



The Flying Razorback

188th Fighter Wing

Arkansas Air National Guard

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Members of Afrique Aya, a troupe of drummers and dancers, perform at the 188th Fighter Wing during a Black History Month celebration held at the Hugh B. Correll Headquarters building Feb. 3 during a Unit Training Assembly. The group performed rhythms inspired by the music and culture of West Africa. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

188th celebrates Black History Month

By Senior Airman John Hillier
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

FORT SMITH, Ark. — The official Black History Month observance at the 188th Fighter Wing invited Airmen to enjoy the music and sounds of West Africa, while learning about many contributions to American society made by African Americans.

Master Sgt. Sam Janski, wing staff first sergeant, talked about the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose flying saved lives above the skies of Europe during World War II, and the ingenuity of Fredrick McKinley Jones, whose pioneering work in the field of refrigeration saved lives on the ground by preserving critical medical supplies.

Airman 1st Class Richard Green, a

SEE BLACK HISTORY PAGE 4

Conversion immersion



An armed MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle taxis down a runway in Afghanistan. The 188th is currently in the beginning stages of converting to an MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) mission. The Reaper is capable of carrying both precision-guided bombs and air-to-ground missiles. The 188th's mission conversion team hosted a knowledge expo Feb. 3 to familiarize unit members with the new Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) positions slated to be a part of the new mission. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson)

188th preps Airmen for mission change

By Senior Airman John Hillier
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

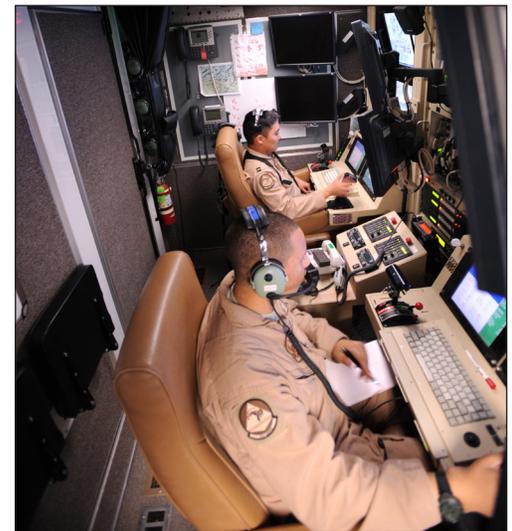
FORT SMITH, Ark. — The upcoming mission conversion for the 188th Fighter Wing has many Airmen excited about their futures with the wing.

The 188th is currently in the beginning stages of converting from A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" to an MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) mission. The 188th will also be adding a targeting squadron and an Intel group as part of the conversion.

The 188th's mission conversion team hosted a knowledge expo to familiarize unit members with the new Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) positions slated to be a part of the new mission. The expo also furnished unit members with the opportunity to speak with personnel who are already in those career fields.

"Our end goal is to make sure that people are aware of the larger options that are out

SEE CONVERSION PAGE 7



Capt. Ryan Jodoi, rear, flies an MQ-9 Reaper while Airman 1st Class Patrick Snyder controls a full motion video camera at Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan. The 188th is currently in the beginning stages of converting to an MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) mission. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.)



The Flying Razorback

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The Flying Razorback

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My job is people and everyone is my business

Commentary by Master Sgt. Brian W. Anible
188th Mission Support Group first sergeant

Before graduation at the United States Air Force First Sergeant Academy, first shirt cadets are expected to shout a chant called "One Sharp Rock". This chant represents the first sergeants' diamond that we wear on our uniform.

The diamond symbolizes sharpness, transparency, high value, rareness, and desirability. Diamonds on sleeves signify leadership, accountability, commitment and core value expectations.

We are not super humans by no means. First sergeants come from the common people throughout the unit. We are typically 15-20 service year E-6 or E-7s interested in a career change. What makes us stand out from the rest is that our primary focus is taking care of people. Unit-wide everyone has to abide by all the rules and regulations, yet first sergeants have to also enforce them. Everyone is our business regardless of age, gender, color and any other differences. The "good ole boy" network is not a part of our vocabulary. Everyone should and will be treated equally.

The first sergeant's primary role is to provide commanders with a mission ready enlisted force at any given time. Each unit member should desire to excel individually but at the same time strive to work in unison as a team so mission goals and requirements are met.

