



# The Flying Razorback

188th Fighter Wing

Arkansas Air National Guard

Ebbing ANG Base

August 2013



Members of 188th Student Flight undergo drill practice in preparation for Basic Military Training. The program has produced 32 Honor Graduates in the past 12 months. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## 188th Student Flight preps Airmen for BMT

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

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Preparation has always been a key to success for members of the Air National Guard. That is why student flight, a program developed to prepare recently sworn-in Guardsmen, was created. That preparation has shown to be an asset to many young Airmen who are part of the 188th Fighter Wing's Student Flight program located at Ebbing Air National Guard Base.

The right of passage to becoming an Airman may begin at Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, but the 188th equips those future Airmen for lasting success in its student flight program. While in the program, they learn fundamentals to being a member of the Air National Guard that helps put them a step ahead once they get to Lackland AFB.

"We've learned quite a bit actually," said Roger Henry, student flight member. "Ranks, the Airman's Creed, marching, core values, pretty much everything you're going to need to know in the Air Force or any part of the military. Everything I can be to be a leader."

SEE STUDENT FLIGHT PAGE 9

## Making a difference



Director of the Air National Guard Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, left, congratulates Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award recipient Lt. Col. Anderson Neal Jr. during an Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Awards luncheon in Orlando, Fla., July 16, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa)

## 188th's Neal wins NAACP award for service

By Senior Airman John Hillier and Senior Airman Hannah Landeros  
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

FORT SMITH, Ark. — For his long career of service and mentorship to others, Lt. Col. Anderson Neal, Jr., 188th Maintenance Group commander, 188th Fighter Wing, Fort Smith, Ark., was presented with the 2013 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award on July 16, 2013, at the organization's annual convention held this year in Orlando, Fla.

"The mentoring Lt. Col. Neal does is huge," said Lt. Col. Judith Mathewson, 188th Mission Support Group deputy commander. "He mentors individuals all around the base, not just people who work for him in Maintenance

SEE AWARD PAGE 5



Lt. Col. Anderson Neal, 188th Maintenance Group commander, poses for a photo in the 188th Maintenance Group's hangar. Neal was awarded the 2013 Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award by the NAACP. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



## The Flying Razorback

**Col. Mark Anderson,**

188th Fighter Wing commander

**Col. Pete Gauger,**

188th Fighter Wing vice commander

**Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Bradley,**

188th Fighter Wing command chief  
master sergeant

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# Prepared for the worst

## 188th Airman uses military, civilian skills under fire

By Tech. Sgt. Josh Lewis and Senior Airman John Hillier

188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

On an early October morning, rockets began to strike Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The strikes were coming in close that morning and within a few seconds buildings shook from impact. Inside, dust and debris rained down from the ceiling. Then suddenly over the radio came the call nobody wanted to hear: "We have people down."

This is one of countless situations that Airmen spend months preparing themselves for in predeployment training. In addition to courses in subjects like Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance, Self-Aid and Buddy Care, and the Law of Armed Conflict, National Guard members bring with them the additional knowledge and skills gained from their civilian careers.

Along with his predeployment training, Staff Sgt. Michael Rybarczyk, an aircraft fuel systems craftsman with the 188th Maintenance Group, possessed skills learned as a civilian emergency medical technician.

"To get to what happened that day, you've got to think about the requirements we fulfilled to get prepared for enemy attacks," said Chief Master Sgt. Randy Barentine, Equipment Maintenance Flight superintendent. "Indirect fire (IDF) attacks were very real in this deployment. We spent many, many hours picking up shrapnel off the flight line and the shots seemed to be getting closer. There was always a sense of urgency to do whatever we were tasked to do."

By October, the 188th had been deployed for 100 days, and was nearing the end of its rotation. Relief Airmen from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., had recently arrived, and were preparing to take over operations.

Barentine said that morning in October a barrage of attacks hit the base and got dangerously close to the 188th's work area.

"That morning, after the first, second, third and fourth they just kept rolling in," Barentine said. "By the fifth or sixth one, they hit a building attached to ours. We thought ours was hit, so everybody took to their defensive cover."



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

A short distance away, Rybarczyk and Master Sgt. Perry Davis, aircraft fuel systems superintendent with the 188th Maintenance Group, were taking cover as well.

"Once we made it to our bunker and took accountability, we received word that there were three injured individuals in the bunker down the road," Davis said. "Staff Sgt. Rybarczyk requested permission to go help. Knowing his experience as an EMT, I approved and without regard to himself, Rybarczyk ran to the other bunker."

