



More than passed!

183rd Medical Group excels during Health Services Inspection

by Senior Airman Chasity Johnson
183rd Public Affairs Specialist

This past October, the 183rd Medical Group triumphantly passed their Health Services Inspection (HSI). After garnering a less than pleasurable outcome from their last HSI, they not only attained a passing score this time around, but they excelled beyond the expectations of the 183rd by scoring an overall "Outstanding."

Once every five years, the Medical Operations Surgeon Directorate performs HSIs of all Air Force active duty, reserve and guard medical units. Medical inspectors assess the medical readiness, management effectiveness, and the quality of health care delivery at these units. HSIs also assess the ability of Air Force medical units to fulfill their peacetime and wartime mission, including provision of



Members of the 183rd Medical Group gathered on the patio of building P-48 on base Sunday, October 5, following the Health Services Inspection (HSI) outbreak. The moment was definitely worthy of capturing forever in a photo as the group had a great deal to remember and be proud of after the announcement that the group achieved an OUTSTANDING!

medical care and support of the Wing mission.

The tremendous effort, selflessness, and dedication the members of the 183rd Medical Group exuded during preparation for the inspection was directly reflected in their score. The group scored a 96, which is the highest score ever received by a medical group in the Air National Guard (ANG); in the history of the ANG only

two other medical groups have ever received this score.

Col. Amy Walker, 183rd Medical Group Commander, was and is exceedingly pleased with all of the members of the medical group for their contributions to the success of the inspection, in addition to the help they received from the Wing and their counterpart medical groups.

"It took a village..."

It was truly a wing effort," said Col. Walker. "We are so grateful for the help from the commanders who kept our medical readiness stats in the 90s. Great thanks to Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Capps, 183rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, who combed through our mobility folders twice; to Tech. Sgt. Wade Valente, 183rd

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**Unit Training Assembly Schedule
and pay dates**



Duty Performed Pays out (approx.)

DEC 6-7 DEC 15

JAN 10-11 JAN 20

FEB 7-8 FEB 17

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
JANUARY issue of the
Falcon's View is COB Monday,
DECEMBER 15TH.**



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 IG770**

**Toll Free Number
1-800-392-1797**

HSI, continued from page one

Security Forces Squadron, who updated our Geneva Convention Cards; Col. John Patterson, 183rd Maintenance Group, who sent four of his folks to work in dental; Tech. Sgt. Elise Parsons, 183rd Mission Support Flight, who reviewed On the Job Training (OJT) folders; the 182nd Medical Group who sent five people to comb through our documents; and the 177th Medical Group from Atlantic City who gave us a final document review and pushed us to go for the 90s with the addition of some critical details.”

The remarkable success of the 183rd Medical Group’s HSI proved that with commitment, hard work, and persistence, they not only harbor the ability to achieve their goals, but to excel above and beyond.

On a Personal Note

1st Lt. William B. (183 AOG) and Tech. Sgt. Melissa R. Bilbruck (HQ IL ANG) are the proud new parents of a baby boy. Brody Mack was born August 4th, weighing seven pounds,



13 ounces, and was 21 inches tall.

Brody is the first child for the Bilbruck family. Congratulations.

Tech. Sgt. Lawrence L. (183AMXS) and Marla Hurst welcomed their new daughter on August 31.

Charley Jean weighed five pounds, ten ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Big sister, Haily (8), welcomed home her new baby sister. Congratulations to the Hurst family!



Master Sgt. Jennifer (WG HQ) and Nittin Aurora are happy to announce the arrival of a beautiful baby girl.

Loella Rose was born September 20, weighing seven pounds, two ounces and was 20 inches long.

Loella is the first child for the couple. Best wishes to the Aurora family!

Master Sgt. Audrey J. (MSF) and Justin Jennings proudly announce the birth of a son.

Ethan Maddox was born September 26, weighing eight pounds, four ounces and was 21 inches tall.

Ethan is welcomed home by brothers Keegan (10) and Kyle (5), and sisters Mariah (13) and Abbie (9). Congratulations to the Jennings family!



Staff Sgt. Stephen Younker (COMM) and his wife Andriea, gave birth to a healthy baby boy.

Wyatt Payne joined at six pounds, seven ounces and was 19 ½ inches long.

Wyatt was also welcomed home by his 2-year-old big brother Owen. Congratulations to the Younkens and best wishes!!

His legacy will eternally remain

*by Capt. James Robinson
Security Forces Squadron Commander*

During the November 2008 Unit Training Assembly (UTA), 183rd Fighter Wing members honored the life and memory of Tech. Sgt. Brian “Mac” Millen with the unveiling of a plaque during a dedication ceremony.

This plaque will remain at the 183rd Security Forces Squadron as a legacy to him and what he stood for; things such as character, integrity, compassion, leadership, friendship, and so much more.

Although I would like to take some credit for this plaque, I had very little to do with it. Members from the Security Forces Squadron had been meeting for months regarding the development of a legacy plaque. And, while I was deployed, the actual text of the plaque was “discussed and cussed”



Tech. Sgt. Brian McMillen (pictured left) was remembered at a dedication ceremony held at the base during the November UTA. Below: Just as the sun revealed itself through the clouds, Senior Master Sgt. Fred Ausmus (left) and Master Sgt. Shawn Barber (right) unveil the plaque in place at the Security Forces Squadron (building P-25) that honors the life and memory of McMillen.



by both current and former Wing members; all of whom loved Mac so much, which was evident by the passion that everyone showed towards making this

plaque look just right. Funding this plaque was the only real hurdle to jump, but thanks to a Golf Event, 50/50 raffle and the hard work of many members of the Security Forces Squadron, enough money was raised to fully fund the plaque.

I am very proud of the effort that the enlisted troops displayed in making this plaque a reality and I thank everyone for those efforts. This plaque will remain at the Security Forces Squadron long after we are all gone and it will be a reminder to all who follow as to what is expected of everyone in this Squadron. In short, an expectation of excellence has been set and this plaque is a reminder to all of us, of our responsibility to maintain that level of excellence. Mac may be gone, but his legacy will eternally remain.

