



## *Congratulations!* *2008 Outstanding Airmen of the Year*



*Senior Airman Aaron O. Johnston  
Ground Radio Journeyman  
217th Engineering Squadron*



*Staff Sgt. Eric J. Link  
Aircraft Sentry  
183rd Security Forces Squadron*



*Master Sgt. Brett M. Pier  
Wire Section Technician  
217th Engineering Squadron*



*Senior Master Sgt. Kim M. Piskacek  
First Sergeant  
183rd Fighter Wing*

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Just the Facts

*Unit Training Assembly Schedule  
and pay dates*



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

**JAN 10-11                      JAN 21**

**FEB 7-8                        FEB 18**

**MAR 7-8                        MAR 18**

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

**Attention!**

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



**On Base Emergency**

**CALL 911 FOR ALL YOUR ON-BASE EMERGENCY NEEDS.**

**Important Contacts**

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

Main Gate.....	205
Base Commander.....	219
Base Operations.....	202
217th EIS Commander.....	700
Pass and Registration .....	481
Recruiting.....	285
Public Affairs .....	267
Customer Service .....	308
Military Pay .....	225
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**Toll Free Number  
1-800-392-1797**

183rd Human Resource Advisor

**A new year! A new beginning!**

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

It is a new year and a new beginning for most of us. A time to make some resolutions, try something new or quit something old. This year, the Human Resource Advisors have been charged with heading up a new poster campaign and promoting a "word of the month". Each word promotes a positive and strong characteristic that makes us better people and better Airmen. I look forward to kicking off this campaign.



If you have any suggestions to help promote the word of the month or an example to add to the campaign, please contact me (email or ext. 450) and share your wisdom. Together we can make these more than just words on a poster. We can make them words to live by!



This month's theme is:

**TRUST**

Lunch Menu

**January Lunch Menu - Catered**

**Saturday**

- Baked spaghetti
- Buttered potatoes
- Kernel sweet corn
- Vegetable medley
- Rolls, salad bar
- Cherry pie



**Sunday**

- BBQ chicken
- Rice pilaf
- Buttered peas
- Glazed carrots
- Salad bar
- Peach crisp

**\*Menu is subject to change**

# Another year begins

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

Members of the 183d, I want to take this opportunity to wish you continued happiness and joy throughout this holiday season. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks for all that you accomplished and endured in the last year. Calendar Year 2008 was quite a significant year in the history of the 183d. For many of you it was also probably one of the most significant years in your military and professional career, if not one of the most trying. I cannot speak to the complete history of the unit, but only for the last twenty-six years in the unit. In my opinion, this has been one of, if not the most, challenging years in the history of the unit. But as we close this period in the history of the unit and our lives, we can all look back at 2008 with great pride and an enormous sense of accomplishment.

As I was reviewing the unit goals for the year, I spent a lot of time contemplating our first goal: the safe sunset of our flying mission. It is a simple statement defining an extremely complex task. We asked you to stay focused and you did so magnificently under unbelievable pressures and distractions. Every member of the unit, from the newest airman to the oldest commander, contributed to this outstanding and important



success. We relearned an important lesson that we can only succeed when all pull together. There is no such thing as only one section being subject to a task or inspection. During the year, it would have been easy to lose focus. It is a tribute to all members of the unit that you did not. The pressures and distractions to name a few were the Reduction in Force process, realignment into new military missions and positions, retirement of friends and co-workers, response to Mississippi River flooding, a major medical inspection, deployments and mobilizations, participation in numerous exercises and conferences, relocating offices and functions, and preparing events suitable to commemorate our first 60 years of existence as a unit. With the challenges came the successes. We did successfully and safely sunset our flying mission. We received a high Outstanding in our Health Services Inspection. Our Security Forces Squadron was named the ANG Security Forces Squadron of the year. Our members won

numerous personal awards both at the state and national level. And in September the unit pulled together and celebrated the 60th anniversary of the unit with events that will be long remembered and cherished by both present and former members. It was quite a dramatic year in the history of the 183d. The accomplishments become even more astounding when one realizes that you were balancing your service with commitments to your families, your jobs, and your education.

