



## The walk of a lifetime

by Staff Sgt. Steven Martin  
183rd Public Affairs

To most people 186.6 miles seems like a lot of walking. And my blistered feet can attest that they are correct. The purpose of this march was religious sacrifice and also to build a better relationship with the Polish army and other NATO forces. For the next ten days we would collectively be introduced to nuances of road marching.

The pilgrimage started in Warsaw and would end 186 miles away in Częstochowa (pronounced chest-uh-hove-uh), which is considered by the Polish to be the most sacred and holy ground in Poland. They attribute this to a story from centuries ago when Poland was invaded by Swedish forces. All was lost with the exception of a monastery, which housed the famous painting "The Black Madonna". Legend has it that only 200 people were left to defend the monastery. This mix of monks, soldiers, and citizens prayed to the painting to save their besieged city and country. Their prayers were

answered. The small group was able to beat back the more than 3000 Swedish invaders, turning the tide of the entire war and inevitably taking back their entire country.

To the unlearned, (myself included), "The Black Madonna" is a religious relic. In fact, there is more than one Black Madonna. These images are characterized as a Black Madonna because her skin tones are blackened normally by the soot of candles over the decades but not purposefully by the artist. This particular Madonna is set apart from the rest by a history that is still seen today. During the 15th century, legend says that a group of Hussite raiders stormed the Pauline monastery, which housed the painting, looting and pillaging anything of value. After the robbers placed the icon onto their wagon the horses refused to move. Realizing what had happened, one of the robbers threw the painting to the ground, slashing the face twice



Participants of the Polish pilgrimage gather for a photo. (Photo submitted by Staff Sgt. Steven Martin)

on the right cheek. As the robber drew back for a third strike he was instantly thrown to the ground and was writhed in pain, finally expiring in front of the painting. The other looter withdrew immediately from the monastery leaving, behind all that the loot. These same marks made by the raider are still seen today, despite numerous attempts of repair.

Our group of eight people was made up of six Army National Guard members and two Air Guard members. At 0330 we awoke to the sound of an alarm clock echoing off the concrete walls in the Polish barracks. Outside a bus was ready to

**Walk, continued on page three**

### IN THIS ISSUE

**Polish Pilgrimage**  
Pages 1, 3

**Illinois Command Chief Message**  
Page 6

**Wing Organization Series**  
Page 10-12

**Personal News**  
Pages 16

**Safety Tips**  
Page 19

**Unit Training Assembly Schedule  
and pay dates**



**Duty Performed Pays out (approx.)**

OCT 3-4	OCT 13
NOV 7-8	NOV 18
DEC 5-6	DEC 15

**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 NOVEMBER issue of the Falcon's View is SATURDAY, OCT. 3, at 1700.**



**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**

**For such a time as this!**

*by Senior Master Sgt. Brenda Korte  
Human Resource Advisor*

We are called upon to be United States Airmen. We deploy around the world in support of the Air Force mission: to fly and fight in air, space and cyberspace. We are Warriors!

In order to emphasize this point, the HRA theme for this month is Warriorship! Think about it; look at the changes Airmen have experienced in Basic Military Training, Deployments, Technical Schools, and life in general. Airmen exemplify the warrior ethos in every Air Force specialty.



The Airman's Creed promotes this warrior ethos.

*The Airman's Creed*

*I am an American Airman.  
I am a Warrior.  
I have answered my Nation's call.  
I am an American Airman.  
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.  
I am faithful to a proud heritage,  
a tradition of honor, and  
a legacy of valor.  
I am an American Airman.  
Guardian of freedom and justice,  
My Nation's sword and shield,  
Its sentry and avenger.  
I defend my country with my life.  
I am an American Airman:  
Wingman, Leader, Warrior.  
I will never leave an Airman behind,  
I will not falter,  
And I will not fail.*

For such a time as this, we must be prepared to be Airmen and Warriors.

Business cards with the Airman's Creed are available at the Customer Service counter in the Force Support Squadron, P-46 (old MPF) or my office. Please feel free to contact me via email or at extension 450.

### Walk, continued from page one

take us to the heart of Warsaw where there was already other pilgrimage groups amassed, waiting for the starting gun, which came in the form of a early morning mass. After the mass, our group was formed consisting of German forces, Polish forces, and American forces. There was also a large mass of civilians ranging from the very young to the very old. The send off was incredible, the city streets packed with an eclectic mix of people, press, and bands all striving to build up the spirits of the would-be pilgrims that would literally be pounding the pavement for the next nine days. As we neared the city limits the crowds dwindled and the music faded into the distance, giving way to readings from the Bible led by the cavalcade of priests through blaring loudspeakers attached to the backs of unfortunate Polish army privates. After two hours we were introduced to our first rest stop. Situated just off a major road, a local had volunteered his own farmland to be used for our rest stop. Here, a cache of food and supplies had been dropped for our

group. The food, while simple, was delicious! Breads, pickles, and sandwiches were the fare at most stops and never disappointed. Our group was called to their feet by three quick whistles from a Major in the Polish army. A loose formation was formed and soon we were on our way to the halfway mark of our first day. The cityscape gave way to rolling hills, introducing a new set of smells to our senses. Occasionally, we would pass through a small town and be greeted by the locals providing us with water, food, and fresh produce grown on their farm. Our lunch stops were never disappointing. We were introduced to a pilgrim's afternoon meal that consisted of hardy soups, bread, and occasionally a piece of chicken or fresh kielbasa. The routine of the Major was quickly learned and the formation gathered this time a little wearier than the last time. The first signs of wear were beginning to show as more and more people were pulling off boots each stop. After peeling off my own sweaty socks my first of many blisters appeared. After taking note from my counterparts I decided to press

on. Later I come to realize there's not much else you can do to soothe sore feet except get through the day. We finally made it to our base camp for the night. The Polish army had graciously accommodated the entire group with tents, complete with cots and blankets, a field shower, and a field

kitchen. It had been a hard day of marching, peeking out at 40 kilometers. I, along with many others, had underestimated the harshness of such transportation. We vowed to pack as light as possible the remainder of the trip. After a quick shower in the back of a five ton truck I limped over to the field kitchen. We were treated with standard military chow complete with a boiling hot fruit drink. I can tell you it felt really good to sit down. After making my way to my cot I slept as sound as I've ever slept. This was a typical day of life during a pilgrimage.

As we moved further toward our goal the landscape blended into lush forests to rolling farmland seamlessly. This wide variety of scenery lent itself opportunities to rest and revive beneath thick canopies of leaves and also among the rolling wheat. At times we would pass by churches that were older than our Constitution. All the while the locals reflected the landscape, warm and generous.

