



183rd awards contract to obtain second engine test cell

SPRINGFIELD – The 183rd Fighter Wing (FW) awarded a contract to Vital Link Inc. of San Felipe, Texas, June 18, for approximately \$2 million. The large turbo fan engine enclosed noise suppressor system, also known as a hush house, is designed to acoustically ease noise levels of jet engines during testing.

Key features include acoustically treated hangar doors and walls, an exhaust deflector ramp and thrust

restraint system. The hush house located at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., will be disassembled, and then shipped to the 183rd where it will be refurbished and reassembled.

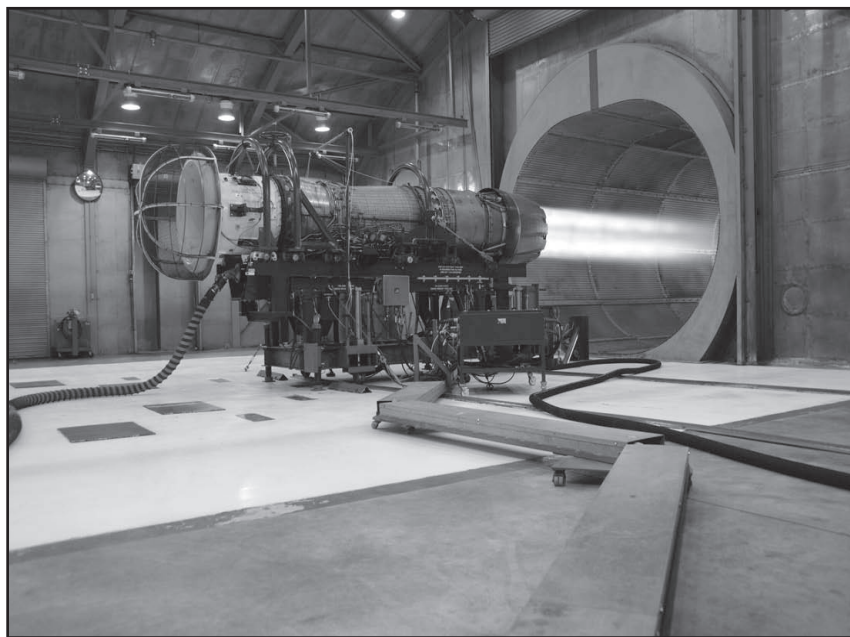
The unit is in the process of activating a centralized intermediate repair facility (CIRF) for the General Electric F-110 jet engine to support five Air National Guard F-16 Fighting Falcon flying units throughout the country including the 114th FW, Sioux Falls, S. D.; 115th FW, Madison, Wis.; 122nd FW, Fort Wayne, Ind.; 132nd FW, Des Moines, Iowa and 149th FW, San Antonio, Texas.

Additionally, the unit has expanded its services to include support for other F-16 Fighting Falcon flying units around the country and overseas.

The 183rd FW has one hush house that is available for testing jet engines in an aircraft or independent of the aircraft on a test stand. The new hush house facility will be an engine-only facility. The additional noise suppression facility is vital to the new CIRF mission. Every engine that receives maintenance is required to complete a test run prior to flight.

Only one engine can be tested at a time and depending upon the type of maintenance performed, it may require anywhere from 15 minutes to three days to complete all required compliance checks.

This project was appropriated from Base Realignment and Closure funds and is expected to be completed spring 2011.



Engine maintenance being performed on a jet engine in current hush house. Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr

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Just the Facts

*Unit Training Assembly Schedule
and pay dates*




<u>Duty Performed</u>	<u>Pays out (approx.)</u>
OCT 2-3	OCT 13
NOV 6-7	NOV 17
DEC 4-5	DEC 15

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

Attention!

The deadline for the **NOVEMBER** issue of the **Falcon's View** is **SATURDAY, October 2, at 1200 hrs.**



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

Family Day 2010

*Sunday, Oct. 3, Riverside Park
Food and Festivities*

There will be games for the kids, pony rides, hayrides, pumpkin painting, cookie decorating and more.

There are softball diamonds and equipment available Washers and Bag Toss Games

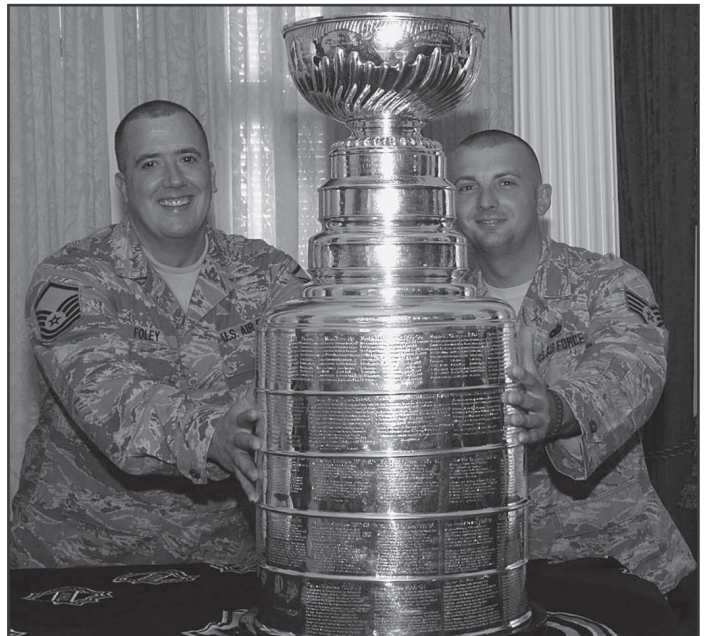
Bring Lawn Chairs

Squadrons will be released at different times
TO BE ANNOUNCED
(To try to keep the food lines down)