During this past year many of you may have felt that we were losing our identity, our reason for existence, as a unit. It is true that the aircraft were reassigned to other units and flying was no longer our primary mission, but our ultimate mission never changed. We were still tasked to be in service to this country as members of the world's greatest Air Force. It is clear from all that you have accomplished and all that you have endured in 2008 that you never lost focus on that fact. You are true professionals and outstanding airmen.

I again thank you for all you did in 2008 and wish you even more success in 2009.



# Shopping center awareness

by Master Sgt. Edward Ferguson  
183rd Security Forces

This time of year, as we prepare for the holidays and new year, we spend more time in shopping centers and malls. While most of us will go about our shopping business worrying only about how much we have left to spend, there are few that will fall victim to a crime. It may be surprising that the majority of crimes are actually committed in the parking lots rather than in the stores themselves; unless you are considering the price you have to pay for some of the really hot items you purchase.

Shopping centers come in all sizes from the giant regional malls to the small strip-center with only a few stores. What they have in common is a parking lot. This is where your family is at greatest risk because of the “nature” of a shopping center parking lot. The most common violent crimes committed in the parking lot are stranger-on-stranger purse snatch, strong-arm robbery, and occasionally carjackings and abductions.

If you think about it, we are all strangers in a large parking lot. Violent criminals can blend in with the rest of us and get in close proximity fairly easily. Criminal predators can walk right by us and we will allow it because of the public setting. Next time you go to a large shopping center sit in the parking lot for a few minutes and observe how easy it would be for a criminal predator to approach and attack you or your family. Shoppers walk to and from their cars totally consumed by their thoughts and thinking about what they are going to do next. Watch shoppers as they approach their cars fumbling for their keys. They will turn their backs and attention completely away from those nearby to load their shopping bags into the car, and get children and infants installed inside the vehicle. Most shopping



center and parking lot abductions and carjackings occur precisely at this point.

**Awareness is the best defense!!**

To protect your family in this setting the best defense is awareness.

Awareness will allow you to anticipate the potential danger and plan ahead for the next time you go to a shopping center. Planning includes selecting a safer time to shop (daylight) and arranging not to shop alone, if possible. You can plan where to park (i.e. not next to a large enclosed van) and in high traffic areas and you can plan to scan the area for suspicious males before parking and exiting your vehicle. You can also plan not to park or exit your vehicle if suspicious males are in the area. Families should agree in advance to exit and enter their vehicle quickly and lock the doors. Families should be trained to look around their vehicle before approaching and retreat if anyone suspicious is loitering in the area. They should be trained to return quickly to the shopping center and alert mall security or call the police. A little awareness (educated-paranoia) is healthy and can keep your family safe.

Some key tips to having a safe holiday shopping season are:

- Be aware and alert to predators in the parking lot
- Plan when to go and where to park
- Do not get out of the car if not safe to do so
- Scan the area around your car as you approach it
- Teach your family to enter and exit the care quickly
- Return to the store if anyone looks or acts suspicious
- Call the police and notify mall security of any criminal activity

## THINK OPSEC!

Each organization has critical information. If you don't know what to protect, how do you know you are protecting it? Educate Yourself.



# A new year - the same spirit

by Lt. Col. Robert Barry  
183rd AOC Chaplain

A new year begins, and with it, many new things. The 183rd looks like some stood it on its side and shook it, for it seems that almost everything and everyone on base is in a different location. All sorts of plans and proposals have emerged for housing new operations, personnel, offices and supplies. People are now meeting and working with others they have hardly known before, and many things appear quite uncertain. What many thought was going to be a quiet time when many people would be waiting for school openings to learn their new tasks and missions, has turned out to be somewhat hectic as we try to organize for our new missions.

What the 183rd is now doing is something entirely new in Air Guard history, for we are organizing for a set of missions never before given to an Air Guard unit. The missions we are now prepar-



ing for have been performed by active duty units for a good while, but we now have to tailor and organize these missions for an Air Guard unit that is in many respects quite different from our active duty counterparts.

