



The Flying Razorback

188th Fighter Wing

Arkansas Air National Guard

Volume 57 Issue 9

September 2012



Major Jay Spohn poses for a portrait at Eglin Air Force Base's 33rd Fighter Wing in front of the F-35A Lightning II bearing his name after he was the first Guard member to fly the F-35. Spohn is a former pilot with the 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard. (U.S. Air Force photo by Lt. Col. Randall Efferson)

Former 188th aviator Spohn is Guard's first F-35 instructor pilot

By Maj. Karen Roganov
Florida National Guard

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — At Eglin's multi-service, multi-national F-35 Integrated Training Center the integrated concept became even more evident when an Air National Guard member became the Guard's first F-35 Lightning II instructor pilot.

Maj. Jay Spohn, assigned to the 33rd Fighter Wing as the assistant director of operations for the 58th Fighter Squadron and the chief of standards and evaluation for the 33rd Operations Group, is a former 188th Fighter Wing pilot who successfully flew his final of six flights Aug. 3 becoming fully qualified and now able to teach follow-on pilots to fly the F-35A.

"If felt really good," said Spohn, a former Arkansas Air National Guardsman. "It's what they hired me to do; today's flight was the culmination of two and a half years of

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Maintaining freedom



Maintainers with the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron work on a 188th Fighter Wing A-10C Thunderbolt II during phase maintenance at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 8. While deployed, U.S. Air Force aircraft endure increased flight hours and more combat maneuvers, which increases the need for routine maintenance and inspections. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy/455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs)

188th Fighter Wing's deployed maintenance inspection team keeping A-10s on the attack

By Tech Sgt. Shawn David McCowan
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Hiding on a corner of the flightline, a humble team rolls one A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthog" after another through their makeshift hangar, an oversized tent. Their workload is both intense and intensely important. They complete their deployed tasks in a fraction of the time allotted in training while adhering to the strictest of standards. Without them, the Air Force would have to replace its entire flying inventory every couple of years.

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Maintainers with the 188th Fighter Wing deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron work on 188th A-10C Thunderbolt IIs during phase maintenance at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 9. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy/455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs)



The Flying Razorback

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

Publication Staff 188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Heath Allen,
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Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Brambl,
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The Flying Razorback

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Expansion of drug testing program targets commonly abused prescription medications

Updated medical records key to readiness, fit force

By Lt. Col. John Weisenfels
188th Medical Group

Every day in this country, people see their doctors or dentists and have procedures done. Sometimes, in the course of that treatment, they may be prescribed pain medication to make them comfortable following their procedure and to help them get back on their feet. This is a perfectly good example of the proper use of prescription medicines.

But what happens when, a few years later, that individual suffers an injury in a fall, or simply strains a back muscle lifting something heavy? That pain they have can hurt pretty bad, and suddenly they remember that old prescription that maybe they did not finish. Good to go, right? Absolutely not. This example represents an illegal use of prescription medication not authorized by a physician.

Illegal prescription use has become a huge problem in this country, especially with the abuse of Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, and other drugs such as Valium, Ativan and Lorazepam. These drugs, and many just like them, are prescribed by a provider for a specific purpose and, in most cases, a specific time.

Use of these prescriptions outside the stated requirement, purpose or time period set by the provider, constitutes an illegal use of that medication. Also, use of a family member's prescription medication is illegal.

It does not matter whether the medication is a narcotic, a controlled substance, or just a general prescription medication. It is illegal to use prescription medications of any kind unless it was prescribed to you. How does this affect you, the military member?

The Department of Defense recently expanded the drug testing program to include testing for many prescription medications. Illegal use of these medications can seriously affect your career in the military, to include discharge. In the Air National Guard, there is no room for the misuse of prescription drugs or the illegal drugs we all know. If you have a legitimate prescrip-



The Department of Defense recently expanded the drug testing program to include testing for many prescription medications. Illegal use of these medications can seriously affect your career in the military, to include discharge. (Courtesy photo)

tion to use these medications, there is no problem. But there will be consequences if you do not have a legitimate prescription.

How can you avoid this dangerous situation? First, any time you see your provider, and especially if you receive a prescription for medication, go to the 188th Medical Group and update your medical records. This is extremely important. The 188th Medical Group is tasked with keeping your medical records up to date and ensuring the wing commander has a medically fit force, ready to deploy and fight at any time.

Second, follow the instructions of your prescription carefully. Once you have completed the course of medication prescribed by your provider, get rid of any medication left over. You can do this by turning in the leftover medication to an amnesty box at your local police department. You can also return them to your pharmacy and they can dispose of them legally and properly. Do not flush medication into the sewer system. This could be dangerous to your town's groundwater system. Lastly, don't use the prescription after its expiration date or six months after it was prescribed.

If you ever have any questions concerning your healthcare, feel free to visit with us in the 188th Medical Group. We will provide any assistance we can to help you maintain your medical readiness as a member of the military. Call us at 479-573-5207 and we will help you with your questions.