Our expectation is to consistently be in front of everyone at all drills and summer camps. We need to know you and you need to know us.

The idea for writing a first sergeant commentary is another opportunity to spread our message. The goal is to cover a variety of topics from core values, morale/welfare issues, regulation awareness, career progression and many other things that affect the unit.

We want to help foster the professionalism that the 188th's Flying Razorbacks stand for. Our hope is that every member is or will read *The Flying Razorback*. The 188th Public Affairs Office does a great job putting it together every month. Articles

take considerable time and effort to write and edit until the finished product is displayed each month.

If these articles produce positive thoughts and actions then the effort will be a tremendous success. We value each of you as members of the 188th and we hope

to hear from you on suggestions and feedback to help us make our contribution an asset to *The Flying Razorback* newspaper.

Continually improving the communication link between one another regardless of rank is paramount to a healthy organization. Every member from our E-1 Airmen to our full-bird colonels should be a part of this vitally shared link.

The current 188th First Sergeant team is for the most part a newly formed group. We have been springing forth many new ideas and concepts at our council meetings. Our proactive team will soon be implementing some of these inspiring ideas into action. We think you will be pleasantly surprised and on board with our ideas.

We challenge all who have ambition to grow career-wise to consider applying for future first sergeant positions. Start now by completing your professional military education well before deadlines.

Volunteer in your work area as a Unit Career Advisor, PT leader, or help mentor some of your Airmen. All this extra duty will help you gain leadership and relationship building experience.

First sergeant positions have longer hours and are quite challenging but the intrinsic value of helping others is immeasurable and quite rewarding. Whether we serve the unit from the dining facility, base gate, hangar or clinic, we are all links to the 188th Flying Razorback chain. One weak link can cause the entire chain to be ineffective.

During the March drill, thank your first shirt for a job well done. There are two adages you should never hear your shirt say, "I've seen it all" and "I'm all caught up". See you soon and we look forward to taking care of our Flying Razorbacks.



188th mission conversion corner

Communication key for smooth transition

By Lt. Col. Toby Brallier

188th Fighter Wing conversion project officer

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Welcome to the Conversion Corner, your one stop shop for mission conversion updates and important information. One of our primary tasks through the conversion process is to help keep the entire 188th Fighter Wing informed and give every individual the tools and information it needs to make timely and keen decisions. At the same time, we need your inputs and suggestions to help this process go smoothly.

As a start to this process, we have added a conversion folder to the Shared Drive that we will continuously update with info for the Wing members. Go to S:\FW\188th Conversion 2013 for this info.

We will continue to improve this product as we move forward. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Word document is currently among the info that may help answer some of the common questions circulating. Please send any questions you would like to have added/answered to the FAQs up to your supervisor and they will get it to the conversion committee via the Ask the Commander E-mail org box at 188fw.askthecommander@ang.af.mil.

As we start to make info available on the S Drive, it is very important that people use the information judiciously. Although we will

be taking precautions not to post Privacy Act info, we need everyone's help to ensure that the proper OPSEC is maintained and that info is not streamed across the Internet or other areas where inappropriate.

We will do our best to keep the wing informed as information becomes available or as changes occur.

Upcoming conversion events and anticipated timelines

March 2-3 UTA: Drill status Guardsman (DSG) survey

March 7: Full-timers Human Resources Office (HRO) briefing and survey

Early March: Possible unit manning document drop

June UTA: 18X Remotely Pilot Aircraft pilot board (DSG Positions)

Summer/early fall: Possible Site Activation Task Force (SATAF). NOTE: This process will assess many aspects of the conversion and help "determine the way ahead" for many of the conversion projects and timelines.

UPT board set for June UTA

The 188th Fighter Wing will hold an Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) board May 12, 2013. The deadline for applications will be April 19, 2013. These will be traditional Guardsman drill status positions with the new MQ-9 Reaper mission. Please contact Tech Sgt. Jeff Mathews or Master Sgt. Craig Gardner in recruiting at 479-806-5191 or 479-573-5147 with questions about package requirements. There will be additional boards held in the future.

Members who need to take the Air Force Officer Qualification Test (AFOQT) should contact Tech Sgt. Lindsey Mott in the 188th Military Personnel Flight at 479-573-5762 to schedule their test. Minimum requirements to apply are as follows: Bachelors degree; passing AFOQT scores; current passing AFPT score; no medical issues or profiles; and under the age of 30 (some waivers may be considered up to age 35).

