



Congratulations! *2009 Outstanding Airmen of the Year*



*Senior Airman Kayla M. Kent
Physical Standards Technician
183rd Medical Group*



*Staff Sgt. Nicholas R. Jeffers
Structural Apprentice
183rd Civil Engineering Squadron*



*Master Sgt. Matthew J. Allen
Production Recruiter
183rd Force Support Squadron*



*Master Sgt. Robert A. Stults
First Sergeant
183rd Maintenance Squadron*

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Just the Facts

Unit Training Assembly Schedule and pay dates



Duty Performed Pays out (approx.)

JAN 10-11 JAN 21

FEB 7-8 FEB 18

MAR 7-8 MAR 18

PLEASE NOTE: Duty hours for each UTA/SUTA will be 0800-1200 and 1300-1700 unless otherwise scheduled in advance. Mark your calendar! For more pay information, see the DFAS website at <http://www.dfas.mil/index.htm>. Pay information is under the Money Matters heading.

Attention!

The deadline for the February issue of the Falcon's View is Sunday, **JANUARY 10 at 1300.**



On Base Emergency

CALL 911 FOR ALL YOUR ON-BASE EMERGENCY NEEDS.

Important Contacts

Commercial (217) 757-1XXX
on base use 3-digit Ext.

Main Gate.....	205
Base Commander.....	219
Base Operations.....	202
217th EIS Commander.....	700
Pass and Registration	481
Recruiting.....	285
Public Affairs	267
Customer Service	308
Military Pay	225
Clinic.....	221
Safety	237
Chaplain	367
Wing IG	770

Toll Free Number
1-800-392-1797

183rd Human Resource Advisor

Diversity is...

by Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Korte
Human Resource Advisor

As you know, there is a HRA theme campaign that focuses on different topics. I have chosen "Diversity Is..." for January's theme. The coming months offer a wide array of events to celebrate diversity. However, we can celebrate and honor diversity on a daily basis in our lives. We need to recognize that our diversity can strengthen our unit and lead us to great accomplishments.



As the HRA, my focus on diversity has been through leadership, professional growth, and mentoring others. The HRA office has focused on diversity in leadership through the monthly theme poster and tabletops, Falcon's View articles, and two seminars. Please take some time to reflect on the following key aspects of diversity.

Diversity is respecting our unique individuality, our differences, which allows each of us to contribute the best of ourselves. This is the proven strength of the Air National Guard.

Diversity is an inclusive culture of personal growth, which leads to organizational success. The diversity of our ANG provides our force an aggregation of strengths, perspectives and capabilities that transcends individual contributions.

Now consider the age old HRA question, "What did I do today to push on the flywheel?"

- How do you "Raise the Bar" in your commitment to champion diversity in the Air National Guard?
- How do you live to ensure you include, engage and empower all Airmen?
- How do you maximize individual strengths and combine individual abilities and perspectives for the good of the mission?

Let's continue to commit to excellence and "Raise the Bar" for all members of the 183rd!



A decade of thanks

by Col. Michael A. Meyer
183rd Fighter Wing Commander

Present and Past Members of the 183d,

December UTA seemed like just another until Lt Col Barry wished me well at the end of drill and said, "See you in 2010." Then it hit me! A decade was coming to a close - a most dramatic decade at that. The decade started with rumors of infrastructure meltdown and the forecast of resulting national and worldwide chaos as the result of key automated systems freezing and failing. After we had weathered that and felt secure and dominant as a nation, we were attacked in September 2001. Since then things have never been the same, especially for the National Guard. This is when the Guard truly and permanently evolved from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve. The Guard now also has a much greater role in Homeland Defense and Homeland Security. For 50% of the 183d who are new to the unit since 2001, this has been a steady state condition. For the rest of us, it was dramatic retooling of how we train and of how and where we employed. Just as we as a unit became accustomed to this new steady state, the BRAC process of 2005



came along. This caused a dramatic and significant change in the future missions of the unit. While in the midst of reorganizing our workforce and manning, we were called by the Governor to mitigate the flooding along the Mississippi River in the summer of 2008. And during this whole time we were accomplishing numerous inspections and overseas deployments. You were also very busy with your families, education, and careers.

Now late in 2009 we are fully engaged in our new missions. We have just begun to significantly rebuild our base facilities to accommodate our new missions and more efficiently accomplish our legacy missions. It has been a dramatic and unprecedented decade in the history of the 183d.

But throughout all this change there has been one constant. And that has been the character and the quality of the members and employees of the 183d. You have confronted and mastered every hardship and change that has occurred. You have done this by repeatedly espousing the Air Force Core Values of Integrity, Service before Self, and Excellence in All You Do. This community, this state, this country, and the world are a better place because of your hard work, dedication, and sacrifice.

So I want to take this opportunity to thank you and ask you to take the time to reflect back on your great accomplishments, both individually and as a unit over these last ten years. It has been a humbling experience to serve with you during these last ten years. I also want to extend my thanks to your families, friends, and employers who have supported you during this period of unceasing demands and unprecedented pressures.

Finally I want to wish you, your families and friends, and your employers and colleagues continued happiness and joy throughout this holiday season. And I ask you to keep those troops who are deployed this holiday season and their families, especially those of the 183d, in your thoughts and prayers.

Good luck to all in this upcoming decade. It will be interesting to see if the next will be as dramatic and dynamic for members of the 183d as the last. No matter what comes, I know that you will be able to handle it well.