The plaque reads:

IN MEMORY OF

TSGT BRIAN “MAC” MCMILLEN

TSGT MCMILLEN WAS A NATURAL BORN LEADER WHO WAS SUCCESSFUL IN ALL ASPECTS OF HIS LIFE. BRIAN DIVIDED HIS TIME BETWEEN HIS FAMILY, THE 183d SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON AND THE ILLINOIS STATE POLICE. THOSE WHO KNEW BRIAN WERE BLESSED BY THE CHARISMA AND CHARACTER OF A MAN WHOSE ENERGY AND KNOWLEDGE WERE ONLY LIMITED BY HIS TIME ON EARTH.

TSGT MCMILLEN WAS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY AS AN ILLINOIS STATE TROOPER. “MAC” WAS RESPONDING TO A CALL FOR OFFICER ASSISTANCE WHEN HIS SQUAD CAR WAS STRUCK BY TWO SEPARATE VEHICLES EACH BEING DRIVEN BY AN INTOXICATED DRIVER LEAVING THE CALL OF SERVICE.

TSGT MCMILLEN WAS A VETERAN OF OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE, AND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

*REST IN PEACE BROTHER
EOW - 28 OCT 2007*

The Pink Ribbon Tour

**Senior Master Sgt. John Ring
Fire Chief, 183rd Civil Engi-
neer Squadron**

The 183rd Fire Department hosted the Pink Ribbon Tour 08 at the State Fairgrounds on Sunday, Oct. 5, 2008.

The Pink Ribbon Tour consists of five firefighters and a pink fire truck that tour the country to spread the message of breast cancer awareness. The Pink Ribbon Tour is a non-profit organization and all donations go to sponsoring the tour or the Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation.

Mr. Dave Graybill, coordinator, and his team of firefighters use their vacation time to take the tour. They have visited 36 cities in 20 states in the past four weeks, raising awareness and funds for Breast Cancer. Survivors come to these events and sign the pink truck in a show of support.

183rd Firefighters helped



Left: Master Sgt. Candace Cartwright (left) and Senior Master Sgt. Theresa Snyder (right), both from the 183rd Fighter Wing, sign the pink fire truck on display Oct. 5 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds for the Pink Ribbon Tour.

set up informational booths and cooked lunch for the visitors and participants. A Fire Department of New York (FDNY) hat was presented to breast cancer survivor Verta Wells by Staff Sgt. Katie Maglia. Senior Master Sgt. Theresa Snyder and Master Sgt. Candace Cartwright, both of the 183rd Fighter Wing, signed the pink truck.

Graybill's ultimate goal is to have a fleet of pink trucks that will go on missions of hope and love around the country to tell the stories of sacrifice and the will to live for those with or who have survived breast cancer.

183rd firefighters passed

the hat and collected \$150 to fill the pink fire truck up with fuel.

Graybill was impressed with the organizational skill and effort made for the event.

"This rates as being one in our top ten list," said Graybill. "We will be back next year and we look forward to it being even bigger and better."

Thank you to the Fire-



Below: Senior Master Sgt. John Ring, 183rd Fighter Wing Fire Chief, addresses the guests of the Pink Ribbon Tour at the Illinois State Fairgrounds on Oct. 5, 2008.

fighters and especially Mr. Mike Evans, Mr. Mike Mayfield, Staff Sgt. Katie Maglia, Senior Airman Joe Dewese and who assisted me to help make this event possible in our community.

Wreath ceremony held

**by Capt. Sonja Gurski
Public Affairs Officer**

The NCO AGA, Chapter 75 conducted a wreath laying ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008 at the Memorial Park near the front entrance to the 183rd Fighter Wing.

The ceremony is held to honor active and former members of this unit who have passed away.

While the ceremony is solemn, it brings together family and friends for an opportunity to reflect, reminisce, and share memories of their loved ones with others.

The active members that were honored were:

- Tech. Sgt. Jacob Lessen
- Senior Airman Stacey Zeiger
- Tech. Sgt. Brian McMillen

The former and retired members that were honored included:

- Ralph Bush
- James Hartwig
- Thomas Toepfer
- Richard Haare
- Allen McClure
- Arthur Lloyd
- Victor Bolor
- James Hoke



Chaplains Corner

Thank You

by Maj. In Suk Peebles
183rd Fighter Wing Chaplain

Thank you for the going away gifts of flower arrangement, pretty cake, and an angel. I was pleasantly surprised with all the showering of blessings from all of you. Members of 183rd Fighter Wing and 217th Engineering Installation Squadron have

been so good to me and I will keep you in my prayers and keep you in my heart.

I am very proud of you for sharing your life by serving the country with such dedication and hard work. You all have taught me how to be a chaplain.

I am taking the spirit of the 183rd and 217th with me as I move forward to the 122nd in Fort Wayne, Ind. I will do my best and make you proud. May God bless you now and always.



✠ ✠ CHAPLAINS' INFORMATION ✠ ✠

Roman Catholic Chaplains:

Lt. Col. Bob Barry
3700 103rd Street
Chicago, IL 60655
phone: 773-296-3857
email: RLBarry@worldnet.att.net
or robert.barry@ilspri.ang.af.mil

Maj. Jeff Laible
316 S. Logan Street
Lincoln, IL 62656
phone: 217-732-4019
email: Frlaible@
holyfamilylincoln.com

Base Chapel Office:

Bldg. P-48, Room 302
Phone 217-757-1367, DSN 892-8367
Fax (217)757-1509

Religious Services
Protestant Service:
Saturday 1500hrs Chapel
Catholic Mass:
Saturday 1600hrs Chapel



NCO Academy Graduates Association

Think pink

Dear Friends,
the NCOAGA,
Chapter 75, is asking
for your help.



We all want to do our part in the fight against breast cancer. So, here's your chance. Help us collect pink lids for the Yoplait® Save Lids to Save Lives® program.

