



The Flying Razorback

188th Fighter Wing

Arkansas Air National Guard

Volume 57 Issue 4

April 2012

Wing change of command slated for April

By Maj. Heath Allen
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Brig. Gen. Dwight Balch, Arkansas Air National Guard commander, announced March 4 during a commander's call at a Unit Training Assembly that new leadership changes were on the horizon for the 188th Fighter Wing, an A-10 Thunderbolt II unit.

Balch announced that current wing commander, Col. Thomas Anderson, will relinquish command to Col. Mark Anderson during a formal change of command ceremony scheduled for April 14 at 1 p.m. at the 188th's Ebbing Air National Guard Base. Col. Mark Anderson currently serves as the 188th's vice commander.

Col. Thomas Anderson announced at the 188th Fighter Wing commander's call that he had initially agreed to serve for three years of active duty with the 188th. His tour was extended to six years of active duty and his orders are ending in April 2012.

"It's been a great ride and a very humbling and rewarding opportunity to serve the men and women of the 188th Fighter Wing," Col. Thomas Anderson said. "This has been my passion and my home since 1987. I remain committed to the Airmen of the 188th and to the Arkansas Air National Guard as I move on to a new assignment at headquarters, Arkansas Air National Guard."

Prior to his current assignment as vice commander, Col.

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Enduring Freedom



Above: Staff Sgt. Michael Bursey, middle, shares an emotional farewell with his family before departing the 188th Fighter Wing for Afghanistan March 29. Bursey, an aircraft hydraulics specialist with the 188th Maintenance Squadron, was one of approximately 75 Airmen with the 188th Maintenance Group who deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Below: Senior Airman Steven Boggs of the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron hugs a family member before departing Fort Smith for Afghanistan March 29. (National Guard photos by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

188th deploys 75 Airmen to Afghanistan

By Maj. Heath Allen
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

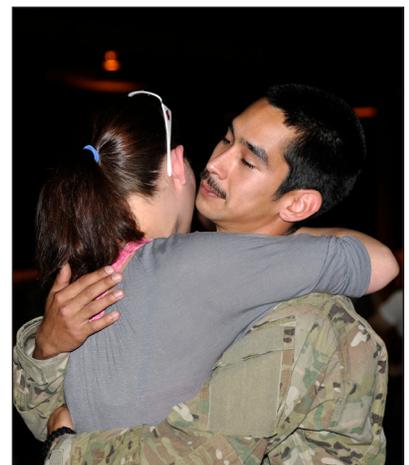
FORT SMITH, Ark. — The family members of Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing are already counting the days until their loved ones return home.

Approximately 75 Airmen with the 188th Maintenance Group departed Fort Smith March 29 for Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Airmen will be deployed ap-

proximately six months.

The deployment is part of an Air Expeditionary Forces (AEF) rotation, which the 188th is sharing with the Baltimore-based 175th Wing. The 188th Airmen will supplement the 175th during its portion of the rotation.

"It's never easy for families to watch as their loved ones deploy into a combat zone," said Col. Tom An-



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The Flying Razorback

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

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The Flying Razorback

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Brig. Gen. Porter retires



Brig. Gen. Dwight Balch, commander of the Arkansas Air National Guard, left, presents a shadow box with flags flown over the nation's capitol to Brig. Gen. Riley Porter, former commander of the Arkansas Air National Guard, during his retirement ceremony held at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., March 4 (Photo by Lt. Col. Keith Moore/Arkansas Air National Guard Public Affairs)

Former Arkansas ANG commander celebrates distinguished career

By Lt. Col. Keith Moore
Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — Approximately 200 service members, family and friends turned out Sunday, March 4 to pay tribute to Brig. Gen. Riley P. Porter upon his retirement from the Arkansas Air National Guard after a long and distinguished career that spanned 38 years.

Porter, a native of West Helena, Ark., has served as a pilot, a leader and a commander during his service with the active Air Force and the Air National Guard, where he has flown aerial refueling tankers and C-130 aircraft.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. William Wofford, adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard, praised Porter as a leader that believed in the concept of leading by example.

“Riley has always been highly regarded as an exemplary leader — not only by his fellow officers and senior leadership, but also by those Airmen working the flightline, the maintenance shops and the support offices,” Wofford said.

