



# The Flying Razorback

188th Fighter Wing

Arkansas Air National Guard

Volume 57 Issue 3

March 2012



Airmen with the 188th Fire Emergency Services Flight conduct training at the 188th Fighter Wing during a Unit Training Assembly Feb. 11. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class John Hillier/188th Public Affairs)

## Diverse training keeps 188th firefighters sharp

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

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Flashing lights, blaring sirens, fire hoses gushing water at full-blast. These are the images most people associate with firefighters and emergency responders. But for the Airmen of the 188th Fire Emergency Services Flight, emergency calls are just a small part of their jobs.

The FESE, informally dubbed the fire department, also performs line standby for medical evacuation (medevac) flights, and provides emergency medical technician (EMT) on-call for medical emergencies, said Senior Master Sgt. Rickey Gabbard, chief of Fire Emergency Services at the 188th. The

SEE FIREFIGHTERS PAGE 8

# Operation Snowbird



Above: Capt. B.J. Ginger, an A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthog" pilot with the 188th Fighter Wing, drops MK-82s at a range near Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Feb. 20 as part of Operation Snowbird training. The objective of Operation Snowbird was to prepare the 188th for its upcoming Air Expeditionary Forces (AEF) rotation to Afghanistan. The Flying Razorbacks deployed approximately 300 operations, maintenance and support personnel to Davis-Monthan. Below: Capt. Josh Parnell, also a pilot with the 188th, fires an AGM-65 Maverick near Davis-Monthan Feb. 20. (Photos by Jim Haseltine)

## Training preps 188th for Afghanistan deployment

### Live ordnance drops ready unit for combat

By Maj. Heath Allen  
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — To achieve an effective battle rhythm, one must first rehearse the cadence of combat.

The Flying Razorbacks tested their mettle and practiced

SEE SNOWBIRD PAGE 10





**The Flying Razorback**

**Col. Tom Anderson,**  
188th Fighter Wing commander  
**Col. Mark Anderson,**  
188th Fighter Wing vice commander  
**Chief Master Sgt. Asa Carter,**  
188th Fighter Wing command chief  
master sergeant

**Publication Staff**  
**188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

Maj. Heath Allen,  
Chief of Public Affairs  
Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Brambl,  
Public Affairs NCOIC  
Technical Sgt. Joshua Jones  
Airman 1st Class John Hillier  
Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros  
Airman Veronica Huff

**Printing**

Senior Master Sgt. Joel McDonald  
Staff Sgt. Joshua Lewis

**Visit us on the Web**

[www.188fw.ang.af.mil](http://www.188fw.ang.af.mil)



[www.facebook.com/  
188thFighterWing](http://www.facebook.com/188thFighterWing)

**The Flying Razorback**

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of *The Flying Razorback* do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, U.S. Air Force, Arkansas National Guard or the 188th Fighter Wing. *The Flying Razorback* news articles and information are welcomed. Articles for publication should be submitted via e-mail to [heath.allen@ang.af.mil](mailto:heath.allen@ang.af.mil) and [heathallen188@gmail.com](mailto:heathallen188@gmail.com).

## Force restructuring could shift 188th's new mission to remotely piloted aircraft

188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs  
FORT SMITH, Ark. — The Arkansas National Guard was informed Feb. 3 that the Air Force proposal to restructure the force includes the 188th Fighter Wing's transition from the A-10 Thunderbolt II to a remotely piloted aircraft mission in Fiscal Year 2013.

Remotely piloted aircraft are the newest intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aerial platforms in the Air Force inventory, used extensively the past ten years to support the war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Undoubtedly some of our Airmen may be disappointed by the announcement, but what is important now is that we remain focused and maintain force structure, readiness and professionalism of the Guard to meet the future needs of the state and nation," said Maj. Gen. William D. Wofford, the adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard.

The 188th is currently authorized approximately 1,000 Airmen, with a full-time staff of approximately 350 with 21 assigned A-10 aircraft. Potential changes in the affected units' manpower have not been announced by the Department of Defense at this time.

"Fort Smith remains important to the future of the Arkansas National Guard, and we plan to make full use of the demographics and existing infrastructure there," Wofford said. "We will continue to pursue missions and opportunities with the 188th, and at the Fort Smith facilities."

According to the U.S. Air Force's strategic guidance on force structure changes for fiscal year 2013 released Feb. 3, the 188th will lose its entire squadron of A-10s and will gain "four MQ-1/9 ISO elements."

