



Attention to order

by Staff Sgt. Michael Shamma
Public Affairs Specialist

A change of command ceremony was held at the Old State Capital of Illinois on April 5. The ceremony was to commemorate the promotion of Col. John P. Hughes to Brigadier General and for him to assume duties as Assistant Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Hughes was presented the Legion of Merit by Army Major General William Enyart, Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard. The medal was in recognition for his time and service as Vice-Commander of the 126th Air Refueling Wing.

After the award presentation Maj. Gen. Enyart addressed the people in attendance.

"Everyone in here has played a vital role during our war on terror," said Enyart. "Twenty-seven servicemembers from Illinois paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our great country. We



Maj. Gen. William Enyart (left), The Adjutant General of Illinois, passes the guidon to Brig. Gen. John P. Hughes (right), newly appointed Assistant Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, as Chief Master Sergeant Kent Sunderland (center), Illinois Air National Guard Command Chief, observes. Brig. Gen. Hughes assumed the duties of the Assistant Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard during a change of command ceremony held on April 5 at the Old State Capital building in Springfield, Ill. (Photo taken by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr)

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Duty Performed Pays out (approx.)

MAY 2-3	MAY 13
JUN 6-7	JUN 15
JUL 11-12	JUL 22

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
JUNE issue of the
Falcon's View SATURDAY,
MAY 2, 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 IG770

**Toll Free Number
1-800-392-1797**

The flywheel

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

What in the world is a flywheel?

It looks like a metallic wheel with edges. However, the dictionary states it is, “A rotating mass used to maintain the speed of a machine between given limits while the machine releases or receives energy at a varying rate. A flywheel is an energy storage device. It stores energy as its speed increases, and gives up energy as the speed decreases.”



Since January, I have been promoting leadership and diversity themes around base, including the aerospace dining facility. I have also written articles about these themes and proposed “flywheel” challenges – questions or statements that make you think about pushing the leadership and diversity flywheel. Like the flywheel, once we start moving and continue pushing, our skills will store that energy and we will keep moving forward. The flywheel continues to move along with our understanding of diversity around base – diversity in individuals, leadership, and ideas.

If we stop pushing the flywheel, it will eventually lose momentum and stop – stopping ideas, inspiration, and the forward movement of our unit. I encourage each person to push the “flywheel” and make the 183rd even better than it already is today!



The 183rd now has its own Community of Practice on the web! Once you have access, you can find HRA articles and general information under Wing Headquarters, then click HRA. Check it out!

For access to the 183rd CoP, use the following link.
<https://wwwd.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/ClosedCoP.asp?Filter=AN-SC-02-24>

If you have problems, contact Master Sgt. Deb Schmitz or Tech. Sgt. Angel Amaral at 551.

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need not forget that or them. Brig. Gen. Hughes assumes command of an organization that says everyday 'I do, I will, take me.' I thank each and everyone one of you for your service."

Following the speech, Col. Hughes was promoted officially to the rank of Brigadier General by the pinning of the stars. His wife and son, who is an Airman 1st Class, pinned the stars on his shoulders.

Retired Brig. Gen. John Sheedy then participated with Brig. Gen. Hughes and Maj. Gen. Enyart with the official change of command ceremony.

Retired Brig. Gen. Sheedy gave some farewell remarks after the ceremony was completed.

"You are the best of the best," said Sheedy. "Take my advice John, the only way things can go wrong is if you screw up. These people won't let you fail. I thank everyone for your hard work and service and I salute you all."

Brig. Gen. Hughes then gave his closing speech.

"It felt great to be one of you," said Hughes. "I was a master sergeant at one point and was lucky enough to become a lieutenant. I am so fortunate to get here today. Thousands have helped me get here. John Hughes is what I am because of them."

Brig. Gen. Hughes then thanked Maj. Gen. Enyart for the opportunity, thanked Governor Pat Quinn, and lastly, smiling, thanked Brig. Gen. Sheedy for retiring.

"Sheedy and I go way back. We went to NCO Academy together and there is no finer officer. God bless you and God bless this great country of ours."

General Sheedy retires after more than 40 years of service

After more than 40 years of service, Brig. Gen. John G. Sheedy retired from the Illinois Air National Guard. Brig. Gen. Sheedy was honored at a retirement ceremony at Camp Lincoln on Friday, April 3. He was presented with The Legion of Merit, The Illinois Distinguished Service Medal, his Honorable Discharge Certificate, the National Guard Bureau Certification of Service, the Illinois Citation of Merit, Federal Retirement Order, State Retirement Order, and a letter from the Governor of Illinois. A reception followed in which he received many plaques and gifts from various bases, agencies, friends and acquaintances. We at the 183rd wish him a happy and healthy retirement.



Retired Brig. Gen. John G. Sheedy (right), Assistant Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, is presented with the Illinois Distinguished Service Medal by Maj. Gen. William Enyart (left), Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard. The medal was presented at a retirement ceremony held at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, on April 3. (Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr)



The Illinois Distinguished Service Medal was presented to Brig. Gen. John G. Sheedy (right), Assistant Adjutant General of the Illinois National



Retired Brig. Gen. John G. Sheedy plays a cowbell during a skit with the 566th Air Force Band during his retirement reception at the Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield on April 3. (Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr)

Boating and Jet Ski Safety

by Master Sgt. Mike Niepert
183rd Safety Office

Boating is a popular activity, but it can also be a dangerous one. Note these facts:

- * Nationwide, nearly 1,000 people die in boating accidents every year.
 - * Fifty percent of all boating fatalities involved alcohol, according to estimates of experts.
- Common sense and adherence to boating and water safety laws and rules will reduce accidents.

The term “personal watercraft” is used to define a category of vessels that have grown in popularity as well as numbers. Personal watercraft are small (usually eight feet or less) one or two person motorized craft. These vessels are highly maneuverable and capable of speeds in excess of 35 miles per hour. They are also called jet skis, wet bikes, etc.

