



# The Flying Razorback

188th Fighter Wing

Arkansas Air National Guard

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Honor guardsmen fold a U.S. flag during a repatriation ceremony held in Fayetteville, Ark., June 9. Capt. Virgil Meroney III was missing in action during the Vietnam War after being shot down in his F-4D Phantom II aircraft. Meroney's remains were returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Four A-10C Thunderbolt IIs with the 188th Fighter Wing performed a missing man formation during a flyover at the ceremony to honor Meroney. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## 188th honors fallen pilot with flyover

By Maj. Heath Allen  
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — The 188th Fighter Wing helped welcome a hero home to his final resting place 43 years after Capt. Virgil Meroney III's F-4D Phantom II crashed during a mission in Laos.

The 188th conducted a four-ship flyover and performed a missing-man formation to honor Meroney during a repatriation ceremony held in Fayetteville, Ark., June 9, 2012. Meroney was missing in action during the Vietnam War after being shot down March 1, 1969, in his F-4D, which crashed while carrying out a nighttime strike mission in Kahammouan Province, Laos.

Nearby U.S. aircrews re-

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## Answering the call



Top: Airman 1st Class Heath Bunnell of the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, shares a heartfelt moment with a loved one July 2. Bunnell was one of approximately 275 Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing who departed Fort Smith for Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Airmen will be deployed approximately three months. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Bottom: Master Sgt. Craig May with the 188th hugs a family member July 2 before leaving for Afghanistan. (National Guard photo by Airman Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## 188th deploys 275 Airmen to Afghanistan

By Maj. Heath Allen  
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

FORT SMITH, Ark. — It was a familiar scene for Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing as they huddled around their families to offer their final goodbyes before boarding a plane bound for Afghanistan.

Airmen trekked through the final processing lines and sifted through tables packed full of care package goodies

before meandering single file into busses that would transport them to the flightline, where they shook hands with Arkansas National Guard and 188th Fighter Wing leadership before boarding a McDonnell Douglas MD-11 bound for Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

The Airmen marched solemnly up the stairs into the hulking MD-11, some forcing

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## The Flying Razorback

**Col. Mark Anderson,**  
188th Fighter Wing commander  
**Col. Pete Gauger,**  
188th Fighter Wing vice commander  
**Chief Master Sgt. Asa Carter,**  
188th Fighter Wing  
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## The Flying Razorback

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# 188th job announcements

## Public Affairs officer

The 188th Fighter Wing will be holding a selection board to hire an additional public affairs officer (35PX). This position is a traditional officer position and an 0-4 billet. Applicants must have qualifying Air Force Officer Qualification Test scores and have passing Air Force PT scores.

In addition, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree or have completed at least 90 semester hours of post-secondary education with

the ability to obtain a degree within one year.

Please contact Master Sgt. Craig Gardner, 188th Fighter Wing Recruiting Office, with questions concerning the application and selection process at 479-573-5147. A selection board will be scheduled at a later date. Packages must include an AF Form 24 and a current resume. To be considered for the upcoming selection board submit packages to 188th Recruiting no later than Oct. 7, 2012.

## Judge Advocate

The 188th Fighter Wing Judge Advocate Office is seeking to fill a judge advocate position. This traditional (not full-time) officer position provides legal advice and opinions to commanders and senior staff on all phases of Air Force and Air National Guard operations, including international law, state law, operations law, procurement law, claims, environmental law, military and civilian personnel issues, litigation, military affairs, legal assistance and preventive law, and allied legal matters.

The 188th Judge Advocate Office provides legal assistance to military personnel and dependents on personal civil matters such as wills and estates, powers of attorney, consumer affairs, domestic relations, insurance, and ex-

ecution of legal documents. Furthermore, the 188th Judge Advocate Office acts as defense counsel for 189th Airlift Wing personnel.

Knowledge of military and civilian law is essential. Minimum requirements are that applicants be less than 35 years of age, a U.S. citizen, a graduate of an American Bar Association-accredited law school, and admittance to the highest court of any state or a federal bar.

Selection factors include academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service, prior military record, experience, and the recommendation in the report of interview. Interested applicants should contact Lt. Col. Steve Coney, 188th staff judge advocate, at [steven.e.coney@usps.gov](mailto:steven.e.coney@usps.gov).

## Contracting specialist

The 188th Mission Support Group is looking to fill a vacant contracting specialist (6C0X1) slot in the 188th Contracting Office. The position is for a traditional Guardsman. The slot is a technical sergeant billet. Candidates for this position must possess 24

semester hours of business-related classes as well as a score of 72 in the General area of the ASVAB. For additional information, interested individuals should contact Master Sgt. Keith Freeman in the 188th Retention Office at 479-573-5360.

## Public Affairs journalist

The 188th Fighter Wing is seeking to hire a Public Affairs Journalist (3NOX1). The position is for a traditional Guardsman. Candidates for this position must be able to type 20 words per minute and possess a score of 72 or higher in the General area of the ASVAB.

Primary responsibilities include: Print, photo and broadcast journalism, to include writing, editing and publishing base newspapers, periodicals, guides, pamphlets, fact sheets, and radio and television scripts; use

of audiovisual resources to support public affairs activities; preparation of news releases for internal and civilian media; arrange and conduct tours; and conduct community relations activities. For entry, award and retention of this AFSC, absence of any speech impediment, and ability to read aloud and speak distinctly are requirements. Please contact Master Sgt. Craig Gardner, 188th Fighter Wing Recruiting Office, with questions at 479-573-5147.

## Recruiting AFSC of the month



Tech Sgt. Josh Jones, left, a broadcaster with the 188th Public Affairs Office, records video footage of 188th's Master Sgt. Albert Wright as he loads an MK-82 bomb during initial certification training on an A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthog." (File photo)

### Public Affairs broadcaster

The 188th Fighter Wing is seeking to hire a Public Affairs Broadcaster (3NOX2). The position is for a traditional Guardsman. Candidates for this position must possess a score of 72 or higher in the General area of the ASVAB.

Primary responsibilities include: Organizing and conducting broadcast operations; preparing informational materials in broadcast format for use in commercial media; functioning as talent and operating broadcast equipment; conducting on-camera interviews in studio and in the field; identifying and selecting newsworthy events; authoring television scripts, narrations, spot announcements, and news broadcast packages; selecting associated

visual material; coordinating use of graphics, special effects, lights, cameras, microphones, properties, personnel and audio and video material to support programming requirements; and assisting public affairs officer in working with electronic media.