Save the pink lids from packages of Yoplait yogurt products and deliver them to the identified drop off locations on base by Decem-

ber 31, 2008. For every pink lid we send them, Yoplait will donate 10 cents to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. They'll donate up to \$1.5 million and they guarantee a minimum donation of \$500,000.

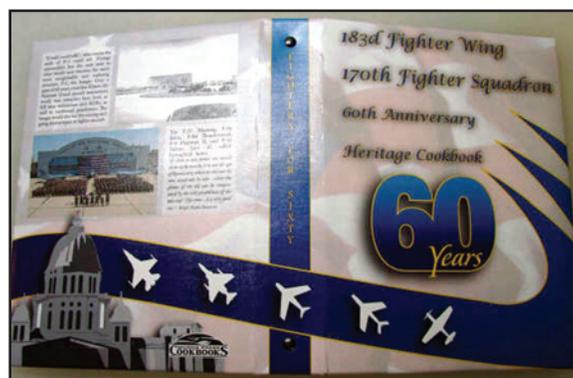
Every lid matters and together we can make a difference.

As a breast cancer survivor, I want to encourage your participation in this very worthwhile cause.

Thank you!

Senior Master Sgt. Theresa M. Snyder, President, Chapter 75

60th Anniversary Cookbooks



Perfect for holiday giving, there are several copies of the 60th Anniversary Heritage cookbook available.

For a the nominal fee of \$20, you could share this memento that is filled with dozens of pictures of current and former unit members as well as countless tried and true recipes.

Get your copy from Master Sgt. Karla Wheatley (ext. 233) or Master Sgt. MaryAnn Chapman (ext. 203) in building P-16.

Drop Off Locations:

Senior Master Sgt. Theresa Snyder: Finance Office, P-48 3rd fl.
Senior Master Sgt. Erin Roesch: Communications Flight, P-8

Senior Master Sgt. Fred Ausmus: Security Forces, P-25
Master Sgt. Diana Braun: Missions Support Flight, P-46
Master Sgt. Sharon Gabriel: Maintenance Squadron, P-1

Holiday tips and tricks

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

The same thing happens every year. The holidays are rapidly approaching and your mind is on holiday parties, family reunion dinners, and putting up those decorations. The farthest item from your thoughts is safety during the holiday season. Fires, electrical shock, slips trips & falls all play a major factor in holiday mishaps.

Check your holiday decorations and replace any with worn or damaged wiring. Disconnect the lights at bedtime or when they will be unattended. Once again, do not overload your outlets using extension cords or a multi-plug adapter. Avoid the use of candles and certainly do not allow your children to play with the candle, matches or lighters. Melting wax can cause serious burns. Never use a candle as a Christmas tree decoration and it's a good idea not to place lit candles on your window sills. Those curtains will certainly make for good fire starting material.

I've touched on a few areas of safety during the holidays but I want to focus on live Christmas tree safety and tips on care and maintaining your live tree.

When picking a tree... Check the needles. Run your fingers through the needles on the branches or shake the tree. If the needles come off easily choose another tree. This is a sign that the tree is drying out. A dry tree will not tolerate the temperatures of the Christmas lights and other electrical devices you may put on your tree.

If buying a pre-cut tree, make a new cut approximately one inch above the old cut to facilitate water movement through the cells.

Leave the tree outside until you are ready to decorate it.

Trees that are cut early are a greater danger than trees cut relatively close to Christmas.

Make sure the tree has water.

When selecting a location to setup your tree, attempt to locate it in a cool location. Avoid placing it in an area close to heating appliances or the fireplace.

Keep the tree out of high traffic areas, and away from stairways and doors.

Secure the tree so that it cannot be knocked over by pets or a small child.

Keep on eye on your decorations.

Before using lights on the tree make sure that they are UL listed. Never use more than three strings of lights on one circuit. Check all light strings to ensure that the wires are acceptable. Look for signs of wearing, frayed wires or blackened wires. If any of these appear, or if you're not sure if the wire is safe, throw it out immediately.

Make sure that all connections are tight and the bulbs and cords are in good condition, not loose or frayed as to cause a short.

Be able to turn off the lights without having to crawl under the tree.

Artificial trees should be made of flame resistant materials, and lights should never be used on trees with metal frames.

Never leave the lights on when leaving the house or when going to bed.

Keep candles away from Christmas trees. Never use candles as Christmas tree decorations.

When shopping for Christmas tree ornaments, attempt to find ones which are flame resistant.

After the holiday, remove all decorations and remove the Christmas tree from your home as soon as you can. A dry tree can be very dangerous.

The fire departments recommend that a tree be removed from the home in the event that it becomes dry and begins shedding needles. **DON'T TAKE A CHANCE.** Remove the tree as soon as possible after Christmas.

NEVER burn a tree in a fireplace. Dry Christmas trees burn very hot and extremely quick. The fire may rapidly leave the fireplace and move into your room. Also, a Christmas tree is very oily and may damage your fireplace.

I think we have all seen National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation where Clark Griswold falls off the roof while

putting up decorations, electrocuting the cat, & tree catching fire. As funny as these things were in the movie, in real life, the affects of poor decisions can be costly and dangerous.

Now let's take a look at ladder safety for a moment and some good safety reminders while using them.

The safest way to climb indoors and out is to use a sturdy safety ladder. Chairs and other furniture can tip or collapse under your weight. I want you all to remember that these ladder safety tips can be used year round & just not during the holiday season.

Before using a ladder outdoors, choose a location that is well away from all power lines. Coming in contact with live wires can be fatal.

Place the ladder on level ground and open it completely, making sure all locks are engaged.

Use the four-to-one rule for extension ladders: for each four feet of distance between the ground and the upper point of contact (such as the wall or roof), move the base of the ladder out one foot.

Always face the ladder when climbing and wear slip-resistant shoes, such as those with rubber soles.

Keep your body centered on the ladder and gauge your safety by your belt buckle. If your buckle passes beyond the ladder rail, you are overreaching and at risk for falling.