Additionally, Wofford noted how Porter



Maj. Gen. William Wofford, adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard, left, presents the certificate to accompany the Legion of Merit medal to Brig. Gen. Riley Porter during retirement ceremonies for Porter held at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., on March 4. Porter, the commander of the Air Control Group for the Arkansas National Guard, closed out his career with the Arkansas Air National Guard with 38 total years of military service. (Photo by Lt. Col. Keith Moore/Arkansas Air National Guard Public Affairs)

also volunteered to deploy four times into the combat theater of the Middle East, and has

188th's Walbe, Rich honored among state's Air Guard elite

Flying Razorbacks earn First Sergeant, Honor Guardsman of the Year awards

By Maj. Heath Allen

188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. — Two Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing were honored with statewide accolades recently. Master Sgt. Stephen Walbe was named the Arkansas Air National Guard Honor Guardsman of the Year. Master Sgt. Jon Rich earned the Arkansas Air National Guard First Sergeant of the Year.

Both Rich and Walbe were presented with Arkansas Distinguished Service Medals by Maj. Gen. William Wofford, the adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard, at Camp Robinson recently.

"We're extremely proud of Master Sgt. Rich and Master Sgt. Walbe as well as all of the nominees from the 188th," said Col. Tom Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander. "We know there were a number of qualified candidates in each of the categories and the field was strong."

Rich and Walbe were eligible for the state awards after winning in their respective categories at the wing level during a commander's call Dec. 3, 2011.

Senior Master Sgt. Walter Schluterman (Senior Noncommissioned Officer) of the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squad-

ron, Staff Sgt. Michael Rutherford (Airman) of the 188th Fire Emergency Fire Services Flight and Staff Sgt. Lowell McKenzie of the 188th Civil Engineer Squadron (Noncommissioned Officer) were also nominees for the statewide awards after being named the most outstanding Airmen in their respective categories at the wing level.

"All of the candidates from the 188th represented our wing with pride and professionalism and we appreciate all of their sacrifice and hard work," Anderson said. "All of the candidates deserved to be recognized for their efforts in helping to make the 188th one of the best Air National Guard units in the nation."

Rich of the 188th Civil Engineer Squadron and Walbe of the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron will now compete at the national level.

Along with being winners at the wing level, Rich and Walbe had to participate in sundry competitions to be eligible for the state award. Both Airmen's service packets were closely evaluated and they were also required to give a five- to seven-minute speech and complete a physical fitness test and firearm simulator.



Master Sgt. Stephen Walbe of the 188th Fighter Wing was named Arkansas Air National Guard Honor Guardsman of the Year. Maj. Gen. William Wofford, the adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard, presents Walbe with an Arkansas Distinguished Service Medal. (Photo by Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs)



Master Sgt. Joshua Rich of the 188th Fighter Wing was named Arkansas Air National Guard First Sergeant of the Year. Maj. Gen. William Wofford, the adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard, presents Rich with an Arkansas Distinguished Service Medal. (Photo by Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs)

Porter

Continued from Page 3

commanded bases or operational groups at several locations in Iraq, Kyrgyzstan and Qatar in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

His leadership and command experience with the Arkansas Air National Guard has also been instrumental in growing the service's role in domestic and overseas operations.

During the ceremony Porter was presented with the Legion of Merit Medal and the Arkansas Distinguished Service Medal for his outstanding service and contributions to the Arkansas National Guard.

Grateful units presented Porter with an American and Arkansas flag, which were flown over the U.S. capitol, a few framed commemorative photographs and a desk scale model of a Predator UAV as retirement gifts.

Chief Master Sgt. Steven Arnold, Arkansas ANG command chief master sergeant,

presented one gift on behalf of the Air National Guard's Chief Master Sergeant's Association and pointed out how Porter impacted the enlisted force.

"General Porter was always interested in visiting with the troops and seeing how things were going in the shops or on the flightline, or at deployment locations," Arnold said. "But he always took time to poignantly thank the Airmen for their service."

Taking the podium for his remarks, Por-



The Flying Razorback member spotlight

Hometown: Siloam Springs, Ark.

Job title: Weapons loader.

In the 188th: 2009.

Education: Associate of science from Northwest Arkansas Community College.

Goals: To be a head football coach for a major college program.

