came apart as advertised and by five in the afternoon, she was apart and getting prepared for the trip home.

On day three we got the semi loaded and sent it on a three and half hour trip home. The rest of us prepared the wing for shipment by raising the main gear and ensuring that it did not slip on its shoring. The empennage and other equipment were loaded on a vehicle trailer and the area where this T-33 sat and was disassembled was cleaned up and soon no evidence of it being there was visible. The following day, the



*170th TFS/183 TFG T-33A-1, tail number LO 52-9129 sitting on the ramp at the unit, March 13, 1966. Photo by Stephen Miller*

wing was loaded and we packed up and headed home.

Today, T-33A tail number 57-0553 is in several large pieces in the maintenance areas. The unit found a canopy and we are now looking for tip tanks that made the T-Bird a “T-Bird.” We are planning on remanufacturing several panels and covers that are missing. Equipment which has been installed since it was new is being removed to a point where it

will be lighter and then finally reassembled and painted. Soon it will stand proud next to our other unit aircraft to help preserve the history of our unit and memorialize the personnel who maintained and flew this type aircraft.

Although not a “fighter”, the T-33 has “fighter” lineage and it helped bridge the gap between propeller driven aircraft and help foster in the jet age at the 183rd.

T-33A, s/n 57-553

Manufactured by Lockheed Aircraft, Burbank, Calif., and delivered to the USAF Sept. 30, 1957

- Sep 1957 To 4080th Air Base (later Combat Support) Group (Strategic Air Command), Laughlin AFB TX (deployment to Davis-Monthan AFB AZ)
- Jun 1961 To 305th Bombardment (Medium) Wing (SAC), Bunker Hill AFB IN
- Apr 1967 To 131st Tactical Fighter Group (Air National Guard), Lambert AP MO
- Jan 1968 To 122nd Tactical Fighter Group (ANG), Baer Field IN
- Apr 1972 To 169th Fighter Group (ANG), McEntire ANGB SC
- Jul 1972 To 188th Tactical Fighter Group (ANG), Fort Smith AP AR
- Nov 1972 To 106th Fighter Group (ANG), Suffolk County AP NY
- Aug 1973 Dropped from inventory by transfer to museum status

## Human Resource Advisor

# Know your path to success

by Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Korte  
Human Resource Advisor



Do you know where you are going with your military career? Do you know how to get there?

Below is some great information and guidance concerning the Enlisted Promotion Requirements and Development Plan.

And, it is user friendly - you can read it, cut it out, and even laminate it for future reference. Take charge of your path to success!