Stand at or below the highest safe standing level on a ladder. For a stepladder, the safe standing level is the second rung from the top, and for an extension ladder, it's the fourth rung from the top.

For more information on holiday safety please check out these links:

<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/novtips.cfm> <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/novtips.cfm>

<http://www.safeusa.org/holiday.htm>
<http://www.safeusa.org/holiday.htm>
<http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/seasonal/holidayseason.htm> <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/seasonal/holidayseason.htm>

I hope this information will help you have a safe and enjoyable holiday season! Until next time, **BE SAFE!**



183rd OleTyme Holiday Bash

Date: 10 January 2009

Time: 1900hrs - 2400hrs

Place: Knights of Columbus

2200 Meadowbrook Rd

Springfield IL 62707

- Finger foods, pop, water and beer provided. There will also be a cash bar.

- Door Prizes will be given out along with a 50/50 drawing.

Tickets will be available December UTA.

MSgt and above: \$10.00 per Person

TSgt and below: \$5.00 per person

DJ and Dancing

All night long.

Hope to see you

All there.

183rd Breaks ground, moves toward new mission

by Capt. Sonja Gurski
183rd Public Affairs Officer

The 183rd Fighter Wing held a ground breaking ceremony for a noise suppressor facility on Thursday, Oct. 23 at 2:30 p.m. at the site of the new facility on base.

The official ceremony commemorated the beginning of construction of a \$1.6 million facility that is designed to acoustically attenuate noise levels of jet engines during testing. Key features include acoustically treated hanger doors and walls, an exhaust deflector ramp, and thrust restraint system.

“Though we have already begun to service engines for other units, the start of construction of the T-9 Hush House signals the beginning of the expansion of our capabilities in the field of jet engine repair and maintenance,” said Col. Michael A. Meyer, Wing Commander. “We already have the personnel needed to make the 183rd Engine Repair Facility a ‘center of excellence’. This will begin to give us the equipment that we need to do so.”

The unit is in the process of standing up a Centralized Intermediate Repair Facility (CIRF) for the General Electric F-110 jet engine to support five Air National Guard F-16 flying units throughout the country including the 114th Fighter Wing, Sioux Falls, S. D., 115th Fighter Wing, Madison, Wis., 122nd Fighter Wing, Ft. Wayne, Ind., 132nd Fighter Wing, Des Moines, Iowa, and 149th Fighter Wing, San Antonio, Texas.

To accommodate the new CIRF mission, the engine shop will need to expand from approximately four work bays to ten. It is planned to renovate the current main aircraft hangar, building P-1, to accomplish the expansion. The cost for structural changes, code compliance, and fixtures is approximately \$6 million. The funding for this is expected



From the left: Maj. Gen. William L. Enyart, Adjutant General of Illinois, Illinois Representative Raymond Poe, Illinois Representative Rich Brauer, Col. Michael Meyer, 183rd Fighter Wing Commander Ms. Jamia Jowers (representative for Senator Barack Obama), Mr. Robert Cusick, Director, Hanson Professional Services Inc., Mr. Rodney Davis (representative for Congressman John Shimkus), Dr. Susan Shea, Illinois Department of Transportation, Dr. Michael Ayers, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Alan Woodson, The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Casson, 183rd Aerospace Propulsion Superintendent, toss the first ceremonial shovel of dirt to break ground on the new T-9 Noise Suppressor facility here on base, October 23rd.

to come from BRAC funds.

The 183rd Fighter Wing has one noise suppression facility that is available for testing jet engines that are in an aircraft or independent of the aircraft and on a test stand. The new T-9 facility will be an engine-only facility.

The additional noise suppression facility is vital to the new CIRF mission. Every engine that receives maintenance is required to complete a test run prior to returning to the end using Wing. Depending upon the type of maintenance performed, a test can require anywhere from 15 minutes to three days to complete all required compliance checks. Only one engine can be tested at a time in the current facility and the new facility.



Senior Master Sgt. Robert Casson, 183rd Aerospace Propulsion Superintendent, provides a tour of the engine shop to guests and media of the T9 Noise Suppressor facility ground breaking ceremony. The significance of the new “hush house” to the future CIRF mission assigned to the 183rd Fighter Wing was a part of the days events to help raise awareness to our community leaders of our role in the Air Force mission.

Final F-16 Fighter Jet assigned leaves 183rd Fighter Wing

by Capt. Sonja Gurski
183rd Public Affairs Officer

Stripped of the art that helped us to celebrate our 60th Anniversary and other markings that identified it as an Illinois bird, aircraft 87-0296, the last F-16 assigned to the Illinois Air National Guard's 183rd Fighter Wing in Springfield departed the base Tuesday morning, Sept. 23, 2008.

Due to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations, the 17 F-16 aircraft assigned to the 183rd were returned to Air Force inventory over the last six months of fiscal year 2008.

Occasionally the sound of fighter aircraft can still be heard over Springfield as the unit continues with the extended mission of phase maintenance of other unit's aircraft through September 2009.

Many of the members of the 183rd Fighter Wing paused in their work that sunny Tuesday morning to say their own goodbye to a 60-year flying heritage. As Lt. Col. John Patterson took off and brought the aircraft over the base with a gentle "wave" over the empty ramp, it was a sad moment for many of us.

Everyone is now preparing for and beginning the new tasks that will transition the Wing into its new missions, the Centralized Intermediate Repair Facility (CIRF) and augmentation for Component Numbered Air Force (C-NAF).

Now we begin a new heritage.

F-16s a comforting memory for Chandlerville mother

By Dave Bakke

Reprinted with permission of the Springfield State Journal Register, September 24, 2008

When the final F-16 left Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport on Tuesday morning, it left a void.

It was more than the end of something historically Springfield. The economic impact on the city has been well detailed. The psychological effect also is important, because with every loss — minor league baseball, state jobs, fighter jets, commercial airline service, historic sites — Springfield is a bit less than it was.