Rounds were still hitting the base as Rybarczyk moved to the bunker with the wounded. As he ran, he prepared himself for whatever situation he would find inside.

"I was thinking 'How injured are these guys and what am I going to need to do?'" Rybarczyk said. "I have a mental checklist I run through for all the calls we get at work and most of the time you think about the things you gotta do. You just run it through



# 188th mission conversion corner

## Get yourself prepped now for tech school

**By Lt. Col. John Easley**  
188th Fighter Wing conversion team

Starting in March 2013, shortly after Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III visited the 188th Fighter Wing, the Conversion Corner began as one of the many mediums to help educate and prepare the members of the 188th for changes in its future. Now is the time to take ownership of your destiny and ensure you are prepared for the changes and challenges we are all about to face.

During the July drill, the majority of drill status Guardsmen affected by the conversion were notified of their place in the new mission. Our hats are off to the 188th Fighter Wing chiefs and 123rd Intel Squadron members who took ownership of the drill status Guardsmen placement process, resulting in 85 percent of DSGs receiving one of their top three choices, and only five percent of the members placed requesting another look. This is a tremendous success in anybody's book. If you are one of the Airmen placed, the ball is in your court and here's what you need to accomplish to prepare for the next step.

First, make sure your fitness assessment is current with a passing score. If not, you have time to get there but time is of the essence. Simple fact, no one will be permitted to out-process to attend training without a passing score, and more than likely many of us will be testing again before a school date is available. As our wing commander, Col. Mark Anderson has been telling us, conver-

sion is going to be a long process. Get fit to fight.

Next, get your personal life in order. Most of the new positions will require a Top Secret clearance. Many have taken the first step by forwarding an AF Form 2583 for clearance to start the questionnaire process in e-QIP. Once you have been notified by your Unit Security Manager, you have 30 days to log into e-QIP, and then 90 days to complete. But don't let those days give you the excuse to put this critical step on the back burner. As seats come available for technical school, it will be vital for us to have personnel ready to step in and fill the training slots. Some AFSCs require a completed investigation prior to enrollment. If your life isn't perfect you are not alone, but don't mislead or omit information to make things look better. Lies or omissions will more likely cause your clearance to be rejected than the offense itself. Talk to your Unit Security Manager if you have questions.

Third, ensure your AF Form 422, Notification of Air Force Member's Qualification Status, is current and correct. Some will be notified by the clinic with appointments to conduct test for color blindness, depth perception, or one of the many other qualifications the new AFSCs require. Don't miss your appointment! Again, time is of the essence.

Finally, if you are due for Professional Military Education, get on it. You have a great opportunity to get PME accomplished while waiting for your technical school to begin.



Capt. Ryan Jodoi, rear, flies an MQ-9 Reaper while Airman 1st Class Patrick Snyder controls a full-motion video camera March 13, 2009 at Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.)

## Intelligence officer board announced

The 188th Operations Group will begin accepting applications for an upcoming Intelligence officer board. Interested applicants must be under the age of 40, have a passing current fitness score and have either earned a bachelor's degree, or be able to complete a bachelor's degree by December 2013.

Additional items required for a package include a resume highlighting the applicant's leadership experience, Air Force Form 422 showing worldwide availability, passing AFOQT scores, a statement of intent, letter of recommendation and Air Force Form 24.

The submission deadline for packages is Aug. 28, 2013. For more details, please contact Master Sgt. Craig Gardner in the 188th Recruiting Office at 573-5147.



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



# The Flying Razorback member spotlight

## 1st Lieutenant Matthew Cooley



**Hometown:** Arkadelphia, Ark.  
**Job Title:** A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthog" pilot.  
**In the 188th:** Transferred here in 2008.  
**Education:** Bachelors in business management.  
**Hobbies:** Softball and golf.  
**Goals:** To provide for my family  
**Favorite TV show:** "The Walking Dead."  
**Favorite actors:** John Wayne and Dean Martin.  
**Favorite animal:** Dog.  
**Favorite comedian:** Abbott and Costello.  
**Favorite restaurant:** Fuji.  
**Favorite soft drink:** Mountain Dew.  
**Favorite food:** Fried chicken.  
**Favorite book:** "The Bourne Identity," by Robert Ludlum.