Our pilgrimage ended among throngs of people reminiscent of the way we began. The sights and sounds of celebration were all around. Soon on the horizon we saw our final destination. Our formation was called to a halt just outside of the Church and we received a blessing. We were led through the gates that housed "The Black Madonna" and soon were kneeling in presence of the icon. After a closer viewing we said our goodbyes to friends and brothers-in-arms and made our way to our bus. Soon we were on our way back to a hot shower and the closest podiatrist. Although we endured pain and torment it was worth all of the sacrifice and I have no hesitation in saying, I'll do it again.



*The flags of the nations are carried at the front of the Polish pilgrimage. (Photo submitted by Staff Sgt. Steven Martin)*

## Thoughts on vehicle safety

by Tech. Sgt. Chris Rosser  
183rd Safety Office



speed. Checking traffic twice would be wise before proceeding in to the intersection. Results of a recent

survey at the light showed that many individuals were not making a complete stop as required by state law. Exercise caution at this and other intersections.

The final area of concern and a rising contributor to car accidents is the use of cell phones while driving. The data on distracted driving and accidents is new and there is disagreement on the actual percentage of accidents caused. But, according to a 2008 survey by Nationwide Insurance, driving while distracted is a factor in 25 percent of police reported crashes and a study by Virginia Tech/NHTSA related driver inattention to 80% of crashes. The No.1 source of driver inattention is use of a wireless device. (Virginia Tech/NHTSA). A growing trend and concern is text messaging while driving. Beginning January 1, 2010, texting while driving will become illegal in the state of Illinois.

The above are certainly not the only items to think about when you get in your car to go home. But, taking a few moments to ensure your compliance with driving regulations can be the difference between arriving safely and a significant accident. Because motor vehicle and motorcycle accidents continue to be a major cause of DOD personnel fatalities, motor vehicle safety will continue to be area of focus for Base Safety.

Automobile accidents continue to be a major contributor to fatalities of Air National Guard members off duty. During the most recent 101 Critical Days of Summer period ending September 7th three fatalities occurred. There are few specific areas of concern that can contribute to traffic accidents and relatively minor changes in your habits can significantly mitigate your risk of injury.

For many years the base safety office has conducted regular checks at the gate for seat belt usage. Because statistics show that wearing seat belts significantly increases your chance of surviving an accident, this will continue to be an area of concern to Col. Meyer and Base Safety. Among fatally injured passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2008, more than half (55%) of those were not wearing a seat belt. Recent surveys at the main gate show that most members are wearing their seat belt on base. Since the surveys began we have averaged 1.1% non compliance. The goal is 100% of personnel wearing their safety belt 100% of the time on and off base.

Another area of concern is personnel not coming to a complete stop before making a right turn on red when exiting the base. J. David Jones Parkway is a busy street with most traffic moving at highway

## Air Guard officials tout G-RAP program

by Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
National Guard Bureau

9/11/2009 - ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- A revitalization of the Air National Guard's advertising and marketing and the continued success of its recruiting assistant program have helped recruiters in August and throughout the fiscal year, recruiting officials said here Sept. 10.

"G-RAP (Guard Recruiting Assistance Program) continues to be a very effective piece of ANG recruiting programs," said Chief Master Sgt. Noel Adamson, from the Air Guard's Recruiting and Retention directorate here.

The Air Guard introduced G-RAP to the field following nearly three years of success in the Army Guard, which has recruited thousands of new enlistees by paying Soldiers \$2,000 for every recruit they help enlist.

That success has carried over to the Air National Guard.

"Currently, G-RAP is responsible for over 32 percent of our total accessions for the fiscal year," Chief Adamson said.

Among the Air Guard's recruiting efforts in August were photo shoots in Vermont, California and Alaska to highlight its service members and health professionals.

Chief Master Sgt. Kim Jochem, the ANG's chief of advertising and marketing, said the shoots will support social networking initiatives, which are scheduled to launch in the fall.

Department of Defense officials here announced Sept. 10 that the Army Guard reached 54.6 percent of its monthly recruiting goal and 106 percent of its retention goal. Meanwhile, the Air Guard achieved 69.5 percent of its recruiting goal and 119.9 percent of its retention goal. Both services have already met their end strength goal for the fiscal year.

# The great generation

by Lt. Col. Robert Barry  
183rd AOC Chaplain

By now, almost everyone has heard the term “the greatest generation” referring to the World War II generation. Not disparaging that generation, I would suggest that our generation may not be the “greatest” American generation, but it certainly deserves the title of “the great generation.”

The people of the World War II generation found their lives in turmoil after World War I and the Great Depression when the world came crashing in on them because of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the beginning of World War II. Hardly a single American family was left untouched by the war and hundreds of thousands of families suffered devastating losses. The sufferings and burdens they endured certainly earned them the title of the greatest.

But we shouldn’t demean the burdens this generation has suffered. American involvement in World War II lasted for 45 months, and the present conflicts have gone on more than twice as long. World War II was a “conventional war” in large part and our foes showed greater respect for the traditional rules of warfare than do the terrorists we face today. As a result, probably as many Americans were under threat since 9/11 as there were in World War II. Because the “front lines” of this conflict are so vague, this ambiguous threat has been particularly trying for loved ones who remained at home. In World War II, the objectives were clear: we were to capture the capitals of our enemies. But today, the ultimate objectives of the



conflict are much more obscure and ambiguous. This has created an emotional burden that was heavier than what the “greatest generation” confronted. As we learned well in Gulf War II, capturing the adversary’s capital does not guarantee an end

to hostilities.

The duration of this conflict has imposed a burden on our generation that the World War II generation would find beyond imagination. We face the need for regular reconstitution and regeneration as well as redefining our missions and roles which they did not have to do. The enduring and persistent strain on families and friends is probably greater than it was 60 years ago.

What does this mean? This conflict is difficult and trying, but we have been up to the task. We have received remarkable support which we will continue to need. This and prayers for all who are burdened or threatened because of this conflict need to continue. Wherever we are and whatever we are doing we need to pray for patience and perseverance for the burdened and courage for those who are threatened. This conflict is as much about our determination and resolve as it is about anything else, and we cannot let our determination fade.

✠ ✠ **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



## Is your 4-hour UTA pay period safe?

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

Have I got your attention?? You all know that in UTA status, we get paid eight hours of pay for four hours of work. In the days of cost cutting and looking for ways to control expenditures, the military money watchers are constantly looking for ways to cut. According to professional military organizations (PMOs), this is a topic that comes to the table about every year. It obviously has survived each year but continues to be discussed. Will the advent of Associate Wings bring this to a head even more? Will the fact that a National Guard member working along-side an Active Duty airmen on a weekend make this become even more obvious and thus the question is raised again?