But there is a central Illinois mother for whom the departure of the last F-16 hit much closer to home. A piece of her heart left with that last bit of metal and machinery.

"I see the day has come, though I hoped it wouldn't," Julie Potts of Chandlerville wrote to me after reading Monday that the last plane would leave in a matter of hours.

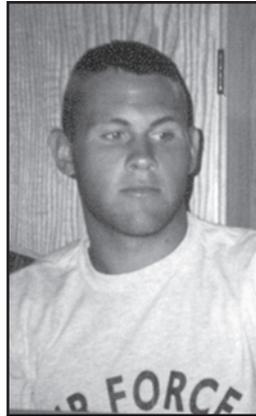
Julie and I have been sitting down over coffee at Verna's Home Cookin' in Chandlerville for quite a few years. I listen to tales of the town, its people and of the children on the school bus that she drives. She listens to stories about my teenagers and the challenge of finding enough column ideas to keep me employed in an increasingly uncertain business.

After graduating from A-C Central High School, Julie's son, Nathan "Nate" Potts, joined the 183rd Tactical Fighter Wing. He was a mechanic who "kept 'em flying." The Guard was going to be a temporary stop for Nate. He thought he would join up for a while, then go to college full time. But he loved his work at the Guard and being around the planes and their pilots.

The day the World Trade Center was felled, Julie walked to church and talked to her pastor. She knew that this day was going to draw Nate into whatever was coming next. She was right. Nate went with the Air Guard to Kuwait. He was there when the Canadian soldiers were mistakenly killed by a 183rd pilot in Afghanistan.

One morning on the school bus, Julie heard a little girl saying goodbye to her grandmother. The grandmother said to her granddaughter, "May God please you and protect you 'til you come home to me." While Nate was in the Middle East, Julie wrote that on all of her e-mails to him.

Nate didn't die in the Middle East. He came



back to Chandlerville in 2002, safe and healthy, and stayed in the Guard as a crew chief. But four years ago, he was killed in a freak auto accident on Illinois 78, not far from Chandlerville.

After Nate's death, Julie and Mike Potts came to Springfield to clear out Nate's locker. They were met that day by the somber faces of pilots and mechanics of the 183rd who knew Nate.

"They showed us around Nate's work area and even the engine piece that he has spent so much time 'cleaning.' The Chief said they always gave Nate the pieces that needed the patience that he always showed," Julie wrote. "They asked us if we wanted to crawl into the F-16 that the pieces went into."

Mike, a truck mechanic when he was in the Marines, took them up on the offer.

Before they left the airport, Mike and Julie were shown a commemorative panel that was going to be installed in one of the planes. It said, "In Memory of Potts." It was to remain in the jet in Nate's honor.

Those jets often went on training runs over the Illinois River bottoms, where Chandlerville sits. When she was outside and heard them, Julie looked up to watch those planes. She always wondered whether the plane she was seeing was the one with the panel inside in memory of Nate.

"Now, as the last plane from the 183rd gets ready to fly out," she wrote, "I wonder if it is 'Nate's plane.' I know I will miss hearing the jets fly over our home. It is just another memory of Nathan Michael Potts that will fade to some people, but not to me."

They were just hunks of metal — electronics and jet engines to some. They were jobs or symbols of freedom to others. But to one mother, those F-16s were a comforting memory of her son.

Dave Bakke can be reached at (217) 788-1541 or dave.bakke@sj-r.com.



According to his co-worker, Staff Sgt. Bradford Rich, Senior Airman Potts was a huge fan of the musical group Pearl Jam. The stick figure on the memorial was also a tattoo that Potts wore on his back.

Guard, Reserve warfighters chart tactics course

by Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau

10/27/2008 - TUCSON, Ariz. (AFNS) -- Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve officials prepared the roadmap for weapons and tactics needs for their near- and long-term during a conference Oct. 20 through 24 in Tucson.

The annual Weapons and Tactic Conference began at the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., with opening remarks by Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula, Air Force deputy chief of staff for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

More than 1,000 weapons system specialists formed working groups at the Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Command Test Center and Davis-Monthan AFB to discuss and prioritize their requirements in funding, equipment and tactics.

"This is the premier opportunity for warfighters at the tactical level, who have been there and done that, to get together and chart a future course," said Col. Dan Bader, commander of the Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Command Test Center.

During the conference, an unmanned aircraft systems working group reviewed last year's agenda as well as UAS operational and developmental testing. Then their planning focused on current operations and the lessons learned in them.

"I want everyone to understand what our problems are, what our limitations are, what our manpower limitations are," said Maj. David Ward, an MQ-1 Predator weapons officer at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., who chaired the UAS working group. "This is what we take out of it, and I bring that over to the weapons system council to press at the O-6 level on up."

The Reserve components now have several Predator squadrons operating fulltime combat air patrols overseas and

are expanding to operate additional Predators as well as MQ-9 Reapers.

"We had seven (people) here the first year, 13 last year, and this year we had 101," Major Ward said. "We'll need a bigger room next year."

The Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Command Test Center is a small, total Air Force team at the Arizona Air National Guard base in Tucson with a mission to increase the capability and survivability of Guard and Reserve warfighters and the lethality of airpower. The center is manned by Guard, Reserve and active Air Force and civilians. Additionally, nearly 50 percent of their team is civilian support contractors. Nearly all Airmen are combat experienced officers and weapons school or test pilot school graduates.

The team has reviewed, loaded and test-flown recent advances in radar warning receiver software and the Sniper and Lighting targeting pods for the F-16 Fighting Falcon and A-10 Thunderbolt II.

More recently, when Guard A-10 pilots in Afghanistan learned their line-of-sight radios were ineffective in mountainous terrain, the Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Command Test Center staff took action to find a solution.

Within a year, a team of military and industry specialists here quickly formed to design and integrate an existing Rockwell Collins ARC-210 radio for the aircraft.

The fix provided pilots, ground forces and combatant commanders clearer communications through the aircraft's line-of-sight communications as well as added a beyond line-of-sight satellite radio antenna.

