



The Flying Razorback

188th Wing Arkansas Air National Guard

Ebbing ANG Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas

September 2014

Wingman Day

Airmen participate in the first Wingman Day Olympics **2**



*ANG's top director of psychological health **7***

*188th Med Decon **14***



Going for the gold

188th Wingman Day Olympics builds unity, resiliency

By Staff Sgt. John Suleski
188th Wing Public Affairs

The whole is more than the sum of its parts. This concept is used every day by people who work together as a team to achieve more than if they performed individually. In order for Airmen to have excellence in all they do, they need to have the unity to work together and the resiliency to push past all obstacles.

Since the 188th Wing's conversion to different missions, drastic changes and new faces have been a way of life, said Lt. Col. Tom Smith, 188th Wing chaplain.

To develop unity and resilience among Wingmen new and old, members of the 188th Wing participated in a Wingman Day Olympics event held at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas, Aug. 2.

"With all the transition, planes going away, a new mission no one knew anything about, people's lives being turned upside down, it's been hectic," said Smith, who coordinated the event. "If it was going to work, it had to be with everyone pulling together. The Wingman Day Olympics was one way to accomplish that."

The 188th Civil Engineering Squadron Team 1 won a tiebreaker with 188th Wing Staff to claim this year's Wingman Day Olympics. Both teams scored 50 points but CES scored points in more events to earn the tiebreaker.

The 188th Security Forces Squadron and 188th Civil Engineering Squadron Team 2 tied for third place with 45 points each.

Senior Master Sgt. Sam Janski won this year's Rambo Award for the most points scored by an individual. Janski hit on 14 of 15 shots to win the free throw competition and also won the golf chip-putting contest to collect 50 total points for

188th Wing Staff.

The Olympics had eight events, ranging from a 1.5-mile run to volleyball. Smith said the events were chosen to build teamwork and challenge the participants' physical fitness, which ties into the physical pillar of resiliency.

Staff Sgt. Tim Curd, 123rd Intelligence Squadron intelligence specialist, said the mile relay race was particularly difficult.

"The box jumps were the worst," said

Intelligence Squadron, would be together.

Most of the participants wore different colored squadron shirts; 188th Wing personnel had olive green shirts. The 188th Security Forces Squadron had black and other squadrons had red, blue and light green. While there were several seas of solid colors, many teams resembled tie-dyed shirts.

"Everyone still has their guys that congregate together because they know each other," Curd said. "But making them get on different teams and do different things with different people, that separates them out and mixes things up so they come together more as a unit. Wingman Day is a really good idea and I think it should be done a little more often."

Smith said the Wingman Olympics is planned on being held every year. Additionally, the fastest 1.5-mile run records, engraved upon a plaque, can only be broken during the event each year.

This year, the fastest man, Airman 1st Class Austin Culp, 188th Operations Support Squadron, came in at 8:33. The fastest woman, Staff Sgt. Rachel Ponder, 188th Communications Flight, came in at 10:35.

After proving their physical prowess as a part of resiliency, the members of the 188th Wing broke up to their individual units for resiliency training to learn more about the other pillars of the concept: mental, spiritual and social.

"Having the Olympics and then going to resiliency training was a good idea," Smith said. "Everyone had a good taste in their mouths and that helped them not go to this training like a lot of training they've been in."

Overall, the chaplain said the Wingman Day Olympics were a success. He added that it was not him who made it



Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Wing commander, middle, presents the Wingman Day Olympics championship trophy to Maj. Drew Donohoe, left, and Senior Master Sgt. Gary Skelton, both members of the 188th Civil Engineering Squadron, during a commander's call at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas, Aug. 3, 2014. The 188th CES won a tiebreaker with Wing Staff by scoring 50 points and logging points in more events to take the 2014 Wingman Day Olympics title. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Suleski/released)

Curd, in between deep breaths. "It really slowed my running down. But, it was a good, hard race."

The 123rd team won the mile relay event with a time of 6:02.

Some of the events, like basketball free-throws and golf, were individual competitions but allowed for others to cheer for different people, Smith said. He added that he enjoyed seeing the spectators at the 1.5-mile cheer for everyone, not just the finalists.

Smith said this was important because this unit training assembly was the first time the members of the 188th and its new squadrons, including the 123rd Intel-

188th Medical Group's Scott earns NGAUS Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award

By Maj. Heath Allen
188th Wing executive officer

For the second consecutive year, the 188th Wing has earned a national-level award for company grade officer performance.

Maj. Bridgette Scott was presented with a Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award at the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) on Aug. 25, 2014. Maj. Gen. Steve Danner, NGAUS chairman, and Col. Paul Caviness, NGAUS awards committee member, presented the accolade to Scott during the annual NGAUS conference at the McCormick Center.

"I'm honored and humbled to be recognized for my service," said Scott, medical health services administrator with the 188th Medical Group. "I'm proud to serve with one of the best wings in the ANG and I am immensely appreciative that my leadership took the time to nominate me for such a prestigious award."

This award 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. This

award was first presented in 2006.

Scott, a prior enlisted Airman with more than 20 years in the ANG, ensured the review and processing of 944 medical records and reduced errors by 70 percent.

According to Scott's award citation she "exhibited diligence, persistence and a unique insight while representing the 188th Medical Group through the execution of high-visibility tasks paramount to the success of the wing's mission. Her innovative ideas and savvy leadership were instrumental to the successful execution of 188th mission objectives and vast upgrades in wing readiness."

Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Wing commander, said Scott showed poise and exhibited a superb work ethic amid a high operations tempo during an arduous mission conversion and hiring and personnel placement process.

"Maj. Scott is an exceptional officer and leader," Anderson said. "She had a challenging task of ensuring medical readiness during the full-time hiring process for our on-going mission conversion, which is the largest and most complex in unit history. Without question she excelled in her role and is certainly deserving of this recognition. We're extremely proud of her."



Maj. Bridgette Scott of the 188th Medical Group, middle, was presented with a Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award at the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) Aug. 25. Maj. Gen. Steve Danner, left, NGAUS chairman, and Col. Paul Caviness, NGAUS awards committee member, presented the accolade to Scott during the annual NGAUS conference at the McCormick Center in Chicago. (Courtesy photo/released)



The
Flying Razorback

Col. Mark Anderson,
188th Wing commander

Col. Pete Gauger,

188th Wing vice commander

Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Bradley,

188th Wing command chief master sergeant

Publication Staff

188th Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Heath Allen, editor

1st Lt. Holli Nelson,

Chief of Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Josh Lewis,

Public Affairs NCOIC

Staff Sgt. John Suleski

Staff Sgt. Hannah Landeros

Airman 1st Class Cody Martin

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The Flying Razorback

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188th Wing promotions

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To Technical Sergeant

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To Staff Sergeant

Hannah Landeros
Richard Baskette



To Senior Airman

Ian Walton
Jason Vance
Austin Culp



To Airman First Class

Jess Hixson



Balance priorities, spend your time wisely

Commentary By Lt. Col. Herb Hodde
188th Wing chaplain

The second grader rarely saw his dad at night, barely on weekends, and never in the morning. His dad was busy trying to make a living, trying to get ahead. There was always one more sale, one more call to make, one last pitch before he called it quits for the day.