Maj. Jenny Johnson, 188th Fighter Wing Judge Advocate Office, contributed to this report.

188th command chief vacancy announcement

The 188th Fighter Wing is anticipating a vacancy for wing command chief master sergeant. The deadline to submit packages for this position is Sept. 24, 2012.

This is an announcement for an Air National Guard military traditional Guardsman position based at the 188th Fighter Wing and not a full-time employment opportunity. This assignment features a three-year tour with the possibility of a three-year extension.

Individuals interested in applying for this position should prepare a submission package that includes: Current records review (RIP); a targeted resume; personal letter of intent; current passing Air Force physical fitness test score; and letters of recommendation (optional).

Individuals can send their packages through United States mail to the 188th Fighter Wing, 4850 Leigh Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72903, attention Chief Master Sgt. Asa Carter. Applicants can also e-mail their submission packages to asa.carter@ang.af.mil.

Along with a submission package, applicants must also be available for a personal interview by phone or in person. Payment for travel to this interview is not authorized.

All applicants will be considered for this position without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, and other non-merit factors. Only individuals who are eligible to serve the minimum tour will be considered.

188th Fighter Wing promotions



To 1st Lieutenant

Laura Delgado



To Chief Master Sergeant

Mark McDaniel



To Senior Master Sergeant

Keith Weaver



To Master Sergeant

Josh Bull

Paul Denton

Michael Gilreath

Minnie Gordon

Brian James

Robby McGee

Matthew Siebenmorgen

Everett Skinner

William Brown

Tim Wilson



To Senior Airman

Robert J. Jackowski

Mitchel H. Smith

Preston Warren

Spencer L. Atchley

Judd M. Boster

Hannah L. Landeros

Kate S. Phonsyry

Nathan C. Redding

Ryan M. Riffin



Battlefield promotions

From left, Chief Master Sgt. Fred Williams, Chief Master Sgt. Donnie Frederick, Lt. Col. Rudy Cardona, Master Sgt. Paul Denton, Senior Master Sgt. Keith Weaver, Chief Master Sgt. Mark McDaniel, Maj. John Easley, Chief Master Sgt. Matthew Hopwood. Denton, Weaver and McDaniel are members of the 188th Fighter Wing and were each promoted recently at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (Courtesy photo)



New chief in town

Chief Master Sgt. Fred Williams, left, and Chief Master Sgt. Donnie Frederick, right, welcome newly promoted Chief Master Sgt. Mark McDaniel to the chiefs club at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. All three are Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing, which has approximately 375 Airmen currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Courtesy photo)



To Airman 1st Class

James C. Brown

Jonathan A. Dye



To

Airman

Hunter J. Trammell



The Flying Razorback member spotlight

Hometown: Fort Smith, Ark.
Job title: Munitions systems journeyman.
In the 188th: For eight years.
Education: Fort Smith Northside High; University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, majoring in criminal justice.
Goals: Get my degree in criminal justice and attend law school.
Favorite TV show: "Dr. Who," "NCIS."
Favorite actor: Samuel L. Jackson.
Favorite color: Black.
Favorite animal: Dog.
Favorite comedian: Kat Williams.
Favorite movie: "The Breakfast Club."
Favorite restaurant: La Huerta.
Favorite soft drink: Cherry Coke.
Favorite foods: Chinese and Mexican.
Favorite book: "Starship Troopers."
Favorite authors: Robert Heinlein, Ray Bradbury.
Favorite song: "The Touch" by Stan Bush.
Favorite musical group/musician: Journey.
Favorite word or phrase: "That which does not kill you, only makes you stronger."
Favorite super hero: Batman.
Favorite U.S. President: President Ronald Reagan.
Favorite historical figure: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Favorite sport: Football, martial arts.
Favorite pro sports team: Pittsburgh Steelers.
Favorite sports individual: Michael Jordan.
Favorite football team: Arkansas Razorbacks.
Hobbies: Model building, motorcycles, video games, arts and crafts, photography.
My dream shopping spree: Any outlet mall.
Places I'd most like to visit: Australia, New Zealand.
Favorite cartoon character: Tasmanian Devil.
Favorite automobile: 1968 Chevelle.



Staff Sgt. Bryan Cheeks, a munitions specialist with the 188th Maintenance Squadron, was selected as the 188th Fighter Wing's Flying Razorback spotlight for September 2012. Cheeks is currently deployed to Bagram Airfield along with 375 Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy/455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs)



Staff Sgt. Bryan Cheeks

My worst habit: Procrastination.
I am proudest of: My wife Chelsea
What scares me the most: Losing the ones I love.
The person I admire most: My mother.
The best day of my life: The day I married my wife Chelsea.