In the Spotlight

Who: Senior Airman Kim Thomas

What: Financial Management

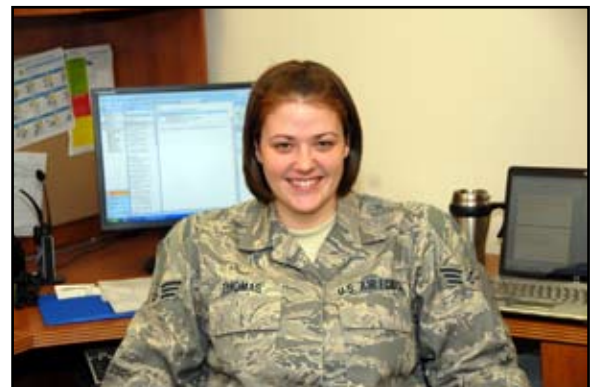
When: Enlisted June 23, 2003

Why: To help pay for school initially, but realized she will enjoy the travel when she deploys for the first time

Civilian Employment: Sales Associate at Best Buy. Recently graduated with an Associates in accounting and is seeking a school to finish her Bachelor's

Civilian/Military Correlation: No direct correlation

Recent/Favorite Deployment: Has yet to deploy, but is looking forward to her first trip



Enlisted Leadership Symposium

Enlisted Leadership Symposium

by Chief Master Sgt. Kent Sunderland
State of Illinois Command Chief

From Nov. 2 – 6, 2009, several Illinois Air National Guard enlisted personnel attended the Enlisted Leadership Symposium (ELS) that was held at the Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine (Dallas) Texas. The Gaylord Texan was a beautiful facility. The conference was outstanding, probably one of the best or possibly THE best military conference I have attended. Of the 800+ attendees, Illinois was represented by the following personnel: myself, Senior Airman Trenton Franklin (HQ), Master Sgt. Austin Dearing (183rd), Master Sgt. Bill Casson (183rd), Staff Sgt. Eric Link (183rd), Chief Master Sgt. John Vincent (126th), Staff Sgt. Dawn Skibbens (126th), Master Sgt. Harry Marshall (126th), Tech. Sgt. Adam Mear (126th), Staff Sgt. Taylor Rebbe (182nd), and Senior Airman Brian Frieze (182nd).

The event was hosted by the new Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sergeant Chris Muncy. Key speakers included: Lt. Gen. Wyatt III, Director of the ANG, Mr. Tim Dannelly (Topic: Traits of Successful People), Airmen in the Fight Panel (our own Staff Sgt. Taylor Rebbe was a panel member and represented the 182nd very well), Dr. Dale Henry (Topic: Leadership), and Mr. Dave Pelzer (Topic: Helping Others to Help Themselves). Of special note, Dave Pelzer's presentation referenced his background of making something of himself after spending most all of his youth and teen years being abused by his mother. His story is documented in a book titled, "A Child Called It."

Attendees also participated in several breakout sessions which included the following topics: Yellow Ribbon



(Photo submitted by Chief Master Sgt. Kent Sunderland)

program, Hometown Heroes program, A1 brief, Expeditionary Center brief, PME, CCAF, and a Military & Family Life brief. First Sergeants, Human Resource Advisors and Command Chief Master Sergeants had breakout sessions as well. Additional general sessions included presentations by Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy, and on the following topics: EANGUS, Air Force Sergeants Association, Enlisted Field Advisory Group, and a panel made up of retired Senior Enlisted Advisors and Command Chief Master Sergeants where attendees were given an opportunity to ask questions. The final event of the symposium was a Mess Dress formal banquet with retired Chief Master Sgt. Edwin Brown as the featured speaker.

The symposium was certainly a place for pertinent information to be disseminated as well as a way to offer some leadership-like training to those in attendance. I have heard only good comments from those who attended about the event and about the great opportunity it offered them to hear the leadership information. ELS events are offered about every two years. We can only hope that the next ELS will be as valuable.

Welcome Aboard

New Enlistees

Maj. Scott C. Barbu	Detachment 1	November 7, 2009
Tech. Sgt. Richard A. Davis Jr.	Detachment 1	November 7, 2009
Capt. Ignacio C. Macapagal	Detachment 1	November 9, 2009
SSgt. Michael R. Morris	Logistics Readiness Squadron	November 12, 2009
Airman 1st Class Matthew L. Nagel	Maintenance Squadron	November 12, 2009

A New Year and let's get serious!

by Lt. Col. Robert Barry
183rd ASUS Chaplain

It is a new year, and let's get serious about our resolutions. Often, New Years passes without much change or improvement, but this year, let's make things different. Let me make a few suggestions here to have a serious start to the new year.

Put God in the proper place in your life. Don't let God slide off to the side lines of your life and don't ignore the call and summons God gives. Don't pretend God doesn't exist, doesn't care about you or isn't listening to you. Let God be God for you!



Don't think that charity, kindness, mercy and forgiveness are for other people. Surprise yourself

and others with your thoughtfulness, selflessness and forgiveness. There can never be too much of this. Try to be as charitable and



kind as you possibly can and you will be delighted with the results.

Change your ways! Are there things about yourself that you don't like? This is the time to get rid of those things you don't like about yourself. Use these early weeks of the year to get a new and fresh start so you don't have to berate yourself in coming months or years for not have made some needed changes.

Don't let family and friends slip away from you. Are there people you haven't seen in a while, or do you need to patch things up with some folks you have antagonized? This is the time to do it. Make

2010 a different year.

Give extra care and attention to those who need it. Often very quietly, people in our unit are facing some difficult situations and problems, and don't leave them alone in their struggle. Be sure to ask how things are going and then be prepared to listen.

Stay out of the procrastination loop! Stop saying "I'm tired, it can be done later, it's not that important!" There are always a thousand other things that can be done and a million reasons why we can put it off. Once one enters the procrastination loop, it is hard to get out and the deeper you go, the harder it is to get out. Take care of your business, do your job, learn while you are doing, and that feeling of self-satisfaction will come over you. You will love yourself again and others will also.

Learn what you need to know and learn it well. It is better to know something you don't need than to need something and not know it.

These are just a few suggestions for making this year truly a "New Year"! You may have some of your own, and if you do, please pass them on.