"We see this as potentially a great opportunity because it's an emerging mission



Brig. Gen. Dwight Balch, Arkansas Air National Guard commander, speaks with members of the local media at the 188th Fighter Wing in Fort Smith, Ark., during a press conference Feb. 3 to address the potential impact that the U.S. Air Force's strategic guidance on force structure changes for fiscal year 2013 will have on the 188th. The document was released on Feb. 3 and includes plans to remove 20 A-10 Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" from the 188th and replace the unit's close-air support mission with a mission involving remotely piloted aircraft. (National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Brambl/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

of the future," Brig. Gen. Dwight Balch, Arkansas Air National Guard commander, told a gathering of local media Feb. 3 at a press conference held at the 188th. "It has a long, continued mission. It has a continued upward vector in its growth...while there are a lot of uncertainties with this mission, the very fact we have a mission here at Fort Smith is something to be excited about."

While the Arkansas National Guard sees promise in the 188th's proposed new mission, state leadership isn't without concern and many questions are still left unanswered.

Several state-level National Guard leaders told the Air Force Times they don't see the logic behind the Air Force's proposal, and that all but top Guard leadership was left out of the decision-making process.

If lawmakers on Capitol Hill approve the Air Force's proposal, more than 5,000 Air Guard personnel would be cut in fiscal year 2013 and scores of aircraft from Guard components would be retired over the next few years, including about 60 of the Guard's A-10s, a service workhorse used for close-air support.

# Civilian employers observe 188th mission at ESGR 'Boss Lift'

By Maj. Heath Allen  
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — Seeing is believing. More than 40 local employers visited the 188th Fighter Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Feb. 22-23 to watch the Flying Razorbacks participate in Operation Snowbird, a combat rehearsal for the unit's deployment to Afghanistan this summer.

The event was part of an Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) trip. The objective was to give employers a better understanding of how vital the Guardsmen they employ are to the mission and how they each play a key role in the unit's success.

The group flew to Davis-Monthan from Fort Smith, Ark., on two KC-135 Stratotankers from the 507th Air Wing (Reserves) and the 137th Airlift Wing (Air National Guard), both based out of Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

The employers watched the 188th's A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" conduct aerial refueling during the trip. Once on the ground at Davis-Monthan, the group ventured to the munitions area where they viewed the sundry ordnance the A-10s dropped during Operation Snowbird.

The group also ventured to the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (informally dubbed the "Boneyard") at Davis-Monthan and then toured the flightline area and viewed the 188th's A-10s up close.

"It puts everything in perspective what the men and women in the National Guard and Reserves do when they're activated or when they drill each month," said Chief Mike Richards, Fort Smith Fire Department chief. "The employers don't really understand the big picture until we are able to see it with our own eyes. This was a great experience and it's phenomenal to see what they do."

Richards said the Fort Smith Fire Department employs one Air National Guardsman, four Army National Guardsmen and one Marine Reservist.

"We understand that Guardsmen and their families make sacrifices," Richards said. "It's amazing to see the level of expertise and dedication as well as the training that they get. You can see they love what they do and they're very good at it. It was good for us to be able to see this because it makes us appreciate their service that much more."

Upon their arrival home, each employer was given an American flag that had been flown over Afghanistan during the 188th's last deployment to Kandahar in 2010.



Civilian employers peer through the boom area in a KC-135 Stratotanker Feb. 22 during a 188th Fighter Wing ESGR event. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Col. Tom Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander, left, visits with a civilian employer during a 188th ESGR event at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Feb. 22. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing visit with a civilian employer in the munitions assembly area during an ESGR event at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Feb. 22. (National Guard photo by Maj. Heath Allen/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Maj. Ben Evans, right, a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot with the 507th Air Wing of the Air Force Reserves based at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., stands on the wing of a KC-135 alongside civilian employers. The trio watch as A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" take-off during a 188th Fighter Wing ESGR event at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Feb. 23. (National Guard photo by Maj. Heath Allen/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



# The Flying Razorback member spotlight

**Hometown:** Greenwood, Ark.

**Job title:** Aerial transporter.

**In the 188th since:** 2005.

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in organizational leadership/management from the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