**Favorite author:** Robert Ludlum.  
**Favorite song:** "The Chair" by George Strait.  
**Favorite musical group:** 5 Finger Death Punch.  
**Favorite movie:** "Monty Python and the Holy Grail."  
**Favorite super hero:** Thor.  
**Favorite U.S. President:** George Washington.  
**Favorite historical figure:** King Leonidas.  
**Favorite sport:** Football.  
**Favorite pro sports team:** St. Louis Cardinals.  
**Favorite sports individual:** Albert Pujols.  
**Favorite college team:** Arkansas Razorbacks.  
**My worst job ever:** Ditch Digging.  
**Favorite pastime:** Baseball.  
**My dream shopping spree:**



1st Lt. Matthew Cooley was selected as the 188th's Fighter Wing's Flying Razorback spotlight for August 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

**Fort Thompson Gun Shop.**  
**Place I'd most like to visit:** Greece.  
**If I were a cartoon character, I would be:** Baloo from "TaleSpin."  
**Favorite automobile:** Trucks.  
**My first car was:** Nissan 300ZX Turbo with T-Tops.  
**My pet peeves:** Bad drivers.  
**I am proudest of:** My wife.

**What scares me the most:** Something bad happening to my family.  
**The person I admire most:** My mom.  
**The best day of my life:** When my son was born.  
**Favorite moment at the 188th:** Taxiing in from Afghanistan and having all my family there to greet me.

## 188th Fighter Wing promotions

### To Technical Sergeant

Brandon W. Catlett  
 Ryan C. Grinnell  
 Cameron A. LeBarr  
 Eric G. Waterbury



### To Staff Sergeant

James P. Day  
 Alicia L. Doyel



### To Airman

Tyler W. Price



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

**Who:** All 188th Fighter Wing and 123rd Intelligence Squadron officers  
**What:** Formal dining out  
**Where:** Golden Living, 1000 Fianna Way, Fort Smith, Ark.  
**When:** Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013 at 6 p.m.  
**Why:** To enjoy fellowship and camaraderie with fellow officers in the wing.  
**Cost per person:** \$40

More information to follow in the coming weeks.

## Citizen Airman Dining Facility menu

### Saturday, Aug. 3

Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, white gravy, English peas, rolls, brownies, ice cream, coffee, tea, milk.

### Sunday, Aug. 4

Spaghetti with meatballs, green beans, corn, garlic bread, assorted crisps, ice cream, coffee, tea, milk.

### Short order line

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



**Award**

Continued from Page 1

Group. He is a role model, not only for African Americans but for all individuals in the unit so they can perform at their best. He does the same things for people working for him at USDA that he does at the 188th: Mentors people who want to be leaders.”

Named for noted civil rights advocate and former NAACP executive director Roy Wilkins, the award honors military members and Department of Defense civilian employees who have made a significant contribution to civil or human rights and exhibit the core values of their respective military service. Neal was presented the award during an Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Awards

**“When I was enlisted, our commander would always be standing on the catwalk overlooking the hangar,” Neal said. “You never saw him out on the flightline or in any of the shops. I don’t want to be remembered like that. I’m trying to make a difference.”**

— Lt. Col. Anderson Neal, 188th Maintenance Group commander

luncheon in Orlando, where the NAACP recognized military members and civilians for their contributions to equal opportunity, human relations and America’s veterans.

Neal is a soft-spoken leader known for his personable manner and warm smile. Those traits also served him well when he began his career at the United States Department of Agriculture. In 1987, he was promoted to the Soil Conservation Service’s regional office in Hope, Ark., and saw his opportunity to make needed changes in the organization.

“That [position] was my first leadership role at USDA,” Neal said. “In that role was the first opportunity I got to do some things as far as making a difference, being

able to hire a diverse staff, that kind of thing. When I started there I was 27 years old and all of my employees were probably 45 and up – and all white. The entire agency was primarily white, so I took it upon myself to try and make a difference as far as diversity, and really do some things to make sure that people of color were actually participating. When I left there, I had the most diverse staff of anybody.”

Guest speaker Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, director of the Air National Guard, called diversity a military necessity and an asset that will make the National Guard and the military stronger.

“In the National Guard and the United States military we have adopted many of the principles the NAACP holds dear in order to build a more diverse, and therefore stronger workforce,” Clarke said.

Neal grew up on an Eastern Arkansas farm as one of 11 children. His parents were sharecroppers who had little opportunity for formal schooling, but impressed upon him and his siblings the values of hard work and education.