Contact Mr. Joe Ward
joe.ward.1@ang.af.mil
(217) 757-1569



Stanley Cup Visits Springfield



Master Sgt. Joseph Foley and Staff Sgt. Nick Zellers got the unique opportunity to visit the Governor's Mansion and see the traveling Stanley Cup Aug. 20, before the Cup went on display at the Illinois State Fair. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Cassidy Snyder)

A parallax perspective

by 1st Lt. Jon Mark Bormann
183rd FW Chaplain

As a Christian minister, I stridently attempt to view things from the perspective of scripture and Church tradition. Those of the same tradition know that because of our baptism and through the Holy Spirit, we have been called to live lives of faithfulness to Christ's calling.

Except for a handful, most people were born into their particular faith tradition. For the majority there is not a lot of deep digging into that tradition. Therefore, it is not surprising that religion is an oft-manipulated tool to create



perilous situations.

Most clergy consider it a privilege to be allowed to contemplate the things of God on a daily basis. But, at the same time, they long to not know so much. For the more one studies, the more it reveals all that is unknown regarding the things of God.

Having lingered with the divine, St. Paul's doxology always strikes me as correct, "O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God, how incomprehensible are God's ways."

The wise ones of all faiths know how impenetrable the divine nature is. Whatever our starting point, our outlook is a parallax one, meaning the origination of our viewpoint limits and shapes what we envision and behold.

In an angst-filled world it is not surprising that religion is again being used to wedge ordinary people apart. The challenge for people of faith is twofold: 1) to be faithful to the divine call in their individual lives and 2) to never allow our frame of reference to limit the love of God. In so doing, the love and grace of God is made known through us.

CHAPLAINS' INFORMATION

Roman Catholic Chaplains:

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

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

Protestant Chaplain:

1st Lt. John Bormann
16595 N. Meadow Lane
Petersburg, IL 62675
phone: 217-361-8833
e-mail: jonbormann@gmail.com

Religious Services

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



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

Illinois National Guard Programs Aim to Prevent Suicide, Build Relationships

by 1st Lt. Dutch Grove, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office

SPRINGFIELD, IL (09/07/2010) Illinois National Guard leaders have identified open discussions and stronger relationships between Soldiers and Airmen among the keys to suicide prevention programs administered by the Illinois National Guard.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, three Illinois National Guard Soldiers have committed suicide and the Department of Defense (DoD) has experienced record numbers of suicides across all services since 2002. As a result, DoD programs to identify causes for suicide and implement preventative strategies have received attention and funding.

One challenge has been getting Soldiers and Airmen to understand that seeking help when dealing with difficult emotional situations will not negatively affect their careers.

Chief Warrant Officer (2) Mariah Peterson, Illinois National Guard Suicide Prevention Program Manager, said she has seen a decrease in the negative stigma surrounding mental health issues.

"Soldiers are learning more and more that the repercussions from seeking help are no longer going to affect their military career," said Peterson. "In order to be an effective Soldier, one has to be both physically and mentally strong."

During an address to the 132nd General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States Aug. 21 in Austin, Texas,

Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard, emphasized more vigilant leadership and better post deployment follow up as among the solutions for stemming suicides.

"The issue of Soldier suicides isn't a deployment problem, it has to do with significant emotional events in their lives, but beyond that, it has to do with their ability to cope," he said.

The lesson is that leaders must be more assertive and involved to help troubled Soldiers before issues mushroom, said Carpenter.

Getting the families of Illinois National Guard members involved, helping them understand help is available and how to get that help are all points of emphasis in Illinois. This part of the mission is spearheaded by the Family Readiness Groups and the Chaplain Corps.

"We spend very little time in our offices," said Col. Daniel Krumrei, Joint Forces Headquarters chaplain, and the command staff chaplain. "We're always out and around counseling Soldiers, assisting commanders and developing relationships. As much as humanly possible our chaplains are available. We're at Soldiers' homes, at hospitals, funeral homes and even jails; wherever we are needed to help the Soldiers manage emotionally stressful events in their lives."

The Strong Bonds Retreats are weekend get-aways for Illinois servicemembers and their spouses designed to help Soldiers reconnect with their families and enhance their marriages, said Chaplain (1st Lt.) Vincent Lambert administers the Army's Strong Bonds program.