On one rare occasion he was up early on Saturday morning in time enough to catch his dad before he left for his ritual golf game. As he stood there in footed pajamas, favorite stuffed animal in hand, he paused and in a sleepy voice asked, "Daddy, how much money do you make in a year?"

The father, not wanting to miss his tee time, looked at his son and replied, "Go back to bed son, mommy will be up soon to make you breakfast."

"Well, uh, er, how much money do you make in a week?" again asked the son.

The father again replied, "Son, go back to sleep."

With one final effort the son asked, "Daddy how much do you make a day?"

Not wanting the dew to dry on the first tee the father stated, "Son, your father makes approximately \$137.00 an hour before bonus and stock options. Now, run off to bed."

The young lad toddled off towards his bedroom. Relieved of the minor inconvenience, the dad carefully placed the new

set of stock options (golf clubs) into the trunk of his shiny brand new car bought with last month's bonus, and backed out of his garage, which belonged to the salesman of the quarter.

He had made it half way down the driveway when his son came running up to him. The young boy held out his tight little fist revealing some change, a few M&Ms, a video token, and half a life saver.

"It's all I got daddy," the young boy said. "But is it enough to buy some time with you this morning?"

As the old adage goes: "show me your checkbook and I'll tell you your priorities." In today's world it's, "show me your blackberry and I'll tell you your priorities."

As traditional Guardsmen or full-time technicians or AGRs, our time is so precious. We have bosses, commanders, spouses, family and friends all vying for our time. Sometimes I run out of day before I run out of projects. Oh, and by the way is it wrong for me to take some time for self?

My prayer, present company included, is we would take the time to focus on those things which are truly important to us. I know we all have jobs, roles and responsibilities, present company included. May we all learn to slow down just a little, pause and reflect on what is important, and take time for things which are of true importance to us.



Click image for video



Check out this video on the celebration of the U.S. Air Force's 67th birthday

188th marksmen muster strong showing at TAG Match

By Airman 1st Class Cody Martin
188th Wing Public Affairs

Training is essential for every Guardsman. Continued training is essential to ensure they can accomplish any task with precision. By attending the 2014 The Adjutant General (TAG) Match on July 25, 2014, members of the 188th Wing were able to not only compete with Guardsmen throughout the state, but to test their training, learn new techniques and use their knowledge to teach to younger Soldiers and

Rifle, first place in the Unknown Distance and Combined Sniper Weapons System Match and second place in the EIC Rifle Match. His combined scores in the rifle events earned first overall in the Combat Rifle Individual Championship.

Palmer, 188th SFS noncommissioned officer in charge of combat arms, received the Governor's Twenty Award for pistol and will receive the Bronze Pistol Badge from the Excellence in Competition (EIC) Program.

"Our marksmanship team has performed exceptionally and this year was no different," — Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Wing commander

Airmen.

Master Sgt. Greg Palmer, along with Tech Sgt. Frank Koeth and Staff Sgt. Devin Humphrey, represented the 188th Wing at the TAG Match, held at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Koeth, 188th Security Forces Squadron (SFS), received the Governor's Twenty Award for

"Our marksmanship team has always performed exceptionally this year was no different," staid Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Wing commander. "This is an outstanding event and we're proud of how well our Airmen competed."

Upon arrival, they went through small arms firing school and attended briefings on safety

and skill sets.

"It is primarily focused on training of marksmen and future marksmen," Palmer said. "You compete against fellow National Guardsmen within the state, whether they are Army or Air Force, and you're there to gain experience and you're there to teach others."

The TAG Match consists of 10 different bouts with combinations of all of the weapons systems.

"This year in particular they were very ambitious," Palmer said. "We fired more matches this year than I have ever fired at a TAG Match. Normally we shoot five, maybe six matches."

Their accomplishments have qualified both Palmer and Koeth for the Marksmanship Advisory Council fifth division (MAC-V) Regional Match.

Koeth said the TAG Match provides solid preparation for the regional competition.

"I've been doing this for 16 years, and I have always learned something new at every weapons training event I've attended," said Koeth. "They taught a basic marksmanship class and I picked

up new techniques there."

Although Palmer will not be able to attend, Koeth will go on to represent Arkansas in the MAC-V Regional Match and will be shooting as a member of the Alpha team.

"The Alpha team is the one shooting for the overall team awards," Koeth said. "The Bravo and Charlie teams are there to get experience and shoot the matches so that they can one day come down and shoot as an Alpha team and be competing against all the other teams in the other states."

The MAC-V Regional Match will be held in Hastings, Nebraska, Aug. 20-24, 2014. To prepare, Koeth has been busy practicing the matches, zeroing different site systems and studying the official match program.

"I'm ready to go and do the best I can against some really tough competition," Koeth said. "No matter what, I'll learn a lot, make some new connections in the shooting world and bring back good information to make sure the 188th can put together a team that will be competitive at all levels."



Tech. Sgt. Frank Koeth fires his pistol during the 2014 Arkansas The Adjutant General (TAG) Match at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas on July 26, 2014. Koeth finished first overall in the Combat Rifle Individual Championship at the TAG Match.



Tech Sgt. Frank Koeth, left, accepts the first overall Combat Rifle Individual Championship award from Maj. Gen. William Wofford, Arkansas National Guard adjutant general, at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas on July 27, 2014.



The Flying Razorback member spotlight

Tech Sgt. Jeffery Ames



Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Ames poses in front of an A-10C Thunderbolt II, "Warthog", at the 188th Wing, Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas, Aug. 3, 2014. Ames is assigned to the 153th Intelligence Squadron and was selected as The Flying Razorback spotlight for September 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/released)

Hometown: Bellevue, Nebraska

Job title: Signals analyst

In the 188th: Since 2003

Education: One speech class shy of an associate's degree

Hobbies: Hunting, Fishing and acting in an on-line Star Trek series

Goals: Get my bachelor's degree

Favorite TV show: "Defiance"

Favorite actor: Liam Neeson

Favorite animal: Timber wolf

Favorite comedian: Dane Cook

Favorite movie: Star Wars Episode V "The Empire Strikes Back"

Favorite restaurant: Hong Kong's

Favorite soft drink: Diet Mountain Dew

Favorite foods: Steak

Favorite book: Fahrenheit 451

Favorite author: Robert Jordan

Favorite song: "Creeping Death"