✠ ✠ **CHAPLAINS INFORMATION** ✠ ✠

Roman Catholic Chaplains:

Lt. Col. Bob Barry
3700 103rd Street
Chicago, IL 60655
phone: 773-296-3857
email: RLBarry@worldnet.att.net
or robert.barry@ang.af.mil

Lt. Col. Jeff Laible
316 S. Logan Street
Lincoln, IL 62656
phone: 217-732-4019
email: Frlaible@
holyfamilylincoln.com

Base Chapel Office:

Bldg. P-48, Room 302
Phone 217-757-1367, DSN 892-8367
Fax (217)757-1509

Religious Services
Protestant Service:
Saturday 1500hrs Chapel
Catholic Mass:
Saturday 1600hrs Chapel



Winter storms and power outages

by Tech. Sgt. Chris Rosser
183rd Safety Office

The last several winters have struck central Illinois with severe ice and winter storms. The November/ December storm of 2006 and the storms of February 2007 left many people in the area without power for days or longer. While it is impossible to predict what this winter will bring being prepared in advance is always a good idea. The time to prepare for these events is not after the local weather people warn us and the supermarkets are stripped bare, but today. While perishable items can't be purchased ahead of time, many items and an emergency kit can be prepared in advance. For tips on stocking an emergency kit or to purchase pre-made kits go to: www.ready.gov. One of the largest issues during a power failure is heating the home. Many fires occur because of unsafe alternate heat sources being used. Some guidelines to follow when using alternate heating sources are:

- Children should not have access to portable heaters, electric or fuel powered.
- Do not burn anything larger than candles inside your home without providing good ventilation such as opening windows, doors and fireplace flues.
- All heaters that run on fuel (natural gas, kerosene, butane, oil) should be vented. The only exception to this rule is electric heaters.
- Do not use the kitchen oven or stove top to heat your home. This can be a fire hazard as well as a source of toxic fumes.
- "Space" heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least three feet away.
- Before purchasing a portable heater, make sure it has "tip switches." These

switches are designed to automatically shut off the heating unit in the event it tips over.

- Never refill a space heater while it is in operation or is still hot.
- ONLY refuel heaters outdoors! Use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer, and follow instructions carefully.
- Glass doors or a metal screen should be placed in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks or hot ash from igniting carpets, furniture, or other combustible items.
- Do not burn charcoal designed for barbecues indoors-not even in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. It releases odorless, but toxic, carbon monoxide fumes and can cause death!



- Install smoke alarms that are equipped with a battery back up in your home. Make sure that smoke alarms are on every level of the home as well as near every bedroom in the home. Test the alarms monthly, and change the batteries at least once a year .

- Purchase and install a carbon monoxide alarm for your home. Make sure it is marked with the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) safety listing. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for placement in your home.

Some other safety considerations and preparations to make for a power outage are:

- Keep cash and change on hand. In power failures ATMs may not work and cash may be your only spending option.
- Phones with answering machines and cordless phones are power dependent. Have at least one phone that does not require power in case you need to call 9-1-1. Keep your cell phone powered up.
- Familiarize yourself with your main electrical panel. You may have to turn off the main breaker or have to reset circuit breakers after an outage.
- Have a fire extinguisher and know how to operate it. Have a fire evacuation plan and practice fire drills.

- During the power outage, unplug all small appliances and electronics to avoid damage from power surge. Leave one low wattage incandescent light on so you know when the power comes back on.

- Have a plan for checking on and reuniting family members.
- Stay home and be safe during a power outage. Stores and gas stations may be closed. Don't add to the confusion by driving around.

- Watch for suspicious activity. Criminals may decide to take advantage of the power outage. Always call 9-1-1 if you notice suspicious activity.

We are all very power dependent today and accustomed to being able to get whatever we need 24 hours a day 365 days a year. This makes being prepared now more important than ever. In the event of a storm or emergency a little advance planning can make a difficult situation safer and easily survivable.

Promotions

First Lieutenant
Stacey A. Reiger

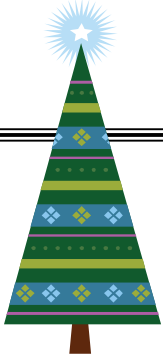
Technical Sergeant
Nathaniel R. Bostic
Adam R. Kerr
Rick E. Rojas
James A. Shanks
Joseph A. Snodgrass
Stephen T. Summers
Jonathan R. Sutherland
Justin R. Tintori
Mitchell A. Walker

Staff Sergeant
Charles M. Angermeier
Kenneth W. Colvin
Michael D. Morrow

Senior Airman
Ashley M. Burtle
Adam J. Woods

Holiday Party

183rd Holiday Celebration 80's Theme



*Date: January 9, 2010
Time: 7 p.m. to midnight
Place: Springfield Eagles Club
2700 East Ash Street
Springfield, Ill. 62703*

- *Finger foods, soda, water, coffee, tea, and beer provided. There will also be a cash bar.*
- *Door prizes will be given out along with a 50/50 drawing.*

*Master Sgt. and above: \$10 per person
Tech. Sgt. and below: \$5 per person*

Hope to see you there!



News From the Field

The 183rd Civil Engineer Squadron began arriving at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in June and by the end of July the entire team of about 25 engineers had arrived. Together with about 40 other guardsmen from throughout the country they make up the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron responsible for Senior Air Authority (SAA) at Bagram. Essentially SAA means they are tasked with maintaining all the assets and facilities located on the airfield in



(Photo submitted by Maj. Jack Elston)

direct support of the coalition forces flying mission.

The team literally hit the ground running. Many of engineers assigned to the Heavy Equipment Shop spent their first full day in theater up to their knees in concrete and they haven't stopped since. SMSgt Mark Kessler and his team of electricians and power production specialists have kept busy maintaining the aircraft arresting barriers, airfield lighting and numerous generators located around the base - to date they have had 15 successful barrier engagements. The entire team, to include electricians, structures, heavy equipment, HVAC and supply have played a vital role in bedding down a new, high demand ISR mission.