Best thing about Bagram or being deployed:
 The opportunity to actually see that what I do matters, even though it is a small part. The munitions that I help build saves lives on the ground, assures mission success and allows our brothers and sisters in combat to come home safe.

Spohn

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hard work."

A former Flying Razorback, Spohn was selected in November 2009 while at the 188th to be in the initial F-35A cadre and help pave the way by developing a syllabus for flight training. It was March 6 this year that the first F-35A flight took place at Eglin, with an F-35

instructor pilot at the controls.

"We're extremely proud of the success Maj. Spohn has experienced in the F-35 program," said Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander. "He was truly an asset helping the 188th transition from F-16s to A-10s during his time in Fort Smith, Ark., and he continues to be an asset to our active-duty counterparts in helping the F-35 program progress toward operational readiness."

On May 3 the 33rd was issued clearance to fly initial cadre "non-test" pilots, which opened the doors to the rest of 58th Fighter Squadron operators to begin qualifying as F-35 instructor pilots.

Spohn said his time at the 188th flying close-air support missions in the A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthog" prepared him for his current role.

"I would absolutely say that flying at Fort Smith for three years

made me a better [close-air support] pilot," he said. "In an average year at Fort Smith, I did more work with JTACs [joint terminal attack controllers] and more SOF [Special Operation Forces] integration than I did in the rest of my A-10 career combined. I did more [combat search and rescue] than in the rest of my A-10 career combined. Forty-plus weeks a year we were working with actual ground

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Anticipating challenges key to overcoming couple, family stress

Commentary by Geoff Gibson
Wing director of Psychological Health

FORT SMITH, Ark. — When it comes to military matters, we put the mission first, and "adapt and overcome." We bring our best selves and our full attention to make sure we get the job done.

Then when we head home, we are ready to relax and just have a break (this is likely to happen whether we are coming off a long day, or coming off a deployment).

We have been working so hard. Is it too much to ask to just have our family members take care of our needs for a while, or to give us some peace and quiet?

Your partner and family members may actually be thinking the same thing! While you were away, they had to handle all the challenges they experienced, and are probably looking forward to having your help as well.

This can set you all up for disappointment and even arguments and fights, which is not the homecoming you want or deserve.

You and your family members all deserve to have a positive experience, whether you are coming home from a normal day's work, or from a deployment.

You don't have to experience disappointment, stress, and argument when returning home. To create a positive experience when seeing your partner and family again, you should consider the information below.

- Practice situational aware-

ness on yourself and your family life — notice if you or your family sometimes show signs of stress or anger when getting together after time apart

- Decompress and relax before interacting with family — take a moment to clear your mind, breathe and relax before you see your family

- Have a plan — know what you and your family expect when you come home, so that unrealistic expectations don't lead to disappointment and arguing

- Get help when needed — talk to family, friends, or other helpers for support, ideas, and encouragement (such as first sergeant, Airman and Family Readiness program manager, chaplain, or Wing director of Psychological Health)

You will adapt and overcome to the challenges of family life by anticipating challenges, and adjusting your own response. You deserve to have a successful and happy family life, and will likely achieve it if you do your part.

I hope these tips are helpful, and look forward to providing additional suggestions or assistance to you and your family.



188th Fighter Wing Psychological Health Office

Cell: 479-431-9210

Office: 479-573-5742

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

Chiefs Council scholarships



Senior Airman Nancy Peterson, a member of the 188th Communications Flight, is presented a check by Chief Master Sgt. Hank Stripling at the 188th Fighter Wing Aug. 5, 2012, as Chief Master Sgt. Archie Goins, left, and Chief Master Sgt. James Elder look on. Peterson was awarded a \$500 scholarship by the 188th Fighter Wing's Chiefs Council. (National Guard photo by Airman Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Airman 1st Class Delmy Carolina Osorio, a member of the 188th Force Support Squadron, is presented a check by Chief Master Sgt. Hank Stripling at the 188th Fighter Wing Aug. 5, 2012, as Chief Master Sgt. Archie Goins, left, Senior Master Sgt. Bryan Peters, middle, and Chief Master Sgt. James Elder look on. Osorio was awarded a \$500 scholarship by the 188th Fighter Wing's Chiefs Council. (National Guard photo by Airman Cody Martin/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

188th UTA news

Upcoming drills

Sept. 8-9

Oct. 13-14



UTA pay dates

Sept. 19

Oct. 24



Former Dallas Cowboy to speak at 188th diversity day program

By **Capt. Lionel Rioley**
188th Equal Opportunity Office

FORT SMITH, Ark. — The 188th Fighter Wing Equal Opportunity Office will host a diversity day program, Saturday, Sept. 8 at 2 p.m. at the Regional Training Site building on base.

The guest speaker will be Chad Hennings, former A-10 pilot, Air Force Falcon and three-time Super Bowl champion with the Dallas Cowboys. Hennings, a defensive tackle, won the Outland Trophy as the NCAA's top interior lineman. Hennings was a starter on the 1985 Air Force team that went 12-1, beat Texas in the Bluebonnet Bowl and finished No. 5 overall in the final coaches' poll.