Favorite musical group: Metallica

Favorite word or phrase: Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful

Favorite super hero: Batman

Favorite U.S. President: Ronald Reagan

Favorite historical figure: General George Patton

Favorite sport: College football

Favorite pro sports team: Seattle Seahawks and Kansas City Chiefs

Favorite college team: Nebraska Cornhuskers

My worst job ever: Bucking hay

My dream shopping spree: Bass Pro Shop

Place I'd most like to visit: Ireland

Favorite cartoon character: Marvin the Martian

Favorite automobile: 1968 Camaro

My first car was: 1972 Ford Maverick

My worst habit: Taking on too many tasks at one time

My pet peeves: People not being true to their word

I am proudest of: I have many equally proud moments especially in regards to my daughter's accomplishments

What scares me the most: Not knowing if I was going to be selected for a full-time position in the new mission

The person I admire most: My dad

The best day of my life: When my children were born

Favorite moment at the 188th: Getting a phone call informing me that I was selected for a job in one of the new mission sets

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

Tech. Sgt. Kelly Webb 479-573-5355

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www.188wg.ang.af.mil/188thsaproffice

SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247

Joint Force Headquarters SARC

Jessica Hamilton: 501-212-4225

188th Wing Unit Training Assembly news

UTA pay dates

September 17

October 15



188th's Gibson earns national honor as Air National Guard's top director of psychological health

By Senior Airman Hannah Landeros
188th Wing Public Affairs

With the anniversary of Sept. 11 approaching, Americans will reflect on nearly 13 years of war. After years of deployments and posturing in preparation, families and members of the Arkansas National Guard have required various types of support functions such as psychological and mental health care. In order to meet their needs, Mr. Geoff Gibson was hired

as the 188th Wing director of psychological health (DPH), a newly created position

across the Air National Guard.

For his extensive and selfless service to the Arkansas National Guard, Gibson's hard work earned him the first-ever Air National Guard Director of Psychological Health of the Year Award. Gibson was recently recognized for his achievement during a wing commander's call held at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Aug. 3, 2014. This award recognizes an outstanding DPH who shows true dedication to service members and their families.

"I am incredibly honored to receive this recognition," Gibson said. "I see myself as part of an amazing team."

Beginning his career in June 2011, Gibson became one of the first DPH's hired nationally and the first in base history.

"Geoff has definitely gone above and beyond in assisting unit members and their families experiencing stressors, grief, loss and change," said Lt. Col. Judith Mathewson, 188th Mission Support Group deputy commander. "He creates a positive atmosphere in our wing and teams up with Airmen, the base chaplains, Airman and Family Readiness Office and other community support services."

During a four-month vacancy of the state DPH position in 2013-2014, Gibson stepped up by providing psychological health coverage and supported nearly 3,000 Arkansas National Guardsmen.

"Geoff has earned the trust of all senior

leaders and that confidence allows them to refer individuals to him without fear of repercussions or a breach of confidentiality," Mathewson said.

Gibson said the DPH's responsibilities range from aiding service members with personal, work or mental health issues to referring out to other community resources. Additional responsibilities include crisis response with ongoing follow-ups as well as consulting with leaders to help them assist

their Airmen.

"Geoff's briefings on grief, loss, stress, family issues, substance abuse, suicide

prevention and other topics during the mission conversion over the past year have been well-received," Mathewson said. "His delivery of important self care and member care has served as a great asset to readiness and resilience."

Gibson's other accomplishments include assisting senior leadership in planning and implementing an annual Wingman Day. He

also provides counseling sessions to those experiencing traumatic and challenging situations from the unit deployments, along with numerous other squadron and individual deployments.

In 2012, Gibson was appointed by Maj. Gen. William Wofford, Arkansas National Guard adjutant general, as a key member of the Resilience, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention Council (R3SPC). As an active member of R3SPC, Gibson supported the analysis and development of the program across the Arkansas National Guard by providing risks and solutions on a quarterly basis.

He plays a key role in the 188th Wing's ongoing conversion from manned aircraft to remotely piloted aircraft and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission sets. Gibson aids Airmen previously assigned to specialties associated with the old mission to their new careers.

"When Geoff was hired he didn't sit around hoping to find his role," said Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Wing commander. "He was engaged and energetic from day one. His confidence together with his unmatched professional skills and a caring heart has led to his complete acceptance by the wing."

"Geoff has definitely gone above and beyond in assisting unit members and their families,"

— Lt. Col. Judith Mathewson,
188th Mission Support Group deputy commander



Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Wing commander, left, recognizes Geoff Gibson as the first-ever Air National Guard Director of Psychological Health of the Year. Gibson's achievement was recognized at a wing commander's call held at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Aug. 3, 2014. This award recognizes an outstanding DPH who shows true dedication to service members and their families. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Suleski/ released)



Payday loans are simply just bad news

Commentary by Tech. Sgt. Christina Simmons
188th Airman and Family Readiness Office

If Visa offered you a credit card with an annual percentage rate of 391percent, would you take it?

It sounds like a joke but to the recipients of one of the most sinister and underhanded lending practices in the marketplace, it's truly no laughing matter.

The typical story goes something like this. Jim is strapped for cash, several of his bills are due, or past due, and payday isn't for another week. So rather than get hit with late fees or hurt his credit any worse than it already is, Jim decides to seek out what is known as a payday loan. He figures, "It's just like an advance on money that's coming my way anyway, right? Why not?"

So Jim takes a walk to his local payday loan center and writes a postdated check for \$575 for a \$500 loan. Two weeks from now, he'll have to allow the check to be cashed, pay back the full amount of the check by some other means, or pay another fee to extend the loan.

Can you guess what \$75 on a two-week loan for \$500 works out to be in annual interest? That's right, 391percent APR-- and what's worse, that's actually the low end of the spectrum when it comes to these types of loans. Payday loans have been known to reach upwards of 700-plus percent APR, often the highest rates come from online lenders, with averages usually in the four to five hundred s. As an example, California's average is 460 percent.

If Jim only had to do this kind of thing once it might be painful, but at least it would be over quickly. The problem, however, is that using this kind of loan often creates a cycle of debt that can't be easily undone. The average borrower spends \$793 to pay off a \$325 loan because he or she ends up needing to take out more payday loans just to pay off the original, either because of a lack of funds available or because two weeks just isn't enough time to regroup.

According to the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions, one in

four payday borrowers in that state took out loans between 10 and 19 times a year.

Payday loans often fall directly under the definition of usury, which is the act of lending money at an unreasonably high interest rate, as dictated by the state. Payday loans or payday lenders have used lending loopholes to their advantage, but certainly a loan with an APR in the three-digit realm can't be consid-

ered anything except "unreasonable."

As an interesting point of reference, the Roman Empire had a 12 percent cap on interest rates. The ancient Chinese had a 36percent cap. The American colonies had caps between five and 12 percent. And between 1900 and the late 1970s, most U.S. states had usury caps between 18 and 42 percent. So

historically we are way over the limit and into what amounts to legalized loan sharking.