“We’ve got one doctor, one accountant and two school teachers [among my siblings]” Neal said. “Most of the others have a few years of college as well. When I went off to college, I knew there were several things I didn’t want to do: I wanted to get away from farming, I didn’t want to teach and I didn’t want to do anything with the military. Now, I have 28 years in the military and almost 37 years with the Department of Agriculture and I married a teacher. I started to work for USDA right in my hometown. I actually went out



Director of the Air National Guard Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, second from left, poses with NAACP award recipients from the National Guard during an Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Awards luncheon in Orlando, Fla., July 16, 2013. Also pictured are Lt. Col. Anderson Neal Jr., left, Maj. Nathlon Jackson, center, Phyllis Brantley, and Col. Ondra Berry. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa)

to advise people that I used to work with as a sharecropper.”

The Guardsmen who have worked alongside Neal attest to his willingness to make connections and forge relationships between people of differing backgrounds.

“I had an opportunity to work with Lt. Col. Neal on some personnel issues for the Maintenance Group,” Mathewson said. “At the time, he had an individual who was in a crisis situation. Lt. Col. Neal was able to talk to that person and using his personality, his mentorship and his leadership, and help that individual through their crisis. What I saw in Lt. Col. Neal was that not only was he personable, but through his leadership he was giving his Airmen good guidance and was understanding of the personal crisis that individual was going through.”

Maj. Lionel Riley, 188th Equal Opportunity Office chief, said Neal was a strong mentor to him early in his career as an officer.

“I was a first lieutenant, just made Services Flight commander,” Riley said. “Lt. Col. Neal took me aside and said ‘Don’t hesitate to let me know what you need. This job can be hard to do when you don’t know everyone.’ That mentoring continued through my career. He

would sometimes stop me on base and ask if I knew so and so – some random person, it seemed – and then would give me their contact information and encourage me to call.

“He knew that I worked for Wal-Mart and would get me in touch with people there, too. He’s always been proactive about relationships. He’s always providing tidbits of advice without me seeking him out and he’s open that way with everybody, really. Anyone who approaches him, he’s going to address candidly and sincerely and that goes a long way with the younger troops.”

Whether it was helping farmers increase their crop yield in rural Arkansas, counseling Airmen on how to advance their careers, or working to ensure a more level playing field for the people around him, Neal has made building bridges between people his primary focus.

“When I was enlisted, our commander would always be standing on the catwalk overlooking the hangar,” Neal said. “You never saw him out on the flightline or in any of the shops. I don’t want to be remembered like that. I’m trying to make a difference.”



# AF encourages Airmen to be key part of SAPR solution

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

**WASHINGTON (AFNS)** — In an effort to address the growing concern of sexual assault in the Air Force, the service has kicked off an initiative to give Airmen the capability for their voice to be clearly heard called "Every Airman Counts."

"I believe Airmen are a key part of the solution to this," said. Maj. Gen. Margaret Woodward, the director of the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office. "They understand the problem, and they know what needs to be done to help conquer it. Now we need them to share those innovative ideas with us and each other. We need our Airmen talking about this issue."

To enable this dialogue, the Air Force SAPR office members designed a blog to share ideas, collect suggestions, concerns, stories and questions for Air Force leaders and SAPR officials. The SAPR blog site asks Airmen to make inputs on how

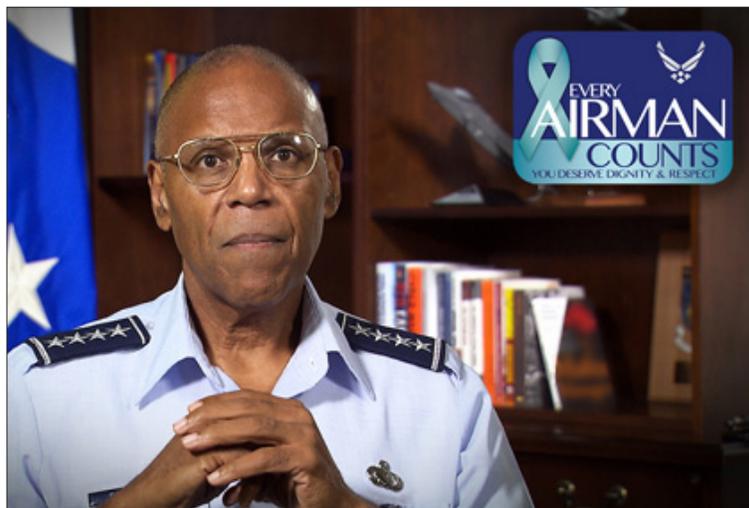
the service can better combat sexual assault.

"We can't fix this issue sitting in the Pentagon," said Gen. Larry Spencer, the Air Force vice chief of staff. "We need each and every one of you to get engaged in addressing this issue... this crime, and it is a crime. We need to know exactly where you feel the issues are, so we can address them with laser focus. I need every one of you helping us find ways to ensure dignity and respect are prevailing qualities in our daily relationships."