Because of their small size and low profile, operators of other boats may not see them as readily. Operators of personal watercraft should exercise “defensive driving.” These craft are highly responsive and capable of quick turns. In fact, this is what they are designed for and is part of the fun. However, this kind of operation is considered reckless if done in congested areas of boat traffic.

- * Don’t operate a boat or jet ski while drinking alcohol or using drugs.
- * Learn to swim and learn basic water rescue techniques.
- * Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation device.
- * Don’t boat, water ski, or jet ski in a manner that endangers other lake users. Boaters, watch for scuba divers and skiers.
- * Confine jet skiing and water skiing to daylight hours.
- * Children should not operate any personal watercraft.
- * Do not allow anyone to ride on decks or gunwales.
- * Avoid excessive speed, especially in congested areas.
- * Be aware of underwater hazards such as sub-

merged logs, stumps, and rocks.

- * Watch your children. Beaches are unguarded, and there may be sharp dropoffs near shore.
- * Dive only in familiar areas and check water depth before diving.
- * Avoid dams. Water flowing over dams can create a current capable of drawing boats and jet skis into the face of the dam and holding them under water. Avoid dam spillways during high water.
- * Learn all navigation rules, state boating laws, and local lake rules and LIVE by them.
- * Keep your boat in proper working order and make sure it meets all equipment guidelines established by the your state’s boating laws. Carry the following:

- Personal flotation device for each person onboard
- Paddle • Towline • Emergency radio • Bailing device • Whistle or horn • Fire extinguisher • First aid kit • Flares

Rules & Regulations

All of us here in the 183rd Safety Office want your visit to the lake to be pleasant and safe. The following are a few other items you might want to keep in mind when you are at the lake; remember to check local and state laws before enjoying your outing at the lake.

- * Do not swim or recreate within 100 feet of any boat launching or courtesy boat dock.
 - * Do not fish from any boat ramp or courtesy dock.
 - * Do not possess or operate a motorboat or other watercraft within an area designated “NO BOATS.”
 - * Do not operate any watercraft in excess of idle speed in areas posted “NO WAKE” or “IDLE SPEED.”
 - * Do not water ski or sled within areas designated as “NO SKIING” or “NO SLEDDING.”
 - * Do not water ski after sundown or before sunrise.
 - * Do not store or leave watercraft unattended overnight at a location not designated for overnight boat storage.
 - * Do not launch a motor boat at a site not designated for boat launching.
 - * Do not use steel drums or barrels as floating devices for powerboats.
 - * Do not possess or operate a motorboat equipped with conventional plumbing without a sealed sewage holding system or tank.
- I hope these guidelines will help keep you & your family safe out on our states fine lakes this summer. For more information on safe boating, go to; <http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org>. Until next time, be careful and be safe!!

Surprised by God!

by Lt. Col. Robert Barry
183rd AOC Chaplain

To believe in God is to be ready to be surprised by God, for God has three great surprises for us.

The first is that God is holy, just and loving, and he expects us to be so too. God expects us to obey his teachings, love, and treat justly our brothers and sisters. Many are surprised that God does not simply allow us to go our merry way, ignoring what he demands and calls us to be. Many are surprised that punishments of various forms are visited on those who ignore or betray God and do not strive to be just and



holy. God does not ignore our sinfulness, our cruelty to others, and our selfishness. God does not ignore our mistreatment of others whom he cherishes. God is patient with those who ignore and flaunt him, but eventually justice will be done to them. God does this

so that we can again be faithful, treat others well, and find peace in our lives. Many are surprised at this!

The second surprise of most people is that God forgives our misdeeds if we turn away from them! Most people look at the things they have done wrong and cannot believe that God would forgive them. They are surprised that God will forgive the things we do if we reject and denounce them. If we do turn



from our evils, God will forgive us. This amazes many people because we who find it so hard to forgive the slights and injuries others do to us are surprised and amazed at the forgiveness God offers to us. What is equally amazing is the length

to which God will go to bring us forgiveness. God's love for us is so strong and rich that there is virtually nothing that will be left undone to forgive us.

The third great surprise of God is the blessings that God gives to those who are faithful to him. This great gift is the gift of life, and not just the life as we now know it, but the fullness of life in the divine presence. The life that God gives is not a thin or feeble gift, but a gift of life that is rich and new. The blessings and gifts that God gives us are a symbol of the amazing generosity and charity of God.

What all of this means for us is that we should try to "surprise" others by our integrity, goodness, and strength of character. We should try to "surprise" others by forgiving them, overlooking their faults, slights, and hurts. We should "surprise" them by not holding grudges, seeking revenge, or wishing them harm. And finally, we should "surprise" them by our generosity, selflessness, kindness, and thoughtfulness.

✠ ✠ 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@ilspri.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



Conversion = Man + Train + Equip

by Colonel Ricky Yoder
Air Operations Group Commander

It has been over six months since our beloved airplanes flew out of our lives to other Air Force and Air National Guard units. Contrary to what some may have believed, the earth is still revolving around the sun and the sun has come up every morning since the airplanes left. None of my body parts have fallen off since we quit flying and my spousal unit still thinks I'm a manly-man even though I don't fly F-16s anymore - Okay, three out of four isn't bad.

For the more experienced personnel in the unit, this conversion to the AOC and AFFOR augmentation mission looks a little different from previous conversions to newer aircraft. Previous conversions were more an exercise of a SATAF team showing up and handing out training dates for the new weapon system. When you came back from school, there was new iron on the ramp. Welcome back from Neverland, Toto. There are three factors that affect this conversion: 1. conversion to a radically different Command and Control Mission with different AFSCs and skills 2. a severely strained training system due to most of the ANG being in some kind of conversion and 3. a budget-constrained environment where all resources of the NGB cannot be thrown at a small number of units in conversion. At the fundamental level, conversion is about manning, training, and equipping the unit to perform the new mission in the shortest amount of time. The following is what I see as our current status and your role in this less-than-standard transformation.