**Goals:** Retire from military to pursue corporate leadership.

**Favorite TV show:** "Seinfeld."

**Favorite actor:** Liam Neeson.

**Favorite color:** Green.

**Favorite animal:** Dog.

**Favorite comedian:** Dane Cook.

**Favorite movie:** "Forrest Gump."

**Favorite restaurant:** Taco Bell

**Favorite soft drink:** Root beer.

**Favorite foods:** Chicken wings, ribs.

**Favorite book:** "Into Thin Air."

**Favorite author:** Jon Krakauer

**Favorite song:** "Nothing Else Matters" by Metallica.

**Favorite musician:** Johnny Cash.

**Favorite word or phrase:** "You can't lead from the window."

**Favorite super hero:** The Incredible Hulk.

**Favorite U.S. President:** Abraham Lincoln.

**Favorite historical figure:** Andrew Jackson.

**Favorite sport:** Football.

**Favorite pro sports team:** Dallas Cowboys.

**Favorite sports individual:** Tim Tebow.

**Favorite NFL team:** Dallas Cowboys.

**My worst job ever:** Cleaning car washes.

**Hobbies:** Fishing, shooting, playing guitar, martial arts.

**My dream shopping spree:** Bass Pro Shop.

**Place I'd most like to visit:** Bora Bora.



Technical Sgt. Josh Bull, a member of the 188th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was selected as the 188th Fighter Wing's Flying Razorback spotlight for March 2012. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



## Technical Sgt. Josh Bull

**Favorite cartoon character:** Cartman from "South Park."

**Favorite automobile:** Toyota Tacoma.

**My first car was:** A 1983 Ford Ranger.

**My worst habit:** Being overdriven.

**My pet peeves:** Know-it-alls.

## Free tax services, deductions available for Air Guardsmen

Military OneSource and milspouse.com

Most service members already know that the pay they earn while deployed to places like Iraq or Afghanistan is tax free, but not everyone realizes that there are other ways you can save on your tax bill even when service members are not deployed.

If a service member drills outside the commuting distance, travel costs like mileage, 50 percent of meals and cost of lodging

can all be tax deductible if not reimbursed by the military.

Cost to maintain uniforms is also eligible for tax deductions such as: Dry cleaning; alterations; any uniform costs not reimbursed by military; additions such as rank insignias, decorations and ribbons, etc.; boots and shoes.

Also, service members that do any work for the military outside of drill weekends, should consider setting up a

home office space.

The IRS has strict requirements on what constitutes a home office. A home office must be the principal place for your trade or business or a place where you regularly meet with clients, customers or patients.

In some cases, you can also meet the principal place of business requirement if you conduct substantial administrative and management tasks

for your outside business at home and have no other fixed location where you can conduct these activities.

These tasks might include correspondence with other reservists, writing reports or doing other necessary paperwork related to a military job. To qualify for a home office deduction, you must also meet the "regular and exclusive" test,



# God, faith provide comfort during times of grief, sadness

**Commentary by Lt. Col. Tom Smith**  
188th Fighter Wing chaplain

One minute she was there; the next minute she was gone.

Such was the case with my dear wife, Margaret, of 38 years on Sunday morning, Jan. 8. I'd hugged her neck, kissed her goodbye and told her I loved her that morning at 6:40 as I headed out for my weekly radio broadcast. But, there was no way of knowing that'd be the last time I'd get to do that — at least in this life here on Earth.

She didn't show up that morning for worship, but I wasn't too alarmed, figuring she was teaching one of our children's classes at another location. However, at the end of the service one of our members asked where she was and when I found out they had no off-site class that day, I immediately went out and called her on my cell phone while the congregation was praying.

There was no answer.

So, I jumped in the car and headed home. Her big, blue Toyota Tundra pickup was sitting in the carport. Our dog, Samson, was standing at the door barking. And, when I opened

the door, the smell of Sunday lunch in the crockpot greeted my nostrils. A candle was still burning on the dining room table and her breakfast dishes were still in the sink.

As I slowly made my way through the house calling her name I finally arrived at our bedroom. A light was on in the bathroom. I called her name again, but there was no answer. And, as I turned the corner my life was changed forever — for there lay her lifeless body in the floor, a curler still in her hair and her make-up still unfinished.

Oh how I wept and wailed! My life had suddenly been turned upside down!

As EMTs, sheriff deputies and church members began arriving, I continued weeping uncontrollably. The coroner arrived, examined the body and said she'd had a massive heart attack and was probably gone before her lifeless body hit the floor.

In the weeks since her departure I've experienced deeper grief and greater heartache than I've ever known. All of my years of study in death-and-dying, stages of grief and first-hand experience in comforting grieving families couldn't prepare me for this.

When it comes to death, we're all amateurs. Every last one of us.

But, how thankful I am that I have a seasoned veteran who's walking with me through this "Journey through the Valley of the Shadow of Death." He's already passed this way before and returned to tell me that all is well and I'll see my dear wife again one of these days. What blessed assurance!