Hennings deployed twice to the Persian Gulf. From April to June 1991, and October 1991 to January 1992, based at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, Hennings flew 45 A-10 missions in support of Operation Provide Comfort, an effort that helped provide relief and humanitarian aid to Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq. He was twice awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal, a humanitarian award and an Outstanding



Chad Hennings, former A-10 pilot, Air Force Falcon and three-time Super Bowl champion with the Dallas Cowboys will be the guest speaker at the 188th Fighter Wing's diversity day program Sept. 8. Hennings, a defensive tackle, won the Outland Trophy as the NCAA's top interior lineman and deployed twice to the Persian Gulf and flew 45 missions. (Courtesy photo)

ing Unit Award for his actions in the service.

You will also have an opportunity to hear from Brig. Gen. William Johnson, Arkansas National Guard deputy adjutant general, as well as other special guests. This will be a great program. Please make plans to attend.

Spohn

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teams. The proximity of Fort Chaffee, Razorback Range and Hog MOA [military operating area] permit a level of training that is superior to every A-10 unit and, in fact, every fighter unit in the Air Force."

Spohn said his time flying Warthogs at the 188th was so valuable because of the face-to-face interaction with Special Forces JTAC.

"That's the most valuable piece of the training puzzle, in my opinion," he said. "At Fort Smith you get to brief with the team in the morning, fly, debrief the first-go and brief the second-go face-to-face, fly again and debrief the second-go face-to-face. There are only a handful of fighter bases in the world that can brief and debrief face-to-face with a ground team once a day. Only Fort Smith affords you the opportunity to face-to-face brief/debrief both flying periods. The value of gathering the lessons learned from a sortie in-person cannot be overstated.

Spohn said the interface with JTACs is a vast improvement from other methods of briefing and debriefing.

"A lot of other units use telephonic debriefs, which always tend to be very brief and, generally, both parties have already decided what the big takeaways were before they make the phone call," he said. "Only one person from the flight of jets and one member of the ground team is on the phone. The other members of the respective teams don't get to participate in the interaction. When everybody's in the same room, you can actually ask that Airman 1st Class what he was thinking when he cleared you hot on that pass and the tech sergeant can ask the 1st lieutenant about how well he could see the orange panel."

Spohn said the 188th's abil-

ity to interface with its Special Forces JTACs is due to the 188th's Razorback Range and its proximity to the unit.

"The biggest thing I learned at the 188th that has applicability for the rest of my career is the value of base location," Spohn said. "Working on the Strategic Planning Team, I got to look at and evaluate assets available to fighter bases around the world. Cost of living, facilities, training airspace, air-to-ground ranges, community support, etc. I never looked at or really thought about those things before. It was the first time I thought about the fact that not all bases are created equal. There is a difference and that difference has a remarkable impact on quality of training and cost of training. I got to do a lot of things at the 188th and I had a lot of responsibility for weapons and training ... being involved in that also showed me just how valuable a national asset the 188th truly is. It truly stands out among USAF fighter bases around the world."

Spohn said all of that experience logged at the 188th is paying big dividends now as he attempts to bring America's fifth generation fighters to operational readiness status.

"I was most impressed with the ease of flying the jet," Spohn said of the F-35. "It has auto-throttle/speed hold and a throttle mode for approach that holds approach AOA [Angle of Attack]. Point the velocity vector at the runway, engage that mode and the jet moves the throttle for you to hold your AOA."

Spohn also commended the F-35's autopilot feature.

"The jet talks to you with buffet as the AOA builds," he said. "It's a good heads-up way to assess your energy. Plenty of power for straight and level acceleration, very [F-15] Eagle-like in that regard."

Now being able to add more

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Citizen Airman Dining Hall menu

Saturday, Sept. 8

Baked chicken, rice pilaf, asparagus, mixed vegetables, yellow cake with chocolate icing, Texas toast, ice cream, coffee, tea milk

Sunday, Sept. 9

Ham/turkey/roast beef sandwiches, coleslaw, potato salad, chips, cobbler, ice cream, coffee, tea, milk

Short-order line (both days): Hamburger/cheeseburger, hot dog/chili dog, baked beans, chips, salad bar

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



188th Fighter Wing recruiting announcements

AFSC of the month Services specialist

Vacancies exist in the 188th Fighter Wing for services specialists (AFSC 3M0X1) in the 188th Service Flight. These vacancies are enlisted traditional Guardsman positions. A services specialist manages and directs services programs and retail operations. This AFSC includes appropriated fund (APF) food service activities; lodging activities; recreation, fitness, and sports programs; linen exchange operations; mortuary affairs programs; honor guard teams; services readiness programs; and the operation of automated information management systems. Services specialist functions include but are not limited to: Preparing, cooking, baking, presenting, and serving food; devising menus; instructing, coaching, officiating,

or directing athletic activities; planning, organizing, and conducting recreation programs; securing supplies, facilities, and performers; proper use and maintenance of recreation supplies and equipment; retail operations; or subsistence functions. Other aspects of this AFSC include: Helping to identify facility requirements and conducting surveys to determine facility renovation, construction and modernization needs, and maintaining a close liaison with commanders and unit fitness managers on the Air Force Fitness Program.