"Reconnecting with family after

a deployment can be an extremely stressful situation for a Soldier and a chaplain has a special vantage point because we are specifically trained in counseling and many couples want to follow up with us," said Lambert. "The confidentiality a chaplain guarantees is key."

The Air National Guard's suicide prevention program, called the Wingman Project, consists of an interactive Web site available to anyone with Internet access and says that for every one Airman killed in combat, seven Airmen take their own lives.

Wingmanproject.org was developed to empower Air Guard members, their families and friends to prevent suicides and train them to recognize the signs of suicide. The site includes training on how to ask the right questions, links and contact information for additional help like the suicide hotline.

The fact that wingmanproject.org is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is especially important for traditional National Guard members.

"The National Guard is, at times, at a disadvantage compared to the Army and Air Force," said Peterson. "We see our Soldiers and Airmen two days out of the month. That is why it is imperative to know your Soldiers and your Airmen. Suicide prevention should not be something that is on the front page one day and forgotten the next; it is knowing your buddy, knowing what resources are available for help, paying attention to what is going on in your Soldiers' or Airmen's lives and not being afraid to talk about it."

September is National Suicide Prevention Month.



Master Sgts. Robert Stults and Jennifer Weitekamp present the wreath to honor past and current members that have passed during the last year. Honor guard members Master Sgts. Stacy Ferguson and Debra Schmitz stand guard. (Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr)

On Sept. 12 unit members of the 183rd Fighter Wing gathered in the auditorium to pay their respects to: Stanley Buttell, Richard Cronister, Byron E. Hathorn, Neil Kroenlein, Howard Schlechte, Richard L. Smith, Fred E. VanBebber, John P. Stone, Thomas Vicari and Joseph S. Woods during the annual wreath laying ceremony.

Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Korte emceed the ceremony and Master Sgt. Matt Allen sang the national anthem. Tech. Sgt. Alena Franklin read the poem, "Thank You to a Soldier."

Col. Mike Meyer, Wing Commander, spoke to the audience about remembering members who answered the call to serve their country and their state. He spoke about those members staying with us in our hearts and minds long after they performed their last drill. That their common bond of service and sacrifice kept our unit members united in purpose even with diverse differences and backgrounds and during trying conditions and times. He completed his speech by honoring and remembering our 183rd patriots and added that in their memory we should strive to double our efforts to properly and honorably serve and defend our country, our state and our community.

The wreath was presented by First Sgt. Of the Year, Master Sgt. Robert Stults and NCOAGA president, Master Sgt. Jennifer Weitekamp. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Barry gave the invocation and benediction.

The NCOAGA holds the ceremony every year to honor those retirees or unit members who have passed away over the course of the year. It also provides an opportunity for family and friends to pay their respects.

In the Spotlight

Who: Staff Sgt. Eric Horn

What: Structural Journeyman

When: Enlisted March 30, 2006

Why: School benefits, his brother Joe is in the 217th, and Tech. Sgt. Dave Karracker in structural shop of CE inspired him to be a carpenter.

Civilian Employment: Works in accounting office at Kroger in Lincoln. Also an intern at Caterpillar in Morton, full-time accounting student at UIS.

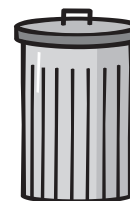
Civilian/Military Correlation: Core values, discipline, attention to detail.

Recent/Favorite Deployment: Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, from June 09 to Dec. 09. He helped construct a yoga hut for the gym, remodeled commander's office and built a flight line hospital.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Shelly Stark)

Your trash could be
your adversary's treasure.
Remember OPSEC!



Civilian, military leaders: Guard is America's solution in changing times

by Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

8/25/2010 - AUSTIN, Texas -- Civilian and military leaders said here on Saturday that the National Guard is America's solution in a time of constrained budgets, increased missions and the necessity of developing greater partnership capacity.

"The National Guard has repeatedly proven itself to be ready and a very accessible force," Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, told about 5,400 people attending the 132nd general conference of the National Guard Association of the United States here this week.

"We validated the Total Force concept by showing that the men and women in our formations are ready to answer the call to be mobilized, to deploy overseas, to

return home and then to become prepared to do it all over again," he said.

"We ... are facing a potentially momentous year," Dennis McCarthy, the assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs said. "There are going to be some decisions made this year that will have significant impact on the way the young men and women, who are wearing the uniform right now and those who will follow them are going to serve over the next couple of decades."

Leaders sketched a picture of an environment in which budgets will be tight, the operational tempo will remain high and the Defense Department is looking for ways to boost partnership capacity worldwide.

"We've got challenging times ahead," McKinley said.

All agreed on three key points: The National Guard has reached a peak of excellence since a transformation that began, arguably, with Desert Storm/Desert Shield and certainly since the 9/11 attacks.

Although senior level discussions and a dozen studies are underway about the future of the



Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, addresses the 132nd general conference of the National Guard Association of the United States in Austin, Texas, on Aug. 21, 2010. "Maybe for the first time in our 364 years, we're more operational than we've ever been for a sustained period," he said.

