



## Unit members receive bronze star

*By Maj. Nancie Margetis  
183rd FW Public Affairs*

Seven members from the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron were awarded the U.S. Armed Forces Bronze Star Medal for their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Six members received the award during an awards ceremony held at the 183rd Fighter Wing, Aug. 6.

The recipients were all key decision makers that had pivotal roles not only for themselves, but for all 80 members that deployed, 40 of which were not from the 217th.

Capt. Christopher G. Treff was the lead engineer for all northern tier forward operating bases. He designed five technical control projects and over 20 outside plants projects. He provided engineering expertise to the command staff for all projects within the combined joint operations area.

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin M. Keyfauver managed over 90 communication projects from engineering to installations at over 20 sites in Afghanistan. It was truly a joint effort which included teams of two to ten Army technicians at various sites.

Senior Master Sgt. James B. Wynn was the team chief for the first technical facility installation. He led a nine-man team that completed an \$8 million project at Spin Buldak, a forward operating base. In addition, he installed 14,000 feet of copper and 46,000 feet of fiber bringing 17 buildings online to the Afghan network.

Master Sgt. Bill Barnes successfully deployed all 80 members into and out of theater. He moved equipment, personnel and resources to 27 locations within Afghanistan. His efforts required constant communication with host nation trucking, military and civilian airlift capabili-

ties and heavy equipment units and operators. He successfully shipped over 2 million pounds of material, tools, equipment, vehicles and personnel while in theater.

Master Sgt. Scott Reynolds served as Supply Material Manager. He provided all logistical support for over 50 members that deployed from Kandahar, ensuring they were fully equipped, clothed and billeted.

Lt. Col. James R. Loux, commander of the 217th, and also a Bronze Star recipient, served as the deployed commander for 80 members, in their first-ever mobilization as Joint Expeditionary Tasked Airmen. Regarding receiving the award he said, "Receiving the Bronze Star is quite an honor. It represents the challenges that our members faced from a long deployment and a deployment to a combat area." Under his command the unit completed over 90 command and control communications projects at 27 locations in the Afghanistan theater.



Colonel Michael A. Meyer, Commander, 183rd Fighter Wing, presents the Bronze Star to Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Keyfauver of the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron.

*U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr*

### IN THIS ISSUE

**Page 3**

Unit hosts foreign exchange NCO

**Page 4**

Training Saves Lives

**Page 7**

SFS explore new force protection

**Page 10**

Family Day 2011 Announcement

**Pages 14-15**

Enlisted/Officer Vacancies

## Important Information

### Unit Training Assembly Schedule and pay dates



<u>Duty Performed</u>	<u>Pays out (approx.)</u>
SEP 10-11	SEP 21
OCT 1-2	OCT 12
NOV 5-6	NOV 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.

### September Lunch Menu

*\*Menu subject to change*

#### Saturday:

Chili Mac, Seasoned Pork Steak, Au Gratin Potatoes, Spinach, Glazed Carrots, Cookies, Ice Cream, Salad Bar

#### Sunday:

Baked Rigatoni, Blackened Tilapia, Rice Pilaf, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Garlic Bread, Cookies, Ice Cream, Salad Bar

**NOTE:** No short order menu will be available Saturday or Sunday.

### Attention!



The deadline for the **OCTOBER** issue of the **Falcon's View** is **SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, 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 IG .....	770

### Toll Free Number

1-800-392-1797

Contents of the Falcon's View are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, DoD, the Department of the Air Force or the Air National Guard. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 183rd Fighter Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

#### Wing Commander

Col. Michael A. Meyer

#### Editors

Maj. Nancie Margetis  
2nd Lt. Stephen  
Unverzagt

#### Photographer

Staff Sgt. Steven D.  
Martin

#### Journalist

Staff Sgt. Andria Sapp

#### Videographers

Master Sgt. Samuel  
Kassis  
Staff Sgt. Shelly Stark  
Senior Airman Sarah  
Pherigo

**Public Affairs Manager**  
Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr

### Communication Flight hosts foreign exchange NCO

*By Capt. Shawn D. Strahle  
183rd Communications Flight  
Commander*

The 183rd Communications Flight (SC) had the honor of participating in the Department of Defense Reserve Officers Foreign Exchange Program. This program dates back to the mid 1980's when the DoD established a National Guard and Reserve officer exchange with the United Kingdom and Germany. The purpose of the exchange is to allow officers and Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) the opportunity to work with their counterparts from an allied nation. The exchange periods are generally two weeks and can in some cases extend for 30 days. The time spent working with the host nation allows the officers and NCO's a first-rate chance to experience the differences in training and mission tasking within each culture.

