



# The Flying Razorback

188th Fighter Wing

Arkansas Air National Guard

Ebbing ANG Base

September 2013



Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Rich, 188th Civil Engineering Squadron first sergeant, competes in the wing's fitness challenge during the track dedication Dec. 1, 2012. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## AF announces PT test changes

By Staff Sgt. David Salanitri  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Air Force senior leadership announced enhancements to the Air Force's Physical Fitness Assessment program, to be implemented Oct. 1.

In a letter to Airmen Aug. 20, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III explained the results of the comprehensive review, highlighting the strength of the program and the need for slight improvements.

"We have a tremendous program that has fundamentally changed the Air Force's overall fitness level over the past few years," Welsh said. "The PFT itself is not going to change. But even the best program can be improved upon, so we are making changes in four different areas to enhance the overall program."

Of the changes coming Oct. 1, the most significant is to the abdominal circumference por-

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## Doctor's orders



Lt. Col. Misty Zelk receives the 188th Medical Group's guidon during a change of command ceremony at Ebbing Air National Guard Base Aug. 4, 2013. Zelk assumed command of the group from Col. Paul Norris. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## Zelk assumes command of 188th Med Group

By Senior Airman John Hillier  
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

FORT SMITH, Ark. – Lt. Col. Misty M. Zelk assumed command of the 188th Medical Group from Col. Paul E. Norris, at a change of command ceremony Aug. 4, 2013.

"Lt. Col. Zelk has great challenges ahead," said Col. Mark W. Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander. "She has a fabulous team in place and is the right leader for the job. Under her command the medical group will rise to new heights."

Zelk's career has intertwined with the 188th Fighter Wing for many years. During the ceremony she recounted her journey thus far, from the Army National Guard to the Air National Guard, and how Airmen from the 188th helped nudge her along the path to her present position.

"I am honored to be standing before you



Col. Paul Norris, former 188th Medical Group commander, delivers a speech during a change of command ceremony Aug. 4, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

today as the 188th Medical group commander," Zelk said. "I credit the 188th with my Air Force career, and with the fact that I'm even still in the

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60th Anniversary  
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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. Stephen Bradley,**

188th Fighter Wing command chief  
master sergeant

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### The Flying Razorback

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## Make safety important for your family

**Commentary by Master Sgt. Mike Francis**  
188th Fighter Wing Ground Safety Manager

Safety takes on many forms. There is industrial safety to keep you safe at work, there is public safety, such as firemen and police, and there is home and family safety. With the start of a new school year, let's take a minute to focus on family safety. If you are reading this and aren't a parent, I apologize. Take a minute to discuss safety with your pets or talk to yourself about it.

Monday, Aug. 19 was the first day of school for most of the local area. Parents are excited; kids, not so much! Before you send your kids out the door, consider taking a few minutes to talk to them about safety and security.

**Traffic safety:** Familiarize yourself with the route you take to work. Many of us get used to a summer routine which may involve driving through a school zone where no kids are present. On Monday morning, that all changed. Remember to watch for school zones! Speeding through one could result in a hefty fine or worse if you didn't see a child stepping out in the street. Also remember those big yellow school busses are now out on the roads, so be on the lookout!

**Stranger danger:** Talk to your kids about the dangers of talking to strangers! I recently read an article where parents discussed with their children about the dangers of talking to strangers. The kids ranging in age from 5-10

all seemed to understand, yet when they were put to the test, most failed. An undercover journalist showed up at a local park where the test kids were playing. He had a cute puppy and the kids flocked to him to see the cute little dog. One by one, he would ask the kids if they wanted to feed the dog, and that all they had to do was follow him to his car to get the puppy some food. All but one or two of the kids willingly went with the strange man. Luckily, this journalist was only performing a test and had no ill will towards the children.

**Home safety:** When was the last time you checked the batteries in your smoke detector or changed the filters in your heat/air unit? Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home? Do you store hazardous cleaning chemicals in a place where the kids can't get to them? Are there things you have been meaning to fix around your house that could injure someone or cause damage to your property? Just like we take care of hazards at work, take time to make repairs to your home in order to make it a safe place. If your kids are at home by themselves, do they know to lock the door when they are safely inside? It's a good practice to ensure that unwanted guests can't simply walk in. Do they know who to call for an emergency? These are all good things to think about and discuss with your kids.