## Enlisted Promotion Requirements and Development Plan

Promotion Requirements (ANGI 36-2502)				Recommended Promotion Enhancement						Education	
Current Rank	Minimum TIG	Minimum TIS	PME / TRNG	PME in Residence	Leadership	Mission Contributions	Military Organizations	Awards	Boards/Assn Councils	CCAF	Civilian
Airman Basic E1	N/A	N/A	BMT / NA		Perform basic tasks	Complete BMT	NGAI		Consider Joining the Airman's Council/Advisory Board	Automatically Enroll in CCAF	Enroll in College
Airman E2	6 Months	6 Months	BMT / 3-level PAFSC		Proficient at basic tasks	Complete BMT Mission Ready	NGAI		Consider Joining the Airman's Council/Advisory Board	Automatically Enroll in CCAF	Work to complete basic curriculum
Airman 1st Class E3	6 Months	12 Months	BMT / 3-level PAFSC		Tactical expertise/attain 5 Skill Level	Mission Ready, Combat Skills, Participate in Unit deployment	NGAI	AF Achievement, OAY	Consider Joining the Airman's Council/Advisory Board	Automatically Enroll in CCAF	Work to complete basic curriculum
Senior Airman E4	12 Months	2 Years	NA / 3-level PAFSC	ALS	Skilled technician / 1st Line Supervisor/attain 5 Skill Level	Volunteer to deploy on an AEF	EANGUS, NGAI	AF Achievement, OAY	NCO Council/Advisory Board member	Complete CCAF Course Work / Attain CCAF Associate Degree	Work to complete basic curriculum
Staff Sergeant E5	2 years	4 Years	ALS / 5-level PAFSC		Highly skilled technician/1st Line Supervisor/attain 7 Skill Level	Volunteer to deploy on an AEF	Air Force Sergeants Assn, EANGUS, NGAI	AF Achievement/ AF Commendation, OAY	NCO Council/Advisory Board member	Attain CCAF Associate Degree	Seek to obtain Bachelors Degree
Tech Sergeant E6	2 Years	6 Years	NA / 7-level PAFSC	NCOA	Technical expert/Responsible for developing airman	Volunteer to deploy on an AEF leadership role	Air Force Sergeants Assn, EANGUS, NGAI	AF Commendation, OAY	NCO Council/Advisory Board member	Attain CCAF Associate Degree	Seek to obtain Bachelors Degree
Master Sergeant E7	2 Years	9 Years	NCOA / 7-level PAFSC	SNCOA	Operational leader/Broad technical and managerial perspective	Volunteer to deploy on an AEF, ADVON, Organize unit deployment	Air Force Sergeants Assn, EANGUS, NGAI, AFA	AF Commendation, OAY	SNCO Council/Top Three Board member		Bachelors Degree
Senior Master Sergeant E8	2 Years	13 Years	SNCOA / 7-level PAFSC		Operates at the operational competence or strategic vision level of leadership	Lead Unit Deployment/Wing deployment NCOIC	Air Force Sergeants Assn, EANGUS, NGAI, AFA	Meritorious Service Medal, OAY	SNCO Council/Top Three Board member		Bachelors Degree
Chief Master Sergeant E9	2 Years	17 Years	NA / 9-level PAFSC	CLC, CEC	Leader at operational competence and strategic vision	Lead Wing or Joint Projects, Wing deployment NCOIC	Air Force Sergeants Assn, EANGUS, NGAI, AFA		Chiefs Council / SNCO Council/Top Three Board member		Possible Masters Degree
<b>MINIMUMS!!!</b>				<b>Recommend minimum of one IN-RESIDENCE Academy during career before CMSgt</b>							

### Why we do it

by Col. Patrick Durbin  
183rd Medical Group Commander

In my career with the Air Guard I have had the opportunity to talk with literally thousands of airmen. While completing their paperwork for their physicals/PHA's, I often ask what they do outside the military and why they are in the Guard. As you can imagine I get a wide variety of answers. It could be patriotism, scholarships for college, learn a skill that can get them a good job in the private sector, family tradition, trying to get in twenty good years to qualify for a pension, or a hundred different reasons.

My own unit, the 183rd Medical Group, is fairly typical. We have a number of members in college, several who obtained training that led to a good civilian job: nursing, respiratory therapy, medical equipment repair. We also have a fairly unusual group of senior officers that continue to serve even though they are well past 20 years. I have requested and received waivers for three this year who had reached their MSD (Mandatory Separation Date) but still wanted to serve their country. One is a dentist; another is a veterinarian; and another, a college professor. Why do they do they still do it? I know it is not for the money. Then why? I have never asked any of them but I know the answer. They still want to serve their country.

We recently promoted Dr. Joe



Maslar to full colonel. He has had a spectacular career. He began as an F-16 fighter pilot, then went to medical school and completed a residency in emergency medicine, all while fully participating in the Air National Guard. The list of his voluntary deployments is staggering. He has been to Antarctica twice to support the Air Guard mission there. He routinely volunteers for other Air Guard units when they have short falls. When he was put in for colonel he had concerns that being an O-6 would limit his opportunities to deploy and serve his country. You probably guessed it, Colonel Maslar completes his 20 years this month and has no thought of retiring. Why does he do it?

Lt. Col. Lemuel Shaffer has completed his 20 years but volunteered last year to deploy to Iraq. He left his busy OB/GYN practice in Chicago to spend two summer months in the hot desert. He told me it was one of the most rewarding experiences in his life. Why does he do it?