For entry into this specialty candidates must receive a favorable evaluation of a voice audition and possess the ability to type 20 words per minute. For entry, award, and retention of this AFSC, absence of any speech impediment, and ability to read aloud and speak distinctly are required.

Please contact Master Sgt. Craig Gardner, 188th Fighter Wing Recruiting Office, with questions at 479-573-5147.

## Costly repairs, safety issues to keep base pool closed this summer

**By Master Sgt. Mark Allen**  
188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
first sergeant

It was announced recently that the 188th won't be able to open the base pool this summer. Our wing leadership went above and beyond to find solutions that would help resolve a number of issues that were preventing the pool from being opened this summer.

Thorough research was accomplished to complete a comprehensive review of the pool. That review included a safety assessment of the pool and its equipment as well as the pool house. Countless regulations were reviewed to determine what options were available to continue operating the 188th's pool, which is the only pool on any Air National Guard base.

The wing looked long and hard at the funding challenges of operating the pool as well. Multiple individuals with extensive, expert knowledge of pools were consulted to determine the cost of repairs to get the pool up and running.

It was also considered that the desire of a host of current and former members of the 188th as well as their families is to have it open. Many of those same individuals have volunteered over the years to help in any way possible to help maintain the pool.

The ability to safely operate the pool was always the primary concern when weighing the possibility of opening the pool. While there are a surplus of volunteers willing to maintain the pool, there is a shortage of funds available to complete costly upgrades that are absolutely necessary to safely operate the pool and ensure it meets safety regulations and

codes. It was estimated that repairs would cost approximately \$23,000.

While it is too late to open this pool this summer, the Ebbing Base Pool Private Organization has been established and is currently working behind the scenes to acquire the necessary funds and equipment to be able to open the pool.

The wing is doing everything it can legally do to ensure the pool remains a fixture on our base in the future. While there are funding and safety obstacles that will keep the pool from opening this summer, the hope is that the Ebbing Base Pool Private Organization will be able to raise the funds to complete those necessary repairs in the future. Did we find a legal way to keep and operate the pool on base? Yes, we did! Did we have a rich uncle give us the money to do all that needs to be done? It just didn't happen this summer.

There is also a lot happening, too, that has all of us a little distracted from the pool. The wing has been fully engaged with supporting overseas missions. The state and our National Guard are also engaged in a huge economic debate and competition for funds that will affect the future of our military and our mission around the globe.

Sometimes, you have to prioritize and sometimes hard decisions must be made. The wing leadership hasn't given up on the base pool. We may not be able to swim in the pool this summer but I'm confident we'll be grilling you a burger and a hot dog around one heck of a nice, refreshing swimming pool before you know it! It won't be easy but with your help it can be done.

## 188th Unit Training Assembly news

### Upcoming drills

July 14-15

Aug. 4-5



### UTA pay dates

July 25

Aug. 15



# Afghanistan deployment doubles sacrifice for Schlutermans

## Married couple deploys together

By Airman 1st Class John Hillier  
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Every military family lives with the knowledge that at any time their service member may be called upon to go to war. For families in which both spouses serve, the prospect of a dual deployment brings with it additional challenges to overcome.

Since the 188th Fighter Wing's deployment to Afghanistan was announced in 2011, Senior Master Sgt. Walter Schluterman, a flight line maintenance supervisor in the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Shilo Schluterman, a production controller in the 188th Maintenance Operations Center, have been preparing to meet those challenges.

Both Walter and Shilo knew there was a strong chance they would be deploying this time, but neither of them ever considered any option other than to deploy with the wing.

"To me, you don't join and then throw your hand up to say you won't go," Shilo said.

The pair deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom July 2 along with 275 other Airmen with the 188th. They joined approximately 100 Airmen with the 188th already deployed to Bagram.

Although both Shilo and Walter have deployed before, this is their first deployment together as a married couple, Walter deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, but Shilo did not. In 2005, Shilo and Walter said they both served in Iraq at Balad Air Base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 188th.

"When I didn't go, I knew



Staff Sgt. Shilo Schluterman and her husband, Senior Master Sgt. Walter Schluterman, enjoy time with their children before departing Fort Smith, Ark., July 2 for Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, where they will be deployed for about three months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Schlutermans along with 275 Airmen with the 188th deployed to Afghanistan July 2. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

there were things that I couldn't be told," Shilo said. "I know what it can be like downrange, but I didn't know what was happening to him. This time, I feel like we're blessed to be able to go through this together and be there for each other."

Walter said that while there is additional adversity involved in a dual deployment, it also brings small consolations for which they can be thankful.

"With both of us in the [Area of Responsibility] we can talk face to face without having to call home," Walter said. "It's hard knowing that Shilo will also be in harm's way, but we can help each other through it."

While deployed, they will likely not be able to live together, Shilo said. There is a limited amount

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Senior Master Sgt. Walter Schluterman, left, shares a heartfelt goodbye with his son July 2 at the 188th Fighter Wing. Schluterman and his wife, Staff Sgt. Shilo Schluterman, along with 275 Airmen with the 188th departed Fort Smith, Ark., for Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, where they will be deployed for about three months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Walter is a flightline maintenance supervisor in the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and Shilo is a production controller in the 188th Maintenance Operations Center. (National Guard photo by Amn. Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



# Deployments can provide life lessons, fresh perspective

By Maj. Herbert Hodde  
188th Fighter Wing chaplain

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Balad Air Base, Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation nine and ten ... the last week entailed traveling to various forward operating bases (FOBs) and contingency operating bases (COBs) located throughout the Area of Responsibility (AOR). Spending time with fellow Airmen, getting to know their story, never tiring of listening to them share the day-to-day events.

One senior master sergeant was on his third deployment, another airman 1st class was experiencing her first. There was the young captain showing me pictures of his wife who would soon give birth to their fourth child while he was downrange. The lieutenant colonel, who was an Air Force Academy graduate, found time every Thursday afternoon to play a game of volleyball with his troops.

It was rewarding yet exhausting. We landed back at the base at oddark thirty in the morning. Tired, hungry, needing a shower more than anything else, I wanted only one thing: A few hours of interrupted rest.

As we made our way back to the shuttle, the sound I hear was all too familiar; one of our planes was punching holes in the sky. I looked up and caught a glimpse of the small,

yet intense, blue light before it disappeared into the night. It was translucent, brief; yet it reminded me of so many things in my life.

