



The Flying Razorback

188th Fighter Wing

Arkansas Air National Guard

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August 2012



Airman 1st Class Mary Wiuff is a munitions systems specialist from the 188th Maintenance Squadron currently deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, Bagram Airfield (BAF), Afghanistan. Wiuff checks a GBU-38 smart bomb's guidance system June 23. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy)

Deployed 188th Ammo Airmen 'lower the boom'

By Tech Sgt. Shawn David McCowan
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN — The A-10 Thunderbolt II is one of the primary fighting platforms in Operation Enduring Freedom. It uniquely combines the abilities of maintaining low speeds, high maneuverability at low altitudes, and overwhelming firepower into a rugged fighting machine. But even the mighty aircraft affectionately known as the "Warthog" cannot perform its mission without the help of hard-working men and women who keep this flying tank both in the air and heavily armed.

Lt. Col. Scott Ritzel, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron commander, is acutely aware of the importance of his people's missions.

"It takes an awful lot to get a combat-loaded aircraft above a troop in contact," Ritzel said. "Somebody's got to generate that kinetic power. That starts with

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General promotion



Maj. Gen. William Wofford, Arkansas National Guard adjutant general, left, administers the Oath of Appointment to Brig. Gen. Mark H. Berry July 15 at the 188th Fighter Wing during a promotion ceremony. Berry became the first officer from the 188th to be promoted to brigadier general in more than 25 years. Berry will serve as the Arkansas Air National Guard chief of staff. (National Guard photo by Airman Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

188th's Berry promoted to brigadier general

Former maintenance group commander unit's fourth general officer, first in 26 years

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

FORT SMITH, Ark. — People gathered from across the state of Arkansas to show their support as Mark H. Berry was promoted to the rank of brigadier general July 15 in a ceremony at the 188th Fighter Wing.

Brig. Gen. Berry has served as Arkansas Air National

Guard chief of staff since May 2012, and has more than 20 years of active-duty service and 15 years as an Air Reserve technician.

Most recently for the 188th, he served as the 188th Maintenance Group commander for the last 11 years. During his tenure in this position, he oversaw maintenance

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Brig. Gen. Mark H. Berry delivers a speech July 15 at the 188th Fighter Wing during his promotion ceremony. (National Guard photo by Airman Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



The Flying Razorback

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The Flying Razorback

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Gen. Welsh: 2013 AF budget 'not executable'

By Jeff Schogol
Air Force Times staff writer

The Air Force's proposed fiscal 2013 budget, which calls for deep cuts in both personnel and aircraft for the Air National Guard, is "simply not executable," said Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, the nominee to become the next chief of staff.

The Air Force's proposal to cut 5,100 Guard, 900 Reserve and 3,900 active-duty personnel as part of Defense Department efforts to trim spending went over with a resounding thud as lawmakers fought to protect local bases.

Now the House of Representatives wants to block the proposed cuts.

At Welsh's confirmation hearing on Thursday, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich, blasted the cuts, saying they "fall disproportionately upon the Air National Guard."

"The Air Force appears to have decided against relying as much on the Air National Guard to provide tactical fighters and airlift capability," Levin said. "The firestorm which erupted from this proposal resulted in Congress stepping in."

Welsh told lawmakers that he was not part of the decision-making process that went into the proposed budget, but if confirmed he would work very hard with the National Guard Bureau and Air National Guard "so that we never end up here again."

Most importantly, Welsh said, all parties involved must move beyond the acrimony of the past months, "Because we are in a place we cannot stay."

Since December 2010, Welsh has served as commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe. If Welsh is confirmed, the chief would once



Gen. Mark Welsh III, the nominee to become the next Air Force chief of staff pictured above, recently said the Air Force's proposed fiscal 2013 budget, which calls for deep cuts in both personnel and aircraft for the Air National Guard, is "simply not executable." (U.S. Air Force photo by Sarah Chambers)

again be a fighter pilot after four years with a mobility pilot at the helm.

When Gen. Norton Schwartz took the reins as chief, he became the first nonfighter pilot to lead the service since 1982.

Welsh has more than 3,400 flight hours in A-10s, F-16s and other aircraft.