If for no other reason, this is why you and all of your ANG counterparts need to be a member of one or more professional military organizations. Annual and life memberships are available to all of them. There are many of them, including the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA), Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), and Air Force Association (AFA) to name a few. My opinion is that EANGUS is the best “bang for the buck” for the enlisted core. It is the only organiza-

tion that lobbies for the enlisted members of the National Guard only. Others lobby for the overall military and some lobby for the active duty only.

Two other reasons you should join: the past two years, Congress has approved a raise for the military. EANGUS and other PMOs fought for and then Congress approved a ½ percent increase over and above the original figure proposed by Congress. For an E4 over eight years, that is an annual increase of about \$100 if you are AGR or \$18 assuming 63 pay periods (48 UTA and 15 AD days) in 2009. A Chief Master Sgt. annual increase with 24 years would be about \$262 for an AGR and \$45 for 63 pay periods. Do you think an annual membership to a PMO that got you that increase is worth it?

Find your EANGUS representative on base. If you don't know who it is, contact your section Chief Master Sgt. or your Wing Command Chief. They can get you the application. Don't procrastinate. Strength in numbers is the lobbyists and our best bargaining tool.



## Wreath Laying Ceremony

Members of the 183rd Fighter Wing gathered for a wreath laying ceremony in honor of Carlo Santini, James Churchill, Maurie Graff and Billy Woodrum on Sept. 12 at the static display area.

The NCOAGA holds this ceremony annually to honor those retirees or current members who have passed away over the course of the year, while providing an opportunity for family and friends to pay their respects.

The ceremony was emceed by Chief Master Sgt. Victor Wurtzler, NCOAGA First Vice President.

Master Sgt. Matthew Allen, from the base honor guard, sang the national anthem at the launch of the observance, and Lt. Col. Robert Barry, Chaplain, provided the invocation.

Col. Michael Meyer, Wing Commander, acknowledged the departed servicemembers by offering kind remarks in their memory, and Tech. Sgt. Alana Franklin, NCOAGA Secretary, recited the poem “A Thank You to a Soldier.”

The wreath laying was performed by Master Sgt. Barbre Wright and Staff Sgt. Ashley Ball, members of the base honor guard.



(Photo taken by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr)

## Fire Department Ceremony



*Members from the 183rd Fighter Wing, along with local firefighters, gathered on Sept. 11 to honor the 343 New York City firefighters killed on Sept. 11, 2001. (Photo taken by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr)*

On September 11, the 183rd Fire Department held a ceremony to honor the 343 FDNY firefighters who died in the line of duty during the terrorist attacks on New York City eight years ago. The firefighters were joined by other base members, family and friends.

The ceremony was held to not only remember the New York City firefighters, but also to pay tribute to those who are serving their country. Firefighters from the 183rd Fire Department have deployed to various locations since the 2001 terrorist attack.

The 183rd Fire Department holds this ceremony annually. It is a chance for the base firefighters to honor their own.

## Promotions

### Technical Sergeant

David M. Berchem  
 Stephen M. Blakeman  
 Robert L. Johnson III  
 Sabrina ME. eridith

### Staff Sergeant

Robert W. Brewer  
 Brandon D. Despain  
 Lisa Guzman  
 Kristin B. Streeval

### Senior Airman

Maurice A. Jones  
 Thomas J. Krob  
 Christina A. Morrison  
 Christina A. Teer



## Welcome Aboard

### New Enlistees

Master Sgt. Richaed E. Blattner	Detachment 1	August 1, 2009
Staff Sgt. Joshua M. Bryant	Detachment 1	August 1, 2009
Maj. Nancie A. Margetis	183rd Fighter Wing	August 1, 2009
Airman 1st Class Todd D. Easton	183rd Security Forces Squadron	August 6, 2009
Airman 1st Class Zachary J. Pearce	183rd Security Forces Squadron	August 6, 2009
Master Sgt. Erik R. Lane	Detachment 1	August 15, 2009
Capt. Brian M. Hodge	183rd Fighter Wing	August 17, 2009
Airman 1st Class Jared A. Braun	Detachment 1	August 20, 2009
Airman 1st Class Kirsten M. Bredesen	217th Engineering and Installation Squadron	August 20, 2009
Airman Basic Jacob A. Bredemeyer	183rd Maintenance Squadron	August 20, 2009
Master Sgt. Tiffany A. Diekemper	Detachment 1	August 20, 2009
Airman Basic Hayden C. Eilerman	183rd Maintenance Squadron	August 20, 2009
Staff Sgt. Roger M. Graves	183rd Maintenance Squadron	August 20, 2009
Airman Basic Hailey N. Humphrey	183rd Force Support Squadron	August 20, 2009
Airman 1st Class Tiffany R. M. Nolan	183rd Civil Engineering Squadron	August 20, 2009
Senior Airman Richard L. Weise III	183rd Civil Engineering Squadron	August 20, 2009
Lt. Col. Richard T. Floyd	Detachment 1	August 27, 2009

## DEOMI survey

Message from Col. Meyer:

The survey I am asking you to complete gives you the opportunity to provide opinions on where I should focus attention to improve the human relations climate of our organization. This survey is only truly representative if all members of the unit take the time to complete it. Therefore, I more than highly encourage each and every one of you to participate in this survey. Your input is important and valuable not only to help the leadership but also to you in that it will help improve the unit. No attempt will be made to identify you, so please respond openly and frankly.

This survey asks you to give opinions about whether something might happen, or could happen; you do not need to prove it actually did happen. Your perceptions are valuable because they give me insight into the general attitudinal climate of our organization. In addition to seeking your opinion about human relations and unit cohesion issues, I also want to know how well you think your workgroup operates and produces in comparison to other similar workgroups. For your answers to be useful, you must be honest. Do not tell me what you think I want to hear, or say what others might say; tell it as you see it.

I am requesting you complete a survey no later than Nov. 25, 2009. The survey will ask you to provide demographic information such as your rank, race, and sex. Demographic information is used to ensure we have a proper representation of participants. To begin the survey you must connect to the Internet. This survey can be taken from any computer system. The survey can be found at URL: <https://www.deocs.net/user/login/login.cfm>

An access code is required to gain access to the survey. This case-sensitive code was randomly generated and is not associated with your name or any other personal identifying source. The code ensures anonymity and that each individual selected completes only one survey. Utilize the survey access code emailed to you by Capt. Lance Range.

I appreciate your assistance and assure you the time you devote to the survey will not be wasted. I look forward to sharing the results of the assessment with the members of our organization in the near future.

If you have questions concerning the assessment or problems with your password, my point of contact is Capt. Range at 217-757-1258.



