



183rd answers the Governor's call

by Capt. Sonja Gurski
183rd Public Affairs Officer

What makes the National Guard unique to any other branch of service has always been our dual mission; a ready and reliable resource for the defense of our nation (our federal mission) AND our role as a resource in times of crisis to the governor of the state to which we are member of the Guard.

The Illinois National Guard has been called upon many times since 9/11 to serve in our federal mission as our country engages in the battle against terrorism, a fight for democracy. We have also answered the call to the citizens of Illinois several times and recently had the opportunity to do so again.

Nearly 200 members of the 183rd Fighter Wing responded to Governor Rod Blagojevich's request for assistance from the Illinois National Guard on behalf of those communities who are victims of recent flooding along the Mississippi River.

While leadership closely watched the weather and rising river levels, Guard members began preparations the third week of June, just in case the call came in. We were ready!

The call came. Initially, only 50 personnel were requested for sandbagging efforts in the Quincy area with the first Joint Task Force which included mem-



Members of Illinois National Guard leadership flew over the Mississippi river via helicopter in June to survey the flood affected areas and to determine where National Guard resources should be used to limit further damage near the Quincy area in June. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Ingram, 183rd Public Affairs.)

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Just the Facts

Unit Training Assembly Schedule and pay dates



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

PLEASE NOTE: Duty hours for each UTA/SUTA will be 0800-1200 and 1300-1700 unless otherwise scheduled in advance. Mark your calendar! For more pay information, see the DFAS website at <http://www.dfas.mil/index.htm>. Pay information is under the Money Matters heading.

Attention!

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



On Base Emergency

CALL 911 FOR ALL YOUR
ON-BASE EMERGENCY NEEDS.

Important Contacts

Commercial (217) 757-1XXX
on base use 3-digit Ext.

Main Gate.....	205
Base Commander.....	219
Base Operations.....	202
217th EIS Commander.....	700
Pass and Registration	481
Recruiting.....	285
Public Affairs	267
Customer Service	308
Military Pay	225
Clinic.....	221
Safety	237
Chaplain	367
Wing IG	770

Toll Free Number
1-800-392-1797

Critical Information

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve - ESGR

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Military One Source

An excellent resource for all National Guard members is Military One Source. A plethora of resources, special offers for military members, and services can be found at their website: www.militaryonesource.com

Register for the site with a user ID and password and you can access information regarding advice about family issues, money matters, legal matters, health tips, and more.

Family care program a success

by Staff Sgt. Michael F. Shamma
183rd Public Affairs

Being a member of the military is hard; there's no question about that. What people sometimes forget is that being a member of the military and being an active member of a civilian community could be a two headed monster bearing down on us. We do, however, have this saying in the military that no one is ever alone. We always have a wingman. Here at the 183rd Fighter Wing, a new wingman has emerged to help balance the crazy life that is an Air National Guardsman.

The 183rd Fighter Wing has established a Family Care Program in which unit members can have a FREE daycare service provided to them on drill weekends. The basics are simple: You MUST come to the Services office located on the first floor in P-48 to pre-apply for child care in advance. There are only six slots allocated per month and people need to make reservations in advance.

The service is provided for children two weeks old to age 12. Care is provided in a state licensed family child care home. The home has been inspected by the State of Illinois, 183rd Fighter Wing Services, and National Guard Bureau Services.

Each provider is restricted to caring for no more than six children under the age of 12. The care is available for primary drill weekends, during day time duty hours only. Parents are REQUIRED to have a back-up child care arrangement in the event of provider or family illness, or other emer-



Tech. Sgt. Jennifer E. Marion, 183rd Legal Office paralegal, says good-bye to her son, Drew, at the free daycare provided by a new program offered through the National Guard, before reporting for duty on Sunday, June 8. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael F. Shamma, 183rd Public Affairs.)

gencies. Parents are responsible for any costs incurred by the back up child care arrangement. The provider also participates in the USDA Food program and provides breakfast, lunch, and snacks -Parents must provide all diapers, wipes, and extra clothes.

While the facts are important, first hand experience is what really tells the story of the success of this program.

"I think this program is a great asset to the 183rd Fighter Wing," said Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Marion, paralegal for the 183rd Judge Advocate office. "Before this program, I had to beg and plea to find someone to watch my son on drill weekends and at times I was scared that I wouldn't have anyone."

"Now that the base has implemented this daycare program, drill weekends are not as stressful for me," said Marion. "I always know months in advance as well if I need to find my own child care for a weekend. I highly recommend this program for any other guard members who are married military to military or are a single parent."

Another very crucial question

does remain; How does your son feel about this day care?

"My son loves to go to her house," said Marion. "He gets excited the Monday before and talks about it all week."

Not only is the Guard member relieved of the stress of finding someone that is qualified to care for their children during the duty day so they can focus on the mission, the children are also in an engaging environment.