His military awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster. He graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1976 and went on to command an F-16 squadron during the Persian Gulf War. Later, he became Air Force Academy commandant.

His assignments include working at the CIA when Defense Secretary Leon Panetta was director.

"Over the course of our time working together, I developed a deep appreciation for his wisdom and his counsel," Panetta said at a May 19 news conference. "A former Air Force Academy commandant, I believe that he has the right leadership qualities and distinguished background to follow his extraordinary predecessor, General Schwartz."

188th Unit Training Assembly news

Upcoming drills

Aug. 4-5
Sept. 8-9



UTA pay date

Aug. 15
Sept. 19



188th Fighter Wing recruiting announcements

AFSC of the month Aerospace Ground Equipment specialist

Multiple vacancies exist in the 188th Fighter Wing for an aerospace ground equipment (AGE) specialist (AFSC 2A6X2). These vacancies are enlisted traditional Guardsman positions. AGE specialists maintain aerospace ground equipment to support aircraft systems or subsystems. They perform scheduled and unscheduled maintenance and inspect, test and operate AGE to determine equipment serviceability and proper operation.

They diagnose mechanical and electronic circuitry malfunctions using visual and auditory senses, test equipment, and technical publications. They remove, disassemble, repair, clean, treat for corrosion, assemble, and re-install AGE accessories and components. They diagnose malfunc-

tions and repair AGE as well as advise and perform troubleshooting on AGE before assigning repair action. They solve repair problems by studying drawings, wiring diagrams and schematics and technical publications. They use automated maintenance systems to monitor maintenance trends, analyze equipment requirements, maintain equipment records and document maintenance actions. They analyze and repair ground support equipment using conventional and digital multimeters, voltmeters, ohmmeters, frequency counters, oscilloscopes, circuit card testers, transistor testers and hand tools.

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

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 as-

sociated visual material; coordinating use of graphics, special effects, lights, cameras, microphones, properties, personnel and audio and video material to support programming requirements; and assisting the 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.

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 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.

Key responsibilities of the public affairs officer include but are not limited to: Media and community relations representative; drafting press releases and speeches; conducting press conferences; and serving as an advisor to the commander.

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.

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.



The Flying Razorback member spotlight

Hometown: Fayetteville, Ark.

Job title: Intelligence analyst.

In the 188th: Almost two years.

Education: Fayetteville High School; attending University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, majoring in organizational leadership and business admin.

Goals: Graduate college, start a family and own a business.

Favorite TV show: "The Boondocks."

Favorite actor, actress: Denzel Washington, Meagan Good.

Favorite color: Black.

Favorite animal: Dog.

Favorite comedian: Kevin Hart.

Favorite movie: "Goodfellas."

Favorite restaurant: Rendi's Mud Bugs.

Favorite soft drink: Mountain Dew.

Favorite foods: Meat.

Favorite book: A Life for a Life.

Favorite author: Earnest Hill.

Favorite song: "Today Was a Good Day" by Ice Cube.

Favorite musical group/musician: J. Cole.

Favorite word or phrase: "It is what it is."

Favorite super hero: Spiderman.

Favorite U.S. president: George Washington.

Favorite historical figure: Jesse Owens.

Favorite sport: Track and field.

Favorite sports individual: Usain Bolt.

Favorite football team: Pittsburgh Steelers.

My worst job ever: Grocery receiving associate.

Hobbies: Working out, golfing, fishing, and eating.

My dream shopping spree: Cabela's.

Place I'd most like to visit: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Favorite cartoon character: Peter Griffin.



Airman 1st Class Jeremy James, an intel analyst with the 188th Operations Group, was selected as the 188th Fighter Wing's Flying Razorback spotlight for August 2012. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Airman 1st Class Jeremy James

Favorite automobile: Lamborghini Reventon.

My worst habit: Constantly cleaning my fingernails.

My pet peeves: When random people stare at me.

I am proudest of: Being a part of the world's

greatest Air Force.

What scares me the most: Falling off something tall.

The person I admire most: My father.

The best day of my life: Every day that I wake up.

National Guard hosts virtual conference on diversity

By Army National Guard Sgt. Darron Salzer
National Guard Bureau

The chief of the National Guard Bureau outlined his vision for diversity within the National Guard during the first National Guard Bureau Virtual Diversity Conference — held completely online on July 25.

Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley said the goal of the virtual conference was to present to all Citizen-Soldiers, -Airmen and civilians the vision and strategy of Guard lead-

ership in the area of diversity management — and the use of a virtual conference allowed that message to reach a larger audience.

"As your chief of the National Guard Bureau, it is my role to work with your adjutants general to ensure that the National Guard remains a mission-ready force," he said. "Effective diversity management is essential to military readiness and mission accomplishment."

McKinley said steps to improve diversity management throughout

the Guard have been taken, one of them being the establishment of the National Guard Bureau Joint Diversity Executive Council.

"The goal of this council," he said, "is to identify and adopt the best practices for recruiting, retaining and developing a very diverse workforce - and sustaining a climate of equality in the National Guard."

"The council adapts these practices from various resources to recommendations that are appropriate to the National Guard's military and

civilian structure," said Phyllis Brantley, chief of National Guard diversity and special-emphasis programs.

Some of the accomplishments of the council thus far include: A comprehensive diversity policy, a leaders guide on diversity, resources for state-level Joint Diversity Councils and training and mentoring for state-level JSDCs from NGB staff.

"We as an organization have made significant progress, but much more is needed — especially in



Yellow Ribbon to hold mid-deployment event for unit families

By Michelle Pike

Airman and Family Readiness Office

Mark your calendar now for August 25, when the Yellow Ribbon Program will be sponsoring a "During Deployment" event on base. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our families to see where our deployed members work. We will have a myriad of vendors here to explain all about their services; there will also be a town hall meeting and lots and lots of fun! Don't miss this opportunity to meet other family members and enjoy fun and fellowship. If you have any questions about these events please call Michelle Pike in the Airman and Family Readiness Office at 479-573-5167.

Military families honored

On July 4 cities and towns all over America have their own

unique ways of celebrating. Families and friends get together and have picnics. They watch parades and hear patriotic speeches, listen to patriotic music, play games, hold family reunions and participate in special contests. And at the end of a long, fun day, watch fireworks explode from one end of the sky to the other.

This July 4 was no different as members of the 188th Fighter Wing and their families were honored at Arvest Ballpark by Operation Renewal. Operation Renewal is an organization dedicated to helping military families build and maintain a stronger and more powerful family core. A standing ovation was given to honor you, our members and your families for the sacrifices you make to keep our country free.



Military families were honored July 4 at Arvest Ballpark in Springdale, Ark. The presentation, put on by Operation Renewal, included a tribute to the 188th Fighter Wing. (Photo by Michelle Pike)

188th vacancy announcement Equal Opportunity NCOIC

A vacancy exists in the 188th Fighter Wing Equal Opportunity Office for a non-commissioned officer in charge (AFSC 3S1X1). This position is a traditional Guardsman slot and is a master sergeant billet. Interested individuals must be an E-5 or above and have no record of disciplinary action, financial irresponsibility or previous record of having failed to graduate from a formal EO training course.

To apply for this position submit a resume detailing experience, military and civilian education and a copy of current physical fitness assessment to Capt. Lionel Riley, 188th Fighter Wing EO chief, via e-mail at lriley@cox.net or by mailing 188FW/EO ATTN: Capt. Lionel Riley, 4850 Leigh Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

This position performs, supervises and manages equal opportunity (EO) and human relations education (HRE) programs; conducts administrative functions to support EO programs; promotes an environment that enhances the Air

Force mission through an inclusive corporate culture that promotes positive human relations and teamwork in an environment of equity, dignity and respect; provides advice, consultation, education, alternative dispute resolution and referral services to enhance mission effectiveness; advises personnel on EO responsibilities, policies and programs; and uses personal interviews, focus groups, surveys, and other techniques to provide information and guidance on preventing or eliminating conditions that negatively impact mission effectiveness.

The EO NCOIC also assists commanders and directors to resolve conditions that impact operations and mission effectiveness; emphasizes areas that potentially undermine the installation's readiness posture and human relations environment; analyze and advise on unit environment and morale; and focus on identifying and preventing actual and potential complaints and incidents.