We hosted Corporal Craig Caira-Neeson from the United Kingdom for two weeks in July. Cpl. Caira-Neeson is a NCO in the No. 600 (City of London) Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force. His technical specialty is in network operations and information technology planning. One of the first things to notice is the rank structure of the Royal Air Force is quite different than ours. Their NCOs are comprised of only two ranks: Corporal and Sergeant, where as we have five ranks in the sergeant grades. Corporal is the equivalent to our staff sergeant and technical sergeant. Cpl. Caira-Neeson has served in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force for 10 years, and six years in the United Kingdom Territorial Army which is the equivalent to our Army National Guard. He has been on active duty for over



Corporal Craig Caira-Neeson from the United Kingdom's Royal Auxiliary Air Force learns about setting up the satellite dish for the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) system from Airman 1st Class Tyler Casson, 183rd Communications Flight. Caira-Neeson was here from July 8-23 as part of the DoD's Reserve Officers Foreign Exchange Program.

*U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr*

eight months and has also deployed to Afghanistan serving at the air base in Kandahar.

When we found out that we were hosting an exchange officer, the flight was very excited to participate in this outstanding program. Cpl. Caira-Neeson and I spoke on the phone and via email several times to get a better understanding of his skill level and background to best tailor his training. As the host unit there were several items on the checklist that needed coordination to ensure a smooth visit. The wing was responsible in generating an Invitational Travel Order (ITO), paying for his air travel from Dulles International Airport, lodging arrangements, and messing on duty days.

During his two-week training with the Communications Flight he was able to see all of our areas of responsibility. The flight has had the opportunity to lead the Air National Guard in deploying some of the latest infor-

mation technology with a virtualized server environment and the Desktop Alert emergency notification software. During Cpl. Caira-Neeson's first day on base he received the safety in-brief and overview of the 183rd's Wing and Communications Flight structure. He started his first week off working with our Network Control Center (NCC), and they put him right on the job assisting with a new multifunction printer/scanner installations at Camp Lincoln. We support the Air National Guard component located at Camp Lincoln with computer network service and IT hardware. The timing was great on the trip to Camp Lincoln; Cpl. Caira-Neeson jumped right in with our team and assisted on the setup. While there, Col. William Cobetto stopped by and introduced himself, then went up and brought a public affairs representative out to take some photographs and do an interview. The

*Continued, Page 6*

### Training saves lives

By Maj. James Robinson  
183rd Security Forces Squadron  
Commander

Every now and then you will hear someone complain about training that is being conducted – it is too long or short, too hard or easy, or something someone thinks they already know how to do it, therefore making it unnecessary. Or even better yet, the common statement that “nothing ever happens here anyway” – again, the presumption being the training is not necessary. The bottom line, however, is that training is one of the most important tasks we undertake as members of the profession of arms.

Recently, Security Forces Defenders discovered how important training is to the success of the mission, and to saving lives.

It is no secret that Security Forces are a high demand, low density career field – we deploy more than most career fields, and we are proud of that. So for our most recent team of deployers, I was extremely confident they would perform admirably while down range, like they have done so many times before. The team had a good mix of seasoned deployers and several deploying for the first time.

For this deployment, however, team members stepped up to perform Area Security Operations (ASO), commonly referred to as “outside the wire.” This would be the first time Air National Guard (ANG) Security Forces (SF) would



be performing an ASO mission.

In preparation for this deployment, the team completed additional pre-deployment training at home station. Although not required, the entire team completed the Combat Life Saver (CLS) course – we thought it was important, so everyone on the team jumped at the opportunity to complete this valuable training.

CLS training was developed by the Army as a bridge between self aid buddy care and medical training given to the combat medic. According to the CLS student self study guide, “the combat lifesaver is trained to provide immediate care that can save a casualty’s life, such as stopping severe bleeding and performing needle chest decompression for a casualty with tension pneumothorax.”

The two-month ASO combat training school they attended at Ft. Bliss, Texas, was well received, and they completed CLS again while there. When I met the team at their graduation, morale seemed

high and they were ready to do their jobs. They had taken their training seriously, were noted by their commander for possessing high morale and great esprit-de-corps, and led from the front throughout the training.

Upon arrival to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, the team was assigned to their duties (some base security operations [i.e. on-base security] and some ASO) as members of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. Everyone got into their battle rhythm as expected and began performing their respective duties.

In May 2011, while members of a quick reaction force, an early morning dismounted reconnaissance/presence patrol was conducted just outside Bagram Airfield’s western perimeter. The intent of these types of patrols is to search for signs of enemy activity, deter enemy activity and deny enemy freedom of movement. Additionally, these patrols positively interact with the local population to enhance base defense in line with the International Security Assistance Force Counter Insurgency mission. The purpose of this particular patrol was a dismounted presence/reconnaissance to assess reports of digging and other suspicious activities in the area.