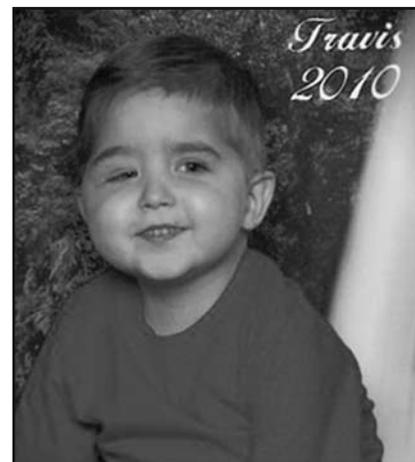
Recently a dear friend passed

away. We were partners for almost ten years in the Air National Guard. He was a general surgeon and I was a flight surgeon/cardiologist. At the age of 60 he developed a heart condition and was medically disqualified. He fought it and the Guard Bureau, with a little help from above their heads, allowed him to continue to serve. He served seven more years and was probably the oldest person in the Air Guard when he retired on his 67th birthday. During his last seven years his drill pay was less than what his retirement pay would have been. He was buried in his Class A uniform. Why did he do it? He loved his country and the Air National Guard.

I am one of those with over 20 years and past my 60th birthday. When asked when I am going to retire I think of my friend and say I plan to go to 67 and retire as the oldest person in the Air Guard. I know why I still do it.

Why do you do it? I suspect patriotism is part of all of our answers.

*Correction to last month's Young Hero, Travis's last name is Thiel.*



# Family care plan change addresses custody questions

by Karen Parrish

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19, 2010 – A recent change in Defense Department policy highlights why servicemembers and deployable civilians who also are custodial parents may want to seek legal help in arranging their children’s care during deployment.

DOD Instruction 1342.19, “Family Care Plans,” was revised in May to require such plans from troops and expeditionary civilians who have legal custody or joint custody of a minor child. The new policy requires these parents to attempt to obtain the consent of the noncustodial or adoptive parent to any family care plan that would leave the child in the custody of a third party.

“We hadn’t even required those people who were married, but had a blended family, to even consider what’s going to happen to that child when they’re [deployed]. You can’t just assume that the child will be placed with a new spouse, because you’ve got another parent in the picture,” a Pentagon legal spokesman said. “Our new policy is focused on ensuring the noncustodial biological parent is contacted, and that [deploying servicemembers and civilians] discuss arrangements with that person.”

Army Col. Shawn Shumake, director of the Pentagon’s office of legal policy, said many servicemembers may believe mistakenly that their family care plans allow them to transfer temporary custody to a child’s step-parent or grandparent during a deployment. But when another biological parent is in the picture, state courts have unanimously ruled that a parent’s custodial rights take precedence.

“If you see that there’s going to be a conflict [over custody], then you need to go into court before you deploy, and get the court to resolve any issues,” Shumake said.

While developing a family care plan, filers identify short- and long-term care providers, supply documentation of financial arrangements ensuring the self-sufficiency of family members, complete transportation arrangements and designate escorts for family members, and otherwise prove their families’ needs will be met

during their absence.

Each military branch has its own regulation covering family care plans, and the services are revising those regulations to comply with the DOD instruction, Shumake said.

The instruction, originally published in 1992, initially applied only to single-parent servicemembers. Beginning in 2008, dual-military couples with children were required to file such a plan. The policy now applies to:

- Servicemembers and civilian expeditionary work force members who have legal custody or joint custody of a minor child;
- Single parents;
- Dual-service couples with dependent family members under the age of 19; and
- Servicemembers and expeditionary civilians legally responsible for others of any age who are unable to care for themselves in their absence.

The revised instruction also incorporates Section 556 of Senate Report 111-35, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, which advises the Defense Department to:

- Ensure that commanders inform servicemembers of the overriding authority of state courts to determine child custody arrangements;
- Strongly encourage servicemembers to seek legal assistance; and
- Advise servicemembers that failure to inform the noncustodial parent about the family care plan in anticipation of an absence can undermine the family care plan or even render it useless.

More than half of the 2.2 million U.S. men and women serving in the military are married, and 43.7 percent of the active duty force has at least one child. More than 1.7 million American children under the age of 18 have at least one parent in the military.

Shumake said servicemembers in such families, and their civilian counterparts, carry a dual responsibility.

“You’ve got to ensure the mission can be accomplished. But of course, we can’t have our folks deploying and leaving children unattended,” he said. “The push behind the family care plan is to get people to think about, in a logical, established way ... how to take care of the children, and who they’re going to leave them with, and to come up with contingency plans. “It’s taking care of the mission,” he continued, “but it’s also making sure you can be a good, responsible parent.”