## Retiree News

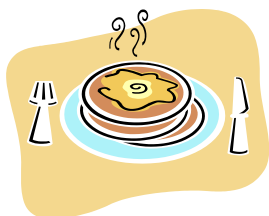
### New Retirees

**Senior Master Sgt. Charles L. Cartwright**  
**Tech. Sgt. Michael L. Dunn**

183rd Maintenance Squadron  
183rd Maintenance Squadron

August 3, 2009  
August 27, 2009

### Retirees breakfast gathering



Come join the retirees for breakfast. Some are new, some are old, and some are even older than that, but it's always an enjoyable way to start the day. The monthly retiree's breakfast will be on Tuesday, October 6, at King Pin Lanes on the corner of Sangamon Ave. and Dirksen Parkway. They say they meet at 8 a.m., but if you're not there by 7:30 a.m., the early birds have taken the good seats!



## The benefits of SGLI

by Staff Sgt. Bonnie Williams  
NCOIC, Career Enhancements

We all know that one of the many benefits to answering the call to serve our country is the option to purchase a substantial amount of life insurance for a substantially reasonable out of pocket expense. What you may not know is that by purchasing Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI), you are also entitled to several other invaluable benefits. If you have elected SGLI coverage, you can choose to have your spouse covered under Family Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (FSLGI) for an amount up to \$100,000, not to exceed the amount of SGLI you currently have in force. If you are married to another military member, you can elect both the SGLI and FSGLI coverage for a maximum benefit of \$500,000. If you have elected SGLI coverage, your unmarried, dependent children under the age of 18, or up to the age of 23 if they are attending college, are also covered for \$10,000 worth of life insurance at no additional cost to you. However, if you have declined SGLI coverage, your children would not be covered and you cannot elect FSGLI for your spouse. Another benefit

of carrying SGLI coverage is the option to elect an Accelerated Benefit Option. If you are diagnosed with a terminal illness with a life expectancy of no more than nine months, you can apply for this benefit. It will pay you up to 50% of the face value of whatever SGLI you currently have in force. Any remaining benefits will then be paid to your designated beneficiaries upon your passing. SGLI also provides a Traumatic Injury Protection Program (TSGLI). You can apply for this benefit in the event that you have a traumatic injury which causes the loss of your eyesight or extremities. You may be entitled to this benefit ranging from \$25,000 up to \$100,000 based on the severity of your injury. This invaluable benefit is designed to take a little bit of the monetary burden off of you and your family during the bereavement process. You can find more information on these benefits, as well as the current SGLI and FSGLI rates and claim forms at <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/default.htm>. You may also call the Office of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance directly at 1-800-419-1473. I would strongly encourage you to go to the SGLI website and download the most current version of the SGLI handbook. And as always, please do not hesitate to call Customer Service with any questions you may have or if you need help locating a particular form.

### UTA Weekend:

- Sat: 0800-1630
- Sun: 1230-1630

### MPF Customer Service Hours:

- Mon/Wed/Fri: 0745-1645 (Closed on down Fridays)
- Tue/Thur: 1000-1645

## NEW PROCESS FOR SEPARATIONS:

As the personnel field moves toward a more virtual environment we have seen more self service actions required by our members. Effective Sept. 30, 2009 all separations (to include ETS, transfer, or hardship) must be completed utilizing the Virtual Separations Process thru the vPC-GR (virtual Personnel Center - Guard and Reserve). The retirement process has not changed. Applications need to be submitted no more that 90 days and no less than 30 days prior to the requested separation date. Guard to Guard transfer, ETS and other ANG unique separations are input by the MPF. Voluntary separation/resignation requests in the middle of a contract are initiated by the member. Due to the time limitations, anyone that is not reenlisting at their ETS needs to contact Personnel Relocations Office at least 90 days prior to ETS. The base point of contact for this process is Master Sgt. Diana Braun at ext. 566.

## Today's 183rd

by Colonel Michael Meyer  
183rd Wing Commander

It is obvious to all that the 183d has gone through some dramatic changes in the last few years, especially in the last year. The unit has ended some missions and gained others. Unit members have changed positions and begun retraining. The unit has also had a large influx of new personnel, both traditional and full-time personnel. These new members have come from other Guard units, active duty Air Force, and other branches of the service. Because of all of these changes, many members, both old and new, may not have a clear idea of our organization, our missions, and how we do it.

This situation struck Senior Master Sgt. Brenda Korte, wing HRA as important issued that needed to be addressed. She thought that the members of the unit needed a way to learn about what the Wing was today, what had changed and what had stayed the same. This knowledge would help the unit members have a better understanding of their role in the Wing and would aid the Wing better accomplish its mission. As a result of her idea, we decided to put a series of articles in the Falcon's View to describe the composition, function, and mission of major organizations of the Wing. The series will start with an article on the Wing Staff. It will be followed, but not necessarily in this order, by additional articles written by the command-

ers of the following organizations: 183d Air Operations Group, 183d Mission Support Group, 183d Medical Group, 183d Maintenance Squadron, and the 217th Engineering and Installation Squadron.

Before we start, it is important to make this point. Every member of the unit is essential to accomplishment of the mission. The Wing best serves its members and citizens of this country when every member is properly trained, properly equipped, properly led, mentally and physically fit, and properly motivated. Only by working together will we be able to meet our fullest potential as an organization. Hopefully this series of articles will help put your role in perspective, and also help you understand what others are trying to accomplish. So let us get started.

### Wing Headquarters Staff

The Wing Staff consists of the following offices: Financial Management, Base Safety, Legal, Inspector General, Military Equal Opportunity, Public Affairs (including Base Audio-Visual and Historian), Chaplains, Human Resource Advisor, and Command Post. The staff is led by the Wing Command function that includes the Wing Commander, Vice Commander, Wing Executive Officer, Wing Command Chief, and Wing Command Staff. The offices in the Wing Staff have a dual role. They are to service the various needs of the Wing members, and at the same time provide advice and support to the Wing Command function and other unit commanders. In addition, the Wing Staff and other base

functions (i.e. Logistics Sq, Comm Flt, etc.) also provide support functions to the Headquarters Illinois Air National Guard located at Camp Lincoln.

Below is a short synopsis of the functions and services of the various offices of the Wing Staff.

**Financial Management Office.** It provides a wide array of support and services including managing civilian and military payrolls, processing of travel vouchers, and working with the Base Contracting Office and Civil Engineering on construction, refurbishment, and maintenance of the Wing's facilities. The Budget staff of the office provides the resources necessary to sustain the overall mission of the Wing. Excluding amounts for military construction this equates to over \$43 million annually.