I'm also thankful for my dear family at the 188th Fighter Wing. You all have been wonderful. A special thanks to Col. Tom Anderson and all the others who attended her funeral that day. You'll never know what that meant and what you all mean to me.

As I enter my final year of service in the Air National Guard, I'm going to savor every minute of it. I certainly won't take any one for granted or discount any experience (good or bad) I go through — for I know that nothing that comes my way hasn't first passed through his nail-scarred hands.

Here's praying you'll also experience his comfort if you, too, are going through a time of grief. May you feel him brush up against you as he whispers, "All is well." God bless you.

## 188th to host prayer breakfast

188th Chaplains Office

FORT SMITH, Ark. — A base-wide prayer breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, March 4 during the 188th Fighter Wing's Unit Training Assembly. The prayer breakfast is open to all unit members and their spouses as well as local pastors, etc.

The event will be held in the 188th's Citizen Airman Dining Hall from 7-8 a.m. The guest speaker will be Chaplain, Brig. Gen. (ret.) H.D. McCarty, a former wing chaplain at the 188th Fighter Wing.

"We're excited about having another prayer breakfast here on base," said Lt. Col. Tom Smith, current

wing chaplain at the 188th. "Because of deployments, inspections, etc., we've not had one since 2008, so I'm glad we can have another time to pause and pray for our unit, our families and our nation.

"This is especially important in light of the current news of our base possibly losing the A-10s and changing to a different mission. So, here's hoping everyone will make a special effort to attend."

For more information, please call the 188th Chaplains Office at 479-573-5541 or 479-573-5265. You can also reach Chaplain Smith by calling 318-918-9669.

## Taxes

Continued from page 4

which means you must be able to show that your office is used exclusively for work on a consistent basis and doesn't also serve as something else like the family TV room.

Once you qualify for a home office, there are several deductions to consider such as: Home owner association fees; utilities including water, electricity, gas, heat, garbage pickup; home insurance, mortgage or rent payments, maintenance costs; office supplies; home office phone and voicemail; internet access, laptops or computers or other office equipment required for work.

Not all of these are 100 percent deductible and the majority is apportioned based on the size of your home office relative to the rest of your house and there

are spending and percentage limits that can also be a factor.

Magazines, newsletters, newspapers, books or online news subscriptions are tax-deductible if related to work, military service, personal investments or a job search.

Always consult a tax professional with questions on tax deductions and other tax-related information. Military One Source ([www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)) offers free tax consultations and free online tax preparation services.

If you have questions about this tax service or about preparing your own tax returns, please call 1-800-342-9647 and ask to speak with a Military OneSource tax consultant. Trained tax consultants are available 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., EST. For information about deductions, exemptions, and filing deadlines visit the Military OneSource Tax Program page.



## Optimism, confidence can help us thrive in the face of uncertainty

**Commentary by Geoff Gibson**  
Wing director of Psychological Health

Are you feeling stressed due to economic uncertainty? Concerns about military budget cuts along with a tough civilian job market can lead to feelings of stress and anxiety. Our reaction to these stresses can reveal much about our nature.

Do we give in to our fears and “cut and run” or do we just try to put our worries out of our minds, only to have our fears churn away in the back of our minds? Our human natures may lead us to deny and avoid change. But, there are healthy alternatives for dealing with stress.

Individuals who thrive in the face of stress and uncertainty share some common characteristics. Studying and striving toward obtaining these characteristics will also help you rise above the challenges and worries you experience.

Characteristics of resilient people include: Proactive (have a plan, instead of just waiting helplessly to see what happens); optimistic (hope for the best, believe that good things can and do happen); confident (know that what you do matters, and can lead to a good outcome); relaxed (rather than flooded with emotion, or feeling numb and disconnected); faith in God (knowing that you are of great worth, and that you matter).

You probably have some of these characteristics, which have helped you get through

tough times. But if you want to soar above the current challenges that may be getting you down, you may benefit from strengthening your own resiliency.

I suggest picking one of the characteristics that is a weak spot for you, and developing it into a strength. For example, if you tend to wait and worry in the face of uncertainty, try being proactive and focusing on things you can do such as improving work performance, while also developing realistic plans for further educational or career development.

If you tend to have repeating negative thoughts that bring you down, try deliberately replacing them with positive thoughts, or even fully thinking through the worst case scenario along with a proactive game plan for dealing with that scenario.

If you have trouble relaxing, or feel disconnected from others, try practicing relaxation exercises or using other tools, which I can provide to you. Developing these characteristics of resiliency will help you be strong, and ready to handle whatever comes your way.