"It greatly enhanced our capability, in this case, of the A-10 to communicate and do the mission," Colonel Bader said. The system was integrated into some F-16s by retrofitting a satellite antenna to fit the fighter aircraft's limited interior space.

The weapons systems' add-ons



Col. Dan Bader (left) speaks with Guard and Reserve Airmen at the annual Weapons and Tactic Conference Oct. 21 at Tucson, Ariz. Colonel Bader is the commander of the Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Command Test Center. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

soon became a program for all the Air Force A-10s and block-30 -40 F-16s, thus, strengthening the warfighter's value in pushing weapon system improvements, Colonel Bader said.

For their efforts, the Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Command Test Center staff was awarded the Howard W. Leaf award by the Air Force Association this September as the Air Force's top test and evaluation team for 2008.

"Nobody knows better what warfighters need than the people out there doing the job," said Capt. Dave Stilli, an operations officer for the Georgia Air Guard's 165th Air Support Operations Squadron.

Captain Stilli chaired the meetings of at least 30 officer and enlisted tactical air controllers and special operations Airmen -- including combat veteran -- from across the Reserve components.

The fact that lower-ranking Airmen were also here among field grade weapons system officers, intelligence officers and pilots to guide their future funding, equipment and tactics was because of the respect senior leaders have for experienced combat Airmen, Colonel Bader said.

"The senior leadership advocates it and takes it back to their forums," he said. "This is a very warfighter centric conference, and they are all here. The relationships built here serve folks throughout their careers."

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 ways 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 don't want 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?

Here are some good times to do this: After coughing or sneezing, before, during, and after you prepare food, before you eat, and after you use the bathroom, when your hands are dirty, and more frequently when someone you live with is sick.

According to 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%.

Let's now focus on how 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.

So as you can see, hand washing is very important 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.

Communications Traffic

Communities of Practice

by *Tech. Sgt. Angel Amaral*
Wing Knowledge Ops



Air Force Knowledge Now (AFKN) is a virtual workspace that connects people through knowledge sharing. AFKN provides an environment to identify, capture, and transfer knowledge inside of virtual communities. AFKN offers its members a collaborative environment called Communities of Practice (CoP) — virtual workspaces that are at the heart of the AFKN system.

The three types of CoPs are Open, Restricted, and Closed:

- Open - allows all viewers with .mil or AF Portal access to view the entire CoP.
- Restricted - allows everyone with .mil or AF Portal access to view the entry page (overview and links) but not the posted contents.
- Closed - requires membership for viewing the entire CoP.

In order to access the CoP, you must have access to both the AFKN and CoP areas. To accomplish this, access the AFKN site via the AF Portal: <https://wwwd.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/Entry.asp?Filter=OO>

Next, click on Create an AFKN Account in the far right navigation list and then complete registration required fields. For the following fields: your user name, it is recommended to be your AF Portal name, which is normally first name dot

middle initial dot last name, for MAJCOM, please select ANG and for BASE, please select Springfield ANGB IL. Although the password you put in here should be maintained especially if you want to have access to this CoP from home, it will be linked to your Portal Account and CAC pin. (NOTE: If you don't have a CAC reader at home and want to access the portal and/or this CoP, Base IM can reset portal passwords). Click submit and you should receive an email notification that you now have an AFKN account.

<https://wwwd.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/Entry.asp?Filter=OO>

Now please click on the following link and request access to our CoP. If you already have an account, and do not have access to our CoP, please complete the following link like everyone else. For justification, please just put 183 member and click submit. You will get another email notification that your request has been sent. Once access has been granted, you will get one last email saying you have been granted access to the CoP. This

CoP will be saved for you under the Communities tab in the Air Force Portal landing page.

<https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/ClosedCoP.asp?Filter=AN-SC-02-24>

If you have questions about this or anything else Communications related, call the Helpdesk at ext. 241. Or, you can always call Chief Wurtzler at ext. 576.



THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN

Meet the new 183rd IG

by Capt. Sonja Gurski
Public Affairs Officer

He's a corporate consultant, professor, author, speaker, lieutenant colonel, and he's our new inspector general (IG).

Lt. Col. George Vukotich, Ph.D., takes on the role of the 183rd Fighter Wing IG in October, replacing Lt. Col. Jeff Rice. After serving for nine years as the Wing IG, Rice has been selected as the deputy commander of the Air Force forces (AFFOR) staff, Air Operations Group.

In the United States, an Inspector General (IG) is a type of investigator charged with examining the actions of a government agency, military organization, or military contractor as a general auditor of their operations to ensure they are operating in compliance with general established policies of the government, or to discover the possibility of misconduct, waste, fraud, theft, or certain types of criminal activity by individuals or groups related to the agency's operation, usually involving some misuse of the organization's funds or credit. An armed services inspector general may also investigate noncriminal allegations, to include determining if the matter should be referred for criminal investigation by the service's criminal investigative agency. Within the United States Armed Forces, the position of Inspector General is normally part of the Headquarters staff and reports directly to the commander.

Vukotich served most recently



as the IG for the 126th Air Refueling Wing, Scott Air Force Base for two years before officially joining the 183rd in September. He has had the opportunity to work at all three Air Guard units in Illinois as well as Illinois Air National Guard Headquarters at Camp Lincoln in Springfield.

Vukotich joined the 183rd staff because it was an opportunity to help an organization going through a time of historic change.

"I joined the 183rd staff because it was an opportunity to help an organization going through a time of historic change," said Vukotich.

When he's not keeping busy as part of the check and balance system within the Illinois Air National Guard, Vukotich teaches in the Graduate Program in Training and Development at Roosevelt University in Chicago.