"She does crafts with them and keeps them active all day long," said Marion. "By the time I get home with him after drill, he is asleep for the rest of the night because she keeps them so engaged that by the end of the day he is exhausted."

If this sounds like something you would like to become involved in or to receive more information, please contact Services at x363 or x573. Members must complete a registration form and have shot records completed prior to making the HCC reservation. Registration can be done with the 183rd Services Flight.

It's electronic GI party time! ACC Electronic Messaging Guidance

by Chief Master Sgt. Victor Wurtzler
Information Systems Branch Chief

In my last article, I talked about the new era we are transitioning into at the 183rd. The U.S. Air Force and the Air National Guard are also beginning a new era relating to Information Technology. They call it Air Force Network Operations or AF Netops! This new network architecture mirrors the changes all major industry has changed. We in the IT industry are forced to embrace change because it is a "constant" for us. This next era has already begun to move our servers and a lot of server administration and control and administration of electronic data off of our base and into larger facilities where many locations are managed from a higher level. You have seen some of this in the patching and security configurations of our machines over the last year and the Air Force Portal. We no longer make decisions about those kinds of things locally. We are simply pushed patches from the ANG and regional Network centers.

The next change will be a big one for everyone. The next system to be pushed up to the NOSC and ROSC will be the e-mail system. I was at a conference last week and was told that by the end of the year, our e-mail will no longer reside on this base. The servers will be off base and a lot relating to e-mail and public folders will change.

The first step will be to take the e-mail you have stored in your inbox and save it to your C or L drive. In order to do that, some of you might have a lot of e-mail house cleaning to do. The mail you have now WILL NOT be migrated to the new system. The new system will mean that every e-mail you send or receive will traverse our already overloaded off base circuit. Because of this, we will all be setup locally and use the exchange cached mode much like most of you do at home.

The other big change is that our web pages, network drives and public folders will all transition to that same higher level. They will more than likely reside on a Microsoft SharePoint server at a regional or national network center. We have fewer details about this change other than the fact that it is going to happen and more than likely in the next six to 12 months.

With both of these changes, the important thing for you all to do is to start doing some house cleaning. Get rid of electronic files that are not official records and are no longer needed. Your 3AOXX Information Manager is the person who can help you organize your e-mail the right way.

As all of this data is moved off of our NCC we will have less and less control over the size limits and configurations of systems. Doing some cleanup and organizing now is the best favor you will do for yourself over the next year.

If you have questions about this or anything else communications related, call the helpdesk at x241! Or, you can always call Chief Master Sgt. Vic Wurtzler at extension 576!

by Chief Master Sgt. Victor Wurtzler
Information Systems Branch Chief

Users may use government-provided messaging systems for official or authorized use only.

AFI 33-119, Air Force Messaging, specifically prohibits the following: Distributing copyrighted materials without consent from the copyright owner, using e-mail for financial gain, intentionally misrepresenting your identity or affiliation, sending harassing, intimidating, abusive, or offensive material, using someone else's User ID and password without proper authority, and causing network congestion by the propagation of chain letters, junk e-mail, and inappropriate messages.

Top 10 DO'S:

1. Adhere to local policy when sending an electronic message to mail distribution lists.
2. Use an action verb in the subject line that describes what you need: ACTION, COORD, SIGN, INFO, CALL, etc. Use the five "Ws" as a guide for filtering information: who, what, where, when and why covers the waterfront.
3. Expect every e-mail to be forwarded.
4. Minimize the use of the "Reply to All" function. Be aware of who gets the message.
5. Take responsibility for proper coordination/ staffing of electronic messaging according to local directives. Ref: Action Officer Handbook.
6. Use organizational accounts when sending correspondence for coordination or action.
7. Digitally sign all e-mails because it validates your authorized presence in the DoD's NIPRNet.

8. Encrypt sensitive, but unclassified, e-mails. It improves security of information and makes it harder for adversaries to access that sensitive information when "at rest."

9. Beware of attachments; this validates they originate from trustworthy source and always "disable" Macros. Also beware of executable files (prevent automatic downloads).

10. Always send and receive e-mail in "plain text" mode. This prevents adversaries from 'concealing' malicious web addresses.

Top 10 DO NOT'S:

1. Don't send official tasks to individual addresses or e-mail distribution lists.
2. Don't use acronyms in the subject line.
3. Don't participate in news groups whose content is contrary to standards, i.e., obscene or offensive.
4. Don't add slogans, quotes, special backgrounds, special stationeries, digital images, unusual fonts, etc., to the body of their electronic messages.
5. Don't use government systems for political lobbying.
6. Don't auto-forward official electronic messages to commercial internet service providers from government computer systems.
7. Don't forward long e-mails without summarizing.
8. Don't send in haste, repent at leisure. No emotions; call or communicate face-to-face.
9. Don't open hyperlinks or attachments from unknown sources.
10. Don't forget to regularly backup personal e-mail files.