Take time to think about safety and discuss any potential issues with your family. Have a safe and happy start to a new school year.





# 188th mission conversion corner

## Site Activation Task Force visits 188th

By Lt. Col. Toby Brallier  
188th Fighter Wing Conversion Office

FORT SMITH, Ark. — During the week of Aug. 12-15, the 188th was in high gear with members of the National Guard Bureau Site Activation Task Force in town. The SATAF began the process to assess many aspects of the conversion specific to the 188th and help “determine the way ahead” for many of the projects and timelines, such as training allocation, facilities modification and construction, communication line requirements, just to name a few.

Over the last seven months, many of the members of the 188th Fighter Wing and 123rd Intel Squadron have been putting in tremendous effort and overtime in preparation for the conversion, while still continuing to work their primary AFSC. Their extra work helped make the SATAF week a very productive event. Although not an all-inclusive list, some of the primary conversion committee chairs I’d like to thank for the SATAF week include: Lt. Col. John Easley, Lt. Col. Tina Lipscomb, Lt. Col. Grace Ryals, Lt. Col. Scott Langdon, Lt. Col. Bob Kinney, Maj. Sara Stigler, Maj. Michael Howard, Maj. Paul Needham, Maj. Jim Garvey, Maj. Drew Donoho, Maj. Mitch Long, Maj. Matt Holguin, Capt. Bridgette Scott, 2nd Lt. Brian Hurt, Senior Master Sgt. Bryan Peters, Senior Master Sgt. Dean Scott, Senior Master

Sgt. Joel McDonald, and Master Sgt. Craig Gardner, just to name a few. This is by no means a complete list of all that have helped tremendously, such as the maintainers handling the A-10 divestiture, the committees for working group, the 123rd members supporting functions both here and in Little Rock, Human Resource Office representatives, the Medical Group going through vast paperwork for security clearances and job applications, and the list goes on.

There are still many milestones ahead. The next Intel officer board will be during the September drill. The hiring process for full-time placement is in full swing. As a few announcement timelines have slipped slightly, please ensure individuals are checking the HRO website and USA jobs website daily. Training classes for Intel positions should start shortly when fallout occurs, and allocated slots should start once the new fiscal year arrives.

A lot of this process will be a marathon as training, equipment and facilities are allocated. One of our original goals in the Conversion Office still remains to keep all our members as informed as possible, so please ask up the chain or email us at [188FW.FW.Conversion.Committee@ang.af.mil](mailto:188FW.FW.Conversion.Committee@ang.af.mil) if there are answers or information that you need. Thanks again for all the hard work and suggestions.



Capt. Ryan Jodoi, rear, flies an MQ-9 Reaper while Airman 1st Class Patrick Snyder controls a full-motion video camera March 13, 2009 at Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan. The 188th Fighter Wing will transition to a remotely piloted aircraft/ Intel mission in 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.)



An armed MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle taxis down a runway in Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson)



Aircrews perform a preflight check on an MQ-9 Reaper before it takes off for a mission in Afghanistan. The 188th Fighter Wing will transition to a remotely piloted aircraft/ Intel mission in 2014. (Courtesy photo)



Pictured above is the Distributed Common Ground Station at the Kansas Air National Guard's 127th Command and Control Squadron. The 127th provides critical processing, analysis and dissemination of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or ISR, data collected within their area of responsibility. The 188th Fighter Wing will also be getting a DCGS as part of its new mission. (Courtesy photo)