Favorite TV show: "The Big Bang Theory."

Favorite actor/actress: Jeremy Renner/ Jennifer Aniston.

Favorite color: Black.

Favorite animal: Honey badger.

Favorite comedian: Daniel Tosh.

Favorite movie: "Forrest Gump."

Favorite restaurant: Subway

Favorite soft drink: Sweet tea.

Favorite foods: Meat and potatoes.

Favorite music genre: Anything but hip-hop.

Favorite band: Sick Puppies.

Favorite word or phrase: SPK (some people's kids).

Favorite super hero: Every military service member.

Favorite U.S. President: Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Favorite historical figure: Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Favorite sport: Football.

Favorite pro sports team: Dallas Cowboys.

Favorite sports individual: Emmitt Smith.

Favorite football team: Arkansas Razorbacks.

My worst job ever: Furniture delivery.

Hobbies: Wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, yea! I workout.

My dream shopping spree: Anything that keeps me from sitting on the mall bench.

Place I'd most like to visit: Fiji.

Favorite cartoon character: Foghorn Leghorn.



Senior Airman Brandon Thurman, a member of the 188th Maintenance Group, was selected as the 188th Fighter Wing's Flying Razorback spotlight for April 2012. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Senior Airman Brandon Thurman

Favorite automobile: Ford F-150 Raptor.

My first car was: 1988 Ford Bronco (full-size).

My worst habit: Procrastination.

My pet peeves: People biting the fork when they eat.

I am proudest of: Joining the military.

What scares me the most: Losing my family and friends.

The person I admire most: My father.

The best day of my life: Tomorrow.

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,



Put your trust in God and the future always looks brighter

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

As I enter the fourth month since my dear wife's sudden departure to Heaven, I've experienced a myriad of emotions and had much time to reflect. The emotions have ranged from the heights of ecstasy to some of the lowest depths of despondency I've ever known; yet, through them all there's been a calmness of soul and a depth of joy I'd also never known before.

Finding the lifeless body of one you've loved and with whom you've shared 38 years is traumatic. Without realizing it, my body and mind went into shock.

A "mental fog" set in, making it difficult to make the simplest of decisions and even forgetting the names of some of my closest friends. Needless to say, this was quite unsettling, especially when I've usually had pretty good recall on most things.

Even though as a military chaplain I've had numerous courses in Crisis Intervention Skills Management (CISM), first responder training, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), death and dying, stages of grief, etc., none of these prepared me for

what followed that eventful day on Jan. 8 when my whole life was changed forever.

But, as I mentioned in last month's "The Flying Razorback", it was faith and trust in the one who's promised to be "a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1) and to "never leave me or forsake me" (Hebrews 13:5b) that has sustained me through it all. And, it's the assurance of knowing where my dear Margaret is (in Heaven) and his promise that I'll see her again that's helping me to face the future unafraid.

Right now the future of the 188th seems uncertain. Ominous clouds of doubt hover low over the horizon, tempting us to wonder if we'll still have a flying mission at the end of 2013-14. I know our Congressional delegation, wing, local elected officials and community leaders are doing everything they can to show why we should stay as we are.

Yet, when it comes down to it, one of the best things we can do is pray. Throughout our history, almighty God has blessed the 188th. We've gone through a number of aircraft, flown thousands of missions and logged hundreds of thousands of hours of flying time with very few fatalities or injuries.

Although our professionalism, training and attention to detail have greatly contributed to this, the bottom line is that God has blessed our unit. That's why it's important that we don't leave him out of the equation this time.

As Benjamin Franklin said of these United States, "If it's impossible for a sparrow to fall to the ground and die without the Creator's notice, it's equally impossible for a nation to rise without His aid." So true, so true.

Therefore, I encourage each member of our unit to uplift our needs to the one whose eye is upon the sparrow. Just as he's sustained me by his great grace through my days of great grief, so will he sustain us by that same grace as we face the future unafraid.

He knows his plans for us and they're good plans (Jeremiah 29:11). He exhorts us to call out to him, presenting our petitions to him with thanksgiving (Jer. 33:1; Psalm 107:26-30; Philippians 4:6).

That way we'll experience his indescribable peace (Phil. 4:7; John 14:27) and know that everything will be okay, regardless of what happens to the 188th in the coming days. God bless you.