I will start with EQUIP, since we are at the mercy of the MAJCOM in that department and have the least control of our destinies. On 31 March, our Architecture-Engineering (A-E) Firm briefed us on their 35% Design Submittal for the renovation of Buildings P-16, 35, and 36 to house the ASUS (P-16) and the rest of the AOC (P-35 & 36). The 35% Design Submittal is also known as A-2 Services and essentially gives us the two-dimensional plans of the buildings. This Design Submittal will be briefed at ANG/A-7 (CE) on 8 April. On the actual equipment side, ACC/A8 briefed us that the tentative delivery date of our AOC v10.1 Weapon System Training Suite is May 2010. This includes a site survey in October 2009. We are working with the Weapons System Program Office (SPO) to start an immediate dialogue in order to incorporate all system requirements into the design of our buildings. Our short-term plan is to temporarily set up the training suite in the P-35 ECM Pod shop until our construction in FY 2011. A few of you are heavily involved in the design phase and prep for training suite install – the rest of us just need to stay

engaged and support the few.

As far as MANNING goes, our numbers appear gloomy, especially in the Rated Officer category, but we are making steady progress. Total manning numbers for the AOG are approximately 50% with the Enlisted numbers coming in just over 60% and the Officers around 30%. The transformational part of recruiting for the AOG is that we no longer have the capability to “grow” all of our people in their career field – the mission requires qualified, experienced prior service personnel in most cases. AOC personnel will be planning Operations for the Theater and the ASUS augments the AFFOR (A-1 thru A-9) which supports the Theater with beds, beans, and bullets. A 3-level could be set up for failure performing some of these jobs, but a 5- or 7-level will have the confidence that 10 or 20 years of experience brings to the fight. One exception is the Air Communications Squadron (ACOMS), which is essentially the maintenance function of the AOC. The addition of the ACOMS and the A6 section of the ASUS along with the 183rd Comm Flight and 217th EIS, makes the Wing a Comm-heavy organization giving Maj Bachtold (ACOMS/CC) the ability to “grow” Comm troops. I believe that to be a good selling point to young recruits looking to seek a civilian career in the IT field. The other squadron in the AOG with ability to home-grow their troops is the Air Intelligence Squadron (AIS). Lt Col Davis (AIS/CC) and the AIS are very excited about the AOC Intel mission and along with the A2 section of the ASUS, will be able to home-grow some Intel troops. As usual, the best recruiters in the ANG are all of YOU! The security,

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Commander's Comments

Conversion, continued from page six

especially the health care portion, of a Guard retirement is a good safety net to have and the Guard college scholarship program is second to none. The word needs to go out to our communities that the 183rd has a different look and that we are definitely hiring!

The last portion of the conversion we will discuss is TRAINING. I saved training for last, because all of you have a large role in the re-training part of conversion. In a regular conversion or cross-train situation, we would have a one year time-limit to cross-train to our new AFSC – for us that means 30 Sep 2009. The timing of our placements into the new manning document and the total volume of people re-training throughout the ANG and USAF has given us a valid reason to not be retrained by the one-year suspense. We will not make the same mistake a second year. Your biggest role in the training part of conversion is to Be Ready to Go to School!!! FY2010 training dates will be available in the

June timeframe. Our BETM office should have received a preview of those training dates by the publication date of this newsletter. Your role is to be ready, both mentally and physically, to go to formal school and be awarded your new AFSC. For many of us that means re-learning how to be a student and passing the Physical Fitness Test. For some, it means filling out your Security Clearance paperwork for that Top Secret clearance. Still others will need to select a class-date for AOC Formal Training Unit (FTU) for their specific AOC Initial Qualification Training (IQT), followed by Mission Qualification Training (MQT) either at homestation or another AOC unit. All AOG personnel will need to have their paperwork into the BETM by May UTA to request their TLN and school class-dates. We will be ready to grab those FY10 school dates when they drop.

Conversion = Man + Train + Equip. It's all very simple. This is where we stand and this is what we need to do. Lets Git'r Done!

Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant

Kelly A. Downs

Senior Master Sergeant

Mark W. Kessler

Master Sergeant

Thomas J. Baim
Michael L. Putnam
Deborah J. Schumer

Technical Sergeant

JohnPaul D. Parks
Nicholas P. Ressler
George K. Wilson

Senior Airman

Matthew J. Collier



Six Flags

Once again, the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Graduates Association, Chapter 75, has discounted tickets for Six Flags in St. Louis.

The Six Flags tickets are available for purchase in the Financial Management Office, building P-48. The park will be open from March 28 to Nov. 9. Please go to the Six Flags website to view park hours for these dates.

Tickets this year are as follows:

Ticket	NCO AGA price	Gate price plus tax
1 day General Admission	\$24.00	\$39.99
2 day adult	\$41.00	\$42.99
2 day child*	\$34.00	\$32.99
Season Pass**	\$46.00	\$64.99

* Children 48" and under; Children age two and under are free

** The Season Pass is only valid for residences with a zip code outside a 50-mile radius of Six Flags St. Louis. You must first validate your season ticket at Six Flags in St. Louis and get your season pass, then you may use it at any Six Flags.

For the Six Flags calendar and events, go to

<http://www.sixflags.com/stLouis/events/CalendarEvents.aspx>

Rememberance run

*by Capt. James E. Robinson
183rd Security Forces Commander*

We're all consistently looking for ways to stay in shape, or if you're like me, a way to get into shape! Eating right and consistent exercise is the healthiest way to lose weight and stay in shape. If you're looking for a great way to exercise while raising money for a great cause, join me at the 2nd annual Brian McMillen Lincoln Land Community College Memorial 5K Run/Walk.

The run was organized to fund the Brian McMillen Veterans Scholarship which is presented annually to a veteran attending Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in memory of Brian McMillen. In addition to being a graduate of LLCC, Brian was a member of the Illinois Air National Guard's 183d Security Forces Squadron and a Trooper with the Illinois State Police.