If you have questions about this or anything else Communications related, please call the Helpdesk at extension 241.

Cleaning out the closet

by Maj. In Suk Peebles
183rd Wing Chaplain

Spring, summer, fall and winter are all very different seasons and I like them all the same. Each season offers its own unique colors, smell, and texture to life.

I like the flowers and gardens that emerge in the springtime. I like summer as well. It's time for vacation, family reunions, and throwing things away from the cold winter. I see rows and rows of flea markets all over America during the summer season. Seeing that inspires me to come home and go thru my closet and put aside the sweaters that look so heavy and drab. I plunder my house, room by room, closet by closet. Some of the most fun I have is by going through my husband's closet and tossing out some of his clothes!

Of course I throw my husband's things away when he is not home. He has T-shirts from his college years with yellow stains here and there and they are totally out of taste. Not to mention the lettering and pictures on those shirts belong nowhere but on Bourbon Street in Louisiana and certainly not in the mid-west. You can get arrested by wearing those kinds of shirts around here! I seize every item, every article of clothing, every knickknack, every book, every toy and dispose of them.

Next, I go to the kitchen and go through everything. Any small appliance



Religious Services (Room 308)
Protestant Service:
Saturday 1500hrs Chapel
Catholic Mass:
Saturday 1600hrs Chapel

Base Chapel Office:
Bldg. P-48 (new bld)
Room 302
Phone 757-1367
Fax (217)757-1509
DSN 892-8367



with lose handles or the ugly looking Teflon coated pots and pans that have been scratched so badly and not been used more than three years get tossed.

Now my five year old daughter gets into the act of throwing things away as well. She thinks she will make a lot of money by selling those plastic baby toys she outgrew. "Mommy I am going to have lots of money for my college when I sell my baby toys," she remarks.

Of many advantages of throwing things away, I find one thing very useful and practical. I feel as though I lose the winter love handles around my waist by throwing things away. It's an excellent spiritual exercise.

Growing up, my house was divided into two masters; my grandfather, the champion of spring and summer cleaning and my father the collector of everything. My father was a keeper who never threw anything away. He would bring someone's trash home and find a place in the barn where he kept both the useful and odd

things. My grandfather was wise not to even bother to peer through the barn or he would have a heart attack.

I love going through items that people have thrown away when we have rummage sales at the church. Some still have some use left in them while some should have gone to the dump decades ago.

Our willingness to cast things away is a measure of our spiritual well being. The first thing the followers of

Jesus did was leave their stuff behind. Peter and Andrew left their nets and followed Jesus when they heard the call. Sorry no rummage sales then!

Others even left behind their fishing boat and followed Jesus. Some couldn't leave their stuff behind and went away sad. The apostle Paul left behind his former identity after his conversion.

In reality it is easier for me to throw things away. But I have a hard time throwing away my fear. The older I get, the more I fear. So I lie awake at night and worry about everything from ministry, money, and kids. The bible is full of 'fear not' phrases and 'do not be afraid' sentences. Worse yet, I read the bible and preach to people week after week. But I can't help it, I still feel fear within me at times.

So today I long for a day when God throws my fears away because I can't do it myself. Wait a minute! Why do I feel my load is 30 pounds lighter and easier to bear? I think I just threw away one of my fears along with the couch I didn't even need. May grace and peace be with you all.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ **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

Protestant Chaplain:

Maj. In Suk Peebles
310 South 4th Street, PO Box 186
Clinton, IN 47842
Office: 765- 832-3159
e-mail: insukpeebles@gmail.com

CALL, continued from page one



Members of the Illinois National Guard, Army and Air, line both sides of a levee near Quincy working diligently to reinforce the levee against rising waters in the Mississippi in June. (Photo by Master Sgt. Samuel J. Kassis, 183rd Public Affairs)

bers of the other two Air Guard units, the 126th Air Refueling Wing from Scott Air Force Base, the 182nd Airlift Wing from Peoria, and our Illinois Army National Guard counterparts.

There were additional unit members that reported for duty at the Wing to support and prepare those who were deploying to the southern part of the state. Shot records were checked for currency, basic gear including sleeping bags, gloves, and life vests, were issued or coordinated for delivery on site. Other members also deployed to serve in their specialty to support the operation. Some of those assigned to the Communication Flight deployed first to establish good communication channels early Sunday, June 22.

By Tuesday, June 24, additional personnel were called and more were being alerted to the possibility of a call up, depending upon the need and rising water in Quincy and even further south in the Alton area. In fact, by Wednesday, the Governor had declared 21 counties in Illinois a disaster area and before the mission ended, nearly 200 183rd members supported flood relief efforts at Quincy or Alton, with several more supporting efforts at the base. The Illinois National Guard supported the relief efforts with nearly 1,400 members reporting for flood duty.

This was the first time since the Great Flood of



Above and right: Members of the Illinois National Guard work together to fill sandbags and prepare them for transport to where they are needed at the levees that protect homes and property along the Mississippi River near Quincy in June. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Ingram, 183rd Public Affairs.)