188th to host prayer breakfast

188th Chaplains Office

FORT SMITH, Ark. — A base-wide prayer breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, April 15 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) 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 the best path to success

Commentary by Geoff Gibson

Wing director of Psychological Health

We know that life isn't fair and bad things happen to good people. Be that as it may, a positive approach to the world will put you in a position where good outcomes are more likely.

On the other hand, assuming the worst often guarantees the worst outcome. This principle is also known as the "self-fulfilling prophecy."

For example, if your partner or spouse doesn't seem excited to receive a call from you, there may be many possible meanings. Perhaps they are simply busy or stressed. Or, perhaps your spouse may not love you or want to be with you anymore. If you make it about you ("She doesn't want to be with me anymore"), then you're setting yourself up to be upset.

If on the other hand, you interpret the behavior as being about her or him ("She/he must really be tired after a full day with the kids"), you are less likely to be stressed. A negative approach may not reflect the truth of what your partner is really feeling, and sets you up for a fight, which will harm your relationship and leave you both feeling discouraged and unloved. A positive approach starts with positive, realistic thoughts, and leads to less anger and a greater chance that you will respond in a positive way to your partner.

Another example comes from the workplace: Your supervisor or co-

workers seem short or impatient with you. You might assume that they are busy or stressed, or you might assume that they don't like you and are looking for ways to get you fired.

If you assume the worst ("They are looking for ways to get me fired"), your interaction with supervisors and coworkers takes on a negative tone; you may appear "touchy," and your motivation and work performance are likely to suffer.

If, however, you take a more positive and realistic approach ("We are all in this together, and I'm going to do work I am proud of"), your attitude and actions

show that you are a positive, capable and successful person. Your attitude determines your attitude.

As you maintain an optimistic, positive approach, you feel better and act in

a more productive and positive way. Negativity guarantees bad outcomes, so please notice and try to stop negative thoughts when they arise in your mind. Please contact me if negative thoughts are a problem for you or someone you care about, as I can help you find ways to stop negative thoughts and replace them with realistic, optimistic thoughts.



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

April 14-15

May 5-6

UTA pay dates

April 25

May 15

188th Fighter Wing promotions

To Captain (O-3)

Lance Griffith



To Technical Sergeant (E-6)

James R. Marlow

Joshua J. Lewis

Aaron D. Ruckman

Christina J. Simmons



To 1st Lieutenant (O-2)

Jared Graham



To Staff Sergeant (E-5)

Melanie S. Amos

Rachel L. Ponder



To Senior Master Sergeant (E-8)

Richard S. Barr

Larry L. Laney



To Master Sergeant (E-7)

Lonnie Nicholson

David A. Passen

Amanda J. Stell

Brian A. Detherage

Tony R. Crockett

Jason Reichert



To Senior Airman (E-4)

Justin D. Bigby

Adam R. Carroll

Cody T. Choumany

Stephen A. Edwards

William R. Fine

Jeremy S. Gasparotto

Kristi M. Hollan

Trenton R. Parsons



Citizen Airman Dining Hall menu

Saturday, April 14

Spaghetti, asparagus, Texas toast, apple crisp, salad, 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.

Sunday, April 15

Catered by Scholtzsky's: Assorted sandwiches (ham, turkey or beef), broccoli and cheese soup, assorted potato chips, cookie, tea.

Change of command

Continued from Page 1

Mark Anderson previously served as 184th Fighter Squadron commander.

Balch also announced that Lt. Col. Pete Gauger will be named the 188th's vice commander. Gauger currently serves as the 188th Mission Support

Group commander.

Gauger previously served as the wing executive staff officer and comptroller as well.

Current 188th Communications Flight commander, Lt. Col. Tenise Gardner, was named Gauger's successor as the new 188th Mission Support Group commander. The Mission Support Group change of command is scheduled for April 14 at 9 a.m.



Hurts one, affects all: Preventing sexual assault is everyone's duty

188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Nationally, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) occurs in April and commits to raising awareness and promoting the prevention of sexual violence through use of special events and public education. SAAM provides an annual opportunity to highlight Department of Defense (DoD) and service policies addressing sexual assault prevention and response. DoD policies address sexual assault prevention and seek to establish a climate of confidence in which education and training create an environment in which sexual assault and the attitudes that promote it are not tolerated; victims of sexual assault receive the care and support that they need; and, offenders are held accountable for their actions.