For additional information on this and other career fields available at the 188th Fighter Wing, please contact Master Sgt. Craig Gardner, 188th Fighter Wing Recruiting Office, with questions at 479-573-5147.

188th Equal Opportunity NCOIC

A vacancy exists in the 188th Fighter Wing Equal Opportunity Office for a noncommissioned officer in charge (AFSC 3S1X1). This position is a traditional Guardsman slot and is a master sergeant billet. Interested individuals must be an E-5 or above and have no record of disciplinary action, financial irresponsibility or previous record of having failed to graduate from a formal EO training course.

To apply for this position, submit a resume detailing experience, military and civilian education and a copy of current physical fitness assessment to Capt. Lionel Riley, 188th Fighter Wing EO chief, via e-mail at 1lriley@cox.net or by mailing 188FW/EO ATTN: Capt. Lionel Riley, 4850 Leigh Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

This position performs, supervises and

manages equal opportunity (EO) and human relations education (HRE) programs; conducts administrative functions to support EO programs; promotes an environment that enhances the Air Force mission through an inclusive corporate culture that promotes positive human relations and teamwork in an environment of equity, dignity and respect; provides advice, consultation, education, alternative dispute resolution and referral services to enhance mission effectiveness; assists commanders and directors to resolve conditions that impact operations and mission effectiveness; emphasizes areas that potentially undermine the installation's readiness posture and human relations environment; analyze and advise on unit environment and morale.

Contracting specialist

The 188th Mission Support Group is looking to fill a vacant contracting specialist (6C0X1) slot in the 188th Contracting Office. The position is for a traditional Guardsman. The slot is a technical sergeant billet. Candidates for this position must possess 24

semester hours of business-related classes as well as a score of 72 in the General area of the ASVAB. For additional information, interested individuals should contact Master Sgt. Keith Freeman in the 188th Retention Office at 479-573-5360.

Public Affairs officer

The 188th Fighter Wing will be holding a selection board to hire an additional public affairs officer (35PX). This position is a traditional officer position and an 0-4 billet. Applicants must have qualifying Air Force Officer Qualification Test scores and have passing Air Force PT scores.

In addition, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree or have completed at least 90 semester hours of post-secondary education with the ability to obtain a degree within one year.

Key responsibilities of the public affairs officer include but are not limited to: Media and community relations representative; drafting press releases and speeches; conducting press conferences; and serving as an advisor to the commander.

Please contact Master Sgt. Craig Gardner, 188th Fighter Wing Recruiting Office, with questions concerning the application and selection process at 479-573-5147. A selection board will be scheduled at a later date. Packages must include an AF Form 24 and a current resume. To be considered for the upcoming selection board submit packages to 188th Recruiting no later than Oct. 15, 2012.

Public Affairs broadcaster

The 188th Fighter Wing is seeking to hire a Public Affairs Broadcaster (3NOX2). The position is for a traditional Guardsman. Candidates for this position must possess a score of 72 or higher in the General area of the ASVAB.

Primary responsibilities include but are not limited to: Organizing and conducting broadcast operations; preparing informational materials in broadcast format for use in commercial media; functioning as talent and operating broadcast equipment; conducting on-camera interviews in studio and in the field; news broadcast packages.

For entry into this specialty, candidates must receive a favorable evaluation of a voice audition. For entry, award, and retention of this AFSC, absence of any speech impediment, and ability to read aloud and speak distinctly are required.

Please contact Master Sgt. Craig Gardner, 188th Fighter Wing Recruiting Office, with questions at 479-573-5147.



Looking forward and trusting in God's plan part of the journey

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

You may recall that my dear wife of 38 years passed away suddenly on Jan. 8. And, the first two to three months afterwards were unlike any I'd ever known before. But, thankfully, the heavenly father's grace was sufficient for me and continues to bring healing to my heart and mind.

The Bible clearly teaches us to "boast not ourselves of tomorrow — for we don't know what a day will bring forth" (Proverbs 27:1). It also teaches us to "take no thought for tomorrow — for tomorrow will take care of itself" (Matthew 6:34). And, all of these are tempered by the fact that our lives are as "a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:14).

Does this mean we should live with a sense of morbidity or despair over the fact that our "days are numbered" (Psalm 90:12)? Or, like the Epicureans of old, should our life's mantra be "Eat, drink and be merry — for tomorrow you die"?

No, not hardly.