The venue for the run is the Lincoln Land Community College campus and is sure to be a great time for all! You'll be joined by others who enjoy running, as well as those that simply enjoy supporting a great cause on behalf of a beloved 183rd Fighter Wing member. Come out and prepare for this year's annual fitness test while having a great time supporting a worthwhile cause. For more details, including instruction on how to register on-line, go to <http://www.llccveteransclub.org/index.php>. If you're unable to attend the event, but would like to donate to a worthy cause, please mail checks, made payable to "Brian McMillen Scholarship Fund," 183 SFS/CC, 3101 J. David Jones Parkway, Springfield, Ill., 62707-5001.

2nd Annual Brian McMillen Lincoln Land Community College Memorial 5K Run/Walk



Saturday, May 23rd 2009
Lincoln Land Community College
Springfield @ 8 AM

Contact us at: Email: llccva@hotmail.com

Check our website for online registration : www.llccveteransclub.org

The first 300 pre-registers are guaranteed a T-Shirt

Adults \$20 Kids \$10 Students \$10

News from the Field

Hello from Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan,

10 March 2009

The 15 of us arrived here just over a month ago. Upon boots hitting the ground, we promptly started a mustache growing contest. The winner of that is still to be determined, so be sure to tune in next month. All of us, except for TSgt Adam Moore, ended up on the night shift, charged with protecting U.S./Coalition Forces and resources. We're working a three on and one off, 12 hour shifts. TSgt Moore enjoys the banker's hours as NCOIC of the armory and CATM (Combat Arms Training and Maintenance).

Living conditions here are better than average. We are all in hard billeting - two to a room. Each room is equipped with cable; t.v. not provided. The chow hall more resembles the Air Jiffy. They have what seems to be an endless supply of chips, candy bars, ice cream, and soda available all hours of the day at no charge. It's just what us Cops need to keep us going all night, especially those of us aspiring to shed a few pounds while we're here.

I'd like to recognize four of our troops: Jason Roberts, Jared Beavers, Nick Zellers, and Jason Draper, on their official promotion to the NCO ranks! Each one was deserving and they are all learning/adapting to their new roles admirably.

There continues to be a lot of politicking between the Kyrgyz and the U.S. It's still to be determined how that will play out. Until then, everything continues to be business as usual, which primarily consists of living the "Manas Community Standards."

Hopefully everything is going well at home.

Sincerely,

TSgt Troy Marion



Communications Traffic

Computer software at a discount

*by Senior Master Sgt. Erin Roesch
Plans and Programs Branch Chief*

The Home Use Program (HUP) is available to all ANG personnel. This program was designed to extend the user's work desktop into their home. Only four products are offered under the HUP - MS Project, MS Visio, MS Office SharePoint Designer, and MS Office. There are some restrictions on the amount of licenses available. The limitations on the HUP are as follows: 1 copy of an application per user, and if the user retires or leaves ANG employment, he/she is to turn off and cease to use the software. The HUP provides SIGNIFICANT savings on Microsoft Office products. They are available at a cost of \$19.95 each.

Another benefit is the Employee Purchase Program (EPP) - purchase of Microsoft products at reduced prices. This program has no limits on quantities and no restrictions on use of the product. The EPP has a wide range of products to choose from. Here are a few examples:

Microsoft Office Home and Student 2007 - \$76.70 (includes the 2007 versions of: Excel, OneNote, PowerPoint and Word 2007)

Microsoft Office Professional 2007 - \$260.00 (includes the 2007 versions of: Publisher, Excel, Outlook, and Outlook with Business Contact Manager, PowerPoint, Access, and Word)

Windows Vista Home Premium - \$155.97 or Upgrade - \$99.00

Other software includes: Microsoft Streets and Trips 2008 - \$31.58; Microsoft Streets and Trips 2008 with GPS Locator - \$73.00; and Microsoft Works 9 - \$38.00. There is also a wide variety of games and books to choose from.

To request access or additional information on the HUP or EPP please send an e-mail to Senior Master Sgt. Erin Roesch or Master Sgt. Mari Moore. In the request please state which program you would like access to. We will respond with the applicable web site and product code. If you have questions about this or any other software related question, please call Senior Master Sgt. Roesch at ext. 365 or Master Sgt. Mari Moore at ext. 344.

Lincoln Half Marathon Photos

Congratulations to all Illinois Air National Guard runners. You did a great job!

Master Sgt. Jennifer Aurora, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Bandy, Tech. Sgt. Michael Brennecke, Col. Gary Brinner, 1st Lt. Tara Bryan, Senior Master Sgt. Jeffery Capps, Maj. Christopher Casson, Master Sgt. William Casson, Tech. Sgt. John Coleman, Chief Master Sgt. James Flinn, Airman 1st Class Dylan Geer, Staff Sgt. Steven Greenleaf, Staff Sgt. David Grzesiak, Master Sgt. Matthew Hemann, Capt. Sean Heup, Master Sgt. James Jaun, Chief Master Sgt. John Jordan, Staff Sgt. Eric Link, Staff Sgt. Steven Martin, Maj. Melanie McDonald, Col. Michael Meyer, Senior Airman Michael Morrow, 2nd Lt. John Moyer, 2nd Lt. Andrew Payne, Senior Airman Aaron Rath, Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Sanchez, Tech. Sgt. Wade Valente, Senior Airman Daniel Whitlow



Lincoln Half Marathon Photos



Fitness Clinic Seminar

Unit members get running help

by Master Sgt. Deb Schumer
183rd Base Legal Office

On Sunday, April 5, Col. Meyer held a Commander's Call where a fitness seminar was given. The seminar provided members an opportunity to gain knowledge on various aspects of running. The 183rd FW welcomed three accomplished runners to speak to unit members: Ms. Katie McAfee, Ms. Nancy Alexander, and Senior Master Sgt. Jeffery Capps. Ms. McAfee is a member of the Springfield Road Runners Club and organizer of the KT Mac Back at the Track, a speed training group. Ms. Alexander is an ACSM certified Health Fitness Specialist and Therapeutic Lifestyle Consultant, triathlete, and personal trainer. Senior Master Sgt. Capps is a Riverton track and cross country coach and a motivator for many unit members.