### 188th Fighter Wing Psychological Health Office

Cell: 479-431-9210

Office: 479-573-5742

E-mail: Geoff.Gibson.ctr@ang.af.mil

## 188th Unit Training Assembly news

### Upcoming drills

March 3-4

April 14-15

### UTA pay dates

March 13

April 25

## 188th Fighter Wing promotions

### To Major (O-4)

Fred Lee



### To Senior Airman (E-4)



Robert E. Russell

Lance Z. Williams

### To Master Sergeant (E-7)

Mark Strang

Brian Vinsant

Chad West

Michael Aponte

Michael Posey



### To Airman 1st Class (E-3)



Brandon S. Rhudy

## Citizen Airman Dining Hall menu

### Saturday, March 3

Catered by Western Sizzlin': Bacon-wrapped sirloin, baked potato, green beans, dinner roll, assorted cobblers, tea.

### Sunday, March 4

Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn on the cobb, Texas toast, brownie, ice cream, coffee, tea, milk.

**Short-order line (Sunday only):** Hamburgers/cheeseburgers, hot dogs/chili dogs, baked beans, chips.

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

## Quick tips for social media use

### Classified info

Don't divulge classified, FOUO or sensitive materials, photos or video. OPSEC is crucial to our mission; think before you speak or film — if you're not sure, ask public affairs. A harmless video of an Airman on the flightline could be sensitive if it's a deployed environment or violates host nation sensitivities. Be smart. Security is at the source.

### Opinion vs. fact

Yes, you can say what you think in general but just make sure you state that this is your opinion and not that of the organization. Also, be sure to identify what is your opinion and what is factual.

### False statements

Credibility is critical. And without it, no one cares what you have to say. It's also punishable by the UCMJ to give a false statement.

### Safety first

Videos that gain widespread attention, or become “viral,” feature death-defying stunts or acts that are considered “extreme” in nature. Don't let the desire to relay your message compromise your consideration for safety.

### Staying in your lane

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

### Using common sense

Realize that your words and images will go out to thousands and possibly millions of people around the world instantly and once it's out there, it's out there for good. Public affairs should always be a source of advice and guidance in this medium.



# 188th Fighter Wing unit vacancy announcements

## 188th Fighter Wing judge advocate

The 188th Fighter Wing Judge Advocate Office is seeking to fill a judge advocate position. This traditional (not full-time) officer position provides legal advice and opinions to commanders and senior staff on all phases of Air Force and Air National Guard operations, including international law, state law, operations law, procurement law, claims, environmental law, military and civilian personnel issues, litigation, military affairs, legal assistance and preventive law, and allied legal matters.

The 188th Judge Advocate Office provides legal assistance to military personnel and dependents on personal civil matters such as wills and estates, powers of attorney, consumer affairs, domestic relations, insur-

ance, and execution of legal documents. Furthermore, the 188th Judge Advocate Office acts as defense counsel for 189th Airlift Wing personnel.

Knowledge of military and civilian law is essential. Minimum requirements are that applicants be less than 35 years of age, a U.S. citizen, a graduate of an American Bar Association-accredited law school, and admittance to the highest court of any state or a federal bar.

Selection factors include academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service, prior military record, experience, and the recommendation in the report of interview. Interested applicants should contact Lt. Col. Steve Coney, 188th staff judge advocate, at [steven.e.coney@usps.gov](mailto:steven.e.coney@usps.gov).

## 188th Human resource advisor

The 188th Fighter Wing is projecting an enlisted vacancy (traditional) for a wing human resource advisor. Candidates must be at least a master sergeant. The position is promotable to senior master sergeant.

The human resources advisor's (HRA) duties include advising command leadership on issues leading to the enhancement of the organization's culture; promoting opportunities for all ANG members to maximize their individual potential for success without regard to their cultural differences. The position is responsible for working with key individuals in the human resource process to achieve diversity management objectives within the wing.

The HRA will develop and maintain liaison and facilitate team relations with the wing commander, Equal Opportunity officer, wing command chief, first sergeants, recruiters and chaplains.

The HRA will advise the wing commander on issues leading to the enhancement of the organizations culture in the community in which it serves; assist with developing a force management plan, strategies, and goals to address human resource development and management that results in establishing an organizational environment that enables ANG members to develop their full potential in achieving the ANG's quality and operational performance objectives.

For a complete list of duties and responsibilities and any additional information, applicants are encouraged to review ANGI 36-2110.

Attendance at the ANG Human Resources Advisor Orientation Course within 12 months of appointment is mandatory. Failure to complete the course requirement within 12 months of validation can result in removal from the position.