As we take on these new missions, we need to remember that it is something entirely new for an Air National Guard unit, and because of that, a great deal of cooperation, imagination, openness to change and careful thoughtfulness is going to be needed in the coming year. The more thought we give to our new missions, the more we adapt to the new organization; the more attentive we are to our

training the more quickly we will be executing these new missions.

But despite all these changes there are two things that need to remain the same. The most important one is our "wingman" attitude. One of the primary reasons why we did so well in our previous missions was that unit members genuinely looked out for one another and helped one another out. As the wing faces its new challenges, this will be more important than ever because a good number of our members will face some serious challenges as these missions unfold. We need to make sure those around us are adjusting to their new situations and relationships, and give help where we can. And if someone is facing difficulties, we need to give what help we can.

Another constant should be our confidence to learn our taskings and accomplish them well when they are activated. We have had a long history of superior performance and all of us need to do our best to sustain this in 2009. This coming year will be crucial for we will be setting standards for performance and cooperation and all of us need to do our very best to raise these to the highest levels possible.

✠ ✠ **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



# Winter Safety

by Senior Master Sgt. Steve Stewart  
183rd Safety Office

The leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents. Preparing your vehicles for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost on the road are the keys to safe winter driving. Here are a few tips for driving safely in winter weather:

Before winter arrives, have your car tuned up, check the level of antifreeze, make sure the battery is good, and check your tire tread or put on snow tires.

Keep emergency gear in your car for everyday trips:

- Cell phone
- Flashlight
- Jumper cables
- Sand or kitty litter (for traction)
- Ice scraper, snow brush, and a small shovel
- Blankets
- Warning devices (e.g., flares reflectors)

For long car trips, keep food, water, extra blankets, and required medication on hand.

Avoid driving in snow or ice storms. If you must travel in bad weather, drive slowly. Let someone know what route you're taking and when you plan to arrive so they can alert authorities if you do not get there.

If your car is parked outside, make sure the exhaust pipe and the area around it are free of snow before you start the car. Snow packed

in or around the exhaust pipe can cause high levels of carbon monoxide in the car.

Don't sit in a parked car with the engine running unless a window is open. Do not let your car run while parked in a garage.

If your car stalls or gets stuck in the snow, light two flares and place one at each end of the car, a safe distance away. Make sure snow has not blocked the exhaust pipe. Then stay in your car and open a window slightly to let fresh air in. Wrap yourself in blankets and run your car's heater for a few minutes every hour to keep warm.

Walking in icy, snowy weather can be dangerous here are a few tips to keep you safe.

Dress in layers and wear boots with nonskid soles. Wear a bright scarf or hat or reflective gear so drivers can see you.

Walk on sidewalks if possible. If sidewalks are covered in snow or ice and you have to walk in the street, walk against the flow of traffic and as close to the curb as possible.

Don't wear a scarf or hat that blocks your vision or makes it hard to hear traffic.

Clearing snow and ice from driveways and sidewalks is hard work. To prevent injuries, follow these safety tips.

Dress warm, paying special attention to feet, hands, nose, and ears.

Avoid shoveling snow if you are out of shape. If you have a history of heart trouble, do not shovel snow unless your doctor says it's okay.

Do light warm-up exercises before shoveling and take frequent breaks.

If possible, push snow in front of you. If you have to lift it, pick up small amounts and lift with your legs, not your back. Do not toss snow over your shoulder or to the side.

Don't drink alcohol before or while shoveling snow. Never smoke while shoveling.

Use rock salt or de-icing compounds to remove ice from steps and sidewalks. Sand placed on walkways may also help prevent slipping.

If you use a snow blower follow these safety guidelines:

Read the owner's manual before starting your snow blower. Make sure you understand all the recommended safety steps.

Make sure all people and pets are out of the way before you begin.

Do not put your hand in the snow blower to remove impacted snow.

Turn the machine off and wait a few seconds. Then use a stick or broom handle to remove the material.

Do not leave the snow blower unattended while it is running.

Fill up with fuel before you start, when the engine is cool.

I hope these tips will help you have a safe and wonderful winter.