The mission at Bagram Airfield continues to grow faster than the existing infrastructure can support. The entire Civil Engineer Squadron works tirelessly maintaining the existing facilities and constructing new ones



(Photo submitted by Maj. Jack Elston)

to ensure the mission can continue. Whether it is pouring concrete, putting up new tents or running new electrical lines, there is never a shortage of work. The busy pace has certainly made the deployment a memorable one. The squadron will begin redeploying shortly after Christmas and the entire team should be home by the end of January.

Maj. Jack Elston
Bagram Airfield

217th Engineering Installation Squadron

by Lt. Col. James Loux
217th EIS Commander

Just a short 10 years ago the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS) officially relocated to Springfield from O'Hare Field, Chicago IL. Many of our unit members had never ventured south of Interstate 80. Quite a bit has changed in the last 10 years; we went from Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) to Air Combat Command (ACC) in 2005 and effective October 2009 we transferred to the Air Force Space Command (AFSPC). Once relocated, the 217th started deploying rotations of personnel to the area of responsibility (AOR) to work the Friendly Forces Housing project at Prince Sultan Air Base. These rotations later became the standard for our Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) tasking.

After 9/11 we sent out mobilized teams, seems like each year we have been busier than the last. In 2009 we used almost 8,000 man days which equates to over 60 man days per unit member. Slightly less than half of this figure is from our Defense Information Services Agency (DISA) mission. We have 10 members on Title 10 orders that form the Engineering Installation Site Implementation Team. They are tasked to provide immediate response to support DISA worldwide; they also manage DISA workload for five other EI units. We are constantly on the road, training our members and adapting to new missions and demands of our customers. Our resources and manpower have been impacted by BRAC and Total Force Integration, TFI; we've gone through Unit Type Code (UTC) right sizing and downsizing, constantly changing to meet the needs of the Air Force.

To understand our mission and how we are organized this article will explain a little bit about EIS. The 217th is one of 17 Engineering Installation Squadrons located throughout the United States. The

EIS community has 16 Air National Guard units and one active duty unit, the 85th EIS, stationed at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. The active duty 38th EIW was downsized to a group in 2000; they are now re-aligned with the 85th EIS under AFSPC. The mission of EI is to engineer and install communications systems for Department of Defense customers around the world. We provide long term, sustainable communications.

Unit Organization

The 217th has three main mission branches: Mission Support, Engineering and Installations. We are considered a Mission Separated Unit. In addition to the Mission Support Branch, we also have our own safety NCO, unit training manager and first sergeant. Most of our personnel are tasked under UTCs. EI UTCs include personnel as well as vehicles and range in size from one member to our largest UTC of nine personnel. The 217th are tasked for a total of 38 UTCs. With the right sizing of our UTC structure the 217th can provide more support to the war fighter, get more engaged with the missions of the war fighter and become more relevant.

Mission Support Branch

Mission Support includes Logistics, Personnel, Information Management, Training, Logistics, Material Control and Vehicle Maintenance.

Logistics role is to get qualified personnel with the right equipment to a specific destination in a quick and safe manner. The mobility program is managed by developing plans, training and mobility exercises. The goal is to prepare unit members for worldwide deployments and to ensure successful mission completion. All personnel that deploy overseas or for longer than 30 days are worked through the logistics office to ensure they meet all readiness requirements.

The Personnel, Information Management, and Training sections support the squadron by ensuring team members have the information, orders, pay, entitlements and training necessary to achieve success in their careers and tasks. Last year over 950 orders were issued to support projects for: USAFE, Whiteman AFB, Schriever AFB and DISA.

Material Control provides personnel with the equipment, tools and clothing items necessary to safely and efficiently get the job done. Provision of these items requires planning and coordination of funds made available to the unit. Material Control also works diligently to ensure that all unit assets are accounted for at all times.

Vehicle Maintenance ensures the unit's vehicle fleet is ready for immediate ground or air deployment. Vehicles range in size from passenger cars to 20-ton special purpose vehicles. A unique aspect of EI vehicles is that some of the special purpose vehicles are tasked under their own UTC. This means that the vehicle or maintainers could be tasked separately.

Engineering Branch

This branch develops engineering packages providing instructions, materials, support requirements and drawings needed to install, remove, relocate or modify communications systems.

Engineers are the first step of the installation process. They perform site surveys to gather information, validate communications requirements, and develop project packages. An EI unit has both degreed electrical engineers and engineering technicians. Most of our engineering technicians work in the civilian telecommunications industry, providing a definite advantage to the ANG, especially in technical fields.

The Systems Telecommunications Engineering Management (STEM) position resides in the engineering branch and serves as the focal point for all the ANG communications requirements. The bases in Wisconsin assigned to the STEM include Volk Field, Truax Air National Guard Base and Billy Mitchell Field. In Illinois, the bases assigned to the 217th include 182nd Airlift Wing, Peoria, 183rd Fighter Wing, Springfield and the 126th Air Refueling Wing at Scott Air Force Base. In Missouri, the base assigned for STEM responsibility is the 131st at Lambert Field. The responsibilities of the STEM manager are to meet with all our counterparts and help determine and plan their communication needs. These requirements are called upward generated

programs. They typically include installation of copper cable or fiber systems, radio or crypto relocations or installations and antenna work. This work also includes maintenance assistance, cost analysis and quality assurance evaluations.

Installations Branch

The installations branch is the largest branch in the 217th, consisting of: Workload Control, Quality Assurance, Wire and Electronics personnel.

Workload Control is the focal point for managing all engineering installation projects and tasking. Typically there are more requirements for cable work than for antenna or electronics. Throughout the year we work with the National Guard Bureau (NGB) Major Commands (MAJCOM) STEMs, other EI units and NGB units for antenna, ground radio, SATCOM and Airfield Communications projects. Funded projects are distributed through the Total Force Group program by NGB. This process gives active duty and ANG EI units an equitable distribution of MAJCOM projects based on unit size and UTC tasking. NGB has designated AEF tasking and contingency workload as our number one and two priorities to meet EI mission requirements. This section also prioritizes and manages squadron funds and coordinates with the unit's customers.