# The Flying Razorback member spotlight

## 2nd Lieutenant Tim Smith



**Hometown:** Cabot, Ark.

**Job Title:** Aircraft maintenance officer.

**Civilian job:** IT project manager.

**In the 188th:** 12 years.

**Education:** B.S. in organizational management.

**Hobbies:** Travel, landscaping, reading, playing basketball.

**Military Goals:** Complete Intel officer school.

**Favorite TV show:** "Dexter."

**Favorite actor/actress:** Tom Hanks / Rachel McAdams.

**Favorite animal:** Mountain lion.

**Favorite comedian:** Mitch Hedberg.

**Favorite movie:** "The Count of Monte Cristo."

**Favorite author:** Dan Brown.

**Favorite book:** "The DaVinci Code."

**Favorite restaurant:** Cheesecake Factory.

**Favorite soft drink:** Coke Zero.

**Favorite foods:** Burger, fries, red velvet cake, cream cheese icing and rocky road ice cream (very healthy).

**Favorite song:** "More than a Feeling" by Boston.

**Favorite musical group:** Zach Brown Band.

**Favorite super hero:** Superman.

**Favorite U.S. President:** Ronald Reagan.

**Favorite historical figure:** Leonardo Da Vinci.

**Favorite sport:** Football.

**Favorite pro sports teams:** Denver Broncos, St. Louis Cardinals.

**Favorite sports individual:** Tony LaRussa.

**Favorite college team:** Arkansas Razorbacks.

**My worst job ever:** Hauling hay.

**Place I'd most like to visit:** French Riviera.



2nd Lt. Tim Smith was selected as the 188th Fighter Wing's Flying Razorback spotlight for September 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

**My dream shopping spree:** Fort Thompson Sporting Goods in North Little Rock.

**Favorite automobile:** 5 Series BMW.

**My first car was:** 1981 Ford F-150.

**My pet peeves:** Slow drivers in the fast lane... especially ones from Oklahoma.

**What scares me the most:** Not being able to meet my kids' needs.

**My worst habit:** Procrastinating.

**I am proudest of:** My two kids. Both honor students and outstanding young citizens.

**The person I admire most:** My Dad. The man has to be a saint.

**The best day of my life:** Both of my kids' birthdays.

**Favorite moment at the 188th:** Being selected for commission to become a maintenance officer.

## 188th Fighter Wing promotions

To Senior Master Sergeant

Samuel S. Janski



To Technical Sergeant

Charles R. Cox



To Staff Sergeant

Julie A. Darrough

James M. King



To Senior Airman

Aimee D. Adams

Steven B. Horton

Thomas C. Snell



## 188th/123rd officer dining out slated for September

**Who:** All 188th Fighter Wing and 123rd Intelligence Squadron officers

**What:** Formal dining out

**Where:** Golden Living, 1000 Fianna Way, Fort Smith, Ark.

**When:** Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013 at 6 p.m.

**Why:** To enjoy fellowship and camaraderie with fellow officers in the wing.

## Citizen Airman Dining Facility menu

**Saturday, Sept. 7**

Breaded chicken breast, baked potatoes, carrots, dinner rolls, Boston cream cake, ice cream, coffee, tea, milk.

**Sunday, Sept. 8**

Hamburger steak with brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls, assorted cookies, ice cream, coffee, tea, milk.

**Short order line**

Hamburger, cheeseburger, hot dog, chili dog, chips, salad bar, baked beans.





**Zelk**

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military today, so it seems fitting that my military career culminates here.

“When Hurricane Katrina hit, I had to spend several weeks – including Thanksgiving – in Port Sulfur, La. The volunteers from the 188th showed up and what most impressed me about them was their compassion and their heart. So when it came time for me to leave the Army, I knew exactly what to do. Within days after returning, I had contacted a recruiter and I was sworn-in a few days later.”

Zelk took a position with the 189th Airlift Wing in order to be closer to her family, but she didn’t stay away from the 188th for long. In 2009, the 188th and 189th Medical Groups did a joint medical exercise in Guatemala, and Lt. Col. Zelk was once again side by side with Airmen of the 188th.

“Guatemala was my very first time working with Lt. Col. Zelk, but I felt like I knew her,” said Capt. Bridgette Scott, medical administrative officer, and the unit planner during the Guatemala exercise. “Getting the medication together for the pharmacy, working in the villages, all the



Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander, and Lt. Col. Misty Zelk, 188th Medical Group Commander, pose for a photo after the group’s change of command ceremony, Aug. 4, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

**2013 Base Pool season pass membership rates**

**Current members:** FREE

**Season Family Pass:** \$20 to include immediate family members

**All 188th state and non-military employees:** \$20

**Retired enlisted:**

\$20 per member, plus \$10 for immediate family

**Retired officers:**

\$40 per member, plus \$10 for immediate family

(Guests of members must pay daily use rate)

**Daily use rates**

(without membership)

Infant to 5 years old free (with paying adult)

Children 6-12: \$2.00

Children 13 and up: \$2.50

**Pool parties:**

(Available daily: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.)

**For members:** \$50 plus \$10 per hour for lifeguard

Parties must be reserved in advance; some rules may apply.