## 183rd Ole Tyme Holiday Bash

*Date: January 10, 2009  
Time: 7 p.m. to midnight  
Place: Knights of Columbus  
2200 Meadowbrook Road  
Springfield, Ill. 62707*

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

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

*Hope to see you there!*



## News From the Field

I'm deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan and I've been here for almost three months. While here, I've met up with Captain Christopher Treff, Chief Master Sgt. William Bokina, and Master Sgt. Michael Eddy from the 217th and Master Sgt. Shawn Barber from the 183 Security Forces Squadron.

Since the roads are not paved the area is very sandy. There is a water truck that drives around the base putting water on the road to keep the sand and dust down. There are mountains about one to two miles away from the base and on most days you can only see a few of them but on a clear day it's really picturesque.

There are two missions here; Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). OEF is to eliminate the Taliban and the ISAF mission is to train an Afghan National Army/Air Corps and to develop an Afghan government capable of serving the people of Afghanistan. Since this is a NATO base there are members from various countries here to help with the two missions.

I'm the only Air Force First Sgt. here in the group. We have a flying mission and a medical mission which explains our base motto: "Taking Lives, Saving Lives."

Other than Red Cross messages (I've had seven so far) and billeting, my job is not different here than stateside. I've organized a Commander's Call every month so far. We're currently working on a change of command for the group commander and I've already sat in on an LOR, and we completed an Article 15 the first week of December. I'm also the POC for the command staff after a rocket attack and I've had to do that about 20 times so far. When we have visitors here we brief them on rocket attack procedures and so far we've had some pretty high ranking members in the bunkers.

Morale right now is very high due to people starting to rotate out of here and we

also have a USO tour coming through this month with Kid Rock and Kellie Pickler so everyone is looking forward to that too.

### Senior Master Sgt. Kim Piskacek



*217th Engineering Squadron members (from left to right) Chief Master Sgt. William Bokina, Capt. Christopher Treff, and Master Sgt. Michael Eddy pose with Senior Master Sgt. Kim Piskacek, Fighter Wing at Camp Palomino, Kandahar, Afghanistan. (Photo submitted by Senior Master Sgt. Kim Piskacek).*

# A flood of awards

by Staff Sgt. Michael Shamma  
183rd Public Affairs Specialist

An awards ceremony was held in the P-48 auditorium here at the 183rd Fighter Wing on Saturday, December 6. The ceremony was to recognize a number of airmen that distinguished themselves during flood duty this past June in the Peoria, Illinois area. All were given the Illinois Military Medal of Merit.

“Flood duty is not on anyone’s AFSC as a required function,” said Col. Michael Meyer, 183rd Fighter Wing Commander. “Everyone performed exceptionally well and demonstrated that we can respond quickly and effectively during a time of need.”

“Everyone on flood duty did a great job,” said Col. Stephen Baggerly, Joint Task Force Commander during the flood campaign. “These individuals are being recognized because they went above and beyond doing additional tasks that were asked of them.”



From left, Col. Stephen F. Baggerly, Air Support Squadron Commander, Senior Master Sgt. David D. Ferricks, Communications Flight, and Col. Michael A. Meyer, Wing Commander pose for a photo at a ceremony Dec. 6 where Ferricks was presented with the Illinois Military Medal of Merit for his service during flood duty in June.

Michael A. Meyer, Wing Commander pose for a photo at a ceremony Dec. 6 where Ferricks was presented with the Illinois Military Medal of Merit for his service during flood duty in June.

From left, Col. Stephen F. Baggerly, Air Support Squadron Commander, Master Sgt. James W. Iaun, Fighter Wing, and Col. Michael A. Meyer, Wing Commander, pose for a photo at a ceremony Dec. 6 where Iaun was presented with the Illinois Military Medal of Merit for his service during flood duty in June.



From left, Col. Stephen F. Baggerly, Air Support Squadron Commander, Master Sgt. James W. Iaun, Fighter Wing, and Col. Michael A. Meyer, Wing Commander, pose for a photo at a ceremony Dec. 6 where Iaun was presented with the Illinois Military Medal of Merit for his service during flood duty in June.