Quality Assurance (QA) evaluates the quality of engineering, installation, unit support, project management, logistic support, safety, and workmanship. Quality Assurance evaluations focus on product quality, customer satisfaction, and continuous process improvement of EI procedures and processes.

The Wire section consists of antenna and cable. This section works with HF, VHF and UHF antenna systems and also performs periodic maintenance inspections. In addition, the section installs copper cable and splices, terminates and troubleshoots traditional copper wire and fiber for communication services.

The Electronics section was just recently re-organized under the new Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) conversions. We no longer have Ground Radio or Wideband/Satcom/Telemetry AFSCs. The new AFSCs are in RF Transmissions

and Airfield Communications.

Electronics provides the qualified personnel to install, relocate and remove pre-positioned HF, UHF and VHF ground radio systems and facilities and/or microwave, troposcatter radio equipment, satellite and repeater systems and meteorological equipment.

Our Engineering and Installations Branches work hand-in-hand even though they could be tasked independently. Once the unit is assigned or picks up a project the Engineering Branch sends engineers to validate requirements and determine the actual scope of the project. Engineering designs the system and identifies all materials required to include end components and all materials needed for the installation. Projects are selected to meet the training requirement for our cable, electronics and engineering UTCs. The specific installation section determines special tools, equipment and personnel needed for the installation. The size and duration of the project determines the installation cost. Material, engineering and installation costs are then fed back to the requesting MAJCOM. EI operates on a fee-for-service concept and the customer pays for all material, man days and per diem for the teams.

Once all material is on site, host base requirements are met and days and dollars are received teams are set up to deploy. The individual that runs the project is a certified Team Chief and carries the Special Experience Identifier, SEI 200. The team chief must ensure the project is installed as directed in the engineering package. Once the installation is complete the team chief will have the system inspected before it is signed over to the gaining activity. This is the formal Commissioning and Acceptance document. The team chief must have this signed by the MAJCOM representative, usually the base commander or his designee, before he can release his team.

An ANG EI team is on a pretty strict schedule to get the job completed on time. Even though the unit receives valuable training we also send enough fully qualified personnel to ensure that the customer gets their money's worth. Each job varies

by scope and complexity. The larger projects sometimes require more manual labor in the early stages. This allows us to build our teams with members from different AFSCs. The larger projects have several rotations of personnel and team chiefs. For project integrity we strive to use the same team chief from start to finish. Setting up our teams is a balance of skilled personnel available, duration and complexity of the project and management of the customer's resources.

Unit History

The 217th started as a U.S. Army Signal Platoon. Its history goes back to 1942, and was officially designated as the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron in January 1954. Since its beginnings the unit has also been Signal Company, a Communications Construction Squadron and a Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Squadron. It is the oldest ANG EI unit. Our unit motto is "Nobody Does It Better". Our unit is the recipient of six Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards.

In July 1999, the 217th moved from O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, to Capital Airport in Springfield and became part of the 183rd Fighter Wing. September 1999 marked the dedication of P-46, the new EIS building, and in December 1999 the unit took possession of the building.

The year ahead will be filled with projects, training and exercises. We have projects lined up for Scott AFB, Whiteman AFB and Milwaukee ANGB. We also have a few other projects in the works that will take a few members wherever we are tasked. We are the lead unit for our AEF that starts in January 2010. We are working with two other EI units to fill our tasking. We have a four-day Operational Readiness Inspection planned for March 2010 and we continue to prepare for our first AFSPC IG inspection in October 2011.

Coming up in February's issue: The 183rd Medical Group

Wing Organization Series



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New Lodging Program

New lodging program at 183d

What is the Automated Lodging Reservation System (ALRS)?

The ALRS is an automated system to be used by ALL 183d personnel who are authorized lodging. All IDT/ADT lodging requirements are coordinated through the ALRS. The ALRS offers the member an assigned hotel at time of call. It eliminates the necessity of going through Services for hotel assignments. If you enter incorrect dates, ALRS will automatically prompt you to leave a phone number. The lodging point of contact will contact you if it is unclear what you are requesting.

How to make a reservation:

1. Call 217-757-1411
2. Put in SSN and PIN (last 4)
3. Select MAKE/CHANGE/CANCEL reservation
4. Enter arrival date (mmddyy)
5. Enter departure date (mmddyy)
6. Confirm information

NOTE: IDT = UTA/BUTA/SUTA/RUTA
(unit pays) ADT = on orders (self pay -
but reservations are made through ALRS)

Responsibilities:

Lodging accommodations are a privilege the 183d Wing Commander extends to his people. 183d members are required to cancel rooms by 4 p.m. on the day of arrival, otherwise the room will be paid for whether used or not. A list of no-shows will be provided to the Group or Wing Commander. 183d will pay for rooms that have been coordinated through the ALRS system only. Any lodging secured by the member directly may be subject to the member's expense.

Frequently asked questions:

What do I do if I am on orders prior to/following the UTA? Make reservations through the system. Follow prompt that suggests both ADT and IDT.

How do I change my PIN? You may change your PIN through the ALRS.

What if I forgot my PIN? You will need to contact Services at 217-757-1573.

What if I forgot to make a reservation and just walk in? Once you have been given a PIN you are required to use this system. Non-compliance reports will be provided to commanders.

What if I walk into a hotel without calling the ALRS to make lodging reservations? If you walk into a hotel and make your own accommodations you will be subject to pay the bill. All hotels know not to accept walk-ins.