'93 that this many people from the Wing were called for state active duty. In July of 1993, Operation Wave Rider launched with more than 160 183rd members deploying to battle the rising waters of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Then the mission carried many of the same objectives as this year's flood crisis: levee maintenance, sandbagging, water distribution, and transportation support. The flooding was so severe in 1993, there were a few members still serving on State active duty as late as October of that year.

Thankfully, this time the crisis did not last as long for our members and all returned by the end of June.

As with any call-up, we responded with a job well done and some lessons learned that will only make us better the next time we are needed.

Promotions

Congratulations!

Colonel

Steven J. Konie

Lieutenant Colonel

Kevin A. Mulcahy

Senior Master Sergeant

Matthew D. Miller

Rolando R. Palomo

Jason A. Robbins

Master Sergeant

Vassellar (NMI) Farmer

Aarron G. Marshall

Scott A. Wade

Danika D. Wilson

Technical Sergeant

Bret D. Releford

Amy C. Stults

Staff Sergeant

Faith A. Borjon

Christopher Colantino

Christopher Schaefer

Andrew J. Whalen

Senior Airman

Rachel J. Canny

Kayla M. Kent

Jason S. Lee

Lucas A. Phillips

Jeremy J. Stranko

Airman First Class

Ryan M. Armstrong

Jennifer S. Burg

Ashley M. Burtle

Denton A. Burtle

Aaron M. Eldridge

Dylan C. Geer

Evan J. Stevens

Christine A. Teer

Announcements

First Shirts

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

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

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

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

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

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

Flash Back

Are you harboring some "priceless" old photos of one of your Air Guard co-workers? Waiting for just the right moment to share that vintage look of yesterday? Well, here's your venue!

Feedback received by Public Affairs indicates that most of our readers enjoy seeing the old photos and how our members have changed... or not changed.

No one knows our members like their co-workers. We have just about exhausted our level of recognition on who we can accurately identify in the history files photos. For the Flashback to continue, we will need your submissions.

So, got some chin-length sideburns, handlebar mustaches, or bouffant hairdos you'd like to share? Bring it on!

Last Month:



*Staff Sgt. Gary Brinner, late 1970's
Consolidated Base Personnel Office
183rd Fighter Group*



*Col. Gary L. Brinner, 2008
Human Resource Officer
HQ Illinois Air National Guard*

Law Enforcement Torch Run – Sather Style!

by Capt. James E. Robinson
Commander, 183rd Security Forces Squadron

Team Sather arrived in force for the inaugural running of the Law Enforcement Torch Run at Sather Air Base, Baghdad, Iraq. Nearly 90 people participated and helped raise over \$1,100 dollars that will be donated to Special Olympics in memory of Tech. Sgt. Brian McMillen!

The idea of organizing this run was developed three months ago while Capt Jim Robinson was making the long

journey on the “Rotater” from the States to Baghdad. As the Commander of the 183rd Security Forces Squadron, Springfield, Ill., he and other members of the 183rd participate each year in this annual event. According to Robinson, the “Torch Run” is the number one fundraiser for the Special Olympics and something our unit participates in every year. Tragically, however, this is the first year we were scheduled to run it without our close friend and fellow Airman, Tech. Sgt. Brian “Mac” McMillen. Mac was killed in the line of duty as an Illinois

State Trooper while responding to a fellow officer’s call for assistance. While enroute to the scene, two personnel fleeing the scene (in separate vehicles) crashed into Mac’s patrol vehicle causing his death.

Armed with the historical support normally associated with this event back in Illinois, and the memories associated with Mac’s tragic death, Robinson set out to organize a Law Enforcement Torch Run at Sather Air Base, Iraq, to raise funds for Special Olympics, while honoring Mac and building upon the outstanding Espri de Corp already enjoyed at Sather. The idea was first proposed to Lt. Col. Pete Green, 447 Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Commander, as his Squadron had already been conducting weekly “Defender” runs; runs that included participants from all of the different Squadrons, to include civilians, Army, Marine Corp, and Navy

participants as well. Lt. Col. Green quickly supported the idea and his team of “Defenders” were already well versed in conducting such operations. The 447 Air Expeditionary Group Commander, Col. Fred Cheney, welcomed the idea and immediately approved it. The in-coming 447 Air Expeditionary Group Commander, Col David Pavey, was equally as supportive and authorized an exception to policy whereby participants were authorized to wear memorial, Law Enforcement Torch Run t-shirts specially made to honor Mac and further improve Sather Air Base’s Espri de Corp. He even rescheduled Group meetings to allow for maximum participation of the event!

Nearly three months after the concept was developed, everything had fallen into place. The event was scheduled for Thursday, June 12, to coincide with the many Law Enforcement agencies throughout Sangamon County and the 183rd



Members of Team Sather begin a 3-mile run at Sather Air Base, Iraq, on June 12. The team ran to raise money for Special Olympics and in memory of fallen Illinois Air National Guardsman, Tech. Sgt. Brian McMillen. Participants raised over \$1,100 for Special Olympics.