## USO Star Spangled Salute Gala

*A night to remember*

*by Capt. Thomas Holewinski  
183rd AIS*

Recently I was fortunate enough to attend the USO Star Spangled Salute gala, Oct. 16. The event was held at the famous Navy Pier, downtown Chicago.

Upon arriving with my date, we were fortunate enough to meet some very interesting people, including veterans from all branches of service. Many of the veterans were disabled and had fascinating stories to tell. Hearing what they sacrificed for their country was humbling to say the least. I felt it put things in perspective to hear what other people have gone through, and it will be something I think about the next time something unfortunate happens.

As we made our way to the back of the crowded room (over 1,000 people in attendance), I bumped into the “Mistress of Ceremonies”, actress and talk show host, Bonnie Hunt. She was extremely nice and took the time to meet everyone in the crowd.

After mingling with a few Air Force personnel, I realized I was probably the only person from the Illinois Air National Guard lucky enough to attend. However, I did talk to a 2nd Lt. who said his name was “Hoff” who used to be in the 183<sup>rd</sup> engine shop and is now waiting on pilot training for active duty. Over half the crowd was filled with civilians from various companies who had graciously come to donate to the USO.

The entrance to the Grand Ballroom was amazing. We were one of the first to arrive after the bell signaled us to enter. The stairs led to a hallway with a red carpet. On both sides of the hallway about 100 Navy personnel were lined up on both sides with flags from each state. As we made our way down the red carpet, each flag was raised eventually revealing a magnificent domed amphitheater with a ceiling 100 feet high and lights that traversed down along the sides.

Each table had an incredible assortment of rose petals and candles floating in water along with wine and champagne. My date described the experience similar to arriving at Cinderella’s ball in some kind of movie; it was really that impressive.

During the flag ceremony all 50 states were represented and marched around the audience while the multi-service band played a thunderous drum beat which echoed off the walls of the enormous ballroom. Afterward, the Coast Guard’s drill team performed with rifles affixed with real bayonets. They were tossing them up in the air and behind their backs with clockwork precision.

Bonnie Hunt kicked things off with some comedy during dinner. One of the speakers that followed was Admiral Mike Mullen, who talked about how much our veterans have given to their country and how important a role

the USO has played in helping them. One thing I was especially proud of was every single speaker that even mentioned something I strongly believe in, “freedom is not free.”

Movie and television star Gary Sinise introduced actor/producer D.B. Sweeney who received the Angel Harvey: Heart of a Patriot Award. He spoke on topics like accountability, responsibility, the cost of freedom, and had some really funny personal stories.

For the fundraiser, the Blackhawks displayed the Stanley Cup and auctioned off a package in which you travel with them on their private plane. Actor Gary Sinise generously offered an opportunity to be an extra in his TV show CSI and watch a taping. There was also “Fighter Pilot” for a day and many other exciting packages to bid on, all raising money for USO programs.

The evening concluded with ballroom dancing and an excellent outdoor fireworks display. It was the most fun I have ever had at any military event in my 14 years in the Air Force.



*(Courtesy photo)*

### Family Care Plan: Air Force Instruction 36-2908

The family care program is intended to ensure that at the time of mobilization our force is ready to deploy with minimal distractions and delays. Although AFI 36-2908 only requires members with families to develop a plan, all members should ensure that they are deployable and that personal matters which could affect their deployability or performance are dealt with prior to activation, and NOT at the time of activation.

#### WHO MUST DOCUMENT THEIR FAMILY CARE PLAN ON AF FORM 357?

- Single parents
- Dual military couples with dependents
- Military members who have unique family situations (Determined by CC or First Sergeant)

If you are unsure if you need to have a Family Care Plan contact your First Sergeant

Remember, if conditions in your personal life have changed such as:

- Marriage
- Divorce
- Birth of Child
- Adoption of Child

Stop by Customer Service and have your records updated!

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### Updates from Family Readiness Program Manager

I am creating two email listings. The first one is to include everyone that would like to be on the USO emails. I receive emails from time to time from the USO's in St. Louis and Chicago. If you would like to be on that one, please let me know. The second one is for updates in Family Programs. I receive information from a variety of sources that is time sensitive.