Guard and Reserve, no one wants to see it return to the Cold War-era strategic reserve.

And the National Guard is a key part of America's solution to changing times. "We are one of the most efficient, effective organizations in our nation today," McKinley said.

Retiree News

Happy Retirement!

Senior Master Sgt. David D. Ferricks	183rd Communications Flight	Aug. 29
Master Sgt. Jeffery D. Abell	183rd Civil Engineering Squadron	Aug. 29
Master Sgt. Martin A. Gravit	Detachment 1	Sept. 1
Master Sgt. Terrance V. Schou	183rd Civil Engineering Squadron	Aug. 26

Retiree Breakfast: Come join the retirees for breakfast. Some are new, some are old, and some are even older than that, but it's always an enjoyable way to start the day. The monthly retiree's breakfast will be on Tuesday, October 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!

Dark Knights help children with school supplies

by Susan Griggs

Keesler Air Force Base News editor



Airman Lessman

Equipping a child with classroom supplies for a new school year can be an expensive proposition. So what happens if a parent is already having financial difficulties—what do they do? Airman 1st Class Tessie Lessman, a radio frequency transmission student in the 338th Training Squadron, recognized the problem and spear-

headed a project drive that collected \$3,000 worth of school supplies for needy children in the Biloxi School System.

Airman Lessman, an Illinois Air National Guard member, has a sixth grader and a preschooler of her own back home. She was spurred to action when her military training leader, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Wilson, encouraged students to make a difference in the local community.

“I always preach to our nonprior service Airmen about giving back to the community and leaving a footprint while they’re here,” Sergeant Wilson remarked.

“I come from a small town of about 700 people,” said Airman Lessman, who arrived at Keesler March 22 and graduates Sept. 29.

“Back home, I work with a group of parents that go out and buy coats, hats and gloves when they’re on sale for children who need them.

“Parts of Biloxi are still recovering from Hurricane Katrina, and now the gulf oil spill, not to mention the challenges of the current economy,” she explained.

“I know a lot of parents must be struggling to pro-

vide the essentials for their children.”

Airman Lessman rallied the support of her fellow classmates and the T-shift instructors in Jones Hall to bring in school supplies. The group even raised \$715 when students were given the opportunity to contribute \$3 for the cause and be released after formation one Sunday, instead of participating in the regular “GI party” cleaning effort.

“One student gave \$40 because he didn’t have a car to go shopping,” Airman Lessman reported. “He said he came from a family that would have appreciated what we were trying to do.”

The students took the money to a nearby store to buy school supplies and the store manager contributed \$100 when she learned about the project.

“The cashier started crying when we told her what we were doing,” Airman Lessman said. “She had three children of her own and she knew how much it would mean to parents who are having financial struggles.”

Airman Lessman and her teammates delivered the supplies to Dr. David Spinks, director of student services for the Biloxi School System. The system’s administrative staff sent the supplies to schools where they were needed.

“This was a huge team effort,” Airman Lessman emphasized. “We just wanted to help the kids — they can’t help their situations.”

“I am amazed when student Airmen are able to find the time to step up, volunteer and give back to the community,” said Lt. Col. Daniel Gottrich, 338th TRS commander. “I’m extremely proud of what Airman Lessman and her cohorts have accomplished in such a short time, along with their night shift instructors who participated.

“I first met Airman Lessman when she volunteered to watch over a group of more than a dozen children at the dorms while their moms attended one of our quarterly student spouse orientations,” he recalled. “Rather than sitting in the corner and throwing crackers at the kids, she engaged each and every one of them with crafts and toys.”

“Airman Lessman epitomizes ‘service before self,’ and this project will be her legacy at Keesler,” the colonel added. “I’m hoping it’s a project we can continue each and every semester.”

Reprinted from the Keesler News, Sept. 2, 2010, Vol. 71, No. 34.

Announcements

Promotions

Colonel
Joseph P. Maslar

Chief Master Sergeant
Erin L. Roesch

Senior Master Sergeant
Diana L. Braun

Master Sergeant
Scott A. Harms
Robert P. McGrath
Scott H. Reynolds

Technical Sergeant
Marius B. Cailean

Staff Sergeant
Mark W. Landers
Matthew D. Yore

Senior Airman
Aaron M. Eldridge
John D. Reilly



OCTOBER LUNCH MENU

Served 1100-1300
Catered (Roly Poly)

SATURDAY

Smokehouse turkey wrap
Santa Fe chicken wrap
Chips
Pasta salad
Cookies



SUNDAY

FAMILY DAY PICNIC
Turkey and ham wraps
Chips
Potato salad
Cookies

*Menu is subject to change

Congratulations



Staff Sgt. Shelly Stark,
husband Josh
and step-
daughter Han-
na, welcomed

Joseph Edward, June 22, at
4:55 p.m. Joseph weighed
10 lbs., 4 oz. Staff Sgt. Stark
is a videographer with the
183rd Fighter Wing. Con-
gratulations to the Stark
Family!