Security Forces Squadron who were running the same distance (three miles) on the same day, for the same great cause, Special Olympics, while simultaneously honoring the life of a great man and fellow Airman, McMillen. The only remaining question was whether or not the weather was going to cooperate in Baghdad. The several days preceding called for dust storms with visibility of less than 1,000 meters, which could easily lead to lower participation rates due to health concerns associated with the inhalation of the dust while running. But

the weather broke, and it was a beautiful morning; perfect for running!

The run was successful, safely conducted, and professionally organized due to a dedicated cadre of volunteers that included members of the Air Expeditionary Group staff, as well as Civil Engineering, Services, and Security Forces Squadrons. It is amazing what can be achieved when groups of professionals share a common vision. Even though Sather Air Base processes an average of more than 6,200 passengers weekly and is the second largest mover of cargo in Iraq (averaging more than 1,700 tons weekly), all while operating in a dangerous combat environment, the residents of Sather Air Base proved that anything can be accomplished with superior minds and positive attitudes. Congratulations Team Sather; Job Well Done!

Living the legacy

by Tech. Sgt. Melissa Richardson Bilbruck
Personnel NCO, Headquarters Illinois Air National Guard

Tech. Sgt. Melissa Bilbruck was the Air National Guard winner for the Living the Legacy essay contest. The winners were announced in May by the NGB Military Equal Opportunity office. Bilbruck was a member of the 183rd Fighter Wing and is currently serving as a human resource specialist at Headquarters Illinois Air National Guard, at Camp Lincoln here in Springfield. Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Bilbruck for the recognition of her contribution. The essay on how she is a legacy of military service is reprinted below.

My legacy stems from two entirely different cultures. Before my two families joined together, they were separated by cultural and political differences which forced them to fight in WWII on separate sides.

My grandfather, on my mother's side, is from Okinawa. Yehich Nakamura was drafted by the Japanese Army.

He was forced to go to war even though it was against his beliefs. He is the only member on my mother's side that has ever served in the military as far as I know. Grandfather Nakamura was wounded by gunfire and captured



Robert E. Richardson
U.S. Army



Ronald E. Richardson
U.S. Marine Corps

by the Americans. He served as a POW for a short time. Unfortunately, I never met him because he passed away before I was born.

My grandfather on my father's side, Robert E. Richardson, was enlisted in the US Army for 3 years. He spent most of his tour in Europe during WWII as part of the "Railsplitters", 84th Infantry Division, 309th Medical Battalion, Co A, as a combat field medic.

Grandpa Richardson, who is alive and well with many stories, passed on the military legacy to my father.

My father, Ronald E. Richardson, served in the United States Marine Corps for four years and in the IL ANG for one year. While stationed in Okinawa, my father met and fell in love with my mother. Tensions between Okinawans and the military were still pretty tense during that time. It was frowned upon for an Okinawan to marry a United States Marine. My father told me that his father-in-law rarely spoke to him when he was at his house. That changed a little when my brother was born. When my father's tour with the Marines was over, they came to Illinois.

Growing up, my father always instilled military values into our lives. These values led my brother to join the United States Army. My brother, Robert E. Richardson II, served his four year tour in Colorado. A military career was not in his future because he wanted to become a Chiropractor, which he is today.

Not too long ago, I added another piece of military legacy to my family by getting married. My husband, Brian Bilbruck, has served in the United States Navy for four years and continues to serve as member of the IL ANG since 2000.

The legacy is now in my hands. I continue my family's military legacy by being a member of the IL ANG and working full time in HRO at Camp Lincoln. Although my military family tree is small, it is deeply rooted. My name is Melissa Richardson Bilbruck and I am a living legacy.

THINK OPSEC



The adversary may be monitoring your phone call: **1. Don't discuss sensitive information over a regular telephone. 2. Use a secure telephone**

or discuss in person.



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

New Retirees

Lt. Col. James R. Lund
Civil Engineering Squadron
Apr. 30

Maj. Ronald S. Weingart
183rd Medical Group
Apr. 13

Tech. Sgt. Robert A. Rogers
Logistics Readiness Squadron
Jun. 1

Chief Master Sgt. Mark C. Horine
Maintenance Squadron
Jun. 17

Breakfast gathering



Retirees gather on the first Tuesday of each month to share breakfast and talk about the good ol' days. Join them at King Pin Lanes, on the corner of Sangamon Ave. and Dirksen Parkway, Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 2ND.

They say they meet at 8 a.m. but if you're not there by 7:30, the early birds have taken the good seats!

Remember me?

by *Lt. Col. Kenny Vennell*
Maintenance Squadron Commander

the faces.