The argument for payday loans is that they serve competition and may be the only alternative for people with severe credit problems. For those people, these loans could be the only thing standing in the way of bouncing checks or having to pawn their personal items. If you know someone like Jim or have been tempted to take out a payday loan yourself, consider alternatives such as a small loan from your credit union or small loan company, a loan from family or friends, an advance on pay from your employer or a cash advance on a credit card. Local, community-based organization may also make small business loans to individuals. Ask your creditors for more time to pay your bills. Find out what they will charge for that service. Try working out a debt repayment plan with creditors and developing a budget. Find out if you have, or can get, overdraft protection on your checking account. The fees can be high, but may still be lower than those of payday loans. Visit your Airman and Family Readiness Office for financial counseling or suggestions for debt relief. Contact your local consumer credit

counseling service. There are non-profit groups in every state that offer credit guidance to consumers and these services are available at little or no cost. Your employer, credit union or housing authority may also offer credit counseling programs.

No matter what you choose, it's extremely important to shop carefully, compare offers and look for the option with the lowest APR.

Between 2000 and 2004, the number of payday lender locations skyrocketed from 10,000 to 22,000. University of Utah law professor Christopher Peterson said, nationally, there are now more payday lenders than McDonalds, Burger King, J.C. Penney's and Target stores combined.

The numbers are scary and several consumer watchdog organizations have released strong warnings against payday loans. The FTC posted a "Consumer Alert," the Consumer Federation of America set up www.paydayloaninfo.org as an educational resource, the United States Defense Department has a program in place that warns military service personnel against them and our nation's capital has effectively outlawed the practice by capping the interest rate at 24 percent (Payday Loan Consumer Protection Act).

What's the moral of the story? Stay away from payday loans. No matter how bad your financial troubles may seem now, they can always be worse.

After over six years of work by the Coalition known as Arkansans Against Abusive Payday Lending (AAAPL), the last predatory payday lender left the state of Arkansas on July 31, 2009. Even though all of the Payday Lending stores have closed in Arkansas some Payday Lenders continue to make High Cost loans to Arkansans using the Internet. If you live in Arkansans and have obtained a loan at interest rates higher than 17 This article was written by Credit Karma. Annual Percentage Rate (APR) over the Internet they are illegal in Arkansas. If you have become victim of a High Cost Loan the Arkansas Attorney General wants to know about it and will help you with free assistance.

If you need financial counseling or assistance in finding resources contact your Airman and Family Readiness Office at 479-573-5167 to schedule an appointment.

Credit Karma contributed to this article.

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PAY DAY
LOANS
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Setting the bar: 188th Wing's Barr family named Air National Guard Family of the Year

By Maj. Heath Allen
188th Wing executive officer

One 188th Wing family is setting the national standard for volunteerism. That munificent toil didn't go unnoticed and on Aug. 13, 2014, the 188th's Barr family was honored with the National Military Family Association 2014 Family of the Year Award for the Air National Guard.

Senior Master Sgt. Scott Barr, his wife Cindy and the couple's two children Isaak and Andrew were recognized for the achievement at the National Military Family Association volunteer conference in Norman, Oklahoma.

Gen. Frank Grass, National Guard chief, and Maj. Gen. William Wofford, Arkansas National Guard adjutant general, presented the award to the Barrs.

Senior Master Sgt. Barr, a former member of the 188th Maintenance Squadron's Munitions Element, served 22 years in the wing before retiring May 2014. Cindy has served with the 188th Airman and Family Readiness Office's Key

Volunteer program for more than two years.

"This is an amazing honor," Cindy said. "The 188th has been like a family to us and we just wanted to give back. Working with the other key volunteers has been a great experience. It's unbelievable; it really is. I'm so proud that we are representing the 188th."

The Barrs were named the 188th Wing Family of the Year and the Arkansas Air National Guard Family of the Year earlier this year. The Barrs beat out 91 other families for the national prize.

"We're extremely proud of the family atmosphere we're continuously improving at the 188th," said

Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Wing commander. "The Barrs have been instrumental in helping the wing build that positive environment for our families. We're tremendously appreciative that their hard work was recognized. It was certainly deserving of this prestigious honor."

Senior Master Sgt. Barr has been deployed to Iraq (Balad) and trekked on multiple excursions to Afghanistan (Bagram and Kandahar). He cited the key volunteer program as the primary fuel behind the 188th's robust family readi-

ness effort that benefits service members during deployments and annual TDYs.

"To be able to not worry as

much about your family back home when you're out doing your job is a huge deal," he said. "That's what the key volunteers do for the Guardsmen. The key volunteers take care of the families during deployments. You can focus on whatever you're supposed to do in theater and know that your home situation is sound. That's a comforting feeling."

For Cindy, it's the service before self mindset that inspires her.

"It means a lot for me to be able to serve," she said, fighting off tears. "Scott serves in everything he does. He is the epitome of service. Just being able to keep up with him is a big thing, being able to continue that legacy with the 188th."

Though Senior Master Sgt. Barr retired from the 188th in May, Cindy said she doesn't anticipate her role as a key volunteer ending any time soon.

"He thinks it's hysterical that I have to come to Guard drill and he gets to stay home," she said. "Once a key volunteer, always a key volunteer, I've been told."



Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) Scott Barr
(Courtesy photo/Released)



Senior Master Sgt. Scott Barr, his wife Cindy and the couple's children - were awarded National Military Family Association 2014 Family of the Year Award for the Air National Guard. Gen. Frank Grass, chief of the National Guard, left, and Maj. Gen. William Wofford, Arkansas National Guard adjutant general, right, presented the accolade to the Barrs at the national volunteer conference in Norman, Oklahoma, Aug. 13, 2014. (Courtesy photo/released)



The 188th Wing's Barr family spoke with local media about a national level award they accepted Aug. 13, 2014. Senior Master Sgt. Scott Barr, who recently retired May 2014, his wife Cindy, and the couple's children collectively earned the National Military Family Association 2014 Family of the Year Award for the Air National Guard. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Maj. Heath Allen/released)



188th mission conversion corner

Commentary by 2nd Lt. Brian Hurt
188th ISR Group

As an avionics maintainer there were many times I found myself asking, “Why? Why are we flying so much? Why is there a sudden need for this new operational flight program?” Most aircraft maintainers can relate to these types of questions in respect to their specific position. I sometimes asked superiors these questions and would generally get a generic answer like “A new threat is out there and we need to be ready for it” or because Col. X said so.” These answers usually satisfied my curiosity and I continued doing what I needed to do so that the aircraft could fly. As maintainers, we were the “what” in regards to completing USAF missions. We loaded what programs were needed, loaded what bombs were needed, got the aircraft airborne at whatever time was needed, and fixed whatever parts were needed for these missions. Since

I have made the transition from aircraft maintenance to intelligence, I have come to realize the answer to “why.” The true reason we did what we did as maintainers was because of intelligence professionals providing information to the decision makers who dictated what we needed to complete the mission. Intelligence is the “why.” We used to be the “what” and now we are going to be the “why.”