Some goals are worth the sacrifice. There are times when I focus on the things that at the end of the day are immaterial. Do my children really care if the front lawn is immaculate, or will they remember the times we played touch football on our impromptu playing field?

Do my Facebook friends know more about my life than my adoring bride? At work am I known as the guy with his nose to the grindstone always getting the job done, or am I the one who will forfeit his lunch time to grab a cup of coffee and offer a willing ear and a listening heart to a burdened coworker?

All goals require effort. When an up-and-coming athlete was asked what made her stand out above her peers she shrugged her shoulders and simply replied, "I just want it a little more than they do." Nothing replaces the power of motivation. Skill certainly doesn't.

The world is filled with talented people sitting on the sidelines waiting for something to happen. Opportunity doesn't. More often than not those who have been blessed view their surroundings as entitlements neglecting to heed the warning of, "to whom much has been given much will be required." It is the inner drive that makes the accomplishment.

Finally, it was the bright blue light that

caught my attention. Even though it would soon be engulfed in darkness, none of the group looked up and exclaimed, "Wow, check out the sky, it sure is dark at 3 a.m." They marveled at the light.

Trials, tribulations and difficulties will rise up against your goal; just don't let them overcome your goal. My son's martial arts instructor was asked what he tells his students if they want to quit.

The instructor replied, "Oh they are going to want to quit. In fact it usually happens once every three weeks. I simply tell them they must press on. If it were easy everyone would have a black belt."

The time I spent downrange included some of the best and worst moments of my life. There were moments of tremendous victory coupled with personal defeat. Days were spent wondering what in the world was I doing here; moments were lost in true wonderment knowing I was literally on this planet for such a time as this.

Family members were frightened that my departure would forever change me; it did. It changed me for the better. The people I encountered, their memories will forever remain constant in my life. My goal of simply being "me," although challenging, was ultimately rewarded by the tremendous support from friends both near and far away.

## Cry havoc and let slip the hogs of war



Pilots from the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing walk to a 188th Fighter Wing A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthog" before a mission at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 30. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy)



An Airman from the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron marshals a 188th Fighter Wing A-10C Thunderbolt II before a mission at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 30. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy)



# The Flying Razorback member spotlight

**Hometown:** Van Buren.  
**Job title:** Command post controller.  
**In the 188th:** 2009.  
**Education:** Van Buren High.  
**Goals:** College.  
**Favorite TV show:** “Bones.”  
**Favorite actor:** Nicholas Cage  
**Favorite color:** Orange  
**Favorite animal:** Duckbill platypus  
**Favorite comedian:** Fluffy (Gabriel Iglesias).  
**Favorite movie:** “Beauty and the Beast.”  
**Favorite restaurant:** Outback Steakhouse.  
**Favorite soft drink:** Coca-Cola.  
**Favorite food:** Shrimp.  
**Favorite book:** “Lords of the Rings.”  
**Favorite author:** J.R.R. Tolkien.  
**Favorite song:** “True Colors” by Cindy Lauper.  
**Favorite musician:** Phil Collins.  
**Favorite word or phrase:** Cool beans.”  
**Favorite super hero:** Batman.  
**Favorite historical figure:** Abraham Lincoln.  
**Favorite sport:** Baseball.  
**Favorite football team:** Arkansas Razorbacks.  
**Hobbies:** Reading.  
**My dream shopping spree:** Lowe’s.  
**Place I’d most like to visit:** China.  
**Favorite cartoon character:** Tasmanian Devil.  
**My worst habit:** Saying “like.”  
**My pet peeves:** Scratching.  
**I am proudest of:** My dad.  
**What scares me the most:** My dad.  
**The person I admire most:** My dad.  
**The best day of my life:** Today.



Airman 1st Class Teri Skinner, a member of the 188th Command Post, was selected as the 188th Fighter Wing’s Flying Razorback spotlight for July 2012. (National Guard photo by Amn. Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



## Airman 1st Class Teri Skinner

### Deployment

Continued from Page 1

smiles as they climbed, others turning back to wave to family below before disappearing into the aircraft’s fuselage. Family members lined a concrete barrier below, waving miniature American flags and looking up as their heroes began their journey into harm’s path. Some fought back tears. Others did not, flooded with emotion as 275 Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing departed Fort Smith for the Middle East to support Operation En-

during Freedom. The Airmen will be deployed approximately three months.

The deployment is part of an Air Expeditionary Forces (AEF) rotation, which the 188th is sharing with the Baltimore-based 175th Wing.

“It’s never easy deploying men and women into combat and we appreciate their sacrifices as well as those made by their families,” said Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander. “We have some of the most highly trained and capable Airmen in the Air Force and I have complete confidence that they will focus on the mis-

sion and exceed all expectations. From the maintainers to the pilots and support personnel, our men and women have continued to exhibit dedication and professionalism in the face of adversity. We’re very proud of our Airmen and we await their safe return.”

The personnel who departed July 2 joined a group of approximately 75 Airmen with the 188th already deployed to Afghanistan to supplement the 175th’s portion of the AEF rotation.

An additional 20 Airmen with the 188th deployed to Afghanistan two weeks ago as part of an advance team that prepared for the arrival of the larger group. In

total, the 188th deployed approximately 375 Airmen to Afghanistan during this AEF rotation.

For some it will be their first deployment but for most at the 188th it won’t be.

“You can definitely tell whether or not someone has deployed before,” said Maj. John Easley, 188th Maintenance Group deputy commander. “The Airmen who have never deployed, you can see it in their faces. But we always help each other out and learn from each other. We’re a team over there and we take care of each other. We’ve completed all the training and now it’s time to go over and complete

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# Up in the air with the Flying Razorbacks



Lt. Col. Brian Burger, an A-10C Thunderbolt II pilot and the 188th Operations Group commander, fires off a flare while diving into a high-angle firing position during a training exercise on Razorback Range located at Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center, Ark., June 4, 2012. The 188th regularly conducts training with Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) from different branches of service to sharpen its close-air support skills. During this exercise, JTACs from the 75th Ranger Regiment provided forward control. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ben Bloker)



Lt. Col. Brian Burger, an A-10C Thunderbolt II pilot and the 188th Operations Group commander, fires off a flare while diving into a high-angle firing position June 4 during a training exercise on Razorback Range located at Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center, Ark. The 188th regularly conducts training with Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) from different branches of service to sharpen its close-air support skills and to conduct efficient training with JTACs. During this exercise, JTACs from the 75th Ranger Regiment provided forward control. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ben Bloker)