For most people that would be enough however, Lt. Col. Vukotich also explains

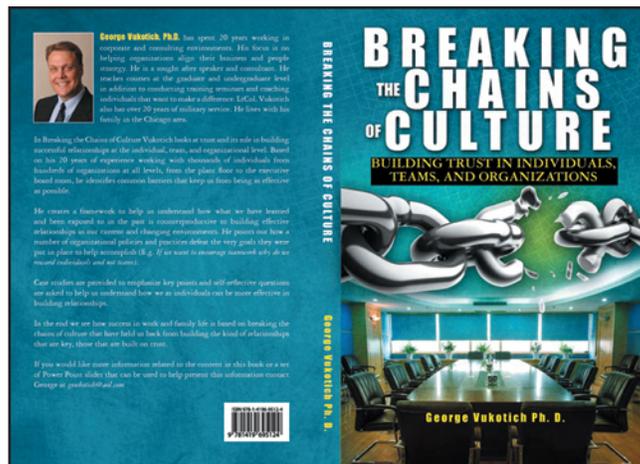
his field of expertise through speaking engagements.

"The audience for my speaking engagements generally includes individuals in organizations that are charged with making change happen," said Vukotich. "I also have a number of individuals participate who have recently gone through personal changes as well."

In addition to inspecting, teaching, speaking and consulting, Vukotich recently finished a book titled *Breaking the Chains of Culture*.

The book explores the importance of trust in successful relationships at the individual, team, and organizational level of the work place. In his book he identifies common barriers that keep us from being as effective as possible. In the end we see how success in work and family life is based on breaking the chains of culture that have held us back from building the kind of relationships that are key, those that are built on trust.

If you would like to welcome Lt. Col. Vukotich to the 183rd or have a question or concern for the new IG, he can be contacted at 217-757-1770 or you can visit his office in room 336, on the third floor in building P-48.



This is the cover of *Breaking the Chains of Culture: Building Trust in Individuals, Teams, and Organizations*, by George Vukotich.

Continuing Promise

by Capt. Sonja Gurski
183rd Public Affairs Officer

There were nearly a dozen headlines including the following within the first two weeks of November on the Southern Command website:

Continuing Promise Brings Medical Care to Guyanese Town

Project Hope Delivers on Continuing Promise

Kearsarge Sailor Gives Back to Her Homeland

Eye Surgery on USS Kearsarge Provides New Life for Guyanese Toddler

President of Guyana Visits Kearsarge During Humanitarian Mission

U.S. Navy Responds to Medical Emergency off Coast of Guyana

Continuing Promise Engineers Restore Heart of Community

Kearsarge Completes Mission in Trinidad and Tobago

It's difficult to imagine the number of stories that have been told of the amazing things being accomplished by the crew of the USS Kearsarge on the Continuing Promise mission. It will be an interesting story for Tech. Sgt. Angela Rankin, 183rd Medical Group, to share when she returns from the USS Kearsarge. When will that be?

When we left this story last month (November 2008 Falcon's View) Rankin and her shipmates had been pulled from the Continuing Promise mission to assist with the storm ravaged areas in Haiti.

"Informed today mission has been extended through until 15 Dec 08," Rankin wrote in an email in the middle of September. The deployment was originally scheduled to last from August through November. Hurricane season has a very poor way of changing plans for those serving in that region.

Back on with the Continuing Promise mission, as is evidenced from the headlines, the crew is obviously making their way back through the original schedule and visiting the communities as planned.



While deployed on the USS Kearsarge on the Conditioning Promise mission, whether she's working (above) or resting (below), it seems that Tech. Sgt. Angela Rankin always wears a smile.



Anyone who would really like to discover all of the really awesome accomplishments being done by those on the USS Kearsarge should visit www.southcom.mil and look at the dozens of stories and hundreds of photos covering this mission.

As for Tech. Sgt. Rankin, she'll be home in a few weeks and we should all take the opportunity to tell her how proud we are of the hard work and challenges she faced while serving on this very important mission. Col. Amy Walker, 183rd Medical Group Commander, put it very well.

"I'm very proud of you and what you are doing," Walker wrote to Rankin. "You'll never forget this your entire life; neither will those you have helped."

Mission Details

The Continuing Promise deployments to Latin America and the Caribbean are modeled in part on last year's USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) (see more) mission to the region. The Continuing Promise visits to each country are longer than the Comfort mission (about two weeks each), increasing the effectiveness of the humanitarian services provided. The mission aims to foster goodwill and demonstrate U.S. commitment and support to Latin America and the Caribbean.

A key aspect of the mission is the partnership of military personnel with other government agencies and non-governmental organizations, like Project Hope and Operation Smile. Such diversity of humanitarian expertise enhances mission effectiveness. It also lays the foundation for relationships that could pay dividends in the event the U.S. responds to a potential humanitarian crisis in the region.

Atlantic Phase (August - November), USS Kearsarge

Kearsarge departed its homeport of Norfolk, Va. Aug. 6. During the mission's second phase, Kearsarge is visiting five nations: Nicaragua, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana. The deployment is scheduled to last through November. (Note: From Sept. 7 - 26, USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) was diverted from Continuing Promise operations to support international relief operations in Haiti. Scheduled operations in Panama during that time were canceled.)

The ship has a crew of about 1,200 Sailors along with more than 150 embarked air and sea lift personnel.

Embarked on the ship is a team of more than 150 military and Public Health Service medical professionals who will work with partner nation medical teams and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) – like Project Hope and Operation Smile – in treatment, training and infrastructure support across the host countries. Forces from Brazil, Canada, France, Netherlands, and Spain are also embarked for the mission.

About 60 military engineering and construction troops will support the mission by providing robust construction capabilities, civic action repairs and minor construction projects at each stop. The troops consist of 20 Seabees from the Navy's Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202 headquartered at Little Creek, Va., and 40 Airman from Air Force 5th Civil Engineer Squadron Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (Prime BEEF) from Minot AFB, N.D.

Incentive Flight Program

Congratulations to these final incentive flight recipients!



Staff Sgt. Carl C. Hasselbring, 183rd Maintenance Squadron



Senior Master Sgt. Erin L. Roesch, 183rd Communications Flight



Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Thornton, 183rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



Tech. Sgt. Daniel L. Putnam, Civil Engineering Squadron



Master Sgt. Thomas F. Stockton, 183rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



Senior Master Sgt. David D. Ferricks, 183rd Communications Flight.