Lifeguards are required any time the base pool is open.

people we served. The people we were taking care of – making sure everyone got what they needed. It was just all the way around awesome. She was just flat-out great to work with, and now that she’s going to come here, I’m very excited.”

lead an Agricultural Development Team in Afghanistan in 2011. As a result of his leadership, the team was able to educate more than 1,200 farmers about modern agricultural techniques, and help boost the productivity and quality of

**“I credit the 188th with my Air Force career, and with the fact that I’m even in still in the military today, so it seems fitting that my military career culminates here.”**

— Lt. Col. Misty Zelk, 188th Medical Group commander

During his remarks, Col. Norris had praise to offer the incoming group commander, and a challenge for the medical group members as well.

“Change and transition is often difficult, but you know this is only the start,” Norris said. “I’ve known Lt. Col. Zelk for many years. I’ve served with her in Guatemala. She’s a very caring person with a great deal of knowledge. I am confident that with your support, and Lt. Col. Zelk’s leadership, you will take the medical group to the next level and face the challenges ahead.”

During his 10 years of service as group commander, Col. Norris oversaw support for 916 deploying 188th Airmen. He also volunteered to

Afghan farming. Norris earned the Combat Action Badge and was awarded a Bronze Star, becoming only the third 188th member to receive that award.

“For me, it all begins and ends with family,” Norris said. “Most of the success I had, I attribute to my family, friends and colleagues. They have really supported me throughout the years. Family members make huge sacrifices and bear the consequences of our commitments to our country that we make. I remember first coming to the medical group as a public health officer and the 188th Medical Group has been my family ever since.”



## Obama nominates James to become next SecAF

By Staff Sgt. David Salanitri

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama announced Aug. 1 that Deborah Lee James is his choice to become the next Secretary of the Air Force.

"Deborah's strong record of public service and leadership in the private sector makes her uniquely qualified to be my nominee for Secretary of the Air Force," Obama said in a White House news release. "I look forward to working with her to keep our Air Force the very best in the world and to keep faith with our extraordinary Air Force personnel and their families."

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, James will succeed previous Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley, who served as Air Force's top civilian for the past five years. Donley retired June 21 after 35 years of public service.

Eric Fanning, undersecretary of the Air Force, is serving as acting Air Force Secretary until Donley's replacement is confirmed.

James is president of the technology and engineering sector at Science Applications International Corporation, a position she has held since 2013. From 2004 to

2013, she was the senior vice president of the C4IT Business Unit and then the executive vice president of communications and government affairs at SAIC.

From 2000 to 2001, James was the executive vice president and chief operating officer at Business Executives for National Security. From 1998 to 2000, she was the vice president with the international operations and marketing division at United Technologies. From 1993 to 1998, James served as the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs at the Department of Defense. She began her career in national security as a professional staff member in the U.S. House of Representatives on the House Armed Services Committee from 1983 to 1993.

James is currently a committee member of the Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, an Advisory Board Member of the Women in Military Service Memorial Foundation's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Campaign, and an advisory board member of The Citadel School of Engineering. James received a B.A. from Duke University and an M.A. from Columbia University.

## 188th to commemorate wing's 60th anniversary

The 188th Fighter Wing will be holding a celebration to commemorate its 60th anniversary.

**WHO:** Current and former 188th members and their families; other invited guests

**WHAT:** Celebration of the 188th Fighter Wing's 60th anniversary. The 188th began as the 184th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron Oct. 15, 1953. There will be food and a presentation to look back at the 188th's 60 years of excellence. **DRESS IS CASUAL FOR UNIT MEMBERS AND FAMILY.**

**WHEN:** Saturday, Oct. 5 from 6-8 p.m.

**WHERE:** Main hangar, 188th Fighter Wing, Ebbing ANG Base

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Brig. Gen. (ret.) H.D. McCarty

**EMCEE:** KFSM 5 News' Garrett Lewis

**TICKETS:** Each ticket will be \$10 and the cutoff for ticket sales is slated for Sept. 26. Seats are limited, so please don't wait until the deadline to reserve your spot. Each squadron will have one or more representatives selling tickets. Former unit members or Old Guard members should please contact Michelle Pike at 479-573-5167 to purchase their tickets. For all other questions concerning the event, contact Maj. Heath Allen at 479-573-5221.