Lt. Col. Brian Burger fires off a flare while banking into a high-angle firing position during a training exercise on Razorback Range June 4. The 188th regularly conducts training with JTACs from different branches of service to sharpen its close air support skills and to conduct efficient training with JTACs. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ben Bloker)



Lt. Col. Brian Burger, an A-10C Thunderbolt II pilot and the 188th Operations Group commander, fires 30mm rounds from at a target June 4 during a training exercise on Razorback Range located at Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center, Ark. The 188th regularly conducts training with Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) from different branches of service to sharpen its close-air support skills and to conduct efficient training with JTACs. During this exercise, JTACs from the 75th Ranger Regiment provided forward control. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Ben Bloker)



# 188th Services Airmen feed troops, fuel training exercise

By Tech Sgt. Dan Heaton  
127th Wing Public Affairs

ALPENA COMAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER, Mich. — No matter what hat Airman Shelbi Newsom is wearing, she likes to help people.

As a Services specialist with the 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard, Newsom can be called upon to work in a variety of roles — serving meals, arranging lodging, even working in the morgue — around an air base. As a police dispatcher in her civilian career, she said she is also in a position to help other people.

"I think being in the military gave me the credibility, showed that I have the responsibility level that helped me get my job with the police department," said Newsom, while she was making breakfast for more than 80 Airmen as part of a medical disaster training exercise at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in northern Michigan.

During the exercise, four Services Airmen from the 188th ensured that all of the medical specialists were fed every day during their training scenario.

That meant getting to the kitchen every morning at 4:30 a.m. to begin breakfast. They made the meal in a dining facility on the base and then transported it out to the exercise area, where the medical teams began eating breakfast at about 6:30 a.m.

"This is an opportunity for us to do a little training, as well," said Master Sgt. Nolan Bramlett, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the four-person team and a veteran of more than 35 years of military service.

"Getting out in the field like this, you have a bit more time to work with the younger Airmen," he said.

While Bramlett is teaching the younger Airmen a few things about running a kitchen, he said his primary focus is not necessarily on cooking skills.

"Communication, respect, discipline, integrity and work ethic — those are the five things that will make you successful, no matter what line of work you are in," he said.

Technical Sgt. Christina Simmons, also with the 188th, said the short deployment to Alpena was a welcome opportunity for her, as it gave the 13-year veteran a chance to work directly in the kitchen.

"I do a lot of the administrative things



Above: Airman Shelbi Newsom, 188th Fighter Wing Services Flight, Arkansas Air National Guard, wraps a tray of hashed brown potatoes for breakfast service in the Thunder Bay Dining Facility at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Mich., May 25. The Services personnel were supporting a medical disaster response training exercise at the CRTC. Bottom, left: Master Sgt. Nolan Bramlett, 188th Services Flight, begins to prepare breakfast in the Thunder Bay Dining Facility at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Mich., May 25. The Services Airmen were supporting a medical disaster response training exercise at the CRTC. Bottom, right: Technical Sgt. Christina Simmons, left, and Airman 1st Class Carolina Osorio, both of the 188th Services Flight, remove trays of bacon from an oven in the Thunder Bay Dining Facility at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center May 25. (National Guard photos by Tech Sgt. David Kujawa/127th Wing Public Affairs)



that need to be done at home station," she said, as she prepared a tray of bacon for the morning meal. "As a Services Airman, you never know what you are going to be called to do; it is always something different. I've done marketing; I've done mortuary services. So getting in here and doing a little cook-

ing is a good opportunity for me."

Working with Simmons on the bacon was Airman 1st Class Carolina Osorio, a nine-month veteran of the Arkansas Air National Guard.

"I wanted to be able to have a traditional experience as a college student," Osorio said. "But I also had a desire to serve my country. This allows me to do both."



## Keep work relationships professional

By Maj. Jenny Johnson

188th Fighter Wing judge advocate

Professional relationships are essential to the effective operation of the military and in meeting mission requirements. The nature of the military mission requires absolute confidence in command and unhesitating adherence to orders.

Although personal relationships are largely a matter of choice in the civilian world, professional relationships are required in the military. AFI 36-2909 governs professional and unprofessional relationships.

Professional relationships are personal interaction that adds to morale, discipline and respect for authority. Open communication about careers, duties, performance and the mission is always encouraged, as is participation in activities that contribute to esprit de corps and have a positive effect on others.

When relationships have the opposite effect and break down or destroy morale, discipline, or respect for authority, they become a matter of official Air Force and Air National Guard interest.

Unprofessional relationships are those interpersonal relationships that erode good order, discipline, respect for authority, unit cohesion, and mission accomplishment. An unprofessional relationship can occur between two officers, two enlisted members, an officer and an enlisted member, a military member and a civilian employee, or a military member and a defense contractor.

When the relationship creates the reality or perception of a superior exercising favoritism, misusing his or her office, or abandoning organizational goals for personal interests, it is considered unprofessional.

Fraternization is an aggravated type of an unprofessional relationship and is a personal relationship between an officer and enlisted member that exceeds

customary bounds of acceptable behavior and prejudices good order and discipline, discredits the armed services, or dishonors the officer involved. It occurs if an officer interacts with an enlisted member on terms of military equality such that respect for the officer's professionalism, integrity and leadership is compromised.

Adultery or dating is fraternization between an officer and an enlisted member, but may also be an unprofessional relationship between two officers or between two enlisted members. Even if a relationship does not rise to the level of fraternization, it still may be punishable as conduct unbecoming an officer and/or addressed as an unprofessional relationship.

A wide spectrum of administrative actions can be taken by commanders in response to unprofessional relationships. When unprofessional relationships are discovered, command typically issues a cease and desist order to the parties involved. Continuing the relationship, after such an order, additionally subjects the members to discipline for disobeying a lawful order.

Command can address unprofessional relationships and fraternization with verbal counseling, written administrative action (e.g., letter of counseling, admonishment, or reprimand), Article 15 action, discharge, or court-martial.

Although the senior member bears primary responsibility to maintain the professionalism of personal interactions, all members have a duty to avoid unprofessional relationships.

Furthermore, if you observe personnel engaging in an unprofessional relationship, you should advise your command. For more information, contact the 188th Fighter Wing Judge Advocate Office at [jenny.johnson@ang.af.mil](mailto:jenny.johnson@ang.af.mil).