Intel officer board scheduled for June UTA

The 188th Fighter Wing will hold an Intelligence officer board during the June Unit Training Assembly. The deadline for applications will be May 20, 2013. These will be traditional Guardsman drill status positions with the new MQ-9 Reaper mission. Please contact Tech Sgt. Jeff Mathews or Master Sgt. Craig Gardner in recruiting at 479-806-5191 or 479-573-5147 with questions about package requirements. There will be additional boards held in the future.

Members who need to take the Air Force Officer Qualification Test (AFOQT) should contact Tech Sgt. Lindsey Mott in the 188th Military Personnel Flight at 479-573-5762 to schedule their test. Minimum requirements to apply are as follows: Bachelors degree; passing AFOQT scores; current passing AFPT score; no medical issues or profiles; and under the age of 35 (some age waivers may be considered).

Sensor operator board slated for June

The 188th Fighter Wing will hold a sensor operator board for all interested drill status Guardsmen on June 1, 2013. Anyone looking to pursue this position will need to visit Master Sgt. Keith Freeman in the 188th Retention Office during the scheduled April Unit Training Assembly. A career change worksheet will be completed to verify that a member is eligible to apply for this position. All applicants are required to furnish a copy of their AFPT scores to the 188th Retention Office as well. Deadline for applications will be May 15, 2013. Please contact Master Sgt. Freeman at 479-573-5360 for questions concerning this board. There will be additional boards held in the future.



Pictured above and below are MQ-9 Reapers. The 188th Fighter Wing is in the beginning stages of converting to MQ-9s.





The Flying Razorback member spotlight

Hometown: Roland, Oklahoma.
Job title: Heavy mobile mechanic.
In the 188th since: 2003.
Hobbies: Trying to go fast.
Goals: To retire.
Favorite TV show: "Pass Time."
Favorite actor: Chuck Norris.
Favorite animal: Pug.
Favorite comedian: Kevin Hart.
Favorite soft drink: Coca Cola.
Favorite food: Mexican food.
Favorite song: "Reborn" by Stone Sour.
Favorite word or phrase: "Warm that head up."
Favorite super hero: Iron Man.
Favorite college team: Oklahoma Sooners.
My dream shopping spree: Jegs.
Place I'd most like to visit: Rome.
Favorite cartoon character: Stewie from "Family Guy."
Favorite automobile: 1968 Chevrolet Camaro.
My first car was: 1981 K5 Chevrolet Blazer.
My worst habit: Procrastination.
My pet peeves: People who repeat stuff over and over.
I am proudest of: My family.
What scares me the most: Mark Barger's mustache.



Tech Sgt. Chris Corbit, 188th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was selected as the 188th's Flying Razorback spotlight for March 2013. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Technical Sgt. Chris Corbit

Black history

Continued from Page 1

member of the 188th Logistics Readiness Squadron, related the strides that African American members of the 188th have made during their careers.

The event's keynote speaker was Dr. Charles Robinson II, a history professor at the University

of Arkansas, and Vice Provost of Diversity Affairs. Robinson has published four books as well as earned the Fulbright College Master Teacher Award, the Arkansas Alumni Distinguished Teacher Award and the Student Alumni Board Teacher of the Year Award.

Robinson spoke passionately about the continued need for Black History Month, and how it provides an opportunity for all

Americans to share in their country's heritage.

"Every time anyone eats a potato chip, drives through a traffic light, receives a blood transfusion, or uses a microphone, they need to know that a black person was responsible for making it possible," Robinson said. "When we understand that there were many groups of people that contributed to making America

what it is today, it gives us a sense that we are all one family and we are all united together in a common cause.

"Black History Month reminds us that we have a responsibility as citizens today to try to continue to create, as the Constitution says, 'a more perfect union.'"

Robinson went on to compare the building of American society

SEE **BLACK HISTORY** PAGE 6

188th Fighter Wing promotions

To Technical Sergeant

Billy D. Bull Jr.
 George W. Burns Jr.
 Christopher G. Cooper
 Stephen Hindmarsh
 Kevin J. Geels



To Senior Airman

Brian C. Davis
 Kimberly D. Lopez Alvarado
 Bobby D. Hickman III
 Tyler S. Sixkiller



To Staff Sergeant

Jasmine A. Brown
 Eric C. Green



To Airman 1st Class

Cody L. Martin
 Shelbi L. Newsom



Citizen Airman Dining Hall menu

Saturday, March 2

Steamed broccoli with cheese, Texas toast, salad bar, brownies, ice cream, coffee, tea, milk.