Twelve minutes into this patrol, all of the training our defenders (and other ANG and active duty SF Defenders as well) had received would be put to the test. While en route to their first phase line, a De-

*Continued, Page 5*

## Commander's Commentary cont.

fender stepped onto an antipersonnel mine (APM). Believing they were under an indirect fire attack (mortar, missile, etc) the team took evasive action seeking immediate cover.

Once they were clear and were called to perform CLS for the injured Defender, the team established 360 degree security while moving towards the Bagram Air Base perimeter walls.

While moving towards this objective, a second Defender stepped on a second APM. These two APMs severely injured both Defenders and one military working dog as well. With little regard for their own safety, team members reacted to this life threatening situation exactly as they had been trained. Senior Airman Evan Stevens, 183rd SFS, Staff Sgt. Vincent

Estes, 118th SFS and Senior Airman Yanick Koenig, 143rd SFS, applied tourniquets to the injured left legs of both casualties. Staff Sgt. Chris Mazrim, 183rd SFS and Airman 1st Class Greg Graham, 99th SFS, conducted a hasty two-person carry of one of the wounded Defenders until they got close to a base entry control point, where they were met by fellow Defenders with a second stretcher. Within minutes, both injured Defenders were quickly transported to the base hospital where doctors subsequently amputated the foot of one Defender and the leg (below the knee) of the other. The emergency room attending physician credited Stevens, Estes, and Yanick with saving the lives of both staff sergeants by controlling the profuse

bleeding from injuries sustained in the mine blast.

How did these three Defenders control the profuse bleeding? They correctly applied tourniquets as they had learned during their training. How did they know how to do this? They took their training seriously, learned the skill, and practiced it before deploying. You will never know when you will need to use the training you receive, but this incident is a stark example of how important it is to take your training (whatever it is) seriously. The training that Senior Airman Stevens received a few months prior to this incident is a prime example of how training saves lives. So the next time you are training and you hear someone bemoaning it, remember that training saves lives – it might even save yours.



Senior Airman Evan Stevens, 183rd SFS, far left and Yanick Koenig, 143rd SFS, center, visit with Staff Sgt. Russell Logan, 164th SFS, in the Bagram Air Base hospital shortly after Staff Sgt. Logan received a Purple Heart from Brig. Gen. Darryl L. Roberson, 455th AEW/CC.

Stevens and Koenig were two of the three Defenders credited with saving Logan's life by properly applying a tourniquet after Logan had stepped on an antipersonnel mine while on patrol in Afghanistan.

*(Courtesy Photo)*

**Cont. from Page 3**

Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William Enyart, visited with Cpl. Caira-Neeson and presented him with his coin. This was a great way to introduce him to the command structure in the National Guard and show him the State Headquarters. Cpl. Caira-Neeson worked the next few days with the NCC and had a chance to see how we manage and setup virtual servers and how our computer repair service functions.

He worked with our Network Operation Infrastructure section, which is in the process of relocating the base satellite television coaxial cables. This allowed him to see how we perform in a confined space entry and gave him a good understanding of the copper and fiber infrastructure. He was able to get a very good overview of our telephone infrastructure, with both analog and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone systems.

During Cpl. Caira-Neeson's second week he worked with our Information Assurance Manager and had an opportunity to see our Computer Security (COMPUSEC), Emission Security (EMSEC), and our Certification and Accreditation (C&A) of our network systems. He also worked with our Plans and Program section and saw how we do IT project management, life-cycle management, network circuits, and deployment managers responsibilities. Cpl. Caira-Neeson currently works in similar areas at his home station, and it was a great chance for him to compare notes. He also got a great overview and hands on training with our Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) system which is assigned to SC to support man-made and natural disasters.

Cpl. Caira-Neeson got to see some of the well-known areas in the Midwest. He took day trips to both, Chicago and St. Louis. While in St. Louis he took the trip up into the Gateway

Arch. During his stay in Springfield, he visited Lincoln's Tomb and the War Memorials at the Oak Ridge Cemetery. He also visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library with Col. Stephen Baggerly and Capt. Strahle, where he was very impressed with the story and presentation of President Abraham Lincoln's history.

The Exchange Program is in large part a chance to experience the culture of the host nation and build a better understanding of what each nation brings to the working environment.

