



183rd Fighter Wing participates in Operation WHITEOUT

*by Col. Stephen F. Baggerly
Commander, Mission Support Group
Commander, Joint Task Force-South (IL)*



Lt. Col. Chuck Coderko, JTF-South Operations, discusses aspects of Operation WHITEOUT during the February storm with Master Sgt. Joe Hicks, JTF-South PERSCO team member.

Courtesy Photo

Governor Quinn, in preparation for the winter storm of February 2011, activated over 500 Illinois National Guardsmen/women on State Active Duty. During Operation WHITEOUT, there were 13 ARNG units and one ANG wing (183rd FW) activated for the storm. All of the members activated for the storm from the 183rd were recently assigned to the newly formed Joint Task Force-South (JTF-S). Personnel assigned to JTF-S reported to Camp Lincoln, Springfield, Feb. 1 to take command and control of three task forces which had the responsibility of patrolling the interstates and rest areas from north of I-70 to Chicago and east and west on I-72, I-74 and parts of I-80.

The task forces were comprised of Army National Guard soldiers who helped stranded motorists by giving those motorists rides to the nearest rest area or public shelter, calling tow trucks, marking empty vehicles along the roadways, and providing the motorists with food and water if they needed it. As the snow fell, the mission evolved into one of providing transportation assistance to the Illinois State Police (ISP) and their troopers who were patrolling as well. With the large accumulation of snow, it made the roadways impassible for their patrol cars. The ISP troopers rode with our soldiers since their High Utility Mobile Mechanized Vehicles (HUMMV) could travel through most of the

snow and drifts that were accumulating on the interstates and secondary roads.

During the three day operation, the JTF-S covered 24-hour operations with two 12-hour shifts which worked with the three assigned task forces, the Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ) and the Joint Operations Center (JOC) to provide command and control (C2), give mission guidance, relay/gather information and coordinate resources to the troops in the field. JTF-S helped to guide the efforts of the subordinate commanders in the field who, by the time the operation was completed, had provided support to the efforts with 142 vehicles being deployed into the field with 114 of them being HM-MVVs.

The ILNG vehicles and personnel drove 47,756 miles and covered approximately a 42,500 square mile area of Illinois, during the three consecutive days of 24 hour operations. Our personnel supported 14 ISP districts and 1,498 miles of interstate roads and patrolled 23 rest areas throughout Illinois. Our assigned personnel in the field for this operation assisted more than 200 stranded motorists and it is estimated that our efforts, combined with the

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Unit Training Assembly Schedule



and pay dates



Duty Performed	Pays out (approx.)
APR 2-3	APR 13
APR 30-MAY 1	MAY 11
JUN 4-5	JUN 15

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

April Lunch Menu

Saturday	Sunday
Spaghetti Meat Sauce	Chicken Stir Fry
Spicy Baked Fish	Yakisoba
Scalloped Potatoes	Scalloped Potatoes
Broccoli Parmesan	Egg Rolls
Sweet Corn	Vegetable Stir Fry
Peanut Butter Cookies	Orange Carrots
	Amandine
	Chocolate Chip Cookies



Saturday and Sunday Short Order

Grilled Ham Cheese, Grilled Cheese, Fries
*Menu subject to change

Attention!



The deadline for the MAY issue of the Falcon's View is SATURDAY, April 2, 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
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Toll Free Number

1-800-392-1797

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Illinois Air National Guard Chaplains answer the call at home and overseas

by Sgt. Jesse Houk
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Illinois Air National Guard chaplains Lt. Col. Jeffrey G. Laible of Lincoln and Lt. Col. Robert L. Barry of Chicago, both Roman Catholic priests, have answered the call to serve troops both at home and abroad.

The two, although serving in the 183rd Fighter Wing in Springfield, have made consistent tours to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center near Landstuhl, Germany for the past five years to offer physical and spiritual support for wounded servicemembers.

“We meet the Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine where they are at,” said Laible. “We walk with them. We are with them in their work centers. We are with them down range. We are there to support them in their service to our country and also to allow them to exercise their religious beliefs and practices.”

The Air National Guard has supplied two chaplains and two chaplain assistants at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center consistently since May 2004 with the average mission lasting about two months. The increase in staffing has been a result of the increase of servicemembers wounded in the two major conflicts.

“In order to meet the needs of the troops coming in from down range you must have an adequate amount of doctors, nurses, and medical technicians,” said Laible. “In the same way, you must have an adequate amount of chaplains to get them the correct amount of spiritual care that they need and deserve.”

Chaplains have played a consistent part in the history of the United States armed forces. They have lived and died, serving valiantly, to be a resource for troops. The selfless service of the four chaplains who gave up their life preservers and ultimately their lives so others might live while aboard the sinking U.S.A.T. *Dorchester* in 1943 is one example. The U.S.

Army transport ship was sunk by a German torpedo while sailing to Greenland as part of a naval convoy. *Dorchester* is a microcosm of what chaplains aim to do; a legacy of service. Laible and Barry continue the spirit of service by giving months of their lives to serve wounded servicemembers at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Visiting with wounded troops is a necessary duty for chaplains assigned to the medical center, but it is not always an easy task.

“I must say, when I first started there, when I went from room to room visiting them, I kind of dreaded passing the door because your eyes moved toward the covers on the bed and you looked for the absence of bumps indicating the loss of a limb,” said Barry. “You could usually tell if a hand, a leg, an arm or a foot was gone. Most of the time I found that I could handle it, but every so often one of these wounded troops would really get to me and you could never guess which one it was going to be.”

Most troops welcomed a visit from the chaplains and gladly accepted what chaplains are often known for doing: praying.