Turf located SV Drum, our oldest living 170th Squadron Commander. We emailed the photo of the wife greeting her husband with her little girl at her side. It turns out that it's SV, his wife Winnie and their daughter Kathleen when she was 3 years old. He had just returned from summer camp in Wisconsin in 1954.

SV told us that Kathleen has three daughters. Two are FBI Agents and one is a helicopter pilot getting ready to deploy on the Stennis out of San Diego. SV and Winnie are planning on attending the 60th.

Turf and I recently visited with retired Maj. Gen. Harry Holesinger and Deck Ape. We learned that Mrs. Holesinger played a vital role in obtaining the F-84 which is located at Camp Lincoln. We also heard some great stories, learned some more about our units history and heard a call sign that I even vaguely recognized! "Big Stoop," you're next!

If you recognize anyone in the other photos below, please contact us.



Maj. Tracy "Turf" Timmons and I have found some great photos in the archives. However most of the old ones do not have any names associated with



Semi-Annual Retiree Luncheon Planned

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

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

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

What: Semi- Annual Retiree Luncheon

When: Friday, October 3rd, 2008 at 11:30 a.m.

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

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



Some things never change

by Lt. Col. Kenny Vennell
Maintenance Squadron Commander

On June 30, 2008, the 183rd Fighter Wing had the honor of hosting six members of the unit from the early years of our existence. Lt. Col. Kenny Vennell and Chief Master Sgt.'s Jeff Baer and Tom Hergenrother served as tour guides for this distinguished group.

The tour group visited the Propulsion shop and was briefed by Master Sgt. Rick Shanner on the overall operation and maintenance practices of the GE-F110-100 engine. They were then taken to the main hangar and were briefed on the 300-flight hour Aircraft Phase Inspection process by Senior Master Sgt. Charlie Cartwright. After those two briefings, they observed a launch, a taxi and take-off of two F-16's piloted by Col. Michael Meyer, Wing Commander, and Lt. Col. John Patterson, Maintenance Group Commander. \

After the sortie, Col. Meyer and Lt. Col. Patterson talked to the group about changes over the years and capabilities of the F-16. Patterson, a crew chief in his enlisted days, had a lot to share and many questions to ask.

And, as you can imagine, there were many interesting stories to be told. Mr. Delbert Smith explained that in the early days, prior to the main hangar being built, UTA's were performed at the State Armory building in Springfield. They also performed weekend duty, and yes, sometimes even evening duty, at the farm implement building across the street from where the base currently resides.

Delbert discussed the awesome feeling experienced by all unit members when the first P-51's landed in October of 1948. It must be noted that was the first of six "Fighters" assigned to the 170th Fighter Squadron, and then the 183rd Fighter Group (now Fighter Wing). The P-51 was followed by the F-86, the F-84, the F-4 and the F-16. Thus, the "sixty years of Fighters legacy!"

Five of the six told of the 1951 Korean Conflict Federal Activation they participated in. Unit members were initially sent to Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas, along with P-51's, for three months for training, and then on to George Air Force



They are, pictured from left to right:

1. Sgt Frank Green (1951-1953) P-51 & F-86 Crew Chief
2. Sgt Delbert Smith (1948 - 1952) P-51 Crew Chief and Propulsion Mechanic. (Delbert has the distinction of being one of the "60" original members of the unit).
3. Sgt Percy Stephens (1957-1963) Vehicle Transportation
4. MSgt Jack Moss (1950-1985) P-51, F-86, F-84 and F-4 Crew Chief.
5. Sgt Clarence Bomke (1950-1956) Motor Pool
6. Sgt Lindel Kern (1951-1955) P-51 & F-86 Crew Chief. Lindel was on the tour, but is not pictured.

Base, Calif., for additional training and awaiting an overseas assignment. Most unit members during this activation served for 21 months. For us spoiled by C-130's and C-17 airlifters, they talked about the over the road passenger and equipment "convoy" to Texas and then to California. Remember, there were only two lane roads in the early 50's.

The youngster of the bunch, Mr. Percy Stephens, talked about the 1961 Berlin Call-Up of unit members. They never departed Springfield but, as some of you are aware, all unit members were housed at the Illinois State Fairgrounds - and if that wasn't bad enough, can you imagine one year, five days a week, of UTA weekends? There weren't as many unit members in 1961, but again there were less buildings and work space as well.

All in all, it was a great event. And to demonstrate to these prior service members that "as much as things change - much remains the same", we (unintentionally) gave them a touch of the age old military adage of "hurry-up and wait!" Due to a mix up in arrival times, after three or four day and time changes, due to the flying schedule, the visitors were left in the parking lot for 30 minutes awaiting one of the tour guides. Being ex-military and having gone through some "difficult" military experiences years ago, they took it pretty well.