From left, Col. Stephen F. Baggerly, Air Support Squadron Commander, 2nd Lt. Matthew Clements, Air Support Squadron, and Col. Michael A. Meyer, Wing Commander, pose for a photo at a ceremony Dec. 6 where Clements was presented with the Illinois Military Medal of Merit for his service during flood duty in June.

From left, Col. Stephen F. Baggerly, Air Support Squadron Commander, Capt. Sean C. Heup, Services Flight, and Col. Michael A. Meyer, Wing Commander, pose for a photo at a ceremony Dec. 6 where Heup was presented with the Illinois Military Medal of Merit for her service during flood duty in June.



From left, Col. Stephen F. Baggerly, Air Support Squadron Commander, Capt. Sean C. Heup, Services Flight, and Col. Michael A. Meyer, Wing Commander, pose for a photo at a ceremony Dec. 6 where Heup was presented with the Illinois Military Medal of Merit for her service during flood duty in June.

The recipients were: Master Sgt. Michael Eddy, Tech. Sgt. Louann Bettis, Master Sgt. Paul Butts, 2nd Lt. Matthew Clements, Senior Airmen Brianna Dennis, Staff Sgt. Jonathon Ferguson, Senior Master Sgt. Michael Heren, Capt. Sean Heup, Master Sgt. Lisa Hillman, 1st Lt. Thomas Holewinski, Master Sgt. James Iaun, Master Sgt. Timothy Ingram, Master Sgt. Mark Lee, Tech. Sgt. Leo Leonhard, Tech. Sgt. Troy Marion, Master Sgt. Aarron Marshall, Lt. Col. Kevin Mulcahy, Lt. Col. Richard Neely, Master Sgt. Douglas Newman, Tech Sgt. Kevin Roodhouse, Senior Master Steven Stewart, Capt. Shawn Strahle, Master Sgt. David Winkelman, Tech. Sgt. Deni Withrow, Major Chris Casson, Lt. Col. James Bentley, Master Sgt. Phillip Clements, Tech. Sgt. Seth Delahunt, Senior Master Sgt. David Ferricks, Tech. Sgt. Joseph Loeser, Staff Sgt. Stephen Summers, and Chief Master Sgt. Victor Wurtzler.

The people of Illinois thank you for being there during their time of need. We answered the call of nature and of the governor. The 183rd proved yet again that we are ready, reliable and relevant.