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. 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.



State Partnership Program

Guatemalan military leaders visit 188th Fighter Wing



Guatemalan military leaders observe Urban Search and Rescue training at the 188th Fighter Wing July 11 as part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP). The 65-nation, 20-year-old program provides unique partnership capacity-building capabilities to combatant commanders and U.S. ambassadors through partnerships between U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia and foreign countries. The SPP supports U.S. national interests and security cooperation goals by engaging partner nations via military, socio-political and economic conduits at the local, state and national level. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Guatemalan military leaders listen to a briefing at the 188th Civil Engineer Squadron Headquarters. The leaders received a tour of the 188th's training facilities and briefings on the wing's emergency management capabilities. They also observed Urban Search and Rescue training during their visit. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Guatemalan military leaders visit the 188th Fighter Wing's Regional Training Site July 11 and observe the diverse array of training available for firefighters and emergency managers at the location. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Senior Master Sgt. Ron Redding briefs Guatemalan military leaders on the 188th Fighter Wing's tactical communications capability and hazardous materials identification equipment. Guatemala is Arkansas' partner in the National Guard's State Partnership Program. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Guatemalan military leaders observe trench rescue operations during Urban Search and Rescue training at the 188th Fighter Wing July 11. The visit was part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



World needs more Andy Taylors, Mayberrys

Commentary by Maj. Herbert Hodde
188th Fighter Wing chaplain

A few weeks ago a good friend of mine passed away whom I never met: Andy Griffith. Although a formidable actor he will be best remembered for his role as the soft spoken, fun loving, guitar playing, sheriff of Mayberry, N.C., Andy Taylor. Shortly after his death I read an article in which the author stated, "Now a days we need more Mayberry and less Jersey Shore."

He was known as the sheriff without a gun. In a city where the greatest crime is jaywalking, and a town drunk who locks himself up at night in the local jail, one could argue a sidearm was simply not needed.

The weapon represented power and for Sheriff Taylor the power resided in the badge. Wearing the badge is not sufficient in and of itself; it's the person behind the badge. In this

case it was Andy Taylor.

He was the sheriff, and by the way the justice of the peace. These were elected positions. The local town's residents voted for him. They had confidence in him and trusted he would not only do the job but always the do right thing, a practice that can be found somewhat lacking in our modern day judicial system.

I was in a meeting once where I was confronted by a loud, boisterous, almost crude individual. This person was quick to interrupt the group, interject their own agenda and gave the impression of complete confidence and control. It was only later when confiding in a colleague I learned of the insecurity of the team member.

It has been my experience the individual most secure in who they are and what they know are the calm ones. Quietness personified Sheriff Taylor. It wasn't from being lazy or not having a sense of

one's surrounding, rather a reflection of still waters running deep.

Finally, Andy had a great sense of humor. On more than one occasion Deputy Barney Fife would find himself on the short end of the stick of Andy's practical jokes.

The mayor of Mayberry would find himself sputtering and fuming at Andy's homespun logic and creativity. The ability to laugh at one's self, or surroundings, to me is a testimony not of irresponsibility but of inner confidence.

As long as there is TiVo, DVR, retro channels, DVDs and Blu-Ray, I'm confident I can pull my favorite episode and bask in the glory of what was once Mayberry. Andy Griffith will be missed even though his character remains. And when it is all said and done, isn't it the one thing for which we wish? May our character be sufficient to remain.

188th promotions



To Technical Sergeant

- Kelli N. Gray
- Chancey D. Combs
- Brandon A. Djordjevic
- Richard G. Lunsford
- Samuel D. Miller
- Charley D. Parker
- Shane D. Parker
- Brandon W. Teel
- Tony W. Woods
- Amy M. Quick
- Kevin R. Vargo
- Howard Vidrine



To Staff Sergeant

- Lauren N. Davidson
- Aaron T. Green
- Bryan D. Jeffery
- Derek J. Gordon
- Michael L. Rutherford
- Ian J. Sutton



To Senior Airman

- Andrew W. Sharp
- Zhe "Kat" Tan
- Jeffrey K. Allen
- Michael A. Beach
- Tyler D. Brooks
- Kyle S. Cromer
- Dustin A. Flaspohler
- Christopher B. Franklin
- Zane R. Gorman
- Stewart D. Lewis
- Phillip R. Parker
- Clint A. Pulis
- Asim J. Qamoum
- Jerry W. Satterfield, Jr.
- Misty I. Wallace
- Mark A. Watson
- Michael D. Wear



To Airman

- Anthony P. Anderson, Jr.