January Lunch Menu

Saturday

- ♥ Grilled chicken
- Rice pilaf
- Glazed carrots
- Peas
- Tossed salad
- Fresh fruit
- Peach crisp

Catered Served 1100-1300



*Menu is subject to change
♥ Heart healthy

Sunday

- Homemade meatloaf
- Parsley buttered potatoes
- Green bean casserole
- Broccoli
- Tossed salad
- Fresh fruit
- Cherry cheesecake

Portal troubleshooting factsheet

*submitted by Master Sgt. Deb Schmitz
Portal CoP Administrator*

Starting January 2010, CAC is mandated for Portal/AFKN access from home. Make sure you have the most up-to-date PKI client software on your home computer for your CAC. Right now that software is 6.1 and is located on K:\Approved Software\CAC\Active Client 6.1.

If you do not have a CAC reader, you can contact your Client Support Administrator for your area to complete a Form 3215 for you. A hand receipt will be required with the Communications Plans Office.

It is recommended that when you are registering for .mil accounts that you use your .mil e-mail to not only keep your stuff safe, but also to avoid any conflicts.

Personnel getting new CAC's here are a couple of things to do if you cannot get into the portal with your PIN:

- Make sure CAC light is on when connected
- Go to <https://www.my.af.mil>
 - Under Membership Information click on Enable your CAC/ECA Certificate
 - Click OK
 - Put in your user id and password. If you do not know your password, contact Master Sgt. Schmitz to have it reset and then proceed.

- Click E-mail certificate, select OK
- You will be prompted for your PIN
- A message will appear telling you not to attempt using it for 30 minutes.
- After 30 minutes try to log in again using your PIN.

You can set up your OWA through the Portal as well.

- Go to your profile under the MY PROFILE TAB
 - Next to Web Mail Link change it to [https://](https://mail2.af.mil/owa) and type mail2.af.mil/owa
 - Validate the rest of your information and click

Next

- Validate the next page information and click Save

- You may get an error, click Save again
- Click Finish

If you are still having issues, please go through your CSA+ and if they cannot assist you, call the helpdesk at extension 241.

Other Information:

- You must have an AFKN account to get into the CoP. On base our Internet is defaulted to the CoP login page, not the AF Portal login page
- The CoP is our internal web page
- The Portal is our military web face to the rest of the Air Force
 - Our external (public) web page is being migrated by PA/Multimedia
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In November, State Farm Creative Services Superintendant Misty Vance at the State Farm Corporate Headquarters in Bloomington, Ill. was presented with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Award for recognition as an outstanding employer. From left, Col. Michael Meyer, Misty Vance, Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Hergenrother, Master Sgts, Samuel Kassis, and Jennifer Aurora were present.. (Photo submitted by Master Sgt. Samuel Kassis)



Why are family members (including children) included in the Yellow Ribbon Program?

by *Annette Chapman*
Illinois National Guard Family Readiness Support Assistant
33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Families are the bedrock of support for Service members, before, during, and after a deployment. Often, family members and close friends may notice changes in a Service Member, or problems they are encountering, or just general difficulty reintegrating even before the Service member themselves notices or admits that they need help. The family is often the Service member's biggest advocate and the biggest champion towards getting the help they need, the help they deserve, and the help they have earned.

For these reasons, families are an integral part of the Yellow Ribbon

Program. Family members can assist their Service member by helping them to identify what services or benefits may be most appropriate for them and encouraging Service members to take advantage of these resources. Additionally, some benefits may be directly available to family members, including participation in the unit family readiness group, financial counseling, marriage or relationship counseling, and others.

Purpose of the Program

The DoD Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) was designed to benefit National Guard and Reserve members and their families by helping to give them access to necessary support and guide them to the appropriate information, services, benefits, proactive outreach, and referrals to help Service members to "reintegrate" following an operational deployment.

National Guard and Reserve members have a unique challenge relative to their active duty coun-

terparts, since many will return to full-time civilian employment following their military duties. Additionally, without the support of an active duty installation, many encounter difficulty finding or getting access to the care that they need for any injuries, illnesses, or conditions incurred as a result of their deployment. Some find it challenging just to simply find information or services to assist in their transition back to a peacetime environment, despite the numerous organizations whose stated purpose is to provide this service. The Yellow Ribbon Program was designed to fulfill this need by serving as the "integrator" to link service members and their families with the appropriate service based on their individual need.

The Yellow Ribbon Program is the overarching program for reintegration for National Guard and Reserve members and their families.

Point of Contact: Joe Ward, 183rd Wing Family Program Coordinator

If you have a member of your family that is a past or current member of the 183rd, or have information that a past or current member of the 183rd has passed away recently, please contact Mr. Joe Ward, Family Readiness Manager. We want to ensure that no one is forgotten for the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony commemorating all past and current members that have lost their lives each year. The Family Support Group is still sending sympathy cards to all



deceased members' families, as well, but once again, we need the information. You can contact Joe at by email joe.ward.1@ang.af.mil or by calling 217-757-1569.



Master Sgt. Steve Parker (right) donates the proceeds from his 2009 Family Support Group Bass Tournament to Joe Ward (left), Family Readiness Group Manager. The money was earned from Parker's annual bass tournament which raises funds for the Family Readiness program (Photo taken by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr).

Outstanding Airmen

The following individuals on these pages represent some of the finest at the 183rd Fighter Wing, 183rd Air Operations Group, and the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron. All should be commended for the hard work and dedication that made them a candidate for Airmen of the Year.

We are proud of you and your accomplishments. Congratulations!

Not pictured: Tech. Sgt. Ashley J. Ball, Knowledge Operations Manager, Communications Flight; Master Sgt. Diane L. Liesen, Supply Management Clerk, Civil Engineering; Senior Master Sgt. Ronald R. Palomo, Contracting Apprentice, Air Support Squadron; Tech Sgt. Nicholas P. Ressler, Security Forces Craftsman, Air Support Squadron; Tech Sgt. Todd Stapleton, Services Craftsman, Force Support Squadron; Senior Airman Antony M. Vasquez, Heavy Equipment Operator, Civil Engineering.