Sunday, March 3

Mashed potatoes and gravy, corn on the cob, salad bar, assorted cobblers, ice cream, coffee, tea, milk.

Short-order line

Hamburger, cheeseburger, hot dog, chili dog, baked beans, nachos and cheese sauce, chips, salad bar.



Women's History Month observation

Arkansas Guard's first female general officer to speak at 188th

188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Brig. Gen. Patricia M. Anslow will be the guest speaker for the 188th Fighter Wing's Women's History Month observance scheduled for March 2 at 3 p.m. in the Hugh B. Correll Headquarters Facility's auditorium. Anslow made history as the Arkansas National Guard's first female general officer when she was promoted to the rank of brigadier general June 22, 2012.

Anslow, a 1989 graduate of West Point, currently serves as the Arkansas Army National Guard assistant Adjutant General and also Joint Force Headquarters commander. She supervises the Joint Staff for the Arkansas National Guard and provides command and control for the 233rd Regional Training Institute, National Guard Marksmanship Training Center, the Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center and Camp Robinson Maneuver Training Cen-

ter. She provides the vision and direction for all aspects of personnel, operations, logistics and strength maintenance for the units and the staff. She prepares the training and infrastructure strategic plans that ensure sustainable training opportunities for state, regional and national customers of the two installations and training centers.

She also manages the organizational structure to support joint operations for defense support of civil authority activities. Anslow's position is the adjutant general's primary designee for dual-status commander in the event of a national response for defense support of civil authorities.

She deployed as a platoon leader with the 100th Engineer Company during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. In 1993 she became a member of the Arkansas Army National Guard. Anslow was Commander, 875th Engineer Battalion, Arkansas Army

188th Women's History Month celebration

When:
March 2
3-4 p.m.

Where:
188th Fighter Wing
Headquarters auditorium

Guest speaker:
Brig. Gen.
Patricia M. Anslow



Brig. Gen. Patricia M. Anslow
Arkansas Army National Guard assistant adjutant general/Joint Force Headquarters commander

National Guard, and deployed the unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from September 2006 to September 2007. During the surge operations the battalion also served as the Task Force Engineers for the 3rd Infantry Division. She served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Engineering during the design and construc-

tion of several Armed Forces Readiness Centers throughout the state. Anslow commanded the 87th Troop Command from July 2010 to June 2012, mobilizing several of her subordinate units in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom prior to her promotion.

188th command chief change of authority slated for March UTA

WHEN: Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m.

WHERE: The 188th Fighter Wing's Red Horse Training Facility (formerly called RTS) building.

WHAT: Command Chief Master Sgt. Asa Carter will relinquish his authority as 188th command chief to Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Bradley. Carter served as the 188th's command chief for more than six years. Carter will move on to a new assignment as the Arkansas Air National Guard's state command chief. Bradley previously served as both the 188th and state human resource advisor before being named as Carter's successor.

188th Fighter Wing to promote Mitchell to chief

WHEN: Saturday, March 2 at 8:15 a.m.

WHERE: 188th Fighter Wing's Hugh B. Correll Headquarters Building.

WHAT: Senior Master Sgt. Kerry Mitchell will be promoted to the rank of chief master sergeant during an official ceremony. Mitchell currently serves as the 188th's human resource advisor. Mitchell has served in a variety of roles over his 28-year career. He previously served as the first sergeant for the 188th Maintenance Squadron. Mitchell was also the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Non-Destructive Inspection (NDI) lab for 10 years. Mitchell is being promoted to chief under the Exceptional Promotion Program.

188th Fun Run/Walk 5K set for June UTA

WHEN: Saturday, June 1 at 3 p.m. during the Unit Training Assembly.

WHERE: 188th Fighter Wing.

WHAT: The 188th Fighter Wing host a 5k run/walk for unit members and spouses. Following the competition food and beverages will be available at the pavilion on base for everyone to enjoy.

ACCOLADES: Medals for first place will be awarded to the following age categories in both male and female divisions: 17-29, 30-39, 40-49 and 50-59.