Citizen Airman Dining Hall menu

Saturday, Aug. 4

Pulled pork sandwich, potato wedge, baked beans, cole slaw, peach crisp, ice cream, drink.

Sunday, Aug. 5

Ham/turkey/roast beef sandwich, macaroni salad, potato salad, chips, brownie, ice cream, drink.

Short-order line (both days): 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.

Social media tip: Classified info

Don't divulge classified, FOUO or sensitive materials, photos or video. OPSEC is crucial to the mission. Think before you write or video; if you're not sure, ask public affairs or a judge

advocate. A harmless video of an Airman on the flightline could be sensitive if it's a deployed environment showing bombers on the flightline. Be smart. Security is at the source.

FM 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.



Taze of our lives



Airman 1st Class Evan Davis, left, and Airman 1st Class Steven Frank, right, hold up Tech Sgt. Sean Dover as Master Sgt. Jason Reichert, back, operates a Taser stun gun during training at the 188th Security Forces Squadron July 15. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Master Sgt. John Selby, left, and Airman 1st Class Steven Frank, right, hold up Senior Airman Stephen Edwards as Master Sgt. Jason Reichert, back, operates a Taser stun gun during training at the 188th Security Forces Squadron July 15. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

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.

Social media tip

Stay in your lane

If you're an aircraft mechanic, you're well suited to communicate messages about aircraft maintenance. If you're an aircraft mechanic blogging about military legal issues, reconsider your blog.



Airman 1st Class Mary Wiuff is a munitions systems specialist from the 188th Maintenance Squadron currently deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, Bagram Airfield (BAF), Afghanistan. Wiuff stands next to a shipment of GBU-38 smart bombs June 23. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy)



Staff Sgt. Bryan Cheeks is a munitions systems specialist from the 188th Maintenance Squadron currently deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, Bagram Airfield (BAF), Afghanistan. Cheeks is checking the GPS guidance system on a GBU-38 smart bomb June 23. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy)

Munitions

Continued from Page 1

ammo troops."

Like any cross-section of America, professionals assigned to Conventional Maintenance "Ammo" bring together a diverse series of personal stories that blend into a tightly-knit and highly effective unit.

Back in the Cold War days of the 1980s and 1990s, the A-10 first began to turn heads as a new close-air support aircraft. One of the Air Force service members serving during that tense period was the father of Staff Sgt. Bryan Cheeks. Cheeks is now a munitions systems specialist deployed from the Arkansas Air National

Guard's 188th Fighter Wing in Fort Smith. His desire to be part of this mission is directly connected to his memories with his father.

"I joined the Air Force to follow my father's legacy," Cheeks said. "Seeing the example he set, and how proud he was to be part of the Air Force, I always wanted to serve like he did. He used to take me to his unit on Friday nights after school and homework. I learned what it was like to be part of the Air Force family."

He is happy that his sons appreciate what he does, and wants to carry on the tradition. He says his 13 year old wants to go to college and be an officer with munitions, and his 11 year old already says he wants to work in the munitions field.

But his immediate family pri-

ority will be to get home on time for the arrival of his newest family member, his first daughter.

"My wife and I are expecting a baby girl at the same time I'm scheduled to get home," Cheeks said. "So I'm hoping to be home in time to be with my wife when our baby girl arrives."

While deployed, Cheeks is part of a team that prepares and tests large munitions before they are delivered to an A-10 to load. He said that he realizes their job may be a small one to some, but it gives him, "An overwhelming sense of pride that what I do here, even though it's a small part, allows our guys on the ground to get home safe and sound."

One of Cheeks' co-workers both at home station and deployed, Airman 1st Class Mary Wiuff, also has family connections to military service. Her grandfather served in the Air Force, and her brother served in the Marines. But the Little Rock, Ark., native discovered that her personal drive to serve actually came from somewhere deeper.