Content on the site will be driven in part by Airmen making firsthand posts. In addition to the blog, the Air Force is organizing web chats that will be moderated forums for real-time information exchange between Airmen, subject matter experts and senior leaders.

Various experts in the SAPR area will host these discussions to gain a better understanding of the issues at every level.

"We've been doing a lot of talking on this issue," Woodward said. "It's important that



Gen. Larry Spencer, the Air Force vice chief of staff, encourages Airmen to get involved with "Every Airman Counts." The initiative is designed to foster communication between Airmen and senior leaders about sexual assault prevention and response. (U.S. Air Force graphic)

we listen."

The SAPR blog is just one of many actions the Air Force is pursuing to help address the issues of sexual assault within the ranks and to offer support for victims. Other actions include the creation of the Special Victims Counsel program earlier this year, which provides constant support to sexual assault victims throughout the legal process.

Airmen can view the blog and make posts by logging into the Air Force portal with their

Defense Department Common Access Card, and clicking on the photo tab titled "Every Airman Counts," or go to <http://afsapr.dodlive.mil>.

"Every Airman Counts is about you, our Airmen, our most precious resource," Spencer said. "Our strength lies in our people, so we're asking all of our teammates to help us stop sexual assaults now. The American people place great trust and confidence in our military. We cannot and will not violate that trust."

## 'Ask the commander' now available

Do you have a question or concern you would like addressed? Whether it's a quirky question about the history of the base, a simple inquiry about how certain processes are accomplished on base or a serious concern about an issue of importance to you, there's a new communication tool to help address those questions and concerns. It's called "Ask the Commander" and it's a way for 188th Airmen and their families to communicate with 188th leadership

about issues that impact them individually as well as the wing. Individuals seeking information or to have their problems or issues addressed can e-mail [188fw\\_askthecommander@ang.af.mil](mailto:188fw_askthecommander@ang.af.mil).

Leadership will do their best to address each issue in a timely manner. Answers to issues that have a basewide impact will be considered for publication in The Flying Razorback as well as the 188th Facebook page and website.

## 188th Fighter Wing Unit Training Assembly news

### Upcoming drills

August 3-4  
Sept. 7-8  
Oct. 5-6  
Nov. 2-3  
Dec. 7-8



### UTA pay dates

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



# Give thanks for our freedoms

By Maj. Herbert Hodde  
188th Fighter Wing chaplain

"Summer time and the living is easy... catfish jumping a mile high."

Gershwin fans recall these melodious strains from the musical "Porgy and Bess." My family rejoices in the eight week hiatus from reading, writing and arithmetic. Days are longer, nights get shorter. It's a time for cookouts, ball games, and trips to destinations unknown. My biggest challenge is to survive the humidity of the southern summer days.

A well known author once wrote, "I slept soundly in my bed last night because half way round the world troops slept in their boots." I am reminded freedom is not free; and even as you read this article our fellow Airmen are serving diligently in places unknown. They will miss birthdays, holidays, and holy days so I in turn have the privilege of barbecuing with my son on a lazy Saturday afternoon.

All of us long for freedom. Thomas Jefferson strongly believed that a person's sub-

mission to kingly authority did not include suppression by the monarchy. Furthermore, a creator exists and endows us with certain rights: Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The denial of these rights not only violates the individual but provides justification to rise up and throw off the yoke of oppression placed upon him by the ruling hierarchy.

The apostle Paul, author of one-fifth of the Bible, exemplified a learned scholar and passionate follower of Christ. He stated, "I was in bondage, a slave to my sin, wretched man I was till my belief broke my chains. By another person's ultimate sacrifice I have been set free."

It is my sincere desire you have a great summer. Hydrate, use sun screen, and sleep in late at least one day. Take time to enjoy family and friends. Whether munching on a hotdog at the ball game, or wiping the drizzle of butter from your chin as it falls from your corn on the cob, I ask that you pause, reflect and give thanks for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

## Arkansas National Guard Mission, Vision and Values

### MISSION

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

### VISION

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

### VALUES

#### *Integrity*

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

#### *Commitment*

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

#### *Professionalism*

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

#### *Warrior Spirit*

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

## Rybarczyk

Continued from Page 2

your mind real quick. That training obviously helped me stay calm in that situation.

"My training in the military helped with having to make command decisions and getting people to do things – giving instructions on how to do stuff."