Instead, we should live with a sense of purpose, knowing that the one who created us is also the one who knows what's best for us. He has special plans for us and they're good plans (Jeremiah 29:11). And, when we live our lives surrendered to his will, we discover what Jesus meant when he said "I've come that you might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10b).

So, life is to be lived — not squandered or saved.

We were created to be conduits, not reservoirs. And, as someone once said, "You can't plow a straight row by always

looking backwards." So true, so true.

That's why it's important for us to always look upward as we journey through this life. Just as the ancient mariners used the sexton to plot their courses while sailing, so must we look to the one who is "the Author and Finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2) if our lives are to count here on Earth.

Solomon summed it up pretty clearly when he said, "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born and a time to die ... a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted ... a time to weep and a time to laugh ... a time to mourn and a time to dance..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

And, you know, this year I've found that to be true in a special way.

What began as a "Season of Sorrow" in January has now been turned into a "Season of Joy." In a way that only God could prescribe, He led someone from my past — from my hometown — back into my life and we'll be married on Sept. 15.

Here's hoping you'll uplift us in prayer. And, here's hoping you, too, will rest in the God's assurance that "weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:15) as we place our trust in him. God bless you.

Protestant service

When: 8:15 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 9

Where: Hugh B. Correll Headquarters Building auditorium

Making their mark

Deployed Airmen recognized



Bagram Warrior of the Week

Chief Master Sgt. Marcus Snoddy, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing command chief, presents the Warrior of the Week certificate to Tech Sgt. Leon Warrick, a crew chief with the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron deployed to Bagram Airfield Afghanistan, where he is attached to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. As an A-10C Thunderbolt II crew chief, Warrick's primary duties include accomplishing all scheduled and non-scheduled inspections, the launch and recovery of aircraft, aircraft forms documentation and the generation of a safe, quality, reliable weapons platform to accomplish the mission. While deployed to BAF, he has had 12 Personnel Evaluations and one Quality Verification Inspection assessment by Quality Assurance and earned a 100 percent pass rate. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Nevison)



Maintaining perfection

Staff Sgt. Paul Smith with the 188th Maintenance Squadron, left, is presented a Quality Assurance Honor Roll Award by Maj. Jason Purdy, 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron commander. Smith is currently deployed with the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia. Smith is an electronic countermeasures POD specialist. Smith received the award for scoring 10 consecutive perfect personnel evaluations in POD maintenance. A personnel evaluation is an "over the shoulder" inspection conducted by the base quality assurance office to evaluate proper maintenance execution. (Courtesy photo)

Spohn

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F-35A pilots to the ranks gives Spohn a sense of satisfaction.

"I think everyone feels that same excitement," he said. "It feels good to be contributing."

Now Spohn is scheduled to train another 58th Fighter Squadron pilot, Lt. Col. Michael Ebner, on the same "five instructional sorties and one check ride" that Spohn helped develop as initial cadre and then flew as a student of his own curriculum.

Along with "getting a feel for how the aircraft handles and several approaches to the runway," Spohn's first flight included some "touch and goes." And there to cheer him on was Lt. Col. Randal Efferson, a Florida National Guardsman assigned to the 33rd Operations Group.

"His stellar performance represented years of dedicated service and preparation," said Efferson. "The entire Air Force Reserve component is proud of Maj. Spohn's accomplishment."

Spohn said second and third flights included a lot of the same plus instrument approaches. On the fourth flight Spohn flew with a wingman.

"The formation flight can be with another F-35 or an F-16 as the support aircraft," he said.

Spohn said on the fifth flight the wingman and lead pilot switch roles and the IP (instructor pilot) verifies you can teach. Then on the last flight, there is an evaluation that includes the student again assuming an instructor role, plus dozens of tasks now graded, like ground operations, takeoff and departure to the air spaces, instrument approaches and post landing.

Efferson said Spohn was the second non-test pilot qualified in the F-35A for the 58th Fighter Squadron, but the third overall since the squadron recently qualified a Defense Contract Management Agency Marine Corps member from Lockheed



Major Jay Spohn performs preflight tasks in an F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter during preparations to become the Guard's first F-35 instructor pilot. Spohn is a former pilot with the 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard. He finished his last of six flights Aug. 3 to become a part of aviation history. He transitioned to the Florida National Guard following his selection as the Guard's first F-35 aviator. He is now embedded in the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base where he is responsible for training up the fighter pilots who will fly the fifth-generation F-35 and will carry the U.S. Air Force into the next 50 years of air superiority. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Karen Roganov/Team Eglin Public Affairs)

Martin, Fort Worth, Texas, to be able to perform F-35 acceptance flights on behalf of the government.

Spohn is truly embedded in this active-duty flying wing, said Lt. Col. Lee Kloos, commander of the 58th Fighter Squadron who flew as Spohn's evaluator. But being a Guard member is of no consequence for performance.