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## Welcome Aboard

Airman Ryan M. Armstrong	183rd Security Forces	May 19, 2008
Senior Airman Jacob A. Blome	183rd Security Forces	May 19, 2008
Airman Aaron M. Eldridge	183rd Civil Engineering Squadron	May 19, 2008
Airman Robert J. Halbert	183rd Security Forces Squadron	Aug. 7, 2008
Airman 1st Class Andrew J. Reif	183rd Security Forces Squadron	Aug. 7, 2008
Senior Airman Antony M. Vasquez	183rd Civil Engineering Squadron	Aug. 7, 2008
Airman 1st Class Jared M. Hayward	183rd Student Flight	Aug. 15, 2008
Airman 1st Class Alexander J. Barrington	183rd Security Forces Squadron	Aug. 22, 2008
Staff Sgt. Tammy L. Neely	183rd Student Flight	Aug 22, 2008
Capt. Robert M. Mitchell	183rd Civil Engineering Squadron	Sept. 2, 2008
Airman 1st Class Amanda N. Harris	183rd Communications Flight	Sept. 4, 2008
Airman 1st Class Cory M. Huston	183rd Security Forces Squadron	Sept. 4, 2008
Airman 1st Class Genesis F. Moore	183rd Communications Flight	Sept. 4, 2008
Maj. Kevin E. Strine	183rd Fighter Wing	Sept. 6, 2008
Airman 1st Class Daniel J. Dunbar	183rd Student Flight	Sept. 8, 2008
Airman 1st Class Robert L. Karrick	183rd Security Forces Squadron	Sept. 11, 2008
Airman 1st Class Jordan C. Lomelino	183rd Services Flight	Sept. 11, 2008
Airman 1st Class Ethan W. Phibbs	183rd Security Forces Squadron	Sept. 11, 2008
Airman 1st Class Tyler J. Phibbs	183rd Student Flight	Sept. 11, 2008
Airman 1st Class Jeremy C. Spires	183rd Maintenance Squadron	Sept. 11, 2008
Airman Devin J. Watkins	183rd Maintenance Squadron	Sept. 11, 2008
Airman 1st Class Cody R. Weder	183rd Security Forces Squadron	Sept. 11, 2008
Airman 1st Class David M. Wiant	183rd Communications Flight	Sept. 11, 2008
Maj. Jonathan C. Bachtold	183rd Student Flight	Sept. 18, 2008
Airman 1st Class Ashley H. Adams	183rd Student Flight	Sept. 25, 2008
Airman 1st Class Heather A. Dyer	183rd Maintenance Squadron	Sept. 25, 2008
Staff Sgt. Robert A. Miller	217th Engineering Squadron	Sept. 25, 2008
Airman Jared E. Roberts	183rd Student Flight	Sept. 25, 2008
Airman 1st Class Luke T. Seymour	183rd Maintenance Squadron	Sept. 25, 2008
Airman 1st Class Jacob K. Smith	183rd Student Flight	Sept. 25, 2008
Airman Samuel T. White	183rd Student Flight	Sept. 25, 2008
Senior Airman Eric L. Roth	183rd Maintenance Squadron	Oct. 9, 2008
Airman 1st Class Craig J. Williams	183rd Services Flight	Oct. 23, 2008
Airman 1st Class Tessie M. Lessman	183rd Student Flight	Oct. 30, 2008
Airman 1st Class Joshua D. Garrison	183rd Security Forces Squadron	Nov. 25, 2008

## Retirees

### New Retirees

Master Sgt. Kelly L. Leka  
183rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Master Sgt. Craig L. Macklin  
183rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

### Breakfast Gathering

Retirees gather on the first Tuesday of each month to share breakfast and talk about the good ol' days. Join them at King Pin Lanes, on the corner of Sangamon Ave. and Dirksen Parkway, Tuesday, January 6. They say they meet at 8 a.m. but if you're not there by 7:30, the early birds have taken the good seats!



## Guard members to be honored through Salute Campaign

by Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
National Guard Bureau

11/25/2008 - LANSDOWNE, Va. (AFNS) -- Air National Guard officials here announced Nov. 20 they will soon honor what could be more than 70,000 citizen-Airmen who have deployed in contingencies since Sept. 11, 2001, with a Hometown Heroes Salute Campaign.

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, command chief of the Air Guard, made the announcement to the Guard's adjutants general, Air Guard commanders and command chief master sergeants at a senior leadership conference.

"We have not properly recognized our Airmen," Chief Smith said. He asked Guard leaders for their support toward the program and explained that local units have done a great job of recognizing groups, but that some individual deployments have been shorted the proper recognition.

The Air National Guard will soon launch the National Guard Bureau-funded campaign nationwide in cooperation with the states. It will recognize those eligible Airmen who deployed for more than 30 consecutive days for operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Hurricane Katrina and "all other contingency operations."

In 2009, Chief Smith said the campaign will first recognize every eligible Airman since Sept. 11, 2001. They should receive a cherry wood encased letter of appreciation from the Air Guard director and command chief, enclosed with a commemorative

coin.

"The first year we want to hit the masses. We want to go back and fix what was not there," Chief Smith said.

A complete, three-tiered recognition system will start in 2010 that, in addition to the above, will award a framed American flag with inset coins for succeeding deployments of 180 to 365 consecutive days, and an eagle statuette for deployments more than 366 consecutive days.

Although Airmen can earn all three awards, they cannot receive an award more than once.

"It's also thanks families, communities and employers," said Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, Ohio's command chief, who helped Chief Smith explain the program to conferees.

He said spouses will also receive a Hometown Heroes Salute-engraved pen and pencil set, and their children will receive a set of personalized dog tags.

Airmen can also decide on a "center of influence" in their community and present that person or organization with a special medallion of appreciation.