**Safety.** The Safety office's first goal is to provide a safe and healthy working environment for all members of the wing. Secondly, it is to educate and train supervisors and employees on the hazards associated with their jobs. The Safety Office is a compliance office, through education, training and inspections. It provides interpretation and enforcement of AFOSH Standards, OSHA Regulations, Explosive Safety, and Flight Safety. And finally through abatement, mitigation, and inspection, it attempts to mitigate or remove hazards that are a potential for injury or illness.

**Legal (JAG).** The Judge Advocate's office provides legal services to base members and advice

to commanders. These include drafting of legal documents (wills, powers of attorney, etc.), providing legal advice and representation, and providing unit wide training on various legal issues. The office also provides legal representation to members of other ILANG units who are subject to disciplinary matters.

**Inspector General.** The IG is the “eyes and ears” of the commander. The office handles personal complaints and identifies areas of concern as reflected by trends within the Wing that are contrary to the Air Force mission, values, or military professionalism. Inspector General documents and investigates complaints by unit members after they’ve used their chain of command.

**Military Equal Opportunity (MEO).** Diversity, Equality, Readiness. The mission of the office is to improve readiness and the quality of life of unit members by ensuring Air Force equal opportunity and treatment policies are fulfilled. The office oversees tailored human relations education and team building seminars, conducts quality of life climate assessments as a feedback tool for unit commanders, supports activities which celebrate diversity and conducts informal mediation to resolve disputes. MEO programs promote open communication, trust, and respect for one another that directly contributes to teamwork, unit cohesion and productivity.

**Public Affairs.** PA helps manage the internal and external communications of the Wing work-

ing closely with Wing Staff, HQ Illinois Air National Guard, the Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office, and outside media. This includes the Falcon’s View, press inquiries, press releases, and media events. The office interacts with a wide range of external agencies and community events including the Combined Federal Campaign, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, air shows, and blood drives, and unit retirees, to name a few. The office provides audiovisual support to the whole unit. It also captures unit and community events of importance by means of pictures, movies, and recordings. The office also accurately captures significant historical data and generates reports.

**Chaplain.** The Chaplain Service serves as a visible reminder of the Holy by providing spiritual care and the opportunity for unit members and their families to exercise their constitutional right to freedom of religion. The chaplains offer worship services every drill weekend. In addition, they provide pastoral care, counseling, and spiritual direction to the men and women of the unit in a confidential setting. Additionally, chaplains are members of their unit commanders’ staff and serves as advisors to commanders regarding religion, religious accommodation for diverse faith groups represented in the Air Force, ethics, and morale.

**Human Resource Advisor.** The role of the HRA is to advise Command Leadership on Force Management and Force Development issues. This office also facili-

tates Diversity Education, coordinates Mission Driven Mentoring/Enlisted Development Plans. In addition, the HRA stays involved with base and surrounding community activities and events.

**Command Post.** The primary purpose of the Command Post is to provide a Command and Control (C2) link between the Wing Commander and Commanders at the Illinois Joint Operations Center, the ANG Command Center, Air Combat Command, and other Higher Headquarters as directed. The Command Post is the sole agency responsible for executing C2 activities at the unit level and is the only agency authorized to process Emergency Action Messages (EAM’s) and Air Force Operational Reports (AFOPREPS) which are used to relay command directions and monitor mission status of all assigned assets during routine operations, emergencies, contingencies, and increased readiness.

So now you have a short summary of the roles and functions of the Wing Staff. In the upcoming months, you will hear from the other commanders on the roles and functions of their organizations. The information that you will see in these articles will be incorporated into the Wing’s website so that future members and members of the public will be able to better understand the make-up and roles of the various Wing functions.

Coming up in the November issue: The 183rd Air Operations Group

## Wing Organization Photos



The Safety Office poses for a group photo.



The Chaplain's Office plans the UTA weekend.



Wing IG, Maj. Chris Casson, reviews documents.



Members of command staff meet with Col. Meyer on UTA issues.



The Legal Office provides assistance to a unit member.



Military Equal Opportunity gathers to talk about issues concerning the base.



Public Affairs' Senior Airman Chasity Johnson works on the Falcon's View.

## Chief: National Guard that proved itself after 9/11, Katrina faces new challenges

By Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (9/11/09)

– The National Guard proved its relevance, value and accessibility after the manmade disaster of Sept. 11, 2001, and after the natural disaster named Katrina that hit almost four years later, the Guard's senior officer said today.

"These last eight years have been a testimonial to your service, to your patriotism, to the respect that the nation has for what the National Guard can contribute," Gen. Craig McKinley told the 131st National Guard Association of the United States General Conference meeting here.

Speaking on the eighth anniversary of the terrorist attacks, the 26th chief of the National Guard Bureau recalled, "I was in the Pentagon. I watched Secretary of Defense [Donald] Rumsfeld go out ... and help people. ... A lot of Guardsmen did the same thing."

McKinley said the Air National Guard was flying patrols over the Pentagon within minutes, and other Guardsmen around the country vowed to never let another attack happen on their watch again. "That's what I go to sleep with at night," he said.

McKinley said the National Guard must now rise to a smorgasbord of new challenges he outlined for the more than 4,000 active and retired Guardmembers and their guests attending the NGAUS conference, including military and political leaders from each of the 54 states and territories and the District of Columbia.

Quoting Dennis Blair, the director of national intelligence, McKinley said, "Our economy is the No. 1 strategic issue

for our nation today."

And with economic challenges come tighter budgets.

"The budget will be a No. 1 issue," for Department of Defense leaders, McKinley predicted. "We're going to go through a period of time of contracting resources. ... We're also going to be involved in an era of persistent conflict. [Army Chief of Staff] Gen. [George] Casey thinks we'll have between 10 and 15 brigades constantly deployed for the next 10 to 15 years. So how do you balance it out? Era of persistent conflict and beginning an era of dwindling resources?"

"Every chief and every director ... and every adjutant general ... has had to play their part in how you balance the risk associated with resourcing and being prepared to do your mission at home and your mission abroad."

McKinley made a pledge on behalf of NGB and its directorates: "We ... will do everything we can to balance risk and make sure we get the most that we can for the National Guard that has served so well. We can't let [the Guard] slide back as we did after World War II."

But this, too, will be a challenge. The National Guard has relied on a cascade of equipment that was purchased new for the active components, then passed on to a Guard that was famous for wringing extraordinary life from used equipment.

"In many cases, the cascading equipment that served this great Guard for 60 years following World War II ... is no more," McKinley said. "We can build new. We can put good money against maintaining old equipment, or we can wait for the concurrent and proportional status."

McKinley was referring to the emerging concept that the National Guard will receive new equipment concurrently and proportionally with the active components.