60th Anniversary Celebration

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

For the most up-to-date 60th Anniversary information, go to:
WWW.183FW60THANNIVERSARY.COM



60th Anniversary Events

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

Friday:

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

Saturday:

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

Saturday Evening:

What: 60th Anniversary Party
Who: Wing members, previous members,
and retirees
Where: Main aircraft hangar, on base at
Capital Airport
Highlights: Dinner and music
Contacts: Lt. Col. Deb Hamrick (757-1329),
Senior Master Sgt. Erin Roesch (757-1365),
and Senior Master Sgt. Theresa Snyder (757-1224)

Accommodations:

Although there are many fine hotel accommodations available in the Springfield area, a block of rooms has been reserved for the weekend's events at the Hilton Hotel Springfield, 700 E. Adams. Rooms may be reserved for Thursday through Saturday nights at a rate of \$80 per night for a single.

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

www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/SPFSHHF-FYT-20080904/index.jhtml

Pre-sale of 60th Anniversary Memorabilia:

In addition to the events being planned, you may pre-order your copy of the 183rd Fighter Wing 60th Anniversary Heritage DVD that includes vintage video footage of previous and current aircraft, photos from the history files dating back to the beginning in 1948 and much more!

A newly designed and limited edition 60th Anniversary Wing coin has been produced and is available for sell. Complete the form on the next page to reserve your place at the dinner and to order your coin!



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

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

GOLF OUTING - 5 SEP 2008

OAKS GOLF COURSE - BEST BALL SHOTGUN START AT 0900

\$80 FEE COVERS LUNCH, BEVERAGES, AND CART - *LIMITED SPACE*

**TO SIGN UP & RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY CONTACTING: SMS AUBMUS (217-767-1353),
MSGT RIDDLE (217-767-1220) OR LT COL MULCAHY (217-767-1244) - *SPACE IS LIMITED***

60TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER - 6 SEP 2008

1 SEPTEMBER 2008 DEADLINE

CURRENT UNIT MEMBERS WHO ARE E-4 & BELOW THE COST OF DINNER IS \$10, ALL OTHERS \$20

NUMBER OF TICKETS FOR UNIT MEMBERS WHO ARE E-4 OR BELOW: _____ X \$10 = _____

NUMBER OF REGULAR PRICED TICKETS: _____ X \$20 = _____

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS WILL BE SOLD SEPARATELY

BUSINESS CASUAL DRESS REQUIRED - QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO

LT COL HAMRICK (217-767-1329) SMS ROESCH EXT (217-767-1388) OR SMS SNYDER (217-767-1224)

60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS

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

60TH ANNIVERSARY HERITAGE DVD - \$10 EACH: NUMBER OF DVDS _____ X \$10 = _____

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

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

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

TOTAL FUNDS ENCLOSED \$ _____

***IF SHIPPING IS REQUIRED, CONTACT MSGT DEB SCHMITZ - 217-767-1501**

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

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

1. AUTHORITY: US Code, Title 10, Subtitle E, Part I, Chapter 1007, Section 10204, and other subsets of Title 10.
2. PURPOSE: To collect the information necessary to process the action indicated by the form you are completing.
3. ROUTINE USES: This information will not be disclosed outside the Department of Defense.
4. DISCLOSURE: Voluntary. However, failure to provide the information requested will result in the form not being processed, and may result in a denial of the intended action.

Family Readiness and Support

5th Annual Air National Guard Family Support Bass Tournament

by Master Sgt. Steve Parker
Tournament Director
183rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

The weather was perfect for Father's Day, June 15, 2008 as 25 teams gathered at the Lindsay boat ramp at Lake Springfield for the Air National Guard Family Support Bass Tournament. This was the 5th installment for this bass tournament with proceeds being donated to the Air National Guard Family Readiness and Support Group.

As always the tournament started with a pre-tournament meeting at 5:30 a.m. Master Sgt. Steve Parker the tournament director went over the rules, safety and take-off instructions and at 6 a.m. sharp Lt. Col Kevin Mulcahy, who was representing the support group, began calling out the boat numbers to begin the day. The teams would be fishing from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and would be fishing for five largemouth bass that had to be greater than 15 inches in length.

The lake was in good shape all weekend for some great fishing with reports of numerous fish being caught all over the lake. When a lot of fish are being caught it always makes for an enjoyable day.

As 2:30 p.m. approached, the anglers returned to the ramp with a lot of anticipation as to the outcome of this tournament. Everyone with fish in their boats had hopes of finishing in one of the top five positions.

After the weigh-in, margin of victory was .97 pounds and might have been a little closer than anticipated, but nobody will remember that for long. All that matters is that the team of Tom Acton of Chatham, Ill., and George Speed of Litchfield, Ill., caught enough fish to take the top spot with four largemouth bass weighing in at 13.59 pounds. Tom and George collected \$1,000 for the victory. This team also grabbed the big bass honors for the day with a monster bass weighing in at 5.49 pounds and earning them an additional \$125.