In the bunker, Rybarczyk fell back on those skills he's honed for almost ten years with the Rochester, Minn., Fire Department. He downplays his actions as just another day on the job.

"When I got to the bunker, I just went up to the closest injured person and started assessing him," Rybarczyk said. "He had gotten hit by some shrapnel in his head, so I was just making sure that the bleeding was slowing down and making sure he didn't have any other injuries that could have been life threatening. Then, I just moved from one guy to the next assessing them like I normally would if I was at

work in my civilian job. For the most part the guys who were injured were very calm. I had a little sense of humor with them, so that helped reassure them. I made sure everything was good to go and there was nothing life threatening, then I went back and started bandaging them up."

Not knowing the injured Airmen's conditions, Barentine arrived at the bunker within moments of the radio call. He was relieved to see that the injured Airmen were receiving proper care and that Rybarczyk had complete charge of the situation.

"Immediately upon arrival, I looked in the bunker and I saw people had been hit," Barentine said. "I'm wanting to know how bad it was, who was hit. There were three [Davis-Monthan] guys who took some pretty good shrapnel. Staff Sgt. Rybarczyk looked up at me – he made eye contact with me – and says 'Chief, I've got this.'

"To know that that guy after everything we've been through for 100 days: All of the attacks, the things that we had faced, the threats that were real, that is the most de-

fining moment in my military career. He had total control of that bunker. By the time rescue responded he pretty much had those guys taken care of. He had 'em patched up."

With the danger passed, the 188th maintainers returned quickly to accomplishing the mission. The flight line was cleared of shrapnel and debris, and operations resumed.

"Minutes after all of this was over we were launching jets," Barentine said. "We're back at work and it's as if nothing ever happened. They were getting those pilots back in the air."

"For the next two days, [Davis-Monthan's] entire leadership came up to me and wanted to thank me for how well that was handled and how well their guys were taken care of," Barentine said. "Our active-duty brethren saw the benefit of a drill status Guardsman, and they witnessed firsthand the benefits that the civilian careers of these men and women can bring to their military organizations."



A 188th Civil Engineering Squadron Airman assembles a truss at the 188th Fighter Wing's urban search and rescue training site in Fort Smith, Ark., July 11, 2013. CES Airmen are expanding the site's capacity to increase training opportunities in order to meet high demand. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



188th Civil Engineering Squadron Airmen mix cement at the 188th's urban search and rescue training site, July 15, 2013. CES Airmen are expanding capacity at the facility, which trains Guardsmen from across the country in rescue techniques. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



A 188th Civil Engineering Squadron Airman digs out a ruptured sewer pipe at the 188th's urban search and rescue site July 11, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

# Brick by brick

## Civil Engineers expand USAR training site



Airmen with the 188th Civil Engineering Squadron lay bricks for a new shower facility at the 188th's urban search and rescue training facility, July 15, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



188th Civil Engineering Squadron members smooth concrete for the foundation of a new shower facility at the 188th's urban search and rescue training site July 11, 2013. The new facility will allow the 188th to expand capacity at the site and conduct more training hours per day. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



An Airman with the 188th Civil Engineering Squadron levels earth with a bulldozer at the 188th's urban search and rescue training facility, July 11, 2013. CES Airmen are expanding the facility's capacity and making improvements at the site. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



### Students

Continued from Page 1

With every graduate who returns, more material for the program is gained through knowledge of what the newly-graduated Airmen experienced during basic training. The information gathered is then used to help build the program so that future student flight members can further benefit from that knowledge

“A question I ask them when they come back from basic is what helped them the most from student flight and basic training and what helped them the least,” said Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Shaffer, the force development superintendent for the 188th Force Support Squadron. “I will take that data and then I will change the way we do business in here.”

The results are hard to argue with on how much more prepared student flight members

are than those who were never in the program. Within the past year, members of the 188th have achieved numerous awards and accolades that help jumpstart their new Air National Guard careers.

“In the past 12-14 months we’ve had 32 honor graduates come out of this program,” Shaffer said. “They will go down there and make warrior flight or honor grad; they will rack up every award that is given. They only give those awards to the top one percent of the graduates, so the 188th snags all of those awards.”

The success of previous student flight members breeds confidence throughout the new members. With the knowledge and experience they receive from the student flight program, new Airmen are able to go to basic training and continue the 188th’s tradition of excellence.

“This has brought me a lot more knowledge,” said Robert Rolfe, student flight member.

“I’m glad they are doing student flight, because if not, I would have gone in there and it would have been bad news.”