*Senior Master Sgt. Rex L. Arkebauer
NCOIC, Distribution Flight
183rd Logistics Squadron*



*Tech Sgt. Christopher J. Bandy
NCOIC, Computer Operations
183rd Logistics Squadron*



*Staff Sgt. Aaron D. Behl
Ground Radio Comm.
Journeyman
217th EI Squadron*



*Tech Sgt. Holly M. Bounds
Physical Standards Specialist
183rd Medical Group*



*Master Sgt. Misty L. Duncan
Health Services Management
Specialist
183rd Medical Group*



*Senior Airman Michael B. Gilreath
Security Forces Journeyman
183rd Security Forces Squadron*



*Tech. Sgt. Carl C. Hasselbring
Jet Engine Mechanic
183rd Maintenance Squadron*



*Tech. Sgt. Jennifer N. Howard
Command Post Controller
183rd Fighter Wing*

Outstanding Airmen



*Tech. Sgt. Adam R. Kerr
Intelligence Operations Analyst
183rd Air Intelligence Squadron*



*Senior Airman Forrest B. Lipe
Contracting Apprentice
183rd Air Support Squadron*



*Master Sgt. Mari E. Moore
Plans, Programs & Resources
183rd Communications Flight*



*Airman 1st Class William D. Moore
Jet Engine Mechanic
183rd Maintenance Squadron*



*Senior Airman Derek D. Nord
Cable Antenna Systems
Apprentice
217th EI Squadron*



*Master Sgt. Deborah J. Schumer
Law Office Superintendent
183rd Fighter Wing*



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183rd Force Support Squadron*



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*Master Sgt. David L. Winkelman
NCOIC, Aerospace Ground
Equipment
183rd Maintenance Squadron*



*Master Sgt. James B. Wynn
Cable and Antenna Systems
Technician
217th EI Squadron*

Clinic Facts

Birth defects awareness month

by Tech. Sgt. Amy Murphy
183rd Medical Group

There are many birth defects that occur every day in the United States. Here are a few of the most common birth defects in our society today. First, is Cerebral Palsy, which refers to a group of conditions that affect movement, balance, and posture. These conditions often lead to mental retardation, learning disabilities, seizures and problems with vision, hearing and speech. Cerebral Palsy is usually diagnosed by three years of age and approximately two- three children out of 1,000 are affected with Cerebral Palsy each year. There are certain risk factors associated with Cerebral Palsy. These are:

- Prematurity (those born before thirty-seven weeks and who weigh less than 3 1/3 pounds.
- Infections during pregnancy (Rubella, herpes)
- Insufficient oxygen supply to the baby during delivery
- Severe jaundice (yellowing of the skin)

Cerebral Palsy is diagnosed by evaluating the baby and how he/she moves. Some children will appear floppy or stiff, and then some may be too tight and rigid with their movements. A doctor may suggest some brain imaging tests, such as an MRI or CT scan of the brain. Treating Cerebral Palsy starts with physical and occupational therapy. Therapy improves

motor skills (walking and sitting) and also improves muscle strength. Sometimes braces and splints are ordered to help improve functions of the hands and legs. Occupational therapists work with the child on skills required for daily living, i.e. feeding and dressing them.

Spinal Bifida is a birth defect that affects the lower back and sometimes the spinal cord. It is one of the most common birth defects in the United States, affecting 1,500 each year. This defect occurs when the neural tube in to brain and spinal cord fails to close completely. There are certain risk factors associated with Spinal Bifida, in regards to the mother:

- Obesity
- Poorly controlled diabetes
- Treatment with certain anti-seizure medications

Treatment options for Spinal Bifida are normally done through a surgical procedure. Often times, certain medical conditions can happen when a patient has Spinal Bifida. These are:

- Hydrocephalus (development of fluid in or around the brain)
- Urinary tract disorders (infections, and kidney damage)
- Learning disabilities

There are some screening tests that your doctor can perform before your baby is born to detect Spinal Bifida. This would include a blood test and an ultrasound.

Cystic Fibrosis is an inherited disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. It affects the normal movement of salt and water into and out of certain cells, including those that line the lungs and pancreas. This in turn produces thick,

sticky mucus in these areas. The mucus then clogs the lungs, causing breathing problems. This leads to frequent lung infections which can eventually damage the lungs. Cystic Fibrosis is one of the most common, life-threatening disease in the United States today, and about 1 in 3500 babies are born with it each year.

Symptoms range from:

- Coughing or wheezing
- Salty-tasting skin
- Poor growth
- Clubbing (enlargement of the fingertips and toes)

Most states routinely screen all newborns for Cystic Fibrosis, along with other disorders. With this newborn screening, infants with Cystic Fibrosis are usually diagnosed in the first two months of life. A sweat test can also be used as a diagnostic test. This measures the amount of salt in the sweat and children with a higher amount of salt should be further evaluated for Cystic Fibrosis. Medications can be given to help alleviate the effects of Cystic Fibrosis. These would be:

- Mucus thinners
- Bronchodilators (helps to clear the mucus)
- Antibiotics
- Ibuprofen
- Hypertonic saline (helps draw more water into the airways, which helps thin the mucus)

These were just a few of the many birth defects that can occur at birth. Having your regularly scheduled appointments with your ob-gyn doctor can help lessen the chances of your baby having a birth defect.

Retiree News

New Retirees

Master Sgt. Steven P. Williams
183rd Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Robert Sipes
183rd Maintenance Squadron

Breakfast Gathering

Retirees gather on the first Tuesday of each month to share breakfast and talk about the good ol' days. Join them at King Pin Lanes, on the corner of Sangamon Ave. and Dirksen Parkway, Tuesday, January 5. They say they meet at 8 a.m. but if you're not there by 7:30, the early birds have taken the good seats!



Honor Flight Chicago

by Lt. Col. James Loux
217th EIS Commander

Honor Flight Chicago is a program to bring Chicago's veterans to Washington, D.C. with honor.