Finishing in second place was the team of Kelly Stufflebeam and Brian Denk. Kelly and Brian's five bass fish limit weighed in at 13.26 pounds and earned them



First place winners of the 5th Annual ANG Family Support Bass tournament were Mr. Tom Acton of Chatham, Ill. (left), and Mr. George Speed of Litchfield, Ill. Master Sgt. Steve Parker (center), Tournament Director, awarded the team the prize of \$1000 at the tournament June 15.

\$750 dollars. Both anglers are from the Springfield area.

Coming in at third place for the day was another Springfield team, John Gross and Steve Piatt. John and Steve earned \$375 dollars for a five fish limit that weighed in at 12.62 pounds.

Fourth place went to the team of Darold Manker and Jim Stevens both of Springfield. This team's total weight of 12.22 pounds earned them \$250. Darold and Jim also received a check from Lincolnland Bassmasters for \$100 for 2nd big bass that weighed 4.56 pounds.

Finally, fifth place and \$125 went to the team of Vito and Chris Kiburis. This team traveled all the way from the Chicago area to take part in this event.

After the weigh-in was over Lt. Col. Mulcahy began the raffle. All contestants received free raffle tickets for the prizes that were donated by some very generous sponsors. It has always been the goal of this event that the participants receive something in return for their support.

The sponsor's for this event were Tracker & Nitro Boats, The Boat Dock, Angler Assets, Producto Worms, Eagle Claw, Guido Didanato, Dicks Sporting Goods, Cast Custom Jigs, Winn Heating and Air Jiffy Shell, Bass Fan, Kelly Stufflebeam & Brian Denk for Plaques, Jewel Baits, Tackle Logic, Ranger Boats, In-Fisherman, Falcon Rods, Lincolnland bassmasters, Bullet Weights, Culprit, Ill., Fishing.com, Yamamoto baits, 7/24 Outdoors, Rejuvenade, Larry's Fishing Page, East Side Marine, Bob Ridings Family Dealerships in Taylorville, Pana, Jacksonville & Decatur. A debt of



Master Sgt. Steve Parker (center), 5th Annual ANG Family Support Bass tournament Director, awarded the second place team, Mr. Brian Denk (left) and Mr. Kelly Stufflebeam (right) with the prize of \$750 at the tournament in June. Kelly and Stufflebeam are both from the Springfield area.



Third prize of \$375 for the 5th Annual ANG Family Support Bass tournament was awarded by Master Sgt. Steve Parker (center), tournament director, to Mr. Steve Piatt (left) and Mr. John Gross (right), both from the Springfield area.

thanks goes out to the sponsor's of this event.

The Air National Guard Family Readiness and Support Group will receive a donation of \$600. Thanks to all who supported this event.

A day at the park

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

Discount coupons are available in the Financial Management customer service area, building P-48, while they last. The rates and discounts vary as follows:

Ticket	NCO AGA price	Gate price plus tax	Comments
1-day	\$28.00	44.99	*note one
2-day adult	\$41.00	47.99	
2-day child	\$31.00	32.99	48" and under
Season pass	\$46.00	69.99	*note two



NOTES:

- 1-day passes are available online for \$39.99
- The Season pass is only valid for residences with a zip code outside a 50-mile radius of Six Flags St. Louis. You must first validate your season ticket at Six Flags in St. Louis and get your season pass, then you may use it at any Six Flags.

For more information about the park, go to <http://www.sixflags.com/stlouis/info/parkinfo.aspx>

Bring Your Aluminum for Recycling

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



Here's the answer to all of those dilemmas!

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

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

So, not being worth the hassle can no longer be your excuse for helping to keep the earth green. Come on, be a tree-hugger for another good cause, the NCO AGA!

On a Personal Note

Births

Chief Master Sgt. Wendi L. Pier (183MSF) and Master Sgt. Brett M. Pier (217EIS) are the proud new parents of a baby boy.

Nicholas Michael was born May 31, weighing seven pounds, three ounces, and was 20 ½ inches tall.

Airman Tyler J. Pier (183MXS) and Ryan (6), will welcome home their new baby brother.

Congratulations to the Pier family!



Tech. Sgt. Randy M. Yoder (183MXS) and his wife Hollie are the proud new parents of a baby girl.

Bridget Elizabeth was born August 5, weighing seven pounds, 11 ounces, and was 20 inches tall.

Col. Ricky Yoder (183AOG) is the proud new uncle to the couple's first child.

Congratulations to the Yoder family!



Graduation and Wedding

One of our unit members has had a busy summer so far. **Tech. Sgt. Brandeana SM Bertels (170th FS)** graduated from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in May with a Bachelors degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics.

She followed that excitement with her wedding on June 6. Brandy married her long time sweetheart Jeremy Breden. Congratulations to the happy couple!



COMMANDER

Colonel Michael A. Meyer

183D PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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

PRINTING

Helmer Printing, Beldenville, Wis.

NEWS SERVICES

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Stop Delivery

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183d FW/PA

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Springfield, IL 62707-5001**