"I was working small job after small job back home," Wiuff said. "But I kept thinking, 'I can't live like this.' I knew inside there was something more for me. My

grandfather always told great stories about the Air Force. I spoke to recruiters, and the strangest thing happened. When I signed that dotted line, it felt like a weight was lifted off of me. I knew right away I was made to do this. I love serving and I love this job."

Wiuff married another Air Force member last July, but he was stationed in Japan. Not long after the wedding Wiuff was mobilized and deployed to Bagram, so the last time the newlyweds saw each other was January. She hopes he will be home to greet her when she gets there.

Apart from the separation from her new husband, Wiuff is happy to do her part of the big mission.

"There are a lot of people out there who need our help. This is my way of contributing to the people we're trying to make free, and to protect our own troops," Wiuff said. "I feel like this is my calling. It makes me feel good that, even though I'm not out there, what I do here helps good people out there."

Even in a mission focused on missiles, bombs, and 30mm explosive projectiles, the men and women of Conventional Maintenance work with hearts forged from the ideals of equality, freedom and a sense of family.



Berry

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operations at the 188th for both the A-10 Thunderbolt II "Wart-hog" and the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

"Brig. Gen. Berry has always been a tremendous asset to the 188th," said Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander. "He made significant contributions to the combat capability and overall mission effectiveness of the 188th and his demanding, high standards of excellence contributed to some of the safest, most mission-effective flying years on record for fighters in the Air National Guard.

"His diligence helped facilitate the largest aircraft conversion in Air National Guard history one month early despite the Air Force facing months of limited sortie availability due to fleet-wide wing cracks which grounded most A-10s worldwide. We look forward to his leadership and direction in his new position at Arkansas National Guard Joint Force Headquarters."

As chief of staff, Berry assists Brig. Gen. Dwight Balch, Arkansas Air National Guard commander, and Maj. Gen. William Wofford, Arkansas National Guard adjutant general, in formulating, developing and coordinating all programs, policies and plans, ensuring the combat readiness of the Fort Smith-based 188th Fighter Wing; Little Rock Air Force Base-based 189th Airlift Wing, which is the only Air National Guard C-130 training wing; Little Rock AFB-based 123rd Intelligence Squadron; National Guard Marksmanship Training Center, based at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Ark.; and 154th Weather Flight, based at Little



Theresa Berry pins a general star on the uniform of her husband, Brig. Gen. Mark H. Berry, during a promotion ceremony July 15 at the 188th Fighter Wing. Berry, a former maintenance group commander, became the first officer from the 188th to be promoted to brigadier general in more than 25 years. (National Guard photo by Airman Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Rock AFB. Berry also oversees Arkansas' approximately 2,000 Active Guard Reserve and traditional Guardsmen.

"General Berry is a man of integrity and character and extremely deserving of the promotion to general officer," Wofford said. "He's had a very diverse career with several deployments and assignments. Our young officers should take notice and learn from him. He has done it the right way."

Berry was also awarded the Legion of Merit during the ceremony for his achievements as maintenance group commander during multiple aircraft conversions and upgrades.

While the attendees at the ceremony had their thoughts on Berry, his thoughts were foremost on Airmen from the 188th recently sent into harm's way. Approximately 375 Airmen with the 188th are currently deployed to Bagram Air-



Maj. Gen. William Wofford, Arkansas National Guard adjutant general, delivers a speech at the promotion ceremony of Brig. Gen. Mark H. Berry July 15 at the 188th Fighter Wing. Berry became the fourth officer from the 188th to be promoted to brigadier general and the first in more than 25 years. Berry will serve as the Arkansas Air National Guard chief of staff. (National Guard photo by Airman Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

field, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Right now it's about 35 minutes after midnight in Afghanistan, and there are more

than 300 men and women from the 188th Fighter Wing, among the many Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, putting their lives

Berry

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on the line, serving this country because this country asked them to serve." Berry said in a speech. "They are incredibly talented, dedicated, men and women who accomplish the remarkable while serving in a demanding, dangerous and austere environment."