"We need to have a strategy for both the Air and the Army National Guard that continues to keep faith with the Soldiers and the Airmen who have

stuck with us through eight years of persistent conflict, and who ... will stay with us for the next decade if we do our job right," McKinley said.

McKinley stressed the importance of mentors for Soldiers and Airmen, listing his own, many of whom were present, including former chiefs of the National Guard Bureau and directors of both components.

Those leaders were responsible for the birth of some of the National Guard's most successful and enduring programs, such as the State Partnership Program, Counterdrug and Youth Challenge.

"You have to go out and find mentors," McKinley said. "You can't wait for mentors to come to you."

McKinley mentioned the agribusiness development teams currently at work in Afghanistan – a program seemingly destined to emulate the successes of the SPP, Counterdrug and Youth Challenge.

Recently, 355 Arkansas Guardmembers volunteered for an ADT that required 58 members. "It's not about 'Who's gotta go?'" McKinley said. "It's they're fighting to go. ... These agribusiness development teams may be the turning point to bring ... Afghanistan around and bring it to a point where we can actually see progress."

The nation and the Guard rose to the challenge of 9/11.

"We can be a better country because of this," McKinley said "We grieve for the families, who lost members because of 9/11, but we are a better nation, and we are a kinder nation, and we've liberated a country from a despotic dictator, and we're trying to help a country turn itself around and come from the 15th century into a new world order.

"The 21st century will be tough for all of us, but the National Guard is resilient. It will take the challenge, it will do its job, it will be there when its nation needs it, and I can't thank you all enough for the jobs you do, for the sacrifices you make and for the commitment you have to your states and to this nation."

## Announcements

The Security Forces Squadron has a First Sergeant vacancy projected for May 2010. This is a position of mentoring, guiding and helping others to insure a more rewarding and satisfying career. The First Sergeant works to meet the needs of the troops - their job is to take care of assigned "airmen." Health, welfare, and discipline are all facets of the First Sergeant's job. The tour length is a minimum of three years and a maximum of six years.

**Requirements:**

**GRADE:** Individual must be a Master Sgt., or a promotable Tech. Sgt.

**PME:** Applicants must have completed the NCO Academy in residence or through correspondence prior to submitting the application.

**RETAINABILITY:** Selected individual must have an ETS three years beyond assignment date. A reenlistment may be necessary.

**MANDATORY AFSC ENTRY (ASVAB) SCORES:** (A). Administrative: 41 (B). General: 62.

**FIRST SERGEANT ACADEMY (FSA):** Selected individual must attend the FSA within 12 months of assignment.

**FITNESS:** Member must have a minimum score of 75 taken within the last 60 days.

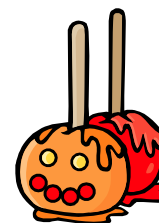
If you are interested in applying, or have additional questions, please contact Command Chief Tom Hergenrother at ext. 578, or your assigned First Sergeant.

**WANTED:** Seeking motivating and entertaining speakers with a message. Have you heard a dynamic speaker in the military or on the civilian side of the house? Do you think the Airmen of the 183rd would benefit from hearing this person? I am looking for quality speakers to bring to the 183rd. If you have any information, please contact me at [Brenda.Korte@ang.af.mil](mailto:Brenda.Korte@ang.af.mil) or 217-757-1450.

### Catered served 1100-1300

#### Saturday

- ♥Roast turkey with giblet gravy
- Sage dressing
- Peas with mushrooms
- Mashed potatoes
- Cranberry sauce
- Hot rolls
- Tossed salad
- Apple and cherry pie



#### Sunday

- Baked spaghetti with meat sauce
- Parsley buttered potatoes
- Whole kernel corn
- Vegetable medley
- Hot rolls
- Tossed salad
- Cherry pie

\*Menu is subject to change  
♥ Heart healthy

## First Sergeants

### Wing HQ

SMSgt Kim Piskacek  
Ext. 839

### Mission Support Group

MSgt Austin "Chris" Dearing  
Ext. 405

### Air Operations Group

MSgt Richard "Rick" Reimann  
Ext. 829

### Medical Group

MSgt Charles O'Malley  
Ext. 360

### 217th EIS

MSgt Andrew Grzesiak  
Ext. 704

### Maintenance Squadron

MSgt Robert Stults  
Ext. 275

### Civil Engineering Squadron

MSgt William "Bill" Casson  
Ext. 214

### Security Forces Squadron

MSgt Timothy Ingram  
Ext. 370

# National Down syndrome awareness month

by Tech. Sgt. Amy Murphy  
183rd Medical Group

The human body is made of cells. All cells contain a center, called a nucleus, in which genes are stored. Genes, which carry the codes responsible for all our inherited characteristics, are grouped along rod-like structures called chromosomes. Normally, the nucleus of each cell contains 23 pairs of chromosomes, half of which are inherited from each parent. Down syndrome occurs when some or all of a person's cells have an extra full or partial copy of chromosome 21. One in every 733 babies born in the United States is born with Down Syndrome and this is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition in our country. There are 400,000 people with Down Syndrome today, and it happens in all races and economic backgrounds. Eight percent of children with Down Syndrome are born to woman under the age of thirty-five. The life expectancy with Down Syndrome is sixty years of age, having dramatically increased from 1983, which was twenty-five years of age. People with Down Syndrome are at a higher risk for certain health issues. These would include:

- Heart disease- 50% have some form of a heart defect
- Alzheimer's disease - 25% over the age of 35 show signs of dementia
- Neurological disease - hypotonia( reduced muscle tone that occurs in virtually all Down Syndrome babies), seizures
- Endocrine disorders - Hyperthyroidism and Hypothyroidism (malfunctioning thyroid gland, which then in turn promotes or slows down growth of the brain and other body tissue)
- Eye disorders - Eye disease is reported in over 50% of patients with Down Syndrome, from less severe problems such as tear duct abnormalities to vision threatening diagnoses, such as early age cataracts.
- Ear disorders - Stenotic ear canals (narrow ear canals) can occur in up to 40-50 percent of infants with

Down Syndrome. This can lead to ear infections and possibly hearing loss.

A few of the common physical traits of Down syndrome are low muscle tone, small body frame, an upward slant to the eyes, and a single deep crease across the center of the palm and excessive space between the second and large toe.

Every person with Down syndrome is a unique individual and may possess these characteristics to different degrees or not at all. Today people with Down syndrome live at home with their families and are active participants in the educational, vocational, social, and recreational activities of the community. They are integrated into the regular education system and take part in sports, camping, music, art programs and all the other activities of their communities. People with Down syndrome are valued members of their families and their communities, contributing to society in a variety of ways. Businesses are seeking young adults with Down syndrome for a variety of positions. They are being employed in small and medium sized offices: by banks, corporations, nursing homes, hotels and restaurants. They work in the music and entertainment industry, in clerical positions, childcare, the sports field and in the computer industry. People with Down syndrome bring to their jobs enthusiasm, reliability and dedication.