Chief Muncy pointed out that the coin designs were developed by enlisted Airmen in the field.

"The bottom line is that it's the right thing to do for our Airmen," Chief Muncy said.

Current plans are to launch the program in January with policy letters sent to the Air Guard's command chiefs. Hometown Heroes Salute program manager, Linda Mauro Brooks, said a Web-based ordering



Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy holds up a Hometown Heroes Salute Award that will be given in 2009 to eligible National Guard Airmen who deployed on orders for more than 30 consecutive days in a contingency operation. Chief Muncy, the command chief of the Ohio Air National Guard, and Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, command chief of the Air Guard, announced the Hometown Heroes Salute program Nov. 20 at the Air Guard Senior Leadership conference outside Washington. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith)

system and an information site will be online soon.

Chief Smith, who will soon retire after serving 37 years in the Air Guard, with the last four years as command chief, said he could not think of a better program to help introduce during his final days in Washington, D.C.

"This job is about taking care of Airmen, and that's what makes a command chief successful," he said. "This (program) is just a small token of appreciation to thank our Airmen, their families and communities."

## National Blood Donor Month - you could save a life

by Tech. Sgt. Amy Murphy  
183rd Medical Group

So, you are asking yourself, “Why should I donate my blood to some stranger?” Well, by donating blood you are saving the lives of those around you. Donating blood is safe and easy to accomplish. It is one of the most selfless acts you can perform as a human being on this earth. It takes one hour to do, from the time you start the donation process to the time you are done. Your blood can be on the shelf for 35 days as well. The average body contains 10-12 pints of blood, so donating one pint of blood will not deplete your body’s blood supply. Here are some of the blood’s main functions: Transports nutrients, makes clotting factors,

and the red blood cells deliver/ or release oxygen.

When donating blood, you must be 16 years of age, (depending on the facility’s requirements) you must be in good health, and you must weigh at least 110 pounds. When you arrive at the donor center, you will be asked a series of health questions. Answer them honestly and to the best of your ability. They will next take your vital signs. This is to determine if you are well enough to donate. Then the last test they perform is an iron test. If your iron is too low, you will not be able to donate. Now is the part you get to lie down. The technician will cleanse your arm with a medicated swab and insert a needle into your vein. They will draw tubes of blood to test them and make sure you aren’t infected with certain diseases or illnesses. You will lie on the cot until the bag is full and they remove your needle. At the

end you will eat some good cookies and drink some orange juice. This is to replenish your body after the donation.

You may donate every 56 days. This allows plenty of time for your red cells to be built back up in your body. Be sure to eat something before you donate. The reason for this is so your blood sugars are stable and you are well hydrated. If you are well hydrated, they will have less hard of a time getting the needle in your vein. You should not have any side effects from donating blood. If you feel any abnormal effects, let your doctor know immediately. You should not lift any heavy objects or do any strenuous activity for the first 24 hours. For any further questions, log on to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) for information.



## Family Readiness News



Master Sgt. Steve Parker (left) donates the proceeds from his 2008 Family Support Group Bass Tournament to Joe Ward (right), Family Readiness Group Manager. This annual event has been very successful for Master Sgt. Parker, and the generosity over the years has been greatly appreciated by the Family Support Group.

If you have a member of your family that is a past or current member of the 183rd, or have information that a current or past member of the 183rd has passed away recently, please let me know. We want to ensure that no one is forgotten for the annual, “Wreath Laying Ceremony”, commemorating all past and current members that have lost their lives each year. The Family Support



Group is still sending sympathy cards to all deceased members’ families, as well, but once again, we need the information. You can contact me at: Joe Ward, Family Readiness Manager 757-1569 or at [joe.ward.1@ilspri.ang.af.mil](mailto:joe.ward.1@ilspri.ang.af.mil)

## Outstanding Airmen

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

We are proud of you and your accomplishments.  
**Congratulations!**



*Master Sgt. Thomas M. Barbee  
Avionics System Craftsman  
183rd Aircraft Maintenance  
Squadron*



*Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Bishop  
Engineering Assistant  
217th Engineering Squadron*