Completed applications are due to Command Chief Master Sgt. Asa Carter by close of business April 14. Applications should include all of the following: Records Review RIP; current resume; current fitness assessment; and statement of desire in your own words why you wish to be considered for this position and your goals to achieve as HRA.

## Operations Support Flight Intel officer

The 188th Fighter Wing's Operations Support Flight will be holding a board during the April Unit Training Assembly for a traditional Intel officer position. Applicants must have qualifying Air Force Officer Qualification Test scores and have passing PT scores.

In addition, applicants must have completed at least 90 semester hours of post

secondary education with the ability to obtain a degree within one year. Please contact Master Sgt Craig Gardner, 188th Fighter Wing Recruiting, with questions at 479-573-5147.

Packages must include an AF Form 24 and a current resume. Packages are due to 188th Recruiting no later than March 15, 2012.

## Mission Support Group first sergeant

The 188th Mission Support Group is projecting a vacancy for the position of first sergeant. This is a master sergeant's position that could be filled by any technical sergeant that can be promoted to master sergeant, or any current master sergeant, who possesses the qualifications listed below.

The qualifying requirements for this position are that technical sergeants have two years time in grade, have completed the Noncommissioned Officers Academy course, are promoted to E-7 prior to attending the First Sergeants Academy (FSA), have a minimum ASVAB score of 41 administrative or 62 general, have a minimum of three years retainability upon completion of the FSA, and must complete the Senior Noncommissioned Officers Academy by in-residence or Career Development Course within the first three years as a first sergeant.

Also, the selected individual must complete his/her physical fitness test with a score of 75 or higher within 60 days of the class start date at the FSA. Be prepared to run; there will be no step tests administered.

This position is open to any AFSC. Upon completion of the FSA, the candidate will be placed in the 8F000 SDI, and will be paid an additional \$150 per month when in active duty status.

Those interested should provide a letter of intent, resume and RIP to Command Chief Master Sgt. Asa Carter or Master Sgt. Greg Qualls.

This advertisement will serve as the notice and we will convene the recommendation board during a subsequent Unit Training Assembly.

For further information on the first sergeant's career field, research AFI 36-2113.



Airmen with the 188th Fire Emergency Services Flight conduct training at the 188th Fighter Wing during a Unit Training Assembly Feb. 11. In addition to the 188th FESF's primary mission of providing fire protection to military aircraft and installation facilities, it also responds to emergency calls for commercial and civilian aircraft as well as medical emergencies through a joint-use agreement with the Fort Smith Regional Airport. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## Firefighters

Continued from page 1

number of calls varies on any given day. Gabbard said FESF responded to approximately 600 calls in 2011.

"I'm very proud of our 188th firefighters," said Lt. Col. Pete Gauger, 188th Mission Support Group commander. "From the youngest to the oldest, I've been absolutely impressed with each member's professionalism, dedication and skill."

Gabbard said in addition to the 188th FESF's primary mission of providing fire protection to military aircraft and installation facilities, it also responds to emergency calls for commercial

and civilian aircraft as well as medical emergencies through a joint-use agreement with the Fort Smith Regional Airport.

"Senior Master Sgt. Gabbard has developed a strong partnership with the National Guard Bureau, resulting in new, cutting edge equipment as well as positioning the 188th for emerging, vital missions," Gauger said. "All this ensures the widest spectrum of protection for our unit, the Fort Smith Regional Airport and the state of Arkansas."

Tech. Sgt. Adam Johnson, a firefighter with the flight, said the FESF also performs a valuable safety role on base. They maintain smoke and fire alarm systems, and conduct building

SEE **FIREFIGHTERS** PAGE 9



Airmen with the 188th Fire Emergency Services Flight conduct training at the 188th Fighter Wing during a Unit Training Assembly Feb. 11. In addition to the 188th FESF's primary mission of providing fire protection to military aircraft and installation facilities, it also responds to emergency calls for commercial and civilian aircraft as well as medical emergencies through a joint-use agreement with the Fort Smith Regional Airport. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## Firefighters

Continued from page 8

inspections to prevent fire or other safety hazards. Johnson said the FESF also conducts exit training for base personnel.

“If it’s inside the airport’s perimeter fence, we cover it,” Johnson said.

Gabbard said the Airmen of the FESF also augment Fort Smith through mutual aid agreements not related to the airport. Gabbard said the 188th FESF is the primary for the airfield and is trained to higher standards than the Federal Aviation Administration requires.

In addition to providing emergency response services, the 188th serves as a training site and furnishes instructors for the Air National Guard’s Urban Search and Rescue teams.