“I think other chaplains would agree with me. Almost all of these patients who came in with some sort of battle injury raised no objections to a chaplain coming to pray with them,” said Barry. “I think the reason why they were so open to that is because these people suffered really serious injuries, shrapnel or mutilations. They realized that this wasn’t part of their life plan. They didn’t expect that and they didn’t know what to do to cope with it and to recover from it. My belief was, they were quite ready to call on God, God’s grace and God’s spirit and help to lead them through it.”

The majority of troops were high in spirits and did not want to remain at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Barry and Laible witnessed the desire of the troops to recover from their injuries and to get back in the fight.

“Ninety-nine percent of these troops want to go back and finish the job,” said Laible. “They want to go back and be with their comrades. They don’t want

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————— *Cont. from Front Page*
efforts of our Illinois inter-agency counterparts, aided around 12 million people throughout Illinois over the three day period.

At the conclusion of Operation WHITEOUT, Governor Quinn said, “I called upon the Illinois National Guard to ensure the safety of the people of Illinois during a massive winter storm and that is exactly what they did.” He added, “The troops were out there in the snow and ice making sure every traveler was safe and got the assistance they needed.” As the Joint Task Force who was in C2 of the three task forces, the 183rd FW and the 65th Troop Command Brigade (TCB) played a large role in the success of the winter storm mission.

As a reminder, JTF-S is a joint venture between the 183rd FW and the 65th Troop Command Brigade of the Illinois Army Guard, located at Camp Lincoln, Springfield. The 65th TCB is commanded by Col. Mark Jackson (ILARNG), who is an Illinois State Trooper in his full-time position. The 65th TCB has become a full-time partner with the 183rd FW as we stand-up and mature JTF-S in order to support civilian authorities in time of need.

The organizational chart for JTF-S is almost evenly split with members of the 183rd FW and the 65th TCB. As time has gone by and we have met with one another, JTF-S has become a truly joint effort of the Air and Army National Guard here in Illinois.

Col. Jackson’s advice and recommendations were well-timed and were “spot-on” as the JTF-S went about the task of assigning shifts to our personnel, mapping out the

Battle Rhythm, chasing down communications assets and began to deal with the numerous Requests for Information (RFIs) from the Adaptive Battle Staff (ABS) and the JFHQ staff. Our personnel started to gather information from the three assigned TFs and began putting together the required reports for up-channeling to JFHQ so they could keep Maj. Gen. Enyart up-to-date on how the mission was going and preparing for his Commander’s Update Briefs (CUB).

JTF-S began life late in February 2010, when Maj. Gen. William Enyart, The Adjutant General for Illinois (TAG), issued his Operations Order (OPORD) J10-005, called *Illinois National Guard Support to Domestic Operations*. The OPORD caused the 183rd FW to change focus on our state mission of supporting the Governor of Illinois and the citizens within our state’s borders. OPORD J10-005 directed that the Illinois National Guard would stand-up two Joint Task Forces within Illinois for the sole purpose of providing Defense Support to Civilian Authorities, otherwise referred to as DSCA.

The 183rd FW began the task of forming, leading, supporting and funding an entity which would become known as “Joint Task Force-South” or JTF-S. Maj. Gen. Enyart called for a diverse, joint civilian support organization to focus on providing a “three year sourcing capacity to the Joint Staff (Illinois)” for DSCA.

Overall, the JTS-South’s involvement in the Winter Storm of 2011, Operation WHITEOUT, was successful. It provided us with our first real opportunity to serve the citizens of Illinois and learn from

the experience as well. For our first time “at the rodeo,” it proved that the combined efforts of the 183rd FW and the 65th TCB preparing to become operationally ready paid off. Our meetings and tabletop exercises helped our staff immensely as a lead-in to this call-up. As our staff reviews our efforts and performance during the winter storm call out, we continue to identify areas of improvement to make our operations more efficient and we are taking steps to put them into place.

The 183rd FW’s involvement in Operation WHITEOUT marked another change in mission sets for the wing. The future of the DSCA mission looks like it will continue to evolve and change over time. We here at the 183rd FW are glad that we have partnered with the 65th TCB to stand-up and operate Joint Task Force-South; we could not have gotten better partners in the mission to provide support to our civilian counterparts in time of need.

As we put the winter storm behind us, JTF-S is focused on our next challenge: the floods of 2011! We are crossing our fingers that we won’t be needed; but if we are, we will be ready to serve the citizens of Illinois, our civilian agency counterparts and the command structure at JFHQ-IL. As Maj. Gen. Enyart said at the conclusion of Operation WHITEOUT, “The Illinois National Guard answered the call when their communities were in need....”

As the Commander of Joint Task Force-South, I am proud of the 183rd’s first time efforts in a real world operation and know that we will continue to improve and demonstrate that we are “Always Ready, Always There.”

Unit News

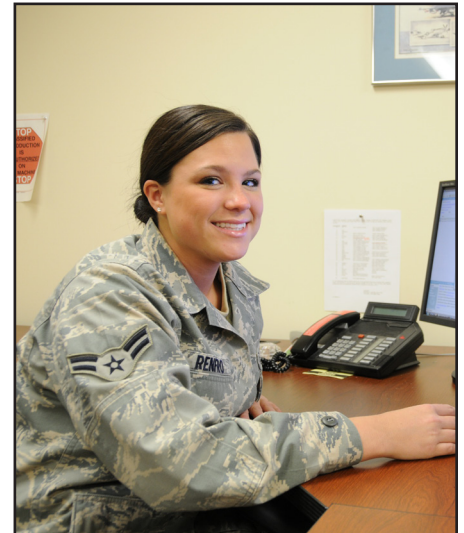
Attention

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.