Berry is the fourth member of the 188th Fighter Wing to be promoted from the wing to the rank of brigadier general, the most recent being Brig. Gen. (retired) H.D. McCarty, a former chaplain with the 188th who pinned on brigadier general in July 1986. Before that, Maj. Gen. Charles W. Harris, former 188th Fighter Wing commander, was promoted to brigadier general in 1985 and appointed commander of the Arkansas Air National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Edward Schneider became the first general officer from the 188th when he was promoted to brigadier general in 1980 and appointed as assistant adjutant general for Air, Arkansas National Guard.

Berry served in a diverse array of assignments during his years as an enlisted Airmen and officer. He enlisted in the Air Force in August 1974 and served as an air traffic controller. In 1981, Berry was assigned to the Nevada Test Site, Las Vegas, Nev., in direct support of presidentially directed projects and programs in the Department of Energy and Department of Defense Special Projects and Testing.

Berry attended Officer Training School in 1985, followed by his assignment to the 2110th Communications Squadron, Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Okla., as chief of Air Traffic Control Operations. In 1988, Berry assumed duties at



Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) Doug Berry, left, and Mason Berry pin on general stars on the uniform of Brig. Gen. Mark H. Berry during a promotion ceremony held at the 188th Fighter Wing July 15. Berry, a former maintenance group commander, became the first officer from the 188th to be promoted to brigadier general in more than 25 years. (National Guard photo by Airman Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea as deputy chief, Air Traffic Control Operations in support of the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. After his return from the Republic of Korea, Berry attended the Ira C. Eaker Center for Professional Development and was subsequently assigned as assistant professor of aerospace studies, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, Ark.

Upon his separation from active duty in 1992, Berry joined the 188th Fighter Wing as a public affairs officer. Berry was assigned as 188th Support Group commander in July 2001 and as 188th Maintenance Group commander in November 2001. With more than 11 years logged in his most recent position at the 188th, Berry was the longest-serving maintenance group commander in the Combat Air Forces.



Brig. Gen. Mark H. Berry speaks to members of local ABC and CBS affiliates following a promotion ceremony held at the 188th Fighter Wing July 15. Berry became the fourth officer from the 188th to be promoted to brigadier general and the first in more than 25 years. Berry will serve as the Arkansas Air National Guard chief of staff. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Berry was also vice chairman of the Air National Guard A-10 Aircraft Maintenance Council from 2008-2011 and most recently was president of the National Guard Association of Arkansas.

"Back in 1974, I didn't know if I would graduate from Basic Training, much less be standing before you as a general officer," Berry said. "Even a year ago, I wouldn't have dreamed this day would come, either."

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 \$10,000 cash and the G.I. Bill

Kicker. Current members may receive \$5,000 cash for a three-year reenlistment and \$10,000 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

- 3D1X3 RF Transmission Systems
- 3P0X1 Security Forces
- 3D1X1 Client Systems
- 2A6X1 Aerospace Propulsion
- 2W0X1 Munitions Systems
- 3D1X2 Cyber Transport Systems
- 2A3X3 Tactical Aircraft Maintenance

Local incentives

- 1C7X1 Airfield Management
- 2A6X2 Aerospace Ground Equipment
- 2A6X6 Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems
- 3E4X1 Water and Fuel Systems Maintenance
- 3E9X1 Emergency Management

Diversity

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our military leadership diversity," McKinley said. "It's a problem with cyclical effects. Through the work of our adjutants general and other National Guard leaders, I am confident that we can move toward a future workforce that more clearly reflects the population of our great nation."

McKinley said accessing and adopting some programs from the civilian sector is one way that the Guard could use to achieve its diversity goals.

"Another step to reaching our goals on diversity and inclusion in the Guard is for each state, territory and

the District of Columbia to establish state joint diversity councils and assign a liaison to work with the NGB Joint Diversity Executive Council," he said.

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall, the National Guard's senior enlisted leader, said in order for the organization to remain relevant, "we must understand diversity and how to strategically capitalize on the strength of our Soldiers, Airmen and civilians."

"Diversity must be recognized as an enhancement of the character of our organization," McKinley said. "Change is never easy, but I remain confident in the Soldiers, Airmen and civilians of the National Guard to get this work done," he said.

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 nor-

mally 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.

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

188th vacancy announcement 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, 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.