Gabbard said the 188th boasts one of only two such training sites in the nation. They have been teaching the Rescue One course at the 188th since September 2011, and will begin teaching the Rescue Two course in March 2012. The FESF conducts the initial training and recertification of the USAR teams.

Gabbard said the primary objective of the USAR teams is designed around the concept of being the first to respond to an emergency predicament, assessing the situation, and beginning rescue operations. When response teams from FEMA or other agencies arrive, which Gabbard said can take up to 72 hours, the Air National Guard teams will work in conjunction with them.

The USAR teams in the Air National Guard primarily serve in a domestic readiness role but Gabbard added that the teams could easily be utilized for an international emergency.

Gabbard said that Res-



Airmen with the 188th Fire Emergency Services Flight conduct training at the 188th Fighter Wing during a Unit Training Assembly Feb. 11. In addition to the 188th FESF’s primary mission of providing fire protection to military aircraft and installation facilities, it also responds to emergency calls for commercial and civilian aircraft as well as medical emergencies through a joint-use agreement with the Fort Smith Regional Airport. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

cue One is a two-week course covering rope rescues, vehicle extrication, high-angle/low-angle rescues and confined space rescues. The Rescue Two course trains team members for trench rescues, building or structural collapse and heavy rescue.

Gabbard said the FESF is slated to provide training in the two courses to 240 students in 2012. That number is expected to increase to 300 students for 2013.

The FESF has also provided expertise and training for civilian fire departments throughout the state and region, including fire departments in Fayetteville, Ark., Rogers, Ark., and at the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport.

Gabbard said the 188th has also furnished training for multiple rural volunteer fire departments. The FESF is currently working with the Mena (Ark.) Fire Department, conducting training on live burns and airport rescue operations.



Members of the 188th Fire Emergency Services Flight and the 138th Fire Emergency Services Flight conduct Urban Search and Rescue training at the 188th Fighter Wing. The training was part of the Rescue One certification process. The training site at the 188th is one of two Air National Guard facilities in the nation equipped to conduct this particular training. (National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Rutherford/188th Fighter Wing)



## Snowbird

Continued from page 1

their aim during a recent deployment to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz., Feb. 11-26 to participate in Operation Snowbird.

Operation Snowbird, which is a National Guard Bureau program located at Davis-Monthan and supported through the Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing, was established in 1975.

The objective of Operation Snowbird was to prepare the 188th for its upcoming Air Expeditionary Forces (AEF) rotation to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). This will be the 188th's second combat deployment in the A-10 Thunderbolt II "Warthog."

"Snowbird provided us with a great opportunity to train like we're going to fight," said Lt. Col. Brian Burger, 184th Fighter Squadron commander. "It's great training for the weapons load crews, munitions, crew chiefs and support personnel. It's a team effort where everyone can get used to doing what they will be doing in wartime. It's great preparation for going downrange."

The 188th's last AEF tasking occurred in 2010 when the unit deployed approximately 300 operations, maintenance and support personnel to Kandahar, Afghanistan, also in support of OEF. The 188th deployed a similar grouping to Davis-Monthan.

"It's a stair-step process," said Lt. Col. Tim Eddins, 188th Operations Group commander. "The first week was our crawl before we walked and next time we will be running and then we will sprint. We got the chance to get used to the weapons and used to how the airplane operates when you drop live weapons and how the system works. The second week we stepped it up and got a lot more complicated."

The 188th dropped myriad live munitions at Snowbird that it doesn't have opportunity to ac-



A two ship of 188th Fighter Wing A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" trail a KC-135 Stratotanker after conducting aerial refueling near Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Feb. 22. The 188th deployed approximately 300 Airmen to Davis-Monthan AFB to participate in Operation Snowbird in preparation for the Flying Razorbacks' deployment to Afghanistan this summer. (National Guard photo by Maj. Heath Allen/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Maj. Justin Lewis, an A-10C Thunderbolt II pilot with the 188th Fighter Wing, conducts a preflight inspection as Senior Airman Phillip Parker looks on during a deployment to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Feb. 21 to participate in Operation Snowbird in preparation for the Flying Razorbacks' deployment to Afghanistan this summer. (National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Brambl/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

complish at Razorback Range, including GBU-38 JDAMs, GBU-12 LGBs, MK-82s, MK-66 rockets and AGM-65 Mavericks. The 188th also fired 30 MM rounds from the A-10's GAU-8/A seven-barrel Gatling gun.