We hope everyone had a good time at this year's Family Day. Please take a few minutes and give us your feedback on what you liked and what you did not like. It took the dedication and hard work of quite a few folks to make it happen, and to those I say "thank-you."

We are rapidly coming up on the holiday season. Please try and take time to rest and enjoy it. If you feel that the stress of shopping or planning the big family event, or all of it rolled into one, step back and take a breath or two. Please remember, if you should need help of any kind, do not hesitate to contact me:

Joe D. Ward

Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager

3101 J. David Jones Parkway

Springfield, IL 62707-5001

Email: joe.ward.1@ang.af.mil

Ph: 217-757-1569

DSN: 892-8569

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### In the Spotlight

**Who:** Master Sgt. Stacy Ferguson

**Military job title:** Financial Services; Mission Support Group Financial Advisor

**When did you enlist?** 19 June 1996

**Why did you enlist?** Originally to procure educational benefits. Ironically, I am just now using those benefits after I already established my career.

**Recent/Favorite Deployment:** My favorite annual training trip was when the entire 183rd went to Gulfport, Miss., in June of 1999. I really enjoyed the camaraderie felt as a unit when we trained together.

**Supervisor comments:** Master Sgt. Ferguson has been a valuable member of the finance office for over 10 years. Her outstanding work as the Financial Advisor for the Mission Support Group for the last two years has helped our office immeasurably, and the service she provides to her customers is exceptional. We are lucky to have her on our team.



### Winter safety

*Submitted by Senior Master Sgt. Steven E. Stewart  
183rd FW Weapons Safety*



The leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents. Preparing your vehicles for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost on the road are the keys to safe winter driving. Here are a few tips for driving safely in winter weather.

- Before winter arrives, have your car tuned up, check the level of antifreeze, make sure the battery is good, and check your tire tread or put on snow tires.
- Keep emergency gear in your car for everyday trips: Cell phone, flashlight, jumper cables, sand or kitty litter (for traction), ice scrapper, snow brush, and a small shovel, blankets, warning devices (e.g., flares reflectors)
- For long car trips, keep food, water, extra blankets, and required medication on hand.
- Avoid driving in snow or ice storms. If you must travel in bad weather, drive slowly. Let someone know what route you are taking and when you plan to arrive so they can alert authorities if you do not get there.
- If your car is parked outside, make sure the exhaust pipe and the area around it are free of snow before you start the car. Snow packed in or around the exhaust pipe can cause high levels of carbon monoxide in the car.
- Do not sit in a parked car with the engine running unless a window is open. Do not let your car run while parked in a garage.
- If your car stalls or gets stuck in the snow, light two flares and place one at each end of the car, a safe distance away. Make sure snow has not blocked the exhaust pipe. Then stay in your car and open a window slightly to let fresh air in. Wrap yourself in blankets and run your car's heater for a few minutes every hour to keep warm.

Walking in icy, snowy weather can be dangerous here are a few tips to keep you safe:

- Dress in layers and wear boots with nonskid soles. Wear a bright scarf or hat or reflective gear so drivers can see you.
- Walk on sidewalks if possible. If sidewalks are covered in snow or ice and you have to walk in the street, walk against the flow of traffic and as close to the curb as possible.

- Do not wear a scarf or hat that blocks your vision or makes it hard to hear traffic.

Clearing snow and ice from driveways and sidewalks is hard work. To prevent injuries, follow these safety tips:

- Dress warm, paying special attention to feet, hands, nose, and ears.
- Avoid shoveling snow if you are out of shape. If you have a history of heart trouble, do not shovel snow unless your doctor says it's okay.
- Do light warm-up exercises before shoveling and take frequent breaks.
- If possible, push snow in front of you. If you have to lift it, pick up small amounts and lift with you legs, not your back. Do not toss snow over your shoulder or to the side.
- Do not drink alcohol before or while shoveling snow.
- Never smoke while shoveling.
- Use rock salt or de-icing compounds to remove ice from steps and sidewalks. Sand placed on walkways may also help prevent slipping.