The seminar key points included:

- Getting started
- Training
- Do's and don'ts
- Techniques and tips for comfortable running
- Avoiding injuries
- Soreness vs. Injuries
- Tips on staying motivated
- Better overall fitness and lifestyle advantages
- Warm up/cool down techniques for dynamic and static stretching



A Fitness Clinic Seminar was conducted at the 183 FW on Sunday, April 5, 2009. Above, accomplished runner Ms. Katie McAfee addresses members of the 183rd FW on how to stick to a running plan. (Photo taken by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr)

Col. Michael Meyer opened and closed the seminar by reminding unit members that being physically fit is part of physical readiness, a basic requirement of being a member of the military. Col. Meyer stated, "I am accountable for your military readiness. As that you need to be 'Fit to Fight' not 'Fit to Test'." Col. Meyer announced the unit is moving towards making healthier lifestyle changes available to unit members, whether it is healthy food choices in the dining facility, or Public Health offering a smoking cessation class. Col. Meyer wants everyone to be 'Fit for Life' and to be able to enjoy their life after and outside of the Guard.

Air Force officials deliver first C-130 to Polish military

by Capt. Tony Wickman
U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs

3/27/2009 - RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFNS) -- American and Polish airmen delivered the first of five refurbished C-130E Hercules military transport planes and spare parts March 24 to the Polish air force at Powidz Air Base, Poland.

“It’s a great day for them to celebrate the arrival of the Hercules. It’s vital to them being able to -- own their own -- organically pick up and go,” said Air Force Maj. Gen. William A. Chambers, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe director of air and space operations.

“They’re one of our allies who are very willing to go,” he said. “Whether it is Afghanistan or Iraq, they’ve been alongside the Americans in both fights. The ‘Herc’ is a great symbol of the American-Polish partnership, and we’re grateful to be alongside them.”

It was a sentiment echoed by Polish Brig. Gen. Tadeusz Mikutel, the 33rd Air Base commander.

“This is a milestone for our air defense. The plane is able to carry 17 tons of equipment or 90 equipped soldiers. That is why the plane will leave (our) CASA planes behind,” General Mikutel said.

Also on hand for the celebration were Stanislaw Komorowski, Poland’s vice minister of defense; Polish Lt. Gen. Andrzej Blasik, commander of the Polish air force; Pamela Quanrud, the deputy chief of mission for the American Embassy in Warsaw; and several Polish military and local government authorities.

The new plane expands the Polish air force’s ability to transport troops and equipment, while providing support for evacuation and humanitarian operations. Its presence in the Polish fleet will also increase

their interoperability with other air forces because the C-130 is used by several nations around the world, to include NATO allies.

The C-130 received an escort to Powidz AB by F-16s from the Polish air force when it neared its final destination, and performed two flyovers of the gathered crowd to showcase the newest addition to the Polish inventory. Upon landing, both the American and Polish crews were recognized for the achievement.

“I think we can accomplish a lot of missions to deliver cargo to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq,” said Polish Sgt. Andrzej Kozera, a C-130 flight engineer.

The Reserve aircrew from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and an active-duty loadmaster from Edwards AFB, Calif., picked the plane up in Waco, Texas, with their Polish counterparts after its refurbishment and flew it across the Atlantic, stopping at Ramstein AB. It made its final leg to Powidz AB, where it will become part of the 14th Lift Squadron.

The entire project, including total refurbishment of five aircraft, support equipment, supplies, training and contracted logistics support, is valued at \$120 million. The donation is a result of an American pledge to provide Poland with such a capability, and is fully funded through bilateral military assistance grant money.

The delivery of the five modernized and upgraded aircraft is scheduled to be complete in the summer of 2010.



*Air Force officials deliver first C-130 to Polish military
Polish visitors and media view the first of five refurbished C-130E Hercules military transport planes and spare parts delivered March 24 to the Polish air force at Powidz Air Base, Poland. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Tony Wickman)*

New Retirees

Tech. Sgt. Donald Challans	183rd Maintenance Squadron	March 4, 2009
Chief Master Sgt. Clyde McCaherty	183rd Civil Engineering Squadron	March 12, 2009
Master Sgt. Kenneth D. Smith	183rd Maintenance Squadron	March 18, 2009
Master Sgt. Richard Webster	183rd Maintenance Squadron	March 29, 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, May 5, 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!



NCOAGA News

*articles submitted by retired Senior Master Sgt. Theresa Snyder
NCOAGA Chapter 75 President*

Wreath laying ceremony

The ceremony is tentatively scheduled for June 7 at 0830 by the static display. If you know of any retirees that have passed away since our last ceremony in October 2008 please contact Joe Ward, Family Readiness Manager, with the names. The NCOAGA will hold this ceremony each year in May or June to honor those retirees or current members that may have died over the course of the year. You may be asking yourself why we need your help to provide the names of the deceased retirees, and why the unit does not have this information. It is unfortunate that the unit is not notified when every retiree dies. If the family does not notify the Personnel Section or the Family Readiness Section of a death then they have no way of knowing that a retiree has become deceased. Therefore, we need your input to ensure we have an accurate list. We want to ensure that we honor all of our fallen comrades each year at this ceremony.

Adopt-A-Highway program to be discontinued

The NCOAGA has decided, due to lack of interest, to opt out of this program for the time being. The association has participated in this program for a number of years and the interest has declined each year and it seems to be the same few people that participate. It was decided at our April meeting to find some other forms of community service to become involved in.

NCOAGA meetings

Due to training requirements and time constraints the monthly meetings are being held prior to UTA weekends. All members will receive the meeting minutes via email, and important news and events of the association will be posted in the base newspaper. If you have questions or concerns on this matter please feel free to contact one of the organizations officers: retired Senior Master Sgt. Theresa Snyder, teesnyder@hotmail.com, Chief Master Sgt. Vic Wurtzler, ext. 576, or Master Sgt. Stacy Ferguson, ext. 471.