"The airspace in Fort Smith is

very good and we have a top notch range and restricted area as well as a very large military operations area right in our own backyard that goes from 100 feet to 23,000 feet," Burger said. "But we're still a little limited on what types of weapons we can drop because it

is still a fairly heavily populated area. At Snowbird, there are several, large tactical ranges carved out where we can drop live ordnance and heavyweight full-scale inert weapons, including laser and GPS-guided."

The trip to Davis-Monthan also furnished the 188th with the opportunity to hone its skills by conducting training and logging operational experience in a mountainous, desert terrain, which closely mimics the climate and conditions in Afghanistan.

"It's not only an opportunity for the experienced pilots to mentor the pilots who don't have that combat experience," Eddins said. "It's also a great chance for the pilots and maintainers to come together and learn how to work through issues in a training setting so that we'll have a better idea of what the fixes are when we get into combat."

While this summer's deployment will be the 188th's second in the A-10, Eddins said about 30 per-



A four ship of A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" with the 188th Fighter Wing train during a deployment to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Feb. 21 as part of Operation Snowbird. The objective of Operation Snowbird was to prepare the Flying Razorbacks for their deployment to Afghanistan this summer. (Photo by Jim Haseltine)

## Snowbird

Continued from page 10

cent of the unit's pilots have yet to experience combat in the Warthog. Eddins, though, added that only four pilots had endured combat in the A-10 when 188th made its AEF debut in the Warthog in 2010.

"This time we have more experience and leadership because we have more pilots who have gone through many of those combat scenarios in the A-10," Eddins said. "We have a better idea of what steps to take and what steps not to take."

Eddins said that experience showed at Snowbird.

"It's gone a lot smoother between pilots and maintenance because we know the routine better,"

Eddins said. "It gives us a chance to build that team cohesiveness and camaraderie. We all knew the routine in the F-16 but everything is different in the A-10. From the speed and loiter time to the way you attack targets, it's a lot different."

The A-10's primary mission in southern Afghanistan is to fly close-air support in response to ground troops who may be in contact with the enemy, or to escort convoys in particularly hostile areas. When not supporting ground troops, A-10s patrol designated sectors and provides aerial reconnaissance on locations of interest to ground commanders.

The 188th will transition to a more rapid battle rhythm in May when it participates in Green Flag-East at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.



A munitions specialist with the 188th Maintenance Squadron preps ordnance for transportation to the flightline where it will be loaded onto A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" with the 188th Fighter Wing during a deployment to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Feb. 21 as part of Operation Snowbird. The objective of Operation Snowbird was to prepare the Flying Razorbacks for their deployment to Afghanistan this summer. (National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Brambl/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Arkansas Air National Guard  
188th Fighter Wing/Public Affairs  
4850 Leigh Avenue  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903-6018



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Fort Smith, Arkansas  
Permit No. 127



## To the family of:

# Join the 188th Fighter Wing Your hometown Air Force

## New incentives, bonuses available

The Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs) below are eligible for the Air National Guard national and local incentives.

These incentives below are currently eligible for national incentives. The incentive program will be reviewed each quarter by the National Guard Bureau to determine which AFSCs will be authorized a bonus.

The incentives for non-prior service enlistments include

\$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 Technical Sgt. Keith Freeman in the 188th Retention Office at 479-573-5360 for any questions regarding reenlistments. Contact the 188th Recruiting Office at 479-573-5728 with questions concerning joining the Air National Guard.

2A3X3	TACTICAL AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE
2W0X1	MUNITIONS SYSTEMS
2W1X1	AIRCRAFT ARMAMENT SYSTEMS

## New recruiting referral program benefits Air Guard members

The new Air National Guard Referral Rewards Program was created for current and retired ANG members who are helping to recruit new Airmen. To get started, log on to [www.refer2ang.com](http://www.refer2ang.com) to create an account.

Once an account has been created, members will receive a welcome kit in the mail, which contains Referral Rewards Program business cards with your unique four-digit code. This code is the key to claiming your rewards!

When you send a potential Airman to a recruiter, make sure the potential Airman gives your card or code to the recruiter. Once the individual joins, it will be noted on your online

account. Then you can choose your reward. It's that easy!

Rewards are redeemed via a tiered system. After your first recruit joins, you can choose a reward from the first tier. When your second recruit joins, you can pick a reward from the second tier, and so on. The more new Airmen you find, the more valuable the reward you are eligible to receive.

The ANG Referral Rewards Program is a voluntary program that is a benefit for current Airmen and retirees of the ANG.

Your story is our number one recruiting tool so let potential Airmen know how you have benefited from being in the Arkansas ANG.