If you use a snow blower follow these safety guidelines:

- Read the owner's manual before starting your snow blower. Make sure you understand all the recommended safety steps.
- Make sure all people and pets are out of the way before you begin.
- Do not put your hand in the snow blower to remove impacted snow. Turn the machine off and wait a few seconds. Then use a stick or broom handle to remove the material.
- Do not leave the snow blower unattended while it is running.
- Fill up with fuel before you start, when the engine is cool.

I hope these tips will help you have a safe and wonderful winter.

**Announcements**

**Promotions**

**Major**

Thomas G. DeTorres  
Willie E. Horne, Jr.

**Staff Sergeant**

Dana M. Baisden

**Airman 1st Class**

Daniel J. Dunbar

**Senior Airman**

Samuel L. Dolbear  
Zachary R. Olson  
Jacob K. Smith

**Welcome Aboard!**

Tech. Sgt. Michelle L. Mulcahy	183rd MDG
Tech. Sgt. Robert E. Price	183rd MXS
Tech. Sgt. Kinney L. Schroll	183rd LRS
Senior Airman Justin P. Roberts	183rd SC
Airman 1st Class Alicia C. Braun	183rd MSG

***Congratulations!***

**Lunch Menu**

**Served 1100-1300**

**Saturday Holiday Meal**

Prime Rib  
♥ Roast Turkey  
Baked Ham  
Parsley Butter Potatoes  
Mashed Potatoes  
Sweet Potatoes  
Stuffing  
Vegetable Soup

Green Beans  
Corn  
Glazed Carrots  
Cherry Pie  
Apple Pie  
Shrimp Cocktail  
Salad Bar

**Sunday Main Line**

Pepper Steak  
♥ Baked Fish  
Scalloped Potatoes  
White Rice  
Seasoned Spinach  
Cauliflower  
Salad Bar  
Brownies



**Sunday Short Order**

Italian Sausage  
Peppers and Onions  
Fries

\*Menu is subject to change  
♥ Heart healthy

**Retirees**

**Happy Retirement!**

Lt. Col. Harold J. Vorreyer	183rd Air Support Squadron	November 1, 2010
Master Sgt. Timothy M. Kirkman	183rd Maintenance Squadron	November 1, 2010

**2011 Air National Guard Bowling Tournament**

**Air National Guard Bowling Tournament, May 6-7, 2011**

The bowling tournament is open to all Air Guard members and their immediate family as well as civilian employees. The cost is \$28 per event plus \$3 for all events category. Teams are made up of five bowlers. The bowling events consist of singles, doubles, and teams. The cost of three events plus the all-events category is \$87. The host hotel is the Holiday Inn and Suites in Duluth, Minn. Room rates for single or double is \$79; triple occupancy \$89.99 and for quad occupancy is \$99. To sign up or for more information on the bowling tournament contact Bernie Riddle at (217)757-1220 or (217)652-2267, or Jackie Riddle at (217)757-1414 or (217) 652-2273 no later than March 15, 2011.



### Holiday Stress and the Deployment Cycle

The winter holidays can be stressful for anyone, but when your loved one is about to deploy, is currently deployed or home and in the process readjusting to family life, they can be especially difficult. You may experience a range of emotions, from concern to loneliness -- even anger and disappointment. The holidays may magnify those feelings, but they can also be a time to strengthen your emotional commitment to your service member and your family.

Plan ahead for the holidays. If possible, sit down with your service member before your separation to talk about how you will mark the holidays once you are apart. If you are already apart, discuss your plans through letters, e-mail, or telephone calls.

- Get an early start with gifts and cards. Depending on where your loved one is, or will be stationed, it can take a week or more for a package to arrive from the U.S. Give yourself plenty of time to make or purchase and send your gift so your service member will receive it in time for the holiday. If you have children, ask them to write their gift lists early to avoid last-minute purchases that may put you over your budget.
- Record a holiday message. Borrow a video camera or tape recorder if you don't have one, and record yourself and other family members wishing the service member a happy holiday season. Do this far enough in advance so your loved one receives it in time for the holiday. Be sure to include a "Do not open until . . ." note on the package instructing your service member to wait until the day of the holiday to view or listen to the recording.