A word from the editor

It's been real and it's been fun, actually it's been real fun

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

Almost ten years ago exactly, I edited and sent my first issue of the base newspaper, the 183rd News, to the printer in November of 1998. I sent in another 29 issues of the 183rd News before it was renamed the Falcon's View in September of 2001. I've been here for another 79 issues of that publication.

Armed with a degree in Accounting and a lot of determination, I muddled through dozens of stories about the comings-and-goings and accomplishments being achieved by the members of the 183rd Fighter Wing and 217th Engineering Installations Squadron. Without a lot of natural talent, a little training at the Defense Information School at Ft. Meade, Maryland did improve my ability to tell the Air Force Story.

It is time for me to move on and attack a new challenge in the new c-NAF mission and I couldn't be more excited about this opportunity. However, I can't go without

telling each of you thanks for sharing your stories with us, being the outstanding examples for us to write about and for persevering over all the challenges I've watched you face. Without a doubt, it has been my pleasure to tell your story even though I am well aware that there are hundreds of stories that haven't been and never will be told.

I encourage you to continue to share the information with the Public Affairs office in the future. No one will know what outstanding people you are unless someone gets the chance to tell us about it.

Thanks a ton!

CCAF Graduates

Congratulations to the following individuals for earning their Community College of the Air Force Associates Degree in 2008! For information on CCAF please contact your Unit Training Manager or the Base Training Manager, Master Sgt. Audrey Jennings at ext. 230.

Staff Sgt. Jason M. Arndt
Staff Sgt. Brian J. Barnard
Tech. Sgt. Brandeana S. Bertels Breden
Tech. Sgt. Louann K. Bettis
Staff Sgt. Faith A. Borjon
Tech. Sgt. Neil E. Bradley
Master Sgt. Mary Ann Chapman
Tech. Sgt. Loni K. Crowder
Staff Sgt. Brandon A. Daniels
Senior Master Sgt. Kelly A. Downs
Master Sgt. Vassellar Farmer
Staff Sgt. Jonathan T. Ferguson
Tech. Sgt. Alana S. Franklin
Staff Sgt. Jennifer L. Harms

Staff Sgt. Matthew R. Harris
Senior Master Sgt. Michael J. Heren
Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey L. Hoffman
Master Sgt. Brian T. Horn
Staff Sgt. Adam R. Kerr
Staff Sgt. Bobbie L. Lee
Senior Master Sgt. Ralph W. Long
Staff Sgt. Heather C. Lowrey
Tech. Sgt. Annie E. Maliongas
Tech. Sgt. Aaron N. Myers
Tech. Sgt. Brandon T. O'Connor
Tech. Sgt. Carrie L. Redpath
Staff Sgt. Kevin S. Reese
Master Sgt. Paula J. Schou
Staff Sgt. Christian S. Schweitzer
Tech. Sgt. Joshua E. Stewart
Master Sgt. Thomas F. Stockton
Staff Sgt. Stephen T. Summers
Senior Master Sgt. Andrew P. Thompson
Staff Sgt. Nicole A. Tymann
Chief Master Sgt. Victor M. Wurtzler

Promotions

Lieutenant Colonel
Charles R. Coderko
Captain
Samuel A. McElwaine
Senior Master Sergeant
Cristy E. Long
Master Sergeant
Angela D. McMillen
Technical Sergeant
Robert T. Agans
Michelle Ingram
Laura J. Radliff
Kashima R. Rhone
Marc A. Victor
Staff Sergeant
Paul A. Brackett
Darline S. Hun
Joshua D. Seed

Retirements

JUNE

Master Sgt. Nichole Arkebauer
183rd Mission Support Flight

Master Sgt. Robert G. McGlothlin
Headquarters Illinois Air National Guard

Lt. Col. Cecil B. Stine
183rd Operations Support Flight

JULY

Master Sgt. James D. Nosek
183rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Lt. Col. James N. Roles
Headquarters Illinois Air National Guard

Senior Master Sgt. Joe D. Ward
183rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Master Sgt. James M. Pibbs
183rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

AUGUST

Tech. Sgt. James P. Killday
183rd Civil Engineering Squadron

SEPTEMBER

Lt. Col. Paul E. Hattendorf
170th Fighter Squadron

Lt. Col. John A. Milton
170th Fighter Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Douglas L. Keller
183rd Maintenance Squadron

Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth L. Miller
183rd Maintenance Squadron

Master Sgt. Donald G. Schnapp
183rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. John P. Sonntag
217th Engineering Squadron

Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin L. White
183rd Maintenance Group

OCTOBER

Master Sgt. Gary W. Clark
183rd Maintenance Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Justin R. Lawson
183rd Maintenance Operations Flight

Senior Master Sgt. James F. Elliot
183rd Maintenance Squadron

Maj. John R. Bent
170th Fighter Squadron

Master Sgt. Dennis M. Hoehn
183rd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Master Sgt. Roger Robertson
183rd Maintenance Group

Master Sgt. David M. Smith
183rd Maintenance Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Szabo
183rd Logistics Readiness Squadron



Left: Lt. Col. James Bentley, Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander, presents newly retired Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Szabo with the Meritorious Service Medal during his retirement ceremony in September. Szabo retired with more than 28 years of service.



Right: Master Sgt. Charles Smedley receives the Meritorious Service Medal from Lt. Col. James Bentley, Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander during his retirement ceremony in late September. Smedley served his country for over 37 years!

COMMANDER

Colonel Michael A. Meyer

183D PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Captain Sonja Gurski
Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr
Master Sgt. Samuel Kassis
Staff Sgt. Steven D. Martin
Staff Sgt. Michael Shamma
Staff Sgt. Shelly Stark
Senior Airman Sarah Pherigo
Senior Airman Chasity Johnson
Airman Christine Teer

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183d FW/PA

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