Black history

Continued from Page 4

to the construction of a house.

"The structure of this house must be supported by fairness, and the twin pillars of truth and justice," Robinson said. "This house must have a long, long table of equality surrounded by many chairs of opportunity, and on the center of the table of equality in this house is the piping-hot pie of American prosperity.

"And if you know this pie of prosperity like I know it... you can never be satisfied with the crumbs - not even the large ones. And all the descendants of slaves and those of slave masters will be able to join hands and see it together because all of us have a role to play in building this house."

The event culminated with a rousing performance from Afrique Aya, a troupe of drummers and dancers which shared rhythms inspired by the music and culture of West Africa.

Afrique Aya celebrated the synergy of nature, spirit, movement and percussion. Through a rich tradition of storytelling and

"When we understand that there were many groups of people that contributed to making America what it is today, it gives us a sense that we are all one family and we are all united together in a common cause."

— Dr. Charles Robinson II, University of Arkansas history professor

performances, Afrique Aya's goal is to connect its audience with lyric movement and music that conveys a vibrant, universal narrative.

Afrique Aya's music and dancing had the audience on its feet, singing along, and encouraged Airmen to join in the festivities.

"We were honored to have a talented group of performers and a distinguished and highly respected keynote speaker," said Maj. Lionel Riley, 188th Equal Opportunity Office chief. "We're very thankful they all took time out of their busy schedules to help us celebrate the history and contributions African Americans have made to this country."



Capt. Danielle Wood, 188th Equal Opportunity officer, right, dances with a member of Afrique Aya, a troupe of drummers and dancers, during a performance at the 188th Fighter Wing during a Black History Month celebration held at the Hugh B. Correll Headquarters building Feb. 3. The group performed rhythms inspired by the music and culture of West Africa. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Dr. Charles F. Robinson II delivers a speech during a Black History Month celebration held at the 188th Fighter Wing's Hugh B. Correll Headquarters building Feb. 3. Robinson, the event's keynote speaker, has been a University of Arkansas professor for more than 20 years, publishing four books and earning the Fulbright College Master Teacher Award, the Arkansas Alumni Distinguished Teacher Award and the Student Alumni Board Teacher of the Year Award. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Senior Airman Julie Darrough, left, Senior Airman Hannah Landeros, Staff Sgt. Caressa Soriano and Tech Sgt Michelle Malone dance with a member of Afrique Aya, a troupe of drummers and dancers, during a performance at the 188th Fighter Wing during a Black History Month celebration Feb. 3. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Members of Afrique Aya, a troupe of drummers and dancers, perform at the 188th Fighter Wing during a Black History Month celebration held at the Hugh B. Correll Headquarters building Feb. 3 during a Unit Training Assembly. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Conversion

Continued from Page 1

there," said Lt. Col. Toby Brallier, 188th conversion project officer. "I can tell you what the job is, but I can't tell you what it's like to live the job and what to expect on a daily basis. So we brought in some people from other units who work these same jobs so they can field questions."

Positions in RPA crews, Distributed Common Ground Systems (DCGS) and targeteering will have the largest number of openings. Manning documents, though, are not expected to be released until March so the conversion team is still dealing with a lot of unknowns.

"There are some job aspects that must wait to be discussed until unit members receive security clearances," Brallier said. "But what the team can do in the interim is give people broad, general overviews and provide opportunities to talk with other Airmen currently doing these jobs.

"There are also plans for unit members who currently hold security clearances to view more detailed briefing on the SIPR Network."

During the expo, subject matter experts

"The conversion team will do everything it can to get information to unit members so they can make the best decisions for their future and the future of the wing."

— Lt. Col. Toby Brallier, 188th conversion project officer

provided overviews of individual AFSCs expected to be part of the conversion as well as details about training requirements.

Three sessions were held throughout the day, providing Airmen working various duty schedules an opportunity to attend. At each session, Airmen volunteers from the 123rd Intelligence Squadron, located at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.; the 178th Intelligence Group in Springfield, Ohio; and the 147th Reconnaissance Wing in Houston, Texas, were on hand to provide their expertise and answer questions.

Brallier said that while many of the new jobs will require Top Secret security clearances and long technical training courses, the 188th is working hard to prepare its members for success.