Leadership training

The NCOAGA, with support from the Commanders, Chiefs and 1st Sgts, is bringing Leadership training to the 183rd. The training will consist of two classes each day for each group during June UTA. There will be Operational Leadership instruction for Senior Master Sgt's, Chiefs and Officers. For Staff Sgt. through Master Sgt. the class will focus on personnel and small team leadership. These classes are for everyone. These classes will not give you all the information you will need to become a successful leader but it can be a foundation or add to your continuing education for your military career. Please let your supervisor and training managers know if you are interested in attending any of these classes. More details will be forthcoming.

3rd Annual Memorial Golf Outing

May Lunch Menu

3RD ANNUAL JAKE LESSEN MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Come to the Rail to support the JAKE LESSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP.
All proceeds go directly to the LLCC Fire Science scholarship fund.

Date: Friday, July 17, 2009

Tee Time: 7:30 am

Place: The Rail

Pre-register by: 07/03/09

For more information or to register call: Kelly Bogdanic or Lana Miller

**Contact person: 217-737-8770 (K)
217-737-1631 (L)**

Entry Fee of \$80 includes:

- 18 hole scramble w/ cart
- Continental Breakfast
- Lunch
- 3 drink tickets
- Outing t-shirt

Please mail form and check to:
JAKE LESSEN MEMORIAL
689 1700th Street or
Lincoln, IL 62656

Complete the form below and mail with your check made payable to THE JAKE LESSEN MEMORIAL

I reserve _____ for the day - \$80/person \$ _____

I reserve _____ for Lunch Only - \$10/ person \$ _____

I would like to sponsor _____ holes - \$100 each \$ _____

I cannot play or sponsor a hole, but please accept my contribution. \$ _____

Please, list ALL players names, e-mail addresses, phone numbers & men's t-shirt sizes
(if you are sponsoring a hole, please list as you would like it to appear on the signage).

	Name	E-Mail	Phone #	t-shirt size
#1 Golfer	_____	_____	_____	_____
#2 Golfer	_____	_____	_____	_____
#3 Golfer	_____	_____	_____	_____
#4 Golfer	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Catered
served 1100-1300**

Saturday

- Lasagna
- Garlic Toast
- Steamed broccoli
- Carrots
- Steamed cauliflower
- Tossed salad
- Fresh fruit
- Cake

Sunday

- ♥ Grilled Chicken
- Rice pilaf
- Carrots
- Peas
- Gravy
- Tossed salad
- Fresh fruit
- Peach crisp

*Menu is subject to change
♥ Heart healthy

Welcome Aboard

New Enlistees		
Lt. Col. John T. Bowen	Detachment 1	March 2, 2009
Staff Sgt. Jason W. Parker	183rd Security Forces Squadron	March 11, 2009
Airman 1st Class McKenzie L. Castleman	183rd Security Forces Squadron	March 19, 2009
Staff Sgt. Toni C. Smith	Detachment 1	March 20, 2009
Tech. Sgt. Beth L. Waller	Detachment 1	March 25, 2009
Airman Basic Haley L. Cleesen	183rd Fighter Wing	March 26, 2009
Airman 1st Class Matthew J. Snyder	183rd Security Forces Squadron	March 31, 2009

Are you getting enough sleep at night?

by Tech. Sgt. Amy Murphy
183rd Medical Group

A good night's sleep, just like proper diet and exercise, is essential to your mental, emotional, and physical health. It affects how you feel, your relationships, your work life, and the quality of your life. The average adult needs seven to eight hours of sleep per night. An infant needs approximately 14 to 15 hours of sleep each night and children up to the age of 12 needs between 11 and 12 hours of sleep per night. According to a Better Sleep Month national survey:

- People that get nine hours of sleep/night, are more likely to engage in increased intensity workouts
- Seventy percent of people don't get enough sleep, in order to perform at their best each day.



What's more alarming, is that 81 percent of Americans wake up with back, neck, and shoulder pain each morning from not getting the proper sleep at night.

There are a few things you can do to ensure you get a full night's sleep. Firstly, you can purchase a new mattress. If your mattress is five to seven years old and you are having sleeping difficulty, try buying a new one. It is recommended that couples buy either a queen

or king size in order to have proper space to move around during the night. Secondly, there are some medications that will aide in a better night sleep. Here are a few examples:

- Over the counter drugs (Sominex, Unisom, and Nytol)
- Prescribed medications (Restoril, Lunesta, Ambien)

Prescribed medications are only recommended for a short amount of time, due to the physical and psychological effect that can be formed when taking them. There are alternative methods that have been proven effective for sleepless nights. Melatonin is one of these. It is available over the counter at any drugstore. Tryptophan is another over the counter medicine that is available.

Here are some ways to help improve your sleep at night:

- Make sleep a priority (go to bed at the same time every night)
- Have a bedtime routine (read a book; take a hot bath)
- Have your room dark and quiet, with NO T.V.!
- Replace your mattress if it is five-seven years old
- Keep all computers and televisions out of the room (your bed is for sleeping, not working!)
- Exercise regularly (at least two hours before bedtime)

No alcohol, caffeine, or eating close to bedtime. These can lead to poor sleep, keep you awake, or disrupt sleep later in the night.

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

TSgt 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

ARPC explains procedures for validating early retired pay

by Master Sgt. J.C. Woodring
Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

3/6/2009 - DENVER -- Air Reserve Personnel Center officials are finalizing procedures for validating the receipt of retired pay before Citizen Airmen turn 60 years old.

Since Jan. 28, 2008, Guard and Reserve Airmen can reduce the age they receive retirement pay by three months for each aggregate of 90-day period of qualifying active duty served in any fiscal year, but they cannot receive retired pay before age 50. Specific details are available online.

“We are trying to make this as easy as possible for our Airmen,” said Steve Hannan, director of Personnel Programs at the Air Reserve Personnel Center here. “The operational tempo of guardsmen and reservists is larger than many realize. So far this fiscal year, there could be more than 13,000 participating Guard and Reserve members performing creditable service entitling them to reduced age retired pay.”