Cpl. Caira-Neeson was an outstanding candidate for the program; his personality fit right in with our communications team. He was very moved by the comments from the team. They said they would like to have him on full-time and his experience and knowledge were notable. He has expressed that his experience visiting with our unit has been one of the highlights of his career. He appreciated how we took him right in and made him feel at home. He was impressed by our team unity, technical skill, and professionalism. Information technology is universal. He saw that the challenges we face in supporting mission and customers at the 183rd, are the same as he deals with in his organization. He commented on how our funding and equipment resources greatly outreach the Royal Auxiliary Air Force. To him, we have what seems like an excellent deployment of IT equipment, software, and training.

The next to last day of Cpl. Caira-Neeson's visit there was a commemoration ceremony where Col. Michael Meyer presented him with a Wing Commander coin and a plaque. Cpl. Caira-Neeson presented the Wing a book, *GENTLEMEN IN BLUE: The History of No. 600 "City of London" Squadron*. He stated, "He had an outstanding visit and truly appreciated the hospitality and experience."



**Who:** 1st Lieutenant Melanie Crays

**What:** Chief, Military Equal Opportunity

**When:** March 1998

**Why:** After high school I wasn't sure what I wanted to do and I knew that the Guard would cover college when I was ready.

**Civilian Employment:** I am a police Officer in Normal, IL. I work patrol duties on the afternoon shift.

**Civilian/Military Correlation:** I am able to share my police experiences as examples when speaking about things like prejudice and substance abuse and prevention during MEO training.

**Recent/Favorite Deployment:** I have enjoyed all of my deployments/military assignments because they have provided opportunities to meet and work with members from different sections of our base as well as people from different bases and countries.

**Additional Comment/Suggestions:** I joined the 183rd 13 years ago as an enlisted member. I was tasked in the weapons back-shop and enjoyed my time there. However, three years ago I commissioned as an officer and I am continuing to enjoy this new chapter, as well as new challenges, of my career in the MEO.

# 183rd Security Forces explores new force protection package

*By Maj. Nancie Margetis  
183rd FW Public Affairs*

Thirteen members from the 183rd Security Forces Squadron participated in Patriot 2011 at Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Wis., July 11-22. Their mission was to participate in an integrated training exercise to explore the feasibility of embedding a 13-person security forces Fixed Site Security Element (FSSE) to secure the inner perimeter, known as the “cold zone” of a traditional Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERF-P) while adapting the CERF-P Standardized Operating Procedures (SOP’s) and developing security forces SOPs that previously had not existed nor been exercised.

Patriot 2011 was an international large scale training exercise that brought together community and federal agencies with military organizations from several states and two countries. Units worked to develop best practices and refine emergency responses for a variety of contingencies, from terrorist threats to train accidents and exposure from hazardous material spills.

The Patriot 2011 exercise focused on domestic operations (DOMOPS) which included a multi-incident terrorist use of a Radiological Dispersal Device Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) via a Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED). The event scenario collapsed concrete, steel and wood-frame structures, crushed vehicles, caused mass casualties and radiological contamination. The exercise also evaluated fire operations, CERF-P operations, fatality search and rescue, compromised structure shoring, and complex emergency management challenges.

Some of the objectives the FSSE were tasked with performing during the exercise included: applying less than lethal applications of deadly force, initiating entry control point in out perimeter, establishing con-



Members from the 183rd Security Forces pose for a group photo while at Patriot 2011, Volk Field, Wis. They participated in the July exercise to develop and deploy a force protection package for CERF-P medics and support personnel.

*U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Natalie Stanley*

tinuous command and control through Incident Command, and providing continuous security for 24 hours to include overnight security patrols.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Fred Ausmus, 183rd Security Forces operations superintendent, they met their objectives without any problem. “The Patriot Readiness Safeguard Staff gave the IL ANG FSSE the highest rating possible,” he says. On a scale from 1-4 the IL ANG FSSE was rated a “1”, which indicated they Performed Without Challenges. The performance measure and tasks associated with the activity were completed in a manner that achieved the objective and did not negatively impact the performance of other activities.

“The 183rd SFS envisioned, developed and subsequently deployed a force protect package that provided a secure work environment for CERF-P medics and support personnel operating within the cold zone of a CBRNE, DOMOPs incident,” said Ausmus.

Ausmus was pleased with the outcome and the way the 183rd members performed. “We proved our (FSSEs) relevance and highlighted a valuable capability that had not previously been utilized,” he added.

Formal recommendations for FSSE consideration for use by all NGRF staff personnel as an additional force protection package option for all States that employ a CERF-P was forwarded by Senior Master Sgt. Ausmus to the National Guard Bureau.