- Be flexible with phone calls. If your service member is deployed, calls home are unpredictable, so it's best not to count on a phone call from your service member on the holiday itself. You might want to aim for a call during the week of the holiday instead. If you have a cell phone, arrange for the deployed service member to call that number so you won't miss the phone call if you're away from home. Please be sure to have your cell phone with you (and turned on) at all times.

Surround yourself with people when you are apart from your service member. Look for opportunities to be with family and friends. Get together with others who are in your situation. Being with others who are going through the same thing helps prevent loneliness.

- Plan to attend holiday events for families of deployed service members. You can find out about these by checking with your family support centers.
- If you have school-age children, attend holiday school events. Volunteer to help your children's teachers. Even if you aren't able to attend the event, you can bake or help make decorations.
- Help organize a holiday party or potluck for families in your loved one's command. This will help keep your mind off your loneliness and you will be comforted to be with others who are going through the same thing.
- Visit friends or family on the holiday. If you live far away and funds are tight, ask those who would normally give you a gift to chip in for an airline ticket instead. If you prefer to stay home, invite family or friends to spend the holiday with you.
- Volunteer for a good cause. Collect coats for the needy; help stock

shelves at the food pantry; serve a meal at a homeless shelter. Helping others less fortunate than you will keep you busy and will remind you of all you have. Ask your family support center staff about volunteer opportunities in your area.

If you or a family member is feeling stress due to your service member's premobilization, deployment or reintegration and reunion, and you would like professional guidance, please call your Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager, and they can get you in contact with the current IL Director of Psychological Health.

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### Absolutely Free! That's Right, Free!

Did you know that everything on Military One Source is free? Whether it is books, DVDs, etc, it is absolutely free. What is Military One Source? It is a one stop shopping for military members and their dependants. It is available by email, or by calling. Please check it out! It has automobile repair data for vehicles all the way back to the 1940's. It has health information. You can call for any counseling situation you may have, and it is 12 free sessions, per issue. You can talk to a counselor by phone, online, or they can arrange for you to meet someone in person. They try and schedule you with a counselor that is within 20 miles or 30 minutes. There is a section for physical fitness, where you can sign up with a fitness coach and receive help with diet and exercise. There is legal help, health, you name it, and they have it. It is all paid for by the Department of Defense. So check it out at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) or call, 1-800-342-9647

## Medical News

### Handwashing--Are your hands really clean?

by Tech. Sgt. Amy Murphy  
183rd Medical Group

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

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

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

To properly wash your hands, first, wet your hands and apply

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

As you can see, hand washing is a very important aspect in your daily life. It is a simple, cost-effective way to prevent the spread of germs and infection. Following these easy, simple steps could save you from a possible life-threatening disease. *Source:* [www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov)

## Communications News

### JISCC--Say what?

by Master Sgt. Ryan Scott  
183rd Communications Flight

Today's society is one built on constant change, some for better and some for worse. The vast world of communications is not any different. With an era of extreme technological advances, the communications world is ever evolving to keep in stride with society's needs. One of the largest areas of focus is first responder communication infrastructure.

When a natural disaster occurs or a terrorist attack is executed there are many agencies and departments that respond to the affected area to aid in recovery. Despite major efforts to

make first responder communications interoperable across the United States, establishing and managing joint radio and data networks during a disaster or terrorist attack remains a challenge.

The National Guard has recently developed a communication package designed to link its units with civilian state, local, and federal agencies during an emergency. This capability uses Web-based tools, deployable communications packages, and national coordination centers to manage first responder interoperability during a crisis.

This mobile communications package is referred to as the JISCC or Joint Incident Site Communications Capability. The JISCC enables communication via telephone, Internet, and radio and video conferencing.

It is designed to provide global communication anywhere in the world, with a set up time of approximately one hour. The focal points of the system are a Globecom auto-explorer satellite and a Raytheon ACU-1000 Controller. The Globecom satellite provides the data uplink for network capability, ensuring end user internet capability. While the Raytheon ACU-1000 can simultaneously cross-connect different radio networks, connect radio networks to telephone or SATCOM systems, and network Radio over Internet Protocol/Voice over Internet Protocol talk paths.

With a mobile and diverse communications package such as the JISCC, inoperable communications infrastructures will no longer cripple the efforts of first responders and emergency agencies.

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