## Worst-case scenario



Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing train on Post Attack Recon (PAR) procedures during a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives (CBRNE) class at the 188th June 7. The PAR training includes unexploded ordnance recognition and marking, map reading and the communications process back to the unit control centers. The 188th Airmen were gearing up for an Air Expeditionary Forces deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## Army Lt. Gen. Grass nominated as chief of National Guard Bureau

By Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — President Obama has nominated Army Lt. Gen. Frank Grass, the deputy commander of U.S. Northern Command, as the 27th chief of the National Guard Bureau, according to the Congressional Record.

If confirmed, Grass would succeed the current chief, Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the first four-star general to hold the assignment who also became the first CNGB to serve as a statutory member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"I am thrilled and humbled by the opportunity, if I am confirmed, to lead the best National Guard in our nation's history — a force of more than 460,000 men and women proven on the battlefield and during domestic crises," Grass said. "It is further humbling

to be asked by the secretary of defense and the president to follow in General McKinley's footsteps. I look forward to ensuring the investment the American people have made in the National Guard as a ready and reliable operational force continues to pay dividends."

Grass has served as NORTH-COM's deputy commander and as vice commander, U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Command, since 2010. Lt. Gen. Grass enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard in 1969.

He has served in a wide variety of command and staff positions as a traditional Guard member, in the Active Guard and Reserve program and on active duty.

During his time at NORTH-COM, Grass repeatedly stressed the importance of the relationship between the combatant command and the National Guard.



# Earthquake exercise gives 188th Airmen valuable training

By Tech Sgt. Dan Heaton  
127th Wing Public Affairs

ALPENA COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER, Mich. — Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing of the Arkansas Air National Guard stationed in Fort Smith deployed for training at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in northern Michigan recently.

Working with medical groups from eight Air National Guard wings in seven different states, Airmen in the 188th Medical Group practiced emergency medical response, known as EMEDS. In this scenario, the medical groups simulated how they would respond to a major earthquake centered in Lansing, Michigan's capital city.

The 188th Services Flight also deployed four Airmen and the 188th Chaplains Office deployed an additional two Airmen to participate in the exercise.

"The National Guard has two roles," said Master Sgt. Bob Wagster, an EMEDS instructor permanently assigned to Alpena. "We have a role when we deploy as part of the federal military force, but we also have a role to respond to domestic disasters."

Wagster helps train more than 1,500 military medical personnel every year. Part of the team training at this particular exercise is a contingent from the 188th Fighter Wing, one of two Arkansas units represented.

The 188th deployed an EMEDS team in the wake of Hurricane Katrina several years ago, said Capt. Bridgette Scott, a medical service corps officer with the 188th.

"One of the highlights of this training is that there are so many different people here from different units," Scott said. "An exercise like this gets us all singing off the same sheet of music."

For the doctors, nurses and technicians, the EMEDS training helps refresh skills that they don't always use during a typical training weekend in the Guard, when the focus is more on medical readiness to deploy than on direct care.

Tech Sgt. Trish Myers, who has been part of the 127th Medical Group since 1999, said she enjoys being able to work directly with patient care.

"We are like the jack of all trades in the medical unit," she said. "In a deployed location, there are so many things that need to



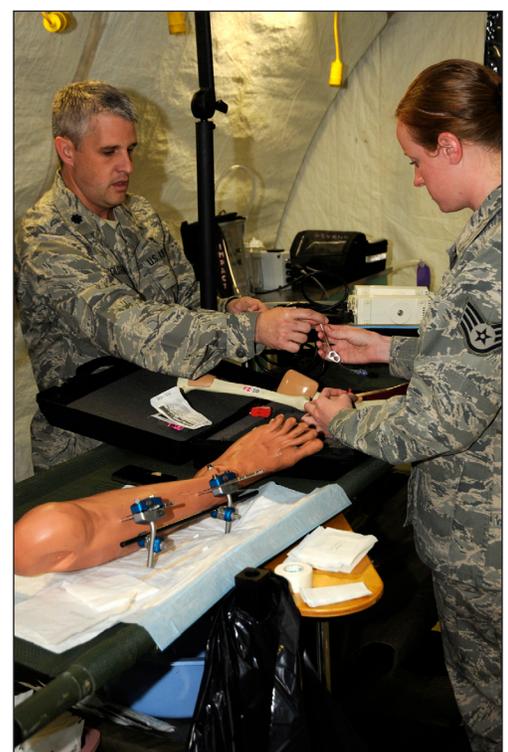
Above: Staff Sgt. Chris Doyel, 188th Medical Group, Arkansas Air National Guard, inserts an IV line into Chaplain (Major) Herb Hodde, 188th Fighter Wing chaplain, during a training exercise at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Mich., May 23, 2012. The exercise brought together Airmen from eight medical groups from seven states. Bottom, left: Technical Sgt. Lisa Bobo, a chaplain assistant with the 188th Fighter Wing, holds a baby mannequin during a training exercise at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. During the Emergency Medical Training exercise, medical specialists from eight medical groups in seven states gathered to practice responding to a natural disaster. Bottom, right: Lt. Col. Dr. Robert Goldtrap, 188th Medical Group, demonstrates a procedure to Staff Sgt. Jamie McClelland, 127th Medical Group, Michigan Air National Guard, during a training exercise at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. (U.S. Air Force photos by Tech Sgt. David Kujawa/127th Wing Public Affairs)



be done, you just have to be ready to help out wherever you can."

During a 2008 deployment to a base in Southwest Asia, Myers said she enjoyed talking with and getting to know some of the Wounded Warriors she helped to care for.

"The power to really make a positive impact on someone's life, that's what is so great about this job," she said. "You are in a position where you can really make a difference and that is something special."





# Sawing logs helps you stay sharp

**Commentary by Geoff Gibson**  
Wing director of Psychological Health

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Getting enough sleep during a deployment can be a challenge due to deployment stress (noise, lights, alarms, pace of work and potential threats). Sleep can be a challenge for members whether or not they are deployed, since we all worry about our family, our work, money, and other stressors at times.

While healthy sleep patterns will help you stay fresh and alert, sleep disruption can hurt your ability to think clearly, to feel happy, and can even reduce the effectiveness of your immune system. Sleep disruption studies of animals have found that lack of sleep eventually causes death due to “massive bacterial infection.” The immune system can become totally ineffective without access to sleep.