There are two types of tests for Down syndrome that can be performed before your baby is born: screening tests and diagnostic tests. Prenatal screenings estimate the chance of the fetus having Down syndrome. These tests do not tell you for sure whether your fetus has Down syndrome; they only provide a probability. Diagnostic tests, on the other hand, can provide a definitive diagnosis with almost 100 percent accuracy. There is an extensive menu of prenatal screening tests now available for pregnant women. Most of these screening tests involve a blood test and an ultrasound (sonogram). The diagnostic procedures available for prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome are chorionic villus sampling (CVS) and amniocentesis. These procedures, which carry up to a 1 percent risk of causing a spontaneous termination (miscarriage), are 100 percent accurate in diagnosing Down syndrome. Amniocentesis is usually performed in the second trimester between 15 and 22 weeks of gestation, CVS in the first trimester between 9 and 14 weeks. Your doctor will decide which test is the best option for you and your baby.

## 183rd Medical Group doctor meets Vice President

by Senior Airman Chasity Johnson  
183rd Public Affairs

On Monday, Aug. 17, a physician from Mount Sinai Hospital in Chicago was informed by his supervisor there was a strong possibility he would be chosen to be on a panel with Vice President Joe Biden to discuss the benefits of electronic medical records. As an obstetrician/ gynecologist and a previously deployed Air National Guard member on a medical mission in Baghdad, Iraq, his supervisor thought he would bring interesting insights to the dialog.

The next day, Lt. Col. Lemuel Shaffer, a member of the 183rd Medical Group, said he was informed by his supervisor that he was chosen. Unfortunately, 24 hours later, he was regrettably told he would not be able to participate in the panel for unknown reasons.

According to Shaffer this was the second time within two months that there was an opportunity for Shaffer to meet Biden. The previ-

ous month, while serving with the 447th EMEDS, Biden visited Iraq on Independence Day to raise the morale of the servicemembers serving there. Unfortunately, Shaffer could not step away from his mission-oriented tasks for long enough to meet Biden.

Although Shaffer was not invited to speak on the panel, he said he was invited to attend it. He was one of 60 guests – excluding secret service and the media – that was in attendance of the panel. Other attendees included Senator Roland Burris and Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

During the panel, Biden announced the availability in grants worth nearly \$1.2 billion to help hospitals and healthcare providers implement and use electronic records, according to the official website of Mount Sinai.

After the conclusion of the panel, a hopeful Shaffer said he asked a secret service member if it was ok to meet Biden and he was granted permission.

When Shaffer introduced himself to Biden, he expressed regret for not being able to meet him during his morale visit to Iraq. Shaffer said that the statement sparked an interest in Biden, and Biden said “You were in Iraq?” Shaffer said he responded with a simple “yes”



*Lt. Col. Shaffer (left) poses for a photo with Vice President Joseph Biden (right) after meeting him during a medical panel that was held at Mount Sinai Hospital in Chicago on Aug. 17. (Photo submitted by Lt. Col. Lemuel Shaffer)*

and offered Biden a 447th EMEDS coin. Biden graciously accepted the coin and turned to one of his staff members and asked “Do we have any coins?” His staff member retrieved a very elusive Vice President coin and Biden presented Shaffer with the coin and thanked him for his service.

Although Shaffer did not have the opportunity to meet Biden in Iraq, nor did he have the opportunity to participate with him in the panel, Shaffer seems to be happy with the in results nonetheless.



**Don't discuss classified information on your cell phone.**

**Think OPSEC!**



# Credit cards

article submitted by the Base Legal Office  
from [www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov)

Credit cards can be a convenient way to purchase goods and services without having to carry cash or write checks. You've probably received credit card offers in the mail. Most of them say that you've been "pre-approved" for the card and urge you to act quickly "before the offer expires." Remember, a credit card is a form of borrowing that usually involves fees for the convenience of borrowing. So before you jump at an offer, make sure you understand the card's terms and compare costs of similar cards to get the features and terms with which you are comfortable.

## Credit Card Terms

Credit card terms differ among card issuers, so shop around for the card that will best suit how you plan to use it. Consider the following:

**Annual Percentage Rate (APR):** This rate measures the cost of credit on an annual basis. Generally, the lower the APR, the less you'll be charged for credit. The APR includes the interest rate and other costs such as service or loan fees. If you expect to pay back less than the full amount you charge each month, you will have to pay finance charges on the unpaid balance. In this case, select a card with the lowest APR offered to you. But beware, some cards will offer a low initial APR that increases after a specific period of time. Read all the details and terms of the plan carefully.

**Annual Fees:** Many companies charge an annual fee, no matter how much or how little you use their credit card. Some cards have "no annual fee" offers. Again, read the terms of the card carefully. Some cards will not charge a fee in the first year, but may in subsequent years.

**Grace Period:** This "free" period allows you to avoid finance charges by paying your bills before the due date on each statement. If there is no grace period, finance charges start mounting the day you use the card. Cards with longer grace periods may save you money IF you pay them in full each month.

ALSO...Check for additional fees such as late payments or account overdraft fees which increase the cost of using your card.

## Billing Errors and Unauthorized Charges

Billing errors can occur, but if you know how to

use the Fair Credit Billing Act (FCBA), they are easy to resolve. To take full advantage of the law, write to the card issuer as soon as you learn of the error or unauthorized charge. Your letter must be received within 60 days after the issuer mailed you the bill containing the error. In your letter, include: your name; account number; date, type, and dollar amount of the disputed charge; and why you think there was a mistake. Send the letter to the special address for billing inquiries designated by the card issuer (it should be on your bill).

To ensure that the card issuer receives the letter, you may want to send it certified mail. Do not put your letter in the same envelope as your payment.

If you follow these requirements, the creditor must:

- acknowledge your letter in writing within 30 days after it is received; and
- conduct a reasonable investigation and within 90 days either explain why the bill is correct or fix the error.

If the creditor claims the bill is correct and you ask for "proof" in your letter, the card issuer must provide documentation.

**Note:** Many consumers forfeit their rights under this Act because they rely on calling the company to correct a billing problem. You can call, but only putting your dispute in writing will trigger the legal safeguards provided under the FCBA.

Under federal law, if your credit card is used without your authorization, you can be held liable for up to \$50 per card. If you report

a card stolen before it is used, the card issuer cannot hold you responsible for any unauthorized charges. If a thief uses your card before you report it lost or stolen, the most you will owe for unauthorized charges is \$50.