I would be lying if I said that the transition from maintenance to intelligence was easy; however it wasn't hard either. I think challenging is a better word. In maintenance we are trained to use the technical orders, know the systems and use the process of elimination (deductive reasoning in Intelligence) to troubleshoot (known as analysis in intelligence) any

issues. My biggest challenge was changing my mindset and problem solving techniques to the way intelligence analysis is taught. First off, there are no technical orders in Intelligence. There are checklists and guidance, but no written procedure on how to complete the analysis process from start to finish. Intelligence is a world of unknowns. In maintenance we knew what components are contained in a system, what the normal output should be and what components could cause abnormal outputs. Intelligence lives in the gray; the components are potentially endless instead of contained and sometimes you will have to establish a baseline before you know what is normal. Sometimes there will be no clear right or wrong answer, you will not have all the information and you will have to make a call. I know it sounds intimidating, but you will be trained appropriately and as long as you use the

it, maintainers have something to offer the intelligence world. I may have downplayed it earlier in the article, but your troubleshooting (deductive reasoning) skills will come in handy. There were many instances where I was able to succeed and be more efficient because I was better than most at eliminating unimportant information and I believe that is because of my years of maintenance experience. The point is, don't forget your strengths and practices of your prior professions. Learn how to apply your strengths to Intelligence and incorporate them with the many new things you will learn and I believe you will be successful in training and in your new profession. However, if you go to training with the mindset that you are just trying to get through it, are not prepared to learn, don't apply yourself and don't open your mind to new concepts, you will struggle.

I know that not everybody transitioning to the intelligence field is a former maintainer, and I apologize that I can't relate other career fields to intelligence. However, if there is anything in this article for you, it is the last three sentences of the previous paragraph. I truly believe that is the key to success, it was for me.

Many of you are about to leave for training and many more will leave over the next year. While

you're in training, keep in mind the questions you had while in your previous job. I can't get in to the details of how you will come to the answers or connect the dots (time, length, security), but I remember many times in training where I thought, “that's why we needed a six turn six” or “that's why we used GBUs” and so on. You may not understand now, but I think once you're there you will realize what I meant. Just keep in mind we were the “what,” now we are the “why.”



A 91st Attack Squadron remotely piloted aircraft crew prepares to fly a simulated training mission on an MQ-9 Reaper at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., May 8, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. N.B./Released)

sound analytical processes you're taught and apply the processes to the best of your ability, you will be successful.

The most important key to success is going to be your attitude. I know a wide array of emotions are involved with the mission change and it can be tough to stay motivated. Many of you may fear the career change for some of the differences I listed in the previous paragraph. As foreign as intelligence may seem to some of you, take it from someone who has lived

Successfully navigating separations as a military family

Commentary by Michelle Pike
188th Airman and Family Readiness Office

Your spouse has given you the news that you dread. He or she is going to away to school or on a deployment. The time between that news and an actual departure date can vary greatly within our community, but in the months, weeks or days following that news there is always a frenzy of activity. Emotions are running high, lists are made and gear is packed. You are both preparing for the separation in your own way. It can be a hard time for everyone involved. Still, even though it can be difficult, keeping the lines of communication open during this time is important. And there are some tough conversations you might want to consider having before he or she waves goodbye.

How to Communicate:

This might seem like a no-brainer. You will communicate as often as possible, right? Well, that is not always what both parties want. First of all it is important to start every separation with realistic expectations. Tell your service member to be honest with you about what they expect in the way of communication. Will they have regular access? If so, what kind? And then be honest with each other about how much you want to communicate. For some couples, it can be hard to talk frequently so they choose to mostly use email. Some people are glad when they can text every single day; some choose only to do so once a week. You may need to compromise. Sometimes one person will want lots of communication and the other partner prefers very little. Don't let your neighbors who Skype three times a day be what you base your decision on. Do what is right for your family.

Who You Should Contact: I will never waiver from this advice. If you are a spouse and you are near an installation, go to every single event or briefing that is offered by your spouse's command. Doesn't matter if you have been to every single one for the past seven separations, no two are exactly the same. Information changes; you might have a new Key Volunteer team and there are probably

different people in charge. Hearing it straight from the horse's mouth is always the best option if possible. You need to know who to contact if there is an emergency. You need to know what to expect from the command and family readiness. If you cannot attend a brief make sure you have the appropriate point of contact at the command, the phone number and email for your Key Volunteer and all of the information you will need in the event you have to send a Red Cross message.

What to do with the Money: This is a big one. During a separation there can be increases and decreases in a service member's pay. It is so important to discuss how to save more efficiently or what to do with that

extra pay before they leave, especially if you are the one who is in charge of paying the bills during this time. Nothing dampens a homecoming like your service member returning with hopes of buying a new vehicle with money saved, just to find out that you paid off student loan debt or used that extra money to surprise them by re-doing all of the furnishings in the house. Whether you decide to save, invest, pay off debt or spend it on something, communicate about it beforehand. Make sure to factor any added expenses such as additional child care or lawn maintenance into the budget conversation. After the decisions have been made make sure to let your spouse know they can trust you to carry out the plan to the best of your ability by following through on what you discussed unless a true emergency arises.

What do They Really Want to Know?:

Our community seems to be divided when it comes to knowing how much is too much information shared during separation or deployment. On one side of the argument are those couples who insist that the healthiest practice is for both the spouse and service member to share every single detail of their lives, good, bad and the ugly. On the other side are spouses who have thrived in their

marriages by not sharing any bad news during separations or deployments. Some couples fall somewhere in the middle, sharing some but not all of what happens in both the life of the spouse and the service member. Whatever you decide, talk about it before they leave and you are left wondering if your spouse wants to know all the kids have the stomach flu, the car exploded in the driveway and your mother-in-law had a mental breakdown on Facebook.

Make sure you both have a will and if you have children or pets have someone appointed to be temporary guardians in the event you are injured or killed. If something happens to you while your service member is at school or deployed it will take several days for them to return home, and you don't want them to be taken into foster care while they await the arrival of the other parent (Wills, powers of attorney, and guardianship paperwork can be filed at the legal office on your installation). This is also the time for a service member to double check who is named on their SGLI (Servicemember's Group Life Insurance) policy. If your service member entered military service before you were married, he or she probably named a parent as the beneficiary. It is not automatically transferred to the spouse after saying 'I Do'. The service member must actually change the beneficiary. This can be uncomfortable for some service members because they may feel they are taking something away from a parent. But it is important to remember that a life insurance policy is intended to replace the income that someone would make and contribute to their family. If the worst happens, most service members likely agree that they would want to make sure their spouse and children have that amount of money as a replacement for the future income they could provide if still living.