Everyone has a role in stopping sexual assault. The "Hurts One. Affects All" campaign focuses on the effects sexual assault has on the military's mission readiness. As is readily understood throughout the military, mission readiness defines a unit's ability to deploy quickly and efficiently.

A sexual assault can reverberate throughout a unit and beyond, degrading readiness by harming the life of the victim, and the military's ability to work effectively as a team. This theme provides sexual assault prevention coordinators (SARCs) the opportunity to speak with commanders and senior enlisted leaders about maintaining mission readiness and preventing this crime.

"Hurts one. Affects all" not only conveys that sexual assault affects the victim, it affects bystanders. Preserving mission readiness can also serve as motivation for acts of bystander intervention.

Victim support is a key component of the DoD's sexual assault prevention and response policy.

188th sexual assault prevention coordinator

Maj. Matt Holguin
479-573-5221

188th victim advocates

Lt. Col. John Weisenfels
479-573-5312

Capt. Lance Griffith
479-573-5126

Tech Sgt. Michelle Malone
479-573-5302

As part of victim care, a DoD Safe Helpline was launched as a crisis support service for adult service members of the DoD community who are victims of sexual assault. Available 24/7 worldwide, users can "click, call or text" for anonymous and confidential support.

Underreporting poses a serious challenge to military readiness as the potential costs and consequences of sexual assault are extremely high. The first goal of Safe Helpline as well as the 188th's Sexual Assault Prevention Program is to provide additional channels for adult service members of the DoD community to seek one-on-one sexual assault assistance and crisis support securely and anonymously.

The second goal is to increase victim reporting. Research indicates when sexual assault victims receive care, system confidence builds, which increases the likelihood victims will report to law enforcement.

Logging on to www.SafeHelpline.org allows users to receive live, one-on-one confidential help with a trained professional through a secure instant-messaging format. The website also provides vital information about recovering from and reporting sexual assault.

Calling the telephone hotline 877-995-5247 allows users to speak with trained Safe Helpline

Yellow Ribbon



Above: Tech Sgt. Minnie Gordon with the 188th Finance Management Flight, left, assists Tech Sgt. Michael Dunn of the 188th with a travel voucher during a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program predeployment event March 3 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Fort Smith, Ark. Below: Tech Sgt. Michael Reif of the 188th, left, and a family member, listen to briefings during a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program predeployment event March 3. (National Guard photos by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



staff for personalized advice and support.

Safe Helpline staff can also transfer callers to installation-based sexual assault response coordinators (SARCs)/ on-call SAPR victim advocates (VAs), civilian rape crisis centers or the Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

The 188th Fighter Wing's sexual assault prevention coordinator is Maj. Matt Holguin. The 188th also has assigned three victim advocates: Lt. Col. John Weisenfels, Capt. Lance Griffith and Tech Sgt. Michelle Malone. Their contact information can be found in the box above.

You can also text your location to 55-247 in the U.S. and 202-470-

5546 outside the U.S. This allows users to receive automated contact information for the SARC at their installation or base.

The services provided by Safe Helpline are available to adult active duty, Reserve and National Guard members consistent with DoD SAPR policy. Safe Helpline adheres to state mandatory reporting laws concerning persons under the age of 18 and the elderly.

Safe Helpline staff have been trained on the unique needs of those living and working in the DoD community and are knowledgeable on military and civilian resources worldwide.



Public Affairs expands 188th's Web, social media presence

Flying Razorbacks add Twitter, YouTube sites

By Maj. Heath Allen

188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

FORT SMITH, Ark. — The 188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office recently enhanced its Web and social media presence by adding two new tools to its repertoire. The 188th added an official unit Twitter page as well as a YouTube channel.

Follow the 188th on Twitter @188thFW and visit www.youtube.com/188thFighterWing to subscribe to the unit's YouTube channel. The 188th is also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/188thFighterWing.

The goal of this effort is to expand the number of information resources available for Airmen, families and community members.

Community and family support have been paramount to the 188th's success. Social media has allowed the Flying Razorbacks to connect with unit members, families, retirees and various publics by vastly boosting information flow and furnishing a vital platform for feedback.