The program also enables trainees to be leaders in the military. Student flight gives them the opportunity to lead with certain tasks that are assigned throughout their time spent in the program. The experience helps ready them to take on a leadership role throughout their

new careers as Airmen.

“I try to pick one person from student flight and say ‘you are in charge of this’ and I will let them manage that little piece of the overall pie,” Shaffer said. “I always tell them I don’t want followers, the military needs leaders. That is what I try to instill in them. We have 30 Student Flight members and I have 30 leaders in here. Every one of them can do anything.”



Members of the 188th Student Flight work out together in preparation for BMT. Ensuring trainees are ready for PT is a key part of the student flight program. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## Being a good Wingman takes practice, determination

### Commentary by Geoff Gibson

188th Wing Director of Psychological Health

We all need a good Wingman from time to time. Please be that Wingman when you notice that someone is having a hard time! Use the “ACE” model to reach out and help, and maybe even save a life:

**Ask:** Take a moment and check in with the person. Ask how they are doing, and ask directly, “Have you thought of killing yourself?”

**Care:** Whatever they say, just listen for a bit. Don’t brush them off, minimize what they are feeling, or try to solve their problem. Just listen!

**Escort:** You may not be able to solve their problem, but there is a team ready to help them do

just that! Connect them with helpers such as Chaplain, Airman and Family Readiness, Wing Director of Psychological Health, or others who are ready to help. If the person is at risk of self-harm, stay with them and personally escort them to help.

Bonus for you: Practicing these skills makes you a better leader, friend, parent, and spouse. Are you a good listener? Practice listening when people talk to you, especially when they bring up uncomfortable topics. Practice staying there even if you feel like walking away. Practice looking them in the eyes even when you want to look elsewhere. Practice focusing on what they are saying, even when you want to focus on preparing your response. Being there for others makes you a

better person, and a great Wingman! Download the mobile app “Wingman Project” for additional information and resources.

Traumatic and dangerous situations trigger a normal stress response in people.

We deal with these feelings in healthy ways by talking with others who have experienced similar situations or who understand and support us. If you had traumatic experiences, you may have trouble sleeping, feel constant stress, desire to avoid crowds, need to be in control, feel overly alert and can’t relax, feel distant and emotionally detached from others, feel physically numb, or have difficulty with irritability or anger. If you are experiencing any or all of these, please get the help you need to restore your

body and mind. Help is available! See a member of your Triangle of Triumph or one of the other available resources for assistance, so you can get help and get on with your life and career. You can also download the mobile app “LifeArmor” for confidential self-assessment and additional resources.

The 188th Triangle of Triumph stands ready to assist you in just about any issue you or your Wingman may be facing; give us a call!

Chaplain: Lt. Col. Tom Smith (318) 918-9669

Wing Director of Psychological Health: Geoff Gibson (479) 431-9210

Airman and Family Readiness Program manager: Michelle Pike (479) 573-5167



## Personnel services are just one click away

By Tech. Sgt. Patrick Crumby

188th Force Support Squadron personnel systems manager

As we prepare for this conversion it is vital that we maintain a high quality of data integrity in our personal records. You never know when one "error" could cause you to lose out that next career opportunity, lose a chance at promotion or, short your time earned towards retirement.

You can stay on top of your career and ahead of the game by checking out these available resources below.

vMPF/PRDA (Records):

<https://w20.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecurenet20/PKI/MainMenu1.aspx>

If you don't have an AFPC secure account you will be prompted to create one and merge it with your CAC Card. If you have one, it will take you to the available applications. From there you will select either vMPF or PRDA. A small sample of items available in vMPF

View, print and update your virtual record of emergency data. This should be done annually on your birthday.

View and print a visual display of your federal awards and decorations. (if it is incorrect make an appointment with Military Personnel Section)

Review your data verification brief and records review report (if there is incorrect information make an appointment with Military Personnel Section)

In PRDA, you have full access to your personnel records such as your DD 4 Enlistment Contract, your DD 214 Release from Active Duty and much

more.

vPC-GR/myPers:

<https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/landing>

If you don't have a vPC-GR account, you will be prompted to create one and then merge it with your CAC Card. If you have one, once you get into vPC-GR you will have the access to do the following:

Nominate a member for a federal award or decoration; request a list of your current federal awards or decorations; request duty history and military service date corrections; request current retirement points information or submit a request for correction; draft, sign and submit evaluations; access to a wealth of personnel information on topics such as promotions reenlistments, benefits, retraining, retirements and much more.