These are just some of the keys to navigating a successful military separation. This article and many others just like it can be found at Militaryspouse.com which focuses on military spouses, fiancés and significant others delivering helpful and entertaining content from writers who understand the challenges military families face as they are military spouses themselves.

To find out who your squadron's Key Volunteer is, contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center in Building 182 or call 479-573-5167.





WINGMAN

Continued from Page 2

happen, but the volunteers who helped support the different events.

“The wing came together, competed against each other, cheered for each other and I witnessed some real bonding and cohesion,” said Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Wing commander. “Everyone who played a role in making this a success – participants and those who worked behind the scenes coordinating the events – deserves a pat on the back. This was an exceptional event.”



Senior Master Sgt. Larry Laney participates in the free throw competition during Wingman day at Ebbing Air National Guard Base Fort Smith, Arkansas, on Aug. 2, 2014. Laney is assigned to the 188th Security Forces Squadron. The 188th SFS received third place during the competition. During the free through contest he made 9 out of 15 shots. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Hannah Landeros/Released)



Staff Sgt. Rachel Ponder crosses the finish line of the 1.5 mile run during Wingman day at Ebbing Air National Guard Base Fort Smith, Arkansas, on Aug. 2, 2014. Ponder completed the run with a time of 10:35 minutes. Ponder is assigned to the 188th Communications Flight. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Hannah Landeros/Released)



Tech Sgt. Keelan Hunt throws a horseshoe during a horseshoes competition during Wingman Day at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas on Aug. 2, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/Released)



Senior Airman John Tuller, 153rd Intel Squadron flips a tire while participating in the Wingman Day event hosted on Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Ark., Aug. 2, 2014. The purpose of the event was to foster teamwork and cohesiveness in the unit. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Suleski/Released)



Airmen from the 188th Wing participate in a casting contest during Wingman Day at Ebbing Air National Guard Base Fort Smith, Arkansas, on Aug. 2, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Hannah Landeros/Released)



Master Sgt. Mic Garloch, 188th Force Support Squadron, counts box jumps for Airman participating in Wingman day at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Ark., on Aug. 2, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Suleski/Released)



Senior Master Sergeant Joel McDonald swings and chips during Wingman Day at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Ark., on Aug. 2, 2014. McDonald is assigned to the 188th Communications Flight. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin / Released)



Lt. Col. Tina Lipscomb, 123rd Intel Squadron commander, drives through the golf cart driving course during Wingman Day at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas on Aug. 2, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin / Released)

Wingman Day Olympics: Team results

1st place
188th Civil Engineer Squadron Team 1 – 50 points (won tiebreaker: scored in most events)

2nd place
188th Wing Staff – 50 points

3rd place (TIE)
188th Security Forces Squadron – 45 points
188th Civil Engineer Squadron Team 2 – 45 points

Individual results

Wing Rambo (individual top scorer)
Senior Master Sgt. Sam Janski (188th Wing Staff) – 50 points

1.5 mile run (men's)
Airman 1st Class Austin Culp (188th Operations Support Squadron) – 8:33

1.5 mile run (women's)
Staff Sgt. Rachel Ponder (188th Communications Flight) – 10:35

Volleyball tournament
188th Medical Group

Mile relay
123rd Intelligence Squadron – 6:02

Free throws
Senior Master Sgt. Sam Janski (188th Wing Staff) – 14 of 15 shots

Golf pitching
Senior Master Sgt. Sam Janski (188th Wing Staff)

Horseshoes
153rd Intelligence Squadron Team 2

Casting contest
188th Civil Engineer Squadron Team 1

Safety obstacle course
Airman 1st Class Kody Miller (184th Attack Squadron)



188th Med Decon team preps for worst case scenario

By Airman 1st Class Cody Martin
188th Wing Public Affairs

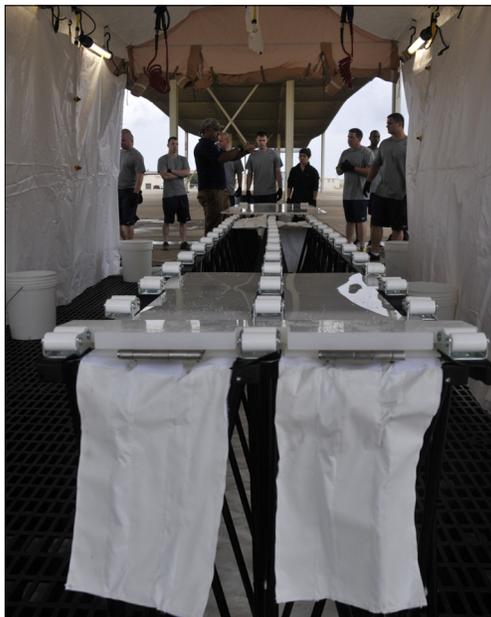
No one wants the worst to happen. Part of the Air National Guard's responsibility is to ensure it is always ready, whether it's a deployment or an emergency within the local community. To prepare for future contamination threats, a dozen volunteers from the 188th Wing learned to assist victims of this particular threat during a training event at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas, July 17, 2014.

"I had a great experience with the team," said Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Carbonia, team member. "I can see the team will have a great impact on the 188th and the surrounding community."

Although the team, identified as a 976A Patient Decontamination team, completed the initial trainer course, they will require practice and dedication to hone their skills. This first team is qualified to train additional teams for work and rest replacement cycles which depends on the severity of temperatures. Important aspects of training include quick actions and dedication of team members.

"They picked up training quick and were actively engaging me during training," said Alex Ibarra, Chemical, Biological, Radiation and Nuclear training specialist.

If a chemical incident were to occur, there



Airmen from the 188th Wing don protective gear during decontamination training at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Arkansas. Volunteers learned how to set up a decontamination tent and clean victims of various chemical or nuclear hazards. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Suleski/released)

are two types of patient decontamination care, ambulatory and non-ambulatory services. Ambulatory is for patients that can walk on their own through a self-decontamination area prior to receiving medical evaluation. The non-ambulatory is for patients that are unable to walk on their own; these patients are moved through a team-assisted decontamination area.

"The way the team is set up we will be able to triage 100 people per hour," said Gray. "That's 60 ambulatory and 40 non-ambulatory patients."

Both types of patient decontamination care require movement through five stations for processing before they are able to receive medical care. The first station is the clothing removal and self-decontamination station.

Here, the victim's clothing is removed and an M-291 charcoal skin decontamination kit is used to blot where contamination is suspected.