"He's up to the task to train our next pilots," said Kloos. "In fact, being in the Guard was not even a consideration or thought. Recently Spohn was key in the success of the wing receiving an excellent in our Unit Compliance Inspection."

Spohn's duty location includes service members from the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

So while Spohn is only one of a few F-35A pilots, overall he is included in a team of seven currently qualified as instructor pilots at the integrated training center. The Marine Corps' VM-FAT-501 Fighter Attack Training Squadron is located adjacent to the Air Force hangar and has four

F-35B variant pilots.

They are also in the process of training up more pilots this week, according to their squadron. The Navy's VFA-101 squadron here is not scheduled to receive its F-35C variant until later in 2013; their team is now working on its training programs.

In the near future Spohn will be immersed in a coalition environment as well at the training campus.

The United Kingdom received its first F-35B July 23 at Eglin, where it is undergoing initial maintenance under contracted logistics support and awaiting the British pilots to arrive in fall and early next year.

The Netherlands is scheduled to receive one of their F-35As at Eglin in late fall, according to Col. Andrew Toth, the wing commander who spearheads training efforts for the 19 Joint Strike Fighters now here.

So for the future, Spohn will soon be sharing the skies not only with the U.S. Marines and Navy but the British and Dutch as well and he said he looks forward to

training with the partner nations.

"It is always a tremendous opportunity, both personally and professionally, to train with pilots that have a different background than you," Spohn said. "I hope my A-10 and F-15C background allows me to bring something unique to the table that will make the Dutch students better and I know that their vast fighter experience will make me a better IP and F-35 pilot."

And that forward-looking attitude seems to be the right stuff for Spohn having been hand selected for the F-35 team while a member of the Arkansas National Guard.

"The success of Maj. Spohn is proof of years of effort put into our current F-35 program," Toth said. "We have a lot of confidence in the training systems and we have a lot of confidence in him. In fact, he'll soon be helping to train me in qualifying in our nation's fifth-generation fighter jet."

Maj. Heath Allen, 188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this story.



Phase

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The 188th Fighter Wing's Phase Inspection team currently deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron can disassemble, inspect and reassemble most components in an A-10 faster than most auto repair companies can replace a transmission. That kind of efficiency requires an ideal combination of management, skilled technicians and a strong sense of teamwork. The Bagram Phase team has all three.

Master Sgt. Gary Childers, a member of the 188th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and currently assigned to the 455th, manages workflow for the entire Phase process with his team, most of which deployed with the 188th "Flying Razorbacks" at Ebbing Air National Guard Base in Fort Smith, Ark. The Phase team consists of about 40 Airmen from 12 work centers in two squadrons. That means each team member has to be familiar with many systems on the aircraft.

The 188th currently has approximately 375 Airmen deployed to Bagram.

A phase inspection covers 300 separate inspection points covering nearly every inch of the aircraft. Because of the critical and intrusive nature of phase inspections, their work is 100 percent inspectable. This work requires thoroughness like no other.

It normally takes teams of eight Airmen as long as 30 days to complete a phase inspection on an A-10. But in a wartime environment like Bagram, the war can't wait. So the same team works 24 hours per day in 12-hour shifts. Their non-stop effort has a huge impact on the inspection's completion time.

The same month-long process is completed in as little as four days.

Once an aircraft is due for its phase inspection, it is rolled into their inspection hangar. Then the A-10 phase team begins the first day by pulling the aircraft apart, panel by panel, from every direction. Days two and three are spent performing inspections, repairs and reassembly and operational checks to ensure each part functions properly. By day four, the aircraft gets a final once-over, and is rolled back out to the flightline for its next mission.

The high operations tempo can be just as hard on aircraft as it is on people. Aircraft like the A-10 are sent to phase inspection every 500 flying hours. Childers said that number comes around about every two years at a stateside Air National Guard unit. In Afghanistan, the aircraft



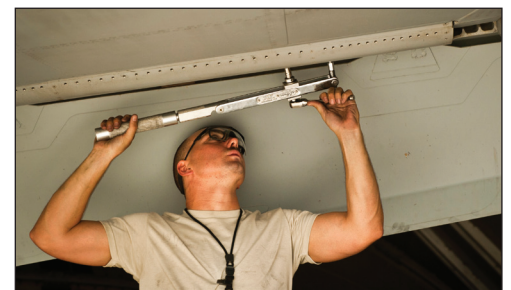
Master Sgt. Thomas Goode, a 188th Fighter Wing electro environmental specialist deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, mounts a right-hand circuit breaker panel onto an A-10 Thunderbolt II during a seven-level inspection on an A-10 Thunderbolt II at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 10. Each time an A-10 accomplishes 500 flying hours, the maintainers put the aircraft through a periodic maintenance phase which lasts approximately four to five days. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Nevison/455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs)



Maintainers with the 188th Fighter Wing deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron work on a 188th A-10 Thunderbolt II during phase maintenance at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 8, (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy/455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs)



Staff Sgt. Billy Bull, a 188th Fighter Wing phase maintenance inspector deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, conducts a seven-level inspection on an A-10 Thunderbolt II at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 10. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Nevison)



Senior Airman William Fine, an aircraft phase maintenance specialist with the 188th Fighter Wing deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, works on the wing of a 188th A-10 Thunderbolt II during phase maintenance at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, August 8. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy)

Phase

Continued from Page 10

reach 500 hours nearly every three months.