ARPC officials are working with counterparts at the Air Force Personnel Center to add a field into the Military Personnel Data System so Citizen Airmen can see their estimated retired pay date.

“Until there is an automated way to track the information, our ARPC retirement technicians are reviewing personnel and finance records to see if Citizen Airmen qualify to receive their pay early. In most cases we hope to never ask a Citizen Airman to validate their service. Our testing shows that we

can often determine the correct information from current finance and personnel systems. Only when these systems are inaccurate will we need the member’s help,” he said.

So far, six people are already eligible to receive their retired pay before they turned 60. Information in MilPDS indicates more than 250 Citizen Airmen who are awaiting pay at age 60 may already be eligible for reduced pay age, ARPC officials said. After reviewing these records, ARPC retirement technicians will contact those who are eligible.

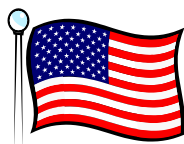
If Citizen Airmen are approaching retirement and believe they are entitled to get their pay early, they can call 800-525-0102 and discuss the specifics of their participation with retirement experts to validate their eligibility for early retired pay.

For more information, call 800-525-0102 or visit www.arpc.afrc.af.mil

Memorial Day Trivia

Did you know...

- Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day.
- Memorial Day began as a commemoration for those soldiers who died during the Civil War.
- The first Memorial Day was May 30, 1968. It was celebrated by placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers.
- New York was the first state to officially recognize Memorial Day.
- On Memorial Day the flag should be at half-staff until noon, then raised to the top of the staff.
- Red poppies are the nationally recognized flower of Memorial Day.
- The National Holiday Act of 1971 changed Memorial Day from May 30 to the last Monday in May.



Honor Guard

If you are a sharp, motivated, professional who enjoys being in front of the base populace and local community representing our unit, then the 183rd Honor Guard needs you. The 183rd Honor Guard will be having a recruiting drive for new members on Sunday of May UTA at 1000 hours, in the P-48 auditorium. Our team supports local base activities (60th Anniversary Dinner/Wreath Laying Ceremony), military associations (NGAI), local communities (parades), state activities (dinners/dedications/governor directed), and final respect (funerals). This is a great organization and a wonderful way to support your base and give back to your community. If you are interested and would like more information, contact Master Sgt. Deb Schmitz at ext. 551, Lt. Col. Kevin Mulcahy at ext. 244, or come to the recruiting drive in May.

DFAS prepares Making Work Pay tax withholding rates

article submitted by Base Finance Office
from www.irs.gov

ARLINGTON, VA, March 10, 2009 – Many active duty, reserve and National Guard military personnel, military retirees and annuitants, and federal government civilian employees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will soon see their paychecks increased as new IRS tax withholding rates are introduced.

The Internal Revenue Service released the new withholding rates Feb. 21 to incorporate the Making Work Pay credit, a component of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Unlike the 2008 economic stimulus payments which were mailed separately to each taxpayer, the 2009 credit will be figured into withholding rates, thus paying each taxpayer throughout the year with higher take-home amounts.

DFAS is currently updating the pay systems supporting its payroll customers to reflect the new IRS guidelines. The IRS has encouraged employers to implement the new rates by April 1. Officials have projected that the changes would be implemented the first payday in April.

According to an IRS press release, “Eligible workers will get the benefit of this change without any action on their part. This means that workers don’t need to fill out a new W-4 withholding form to get the Making Work Pay credit reflected in their take-home pay. A Form W-4 will not need to be submitted for the automatic withholding change. Individuals and couples with multiple jobs may want to submit revised Form W-4 forms to ensure enough with-

holding is held to cover the tax for the combined income.”

DFAS officials remind their pay customers that it is each taxpayer’s responsibility to insure enough wages are withheld to cover their tax liability. Customers with multiple jobs are encouraged to review their current withholding amounts and the amount of income taxes they will likely pay. IRS Publication 919 (available at www.irs.gov) provides additional guidance for tax withholding.

The Making Work Pay credit will be available to most taxpayers during 2009 and 2010. The maximum credit for married couples filing jointly will be \$800 and \$400 for other taxpayers. Taxpayers with higher income may not realize any changes to their withholding rates.

“Many higher-income taxpayers will see little or no change in their take-home pay,” according to the IRS release. “That’s because the Making Work Pay credit is phased out for a married couple filing a joint return whose modified adjusted gross income (AGI) is between \$150,000 and \$190,000 and other taxpayers whose modified AGI is between \$75,000 and \$95,000.

“Because the credit is refundable (people can get it even if they owe no tax), most low-income workers will also qualify for the full credit. Though all eligible taxpayers will need to claim the credit when they file their 2009 income tax return next year, the benefit will generally be spread out over the paychecks they receive beginning this spring and continue until the end of the year.”

The IRS also released new tables for computing the advance payment of earned income credit. These tables change the percentage formula to increase payments for some married military members. The new percentage formula will be implemented by April 1 as well.

The IRS press release on the new withholding rates and the Making Work Pay credit may be found at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204521,00.html>.

First Sergeant Academy



From left, Master Sgt. Richard Reimann, Air Operations Group First Sergeant, Senior Master Sgt. Mark Stevens, Air Operations Group, Lt. Col. Kenneth Vennell, Maintenance Commander, Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Hergenrother, 183rd FW Command Chief, Col. Ricky Yoder, Air Operations Group Commander, Col. Stephen F. Baggerly, Air Support Squadron Commander, Master Sgt. Robert Stults, Maintenance Squadron First Sergeant, and Master Sgt. Chris Dearing, Mission Support Group First Sergeant, pose for a photo at the First Sergeant graduation ceremony held on March 20, 2009, at Gunter Annex in Montgomery, Ala. (photo submitted by Master Sgt. Richard Reimann)

To all my friends...

by Staff Sgt. Michael Shamma
Public Affairs Specialist

For the past seven plus years in Public Affairs, I have had the honor and privilege of being the voice of the 183rd. During this time I have come to know, respect, admire, and most importantly, become friends with all of you. The time has come for me to extend my farewell to the 183rd members and community as I begin a new chapter in my life. I wanted to take this time to write one final article for everyone to extend my appreciation for the fond memories I have from this unit.