In Station 2, affected individuals are cleaned in shower facilities using soap. Station 3 is a final rinse off. Station 4 is the re-monitor

and dry station. Here, the 976A team will ensure the victim didn't miss any contaminants on them; the patient will dry themselves or will be dried off by a team member if unable to do so on their own. Afterwards the patient will precede to the last station, where they will begin to receive medical care.

"This exercise provided team members with an understanding of the tasks they will need to accomplish the mission while providing much needed hands-on-training with the equipment they will use in the field," Ibarra said. "It's designed to give them a base to build on."

To gauge what they learned through the course, the Airmen were tested with the setup of a decontamination tent in 20 minutes or less. The team was able to show proficiency by putting up the tent in 17 minutes and 51 seconds.

"I feel with scheduled training and continuous exposure to the equipment, the team will be able to accomplish the tasks that they have been given to complete with flying colors," Ibarra said. "I expect nothing but the best out of this team."

There will be challenges to overcome. The 976A team will still need to train more teams to obtain the versatility to maintain a long operation, especially in adverse conditions.

Another challenge to overcome requires the team chief to work on a local policy so the team can operate with city personnel during a contamination incident.

"My plan is to try to do a complete package exercise where we can get involved with city personnel," said Tech. Sgt. Kelli Gray, 976A team chief for the 188th Wing. "We will get together with emergency management and fire department personnel to work together with a city response team."

Additionally, the team will also need to recruit more females to better facilitate female decontamination through-put.

Despite the challenges that stand before them, the 976A team has shown the determination to complete their mission and will continue to train to attain the proficiency required of them. With the help of future teams they train, the 976A team will provide an extra measure of safety and is a vital asset for members of the 188th Wing.



Airmen from the 188th Wing don protective gear during decontamination training at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Arkansas. This training will aid the wing in its mission to support Arkansas citizens in times of disaster. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Suleski/released)

188th Warthog pilot Gentry awarded Air Force Combat Action Medal for Afghanistan mission

By Maj. Heath Allen
188th Wing executive officer

September 10, 2012, was a day Maj. Jeremiah Gentry will never forget. The 188th Wing showed Gentry is wouldn't forget that day either.

During a commander's call Aug. 3, 2014, Gentry was awarded an Air Force Combat Action Medal for his Airmanship while piloting an A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthog near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan during a mission to remedy a troops-in-contact (TIC) predicament. Col. Mark W. Anderson, 188th Wing commander, presented the accolade to Gentry in front of a packed house.

"Maj. Gentry is an experienced combat aviator and we're proud that his leadership and courage were recognized with a combat action medal," Anderson said. "We broke wing deployment records in rockets fired,

30mm rounds expended and bombs dropped while in Bagram. It's exciting to see some of our Airmen recognized for those accomplishments. It was a great team effort with maintenance and operations."

Gentry launched out in a Warthog from Bagram in support of a TIC mission in Ghazni province. A five-vehicle convoy was stranded in an open area and taking heavy fire from 11 confirmed enemy personnel. The enemy was actively firing high-caliber recoilless rifles, automatic machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars at the stranded convoy and on the aircraft overhead.

Shows of force and multiple low angle strafes repeatedly brought Gentry to within 500 feet of enemy personnel. These tactical maneuvers placed him within the effective ranges of all these weapons, each a grave and credible

threat to aircraft.

Gentry initially attempted to break contact using shows of force, making him a target for enemy fire. The joint terminal attack controller on the ground cleared Gentry for a strafe run and despite the enemy surface-to-air fire capability, he complied, employing his 30mm gun on multiple passes, expending more than 500 rounds before the enemy was neutralized.

His actions and willingness to expose his position to the enemy threat allowed the allied convoy to return to the safety of its forward operating base.

"We were very actively engaged in combat while deployed to Bagram," Anderson said. "Maj. Gentry's courage under duress was outstanding. He put himself in harm's way so that the ground patrol could return safely to their unit and later, home to their families. That's service before self."



Col. Mark W. Anderson, 188th Wing commander, left, presents the Air Force Combat Action Medal to Maj. Jeremiah S. Gentry, pilot with the 188th Wing. Gentry was involved in combat while flying his A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthog" over the skies of Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in 2012. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Suleski/released)

'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 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 188wg_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.





Bearden family, 188th Wing honors local employer with ESGR Patriot Award

By Maj. Heath Allen
188th Wing executive officer

Positive working relationships between Air National Guardsmen and their civilian employers is paramount for personnel readiness and mission success. The ANG cannot succeed without employer support of its drill status Guardsmen and the Airman and Family Readiness Office's key volunteers.

Jennifer Thomas, vice president of ancillary services at Mercy Fort Smith, was recognized Aug. 19 for her exceptional support of one family with the 188th Wing. Thomas was presented with an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award by her employee, Shirley Bearden, who is also a key volunteer with the 188th Airman and Family Readiness Office.

Shirley Bearden said her motive behind honoring Thomas with the award was her kindness and compassion exhibited while Bearden's husband, Master Sgt. Mike Bearden, was deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan with the 188th in 2012. Shirley Bearden said Thomas even encour-

aged her to take additional time off from work when Bearden's husband returned from Afghanistan in order to readjust.

"This was a very difficult deployment," Bearden said. "I had a wreck, I had a storm come through and take a tree and try to lay it on my house and I was in a new position here at Mercy as bariatric program coordinator, starting up a new program. Everything was really stressful. Jennifer would call me every day, or text me and check on me ... I've never had that happen. No one has ever taken that kind of stand with me and told me to take what I needed and readjust. It meant a lot."

An emotional Thomas expressed her gratitude for the accolade.

"It's a huge honor," Thomas said. "I feel very humbled. I feel my part has been so minimal compared to what our armed services contribute to our country and what the families contribute."

Master Sgt. Bearden said knowing that his home life was sound

made it much easier to focus on the mission in Afghanistan.

"When we get deployed, we don't worry about ourselves near as much as we worry about what's going on at home," he said. "We can't be home when a tree comes down in the backyard, we can't be there when somebody gets sick, but to know that she had somebody helping her, taking care of her, looking out for her meant a lot."

Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Wing commander; Lt. Col. Judith Mathewson, 188th Mission Support Group deputy commander; Chief Master Sgt. Dee Tankersley; and Michelle Pike, 188th Airmen and Family Readiness manager, were also in attendance to present the ESGR Patriot Award.

"Employer support of our Airmen is absolutely critical to mission success," Anderson said. "We're very thankful for Jennifer Thomas' outstanding support of the Bearden family during our largest deployment in wing history. I cannot say enough how much this means to our Airmen and wing to see

this level of compassion from an employer. It's inspiring."

If you're a member of the 188th and wish to submit your civilian employer for an ESGR Patriot Award visit www.esgr.mil/Employer-Awards/ESGR-Awards-Programs.aspx.