You need healthy sleep patterns to function at your best. If you are not getting enough sleep the odds are very good that you are making more mistakes than usual, may have a tendency to have little “accidents,” have lower productivity at work, are told you are grumpy by your family and friends, get more than your fair share of colds and flu, and generally have less resources to deal with stressors.

Not sure if you are getting enough sleep? There’s a simple checklist you can review to see if you are sleep deprived.

## Getting enough sleep?

- Do you need an alarm clock to wake up on time?
- Do you have great difficulty making yourself get out of bed in the morning?
- Do you regularly sleep in for extra hours on your days off?
- Do you feel sleepy when you drive?
- Does your family or friends tell you that you are often grumpy or irritable?
- Do you hit the snooze button over and over before waking up fully?
- Do you have dark circles under your eyes?
- Do you often feel tired throughout the day?
- Do you feel it is difficult to concentrate or to remember things?

- Do you take a nap on a regular basis just to make it through the day?
- Do you fall asleep if you sit still after dinner?
- Do you feel that your creativity, problem solving abilities and critical thinking skills are slow?
- Do you feel sleepy or fall asleep while watching TV?
- Do you get sleepy in meetings, during classes or when the room is warm?
- Do you get sleepy after eating a big/rich meal or after having a normal-sized alcoholic drink?
- Do people accuse you of seeming to be more stressed than usual without any changes in work load or life challenges?



If you answer positively to more than three of these questions in the bullets above, you may be sleep deprived. You can improve your sleep by avoiding alcohol or caffeine before sleep, by using breathing exercises or meditation before sleep and by being relaxed in your sleep area instead of doing other activities which keep you engaged or awake in bed.

Another solution is to begin tracking the amount of sleep you are getting and add 15 minutes per day until you notice that you are waking more easily, feel more alert during the day, and can wake up before your alarm goes off.

Being well rested may help you function better in nearly every area of your life and can be a very simple solution to decrease your overall stress level. There are many other ways to improve your sleep; if you would like more information about your sleep or stress, consider contacting the Wing director of Psychological Health.

Being well rested may help you function better in nearly every area of your life and can be a very simple solution to decrease your overall stress level. There are many other ways to improve your sleep; if you would like more information about your sleep or stress, consider contacting the Wing director of Psychological Health.

**188th Fighter Wing  
Psychological  
Health Office**  
Cell: 479-431-9210  
Office: 479-573-5742  
E-mail: Geoff.Gibson.ctr@ang.af.mil

## 188th Top III to award scholarships

188th Fighter Wing Top III Council

To promote and encourage excellence in the enlisted ranks at the 188th Fighter Wing, the unit’s Top III Council will be awarding two \$250 scholarships to a degree-seeking student who is an enlisted member of the 188th.

To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must be eligible as measured by the following criteria: A member of the 188th Fighter Wing; currently enrolled in an accredited college or university; enrolled in at least six hours.

The deadline for applications is Aug. 15, 2012. The submission procedure includes the completion of a scholarship application, which must be received by Master Sgt. Ryan McClure or Senior Master Sgt. Bryan Peters by the deadline.

The scholarship recipient will be recognized by the 188th’s Top III Council during a presentation in which the recipient will be awarded the scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded based on the availability of funds. Members of the scholarship committee and their immediate family members are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

Application forms are available through McClure or Senior Master Sgt. Sam Bond or by visiting the S: drive at S:\MSG\FSS\Scholarships.

## Social media tip

### Image is everything

Be aware of the image you present. If using a visual medium, don’t let your message become overshadowed because the viewer’s attention is drawn to your improperly worn uniform or something occurring in the background.

The image you present will set the tone for your message and often mean the difference between people listening to your message or ignoring it. Your tactical representation could have strategic and international consequences for the Air Force and the nation.



## 188th Fighter Wing Chiefs' Council Scholarships available

188th Fighter Wing Chiefs' Council

The Chiefs' Council is again contributing to the improvement of the 188th Fighter Wing by offering its Airmen college scholarships. Unit members interested in receiving a Chiefs' Council scholarship must first pen an essay of 500 words or less describing one of the following topics: What the Air National Guard means to you; military service and college; or the balancing act between family and military and civilian work.

Interested applicants must meet the following criteria: Must be an enlisted member of

the 188th and must be seeking an undergraduate degree.

The scholarships will total \$500 each. The number of scholarships awarded will be based on the number and type of entries. The deadline for application is Aug. 5, 2012.

Submit an application along with your narrative to any chief master sergeant of the 188th Fighter Wing or send an e-mail to Chief Master Sgt. Mark McDaniel at mark.mcdaniel.3@ang.af.mil

Applications can be found on the S: drive at S:\MSG\FSS\Scholarships or by asking any chief master sergeant of the 188th Fighter Wing.

## Citizen Airman Dining Hall menu

### Saturday, July 14

Spaghetti, green beans, corn on the cob, Texas toast, yellow cake, ice cream, coffee/tea/milk.

### Sunday, July 15

Ham, turkey, roast beef sandwiches, macaroni salad, potato salad, chips, brownies, ice cream coffee/tea/milk.

**Short-order line (Sunday only):** Hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs/chili dogs, baked beans, chips.

**NOTE:** Civilians and family members are not permitted to eat in the Citizen Airman Dining Hall. The one exception is the annual holiday meal.

## Finance office announces new customer service hours

In order to serve its Airmen better, the 188th Financial Management Flight is pleased to announce new customer service hours effective immediately.

Finance will be open for customer service from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Unit

Training Assembly hours are as follows: Saturday from 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Deploying personnel and individuals with emergency issues who need assistance outside these hours may call 479-573-5277 (DSN: 778-5277) for assistance.

## Schlutermans

Continued from Page 4

of space reserved for married troops at Bagram and there are also Army or Marine couples deploying for 12 or 15 months who get priority, she said. Both of Walter and Shilo's work shifts will overlap some, and they will be in the same general areas, so there will be many opportunities to see each other, Shilo said.

Walter and Shilo are leaving behind three of their children with various family members and friends, Shilo said. She said It's a lot to ask of their family but they want to help us however they can.

"With everyone going to different places, it's legally complex," Shilo said. "Dealing with powers of attorney and making sure that there's money to pay for everything is tough. Online bill pay has been a godsend for us."

Walter and Shilo are not the only members of their family leaving home for military duty, however. Their son, Airman 1st Class Kaleb Eveld, will be shipping out this summer for Basic Military Training.