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



*Senior Airman Rachel J.  
Canny  
Maintenance Mangement  
183rd Maintenance Operations*



*Tech. Sgt. Loni K. Crowder  
Avionics System Technican  
183rd Aircraft Maintenance  
Squadron*



*Senior Airman Michael J. Davis  
Engineering Draftsman  
183rd Civil Engineering  
Squadron*



*Senior Airman Jason E. Draper  
Aircraft Sentry  
183rd Security Forces  
Squadron*



*Master Sgt. Edward M.  
Ferguson  
Anti-Terrorism NCO  
183rd Security Forces Squadron*



*Master Sgt. Roger L. Gunn  
NCOIC, Vehicle Management  
183rd Logistics Squadron*



*Master Sgt. Brexton J. Hall  
Aircraft Metals Technology  
183rd Maintenance Squadron*

## Outstanding Airmen



*Staff Sgt. Karen I. Harrold  
Voice Network Systems  
183rd Communications Flight*



*Master Sgt. Joseph D. Hicks  
NCOIC, Personnel Systems  
183rd Mission Support Flight*



*Airman 1st Class Christina A.  
Morrison  
Supply Apprentice  
183rd Logistics Squadron*



*Tech. Sgt. Thomas E. Osborne  
NCOIC, Fuels Operations  
183rd Logistics Squadron*



*Tech. Sgt. Laura J. M. Radliff  
Readiness Craftsman  
183rd Civil Engineering  
Squadron*



*Senior Master Sgt. Erin L.  
Roesch  
Comm. Plans & Programs  
183rd Communications Flight*



*Staff Sgt. Christopher J.  
Schaefer  
Aircraft Structural  
183rd Maintenance Squadron*



*Tech. Sgt. Ryan C. Scott  
Ground Radio  
183rd Communications Flight*



*Staff Sgt. Kayla M. Smith  
Public Health Specialist  
183rd Medical Group*



*Staff Sgt. Stephen G. Younker  
Fuels Systems Mechanic  
183rd Maintenance Squadron*

# Merry Christmas kids!

by Staff Sgt. Michael Shamma  
183rd Public Affairs Specialist

The 183rd held its annual Children's Christmas Party at the P-48 Aerospace Dining Facility on December 7, 2008. Events included a large model toy train set, cookies and treats, and of course Santa.

"I want a big red fire truck with a big ladder and a toy train set," said Drew Marion, son of Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Donaldson, 183rd Judge Advocate General's Office and Tech. Sgt. Troy Marion, 183rd Security Forces Squadron. "I also want my mom to get a nice gift but I won't say what it is, he whispered. It's a secret for Santa only!"

The event had a huge toy train set that captured all the children's attention until 'jolly ole Saint Nick' arrived. And if the train set didn't occupy the kids, the treats certainly did.

"I think this is great that the 183rd does something specifically for kids," said Donaldson. "It's important to remember that we all have families and lives outside of the Guard and its great how we can share both together at the same time on days like today. It's nice for the unit to do something that is totally all about the kids."

Thanks to everyone that came out and participated in the event especially to Santa that made the journey all the way from the North Pole. Hopefully next year we can all ask Santa to not bring the cold weather down with him when he visits! Merry Christmas to all!



## Children's Holiday Party



I would like to personally thank all who participated in the 2008 Children's Christmas Party. We had people who helped plan, wrap presents, work the party, and assist with the cleanup. We couldn't have had near the success without each and every one of you. I would also like to thank Chief Master Sgt. Wendi Pier and Master Sgt. Brett Pier for bringing their Geo Trax. I know it was a lot of work, but the children (and I think some of the parents, too) really enjoyed it.

Joe Ward  
Family Readiness Group Manager



**COMMANDER**

Colonel Michael A. Meyer

**183D PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr  
Master Sgt. Samuel Kassis  
Staff Sgt. Steven D. Martin  
Staff Sgt. Michael Shamma  
Staff Sgt. Shelly Stark  
Senior Airman Sarah Pherigo  
Senior Airman Chasity Johnson  
Airman 1st Class Christine Teer

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