Master Sgt. Mike Bearden with the 188th Wing pins an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve pin on Jennifer Thomas, vice president of ancillary services at Mercy Fort Smith, Arkansas, Aug. 19 as wife Shirley Bearden looks on. Thomas employs Shirley Bearden, who is also a key volunteer with the 188th Airman and Family Readiness Office. The Beardens honored Thomas with an ESGR Patriot Award for her exceptional support during Master Sgt. Bearden's 2012 deployment to Afghanistan. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Maj. Heath Allen/released)

Arkansas Air Guard softball team shows wing pride, joint stateship



Members of the 188th Wing and the 189th Airlift Wing pose for a photo with their first place softball trophy at Toledo, Ohio on Aug. 9, 2014. Each team member also received a mug with an inscription indicating their first place finish. (Courtesy photo/released)



From left, Tech. Sgt. Karen Fletcher, Tech. Sgt. Robin Swaim and Senior Master Sgt. Angie Daniels pose for a photo with the first place softball trophy they won as members of a co-ed softball team at Toledo, Ohio on August 9, 2014. Fletcher, Swaim and Daniels also received mugs with an inscription indicating their first place finish. (Courtesy photo/released)

188th CES showcases REDHORSE training center, capabilities



Guardsmen from the 188th Wing gather together to see the capabilities of the Red Horse Training Center at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas, on July 24, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/Released)



Guardsmen from the 188th Wing gather together to see the capabilities of the Red Horse Training Center at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas, on July 24, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/Released)



Tech Sgt. Samuel Miller moves the bed of the Volvo 25-ton rock dump truck to a more vertical position while Airmen 1st Class Travis Mitchell observes at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas, on July 24, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/Released)



Master Sgt. Robert Haag II shows members of the 188th Wing the capabilities of the Vermeer horizontal direction bore machine at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas, on July 24, 2014. Master Sgt. Haag was showing the machine's capabilities during the Red Horse Training Center vehicle tour. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/Released)



Tech Sgt. Samuel Miller controls the Grove 30-ton rough terrain mobile crane to lift a large block at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas, on July 31, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/Released)



Guardsmen from the 188th Wing gather together to see the capabilities of the Red Horse Training Center at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas, on July 24, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/Released)



Citizen Airman Dining Facility menu

Saturday, September 6

Schlotzkys: ham, turkey or roast beef sandwich, chips, cookies, broccoli and cheese soup and tea

Sunday, September 7

Steak, baked potato, shrimo, corn on the cob, pie, ice cream, coffee, tea and milk

Saturday and Sunday Short Order line

Same as main line

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



188th ISRG to hold officer board

The 188th Wing will hold an Intelligence officer board during the November Unit Training Assembly. The deadline for applications will be Oct. 17, 2014. These will be drill status officer positions within the new mission areas. Please contact Tech Sgt. Jeff Mathews or Master Sgt. Craig Gardner in recruiting at 479-806-5191 or 479-573-5147 with questions about package requirements. Members who need to take the Air Force Officer Qualification Test (AFOQT) should contact Master Sgt. Lindsey Mott in the 188th Military Personnel Flight at 479-573-5762 to schedule the test. Minimum requirements to apply are as follows: Bachelor's degree by December 2014; passing AFOQT scores; current passing Air Force Physical Training score; no medical issues or profiles; and under the age of 35 (some age waivers may be considered).

Remember back to school fire safety

By Staff Sgt. Eric Davey
188th Fire and Emergency Services

With a new school year rolling around, several of our 188th Wing Airmen will be returning to campus dorm rooms all over the state. This transition is not without hazards. According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2007-2011, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 3,810 structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks. These fires caused an annual average of 2 civilian deaths, 30 civilian fire injuries, and \$9.4 million in direct property damage. You can take several steps to ensure you are not a victim to dorm room fires:

Electrical safety

Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything that can burn.

Never use an extension cord with large appliances, like a refrigerator.

Do not overload outlets.

Cooking safety

It's the the No. 1 cause of dorm room fires. Cook only where it is allowed.

Keep your cooking area clean and free of anything that can burn.

Keep an eye on what you are cooking, especially if you are cooking at high temperatures.

If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.

Make sure you know the exits to your dorms, and are prepared to evacuate in the event of an emergency. Practice safe smoking habits, and check with your university on regulations regarding candles and open flames in the dorm room, as many are prohibited.

Fire safety starts with you. Be prepared and have a great school year. If you have any questions regarding fire safety, contact the 188th Fire Department at 573-5217.



Flying Razorback Flashback

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



An F-16C Fighting Falcon Tail No. 279 sits at the ready in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001 at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Arkansas. The 188th was called up to provide air sovereignty alert mission to keep the skies safe. This was marked as the unit's marquee aircraft tagged Spirit of 9-11 "Let's Roll". (Air National Guard photo by Ret. Senior Master Sgt. Dennis L Brambl/Released)

Join the 188th Wing: Your hometown Air Force

The AFSCs below are eligible for the Air National Guard national and local incentives. The incentive program will be reviewed each quarter by NGB to determine which AFSCs will be authorized a bonus.

The incentives for non-prior service enlistments include \$20,000 cash and the G.I. Bill Kicker. Current members may receive \$7,500 cash for a three-year reenlistment and \$15,000 cash and the G.I. Bill Kicker for a six-year reenlistment.

Contact Master Sgt. Keith Freeman in the 188th Retention Office at 479-573-5360 for any questions regarding reenlistments.

Contact the 188th Recruiting Office at 479-573-5728 with questions concerning joining the Air National Guard.

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|-------|---|-------|---------------------------|
| 1C5X1 | COMMAND AND CONTROL | 2F0X1 | FUELS |
| 1N2X1 | COMMUNICATION SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE | 2S0X1 | MATERIAL MANAGEMENT |
| 1N1X1 | GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE | 2T2X1 | AIR TRANSPORTATION |
| 1P0X1 | AIRCREW FLIGHT EQUIPMENT | 2W0X1 | MUNITIONS SYSTEMS |
| 2A3X3 | TACTICAL AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE | 2W1X1 | AIRCRAFT ARMAMENT SYSTEMS |
| 2A5X1 | AEROSPACE MAINTENANCE | 3D0X2 | CYBER SYSTEMS OPERATIONS |
| 2A6X1 | AEROSPACE PROPULSION | 3D1X2 | CYBER TRANSPORT SYSTEMS |
| 2A6X2 | AEROSPACE GROUND EQUIPMENT | 3D1X3 | RF TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS |
| 2A6X4 | AIRCRAFT FUEL SYSTEMS | 3M0X1 | SERVICES |
| 2A6X5 | AIRCRAFT HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS | 3P0X1 | SECURITY FORCES |
| 2A6X6 | AIRCRAFT ELECTRICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS | 4N0X1 | AEROSPACE MEDICAL SERICE |