Eveld said he's relieved that his parents are deploying together because he remembers how worried Shilo was when she stayed behind during Walter's previous deployment. Eveld said he looks forward to being able to deploy as well, once he completes technical training.

"That's what you get into when you sign up," Eveld said. "You know exactly what you're agreeing to when you join."

Both Walter and Shilo are grateful for the outpouring of support they have received from their community, they said. Friends from their church and a teacher at their son's school have volunteered to housesit and help their children stay on



Staff Sgt. Shilo Schluterman, left, receives a care package at the 188th Fighter Wing prior to boarding an aircraft bound for Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Shilo and her husband, Senior Master Sgt. Walter Schluterman, along with 275 Airmen with the 188th departed Fort Smith, Ark., July 2 for Afghanistan, where they will be deployed for about three months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

track, said Shilo.

"The support we've received has been huge, especially since we're a dual-military family," Shilo said. "But that's what life is like in

a small town. You may not be able to buy bread after 9 p.m., but you can usually borrow it from someone if you need to."

## Meroney

Continued from Page 1

ported seeing Meroney's aircraft hit by enemy fire. No parachutes were seen after the aircraft was hit. Heavy enemy presence in the area prevented recovery efforts.

From 2000 to 2011, additional recovery teams investigated and excavated the crash site multiple times. Teams recovered human remains, and military equipment, including an engine data plate, a radio call-sign plate, and a military identification card bearing Meroney's name.

Meroney's remains were identified May 24 and were returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Meroney was a native of Fayetteville.

Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander; Lt. Col. Brian Burger, 188th Operations Group commander; Maj. Justin Lewis; and Capt. Mark Cox performed the flyover, which included a missing man maneuver. The Little Rock Air Force Base Honor Guard also performed at the event. Former 188th chaplain, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) H.D. McCarty, presided over the service.

Anderson also presented a United States flag to the Meroney family June 10, 2012, in Fort Smith, Ark. The flag was flown over Afghanistan during the 188th's last combat deployment to Kandahar in 2010 and was also flown over Meroney's repatriation ceremony in Fayetteville.

"The 188th was honored to perform the flyover and pay respects to the Meroney family," Anderson said. "To have the opportunity to pay tribute to an American hero who gave his life serving his country was a humbling experience and a privilege for our wing."



Members of the Patriot Guard salute a four-ship of A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" with the Arkansas Air National Guard's 188th Fighter Wing perform a missing-man formation during a flyover to honor Capt. Virgil Meroney III during a repatriation ceremony held in Fayetteville, Ark., June 9. Meroney was missing in action during the Vietnam War after being shot down in his F-4D Phantom II aircraft. (National Guard photos by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

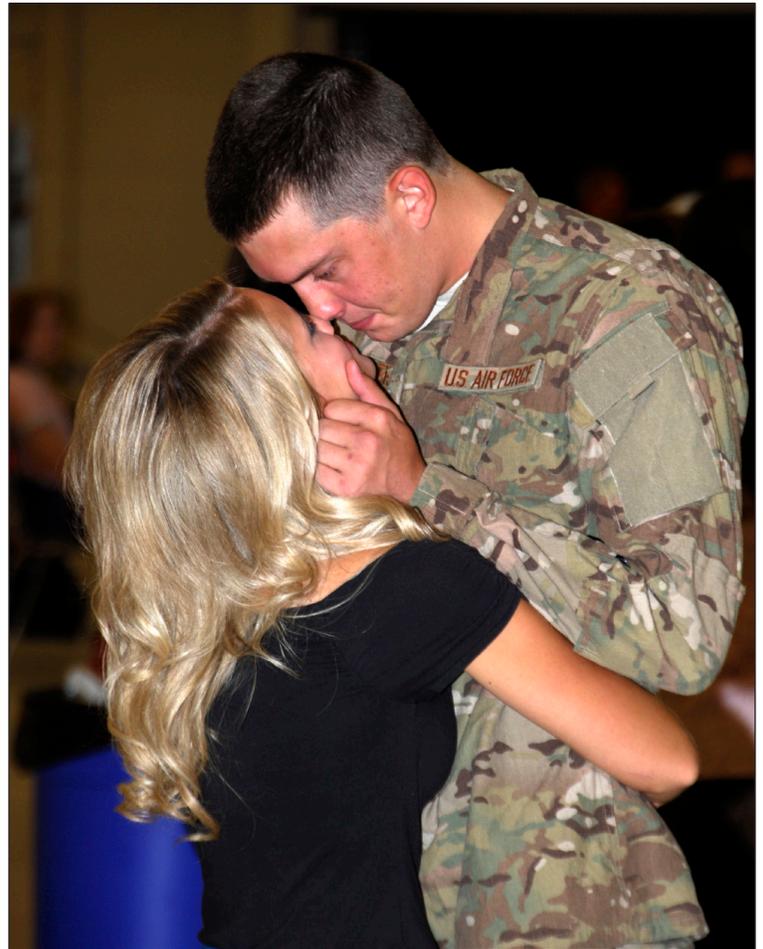


Above: Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander, presents a U.S. flag to the Meroney family June 10 in Fort Smith, Ark. The flag was flown over Afghanistan during the 188th's last combat deployment to Kandahar in 2010 and was also flown over Meroney's repatriation ceremony. Top, right: A U.S. flag is lowered at half-staff during Meroney's repatriation ceremony. Right, second from top: A-10s with the 188th perform a missing-man formation during a flyover to honor Meroney III. Right, third from top: Brig. Gen. (Ret.) H.D. McCarty, a former 188th chaplain, speaks to a group gathered to pay their respects to Meroney III. Right, bottom: A Little Rock Air Force Base honor guardsman presents a U.S. flag to the Meroney family. (National Guard photos by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)





Above: A family member of a 188th Fighter Wing Airman attends a sendoff as approximately 275 Airmen with the 188th departed Fort Smith July 2 for Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Airmen will be deployed approximately three months. (National Guard photo by Airman Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Below, left: Tech Sgt. Shawn Thorne with the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron hugs a family member July 2 before leaving for Afghanistan. (National Guard photo by Airman Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Below, right: A family member of a 188th Fighter Wing Airman attends a sendoff as approximately 275 Airmen with the 188th departed Fort Smith July 2 for Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Airman 1st Class Devin Flaspohler with the 188th Maintenance Squadron embraces a loved one prior to departing Fort Smith, Ark., on a McDonnell Douglas MD-11 July 2, 2012. Flaspohler was one of approximately 275 Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing who departed Fort Smith for Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Airmen will be deployed approximately three months. (National Guard photo by Airman Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



## Deployment

Continued from Page 6

the mission.”