Master Sgt. Steve Parker (right) donates the proceeds from his 2010 Family Support Group Bass Tournaments to Joe Ward (left), 183rd Airman & Family Readiness Group Manager. This annual event has been so successful for Master Sgt. Parker, that he held two bass tournaments this last year. Steve's generosity and hard work over the years has been greatly appreciated by the Family Program Office. Thanks again Master Sgt. Parker! Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr

In the Spotlight



Who: Airman 1st Class Dezire Renfro

What: ASUS, Cyber Transport

When: January 9, 2011

Why: I joined to pay for college to become a nurse.

Civilian Employment: Culver's

Recent and Favorite Deployments: Davis-Monthan AFB

Retiree News

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, April 5. They say they meet at 8 a.m. but if you're not there by 7:30, the early birds have taken the good seats!

Spring semi-annual retirees luncheon: Come join the retirees for a get together to share stories of days-gone-by and catch up on what is new. It will be Apr. 29, 11:30 a.m., located at the Diamond Buffet, 2441 S. MacArthur Blvd. Cost is \$7.50 per person which covers a meal, drinks, dessert and tax. (A gratuity basket will be available). For more information contact Mr. Walter Pierce at (217)787-1226.

Fire Department Reunion: Past and present members of the 183rd Fire Department are invited to a reunion, Apr. 10, 1-5 p.m., at the Firefighters' Club at 970 West Lake Dr., Springfield, Ill. BBQs, chips and veggies provided. Please RSVP to Jim Cribbett at retmsgt1@earthlink.net or call 217-629-9811 no later than Apr. 1.

Spring forward

by Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Korte
Human Resource Advisor

Hopefully by the time this hits the website, spring is here to stay and warmth and sunshine are with us on a daily basis. It is a time of renewal. Daylight-saving time is in place and just as we moved our clocks forward, we can move forward in our personal and professional lives.

We can begin by reflecting back - implementing some of the HRA highlights covered over the last year. There were several topics and I thought this would be a good time to pull them together and concentrate on putting some of them into action as we “spring forward.”

As I review the HRA themes of the past year, education and teamwork encompass many of the ideas



presented and provide direction as we move forward in 2011.

Education, Education, Education! Moving forward in a career path, developing new skill sets, learning from others, attending professional military education (PME) courses, documenting educational levels—there is no escaping the importance of education in the military setting (let alone the civilian world). Education gives us the opportunity to accept those with diverse backgrounds and talents

and appreciate what they bring to the mission. It also benefits the mentoring process by helping in career advancement, teaching and learning new skills, and developing exceptional Airmen.

Teamwork, Teamwork, Teamwork! As we learn and progress in our careers, opportunities arise to become a part of high performance teams. We work together to encourage, guide and mentor each other. Teamwork enhances mission capabilities and allows for innovative thinking. Leadership skills are developed and sharpened while part of a team. The unit and individuals begin to set goals for greatness and exceptional performance.

Exceptional Airmen plus exceptional performance equals an exceptional Air National Guard. We should strive to do our best and bring out the best in others – utilizing our full potential as we move forward.

Let’s continue to push the flywheel and spring into action!

Recognition

Promotions

Technical Sergeant

Benjamin G. Snow
Stephen A. Horcharik

Staff Sergeant

Christopher J. Kelly

Senior Airman

Genesis F. Cole
Jared M. Hayward

Welcome Aboard

Capt. Gregory G. White
Capt. Daniel S. Fales
Airman 1st Class John O. Prytherch

183rd AMOS
183rd AOG
183rd CES

Retirees

Master Sgt. Steven D. Anders, 183rd Civil Engineering
Tech Sgt. Christopher P. Rosser, 183rd Fighter Wing

Feb. 14
Feb. 13

In Memory of..

Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) Jimmy L. Allen
Tech. Sgt. (Ret.) Bruce “Jake” Jacobs
Tech. Sgt. (Ret.) Robert D. Cawley

Spiritual remedies for a spiritual cold

By Fr (Lt Col) Jeff Laible,
183rd FW Chaplain

Equate allergy sinus, Tavist D and Advil Cold and Sinus: almost everyone has had some type of cold, sinus infection, or even worse, the flu this winter. Each of these over-the-counter medications claims that it will cure you, make you feel better and alleviate those rotten symptoms that accompany having a cold, a sore throat or the flu.

These over-the-counter medications help us “get over” and “get through” a virus that throws our body into some internal disorder. They attack whatever type of virus it is that wreaks havoc on our head, our ability to breath, or how our stomach feels. The goal of these medications is to put order back into a body that becomes fragmented by the germs that float around this time of the year. They are specifically designed to assist our physical bodies in becoming healthy again.

But these medications are limited. They are limited and directed to a specific purpose. They only claim to relieve sneezing or a sinus headache. They do not claim to help us feel better emotionally, psychologically or spiritually. They say nothing about dealing with all those spiritual or emotional viruses that are floating around. We can just as easily catch a spiritual cold, an emotional sore throat or flu, as we can a physical one. And the only way that we can deal with our spiritual cold or flu is by identifying the symptoms and making the right adjustments in our life.

What are some symptoms of a spiritual cold, or worse yet, the flu? Free-floating anxiety: I am anxious but I do not

know why. Solution: physical exercise. Studies have proven, time and again, that moderate physical exercise has tremendous benefits to our emotional wellbeing. The next symptom of a spiritual cold/flu is lack of motivation: I just cannot seem to get myself motivated to do what I am supposed to do. Solution: plan a special evening or event once a week; give yourself something to look forward to. Be creative! It doesn't have to cost a lot of money. Have friends over for dinner. Another symptom – being short fused: I have not been handling my emotions very well; I'm getting angry very easily. Solution: give everyone some extra space, including ourselves; be patient. Feeling depressed, blue or down: lack of hope, lost the spark of life? Solution: talk it over with a trusted friend. Get it out of your system; do not hold it in. You will blow up at the wrong person at the wrong time. Feeling isolated: you might think no one else feels this way – you are the only one who feels this down and no one would possibly understand how you feel. Solution: you are not the only one who feels isolated in life. Talk with someone about how you feel. Turning inward: focusing so much on myself and my problems that they become “blown out of proportion”. Solution: help someone who is in need. Get out of the house. Volunteer at the local soup kitchen. Visit an elderly person who is home bound. Above all, maintain a sense of humor. Life is not all sour grapes. Finally, create some sacred space in your life. Create some time in your day just for you and spend part of that time with God (or your Higher Power). Ask God to help you. If you are too busy to pray, you are too busy. Take the example of Jesus, who went to the mountain to pray (and get away from the crowds). Jesus stepped into

the presence of the Almighty and was transformed. God can transform us also, but we have to meet God halfway; we have to give God time in our daily lives.

God will help us get over our spiritual cold/flu, but we have to let God know that we need His help. Our prayer today is that God will change us; that God will transform us into His image and likeness.

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
email: Frlaible@hotmail.com

Protestant Chaplain:

1st Lt. Jon Bormann

16595 N. Meadow Ln.
Petersburg, IL 62675
phone: 217-361-8833
email: 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



— *Chaplains, cont. from page 3*
to go back to the United States. They like it there and that is inspiring. Despite the fact that they have all these things that have happened to them they continue to do their job and serve their county; it's incredible."

Barry and Laible, on average, encourage 25 to 30 servicemembers daily. They have impacted thousands of lives over the years. They said they will continue to return to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center for as long as they are needed. Each time they leave they reflect on their experiences.

"My first thought when I climbed on the airplane was how exhausted I was," said Barry. "My second thought was what an honor it was to be chosen at this time and in the lives of these men and women. What an honor to be called up to try and help them. The raw courage of these people is my most striking thing about them. I am being sincere about that. My third thought was, that they are never going to be far from my mind. I must think about all these men and women 20 times a day. Not just once a day, 20 times a day. My mind passes through some of the memories and thoughts and almost always those memories are accompanied by prayer."



First lady, Dr. Biden to launch military family awareness campaign

by *Tech. Sgt. John Orrell*
National Guard Bureau

2/28/2011 - WASHINGTON -- Dr. Jill Biden and first lady Michelle Obama will campaign to raise awareness of military families, the vice president's wife told spouses of National Guard adjutants general Feb. 28.

"In the coming weeks, we are going to be launching a formal campaign," said Dr. Biden, who hosted the spouses for breakfast at the vice president's residence here.

"We're going to reach out to all Americans," she said. "Michelle and I are going to go on a tour around the country to create this mass-media awareness, so that the 99 percent of Americans who are not serving can now serve the one percent who are."

She and the first lady will travel the country encouraging Americans to join these efforts, she said.

"Over the last couple of years, Michelle and I have been traveling all around the country talking to families," she said. "We've brought our stories back to the White House, and now the president and the cabinet are going to act on it."

Dr. Biden, whose son Beau just returned from a year-long deployment to Iraq with the Delaware National Guard, has dedicated herself to bring awareness of "military families' strength and courage, as well as the challenges that they face," she said.

"I am a Blue Star mom," she said.

"I will always remember the mixture of pride and concern that I felt about (Beau's) deployment," Dr. Biden said. "I feel like we're all family, all of us together. We share the same concerns,

anxieties and sense of duty and pride that comes along with being military family."

With thousands of Citizen-Airmen and -Soldiers serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other regions of the world and almost half the nation's military strength residing in the National Guard and Reserve it is almost impossible to overstate the importance they both have, she said.

"In this era, when so much is being asked of the Guard and Reserve, you all have been a source of strength, relieving some of the burden of stress on loved ones left behind," Dr. Biden told the spouses.

Vice President Joe Biden made a surprise stop at the breakfast to share his feelings on how state senior leaders make a difference for families during deployments.

"Don't underestimate the impact that you all have," he said. "I watched the impact on Jill when our son was deployed."

Mr. Biden told the spouses about a prayer his wife received from Jane Vavala, wife of Delaware's adjutant general, Army Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala, during Beau's deployment ceremony.

"I would walk in every morning into the kitchen, and I would see Jill mouthing this prayer," he said. "It's truly a personal gift of kindness."

Dr. Biden recalled that prayer and what she has done with it.

"When Jane sat beside me and handed me that prayer, that prayer meant so much to me, it was such a wonderful gesture of kindness," she said.

"When I meet families who are being deployed, I try to pass that along, that act of kindness, because I know as a military mom how much that meant to me."

Dr. Biden encouraged people to visit www.serve.gov or contact her office and share how they're supporting those who serve.

Total Force makes carrier pigeons obsolete

by Tech. Sgt. Emily F. Alley
451st AEW Public Affairs

3/4/2011 - KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- In World War II, it could take a carrier pigeon about six hours to fly from London to Paris. Fortunately, communication is much faster in modern warfare thanks to specialists such as the 451st Expeditionary Communication Squadron at Kandahar Airfield.

Master Sgt. Bob Rondash, 451st AEW engineering and installation specialist, installs cables, which support phone and computer systems. He compared the hard wiring to the backbone of a communication system. Computers and phones are the nerves that branch from its installation. As a National Guardsman deployed from the 213th Engineering Installation Squadron from Stewart AFB, N.Y., he left a full time job working for a phone company, doing almost the exact same job.

"The trucks we use here are the same," he recalled.

In fact, many of the Airmen who work in the Communication Squadron are Guardsmen who left full time jobs working for phone companies and cable companies, doing nearly identical work, when they deployed. Others, from the New York and Illinois National Guard

left jobs such as Chicago and New York City police officers .

Chief Master Sgt. James Pearsen, deployed here from the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron in Illinois, mentioned how struck he was by the number of National Guardsmen, who have increasingly blurred the definition of active duty.

A large portion of the 451st ECS is also built from civilian contractors, many of whom are prior military. While most Air Force deployments are completed within six months, a few of the contractors have been in Kandahar for years. Contractor Freddie Koehli estimated that in the time he's spent in Afghanistan, he's seen about eight rotations of deployed Airmen.

"This whole group provides continuity between six month rotations," Koehli nodded toward his 10-person team of contractors.

"I've personally seen five commanders," Koehli added, describing his time within the squadron.

He stressed that his team has met every deadline asked of them in that time. He vividly recalled a request to complete the new compound for the 451st AEW in time for its one-year anniversary at Kandahar Airfield. His team worked in windowless buildings without light or air conditioning and finished installation on schedule. They've seen the airfield grow and a few recall when the camps were just pallets and dirt.

The unique challenge of working out of a base like Kandahar Airfield, the group agreed, is isolation.

"A memorable snapshot is to see an Afghan in flowing robes and sandals climb out of your truck," recalled contractor Steven Grace. "It's one of those moments that make you wonder, 'where am I?'"

There's no hardware store to get the equipment they may need. It's taken nine months to a year for supplies to arrive in the past. In order to finish some of their assignments, Koehli relies on built relationships in order to pool resources.

"I've spent 30 years in the military and this deployment has topped them all," Chief Pearson reflected as he discussed his squadron. "These guys stepped up time after time, working three shifts, whatever it takes."

The constant stream of taskings for the squadron are a reflection of the growth and activity on the base, the communication that allows other areas to function.

"Think about how spread out the Air Force is," Grace described. "This is the focal point," Koehli added "We let everyone talk to one another, get them internet. We have the big dishes here that connect them to the rest of the world."

Thanks to squadrons such as his, military units in Kandahar can communicate with commands on the other side of the ocean--and faster than by carrier pigeon.



Outstanding Airman of the Year Ceremony



Senior Master Sergeant Richard "Rick" Reimann 1st Sergeant of the Year 183d Air Operations Group

Senior Master Sergeant Reimann serves as the First Sergeant for the Air Operations Group where he serves as an enlisted advisor for approximately 200 enlisted airmen. Sergeant Reimann deployed in support of the 2010 Panamax Exercise, interfacing with our American partner nations on enlisted force issues. In his free time, Sergeant Reimann volunteers for the Fire Fighters and Postal Lake club to raise money for local charities.

Senior Airman Aaron Eldridge Airman of the Year

183d Civil Engineering Squadron

Senior Airman Eldridge deployed as a heavy equipment operator to Bagram AB Afghanistan where his team completed several projects including repairing the parking aprons and completing the ground work to build new covered storage facilities. At home station, Airman Eldridge overhauled the squadron vehicle inspection and training programs. Last year, he started his freshman year at UIS working towards a degree in criminal justice.



Master Sergeant Debra Schmitz Honor Guard Manager of the Year 183d Communications Flight

Master Sergeant Schmitz serves as the Honor Guard Manager for the 183d, where she manages the equipment, funds, uniforms and personnel to ensure our Wing has an exceptional program. Sergeant Schmitz has participated in over 500 missions on the honor guard team. In her free time, Sergeant Schmitz volunteers at the Knights of Columbus, the United Way, as a Big Sister and also serves at the St John's breadline.



Lockout/Tagout Program:

The control of hazardous energy

Submitted by: Senior Master Sgt. Brian K. Willoughby, Ground Safety Manager

Depending on your job and where you work here at the 183rd you may or may not have had formal lockout/tagout training. But with the many construction projects currently underway on base your chances of coming across a lockout device is higher. So what is a lockout/tagout program? In plain English a lockout/tagout program is a system to prevent the use of equipment when it is either undergoing maintenance or has become hazardous to use.

A lockout device is used to physically prevent the release of energy to a device. It is primarily a lock and key and can be used with a blank, chain, hasp, or support. Its purpose is to protect personnel while they perform maintenance on a potentially hazardous piece of equipment. This is done through isolating the energy to the equipment; an example: locking a circuit breaker on a band saw prior to changing the blade. This will eliminate electrical power to the on/off switch.

A tagout device is a mishap prevention tag that is capable of being securely attached and interferes with the operation of an energy-isolating device. Where a tagout device cannot be attached directly to the energy isolating device, the tag shall be located as close as

safely possible and be immediately obvious and forbid operation. Tagout devices will be used when it is not feasible to install a lockout device. A tagout device will identify the individual who is responsible for installing the tag. It must be installed with a self-locking, non-releasable attachment capable of withstanding 50 pounds of force to overcome. An example is an electrical tie strap.

So when and who should use a lockout/tagout device? All energy sources will be locked out/tagged out prior to the start of any inspection, maintenance or servicing actions, which require the removal of safety guards. The machine must remain locked or tagged until all activities are complete and a thorough inspection has been accomplished to ensure the machine is safe. A lockout/tagout device will only be installed by certified personnel. If your AFSC would require you to install devices, formal training will be completed through the Base Safety. The main purpose of this article is to make you aware of the program and what to do if you encounter a lockout/tagout device or hazardous situation that may require the use of one. It is important to remember that only the person, supervisor, or designated representative who initially installed the lock or tag can remove it.

So what are your responsibilities? Members who become aware of an unsafe condition will immediately advise the work area supervisor of that condition. If the supervisor or a designated representative

is not immediately available install a temporary tag and document tag installation. Remember, any safety feature can be bypassed, deactivated or defeated if an individual tries hard enough. If you need to use a piece of equipment that has been locked out or tagged see the supervisor. Do not try to disable it or work around it. This program can only be effective if there is 100% support from every employee. Engineering is the first line of defense, education is the second, and enforcement is the final line of defense. Contact a supervisor immediately if you come across a disabled or damaged lockout/tagout device or if you see a situation that may require a device. For further information refer to AFOSH Standard 91-501 Chapter 21. You may also contact Base Safety if you have questions.

Omission



Senior Airman Ashley M. Burtle was omitted in the original OAY publication. She was selected out of the Medical Group as a candidate for OAY. Congratulations Airman Burtle!

Preparation for Information Assurance Assessment And Assistance Program

*Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Alana Franklin
183rd Communications Squadron
(Adapted from material by Master Sgt. Vincent Lewis,
Laughlin AFB)*

This July the 183rd Fighter Wing will go through an IAAP (Information Assurance Assessment and Assistance Program) Inspection. The IAAP inspection is a “find and fix” review of all areas of Information Assurance to assess the effectiveness of the 183rd Information Assurance (IA) office and unit IA programs.

The main thing to focus on is to help our base community secure information and avoid unwanted dissemination of important and classified information.

The inspection includes computer security, emissions security and communications security. It is critical in identifying and correcting vulnerabilities in our network and computer security practices, policies and procedures. The Telecommunications Monitoring and Assessment Program, as well as the Certification and Accreditation Program, will be assessed to ensure all systems utilized on Department of Defense networks have valid authorization.

To maintain our program and prepare for the upcoming inspection, members from the base IA office visit each area and performs Staff Assistance Visits yearly.

Emission security ensures all areas where classified information is processed are approved and secured. Telecommunications monitoring and assessment program also ensures the security of classified information by ensuring unsecured systems, such as telephones and fax machines, have required stickers that remind users not to use them for classified information.

Most base personnel will probably not be aware the inspection is taking place. Offices that process classified information are subject to inspection, but other offices may also receive random visits.

Using sound cyber security practices goes a long way in keeping our networks safe from attackers, and the IAAP inspection is one tool to help us meet those challenges.

Individual users can prepare by practicing a few security measures prior to the inspection:

- Know your Information Assurance office: Senior Master Sgt. Bob Ryan; Tech. Sgts. Alana Franklin and Nate Bostic; Senior Airmen Adam Smith and Genesis Cole. All personnel are available at ext. 317 and 440.
- Use “Privacy Act” cover sheets to protect personal identifiable information
- Know virus reporting procedures
- Ensure computers have “Network Incident Reporting Aid” at all computer workstations. This can be found at X:\Information Assurance\Awareness Training & Material\Flyers Visual Aids
- Remove your common access card from your computer when not in the immediate area
- Do not bring any cell phones or electronic devices into classified processing areas
- Ensure unauthorized software is not loaded on government systems
- Ensure stand-alone computers performing unit specific functions are properly patched and updated
- Refrain from using wireless keyboards and mice on government computers
- Label CDs, DVDs, external hard drives, floppy disks and removable media with the proper classification stickers
- Ensure a DoD Form 2056 is on all government phones and fax machines. Ensure Fax Machines have cover letters on them.
- Ensure all e-mail containing PII is sent encrypted
- Do not take personal electronic devices into areas that process classified information
- Obtain Wing IA approval before connecting devices or systems to the base network

The inspection measures compliance, but it also has a great secondary effect. It raises overall awareness of how our everyday activities can impact the security posture of our critical information and ultimately our mission.

As we get closer to this inspection your assistance and cooperation will be vital, and greatly appreciated.

Meningitis The Incedious Killer

Meningitis Awareness Month

*Submitted by Tech Sgt. Amy Murphy
183rd Medical Group*

Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. People sometimes refer to it as spinal meningitis. Meningitis is usually caused by a viral or bacterial infection. Knowing whether meningitis is caused by a virus or bacterium is important because the severity of illness and the treatment differ depending on the cause.

Viral meningitis is generally less severe and clears up without specific treatment. But bacterial meningitis can be quite severe and may result in brain damage, hearing loss, or learning disabilities.

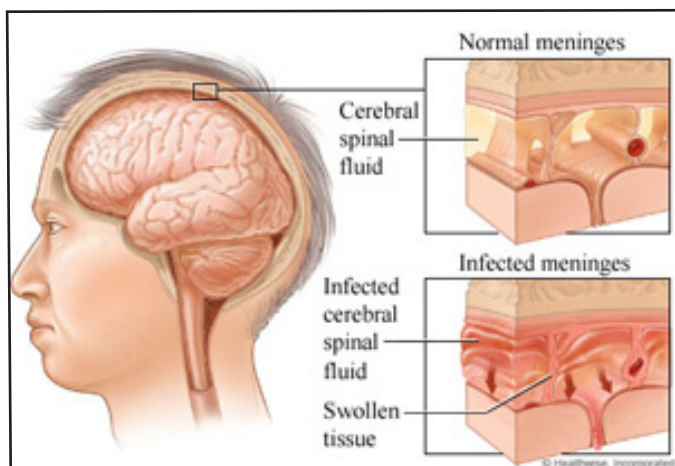
For bacterial meningitis, it is also important to know which type of bacteria is causing the meningitis because antibiotics can prevent some types from spreading and infecting other people. Before the 1990s, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) was the leading cause of bacterial meningitis. Hib vaccine is now given to all children as part of their routine immunizations.

This vaccine has reduced the number of cases of Hib infection and the number of related meningitis cases. Today, Streptococcus pneumoniae and Neisseria meningitidis are the leading causes of bacterial meningitis.

What are the signs and symptoms of Meningitis? High fever, headache, and stiff neck are com-

mon symptoms of meningitis in anyone over the age of two years. These symptoms can develop over several hours, or they may take one-to-two days.

Other symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, neck discomfort, confusion, and sleepiness. In newborns and small infants, the classic symptoms of fever, headache, and neck stiffness may be absent or difficult to detect. Infants with



meningitis may appear slow or inactive, have vomiting, be irritable, or be feeding poorly. As the disease progresses, patients of any age may have seizures.

Early diagnosis and treatment are very important. If symptoms occur, the patient should see a doctor immediately. The diagnosis is usually made by growing bacteria from a sample of spinal fluid. The spinal fluid is obtained by performing a spinal tap, in which a needle is inserted into an area in the lower back where fluid in the spinal canal can be collected.

Identification of the type of bacteria responsible is important for selection of correct antibiotics. Some forms of bacterial meningitis are contagious. The bacteria can

mainly be spread from person to person through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions. This can occur through coughing, kissing, and sneezing. Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as things like the common cold or the flu. Also, the bacteria are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been.

Who should get the meningococcal vaccine? The following:

- Children: Meningococcal conjugate vaccine is recommended for certain high-risk children from ages two through 10.
- Pre-teens/Adolescents: Meningococcal conjugate vaccine is routinely recommended

for all 11 through 18 year old. If your child did not get this vaccine at the 11- or 12-year-old check-up, make an appointment for him or her to get it now.

- Adults: Either meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine or meningococcal conjugate vaccine is recommended for adults if you: are a college freshman living in a dormitory; are a military recruit; have a damaged spleen or your spleen has been removed; have terminal complement deficiency; are a microbiologist who is routinely exposed to Neisseria meningitidis (the causal pathogen), or are traveling to or residing in countries in which the disease is common.

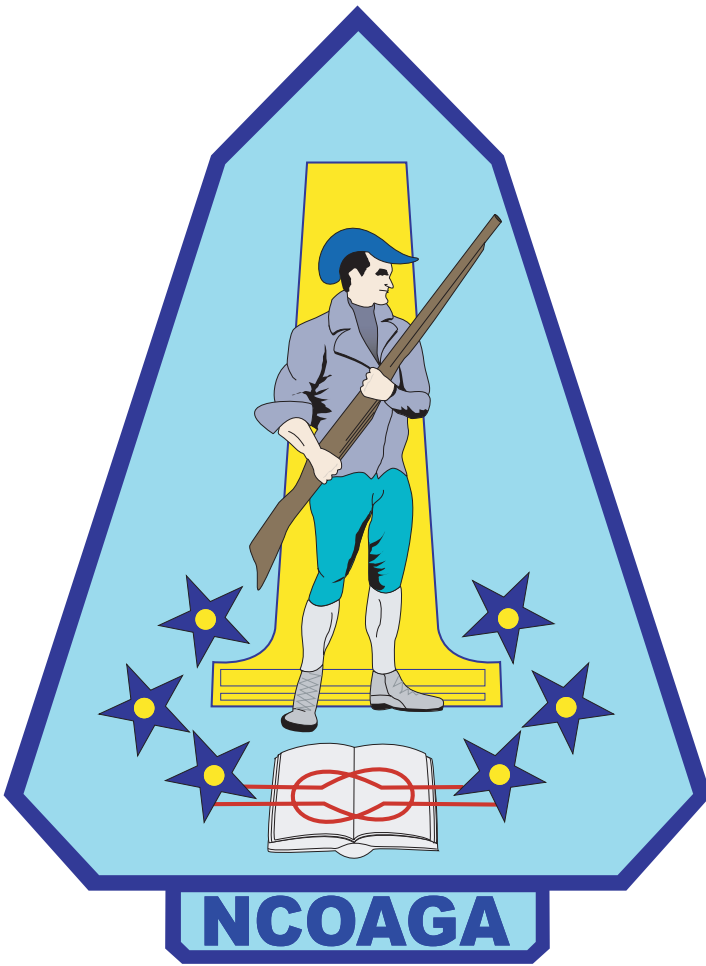
For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/meningitis

Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Graduate Association

The Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Graduate Association was originated in 1968 by a group of graduates from earlier Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer Academy classes. The objective of this Association is to support commanders through the leadership, knowledge, and experience of its members as follows, but not limited to:

- a. Promote enlisted professional military education with an in-residence emphasis.
- b. Prepare enlisted members for enlisted professional military education with an in-residence emphasis.
- c. Support enlisted professional military education with an in-residence emphasis.
- d. Instill pride and esprit de corps through
 1. The Air Force core values.
 2. Military customs and traditions.
 3. Patriotism and community involvement.

We are not a political organization and we do not lobby. Our membership is comprised of military members that have completed Professional Military Education (PME) through resident attendance, correspondence, or satellite attendance. Through professional military education, our members have acquired the skills to become more effective leaders in the military environment and more productive employees and managers in the civilian world. The training and education they receive is second to none. Members who attend the residence academies experience a life changing event and return to their unit ready and able to meet the challenge of facilitating change and integrating true leadership. The NCOAGA strives to preserve the legacy of the Minuteman through military traditions, customs, patriotic ceremonies, and community service. Our scholarship program awards over \$5,000.00 annually to help further the educational desires of our members and their families. Our awards program recognizes those who have worked diligently throughout the year to meet the goals of the association...PME and Scholarships.



Congrats:

FY10 In-residence Graduates:

TSgt Robert Agans
MSgt Matthew Hemann
TSgt Richard Jackson
MSgt Lynette Mellor
TSgt Angela Rankin
CMSgt Mark Stevens
MSgt John VanPelt
TSgt Mitchell Walker

Upcoming events:

5 Jun – Run to Remember
July – Can Food Drive

Check us out:

On Facebook: NCO Academy Graduate Association,
Chapter 75

Air Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy

In-residence attendance of all levels of Enlisted PME is extremely beneficial to all Airman. The experience and total force exposure that Airmen receive while attending in-residence PME courses should not be underestimated.