"The conversion team will do everything it can to get information to unit members so they can make the best decisions for their future and the future of the wing," Brallier said.



Lt. Col. Toby Brallier, 188th Fighter Wing conversion project officer, briefs members of the 188th during a knowledge expo at the wing Feb. 3, 2013. The expo familiarized unit members with the new Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) positions slated to be a part of the 188th's new MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft mission. The expo also furnished unit members with the opportunity to speak with personnel from other units who are already in those career fields. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



A Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS), pictured above, will be a key aspect of the 188th's new mission. The DCGS weapon system is the Air Force's premier globally networked intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance weapon system. The DCGS produces intelligence information collected by the U-2, RQ-4 Global Hawk, MQ-9 Reaper and MQ-1 Predator. (Courtesy photo)



An MQ-9 Reaper flies above Crech Air Force Base, Nev., during a local training mission. The 188th is currently in the beginning stages of converting to an MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) mission. (U.S. Air Force photo/Paul Ridgeway)



An MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle flies over the crowd during the Aviation Nation Air Show at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Robert W. Valenca)



An MQ-9 Reaper sits on the flightline at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., June 19. The 188th is currently in the beginning stages of converting to an MQ-9 Reaper mission. (U.S. Air Force photo/Lance Cheung)



Trust in God, faith key to enduring uncertain times

By Lt. Col. Tom Smith

188th Fighter Wing chaplain

Uncertainty. Ambiguity. Vacillation. The unknown.

All of these are words commonly associated with “change”— especially those that involve some major, life-changing event. But, even those don’t have to reduce us to a quivering heap of despairing Jello if we know how to respond in “victorious Faith” (I John 4:4; 5:4).

Let’s face it, life’s full of unknowns and unexpected curves in the road. A day that begins with bright sunshine and blue skies can quickly become a hunker-down-and-ride-it-out, rollercoaster, nightmarish, hellish experience.

And, if we don’t know how to weather those storms, we’ll soon feel like the shipwrecked man at sea, clinging to a piece of driftwood, hoping that some ship passing by might see us before we become shark bait or lose our grip, heading straight down to Davy Jones’ Locker. The question is: “How can we face change and uncertainty unafraid?”

In Psalm 107:26-27 we read “They mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths; their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro and stagger like a drunken man and are at their wit’s end.”

Although we don’t know who wrote these words, it’s clear that he knew something about traveling on a ship and getting seasick. And, when we throw

in the fact that folks back then thought the world was flat, supported by four columns, and you could sail off the end of the earth, we can better appreciate his fear and despair!

Who of us hasn’t found ourselves at Wit’s End Corner, which is at the corner of Hopelessness and Despair? And, who of us, who’ve been there, can testify that the only way you can look when you’re there is up because you’re flat of your back?

Thankfully, the anonymous author didn’t leave it up to us to come up with a solution when we end up there. In vv.28-30 he writes, “Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble and He brings them out of their distresses. He makes the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then they’re glad because they’re quiet — because He brings them unto their desire haven.”

As we face the uncertainties of a mission change here at the 188th Fighter Wing, we should follow the psalmist’s “Prescription for Peace” and “cry unto the Lord in our trouble.” Then, we should trust him to guide us and provide for our needs in the days ahead as he has promised (Proverbs 3:5-6; Jeremiah 29:11; Philippians 4:19).

That way we can experience his “indescribable Peace” (Phil. 4:7), knowing that our sparrow-watching, hair-counting, tear-catching God will take care of us. Amen and amen. God bless you.

MilPDS conversion slated for March

By Tech Sgt. Patrick Crumby
188th Force Support Squadron

On March, 3, 2013, the Air Force Personnel Operations Agency is upgrading MilPDS and migrating to a newer more secure platform called Oracle R12. MilPDS will be unavailable from March 4-27.

Airmen’s base pay and entitlements (BAH, BAS, Haz Duty, Family Sep, etc.) managed by Air National Guard Financial Management Offices will not be affected. This was originally scheduled in December 2012, but was cancelled.

This article will address a list of critical actions which can have an effect on pay.

If you have an ETS outside of the upgrade window (April 15) re-enlistment/extensions during this timeframe will not be updated until after the upgrade is complete. Members will not submit a voluntary retirement/separation/discharge/conditional release vPCGR application with an effective date during the month of March 2013.