### Changes

Continued from Page 1

tion of the test. The abdominal component assesses an Airman's body composition.

Since the Air Force implemented the newest fitness program guidelines in October 2010, only .03 percent of Airmen have failed the AC portion of the test and passed the other three components with a composite score of 75 or higher.

"In the future, if an Airman fails the AC portion of the test, and passes each of the other three components, we'll measure that Airman using the Body Mass Index taping guidance in DoD instructions," Welsh said. "If the Airman meets the DoD BMI standard, they pass the PFT."

Because AC measurement is integrated into the testing procedure, the

Air Force is currently the only branch of the Department of Defense not required to have a separate weight management program.

The other program modifications include realigning the fitness appeal process back to wing commanders, adjusting passing standards for Airmen who can only test on one component of assessment, and changing and simplifying the walk test.

In addition to these efforts, senior leaders are reviewing how fitness performance is documented on performance reports as part of a larger effort to examine the performance report itself. Those results are expected in the near future.

Though senior leaders are looking to improve the current fitness program, Welsh said he is proud of the Air Force program, and the physically fit culture it has helped to cultivate.

## 188th Fighter Wing Unit Training Assembly news

### Upcoming drills

Sept. 7-8  
Oct. 5-6  
Nov. 2-3  
Dec. 7-8



### UTA pay dates

Sept. 18  
Oct. 16  
Nov. 13  
Dec. 18



## Wisdom in transition

By Maj. Shane D. Pair  
188th Fighter Wing chaplain

These are challenging times for us as members of the 188th. They are challenging as we try to navigate our way through a major transition that has built into its component a complete identity change. We are not just changing from one fighter plane to another; we are completely changing the way our missions will be carried out. We will no longer be able to put our eyes and hands on the aircraft we will be flying, and we are gaining two other missions that most of us don't fully understand. Although we will still be the 188th, we will look different and function differently; thus our identity will be different.

For many, this change in identity has created a great amount of stress as we ask what our new role will be as individuals. We wonder what moving to a new career field will look like, or if we will qualify for the new positions. We wonder how it will affect our careers and livelihoods as both full-time and traditional Airmen. As one of your chaplains, I find myself asking many of the same questions, although my function is not being changed much. Like some of you, not only am I questioning the impact of the change of the 188th, but I have changes in my civilian job as well. If we are honest, all these changes create some stress as we wrestle with making decisions. Maybe it has even caused us to question our decision making capabilities.

I feel I am a fairly competent preacher and administrator of my church. I have been blessed over the last nine years to have the churches I've served receive the honor of being named "Church of the Year" in four of those years; however, when I am moved to a new church, I question whether or not I have the ability to meet the new challenge. I wonder if I will be able to adapt to be what that particular congregation needs. Now I was brought up to make decisions, I have received the education and training to pastor, and I have a good track record; yet, sometimes in stressful situations, I second

guess myself. When this happens, I go back and I read what Solomon did when he had been anointed king over Israel. The first thing he did was pray to God.

"Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?" God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, riches or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, riches and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have."

Friends, as we transition and change our identity, let me encourage you to transition from self-doubt and worry to a place of dependence on God. However, let me give a word of caution: "As we establish a dependence on God, we also have to use the wisdom God gives us." I must admit, when it comes to making decisions there are times when I want to hear from God instead of using the wisdom and knowledge God has already given me. It's great to be mindful of God in everything we do, but there are times when I would prefer if God would tell me exactly what to do every minute of every day. And even worse, I get frustrated at God when I feel that God doesn't answer my prayers. Maybe God's saying, "Use your brain to work it out yourself!" You can be assured when life-changing decisions have to be made, God will communicate to you –not just communicate, but show you clearly what to do.

As we struggle with the change of identity as a member of the 188th, it is important to remember that God is with us, and God has given us the wisdom to accomplish the task set before us. Know that God has given you the capacity to make the correct decision, whatever that may be. Please be assured each of you remain in my prayers during this time of transition.

## Arkansas National Guard Mission, Vision and Values

### MISSION

To provide trained, ready professionals and units responsive to the needs of the nation, state and community.

### VISION

Arkansas National Guard military and civilian professionals, working as a team, building the finest reserve military organization serving the nation, state and community.

### VALUES

#### *Integrity*

*(Honesty, Candor, Ethics, Morals, Accountability).*

#### *Commitment*

*(Loyalty, Caring, Trust, Teamwork).*

#### *Professionalism*

*(Selfless Service, Empowerment, Stewardship, Excellence in all we do).*

#### *Warrior Spirit*

*(I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade).*

## 'Ask the commander' now available

Do you 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](mailto: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 Security Forces Squadron Airmen carry a simulated injured wingman through the Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center obstacle course, Aug. 3, 2013. Teams of four Airmen safely transported their stretcher through the course as part of a team-building exercise. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

# Crash course

## 188th Security Forces Squadron tackles Fort Chaffee O-Course



In teams of four, security forces Airmen simulate rescuing a wounded wingman from a combat zone at Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center, Aug. 3, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Members of the 188th Security Forces Squadron navigate an obstacle on the Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center obstacle course, Aug. 3, 2013. Teams of four Airmen safely carried a stretcher through the course to simulate removing a wounded wingman from a combat zone. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



188th Security Forces Squadron Airmen prepare to move through a pipe obstacle at the Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center obstacle course, Aug. 3, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Members of the 188th Security Forces Squadron negotiate the Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center obstacle course, Aug. 3, 2013. Teams of four Airmen safely carried a stretcher through the course as part of a team-building exercise. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



# Financially fit: how to spot and avoid scams

By Erin Wittkop  
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON – As a member of a military family, the chances that you, your spouse or maybe both of you had to go through hell and high water to earn your cut from Uncle Sam are greater than most. It stands to reason then, that protecting your hard-earned livelihood might carry an extra special significance in your life.

Scam artists are always at the ready to prey on unknowing victims, both civilian and military. However, military families can be uniquely vulnerable to them. Thankfully, the Defense Department's Office of Family Policy, Children and Youth is spearheading efforts to educate military families, protect them from financial predators and empower them to have the financial flexibility necessary to reach their future goals.

I recently sat down with Barbara Thompson, Office of Family Policy, Children and Youth director, find out what military families can do to protect themselves. She emphasizes that best way for service members and their families to arm themselves against scams is to conduct their own research and to thoroughly check credentials before making purchases.

"Sometimes they [scams] look official; they look like they're being sponsored by a government agency, but again it's deception. It's deceit. We really want our service members and their families to think things through, do their research, read the fine print before they sign on the dotted line." Thompson also

notes that if a product or service seems too good to be true it's more than likely not legal.

Scams that target service members and their families are many and varied. Thompson says among the most common are rental and moving, foreclosure, loan, auto-loan and credit and debit card scams. "You may decide to do a move on your own and find someone who doesn't have liability insurance, or doesn't deliver your household goods to your residence [and instead] goes off with them."

She also advises not to cut corners when making decisions about the services you use. "During a move you're stressed out because you want to make sure everything is done correctly; you don't want to go into debt. Finding the cheapest way out may not be the best route."

All of this advice is great, but where do you start and what resources should you trust as you do your research? She has some recommendations for you:

**Personal Financial Managers** – All military installations should have personal financial managers on staff within the local family assistance center. These individuals are certified financial counselors who can help families manage their personal finances. They also have information on area businesses and which ones should be avoided.

**Commander's or Installation Lists** – Most installations offer a list of approved and off-limits businesses in the area. Become familiar with this list and follow it accordingly.

**Legal Assistance Officers** – These individuals are available to offer legal advice if you have a concern or have encountered a business that may be scamming you.

**Better Business Bureau and Better Business Bureau Military Line** – This website is dedicated to promoting trustworthy and ethical business practices by cataloguing and rating businesses and the services they provide. They include in-depth reviews and ratings for organizations in their database. Heed the advice you find here.

**Federal Trade Commission's Scam Watch** – A great resource that offers in-depth information on scams, managing your money and credit cards and dealing with debt.