The NCOAGA encourages all Airmen eligible to attend Senior NCO Professional Military Education (PME) to start looking ahead for FY 2012 SNCOA Board. Now is the time to start working to make yourself stand out during this competitive process. Completing SNCOA (Course 14) correspondence course, completing Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education (SEJPME), and trying to get your CCAF degree are several things you could start working on now to boost points. Below is the Selection Criteria used by the board when selecting who to send to the academy each year.

A. OBJECTIVE CRITERIA (25 POINTS):

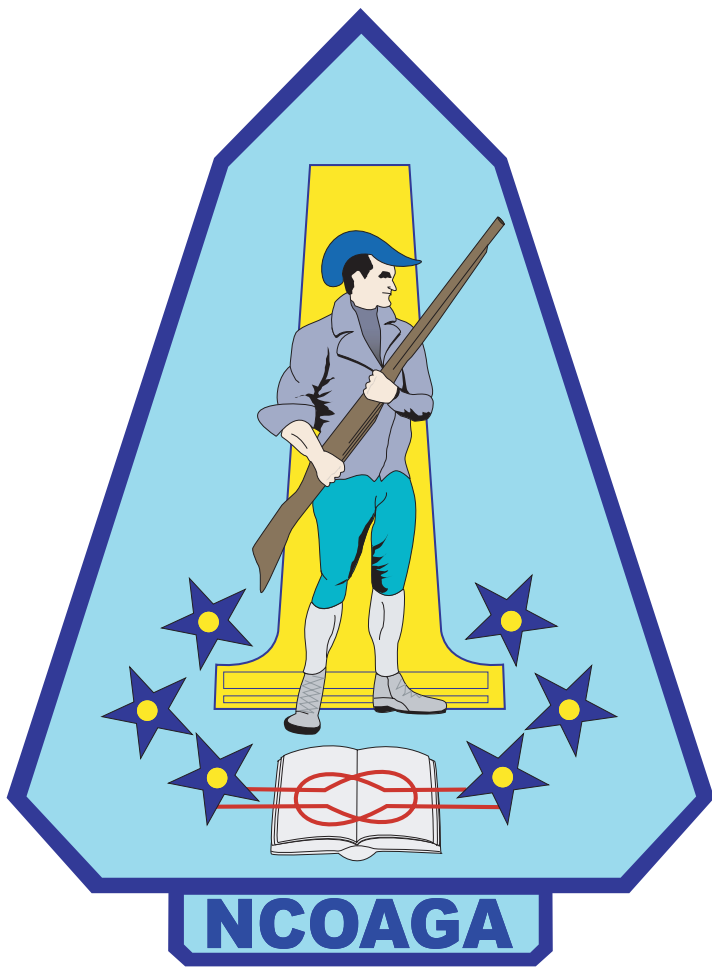
- (1) MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL OR HIGHER (NO EXTRA POINTS FOR MULTIPLE AWARDS). (5 POINTS)
- (2) COMPLETION OF AFSNCOA VIA CORRESPONDENCE (COURSE 12 OR COURSE 14). (5 POINTS)
- (3) COMPLETION OF SENIOR ENLISTED JOINT PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION (SEJPME). (5 POINTS)
- (4) CCAF ASSOCIATE DEGREE. (5 POINTS)
- (5) HIGHER LEVEL DEGREE (BACHELORS OR HIGHER). (5 POINTS)

B. DISCRETIONARY LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE (25 POINTS):

- (1) STATE CCMS, ANGR/CCC, AND 1ST AF (AFNORTH)/CCC HAVE DISCRETION TO AWARD ONE EXCEPTIONAL SNCO UNDER THEIR LEADERSHIP AN ADDITIONAL 25 POINTS.

C. SUBJECTIVE CRITERIA AWARDED BY SELECTION BOARD (MAXIMUM OF 50 POINTS):

- (1) LETTER OF INTENT (0-25 POINTS)
- (2) AF IMT 1206 (0-25 POINTS)



Eligibility Requirements:

- MSgt or SMSgt
- Possess a 7-skill Level in PAFSC
- Passing Fit Test Score
- Able to participate in Air Force Fitness Program

Required Documents:

- Letter of Intent
- AF IMT 1206
- Nomination Letters
- Current Fit Test
- Record Review RIP
- Class Identification Sheet

More Information:

If you have any questions concerning the SNCOA package submittal process please see your First Sergeant or Wing Command Chief.



Easter Egg Hunt

For All Military Families !



**Lots of Games and activities available for
Military Youth ages 2 – 17 years**



Saturday, April 9th, 2011

Rain or Shine

From 1 pm to 3 pm



Don't forget your camera for pictures !!

*Easter Baskets are not provided, be sure to bring one with you for the
Easter Egg Hunt - (Hunt is just for Youth age 10 and Under)*

**Come Join us at the
Illinois National Guard Headquarters at Camp Lincoln
at 1301 N MacArthur Blvd, Springfield, IL 62702**
(Military ID Card or Registering for this is event will authorize attendees access onto the Installation)



Complete the attached Registration Form below for each Child and email it to:
shirley.dilworth@us.army.mil or you may register by phone with one of our
Youth Coordinators by calling 217-761- 3395 or 3842 between 10am-2pm Mon-Fri

Attendees must Register and Registrations must be received by April 1st, 2011

YOUTH NAME _____ AGE _____

Military Sponsor is (Circle One): Parent Grandparent Aunt/Uncle Grandparent Other

Name of Military Sponsor: _____ Branch _____

Sponsor's Unit of Assignment: _____