## Announcements

### Promotions

**Lieutenant Colonel**  
Sheila Perry

**1st Lieutenant**  
Matthew T. Compardo

**Master Sergeant**  
Christopher I. Brown  
Paul J. Selhime  
William C. Shaffer IV

**Staff Sergeant**  
Kayla M. Kent

**Senior Airman**  
David M. Wiant

### Welcome Aboard

Captain Erick Montenegro  
Staff Sergeant Brandi L. Jewell  
Senior Airman Brian C. Craft  
Airman 1st Class Eric L. Ogden  
Airman 1st Class Kewanee L. Womack

Air Operations Squadron  
Air Mobility Operations Squadron  
Maintenance Squadron  
Maintenance Squadron  
Air Operations Squadron

### Retirees

Master Sgt. Erik D. Hill      Maintenance Squadron      July 10, 2011  
Master Sgt. Rebecca L. Cole      Logistics Readiness Squadron      July 31, 2011



Master Sgt. James Kavanagh (SFS) and fiancée Amy Meyer are the proud parents of a new baby girl. Taylor Ashlynn Kavanagh was born July 21, weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces, and measuring 22 inches long. Mom and baby are both doing well. Congratulations to the family!

### Second Annual “Run to Remember”



5K Walk/Run  
**Rescheduled!!**  
Sunday, Oct. 2, 9 a.m.

*Come out and help us remember those of the 183rd we have lost over the years.*

Course: The run will consist of a flat course on the perimeter road.

Awards: Overall male and female winners will receive a special plaque and \$20 gas gift card.

Male and female age group winners will receive \$10 gas cards. Age groups will be as follows: 17 and Under 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+

Contact: 1st Lt. Payne or Master Sgt. Stults at ext. 275, or Chief Master Sgt. Roesch at ext. 365

Hosted by: NCO Academy Graduates Association

## 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, Sept. 6. They say they meet at 8 a.m. but if you're not there by 7:30, the early birds have taken the good seats!

**\*\*\*NOTICE:** *The fall semi-annual retirees luncheon, that was originally scheduled for October 7, has been canceled as the Diamond Buffet is no longer in business. Please contact Mr. Walter Pierce at (217) 787-1226 for more information.\*\*\**



### There's an app for that?

By Lt. Col. Jeff Laible  
183rd FW Chaplain

Invisible war wounds: There is an app for that? This headline on a recent on-line edition of Air Force Times caught my attention. I quickly clicked on the article and read the story. An app for your smartphone that helps you deal with the hidden wounds of war? Great idea, I thought. So I printed the article and then downloaded one of the half dozen apps that are available. "PTSD Coach" was my first choice (it has been downloaded about 11,000 times in 37 countries since it was introduced in May). And after looking through the app a few times, I am convinced that this is an excellent tool for anyone who has some questions, concerns or needing more information on Post Traumatic Stress.

Other apps for your smartphone include "T2 MoodTracker," (which has been downloaded about 17,000 times since it was introduced) and "Breathe2Relax". These apps have been developed by the Pentagon and Veterans Affairs Department. The apps do not diagnose illness or replace psychiatric counseling, according to the article in Air Force Times, but the apps offer at-your-fingertips information about the "invisible wounds" of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – and techniques for managing the symptoms.

Some 2.3 million men and women have served tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, and many



troops have served in the AOR or in other support roles in the past decade. Very likely you or someone you know has been deployed overseas more than once within the past ten years. Given this fact, I suspect all of us probably know someone who might benefit from the newest apps for smartphones. What a powerful and helpful tool we now have available to us. And in an environment where privacy regarding mental health is important, these apps, while not replacing the importance of one-to-one counseling, provide powerful tools for our troops who are needing some advice and support (in dealing with issues related to exposure to a combat environment).

So take a few minutes today and download one of the suggested apps. You never know when you will be able to help someone (or yourself) with the information provided – all accessible – any time, day or night – on your smartphone.

### Roman Catholic Chaplain

Lt. Col. Bob Barry

3700 103rd Street

Chicago, IL 60655

phone: 773-296-3857

email: RLBarry@att.net

or robert.barry@ang.af.mil



### Roman Catholic Chaplain

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



## Guard members have one-stop information shop

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

7/5/2011 - ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- Officials with the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have created a one-stop website for Guard members to access and administer their service benefits-related information in a secure manner, said the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

In a November 2010 memorandum to all the branches, Clifford L. Stanley announced that a new VA eBenefits web portal had been created as a solution for benefit-related information availability to current and former service members, to include all Guard members.

“The DS (DOD Self-Service Logon) is a secure, self-service logon ID that allows beneficiaries affiliated with the DOD or the VA access to several websites using a single username and password,” Stanley said.

Developed by specialists with the 2007 President’s Commission on Care for America’s Returning Wounded Warriors, eBenefits will allow Guard members to apply and track the status of their VA claims and access a catalog of direct links to assist them with needs ranging from education benefits to life insurance.