Legal Assistance Website

Next time you need a will, power of attorney, or just have a legal question, visit <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>. The Air Force JAG Corps recently unveiled the new Air Force Legal Assistance Website worldwide. The website is designed for active duty, reserve, and guard members. Please call the Base Legal Office, ext. 491, during UTA weekends to set up an appointment. We value your feedback concerning the website and the services we provide as we continue to look for ways to better serve you. See you soon – and don't forget your ticket number! ~ Base Legal Office

Welcome Aboard

Maj. Eric H. Dolan
Maj. John M. Dwyer
Capt. Renard A. Jackson
Master Sgt. Anthony R. Quinones
Tech. Sgt. Toney L. Ford
Senior Airman Kenneth R. Young III
Senior Airman Leonard Avery III
Airman 1st Class Zachary T. Duba
Airman 1st Class Erin M. Hanney
Airman 1st Class Gail C. Renner
Airman 1st Class Brian W. Robison
Airman 1st Class Matthew Weitekamp

August Enlistees



Detachment 1
Headquarters
Detachment 1
Mission Support Group
Detachment 1
Security Forces Squadron
Civil Engineering
Maintenance Squadron
Force Support Squadron
217th Engineering Squadron
Civil Engineering
217th Engineering Squadron

James W. Schroeder Named Assistant Adjutant General, Illinois Air National Guard

Air Force Brigadier General Will Complete the Term of Retiring Brig. Gen. John P. Hughes

SPRINGFIELD, IL (08/31/2010)-- Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn appointed Illinois Air National Guard Brig. Gen. James W. Schroeder as the Assistant Adjutant General-Air Aug. 31.

Schroeder will complete the term of retiring Brig. Gen. John P. Hughes, which ends January 2011.

A pilot for American Airlines, Schroeder has served as the Illinois Air National Guard's chief of staff since July 2007 where he was responsible for assisting in command, control, and operations of all plans and programs for more than 3,000 Illinois Airmen located in Peoria, Springfield, and Scott Air Force Base.

"Brig. Gen. Schroeder brings a wealth of education, experience and expertise, both civilian and military, to the post," said Maj. Gen. William L. Enyart, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard. "His leadership and expertise will be a valuable asset to me and all Illinois Airmen as we continue to support overseas missions and remain ready to respond to domestic emergencies."

Schroeder, a Westmont, Ill., native, currently residing in Geneva, commissioned in 1982 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Officer Training School. Schroeder assisted in the initial setup of the aerial refueling training operation at Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany. His involvement helped pave the way for the on-going rotation of Air National Guard refueling units to the NATO base.

He most recently flew combat air patrol sorties in support of Operation Noble Eagle and flew combat support missions in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.



Brig. Gen. James W. Schroeder, Assistant Adjutant General-Air

"This is an opportunity to positively affect the lives of Illinois Airmen and their families, to build upon the great things we do day in and day out, and to strengthen those relationships with the communities we serve," said Schroeder.

Schroeder holds a Bachelor of Science in industrial technology from Western Illinois University and completed the Air War College in 2002.

Announcements

Lodging Procedures

What is the Automated Lodging Reservation System (ALRS)?

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

How to make a reservation:

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

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

Responsibilities:

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

Frequently asked questions:

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

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

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

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

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

Col. Mike Meyer, 183rd Fighter Wing Commander, received a thank-you card Sept. 4 from Brig. Gen. Hughes and he would like to share with all the unit members. It reads:

Col Mike Meyer,

Mike—Please pass along my sincere thanks and appreciation to all 183rd members for their dedicated service and supporting during my tenure as your commander. The parchment history and eagle presented to me at my retirement is prominently displayed in my “family room.” The 183rd has always met the challenges over the years and I’m confident that your members will meet the new mission challenges and go on to a bright and successful future. I send along my kindest personal regards and best wishes to all—thanks again, you’ve been great. Gen JPH



Brig. Gen. John Hughes speaks at the 183rd during the Hometown Heroes Salute, December, 2009. (Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr)

Base Happenings

Illinois Air National Guard leaders visit unit

The unit was visited recently by Brig. Gen. Schroeder, Assistant Adjutant General-Air and Illinois Air National Guard Commander Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Gatterdam.

As the new Chief Command Sgt. of the Illinois Air National Guard, the Chief visited many workcenters to familiarize himself with the units mission and facilities.

Gen. Schroeder joined the Chief at the Air Operations Group where they were briefed on the mission of the Air Operations Group and their alignment with 12th AF/AF South at Davis-Monthan Air Force, Ariz. They toured P-1 to show the extensive facility overhaul that the hangar is undergoing to transition to a Centralized Repair Facility (CRF) for GE jet engines. In addition, Gen. Schroeder “coined” six unit members during his visit as well as presenting the annual Tech. Sgt. Brian McMillen Security Forces award to Security Forces member Staff Sgt. Jason Draper.

Fire Department 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony



Each year since 2005, on the anniversary of 9/11, the 183rd Fire Department hosts a memorial service which focuses on the firefighter aspect of the 9/11 tragedy, in which 343 firefighters lost their life. Mutual aid partners from Springfield, Sherman, Athens and Pleasant Plains were in attendance.