Members who have an approved voluntary retirement/

separation/discharge/conditional release in the month of March 2013 will have to wait until the upgrade is complete to accomplish. SGLI/FSGLI changes will be held and updated after migration is complete.

Also, DD214s will not be affected. DEERS/RAPIDS will not be affected. One exception is that marital/dependent changes can be updated in DEERS not MilPDS until upgrade is complete. For officers (OPRs) and AGR (EPRs) your evaluations will not be updated during the downtime.

Report on individual personnel (RIP) and point credit summaries (PCARS) will not be available via MilPDS (you can still get one off of vMPF).

All other self help applications such as vMPF, vPCGR, PRDA, Air Force Portal will still be available and will not be affected during this upgrade/migration. For further questions about this upgrade, please contact the 188th Fighter Wing Personnel Systems manager, Tech Sgt. Patrick Crumby, at 479-573-5766.

Individual readiness: Stay fit to fight

- Be conscious of your diet and exercise
 - Eat smaller portions (leave some on the plate)
 - Think about what you eat; eat the right foods – look at nutritional guidelines
 - Think about exercising and self motivate to participate in exercises
- Find a fitness buddy
 - Hold each other accountable – report results and activities to each other
 - Exercising with a buddy motivates you to participate and push yourself
- Participate in activities that you can enjoy
 - Join a fitness class: Aerobics, CrossFit, Zumba, martial arts, etc. (ask for a military discount)
 - Classes with weekly schedules keep you committed/involved over the long term
 - There are classes at the 188th during the week, and they are free!
- There’s no fitness miracle pill: Realize results take time
 - It takes a conscious effort over a period of time; take time for exercise
 - Maintaining your elevated level of fitness requires a lifestyle change
- Your Air National Guard career depends on your fitness success
 - Your test consists of cardio (run or walk), muscular (push-ups and sit-ups) and a waist measurement; focus on test areas and be successful

188th Fighter Wing UTA news

Upcoming drills

March 2-3

April 6-7



UTA pay dates

March 13

April 17



Let there be blood



188th Airmen participate in local blood drive: Airman 1st Class Steven Galvan donates blood during a blood drive hosted at the 188th Fighter Wing during February's Unit Training Assembly. The Arkansas Blood Institute arrived at the 188th Fighter Wing to assist Air National Guard volunteers in donating their blood. During the session, the institute gathered at least 30 pints of blood from 22 Airmen volunteers. Volunteers were able to donate either single bags of blood or double bags through the use of the double red blood cell machine. The machine collects twice as much blood from donors than the standard equipment used and also separates the donors' red blood cells from plasma. The institute's mission is to provide blood to patients in Western Arkansas. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

188th Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

Sexual assault prevention coordinator
Maj. Heath Allen
479-573-5221

Victim advocates
Capt. Lance Griffith
479-573-5126
Tech Sgt. Michelle Malone
479-573-5302
Tech Sgt. Kelly Webb
479-573-5355

SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247

Joint Force Headquarters SARC
Liz Bishop: 501-212-4099

Public Affairs officer board

The 188th Fighter Wing will be holding a selection board to hire an additional public affairs officer (35PX). This position is a traditional officer drill status Guardsman position and an O-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; writing articles 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 May 11, 2013.

'Ask the commander' now available

Have a question or concern you would like addressed? Whether it's a quirky question about the history of the base, a simple inquiry about how certain processes are accomplished on base or a serious concern about an issue of importance to you, there's a new communication tool to help address those questions and concerns. It's called "Ask the Commander" and it's a way for 188th Airmen and their families to communicate with 188th leadership about issues that impact them individually as well as the wing. Individuals seeking information or to have their problems or issues addressed can e-mail 188fw.askthecommander@ang.af.mil. Leadership will do their best to address each issue in a timely manner. Answers to issues that have a basewide impact will be considered for publication in The Flying Razorback as well as the 188th Facebook page and Website.

188th crime prevention hotline

What crimes to report

- Domestic violence
- Suspicious activity
- Threatening acts of behavior
- Possession of weapons on base
- Use or sale of illegal drugs
- Theft in the workplace

Off base call: 479-573-5000

On base call: 573-5000

Crime Prevention point of contact:

Chief Master Sgt. Archie Goins at 573-5332

Crime prevention tips

- Lock up your vehicles
- Lock up your office
- Permanently mark high value or pilferable items