“DS Logon will allow all service members and veterans secure access through the eBenefits web portal to benefits information specifically tailored to their needs, for the lifetime of their affiliation with the DOD or VA,” he said.

All service members in possession of a common access card should be

directed to obtain a eBenefits logon, Stanley said.

June 11, members of the DOD and VA Joint Executive Council approved the plan, directing service members to obtain a DS Logon when either first enlisting or re-entering the service and directed all current service members to obtain a logon by November 2013.

“National Guardsmen can sign up one of four ways,” said Vernell Hill, the National Guard Bureau Interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System senior access control manager.

Guard members can access for sign-up with their common access card, through myPay, by using a defense enrollment eligibility reporting system real-time automated personnel identification system terminal or by going directly to the closest VA center for face-to-face assistance, he said.

Hill recommends that Guard members who are still part of the uniformed service use their common access cards to enter the system since it is easier.

“CAC registration is especially critical for our wounded warriors, since it may be more difficult to travel to a RAPIDS or VA site,” he said.

Current Guard members enrolling on the eBenefits site must ensure they sign up for level 2 credentialing, Hill said.

All-in-all, Hill feels this program is an extremely useful tool that Guard members should use to ensure all of their information is correct and up-to-date.

“It’s a tool for personal information organization,” he said. “The sooner you get in and get up to date, the easier it is for everything to fall into line, especially in the event something unforeseen happens and your family needs information.”

## Family Day Saturday Oct. 1 Riverside Park 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**There will be  
games for all ages**



Baseball, Washers, Bocce Ball, Bags, Hillbilly Golf Football Game will be shown Fun Run, relay races, three legged races, wheelbarrow races (all ages welcome) Pumpkin and cookie decorating, Horse rides and kids games (or kids at heart)



**Lunch and  
drinks  
will be served**

## 1206’s That Rock!

### Writing the AF Form 1206, Nomination for Award

Presented by Command Chief Master Sgt. John Jordan & State HRA Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Korte

Who: All Welcome  
Where: P-48 Auditorium  
When: Sunday, Sept. 11, 10-11 a.m.

Training will consist of presentation, discussion, and a question/answer period. Times and location subject to change. Any changes will be announced.

### Boating and personal watercraft (PWC) Safety

By Master Sgt. Mike Niepert  
183rd Safety Office

Boating is a popular and fun spring, summer, and fall activity, but when safety is ignored, can quickly become a dangerous one. Most boating here in Illinois takes place in what the Coast Guard would classify as a small boat. Statistically, more than 80 percent of all boating fatalities occur in boats less than 26 feet in length, often the result of capsizing or falls overboard. In many cases, a contributing factor is one or a combination of the Coast Guard's Big 4: excessive speed, reckless operation, operator inattention/inexperience, and boating under the influence. Because of their size they usually have little to no freeboard – the distance between the rail or top edge of the boat and the waterline – and even less when fully loaded with occupants, food, and gear. It is easy to overload these vessels unintentionally, and an overloaded boat is more likely to capsize, even in relatively calm waters. So keep in mind your boat's maximum load capacity. On most mono-hull boats up to 20 feet long, this information can be found on the capacity plate, permanently affixed to the hull by the manufacturer. It notes the maximum horsepower rating and maximum load weight at which the boat can safely operate. If a capacity plate is not present, one easy formula for calculating the maximum load for a mono-hull boat is to multiply the boat's length times

its width and divide by 15. As such, a boat 6 feet wide and 18 feet long can carry up to 7 people safely. To make capsizing even less likely, be sure your load is distributed evenly to keep the boat balanced.

The term "personal watercraft" (PWC) is used to define a category of vessels that have grown in popularity as well as numbers. Personal watercraft are small (usually 8 feet or less) one or two person motorized craft. These vessels are highly maneuverable and capable of speeds in excess of 50 miles per hour. They are also called jet skis, wet bikes,



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

Here are some general safety guidelines to follow. Many of them may be law where you boat.

- Do not operate a boat or PWC while drinking alcohol or using drugs.
- Learn to swim and learn basic water rescue techniques.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation device.
- Do not boat, water ski, or operate a PWC in a manner that endan-

gers other lake users. Boaters, watch for scuba divers and skiers.

- Confine jet skiing and water skiing to daylight hours.
- Children should not operate any personal water craft.
- Do not allow anyone to ride on decks or gunwales.
- Avoid excessive speed, especially in congested areas.
- Be aware of underwater hazards such as submerged logs, stumps, and rocks.
- Watch your children. Beaches are unguarded, and there may be sharp drop-offs near shore.
- Dive only in familiar areas, and check water depth before diving.
- Avoid dams. Water flowing over dams can create a current capable of drawing boats and PWC's into the face of the dam and holding them under water. Avoid dam spillways during high water.