Social media has been a vital asset in the information battle space. It increases public understanding and appreciation of the unit's wartime and training roles, mission and capabilities.

Highlighting the wing by publishing stories, imagery and video on social media and Web outlets also helps publicly showcase 188th Airmen, boosts morale and fosters camaraderie throughout the unit.

A strong Web presence allows the 188th to spotlight its accomplishments and provides the public a more accurate measure of the value of the Air National Guard.

The 188th's Facebook page was published April 15, 2010, and within one week had collected



Official Website

188fw.ang.af.mil

Twitter

twitter.com/188thFW

YouTube

youtube.com/188thFighterWing

Facebook

facebook.com/188thFighterWing

DVIDS

dvidshub.net/units/188fw

more than 1,000 "Fans" or "Likes." With 4,434 "Likes" at press time, it currently ranks No. 1 in the Air National Guard among all unit pages registered on the Department of Defense's Social Media Hub, which catalogs official pages vetted by the DoD. Those statistics represent the overwhelming community, unit member and family support present at the 188th.

The official source for 188th news is on the unit's Air Force Public Information Management System (AFPIMS) Website at www.188fw.ang.af.mil. The 188th has published more than 750 photos since the Website went live in 2009. All photos are available for download in a high-resolution format at this Website.

The 188th is also active on the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS) at www.dvidshub.net/units/188fw. Users

must register on DVIDS to download high-resolution imagery and high-definition video. Registration is free. Once registered, users have access to download photos, videos and stories from every National Guard, Reserve and active duty unit from every service branch free of charge.

Water survival



Specialists with the 188th Operations Group's Life Support Element administered water survival training to pilots with the 184th Fighter Squadron of the 188th Fighter Wing at Creekmore Park in Fort Smith, Ark., March 4. The training is required for aviators prior to deploying. The objective of the training was to prepare pilots for the potential of ejecting from their A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" while flying over water. The 188th Fighter Wing will deploy to Afghanistan this summer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Top (middle): Maj. Paul Brown; middle: Lt. Col. BT Burger; bottom: Capt. Josh Parnell. (National Guard photos by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



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.

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 Non-commissioned 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.

we could not do the things we do without the outstanding support of our families. My military family are those Soldiers and Airmen that lean forward and gets things done — the professional men and women who day in and day out display the core values and make the mission happen.”

Porter added that serving with such outstanding Airmen, both domestically and in the combat zones abroad, is a humbling experience for him and experiences he will take with him for a lifetime.

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.

Porter

Continued from Page 3

ter humbly stated that this day was not about him; it was about those who had helped him along his career. He thanked his wife Denise, his family and several influential mentors throughout his career.

“There are two groups I would be remiss without thanking: My family and my military family,” Porter said. “We all know that



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derson, 188th Fighter Wing commander. “We appreciate the sacrifice and dedication that our Airmen make and also the sacrifices made by those loved ones left behind. We’re confident they will make their wing, families and communities proud. We anxiously await their safe return.”

More 188th Airmen will deploy later this summer when the 188th’s official portion of the AEF rotation will begin. In total during this AEF rotation, the 188th will deploy approximately 400 Airmen to Afghanistan. They will return later this fall.

“This is part of what we signed up to do,” said Senior Airman Josh Griffith of the 188th Maintenance Squadron. “We all know that there’s a chance we’re going to have to deploy. I’m excited and ready to get over there and do my part.”

Griffith, who got married less than two months ago, said it will be a challenge leaving his family behind for six months.

“I’m nervous but I know I have a very supportive family,” Griffith said. “We plan to Skype every chance we get and keep in touch. It’s going to be hard and I know they can’t wait for me to get back already.”

While many Airmen left family behind, two brothers with the 188th will lean on each other for support while in theater. Airman 1st Class Justin McElhannon and Airman 1st Class Stephen McElhannon, both of the 188th Maintenance Squadron’s Munitions Element, were among those who deployed March 29.