## Other Credit Suggestions

- Understand all of the terms of a credit card plan before you accept the card.
- Review disclosures of terms and fees that must appear on credit card offers you receive in the mail.
- Pay bills promptly to keep finance charges as low as possible.
- Keep copies of sales slips and promptly compare charges when your bills arrive.
- Protect your credit cards and numbers to prevent unauthorized use. Draw a line through blank spaces above the total when you sign receipts. Destroy or retain any carbons.
- Keep a list of your credit card numbers and the telephone numbers of each card issuer in a safe place in case your cards are lost or stolen.



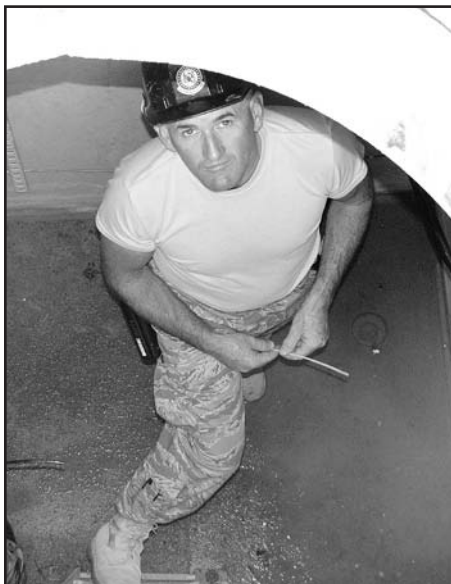
## On the road again

by Lt. Col. James Loux  
217th EIS Commander

Over fiscal year 2009 we sent Engineering and Installation (EI) members to 14 different bases, 10 states and one foreign country. This doesn't include members that supported AEF or the nine Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) team members that deployed to over 26 different sites throughout the United States. We don't have the official tally on how many days we've used but it seems like overall it wasn't as busy this year as previous years. The economy, restrictions on defense spending and the emergence of new missions may have all had some impact on money that was available. Each MAJCOM develops a workplan for their priority communications projects and submits them for funding. Once approved every EI unit views the projects and tries to match it to their training needs. This year fewer projects were released and they were released much later. As we get closer to the end of the year, money has to be spent, projects have to be obligated and if we still have members that can do days we end up very busy.

In June we sent 16 members to Schriever AFB to complete a fiber project for Air Force Space Command. In May we completed the final leg of the GeoBase mapping survey at Aviano AB, Italy. This year we sent three rotations of personnel, averaging about 10 members on site for each team. We sent a total of 26 members on this project.

This year we also sent 11 members over three different rotations to Hickam AFB to close out the Cable Pipeline project which was both internal and external wiring.



Staff Sgt. Darreyl Walker secures the cable inside a manhole while at Schriever AFB, Colo. (Photo submitted by Lt. Col. James Loux)



Staff Sgt. Pat Hickmann records data from the Trimble survey equipment while at Aviano AB, Italy. (Photo submitted by Lt. Col. James Loux)



Clockwise from left, Lt. Col. Loux, 1st Lt. Alvin Ross, Master Sgt. Brett Pier, and Staff Sgt. Stephen Woods map a manhole at Aviano AB, Italy. (Photo submitted by Lt. Col. James Loux)



Staff Sgt. Josh Hamm set up a clean splicing area in the back of a truck while working at Schriever AFB, Colo. (Photo submitted by Lt. Col. James Loux)

## 183rd Fire Department urges military families to “Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.”

Once a child touches a hot stove, as the cliché goes—he learns his lesson, stay away from a hot stove. This cliché does not take into account the pain and suffering from burns and burns should not be part of the learning process.

That’s why the 183rd Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for Fire Prevention Week 2009 – October 4-10 – to urge Military Families to “Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.” This year’s campaign focuses on ways to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns. Additionally, fire safety educators will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

The statistics are staggering. Each year roughly 3,000 people dies as a result of home fires and burns, and more than 200,000 individuals are seen in the nation’s emergency rooms for burn injuries.

“The most common types of burn injuries result from fire or flame burns, scalds and contact burns,” said James House, Asst. Fire Chief. “Burns are painful and can result in serious scarring and even death. When we take extra caution in our homes to ensure that the curling iron is out of children’s reach or pot handles are turned away from the edge of the stove, such injuries are entirely preventable. Keeping our homes safe from fire and preventing devastating burn injuries is a healthy change we can make happen.”

By following simple safety rules, you can “Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.”

- Keep hot foods and liquids away from tables and counter edges so they cannot be pulled or knocked over.
- Have a 3-foot “kid-free” zone around the stove.
- Never hold a child in your arms while preparing hot food or drinking a hot beverage.
- Be careful when using things that get hot such as curling irons, oven, irons, lamps, heaters.
- Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent a child from sticking an object in the outlet.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a lit candle, portable heater, lit fireplace or stove, or where a hot appliance might be in use.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Set your hot water temperature no higher than 120 degrees.
- Install anti-scald valves on shower heads and faucets.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

## Tips from the Base Safety Office for a safe Halloween

With fall starting Halloween will soon be here. But, no one wants to see an evening of fun spoiled by an accident. To have a safe and enjoyable holiday the CDC recommends keeping the following points in mind:

- Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.
- Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.
- Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you.
- Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent skin and eye irritation.
- Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.
- Only walk on sidewalks or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.
- Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.
- Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats unless you know the cook well.
- Enter homes only if you’re with a trusted adult. Otherwise, stay outside.
- Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.
- Only stop at homes with their front porch light on.

Many of these warning apply to adults enjoying festivities as well as children. Also, slow down and be a little more cautious when driving where children are trick or treating. Have a safe and fun Halloween!

**183d FW/PA  
Illinois Air National Guard  
Capital Airport  
3101 J. David Jones Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62707-5001**



**COMMANDER**

Colonel Michael A. Meyer

**183D PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr  
Master Sgt. Samuel Kassis  
Staff Sgt. Steven D. Martin  
Staff Sgt. Shelly Stark  
Senior Airman Sarah Pherigo  
Senior Airman Chasity Johnson

**PRINTING**

Helmer Printing, Beldenville, Wis.

**NEWS SERVICES**

AFPS – The American Forces Press Service and ACC/NGB News Services; other base newspapers.

This funded Air Force Newspaper is an authorized publication for the members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Falcon's View are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, DoD, the Department of the Air Force or the Air National Guard. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 183d Fighter Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.



## Stop Delivery

If you are **not an active member** of the 183d Fighter Wing or 217<sup>th</sup> EIS and you don't wish to receive the Falcon's View, call (217) 757-1267 or email [183FW.PA@ang.af.mil](mailto:183FW.PA@ang.af.mil) to be removed from the mailing list.