For those who don't know, I live in Oak Lawn, a suburb of Chicago. The drive is approximately 193 miles one way from driveway to parking lot. I gladly made this trip every month, as so many others do, because this place is my second home. I've said it time and time again, it's not the base, but the people that make me love what I do. I have been to many bases

during my career and I say this with the utmost pride; I am more proud to wear the uniform standing next to all of you rather than with anyone else.

We are all defenders of our country and our freedom. We don't wear the uniform to collect a paycheck. We wear it everyday because we believe we, together, can make a difference by protecting our way of life. Thank you 183rd for teaching me that and making me a better man because of it.

Thank you to all the people that believed in me and have worked with me so closely all these years. Thank you to the senior leadership for giving me the support I needed to make my job as easy as it can be. And finally, thank you to the 183rd. You will forever be my friends.

Finally, I would like to leave everyone with a quote from a famous American author that inspires me to be the best writer I can be. God bless you all and God speed.

"Don't be dismayed at goodbyes, a farewell is necessary before you can meet again and meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends." – Richard Bach

MPF News

Personnel records go electronic

by Staff Sgt. Bonnie Mosley
NCOIC, Career Enhancements

As you may have heard, all personnel records have been converted to an electronic format and stored in the Automated Records Management System (ARMS) within the vMPF. Under the eRecords initiative, all of your personnel records (UPRGs) are now available electronically, also known as "eRecords."

So, what does this mean for you? This means that you will be able to review and print any of your personnel records, from any place in the world. It means that you now have control when you need documents for school benefits, VA benefits, home loan applications, etc.

The most important thing for you to do at this time is to get into ARMS and review your records that are kept

there electronically. This is extremely vital, as all paper records will be destroyed by the Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC) on 9 June 2009. You are responsible for providing any missing documentation to ARPC so that it can be included in your permanent record.

You can access your eRecords by completing the following steps:

Log into the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC):

<http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Click the "Secure Apps" and then select the certificate "DOD CA-19". Once you are logged in, select the "ARMS Member" option from the available applications.

Please do not hesitate to call customer service at ext. 308 with any questions.

MPF Customer Service Hours:

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

UTA Weekend:

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

Eagle eyes

by Master Sgt. Edward Ferguson
183 AIS, Special Security Officer



Every citizen, military or civilian, can have a positive effect in the ongoing war on terrorism. The Eagle Eyes program is an anti-terrorism initiative that enlists the eyes and ears of military members and citizens in the local community against the war on terror.

The foundation of the Eagle Eyes program is the education of our Airmen and local population about typical activities terrorists engage in prior to an attack. Armed with this information, you can recognize elements of potential terrorist activities when you see them.

If you observe any suspicious activity, anytime during the day or night, you can call the Base Defense Operations Center at 757-1369. Everyone is encouraged to stay alert whether at home, work, or even while driving. Always keep an Eagle Eye out for suspicious behaviors such as:

Surveillance - The act of someone recording or monitoring activities using camera equipment, taking notes, drawing maps, or using binoculars or any other vision enhancement devices.

Elicitation - Anyone or any organization attempting to gain information or in person about military operations or its personnel.

Test of Security - Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers.

Acquiring Supplies - Purchasing, or even stealing, weapons, explosives, uniforms, vehicle decals, and Department of Defense identification media.

Suspicious Persons out of Place - People who just don't seem to belong there.

This could be the individual asking questions you know they do not have the need to know or an individual sitting outside the base perimeter fence in their car watching personnel entering and exiting the base.

Dry Runs - Putting people in position and moving them about without actually committing the terrorist act.

Deploying Assets - This would be the final behavior before the terrorist act. People and supplies are put in place to commit the terrorist act. This would also be your last chance to alert authorities before terrorism occurs.

Order of the sword

by Master Sgt. Diana Braun
NCOIC, Personnel Employment

In late October 2008 several hundred members of the Air National Guard traveled to McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tennessee for the ANG Enlisted Call. This consisted of two days of powerful and inspirational speeches from various leaders along with presentations from a wide variety of organizations. The culmination of the event was the Order of the Sword ceremony with the induction of Lieutenant General Craig R. McKinley, the Director of the Air National Guard, into the United States Air Force's Order of the Sword. Attending from Illinois were Command Chief Master Sgt. Kent Sunderland, Chief Master Sgt. Jack Kannedy, Master Sgt. Diana Braun, and Master Sgt. Val Farmer.

The Order of the Sword is the highest honor the enlisted force can bestow upon a commissioned officer. Its roots are traced back to King Gustavus I of Sweden in 1522. The sword, a symbol of truth, justice, and power rightfully used, served as a token for all to see and know that here was a leader among leaders and man among men. General McKinley, now Chief of the National Guard Bureau, received this honor because of his dedication and commitment to the enlisted ranks. The ceremony was very impressive, steeped in pomp and circumstance. The ceremony was presided over by Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. Smith, the Air National Guard Command Chief.



From left, Command Chief Master Sgt. Kent Sunderland, Illinois Air National Guard Headquarters, Master Sgt. Diana Braun, 183rd Military Personnel Flight, Master Sgt. Val Farmer, 183rd Civil Engineering Squadron, and Chief Master Sgt. Jack Kannedy, Illinois Air National Guard Headquarters, attend the Order of the Sword Ceremony at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, on Oct. 31 – Nov. 1, 2008. (Photo submitted by Master Sgt. Diana Braun)

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Colonel Michael A. Meyer

183D PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Master Sgt. Samuel Kassis
Staff Sgt. Steven D. Martin
Staff Sgt. Michael Shamma
Staff Sgt. Shelly Stark
Senior Airman Sarah Pherigo
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