Keep your boat in proper working order, and make sure it meets all equipment guidelines established by your states boating laws. Carry the following:

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

I hope these guidelines will help keep you and your family safe out on our state's fine lakes this summer. For more information on safe boating, go to; <http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/>. Until next time, be careful and be safe!!

## Congratulations



Colonel Jeffrey Rice, Vice Commander, 183d Fighter Wing, has his “eagles” pinned on by his mother, Kay Rice, left, and his daughter Kristen, right, as Col. Meyer, far left, and his father, Fred Rice, far right, look on.

*U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shelly Stark*



Chief Master Sgt. Drew Thompson gets his E-9 stripes tacked on with a lot of help from son Caleb, wife Grace, and sons Hunter and Connor (left to right).

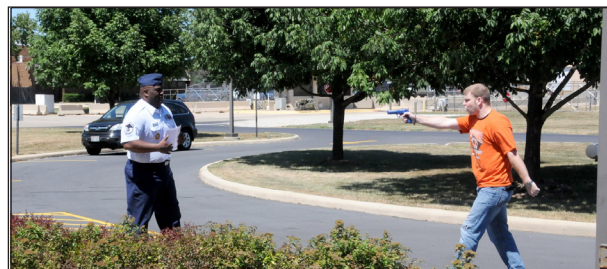
*U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shelly Stark*

## EXERCISE! EXERCISE! EXERCISE!

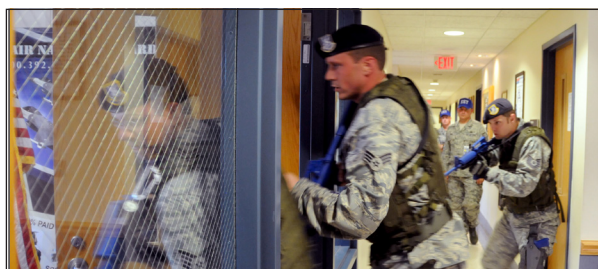


Technical Sgt. Adam Jackson, left, and Staff Sgt. Brandon Despain, right, secure the hallway as Technical Sgt. Stephen Horcharik searches the “shooter” in an exercise held during Aug UTA.

“Allāhu Akbar! God is great!”, screams the gunman as he draws a weapon to claim his first victim in an exercise held to test the response of the base to the threat of an “active shooter”.



Staff Sgt. Brandon Despain, Senior Airman Tom Krob and Technical Sgt. Adam Jackson (left to right) forcefully enter an office in order to secure it during an exercise held during Aug UTA.



1st Lieutenant Amanda Shull, Staff Sgt. Kayla Kent, and Staff Sgt. Mark Smith (left to right) prioritize injuries for triage after the shooter had been neutralized by Security Forces.



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 Program Coordinator. 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](mailto:joe.ward.1@ang.mil) or by calling 217-757-1569.

## Welcoming a new member



The 183rd hired a Wing Director of Psychological Health, Ms. Meg Haycraft. Each ANG wing has been provided funding for this new position.

As Director she will work closely with the Wing Staff and the Medical Group to assist on all issues and initiatives involving psychological health of all unit members and their families.

She will be able to assist before, during, and after deployments. She also is ready and able to assist on non-deployment related issues.

She is located on the second floor of P-48 in what was formally the Family Readiness Office and can be reached at x279, email address: [margaret.haycraft.ctr@ang.af.mil](mailto:margaret.haycraft.ctr@ang.af.mil).

She will be working closely with Joe Ward, the Wing Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager, who is now located on the first floor of P-48 in what was formally the Honor Guard office.

Please note that if Ms. Haycraft is not available and you have an issue, please contact Joe Ward who will be able to assist on most matters. He can be reached at x569.

## 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
_____	_____

<b>Please return to:</b>	<b>or e-mail it to:</b>
<b>183rd Family Readiness Group</b>	<b><a href="mailto:joe.ward.1@ang.af.mil">joe.ward.1@ang.af.mil</a></b>
<b>3101 J. David Jones Parkway</b>	<b>(217) 757-1569</b>
<b>Springfield, IL. 62707-5001</b>	

- 1. AUTHORITY: U.S. Code: Title 10, Subtitle E, Part I, Chapter 1007, Section 10204, and other subsets of Title 10.*
- 2. PURPOSE: To collect the information necessary to process the action indicated by the form you are completing*
- 3. ROUTINE USES: This information will not be disclosed outside the Department of Defense.*
- 4. DISCLOSURE: Voluntary. However, failure to provide the information requested will result in the form not being processed, and may result in a denial of the intended action.*

## Vacancies

The following is a list of enlisted vacancies as of Aug. 6. Members applying for these positions must currently hold the AFSC for the position being applied for. Prior service members are encouraged to explore these exciting new opportunities.