The A-10 mission in Afghanistan is to fly close-air support in response to ground troops who may be in contact with the enemy, or to escort convoys in particularly hostile areas. When not supporting ground troops, A-10s patrol designated sectors and provide aerial reconnaissance on locations of interest to ground commanders.

This is the second AEF deployment for the 188th as a unit since receiving A-10s April 14, 2007. The 188th's last AEF rotation transpired in 2010 when the unit deployed approximately 300 Airmen and 12 A-10Cs to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

While the 188th prepares year-round for its mission, it has conducted an intense training regimen in the past six months in preparation for its AEF rotation. The 188th deployed

SEE DEPLOYMENT PAGE 15



Airman 1st Class Steven Dixon of the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, shares a heartfelt moment with loved ones July 2. Bunnell was one of approximately 275 Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing who departed Fort Smith for Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Airmen will be deployed approximately three months. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Above: Family members of 188th Fighter Wing Airmen attend a sendoff as approximately 275 Airmen with the 188th departed Fort Smith July 2 for Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Below: Maj. Gen. William Wofford, adjutant general for the Arkansas National Guard, shakes hands with 188th Fighter Wing Airmen prior to departing Fort Smith, Ark. (National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Brambl/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Above: Arkansas National Guard leadership shakes hands with 188th Fighter Wing Airmen as they board a McDonnell Douglas MD-11 July 2. Approximately 275 Airmen with the 188th departed Fort Smith for Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Airmen will be deployed approximately three months. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Below: Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing board a McDonnell Douglas MD-11 bound for Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan July 2 in Fort Smith, Ark. (National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Brambl/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## Deployment

Continued from Page 14

approximately 300 operations, maintenance and support personnel along with multiple A-10Cs to participate in Operation Snowbird at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Feb. 11-26, 2012.

The deployment to Davis-Monthan afforded the 188th an opportunity to conduct training and gain operational experience in a mountainous, desert terrain, which closely mimics the climate and conditions in Afghanistan.

The 188th also participated in Green Flag-East, a combat train-

ing exercise located at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., which allows A-10s to work with attack controllers to coordinate precise live and inert weapons deliveries.

Along with the specialized training, the 188th conducts regular close-air support training at homestation with Special Operations personnel and joint terminal attack controllers. The 188th rehearses a diverse array of scenarios to ensure it is as battle tested as possible before being faced with real-world combat.

“This is what we train for year round,” said Capt. B.J. Ginger, an A-10 pilot with the 188th. “Each deployed location is different and we prepare for everything.”



# Join the 188th Fighter Wing

## Your hometown Air Force

### New incentives, bonuses available

The Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs) below are eligible for the Air National Guard national and local incentives.

These incentives below are currently eligible for national incentives. The incentive program will be reviewed each quarter by the National Guard Bureau to determine which AFSCs will be authorized a bonus.

The incentives for non-prior service enlistments include \$20,000 cash and the G.I. Bill

Kicker. Current members may receive \$7,500 cash for a three-year reenlistment and \$15,000 cash and the G.I. Bill Kicker for a six-year reenlistment.

Contact Technical Sgt. Keith Freeman in the 188th Retention Office at 479-573-5360 for any questions regarding reenlistments. Contact the 188th Recruiting Office at 479-573-5728 with questions concerning joining the Air National Guard.

#### National incentives

2A3X3	Tactical Aircraft Maintenance
2W0X1	Munitions Systems
2W1X1	Aircraft Armament Systems

#### Local incentives

3D0X3	Cyber Security
3D1X1	Client Systems
3M0X1	Services

### Recruiting referral program benefits Air Guard members

The Air National Guard Referral Rewards Program was created for current and retired ANG members who are helping to recruit new Airmen. To get started, log on to [www.refer2ang.com](http://www.refer2ang.com) to create an account.

Once an account has been created, members will receive a welcome kit in the mail, which contains Referral Rewards Program business cards with your unique four-digit code. This code is the key to claiming your rewards!

When you send a potential Airman to a recruiter, make sure the potential Airman gives your card or code to the recruiter. Once the individual joins, it will be noted on your online

account. Then you can choose your reward. It's that easy!

Rewards are redeemed via a tiered system. After your first recruit joins, you can choose a reward from the first tier. When your second recruit joins, you can pick a reward from the second tier, and so on. The more new Airmen you find, the more valuable the reward you are eligible to receive.

The ANG Referral Rewards Program is a voluntary program that is a benefit for current Airmen and retirees of the ANG.

Your story is our number one recruiting tool so let potential Airmen know how you have benefited from being in the Arkansas ANG.

### Transfer Post 9/11 GI Bill to dependents

Do you have Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits that you plan on transferring to a dependent? If so, now is the time to make that move. When you transfer your benefits, you may have a service obligation that must be completed in order for benefits to be awarded to dependents. Currently, your service obligation is based on your retirement date as

shown on the adjacent chart. After July 31, 2013, the chart will no longer be utilized, and anyone applying to transfer benefits to their dependents will incur a four year service obligation. You must first apply for the Post 9/11 GI Bill before requesting a transfer to a spouse or child. This process normally takes three to four weeks. The member must have completed six years of service in order to transfer benefits to a spouse, and 10 years of service to transfer to

children.

If a member was eligible to retire Oct. 2, 2009, and they request to transfer benefits Feb. 19, 2011, their service obligation will be one year. If a member was eligible to retire Oct. 2, 2009, and they request to transfer benefits Aug. 17, 2013, their service obligation will be four years.

Instructions on how to apply and transfer your Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits can be picked up at the 188th Retention Office. Contact Master Sgt. Keith Freeman at 479-573-5360 for more information.

#### Date eligible to retire: service obligation

On or before Aug. 1, 2009: None  
Aug. 1, 2009-July 31, 2010: 1 year  
Aug. 1, 2010-July 31, 2011: 2 years  
Aug. 1, 2011-July 31 2012: 3 years  
After July 31, 2012: 4 years



## War hogs



Airmen from the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing receive a 188th Fighter Wing A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthog" after a mission at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 30. A-10s are a specialized ground attack aircraft which provides close-air support to ground forces operating in Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy)