



# The Flying Razorback

188th Fighter Wing

Arkansas Air National Guard

Ebbing ANG Base

October-November 2013



A 188th Fighter Wing A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthog" takes off at Ebbing Air National Guard Base in Fort Smith, Ark. Sept. 10. The pilot, a member of Moody Air Force Base's 75th Fighter Squadron, flew Tail No. A0644 back to Georgia, signaling the beginning of the end for the 188th's fighter mission. The 188th will lose two Warthogs a month until the last two leave in June 2014. The 188th is in the beginning stages of converting from A-10s to an Intelligence and remotely piloted aircraft mission. The mission, which will feature the MQ-9 Reaper, will also boast the Air National Guard's only space-focused targeting squadron. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## First two A-10s depart Fort Smith

By Maj. Heath Allen  
188th Fighter Wing executive officer

FORT SMITH, Ark. – It was a bittersweet day at the 188th Fighter Wing's Ebbing Air National Guard Base Sept. 10, 2013. The first pair of A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" thundered eastbound for Moody Air Force Base, Ga., signaling the beginning of the end for the unit's fighter mission.

The 188th is currently in the initial stages of a conversion from A-10s to a remotely piloted aircraft and Intelligence mission. The Warthogs that departed were the first two to leave the base as part of that change.

Over the course of the coming months, the 188th will lose two aircraft per month until June 2014, when the final two are slated to depart. Tail Nos. A0644 and A0614 were the first two to leave on Sept. 10. Those two A-10s joined Moody AFB's 75th Fighter Squadron. Two 75th pilots arrived in Fort Smith via commercial flights and

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## 60 years of excellence



U.S. Air National Guard illustration by 1st Lt. Holli Nelson/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

## 188th to commemorate 60th anniversary with celebration of unit's history

By Maj. Heath Allen  
188th Fighter Wing executive officer

FORT SMITH, Ark. – For more than a half century, the 188th Fighter Wing has roared over the skies of Arkansas and neighboring states. Sixteen different aircraft and nearly 60 years after the wing was federally recognized as an Air National Guard unit, the 188th remains a fixture in the River Valley and Northwest Arkansas.

Many times those aircraft were headed to training missions over Razorback Range and other times they were bound for harm's way, deploying to Iraq, Afghanistan and countless other locations around the world in defense of

freedom and our nation's interests.

One constant throughout: Every time those planes and personnel were ready, reliable and relevant, regardless of the mission.

"The 188th has a storied history of responding to its nation's call," said Col. Mark W. Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander. "Whether it's stepping up to fulfill a short-notice deployment tasking or responding to a natural disaster, the 188th has always shown a great deal of pride, professionalism and dedication no matter how difficult the situation. Our Airmen have faced adversity and we know how to overcome it. Now it's time to celebrate

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**188th 60th anniversary celebration**  
**WHO: Current/former members; families**  
**WHERE: 188th main hangar**  
**WHEN: Nov. 2 from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.**



## 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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## 188th marksmanship team tops state

By Senior Airman John Hillier  
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

FORT SMITH, Ark. — The 188th Fighter Wing's marksmanship team dominated competitors from around the state of Arkansas at the 2013 Arkansas Adjutant General's Marksmanship Exercise, or "TAG Match," as it is also informally dubbed. The event was held at the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark.

The 14 Airmen from the 188th were the only Air National Guardsmen represented in the field of 141 shooters, but they walked away with the lion's share of accolades, said Master Sgt. Greg Palmer, 188th base marksmanship coordinator.

"This year we had three four-man teams, and two additional shooters who competed as individuals only," said Master Sgt. Brian Detherage, a squad leader with 188th Security Forces Squadron.

Detherage said all competitors shot both disciplines - rifle and pistol.

"They've been designed to be a more combat-oriented type of match, so it's mainly rapid-fire matches," Detherage said. "It's all iron sights, and you're shooting at very small targets that have



bull's-eye rings. You get scored based on the ring that your round hits. There's some stress added in; there's a time factor added in. You've got guys shooting on [your] left and right. There's brass hitting you in the face."

The 188th took top honors in the Overall Team Pistol and Overall Team Aggregate competitions. Additionally, Detherage won all three individual competitions: Excellence in Competition Rifle, Excellence in Competition Pistol, and Individual Overall Rifle/Pistol. 188th Airmen had several other top 10 finishers in match events.

"The 188th has always gone down there and done really well," Detherage said. "There have been years in the past, where we've taken two or three teams and we've won every event across the board. This year, we didn't have quite the numbers that we've had in the past, but [our shooters] all did really well."

Although many of the 188th's team members are security forces Airmen, the TAG Match is open to all members of the Army and Air National Guard. The exercise is designed to promote small arms training interest, improve marksmanship training techniques, and assist in the improvement of weapons and equipment for the combat Soldier or Airman.

"Like everything else, we're limited on ammo. We're limited on time," Detherage said. "We had one day of train-up out at Fort Chaffee before we went to shoot this match. Each shooter got maybe 10 rounds at each distance. It was really fast and furious. That's where the TAG Matches are more of a training [experience] for our guys. So

Master Sgt. Brian Detherage poses with his trophies for victories in the Individual Combat Pistol, Individual Combat Rifle and Individual Overall Champion competitions from the 2013 Arkansas National Guard TAG Match. Detherage previously won the Individual Overall Champion competition in the 2011 TAG Match as well. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



SEE **MARKSMEN** PAGE 12



# 188th mission conversion corner

## 123rd Intel Squadron preps for Fort Smith

**By Lt. Col. Tina Lipscomb**  
123rd Intelligence Squadron commander

The 123rd Intelligence Squadron, also known as Distributed Ground Station–Arkansas (DGS-AR), is a combat unit which operates and maintains an Air National Guard component of the Air Force Distributed Common Ground System gained by the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency. The 123rd IS develops world class professionals, providing Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance to war fighters and incident awareness and assessment for the homeland.

From 1952-2001 the unit has been an intelligence and photographic reproduction unit providing imagery to support headquarters war planning efforts. The unit has been mobilized several times, once in 1968 for the USS Pueblo Crisis, then in 1999 for Operation ALLIED FORCE/NOBLE ANVIL, Post 9/11 from 2001-2006, for Operations ENDURING FREEDOM/IRAQI FREEDOM (OEF/OIF), in which the unit's members were mobilized and deployed all around the world. From 2007 to 2009, the 123rd IS was mobilized at Little Rock Air Force Base, supporting OEF, OIF and Operation NEW DAWN. DGS-AR will once again be mobilized in October 2013 for one year at Little Rock AFB.

DGS-AR commonly supports the MQ-1 "Predator" and the MQ-9 "Reaper," but has supported the RQ-4 "Global Hawk" and the U-2 "Dragon Lady" in the past. Since the unit became operational at home station in December 2006 the Airmen assigned to DGS-AR have amassed over 50,000 hours of full motion video exploitation and created over 14,000 products that have directly aided coalition forces engaged in combat operations throughout the world.

The 123rd IS has the following Intelligence career fields: Operations Intelligence (1N0X1), Geospatial Analyst (1N1X1A), and Signals Intelligence Network Analyst (1N4X1B). Additionally the following communications career fields support the intelligence mission: Knowledge Operations Management (3D0X1), Cyber Systems Operations (3D0X2), Client Systems Technician (3D1X1), and Cyber Transport Systems. (3D1X2) Currently, the only officer career field the 123rd IS has to offer is 14N, Intelligence Officer. Each career fields brings a different aspect to ensuring the DGS-AR mission is



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)



Members of the 123rd Intelligence Squadron pose for a photo at Little Rock Air Force Base. (Courtesy photo)

effective in supporting the warfighters all over the world.

The 123rd IS also has an Incident Awareness and Assessment (IAA) also referred to as domestic operations mission along with supporting the National Guard Counterdrug program. The 123rd IS provides first responders, local, state, and federal authorities with situational awareness in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The 123rd IS brings a unique capability to the IAA mission in the form of the IAA PAD (Processing, Analysis, and Dissemination) trailer the RAZORback PAD. The RAZORback Pad was built to be mobile platform to capture data from a collection platform, process that data, allow for the analysis of the data and then to disseminate that data in the form of finished IAA to local, state and federal entities to aid in the event of a disaster. The RAZORback PAD is towable by truck, and air transportable by loading it on a C-130 or larger military aircraft. The RAZORback Pad is equipped with six workstations, computers, radios, and telephones, to set up in remote conditions and fuse intelligence products and customize them to suit the diverse customer base. The 123rd IS is always ready to support the next operation providing equipment and expertise necessary to downlink and disseminate IAA in support of the homeland.

The 123rd IS has a notable list of achievements over the past 10 years and looks forward to the future growth with the 188th Fighter Wing in Fort Smith. The 123rd IS Airmen are ready for the new opportunities and looking forward to the synergy of working with the RPA and targeting unit all in one location.



# The Flying Razorback member spotlight

## Master Sgt. Steven Eubanks



**Hometown:** Fort Smith, Ark.  
**Job title:** Production controller.  
**In the 188th:** since 1989.  
**Education:** Associate's degree from Community College of the Air Force.  
**Hobbies:** Fishing, hunting and golf.  
**Goals:** To maintain employment at the 188th.  
**Favorite TV show:** "Married with Children."  
**Favorite actor:** Humphrey Bogart  
**Favorite animal:** Penguins.  
**Favorite comedian:** Jerry Clower.  
**Favorite movie:** "Casablanca."  
**Favorite restaurant:** Joe's Crab Shack.  
**Favorite soft drink:** Coke Zero.  
**Favorite foods:** Surf and turf.

**Favorite book:** Robinson Crusoe.  
**Favorite author:** Mark Twain.  
**Favorite musician:** Jimmy Buffet.  
**Favorite word or phrase:** "Narf!"  
**Favorite super hero:** Mr. Incredible.  
**Favorite U.S. President:** Calvin Coolidge.  
**Favorite historical figure:** Lord Horatio Nelson.  
**Favorite sport:** Lawn darts.  
**Favorite pro sports team:** Dallas Cowboys.  
**Favorite sports individual:** Roger Staubach.  
**Favorite college team:** Arkansas Razorbacks.  
**My worst job ever:** Working at a convenience store.  
**Place I'd most like to visit:**



Master Sgt. Steven Eubanks was selected as the Flying Razorback spotlight for the month of October 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

**Mount Kilimanjaro.**  
**Favorite pastime:** Fishing.  
**My dream shopping spree:** Orvis.  
**If I were a cartoon character, I would be:** One of the Warner Brothers characters.  
**Favorite automobile:** 1970 Plymouth Superbird.  
**My first car was:** 1970 GMC Pick-up.  
**My pet peeves:** People who can't

drive.  
**I am proudest of:** Living past 40.  
**My worst habit:** Road rage.  
**What scares me the most:** Vampires, mummies.  
**The person I admire most:** Alexander Selkirk.  
**The best day of my life:** The jury is still out.  
**Favorite moment at the 188th:** Coming home.

## Enlisted dining out postponed

The 188th Fighter Wing enlisted combat dining out originally scheduled for the evening of Nov. 2 has been postponed. To obtain a full refund of your ticket price, please see the Chiefs Council representative from whom you purchased your ticket. More information will follow when the new date and time have been set.

The 188th Chiefs Council appreciates everyone's support and understanding. We regret any inconvenience that this may have caused.

If you have any questions, please contact Chief Master Sgt. Donald Frederick at 479-573-5203 or DSN 778-5203.

## 188th MDG to hold nurse officer board

The 188th Medical Group will hold interviews for members desiring a commissioning opportunity as a nurse during the November Unit Training Assembly. Applicants must have a Bachelors of Science in Nursing or be projected to graduate in December of 2013. Additionally, applicants should have a current, passing PT score and be "World Wide Qualified" on their AF 422 from the clinic. Interested applicants should provide the following items to the Recruiting Office: AF 24, AF 422, PT scores and college transcripts.

Please have packages turned in no later than Nov. 18, 2013. Please direct any questions to Master Sgt. Craig Gardner in the 188th Recruiting Office, 479-573-5147.

## Citizen Airman Dining Facility menu

### Saturday, Nov. 2

Catering by Jerry Neel's: Choice of beef, pork or chicken, twice-baked potato casserole, barbecued beans, coleslaw, cobbler, and tea.

**NOTE:** Saturday's meal will be served at the wing's 60th Anniversary event from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the base hangar. Sunday's meal will be served in the base dining facility from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### Sunday, Nov. 3

Catering by Schlotzsky's: Beef, turkey or ham sandwich, soup, chips, cookie, tea.



# Change: a blessing or a curse?

By Lt. Col. Tom Smith  
188th Fighter Wing chaplain

Change.

Only six little letters long, but what a powerful word this is. Our response (or is that reaction) to it often is determined by the context in which it occurs. It's all how we look at it and respond to it.

Think about it:

You've got an old, dinged-up, rusting-out clunker of a car. You save up for a new one and finally go out and buy it. That's a great change! But, take that same new car and have a wreck in it, ending up in the hospital with two broken legs, and that's a devastating change to your lifestyle.

Or, take for instance your job. Your boss offers you a promotion, complete with a much larger salary, housing allowance, company car, etc. but, you have to move to another state, away from family, friends and familiar places. You weigh the pros-and-cons and finally decide to accept the offer. It's a change—a big change, but a welcome one—simply because you can see the advantages of doing so.

We all know change is inevitable. It's going to happen whether we want it to or not. We can resist it, doing our best to keep it from happening, but ultimately life will go on, either with us or without us. Truly, we can go kicking and screaming to the "Crossroads of Change" or we accept it as

a part of life, embrace it and seek to grow personally through it all.

Some natural responses to change—especially when our expectations are unmet—are disappointment, discouragement, disillusionment, depression, frustration, fretting, fuming or fear. Alternatively, we can accept the change and seek to grow in it rather than blaming or becoming bitter. This can happen if we view change as an opportunity, not an obstacle.

Instead of grumbling, we have gratitude. Instead of pouting, we have praise. Instead of scapegoating, we have serenity of heart and mind. This is not easy to do, particularly when our lives are being turned upside down. But, it's in those times that we must look to God, "who changes not," (James 1:17) trusting him to give us the wisdom, strength and grace we need. Corrie ten Boom summed it up this way: "It's never wrong to trust an unknown future to a known God." So true, so true.

Here's praying that each one of us here at the 188th Fighter Wing will entrust our lives anew to the one who holds the future. May we not "boast ourselves of tomorrow" (Proverbs 27:1; James 4:13-15) or "borrow trouble from tomorrow." (Matthew 6:34) Instead, may we live with faith and hope, as a "sure-and-steadfast anchor of the soul." (Hebrews 6:18-19) That way we'll still be standing when everything else is falling apart. God bless you.

## 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.

## Prayer breakfast slated for Nov. 3

The 188th Fighter Wing's annual prayer breakfast will be Sunday, November 3, in the base dining facility. The guest speaker this year will be Dr. Bill Burnett, former All-American halfback for the Arkansas Razorbacks and member of the University of Arkansas Hall of Honor. (1995) He was also inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 1996.

Until recently, Burnett held the career scoring record for the Razorbacks with 294 points from 1968-70. He still holds the single season scoring record of 120 points scored in 1969 on 20 touchdowns, in addition to the career record for touchdowns scored (49) while

rushing for 2,204 yards on 526 carries. He also was selected as an Academic All-American during his time at the University of Arkansas.

Burnett became the first self-supported Fellowship of Christian Athletes field staff person in the United States in 1996 and has been the director of the Northwest Arkansas FCA since that time. He currently works as a licensed professional counselor and licensed marriage and family therapist in the Fayetteville, Ark., area.

The prayer breakfast begins at 6:45 a.m. Admission is free. For more information please call Chaplain Tom Smith at 573-5541.



# Finances affect service members' readiness

By Terri Moon Cronk  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Financial readiness in service members' lives has a direct effect on mission readiness, the director of the Defense Department's office of family policy, children and youth said in a recent interview.

Noting that financial instability can affect many aspects of service members' lives, from relationships to concentration on the job, Barbara Thompson told American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel that DOD provides education and tools people can use to build their financial flexibility.

"It's really important for our service members and their families to live within their means," she said, "and to do that, they have to have a budget, be disciplined and understand that having a debt load hurts their credit scores [and] their ability to afford [purchases]." Financial difficulties also can affect security clearances, she added.

**"It's really important for our service members and their families to live within their means, and to do that, they have to have a budget and be disciplined."**

— Barbara Thompson, Department of Defense Office of Family Policy, Children and Youth

Several resources are available to help service members and their families establish and maintain household budgets, in addition to learning how to save money, she said.

"We want to make sure people know [their finances] are under their control with support," Thompson said. Available resources include financial counselors at installation family centers who can help with reducing debt, managing credit card, and avoiding paying high interest rates, she added.

Another option is the Military OneSource website, which offers financial advice, and where users can set up 12 sessions with a financial counselor per financial issue on topics such as establishing a budget and reducing debt. Counselors are available face-to-face or online, Thompson said.

Credit unions and banks on installations also offer financial education through workshops and can help families work out budgets, she said.

Thompson also warned that service members should be aware of fraudulent practices such as predatory lending.

"People would get into them with very high interest rates, spending [significant amounts] of money just to pay off a predatory loan," she said. "So that's where our on-installation banks and credit unions came up with some short-term, low-interest loans."

Thompson also recommended the SaveAndInvest.org website as a resource for self-initiators. It offers tools and calculators to get

started on establishing and maintaining a household budget, she said.

Handling credit wisely and keeping one's spending under control are important aspects of personal financial readiness, Thompson said. "If we're living within our means, we're not running credit limit up on that credit card to purchase things that are maybe 'wants' but not 'needs,' she said. Paying off credit card debt every month avoids paying large amounts of interest, she noted.

Having at least 3-6 month's

salary in savings is another important aspect of budgeting, as emergency money that might be needed during a household move, or if a washing machine or car transmission fails.

"It's not... all about debt reduction," Thompson said. "The idea is that you come up with a spending plan of what's important to you, and [put away money] for savings."

## All in good faith



### 188th Celebrates Diversity Day with broad panel of religious speakers

A panel of speakers representing many different religions gather together to speak to members of the 188th Fighter Wing as part of the wing's Diversity Day program September 8, 2013. The faiths represented on the panel were Hindu, Buddhist, Islam, Mormon, and protestant Christianity. Speakers gave unit members their perspective and background on their individual faiths. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs).

## 188th Fighter Wing Unit Training Assembly news

### Upcoming drills

Nov. 2-3  
Dec. 7-8



### UTA pay dates

Nov. 13  
Dec. 18



## Departure

Continued from Page 1

flew the former 188th jets back to Moody AFB.

“As a wing we’ve been flying manned aircraft for 60 years,” said Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander. “But now we’re in the initial stages of a very long conversion. While we’re sad that our A-10s had to go, we’re getting a cutting-edge mission that will feature a substantial Intelligence and RPA mission. It’s definitely bitter-sweet.”

**“The 188th has accomplished some amazing feats in a very short time in the A-10 and it’s sad to see them go... It’s a great aircraft and we’re going to miss it.”**

— Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander

The 188th received its Wart-hogs in April 2007 and has set a number of wing deployment records in both maintenance and operations statistics while both at home station and deployed. The 188th deployed 10 A-10s

and nearly 300 Airmen to Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan in 2010.

The 188th logged the largest deployment in unit history in 2012 when it sent 10 A-10s and nearly 400 Airmen to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. While in Bagram, the 188th set deployment records in combat sorties (1,850), combat flying hours (8,000), precision guided munitions drops (375), 30mm Gatling gun rounds fired (60,000) and rockets launched (210). The 188th provided vital close-air support to nearly 500 troops in contact on the battle-

field with an astounding zero air tasking orders missed.

“The 188th has accomplished some amazing feats in a very short time in the A-10 and it’s sad to see them go,” Anderson said. “We deployed



A small gathering assembled on the flightline at the 188th Fighter Wing’s Ebbing Air National Guard Base in Fort Smith, Ark., Sept. 10 to watch the first two A-10C Thunderbolt II “Warthogs” depart the base. The planes were transferred to the 75th Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., signaling the beginning of the end for the 188th’s fighter mission. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Josh Lewis/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



A crew chief with the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, prepares to marshal an A-10C Thunderbolt II “Warthog,” Sept. 10 following an end-of-runway inspection at Ebbing Air National Guard Base in Fort Smith, Ark. The pilot, a member of Moody Air Force Base’s 75th Fighter Squadron, flew Tail No. A0644 back to Georgia, signaling the beginning of the end for the 188th’s fighter mission. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Master Sgt. Haden Key, a crew chief with the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, straps a pilot inside A-10C Thunderbolt II “Warthog,” Sept. 10 at Ebbing Air National Guard Base in Fort Smith, Ark. The pilot, a member of Moody Air Force Base’s 75th Fighter Squadron, flew Tail No. A0644 back to Georgia, signaling the beginning of the end for the 188th’s fighter mission. The 188th will lose two Warthogs a month until the last two leave in June 2014. The 188th is in the beginning stages of converting from A-10s to an Intelligence and remotely piloted aircraft mission. The mission, which will feature the MQ-9 “Reaper,” will also boast the Air National Guard’s only space-focused targeting squadron. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

to Afghanistan twice and set a number of records while saving countless coalition lives on the ground. It’s a great aircraft and we’re going to miss it.”

During its last deployment, the 188th was heavily tasked, flying in three months at Bagram what would typically take two years to accomplish in a home station training environment in Fort Smith.

The 188th has also been

among the leaders in the A-10 community since the planes first arrived on station more than six years ago.

The 188th consistently led all five A-10 Air National Guard units in the majority of key metrics, including mission capable and fully mission capable rates. While deployed to Bagram, the 188th maintained an 87 percent mission capable rate.



# From Ricks' Rippers to Flying Razorback

February 1951 — Major Gen. Earl T. Ricks, deputy chief of the National Guard Bureau and chief of the Air Force Division, begins campaign for Arkansas to receive second Air Guard unit.

July 1953 — Arkansas Gov. Francis Cherry announces Fort Smith as official site of the 184th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. Original recruiting office set up at Chamber of Commerce.



Oct. 15, 1953 — The 184th is officially activated with 19 officers and 94 enlisted.

Oct. 21, 1953 — The 184th receives its first T-6D "Texan" trainer aircraft.



Jan. 29, 1954 — The 184th received the RB-26B "Invader," the unit's first mission aircraft.

May 1954 — Construction for new 184th facilities at Fort Smith Airport begins.

July 1954 — The 184th attends first summer training camp in Gulfport, Miss.

Dec. 9, 1955 — The 184th receives its first jet aircraft, the T-33A trainer.

Dec. 15, 1955 — The 184th begins moving from Camp Chaffee to new facilities at the airport.

Feb. 11, 1956 — The new 184th facilities are officially dedicated.

Sept. 5, 1956 — The 184th receives its first three RF-80A mission aircraft, replacing the RB-26.

Aug. 10, 1957 — The first RF-84 "Thunderflash" aircraft arrive. It eventually replaces the RF-80.



September 1957 — The unit is federally activated in response to the integration crisis at Little Rock Central High School.

Dec. 30, 1959 — Lt. Col. William Stanton, 184th squadron commander, is killed in a car wreck. Lt. Col. Edward Schneider is appointed the new commander in January.

Oct. 1, 1961 — President John F. Kennedy activates the 184th for 324 days in response to the Berlin Crisis.



Oct. 29, 1961 — President Kennedy visits the 188th during speaking appearances in Big Cedar, Okla., and Fort Smith.

Oct. 18, 1962 — The unit becomes the 188th Tactical Reconnaissance Group.

Aug. 8-22, 1964 — The 188th participates in "Operation Ready Go," to test the unit and Air National Guard's ability to deploy to Europe. It was the first overseas Air Guard summer training exercise.



July 18, 1965 — Lt. Kathleen Booth becomes the first female to join the 188th.

Dec. 6, 1969 — President Richard M. Nixon stops/lands at the 188th en route to Fayetteville for the University of Arkansas versus University of Texas football game.

Sept. 18, 1970 — The 188th begins the transition from the RF-84 to the RF-101C.

April 28, 1972 — The unit converts to the F-100D "Super Sabre" and is redesignated the 188th Tactical Fighter Group.





# cks: 188th Fighter Wing over the years

April 2, 1974 — The Fort Smith Air National Guard Base is re-named Ebbing Air National Guard Base in honor of Maj. Henry F. Ebbing, who died in a training mission Nov. 18, 1970.



May 2, 1975 — The first of many Vietnamese Airlift flights arrive at the 188th for transfer of refugees to Chaffee.

May 20, 1975 — President Gerald R. Ford visits the 188th and gives a speech in support of Operation New Life, the effort to evacuate refugees from Vietnam.

Oct. 4, 1976 — The 188th adopts its third officially recognized unit emblem, "Vigilias Agimus," (Latin: "We are on guard") the first to feature a Flying Razorback, from which the unit takes its nickname.

April 3, 1979 — The 188th begins the conversion to the F-4C "Phantom."



May 9, 1980 — The first Cuban refugees land at the 188th on their way to Chaffee. About 20,000 refugees passed through the 188th.



June 5, 1985 — Maj. Doug Coleman and Capt. Richard Lumpkin were killed when their F-4 crashed near Parks, Ark., during a training mission.

Feb. 19, 1988 — The 188th begins its conversion to the F-16 with the arrival of the first aircraft.

January 1991 — Forty-five members of the 188th were activated for almost six months during Desert Shield/Storm to backfill the hospital at Myrtle Beach (S.C.) Air Force Base.

March 16, 1992 — The 188th Tactical Fighter Group is redesignated the 188th Fighter Group.

Dec. 17, 1993 — Lt. Col. John Steward, Air Force adviser for the 188th, is killed in a midair collision with an F-15 Eagle near Brunswick, Ga., during a training exercise.

Oct. 1, 1995 — The 188th Fighter Group is redesignated the 188th Fighter Wing.

March 8, 1996 — Twelve F-16s and 190 members of the 188th deploy to Italy in support of the Bosnian peace agreement. They return April 9, 1996.



February 1999 — The 188th accepts its first female pilot trainee, Lt. Kristin Bass.



Sept. 11, 2001 — F-16s from the 188th immediately begin flying air defense missions in the aftermath of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

October 2001 — The 188th is put on alert as part of Operation Noble Eagle.

2002 — Elements of the 188th are involved in multiple deployments to Southwest Asia, Central Asia and Germany throughout the year in support of Operating Enduring Freedom and Operation Southern Watch.



Oct. 15, 2003 — The 188th celebrates its 50th anniversary.

May 11, 2004 — President George W. Bush visits the 188th on his way to an appearance in Van Buren.



July 2004 — An Arkansas National Guard spokesperson confirms a re-organization plan under consideration by the National Guard Bureau could remove the F-16s from the 188th.



May and June 2005 — Two-hundred and seventy-six members of the 188th are deployed to Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

May 2005 — Less than a week after its first members deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Department of Defense recommends stripping the unit of its aircraft, pilots and primary mission.

July 11, 2005 — Anthony Principi, chairman of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, visits the 188th after a commission hearing in San Antonio, where the fate of the 188th was discussed.

Aug. 26, 2005 — The BRAC commission recommends replacing the F-16s at the 188th with the A-10.



Oct. 17, 2006 — The first three F-16s depart the 188th.

April 14, 2007 — "Warthog Day." The first A-10s arrive at the 188th.

July 5-28, 2009 — About 300 members of the 188th train at Davis-Monthan Air Force base in Tucson, Ariz., in preparation for a scheduled 2010 deployment to Afghanistan.

Oct. 9-23, 2009 — About 200 members of the 188th train at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas in anticipation of the scheduled 2010 Afghanistan deployment.



March 8, 2010 — More than 275 members of the 188th and 10 A-10s are deployed to Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.



November 2011 — The adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard acknowledges the future of the 188th is uncertain in drastic budget cuts by the Department of Defense.

Feb. 3, 2012 — The proposed Air Force budget for Fiscal Year 2013 proposes removing the 188th's A-10 mission and replaces it with a remotely piloted aircraft mission.

Jan. 17-18, 2013 — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III visits 188th and observes capabilities on base and Razorback Range.



Feb. 11-26, 2012 - About 300 members of the 188th train at Davis-Monthan Air Force base in Tucson, Ariz., in preparation for a scheduled Summer 2012 deployment to Afghanistan.

March-July 2012 — Nearly 400 members of the 188th are deployed to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, serving three-month and six-month tours.



October 2012 — The final members of the 188th deployed to Bagram return home.

December 2012 — Congress approves a defense authorization bill removing A-10s from the 188th.

February 2013 — Col. Mark Anderson, 188th wing commander, says the 188th will receive targeting and intelligence missions in addition to the MQ-9 "Reaper" RPA mission.



Sept. 10, 2013 — The first two A-10s depart the 188th for Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, Ga.

Oct. 15, 2013 — 188th turns 60.

Nov. 2, 2013 — The 188th will celebrate its 60th anniversary.



### Anniversary

Continued from Page 1

the men and women who have made this wing what it is today.”

The 188th began as the 184th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron Oct. 15, 1953, and has changed its handle five times, adopting its current name Oct. 1, 1995, when the 188th Fighter Group became the 188th Fighter Wing.

The 188th will gather to commemorate that illustrious past when it hosts a 60th anniversary celebra-

tion Nov. 2 at the wing’s Ebbing Air National Guard Base. The celebration will kick off at noon in the unit’s main hangar. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

The festivity will feature former Chaplain Brig. Gen. (Ret.) H.D. McCarty, a former 188th member, as the guest speaker. The emcee of the event will be KFSM 5NEWS’ meteorologist Garrett Lewis. A video that catalogs much of the 188th’s history will be shown. Anderson, the wing’s current commander, will provide an update on the current mission conversion. A catered meal will also be served and more than

20 door prizes will be given away.

Several commemorative 60th anniversary items will also be on sale during the event. Coins (\$8), T-shirts (\$10) and polo-style shirts

(\$20) will be on sale at the event.

The 188th Public Affairs Office will also be taking orders for 60th anniversary history books at the event.

The cost of the books is \$20.

## Commemorative 60th Anniversary items available



Coins: \$8

## 188th 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. There will be food and a presentation to look back at the 188th’s 60 years of excellence.

**WHEN:** Saturday, Nov. 2 from 11:30 - 2 p.m.

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

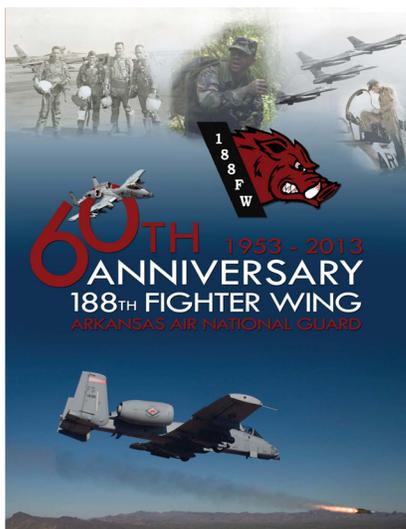
**GUEST SPEAKER:** Brig. Gen. (ret.) H.D. McCarty

**EMCEE:** KFSM 5 News’ Garrett Lewis



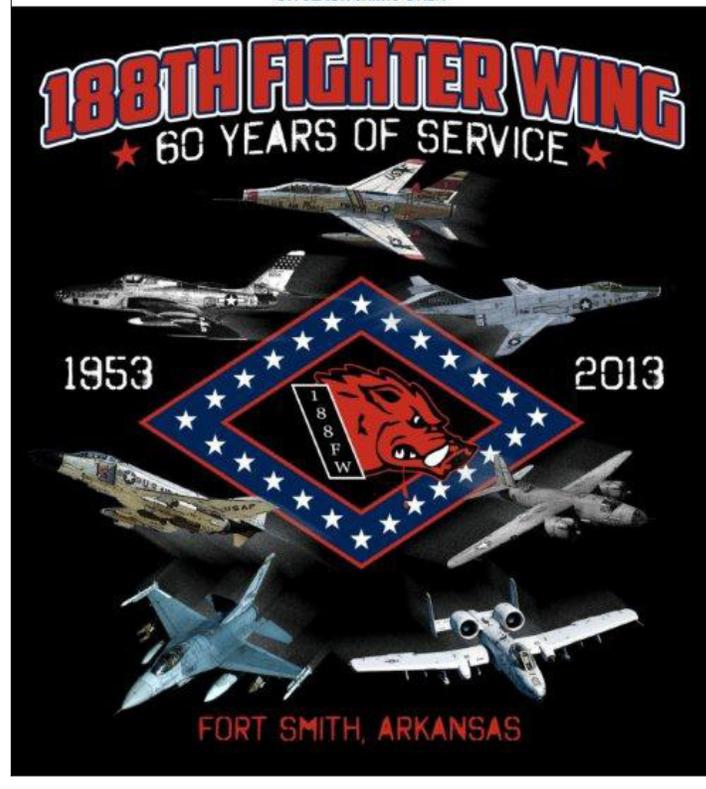
Polos: \$20

T-shirts: \$10



188th  
60th  
anniversary  
history books

Place your order  
today!  
\$20  
On sale at the  
60th anniversary  
event





# 188th Services Airmen train with active duty counterparts

By Tech. Sgt. Josh Lewis

188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

FORT SMITH, Ark. – With its serene sandy beaches, warm sunny weather and the smell of salt in the air, Hawaii sounds like an ideal vacation spot. But Airmen from the 188th Mission Support Group learned that temporary duty at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, is hard work during deployed field training Sept. 11-25, 2013.

During the two week temporary duty, 188th personnel worked side by side with their active duty counterparts in the base fitness facilities, flight kitchen and readiness office. A nine-person services team as well as a two-person Personnel Support for Contingency Operations team augmented active duty forces and assisted the base with



Airman 1st Class Shelbi Newsom, a services specialist with the 188th Mission Support Group, pulls a tray of cookies from the oven at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Sept. 16, 2013. 188th Airmen gained valuable on-the-job training working alongside their active-duty counterparts throughout the base during their two-week long exercise. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Brian Vinsant)

preparation for an upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection and Unit Compliance Inspection.

“I think the benefit of this TDY was the experience that each member obtained in their specific area and the opportunity to use their skill in an active duty setting,” said Master Sgt. Brian Vinsant, 188th Sustainment Services Element kitchen non-commissioned officer in charge.

With an ORI/UCI on their horizon, the Pearl Harbor-Hickam Force Support Squadron relied on 188th Airmen to handle daily tasks such as out-processing deploying personnel or publishing orders. Senior Master Sgt. Lisa McCurdy, 188th Force Management NCOIC, assisted Hickam personnel as an Exercise Evaluation Team member performing a staff-assisted visit for the military personnel flight.

“The members worked different shifts with some members reporting to work at 4:30 a.m.,” McCurdy said. “This was the first time in my career that I spent that amount of time in an active duty MPF. It was a good experience for me, because it allowed me to see the nuts and bolts of how active duty works.”

The three 188th Airmen working the fitness center folded laundered towels, worked in the Fitness Assessment Cell and even helped install new flooring. They also performed fitness evaluations for up to 20 Airmen at a time. Their dedication and skill on the job garnered coins from Hickam’s Sustainment Flight commander.

“They were going through an inspection when we arrived, so it was a little hectic. We

just went with the flow and let them put us where they needed us,” said Staff Sgt. Sasha Gray, 188th Force Support Squadron fitness evaluator.

Six 188th Airmen worked in the dining facilities, providing an opportunity for the Guardsmen to gain some valuable on-the-job training while providing training to the active duty personnel. The kitchen staff served approximately 300 people per day. Additionally, two 188th airmen worked in the flight kitchen serving meals to flight line maintainers and aircrew.

“The training provided useful insight into the daily activities of an active duty unit,” Vinsant said. “This also provided alternatives for future menus in our own dining facility at home.”

This deployment allowed Air National Guard and Active Duty personnel to work in conjunction with each other, which is what they will do in a deployed environment. 188th Airmen also participated in team-building activities such as physical fitness training with their active-duty counterparts. PT on the Hawaiian beach was an experience of a lifetime for the 188th Airmen.

“As a squadron they had great camaraderie,” McCurdy said. “[PT] was brutal, but it was pretty fun. You were crawling through the sand with weights, dragging and carrying people around the beach. You took a rope with a weight and ran about a mile down the beach in a group. You even took a weight with you on one side and a partner on the other and crawled down through cones and back.”

## Marksmen

Continued from Page 1

they can say, ‘hey, I can hit a target at 400 yards with iron sights on this rifle.’ Or ‘OK, my pistol skills are a little bit lacking right now, so maybe that’s something we need to work on.’ So the training aspect has really been pushed.”

Detherage also stressed that the competition was open to all wing members

“There are a lot of people who

work in different sections who may be civilian law enforcement, for example, or just folks who enjoy shooting,” Detherage said. “This is a good way to show up and compete against not only your fellow Guard members, but also against the Army side. It always feels good to beat them up a little bit, too, especially when their commander’s there.”

Tech. Sgt. Seth Bagby, a flight line avionics technician with 188th Maintenance Group, was competing in his second TAG match.

“I think we all felt like we could have shot better, but it was a lot of fun and a good chance to meet and talk with members from the Army, as well as a good way to get to know other people from the 188th,” said Bagby. “Overall, it was a very good experience and lots of valuable training.”

Although experience with competition shooting may prove beneficial to some, it’s certainly not a necessity in order to do well in the TAG Match. Staff Sgt. Derek Nietert, a fire team leader with the

188th Security Forces Squadron, and member of the championship team, was new to the event.

“This was my first year to go,” Nietert said. “Of course I was nervous, I didn’t know exactly what to expect. I enjoyed that it was more combat oriented, with magazine changes and getting your sights back on target to fire accurate rounds. Once we got down there, they explained the different matches and it just came down to hitting my targets. I’m already looking forward to the next match.”



# 188th Fighter Wing promotions

**To Lieutenant Colonel**  
Paul N. Brown  
Jenny L. Johnson



**To Major**  
Wesley A. Duncan  
Joshua W. Parnell



**To Staff Sergeant**  
Zachary L. Darden  
Sasha D. Gray  
G. Eli McRae  
Lindsay R. Pryor



**To Master Sergeant**  
Chandra K. Stoll



**To Senior Airman**  
Benjamin B. Burton  
Jonathan A. Dye  
Aletha S. Lensing  
Spenser A. Lewis  
Sean M. Liggett  
Delmy C. Osorio



**To Technical Sergeant**  
Jonathan D. Darnall  
Kirk A. Gregory  
David A. Lee  
Adam L. Risenhoover  
Clifford L. Robison



**To Airman 1st Class**  
Austin L. Culp



## NGAUS Theodore Roosevelt CGO of the Year Award

Maj. James T. Garvey

## 188th formal training accolades

Tech. Sgt. Kelli Gray  
Airman Austin Culp  
Airman 1st Class Matthew Stephens

Academic Excellence  
Academic Excellence  
BMT Honor Grad, Thunderbolt Award, Knucklebuster Award, Top Room Award

Airman 1st Class Garrett King

BMT Honor Grad, Thunderbolt, Marksmanship

Airman Tyler Price  
Staff Sgt. Kyle Moore

BMT Warrior Flight  
Top Graduate

Airman 1st Class Spencer Brown

BMT Honor Grad, Thunderbolt, Fitness

Airman 1st Class Bret Kootz

BMT Honor Grad

Airman 1st Class Spenser Lewis

Academic Excellence

## Meritorious Service Medals

*Editor's note: The members of the 188th Fighter Wing listed below have recently been awarded the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal.*

Col. Paul Norris  
Lt. Col. Roger Armbrister  
Lt. Col. Robert Goldtrap  
Lt. Col. John Weisenfels  
Chief Master Sgt. Larry Sterling  
Senior Master Sgt. Darrell Brown  
Master Sgt. Rodney Daniels  
Master Sgt. Troy Halsey  
Master Sgt. Katrina Kinnard  
Master Sgt. Steven Timmons  
Tech. Sgt. Richard Lunsford



## Community College of the Air Force grads

Staff Sgt. Julie Darrough  
Staff Sgt. Lauren Davidson  
Master Sgt. Terry Edwards  
Senior Master Sgt. Michael Francis  
Tech Sgt. Lloyd Hicks  
Tech Sgt. Jean Jackson  
Staff Sgt. Jerry Johnson  
Tech Sgt. Justin Mankins  
Staff Sgt. Jimmy Myers  
Senior Airman Lance Williams  
Senior Master Sgt. Joel McDonald

Information Management  
Financial Management  
Fire Science  
Safety  
Vehicle Maintenance  
Human Resource Management  
Electronic System Tech  
Fire Science  
Aviation Operations  
Aviation Maint Tech  
Information System Tech  
Public Health  
Information System Tech  
Aircraft Armament System Tech  
Aircraft Armament System Tech  
Aviation Maintenance Tech  
Aircraft Armament System Tech  
Aircraft Armament System Tech  
Criminal Justice

Tech Sgt. Johnny McGuire  
Tech Sgt. Charley Parker  
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Polk  
Senior Airman Brandon Schwoppe  
Tech Sgt. Kyle Shaw  
Master Sgt. Matthew Siebenmorgen  
Master Sgt. Michael Walker

## 188th Fighter Wing retirements

Lt. Col. John Weisenfels, 188th Medical Group  
Senior Master Sgt. Ricky Gabbard, 188th Civil Engineering Squadron  
Master Sgt. Marvin Duren, 188th Security Forces Squadron  
Master Sgt. Laura English, 188th Mission Support Group  
Master Sgt. Michael Johnson, 188th Fighter Wing  
Tech. Sgt. James Cheater, 188th Civil Engineering Squadron  
Tech. Sgt. David Cole, 188th Maintenance Operations Flight  
Tech. Sgt. Mathew Freeman, 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
Tech. Sgt. John Klein, 188th Civil Engineering Squadron  
Tech. Sgt. Richard Lunsford, 188th Security Forces Squadron  
Tech. Sgt. Shawn Woodard, 188th Services Flight



# 188th's Garvey takes home NGAUS Theodore Roosevelt Company Grade Officer award

By Maj. Heath Allen  
188th Fighter Wing executive officer

FORT SMITH, Ark.— Jim Garvey proved to be one major captain. The recently-promoted Maj. Garvey of the 188th Fighter Wing earned the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) Theodore Roosevelt Company Grade Officer (CGO) of the Year Award for his efforts from April 2012 to April 2013. Garvey, who was a CGO during the award period, was one of only five CGOs in the nation to earn this accolade, which was announced in late September at the national NGAUS convention in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The NGAUS Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award is a national-level plaudit that was established to annually recognize the achievements and dedicated service of Army and Air National Guard junior officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and professionalism in their services to country and community.

Garvey, who was the 188th Maintenance Squadron commander during the award period, played a critical part in the 188th's deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan in 2012. For the largest squadron in the Arkansas Air National Guard (approximately 250 Airmen), it was also the largest deployment in the history of the unit and the most active in terms of com-

bat sorties and weapons dropped.

"I am deeply honored to be recognized by NGAUS, an awesome organization that does so much for our nation's Guardsmen," Garvey said. "But the credit for this award and the accomplishments that led to it really belong to our enlisted Airmen and NCOs. It's their skills and their effort that made all of these feats possible."

During the award period, those lofty deeds included multiple wing records for a deployment and for a one-year span. The 188th established new high marks in combat sorties (1,853), total sorties (3,236), combat flight hours (7,626.2) and total flight hours (9,730.8).

Garvey credited much of this success to the highly proficient work of the 188th Maintenance Group. The 188th consistently leads all five Air National Guard A-10 wings in efficiency statistics. The 188th maintained an 87 percent mission capable rate while in Bagram, which facilitated the dropping of record munitions and other ordnance. The 188th's two maintenance squadrons' focus and precision enabled the employment of 372 precision guided munitions, 210 white phosphorus rockets, and more than 60,000 30mm Gatling gun rounds.

The 188th also boasted a 100 percent completion rate of all air tasking orders, engaging in 486 troops in contact incidents and saving countless U.S. and Coalition lives on the ground.

While Garvey steered away from accepting any credit for the deployment's success, Col. Mark W. Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander, was quick to point out Garvey's vital role in it.

"Maj. Garvey is an outstanding officer and leader," Anderson said. "His insight and his leadership have been extremely important to the success of the wing. He is a phenomenal example and an exceptional ambassador for the 188th in the wing and throughout the community. He definitely deserves to be recognized for his essential role in the wing's continued success."



188th Fighter Wing commander Col. Mark Anderson recognizes Maj. James Garvey for receiving the NGAUS Theodore Roosevelt Company Grade Officer award. (US Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## What do you learn from disappointment?

Commentary by Geoff Gibson  
188th Wing Director of Psychological Health

We face fiscal uncertainty and conversion, but we know that change and challenge are normal for 188th members. You may have applied for several positions in the new mission for which you were not selected, and you and your family members may feel concerned about your future. You may also be struggling with other concerns that look and feel overwhelming. Whether it is everyday frustrations or big letdowns, disappointment is a natural part of our lives. Like any other type of pain, disappointment can also be useful and informative.

When we face disappointment, we tend to unconsciously react with an attack or avoidance. Which is your personal inclination? Our future success depends on how we react, so please take a moment to notice your personal default for handling disappointment. If you feel discouraged, evaluate your options. Do you need to just keep trying and hang in there, or try the task again, but in a different way?

If you need a different result, draw on strengths and resources around you. You are surrounded by people who want to help you be successful, give you new ideas, teach you the skills you need to improve your application and be more prepared for job interviews.

Remember that you are not alone. You have others who care about you, and you can get through this with mutual help and support! Even if you don't get the job you want or face other disappointment, you will remain ready to fight another day. Even if you are not yet selected for one position, there are many opportunities still to come!

Current disappointment hurts, but we feel and do better when we put things into perspective. What impact can you have a century later by your contributions to family, church and community?

Your support team is ready and engaged to assist you vocationally, spiritually and mentally! Please let us support you. If you need support, contact Chaplain Smith (318-918-9669), Michelle Pike (479-573-5167) and Geoff Gibson (479-431-9210).



# 188th pilot earns Air Force's Combat Action Medal for July 4 mission, caps wing's deployment success

By Maj. Heath Allen

188th Fighter Wing executive officer

FORT SMITH, Ark — The smell of barbeque. The pop and sparkle of fireworks lighting up the night sky. Family fun and the comforting sound of laughter. It's how most Americans imagine spending their Independence Day holidays. But for many American Airmen, spending July 4 in a war zone is their reality.

Maj. Doug Smutnick didn't enjoy his Independence Day celebrating America's freedom on the home front. He was busy defending it from the cockpit of one of the 188th Fighter Wing's A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, where he was a key participant in a troops-in-contact predicament during a close-air support combat mission.

Smutnick, who was one of approximately 375 Airmen from the 188th deployed to Bagram in 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), earned an Air Force Combat Action Medal (AFCAM) for that July 4 mission defending the lives of Coalition ground troops engaged in a firefight with Taliban soldiers.

"I remember noting the date when I was completing my admin paperwork at the operations desk before stepping [to the aircraft]," Smutnick said. "But after I sucked the gear up and heard the troops in contact call come over the radio, the date as well as all other nuances quickly melted away."

Smutnick was recognized for this achievement at a commander's call. It was just the second Combat Action Medal awarded to a 188th member.

"The missions our pilots conducted in Afghanistan were often dangerous and required a great deal of courage, patience and precision," said Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander. "Maj. Smutnick certainly exhibited all of those traits. It took a total team effort from the outstanding work of our maintainers to the keen insight from our Intel specialists and dedication of our aircrew. These were missions critical to meeting our nation's strategic objectives."

Combat Action Medals are awarded to Airmen who deliberately go outside the defended perimeter to conduct official duties - either ground or air, and come under enemy attack by lethal weapons while performing those duties, and experience high risk situations that place them in grave danger.

"Maj. Smutnick certainly deserves to be recognized for his accomplishments," Anderson said. "He's an exceptional officer and aviator. We're defi-

nately glad he's a part of our Flying Razorback family."

And it was because of Smutnick's actions that day that multiple Coalition troops made it home safely to their families.

"In reflection, I can't help but hope that not just my actions that day, but everyone's actions and sacrifices over the years supporting OEF, will result in a similar outcome to that of our country's freedoms," Smutnick said.

While the details of the mission are still classified and Smutnick could not elaborate much on the specifics, he was quick to deflect attention from his own accolade and credited his training and his combat cohorts for the 188th's success in Afghanistan. That success included a 100 percent completion of all Air Tasking Orders (ATO) and saving countless Coalition lives while engaged in nearly 500 Troops in Contact missions.

"There were much more harrowing, heroic, and productive sorties by the likes of Maj. Andy Vaughan and Maj. Chris Simpson to name two, that would have put the events and effects of mine to shame," a humble Smutnick surmised.

Much of that productivity was due in part to a boost in activity when compared to the unit's last combat deployment to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan in 2010. Smutnick said the unit's deployment to Bagram was more active in terms of weapons employment.

"The [Rules of Engagement] hadn't changed much at all since our previous deployment to Kandahar," Smutnick said. "It was bouts of monotony peppered with spurts of surgical remediation. But it was more the specific region we were tasked to support that often times required a more liberal application of kinetic effects."

The outcome of those effects included unit deployment records in bombs dropped (285), rockets employed (210) and 30mm rounds fired (65,000) in the largest combat deployment in unit history. The 188th flew 1,850 combat sorties and racked up 7,625 combat flight hours, both of which also set new unit deployment marks.

"Our performance in OEF is a testament to those who maintain the equipment and provide the training here at the 188th," Smutnick said.

That included the countless home station close-air support training missions conducted by the wing's pilots at the 188th's Detachment 1 Razorback Range. This training featured unit-owned



Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander, left, presented Maj. Doug Smutnick, 188th pilot, with an Air Force Combat Action Medal during a recent commander's call. Smutnick was a key participant in a troops-in-contact predicament during a close-air support combat mission July 4, 2012, while piloting a 188th A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthog", defending the lives of Coalition ground troops engaged in a firefight with Taliban soldiers. (U.S. National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs).

datalink system vests utilized by Special Forces Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) to communicate coordinates to the 188th's A-10s for use in close-air support combat training scenarios. The 188th trains its own pilots and JTACs around the world on the use of this system.

Smutnick credited those battle simulations for the wing's overwhelming success rate at Bagram.

"I feel I can safely speak for the entire 184th Fighter Squadron when I say that if it weren't for the selfless dedication and tireless efforts of Maj. Simpson and the spin-up training and asset integration that he has fostered and integrated here at the 188th that we would, without a doubt, not have performed at such an exemplary level as was demonstrated this last deployment," Smutnick said.

Smutnick added that while home station battle drills are paramount, it's also a pilot's ability to compartmentalize that's critical to success in real-world combat missions. That pinpoint focus resulted in zero civilian casualties, fratricide or border crossing incidents, any of which could have major strategic consequences.

"I think what's most important is affecting the battlefield to minimize friendly losses," Smutnick said. "It's faith in our systems, abilities and processes developed during full-scale training and exercises that plays a significant role in our ability to set aside the fears of doubt, loss of one's life, and failure that would otherwise cripple an ill prepared and ill equipped warrior."



## New inspection system slated for implementation

By Lt. Col. James Krohn

188th Fighter Wing Inspector General

The newest version of the Air Force Instruction 90-201 "The Air Force Inspection System" (2 Aug. 2, 2013) is set to fundamentally change the way we look at and perform our readiness inspections from now on.

You are all well aware that in the past, about a year prior to a compliance or readiness inspection we would start to exercise, and exercise, and exercise in order to be inspection ready when the inspector general team arrived on base. We put all sorts of processes in place that looked good but often didn't add to the overall mission effectiveness of the unit.

And, as soon as the IG team was gone many relaxed those processes to return to the regular emphasis of being mission ready. In the new inspection system, being mission ready and inspection ready will be the same thing. The heart of this new inspection paradigm is the Commanders Inspection Program (CCIP).

The CCIP Implementation Guide captures the message in these terms: "In the new AF Inspection System, inspection prep will be unnecessary and ineffective. Most inspections will be done by the wing

commander's team on a continual basis as simply part of the way the wing works as the Airmen focus on mission readiness every day. Commanders will inspect their units' ability to execute the mission, manage resources, lead people and improve performance. Functional experts on staffs will focus on enabling, as commanders focus on ensuring."

Using Management Internal Control Tool (MICT) checklists as well as base/group/squadron level exercises and effective management of precious resources, the CCIP will identify strong areas and weak points in mission readiness. After weaknesses are identified, the commander along with all stakeholders, can come up with what is needed to bring these areas up to where they need to be. And, all of this will occur within the daily execution of our mission.

We will still be looked at by inspection personnel from outside of the unit, but on base visits by massive IG teams will be a thing of the past. All of this is brand new and will take some time to implement. Look for more from me as more information becomes available and as the picture becomes clearer.

## This hunting season, be safe in the woods

By Senior Master Sgt. Michael Francis

188th Ground Safety manager

If you remember the old Bugs Bunny cartoons, you likely remember ol' Elmer Fudd chasing Bugs with shotgun in hand, determined to kill a rabbit to make his famous rabbit stew. In almost every cartoon we saw Elmer's shotgun tied in a knot resulting in the gun blowing up in his face. Thankfully this was only a cartoon, however, hunting accidents really do happen and the 188th has endured several of them.

If you aren't a hunter, just know that hunting season has arrived in Arkansas and Oklahoma! The 188th has had its share of hunting accidents ranging from sprains to fatalities. We have had people fall out of tree stands, get shot by other hunters, and unfortunately die from hunting mishaps. If you are going hunting this season, I urge you to use some risk management in your planning. Here are a few things to think about:

Use proper safety equipment such as fall protection when sitting in a deer stand.

Tell someone the area you will be hunting and give them an estimated time when you will return.

Look for signs of other hunters in the area such as a vehicle or marked trail.

Dress for the weather, making sure to layer your clothing.

Consider packing a few survival items in your hunting pack. A lighter or matches, a knife and a signal whistle could save your life should you become injured or stranded in the woods.

If you are waterfowl hunt-

ing or fishing during the winter months, always wear your PFD when in the boat.

Clean and inspect the weapon you are going to use in the field. Familiarize yourself with the proper operation and function. Whether it is a rifle, bow, crossbow, muzzleloader, etc., make sure it is in good working condition.

Wear a helmet when operating your ATV. Many hunters could have avoided serious injury simply by putting on a helmet.

Know the signs of hypothermia and how to treat it. You don't necessarily have to get wet to experience the effects of hypothermia.

Practice safe shooting! Know what is beyond your target before you pull the trigger.

To give you some idea about some of the mishaps the 188th has had, I'll include a very brief synopsis of a few of the more notable accidents; some of you will remember these, others you may not:

- 188th member fell from tree stand while deer hunting, sprained an ankle.
- 188th member fell from tree stand while deer hunting, breaking a leg.
- 188th member shot in the face while turkey hunting.
- Two 188th members drowned while waterfowl hunting, a third member was injured
- 188th member shot himself in the leg while rabbit hunting.

It kind of hits home when you realize it's your co-workers who were injured. Could it have been you instead? Be safe out there and good luck!

### 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

# 188th members earn wing Sijan Awards, national nominations

By Maj. Heath Allen

188th Fighter Wing executive officer

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Above and beyond is the norm rather than the exception for a quartet of 188th Fighter Wing Airmen. The 188th recently recognized four of its members for winning the wing level Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award. Each of the members was nominated at the Air National Guard level as well. Winners at the ANG level will advance to compete at the Air Force echelon.

Staff Sgt. Michael Rybarczyk, Chief Master Sgt. Donnie Frederick, Maj. Jim Garvey and Maj. Sara Stigler each earned top billing for the Sijan in their respective categories: Junior enlisted, senior enlisted, junior officer and senior officer.

“We’re very proud of the quality of Airmen that we have in both the enlisted and officer ranks,” said Col. Mark W. Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander. “These four Airmen have made outstanding contributions to the wing and deserve this recognition. They represent what this unit is built on: Hard work, determination, resiliency and the ability to adapt and overcome whatever challenges they face. They’re the epitome of exceptional leadership and they’re model officers and NCOs [noncommissioned officers]. I’m honored that they’ve chosen to be a part of our 188th family.”

The Sijan award was created in 1981 to recognize individuals who have demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership in their jobs and in their lives. It has become one of the U.S. Air Force’s most prestigious awards. Sijan, an Air Force captain and fighter pilot, died while a POW in Vietnam. Prior to his capture, the United States Air Force Academy graduate and posthumous Medal of Honor recipient evaded the North Vietnamese for six weeks after being shot down in November 1967.

The wing Sijan victors were measured in four categories: Scope of responsibility, professional leadership, community involvement and leadership image.

Frederick, who serves as the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron superintendent, was a key player in the 188th’s record-setting deployment to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in 2012. Frederick, who manages more than 160 Airmen in three flights, oversaw much of the flight-line operations and maintenance on the 188th’s A-10C Thunderbolt II “Warthogs” while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Both Frederick and Garvey, 188th Maintenance Squadron commander, played critical roles in the Bagram deployment, the largest in 188th history. They helped raise the bar with myriad new high marks in fiscal year 2012, the year in which the award was based.

The 188th flew 3,236 sorties, of which 1,853 were in combat. The Wing logged 9,730.8 total flying hours; 7,626.2 of those hours were flown in combat supporting U.S. and allied ground forces in Afghanistan. All of those metrics were wing records for both a deployment and a one-year span.

The 188th achieved a phenomenal 100 percent mission tasking completion rate in Afghanistan. Amid a 24-hour schedule and an extremely high ops tempo, the unit did not miss a single combat mission tasking while deployed to Bagram.

Stigler, 188th Intelligence chief, was an essential player in both the deployment and the wing’s ongoing mission conversion preparation. The 188th is currently in the initial stages of transitioning from an A-10 close-air support fighter mission to an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance/MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft operation.



Staff Sgt. Michael Rybarczyk, an aircraft fuel systems craftsman with the 188th Maintenance Group, poses with one of the 188th Fighter Wing’s A-10C Thunderbolt IIs. Rybarczyk was recognized for his actions during the wing’s 2012 deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan, and was nominated by the wing for the Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Josh Lewis/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

While deployed, she synergized threat detection among multiple joint partners in the vicinity of Bagram, protecting thousands of coalition lives. She was also instrumental in the overhaul of the reporting processes for alleged border crossing and civilian casualty claims. These new processes avoided strategic-level adverse effects to coalition efforts.

After redeployment, Stigler was handpicked to lead the Intelligence conversion committee, overseeing a 2,700 percent increase in wing Intelligence billets and helping to facilitate the largest mission change in wing history.

Rybarczyk, an aircraft fuel systems specialist with the 188th Maintenance Squadron, used his civilian skillset to save lives while deployed to Bagram. He exhibited intrepid leadership under fire when he ran from his bunker across an open area to reach three Airmen who had been wounded during a rocket attack.

Rybarczyk utilized his civilian training as an emergency medical technician to triage and treat the wounded until medical personnel



Chief Master Sgt. Donnie Frederick, right, was the winner of the wing level Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award at the 188th Fighter Wing in the senior noncommissioned officer category. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Maj. Jim Garvey, right, was the winner of the wing level Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award at the 188th Fighter Wing in the junior officer category. Garvey was a captain during the award period. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Maj. Sara Stigler, right, was the winner of the wing level Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award at the 188th Fighter Wing in the senior officer category. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

arrived. He then accompanied the wounded Airmen to the hospital and continued to provide medical care en route.

“I can’t say enough about the quality of the Airmen in this wing,” Anderson said. “We have some amazing people doing some amazing things in the 188th. I’m honored to serve with all of them.”



# Hawg heritage

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

July 1954 - Airmen with the 184th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron muster at the Kansas City Railroad depot in downtown Fort Smith, Ark. The midnight roll-call was the first stage of an 18-hour train trip to Gulfport, Miss., in order to participate in the unit's first Annual Field Training exercise.

During their first "summer camp," as it came to be called by Guardsmen, the 184th TRS began a tradition of "working hard and accomplishing their mission." despite whatever hardships came their way.

Airmen worked in long-sleeve heavy twill uniform shirts buttoned at the cuff for those two weeks, even though temperatures stayed above 100 degrees daily, as well as humidity greater than 90 percent.



## myPers website available for personnel services

The Air Force online personnel services website, known as myPers, is a total force source for personnel information and services. As an active duty, Guard, Reserve or civilian employee, use myPers to get your questions answered and conduct personnel business online when it's convenient for you. The myPers website has informative articles on personnel programs such as promotions, reenlistments, benefits, and transfers. Online services available include requesting your service verification letter, re-

viewing your current retirement points, accessing your official military personnel records, or nominating a member for a federal award.

Upon entry there is a personalized home page just for you. Sections like "I Would Like To," "Most Viewed Articles," "Announcements for Airmen," and a search function make it easy for you to stay up-to-date and allow you to access the virtual Personnel Center - Guard/Reserve and other applications. If you are not already a myPers user, visit the website from any

computer, anytime, at [mypers.af.mil](http://mypers.af.mil). You can log in using your common access card or a login name and password.

If you need assistance, you can reach the myPers Total Force Service Center by selecting the "Contact Us" link from the myPers webpage. You can select the "Email Us" link to correspond electronically, or choose the "Other Contact Information" link to find the toll free 800 number and other options available for reaching the myPers-Total Force Service Center.