Or if you want to talk directly to the Total Force Center just call 1-800-525-01002 or click on "Contact Us" on the myPers website.

If you have any further questions about these available online sources, please contact Tech. Sgt. Crumby at 573-5766.

## If you can't stand the heat...



Airman 1st Class Christopher Kleist, 188th Security Forces Squadron, participates in Oleoresin Capsicum Spray training at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, Ark. July 13, 2013. Before SFS Airmen can use the spray on the job, they must undergo the training to understand its effects. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1st Lt Holli Snyder/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

## 188th Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Office

### Sexual assault response coordinator

Maj. Heath Allen: 479-573-5221

### Alternate Sexual assault response coordinator

Maj. Mike Atwell: 479-573-5385

### Victim advocates

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

SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247

### Joint Force Headquarters SARC

Jessica Hamilton: 501-212-4225

## Come meet The Avengers



The Arkansas National Guard would like to invite military families out to meet and take photos with The Avengers for Force Protection Awareness Month.

Chappel Armory, Building #3000, Camp Robinson.

Aug. 3, 2013

10 a.m. — Noon

Fort Chaffee Theater, Building #1584

Aug. 4, 2013

10 a.m. — Noon



# Stay connected on social media without hurting career

By Airman 1st Class Zachary Vucic  
Air Force News Service

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (AFNS) — Engaging in social media can be a positive experience that entertains, keeps people connected and allows opinions to be expressed on a wide variety of topics.

In some cases though, social media can ruin personal reputations or careers, and create an open window for criminals to access personal information.

According to the Air Force’s top social media expert, safe use of social-media outlets is simple — use common sense.

Tanya Schusler is the chief of social media for the Air Force Public Affairs Agency, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. She said in many cases, problems arise when people are “too trusting” with their personally identifiable information.

“It can be something as simple as sharing your location when visiting your favorite store or restaurant,” said Schusler. “This tells your social network one critical piece of information — you’re not home.”

To take full advantage of social media, and still post to sites like Facebook and tweet to friends safely, Schusler offered

the following advice:

Many Airmen cause issues by posting photographs of themselves violating appearance standards, acting inappropriately and most importantly, violating operational security protocol. If you’re not within regulations, don’t post it.

Airmen should not post information about deployments or photos of secure areas within their workplace. Even if the Airman takes the information down shortly after posting, someone has already seen it. The information can be printed, screen captured, copied etc. Once information is released to the internet, it’s there permanently.

When posting personal opinions about Air Force topics, provide a disclaimer stating the opinion as your own, and not that of the Air Force. This can be done either as a disclaimer on a profile, or on each individual post and will alleviate any potential confusion from followers reading the post.

Disable “geotagging” to conceal information about the location of your posts or photos. Geotagging adds geographical identification data to photos, videos, websites and text messages through location-based applications.

If an Airman posts a statement about hurting himself or others, time is of the essence. Contact 911 if you know the location of the Airman. If you do not know the person’s location, contact the command post or your supervisor for assistance in locating the Airman. It is important to seek help for these individuals immediately.

Using certain security features within social media sites can help mitigate some of the risk of personal information being shared. However, privacy policies change almost daily, and Airmen may not know about the updates. Therefore, do not rely on site security measures alone. Be careful of whom you allow into your social media networks, and don’t trust that the account will always remain secure. Assume personal responsibility.

Airmen’s social-media pages are their personal space, and they are encouraged to tell their personal Air Force stories through social networks. They simply

need to ensure the information they post is cleared for release and within regulations. Don’t jeopardize the mission or put anyone’s life, or lives in danger. Think before you post.

“We don’t want Airmen to feel like they are stifled from sharing information,” Schusler said. “We just want to emphasize the use of common sense to keep people safe.”

If Airmen have questions about acceptable posting to social media, there are resources available to them for guidance. The Air Force Public Affairs Agency has published a new booklet, the Air Force Social Media Guide, available for download at <http://www.af.mil> on the homepage under the social media icons. Airmen can also contact the 188th Public Affairs office at 573-5323 or email 188fw.pa2@ang.af.mil for assistance for further information.

## 2013 Base Pool season pass membership rates

**Current members:** FREE

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

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

**Retired enlisted:**

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

**Retired officers:**

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

(Guests of members must pay daily use rate)

**Daily use rates**

(without membership)

Infant to 5 years old free (with paying adult)

Children 6-12: \$2.00

Children 13 and up: \$2.50

**Pool parties:**

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

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

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

Lifeguards are required any time the base pool is open.