**Military OneSource** – A great resource for military families, Military OneSource offers financial

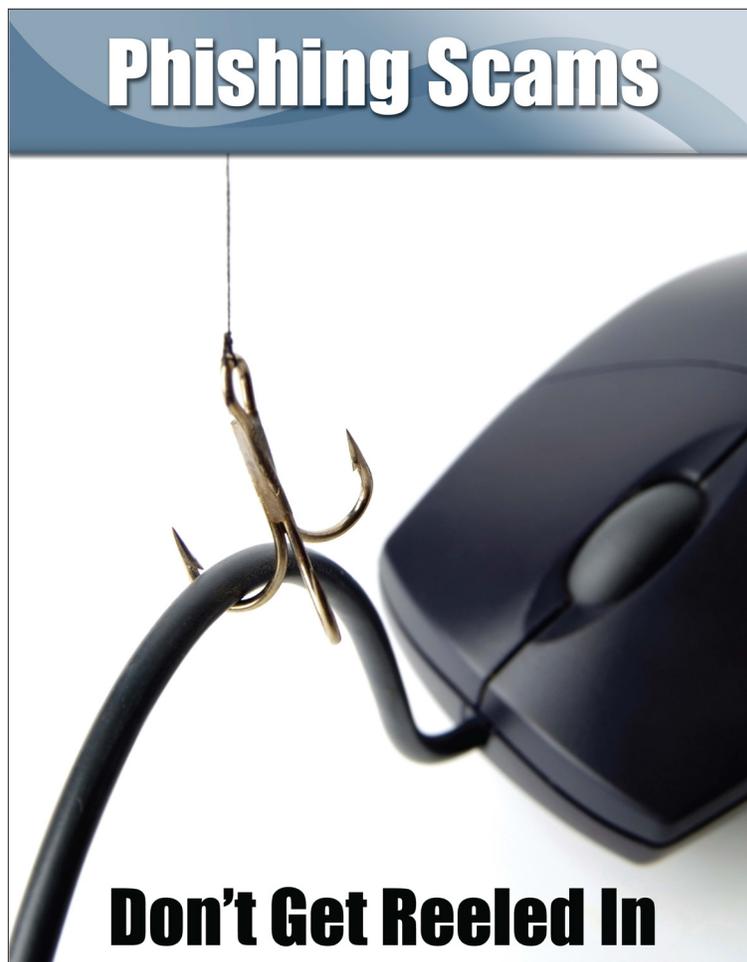
counseling and numerous resources for planning and protecting your finances.

Ask people in your community what their experiences have been with area businesses. Friends, neighbors and community members can vital information that will help you determine where your money is best spent.

These resources are a great, reliable way to set your family on the path to making informed financial decisions.

"The bottom line is you have to be a smart and savvy consumer," Thompson says. "You need to really think about your purchases, your purchasing power, and do your due diligence to make sure you're getting the right information and the right product for the money you're going to spend."

## Phishing Scams



**Don't Get Reeled In**

September is Suicide Prevention Month. Be a good Wingman and help keep each other safe! Download the "Wingman Project" smartphone app to learn warning signs, and use ACE (Ask, Care, Escort) if you feel concerned about your Wingman.

Help is always available! Call Chaplain Tom Smith (318-918-9669), WDPH Geoff Gibson (479-573-5742), MFLC Audra Prince (501-215-0895) or Military OneSource. (800-342-9647)



# Privacy Matters

## Securing members' data is everyone's business

By Master Sgt. Lanette Hunt and Staff Sgt. Julie Darrough  
188th Fighter Wing Privacy Act Managers

Would you know how to answer an inquiry from someone who wants the home address, home phone number, marital status, or year of graduation of another military member?

The Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579) is the legal statute protecting individuals from unwarranted invasion of their personal privacy. The Privacy Act binds only Federal agencies, and covers only records in the possession and control of Federal agencies.

You must obtain the member's written consent before releasing any of the following information: a member's marital status, the number or gender of dependents, member's race or ethnic origin, civilian educational degrees and major areas of study, school and year of graduation, home of record, home address, phone number or mobile number, age and date of birth and Social Security Number or Department of Defense Identification Number.

Additionally, information about present or future assign-

ments overseas or for routinely deployable or sensitive units, including office, unit address, and duty phone are also protected information under the law.

Failure to safeguard Privacy Act information could result in civil or criminal charges brought against you and your organization. In accordance with AFI 33-332, Air Force Privacy Act Program, "An individual may file a civil suit against the Air Force for failing to comply with the Privacy Act. The courts may find an individual offender guilty of a misdemeanor and fine that person up to \$5,000.00 for (1) disclosing information from a system of records to someone not entitled to the information, (2) willfully maintaining a system of records that doesn't meet the public notice requirements, or (3) knowingly and willfully obtaining any record concerning an individual from an agency under false pretenses."

Now, would you know how to answer that inquiry from someone seeking personal information about another military member?

Remember, privacy does matter.

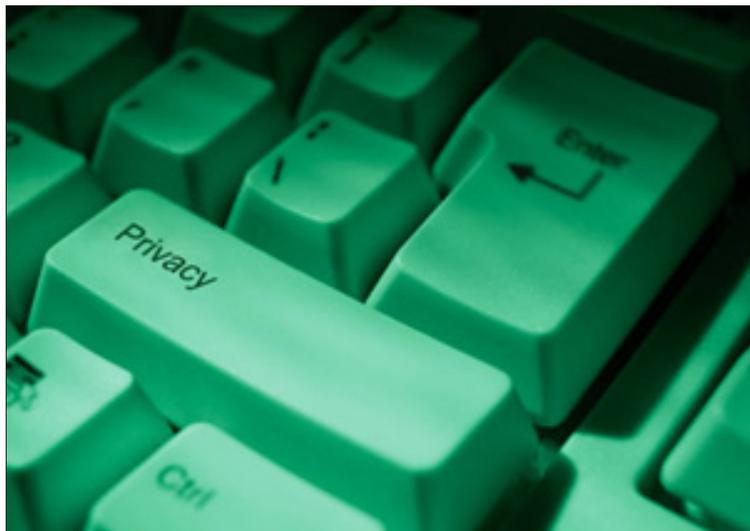
## A warm welcome



A 123rd Intelligence Squadron member speaks with area realtors during a welcome and orientation event for the members and their families. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



123rd Intelligence Squadron members and families pose for a photo during a welcoming tour of the 188th Fighter Wing and orientation to Fort Smith. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



## 188th Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Office

### Sexual assault response coordinator

Maj. Heath Allen: 479-573-5221/479-719-6667

### Alternate Sexual assault response coordinator

Maj. Mike Atwell: 479-573-5385

### Victim advocates

Capt. Lance Griffith 479-573-5126  
Master Sgt. Kelly Webb 479-573-5355

SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247

### Joint Force Headquarters SARC

Jessica Hamilton: 501-212-4225

# Hawg heritage

*Remembering the history of the 188th Fighter Wing from the Public Affairs photography archive*



April 16, 1955: Airmen from the 184th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron prepare photo flash bombs for loading on an RB-26, shown in the background. The RB-26 was the unit's first mission aircraft and was flown from June 1954 to May 1958. It was tasked with night photography missions, in which crews took reconnaissance and damage assessment photos.

## Inspector general's office moves to new location

**By Lt. Col. James Krohn**  
188th Fighter Wing Inspector General

The wing inspector general has moved into his new home in building 202, room 109, which is located on the back side of the three-bay hangar. The inspector general's job is to serve as an extension of the commander by acting as his eyes and ears to be alert to issues affecting the organization, by executing the complaint resolution process, by proactively training all members of the organization about IG processes, and fraud, waste and abuse (FWA) issues. That being said, the IG must maintain a clear distinction between being an extension of the commander and their duty in the complaints resolution process to serve as fair, im-

partial and objective fact-finders and problem solvers. They must be sufficiently independent so those unit members requesting IG help will continue to do so. The IG is there to aid members in resolving problems and issues. That being said, each member should first try to resolve issues and complaints through their chain of command or first sergeant. However, the IG will not turn away any member with a question or concern.

Additionally the IG is the point of contact for suspected fraud, waste, and abuse violations. To report FWA violations you can contact the following numbers: 188th Fighter Wing's FWA Hotline DSN: 778-5270, Comm: 479-573-5270, Arkansas State IG: 800-345-

2744, DoD Hotline: 800-424-9098.

Anyone wishing to file a complaint with the IG's office may do so by coming picking up an AF Form 102 in the IG office, or you can obtain one from the Air Force Portal. On the Portal, search "SAF/IGQ," follow the link to the Complaints Resolution Directorate and then follow the link under "Filing a Complaint." In the near future, I plan to have the AFF 102 available in a display rack outside of the office. While anyone wishing to talk to the IG can come by the office, if you would feel more comfortable calling, the number is 573-5270 or you can email [james.krohn@ang.af.mil](mailto:james.krohn@ang.af.mil). All communication with the IG is confidential within the limits of applicable AFIs.