Tech. Sgt. Ed Autery, 183rd FW Michael Lynch Firefighter of the Year recipient, presented a FDNY (Fire Department New York) hat to the individual who has provided exceptional assistance to the 183rd. This year the hat was presented to Springfield Fire Chief Barry Helmlichs. (Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr)



New Illinois Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Gatterdam listens as Lt. Col. Charles Coderko explains future construction projects of base facilities here while Capt. Bob Mitchell and Command Chief Master Sgt. Tom Hergenrother stand by. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Shelly Stark)

Staff Sgt. Jason Draper awarded Tech. Sgt. Brian McMillen Award



Illinois Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Gatterdam congratulates Staff Sgt. Jason Draper on his selection for the Tech. Sgt. Brian McMillen award.

The state-level award was created in 2008 and is awarded annually to an Illinois Air National Guard Security Forces member. Staff Sgt. Draper was selected by distinguishing himself from his peers in many aspects of his personal and professional lives as well as his Security Forces and civilian careers. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Shelly Stark)

National Down Syndrome Awareness Month

*Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Amy Murphy
183rd Medical Group
Source: www.ndss.org*

Down syndrome is the most common form of genetic conditions, affecting one in every 773 babies born in the United States today. It occurs in people of all races and economic levels. People with Down syndrome have an increased risk for certain medical conditions such as congenital heart defects, respiratory and hearing problems, Alzheimer's disease, childhood leukemia, and thyroid conditions. Many of these conditions are now treatable, so most people with Down syndrome lead healthy lives. Down syndrome occurs when an individual has three, rather than two, copies of the 21st chromosome. The incidence of births of children with Down syndrome increases with the age of the mother. But due to higher fertility rates in younger women, 80% of children with Down syndrome are born to women under 35 years of age.



Diagnosing Down syndrome is done a few different ways. The first being prenatally, meaning while the baby is in the mother's body. There are two types of tests for Down syndrome that can be performed before a baby is born: screening tests and diagnostic tests. Prenatal screens estimate the chance of the fetus having Down syndrome. These tests only provide a probability. Diagnostic tests can provide a definitive diagnosis with almost 100% accuracy.

Most screening tests involve a blood test and an ultrasound (sonogram). The blood tests measure quantities of various substances in the blood of the mother. Together with a woman's age, these are used to estimate her chance of having a child with Down syndrome. These blood tests are often performed in conjunction with a detailed sonogram to check for "markers" (characteristics that some researchers feel may have a significant association with Down syndrome). Recently, researchers have developed a maternal serum/ultrasound/age combination that can yield a much higher accuracy rate at an earlier stage in the pregnancy. Still, the screen will not definitively diagnose Down syndrome.

Prenatal screening tests are now routinely offered to women of all ages. If the chance of having a child with Down syndrome is high from prenatal screening, doctors will often advise a mother to undergo diagnostic testing if they desire a definitive diagnosis.

The diagnostic procedures available for prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome are chorionic villus sampling (CVS) and amniocentesis. These procedures, which carry up to a 1% risk of causing a spontaneous termination (miscarriage), are practically 100% accurate in diagnosing Down syndrome. Amniocentesis is usually performed in the second trimester after 15 weeks of gestation, CVS in the first trimester between nine and 11 weeks. The second testing method is when the baby is born. Down syndrome is usually identified at birth by the presence of certain physical traits: low muscle tone, a single deep crease across the palm of the hand, a slightly flattened facial profile and an upward slant to the eyes. Because these features may be present in babies without Down syndrome, a chromosomal analysis called a karyotype is done to confirm the diagnosis. To obtain a karyotype, doctors draw a blood sample to examine the baby's cells. They use special tools to photograph the chromosomes and then group them by size, number, and shape. By examining the karyotype, doctors can diagnose Down syndrome. Another genetic test called FISH can apply similar principles and confirm a diagnosis in a shorter amount of time.

Individuals with Down syndrome are becoming increasingly integrated into society and community organizations, such as schools, health care systems, work forces, and social and recreational activities. Individuals with Down syndrome possess varying degrees of intellectual disabilities, from very mild to severe. Most people with Down syndrome have IQs in the mild to moderate range of intellectual disability.

Due to advances in medical technology, individuals with Down syndrome are living longer than ever before. In 1910, children with Down syndrome were expected to survive to age nine. With the discovery of antibiotics, the average survival age increased to 19 or 20. Now, with recent advancements in clinical treatment, most particularly corrective heart surgeries, as many as 80% of adults with Down syndrome reach age 60, and many live even longer.

In the United States, approximately 400,000 families have a child with Down syndrome, and about 5,000 babies with Down syndrome are born each year. More and more Americans will interact with individuals with this genetic condition, increasing the need for widespread public education and acceptance.

Logistics system release transforms combat support

By: Unattributed, AFNS
08/11/2010

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio -- A new age for Air Force logisticians began when a pilot version of the Expeditionary Combat Support System went live July 31 at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

The Expeditionary Combat Support System will transform business processes, alter management and control systems, and affect personnel roles and organizational structures across the entire logistics arena.

“Developing and fielding ECSS is a monumental task that requires transformational changes in the way the Air Force does business,” said Col. Stefan Dosedel, an ECSS Release One program manager.

The previously used, stove-piped systems often resulted in duplicated efforts, non-standardized reporting and data integrity issues. When fully implemented, ECSS will provide standardized business processes, an enterprise view of the supply chain and efficiencies across the Air Force, while also impacting personnel roles and organizational structures.

“The end result is to have one, single database, no matter what Air Force location you are at, that has consistent processes and data,” said Scott Argo of Computer Sciences Corporation, the system integrator. “It moves the Air Force from base-centric, standalone systems to an enterprise approach.”

The ECSS program, managed by the Electronic Systems Center’s Enterprise Logistics Systems Program Executive Office at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, is an integrated data environment that combines financial, manufacturing, distribution and other business processes into a single, commercial off-the-shelf, Oracle-based technology solution hosted on the Air Force Global Combat Support System.

It replaces more than 240 Cold War-era standalone, or stove-piped, systems being used today.

Hanscom AFB was chosen as the pilot base for implementing ECSS because of its small size and relatively low number of impacted users. Planned for release in increments, this first phase, known as Release One-Pilot A, focuses on vehicle maintenance and involves about 40 to 50 Hanscom AFB users. Pilot B will expand to equipment custodians at Hanscom AFB, and Pilot C, which will involve supply functions, will bring the potential number of Hanscom AFB ECSS users to between 75 to 100 people.

Hanscom AFB will continue to be the ECSS pilot base until 2011, when the program enters Initial Operational Test and Evaluation at MacDill AFB, Fla., and Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

The first work order for Pilot A was opened Aug. 2 when mechanic Bruce Trainer of the 66th Logistics Squadron opened the “Scheduling Workbench” on his computer screen. From the workbench, he accessed ECSS and scheduled the first job of the day: replacing a faulty light bulb on a base fire truck.

Shortly thereafter, Rick Lord, also of the 66th LRS, started the maintenance operations, recorded the use of the replacement part, recorded his time and completed the work order.

Since ECSS standardizes processes, the same job will be done the same way at Air Force bases around the world, Mr. Argo said. It also transfers the process from a paper-based system to an electronic one.

“While Pilot A is primarily being conducted by the 13 vehicle maintenance workers at Hanscom (AFB), there are 300-plus people at the Program Management Office at Wright-Patterson (AFB) and more than 500 CSC employees in Beavercreek, Ohio, working to implement the system across the Air Force,” Mr. Argo said. “Engineers at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., are also working the related vehicle engineering bill of materials and routings so that maintenance activities have a standard set of activities, tools and parts.”

Robins AFB engineers essentially will build the processes used Air Force-wide, and load them into ECSS, Mr. Argo said.

Aug. 2, the ECSS Logistics Management and Support Office hosted a gathering at Wright-Patterson AFB to mark the Air Force’s first ECSS implementation.

Lynn Moad, the Systems Integration Division chief and Air Force Materiel Command ECSS champion, said she was thrilled with the progress of the system.

“Everyone at Hanscom (AFB) and Warner Robins (AFB) is so enthused,” she said. “Each person has worked so hard to make this happen, and is so excited.”

While this release signals a big stride in Air Force logistics, the ECSS program executive officer said that more program developments are on the horizon.

“Today is a big day for ECSS, but it marks just another step in a long journey to delivering the full promise of ECSS,” said Brig. Gen. Kenneth J. Moran, the director and Air Force program executive officer of Enterprise Logistics Systems. “We can, and should be, immensely proud of what’s been achieved; but we must remain diligent and focused on the work ahead.” **NOTE:** *The 183rd FW is scheduled to go live with ECSS in May 2012*

Family Readiness News

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 contact Mr. Joe Ward, Family Readiness Manager. We want to ensure that no one is forgotten for the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony commemorating all past and current members that have lost their lives each year. The Family Support Group is still sending sympathy cards to all deceased members' families, as well, but once again, we need the information. You can contact Joe by e-mail at joe.ward.1@ang.mil or by calling 217-757-1569.

HELP WANTED

The 183rd Family Readiness and Support Group needs your help. We are trying to recruit members, both new and old. I would like to have your input. From previous members, what worked and what didn't. From new members, what do you have to bring to the group and what you would you like to see incorporated into the group? So, let's band together, combine our ideas, and build a Family Support Group that we all will want to participate in. Please see me, Joe Ward, Family Readiness Coordinator for Volunteer Sign-up Forms.

Volunteer Sign-up Form

Unit:

E-mail Address:

Name:

Specialty:

Address:

Phone Number:

City:

State & Zip Code

Please return to:

183rd Family Readiness Group
3101 J. David Jones Parkway
Springfield, IL. 62707-5001

or e-mail it to:

joe.ward.1@ang.af.mil
(217) 757-1569

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Communications News

Virtualization

*Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Scott Hughes
Communications Flight*

Virtualization is a fairly new concept in the world of information technology that has been rapidly growing since its conception ten years ago. Virtualization is where virtual machines are created in a network (server) environment and/or a desktop environment capable of running different operating systems on one physical host. An example of this is a desktop computer running Windows 7 that has an application allowing a user to open Windows XP on the same computer. One may ask why this is beneficial. A person may have had a software application designed when XP was the host operating system and this software application is not compatible with newer operating systems. Running virtual XP on the Windows 7 computer allows the person to run the application without having to maintain an old computer in order to run the software.

A virtualized network is essentially the same concept in that different virtual machines are built to run different server operating systems and services.

The Base Network Control Center in the past six months has been working on a project to virtualize the base network. One of the purposes of this project is to reduce the number of physical servers needed to run services, such as domain controllers, DHCP and DNS, which control access and allow a means to communicate within the information super highway. Running a network in a virtualized environment has benefits, which include reduction in energy consumption and reduction in the amount of space allocated to physical servers.

When running a virtual network it is important to keep track of the number of virtual machines being built in order to avoid possible security holes in the network. It is important to remember that virtual machines act in the same way as a physical computer and require the same updates and patches to maintain a safe/stable working environment.

To find out more information on running virtual Windows on home computers please go to the following website:

<http://www.microsoft.com/Windows/virtual-pc/>

Firearms Safety-just in time for hunting season

by Tech. Sgt. Chris Rosser
Base Safety Office

Well it is the time of the year that many of you will be returning to the fields to enjoy hunting. So I thought it might be a good time to do a little firearms safety refresher. I would like to start with some discussion of firearms and children. We have all seen the headlines of a child coming to harm from an accidental shooting. Often the parents of these children did not own a firearm and did not think their child needed any kind of safety training.

According to federal statistics, there are guns in approximately half of all U.S. households. Whether you own a gun or not, your child is likely to be in contact with a gun at the home of a friend or family. It is critical for your child to know what to do if he or she encounters a firearm.

So what should you teach your young child about gun safety? If you do not own a firearm or have decided that your child is not ready to be trained in proper gun handling and use teach them four simple instructions. If you find a gun: STOP, do not touch, leave the area, tell an adult.

Children will be curious about guns and stressing these first two points is critical. For more information the NRA's Eddie Eagle Gun-Safe® Program is geared toward younger children and preventing accidents.

When a parent decides a young

person is ready to handle and use firearms, a formal gun safety course is highly recommended. In addition, on Jan. 1, 1996, Illinois state law requires that anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1980, may not be issued a hunting license unless:

- they present a valid Hunter Education Certificate of Competency issued by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Safety Education Division, OR

- they present evidence he or she has held a hunting license issued by the State of Illinois or another state in a prior year.

Many training opportunities are available. For more information on Youth Programs, call the NRA at (703) 267-1505. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) sponsors wingshooting clinics at sites throughout Illinois.

Clinics are designed to teach participants basic firearm and hunter safety, wingshooting fundamentals, as well as practical wingshooting.

A schedule of the clinics sponsored by the IDNR can be found at <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/programs/wingshooting/WingshootingDates.htm>.

When using or storing a gun, always follow these rules courtesy of the NRA:

- Know your target and what is beyond

- Be absolutely sure you have identified your target beyond any doubt

- Equally important, be aware of the area beyond your target

This means observing your prospective area of fire before you shoot. Think first. Shoot second.

Know how to use the gun safely. Before handling a gun, learn

how it operates and know its basic parts. Be sure the gun is safe to operate. Use only the correct ammunition for your gun. Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.

Never use alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription or other drugs before or while shooting.

Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.

Before cleaning your gun, make absolutely sure that it is unloaded. The gun's action should be open during the cleaning process.

This article is by no means a comprehensive safety course. We hope that it may spark some interest in obtaining proper training. Several avenues for doing so are available.

The Illinois Hunter Education Program consists of a minimum of 10 hours of instruction and covers the basics of hunter responsibility, wildlife conservation and identification, firearms and ammunition, field safety and state regulations. For a list of courses offered by county go to <http://dnr.state.il.us/safety/map.htm> or call 1-800-832-2599.

Providing instruction in the safe handling, use, and storage of firearms is one of the NRA's most important functions. Basic Firearm Training Courses, taught by over 54,000 NRA Certified Instructors, are offered in every state.

A program called "FIRST Steps" (Firearm Instruction, Responsibility, and Safety Training) provides a three-hour orientation to your specific firearm. For more information about taking any of these courses, call (703) 267-1430.

So no matter if it is doves, ducks or deer enjoy the season and be safe.

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183rd Website

The 183rd Fighter Wing has created a new web site. The new web site can be found at www.183fw.ang.af.mil

The site features expanded public affairs coverage of all things 183rd. Readers can look for more timely and up-to-date news items about Springfield's Air Guard Unit.

Log on and check it out!

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