Childers says one of the major benefits from his team's busy workload is the experience they gain. He estimated they get a year's worth of training every month. What may be most amazing about the team's accomplishments is the experience they had prior to arriving.

"At least half of my team have been out of technical school for two years or less," he said.

But Childers says the work pays off when the aircraft rolls out.

"You get a sense of pride when you get the plane together, they load it up with bombs, and you know what it's going out to accomplish," he said. "You see what your work is accomplishing. At home the mission is training. Out here it's real."

One member of the phase team with a bit more experience than the others is Staff Sgt. Dustin Ponder. Prior to his current assignment, he had already worked on A-10s and the C-17 Globemaster III. Ponder says he is impressed with the team's professionalism.

"Everyone knows what they're doing," Ponder said. "We get a game plan, and everyone gets a zone to work on. And we're here 24/7, so we can get it done fast."

Ponder paused while removing an air conditioner vent to sincerely tip his wrench to his co-workers.

"I've been with a couple of units," he said. "I worked on A-10s before this in Germany. Everything here goes on as a team unit. And this is bar-none the best as far as camaraderie. Everyone gets along probably the best I've ever seen. But we still get things done fast."

Capt. Jason Woodruff, 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron operations officer, visited to the phase hangar during an inspection. He is assigned to an F-22 unit at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., but he was not shy about his respect for his current unit's phase team.

"When they pull the jet into this hangar, these guys are on it," he said. "There are 20 guys working on this jet at any one time. They're all tearing into it; they like their job, and they know the benefit of getting that jet out onto the line to fly. These guys are doing an awesome job turning these jets to get them back into the air to fight the mission."

The hot Afghanistan sun crawled from one side of the hangar to the other. By the next time they see the sun, their current aircraft will likely be getting ready to depart for its next mission.



Tech Sgt. Robert Haag, an aircraft phase maintenance specialist with 188th Fighter Wing deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, works in the cockpit of a 188th A-10C Thunderbolt II during phase maintenance at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 9, 2012. The Airmen adhere to a strict schedule of maintenance to keep Bagram's aircraft safe and operational. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy/455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs)



Senior Airman William Fine, an aircraft phase maintenance specialist with the 188th Fighter Wing deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, works on the wing of a 188th A-10 Thunderbolt II during phase maintenance at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 8. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy/455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs)



Staff Sgt. Billy Bull, a 188th Fighter Wing phase maintenance inspector deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, conducts a seven-level inspection on an A-10 Thunderbolt II at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 10 (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Nevison)



Staff Sgt. Howard Boyer, a 188th Fighter Wing aircraft maintenance technician deployed with the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, adjusts the speed brake swivel on an A-10C Thunderbolt II during a seven-level inspection at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 9 (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Nevison)



Master Sgt Daniel Boyd, an armament systems mechanic with the 188th Maintenance Group attached to the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, oversees the removal of an ammo drum from a 188th Fighter Wing A-10C Thunderbolt II during phase maintenance at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 10 (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy)

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 \$10,000 cash and the G.I. Bill

Kicker. Current members may receive \$5,000 cash for a three-year reenlistment and \$10,000 cash and the G.I. Bill Kicker for a six-year reenlistment.

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

National incentives

- 3D1X3 RF Transmission Systems
- 3P0X1 Security Forces
- 3D1X1 Client Systems
- 2A6X1 Aerospace Propulsion
- 2W0X1 Munitions Systems
- 3D1X2 Cyber Transport Systems
- 2A3X3 Tactical Aircraft Maintenance

Local incentives

- 1C7X1 Airfield Management
- 2A6X2 Aerospace Ground Equipment
- 2A6X6 Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems
- 3E4X1 Water and Fuel Systems Maintenance
- 3E9X1 Emergency Management

Recruiting referral program benefits Air Guard members

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

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

When you send a potential Airman to a recruiter, make

sure the potential Airman gives your card or code to the recruiter. Once the individual joins, it will be noted on your online account. Then you can choose your reward. It's that easy!

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

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, 2013, 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.

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



Heat of the moment



Airmen with the 188th Security Forces Squadron participated in Oleoresin Capsicum "pepper" spray training Aug. 4, 2012. Members of the SFS were pepper sprayed in the face and then had to subdue a perpetrator, which included using a baton to fend off two attackers, drawing their service weapon and conducting handcuffing procedures. (National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Hannah Landeros/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)