“We’re both nervous and excited,” Justin McElhannon said. “It’s good to have someone over there you can talk to when times get tough. I think right



Above: Tech Sgt. Michael Dunn with the 188th Fighter Wing spends time with family members prior to departing Fort Smith for Afghanistan March 29. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Below, left: Staff Sgt. Von Hollis with the 188th Fighter Wing spends time with family members prior to departing for Fort Smith for Afghanistan March 29. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Below, right: Tech Sgt. Josh Bull, left, reviews the aircraft manifest as Senior Airman Josh Griffith, right, looks on prior to boarding an aircraft bound for Afghanistan March 29. (National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Brambl/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



now we’re just ready to get over there and start the mission.”

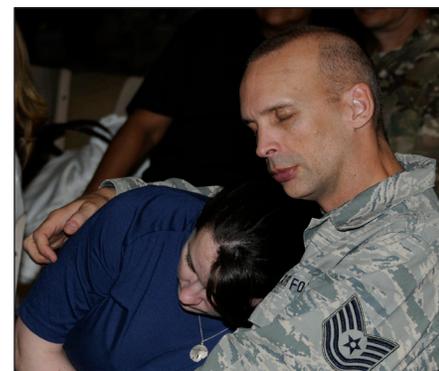
The 188th also deployed a group of A-10C Thunderbolt II “Warthogs” to the 175th in preparation for onward move-

ment. Multiple 188th aircraft remained in Baltimore and a number of those aircraft deployed to Afghanistan.

This is the second AEF deployment for the 188th as a unit

since receiving A-10s April 14, 2007. The 188th’s last AEF rotation transpired in 2010 when the unit deployed approximately 300 Airmen and 10 A-10Cs to

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Above: Staff Sgt. Nathaneal Stewart with the 188th Fighter Wing spends time with family members prior to departing Fort Smith for Afghanistan March 29. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Right, top: 188th family members wave goodbye as their loved ones depart Fort Smith for Afghanistan March 29. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Right, middle: An Airman with the 188th spends time with family members prior to departing Fort Smith for Afghanistan March 29. (National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Brambl/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Right: Tech Sgt. Clinton Caldwell with the 188th Fighter Wing spends time with family members prior to departing Fort Smith for Afghanistan March 29. (National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Brambl/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs) Right, bottom: Col. Tom Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander, left, shakes hands with 188th Airmen in Fort Smith, Ark., March 29 as approximately 75 members of the 188th Maintenance Group prepare to board an aircraft bound for Afghanistan. (National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Brambl/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

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Kandahar, Afghanistan.

While the 188th prepares year-round for its mission, it has conducted an intense training regimen in the past six months in preparation for its AEF rotation.

The 188th deployed approximately 300 operations, maintenance and support personnel along with multiple A-10Cs to participate in Operation Snowbird at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Feb. 11-26, 2012.

The deployment to Davis-

Monthan afforded the 188th with the opportunity to conduct training and gain operational experience in a mountainous, desert terrain, which closely mimics the climate and conditions in Afghanistan.

The A-10 mission in 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 provide aerial reconnaissance on locations of interest to ground commanders.



Arkansas Air National Guard
188th Fighter Wing/Public Affairs
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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 |

Transfer Post 9/11 GI Bill to dependents

Do you have Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits that you plan on transferring to a dependent? If so, now is the time to make that move. When you transfer your benefits, you may have a service obligation that must be completed in order for benefits to be awarded to dependents. Currently, your service obligation is based on your retirement date as shown on the adjacent chart. After July 31, 2012, the chart will no longer be utilized, and anyone applying to transfer benefits to their dependents will incur a four year service obligation. You must first apply for the Post 9/11 GI Bill before requesting a transfer to a spouse or child. This process normally takes three to four weeks. The member must have completed six years of service in order to transfer benefits to a spouse, and

10 years of service to transfer to children.

If a member was eligible to retire Oct. 2, 2009, and they request to transfer benefits Feb. 19, 2011, their service obligation will be one year. If a member was eligible to retire Oct. 2, 2009, and they request to transfer benefits Aug. 17, 2012, their service obligation will be four years.

Instructions on how to apply and transfer your Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits can be picked up at the 188th Retention Office. Contact Master Sgt. Keith Freeman at 479-573-5360 for more information.

Date eligible to retire: service obligation

On or before Aug. 1, 2009: None
Aug. 1, 2009-July 31, 2010: 1 year
Aug. 1, 2010-July 31, 2011: 2 years
Aug. 1, 2011-July 31 2012: 3 years
After July 31, 2012: 4 years