The American veteran is one of our greatest treasures; those men and women who answered our nation's call, especially at times of our greatest need. Our mission is to honor and thank those veterans - especially now our World War II veterans by taking them to Washington, D.C. at no cost to them, for a day of honor.

Master Sgt. Jim Wynn organized a group of 217th EIS members to support Honor Flight Chicago on Nov. 19. They greeted all returning World War II veterans after they toured Washington, D.C. Honor Flight Chicago does not have any employees and have been in existence for 16 months. In 2008, they completed five flights and have flown six in 2009. They have taken 775 veterans to the World War II memorial

217th EIS members pictured left to right. Tech. Sgts Jeff Kienzler, Victor Fox, Chief Master Sgt. Jimmy Pearson, Senior Master Sgt. Rudy Stonitsch, Master Sgt. Mike Eddy, Staff Sgt. Kyle Goetten and Master Sgt. Jim Wynn. (Photo submitted by Lt. Col. James Loux).



through Honor Flight. The average age is 87 for the veterans on the waiting list.

There are an estimated 25,000 World War II veterans in the Chicago area. For more information please visit the website www.honorflightchicago.org.

It is our responsibility to pay tribute to all who have come before us and served their country with honor and pride. They helped provide the freedom we have today!

From the First Sergeant's Desk

UTA attendance

by Senior Master Sgt. Kim Piskacek
Wing First Sergeant

Every once in a while, it's good to discuss Air Force and/or Wing policies and procedures. It not only serves as a reminder for some, but it's informative for others.

In this article I'm going to discuss the Wing policy on attendance procedures for Unit Training Assemblies (UTA) weekends. You can find the following information in 183rd FW Instruction 36-3208, Disposition of Unsatisfactory Participants.

Let's start by defining two terms: unexcused absences and unsatisfactory participant. Unexcused absences is a four (4)

hour UTA in which an individual has been identified as "A" on the NGB Form 633, Attendance Roster. Training periods marked with a "Q" or "R" on the attendance roster will be changed to an unexcused absence if not made up within 30 days of the UTA. Training Periods marked with an "S" will be changed to an unexcused absence if not made up within 30 days of the SUTA.

An unsatisfactory participant is any member who does not attend UTA, unless properly excused. For demotion purposes, six (6) unexcused absences, and for discharge purposes, nine (9) unexcused absences, from scheduled training assemblies in a continuous 12-month period is what is needed to start paperwork.

Each four (4) hour training pe-

riod constitutes a UTA, so for each UTA weekend you are absent, you are credited with four (4) unexcused absences.

In order to be properly excused you need to request the UTA off with your chain-of-command IN ADVANCE. In the case of an unforeseen situation (weather, vehicle problems) you need to call and speak to someone in your chain-of-command as soon as possible. DO NOT LEAVE A MESSAGE ON A PHONE. For accountability and safety purposes, it's important that you speak to someone instead of leaving a message.

I hope this serves as a reminder to some and is informative for others. The bottom line is, communication is important. Scheduled UTAs are mandatory and your leadership expects you to be there.

Children find holiday cheer at 183rd

by Senior Airman Chasity G. Johnson
183rd Public Affairs

On most days the dining facility at the 183rd Fighter Wing is comparable to any other base dining facility, but today the facility was more reminiscent of Santa's Workshop.

Members of the wing gathered for the annual Children's Christmas Party Dec. 6 in the Aerospace Dining Facility.

"It's a good time to get together and see the faces you haven't seen all year," said Tricia Allen, wife of Master Sgt. Matthew Allen, recruiter for the 183rd Fighter Wing.

The festivities boasted balloon animals constructed by an elf, snacks, a whopping train set and an array of arts and crafts, including ginger bread gift bag and cardboard Christmas tree decorating.

"It is a great bonding opportunity for all of the families," said Senior Airman Tiffani Williams, an aerospace medical service apprentice with the 183rd Medical Group, who was accompanied by her mother Michelle Williams and 4-year-old son Baron Riley who said his favorite part of the party was "playing with the trains."

No children's holiday party is complete without an appearance by Saint Nick. Santa Claus arrived in-style atop a fire truck to the excitement of the children in attendance.

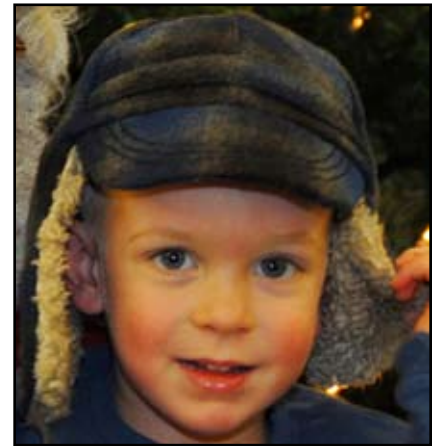
"I'm gonna ask Santa for a toy puppy that can swim in the water," said Brooke Hayward – who by her estimation is "six and a half years old." She is the daughter of Master Sgt. Sarah Hayward, recruiter for the 183rd Fighter Wing.

Santa Claus greeted the children and gleefully listened to their Christmas wishes. Afterwards, the children were presented with complimentary toys by Santa's helpers.

Family Readiness, who planned and facilitated the event, made their goal of supporting families along the path of their National Guard life apparent in this fun filled holiday event.



Children's Christmas Party



I would like to personally thank all who participated in the 2009 Children's Christmas Party - Master Sgt. Jennifer Aurora, Tech. Sgt. Alana Franklin, Jessie Oliver, base photographers, Services, Security Force, and the Fire Department. We couldn't have had near the success without each and every one of you. I would also like to thank Chief Master Sgt. Wendi Pier and Master Sgt. Brett Pier for bringing their Geo Trax. I know it was a lot of work, but the children (and I think some of the parents, too) really enjoyed it.

Joe Ward, Family Readiness Group Manager

Thank You

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