If interested in applying for these positions, please contact Master Sgt. Matt Allen at 217-757-1292 / DSN:892-8292, or, Tech. Sgt. Sarah Hayward 217-757-1184 / DSN:892-8184.

<b>LRS</b>			E-6	3D072	Cyber Sys Operations
E-7	2G071	Logistics Plans	<b>ASUS cont.</b>		
			E-6	3D175	Ground Radar Systems
<b>MXS</b>			E-6	4A171	Medical Material
E-7	2A671	Aerospace Propulsion	E-5	3P051	Security Forces
			E-5	3D154	Spectrum Operations
<b>FW</b>			E-5	3D155	Ground Radar Systems
E-5	1C351	Command Post			
E-6	3N074	Still Photography	<b>AOS</b>		
E-8	3N090	Human Resource Advisor	E-7	1C171	Air Traffic Control
			E-7	1C471	TACP
<b>CES</b>					
E-5	3E251	Pave/Control Equipment	<b>AOG</b>		
			E-7	1C571	C2 Battle Mgt Operations
<b>SFS</b>			E-7	1N171A	Geospatial Intel
E-5	3P051	Security Forces	E-6	1C571	C2 Battle Mgt Operations
			E-6	1N171A	Geospatial Intel
<b>217 EIS</b>			E-6	1N071	Operations Intel
E-7	1S071	Safety			
<b>AMOS</b>			<b>ACOMS</b>		
E-7	1A071	In-flight Refueling	E-8	3D190	Cyber Operations
E-7	2T271	Air Transportation	E-6	3D172	Cyber Transport Systems
E-6	1A071	In-flight Refueling	E-5	3D152	Cyber Transport Systems
E-6	1A171	Flight Engineer			
E-6	1C072	Aviation Resource Mgt			
E-6	2T271	Air Transportation			
E-5	1C351	Command Post			
<b>ASUS</b>					
E-9	1C000	Air Operations	<b>FW</b>		
E-8	3D190	Cyber Operations	O-4	052R3	Chaplain
E-8	3E090	Electrical	O-5	011F3Y	Fighter Pilot
E-7	3D173	RF Transmission Systems	<b>MDG</b>		
E-7	1C571	C2 Battle Mgt Operator	O-5	048R3	Flight Surgeon
E-6	1C571	C2 Battle Mgt Operator	O-5	048A3	Aero Med Specialist
E-6	3D172	Cyber Transport Sys	O-5	44M3	Internist
E-6	3M071	Services	O-5	042E3	Optometrist

The following is a list of officer vacancies as of Aug 6. Contact Senior Master Sgt. Diana Braun at 217-757-1566 or DSN: 892-8566 if interested in applying for these positions.

## Vacancies cont.

### ASUS

O-4	052R3	Chaplain
O-4	021A4	Aircraft Maintenance
O-5	013B4C	Air Battle Manager
O-5	013B4B	Air Battle Manager
O-4	012M4Y	Mobility CSO
O-4	012M4S	Mobility CSO

### AMOS

O-5	046F4	Flight Nurse
O-4	041A4	Health Service Admin
O-4	021A4	Aircraft Maintenance
O-4	011M3S	Mobility Pilot

### ASUS

O-4	043T4A	Biomedical lab
O-4	043H4	Public Health
O-4	043E4A	Bioenvironmental Engineer
O-4	011F4Y	Fighter Pilot

### AOG

O-5	011F4Y	Fighter Pilot
O-4	017D4B	Cyberspace Operation

### AOS

O-5	011F4Y	Fighter Pilot
O-4	014N4	Intelligence
O-4	013S4	Space & Missile
O-4	013M4	Airfield Operations
O-4	013B4B	Air Battle Manager
O-4	012F4W	Fighter CSO
O-4	012B4Y	Bomber CSO
O-4	011F4Y	Fighter Pilot
O-4	011B4Y	Bomber Pilot

## Blood drive

### Unit Blood Drive

*Did you know?*

*-4.5 million Americans would die each year without life saving blood transfusions*

*-Approximately 32,000 pints of blood are used each day in the United States*

*-Every three seconds someone needs blood*

*-One out of every 10 people entering a hospital needs blood*

*-Just one pint of donated blood can help save as many as three people's lives*

*-The average adult has 10 pints of blood in his or her body*

*-One unit of blood is roughly the equivalent of one pint*

*-Blood makes up about 7% of your body's weight*

*-A newborn baby has about one cup of blood in his or her body*

*-The average red blood cell transfusion is 3.4 pints*

*-Blood fights against infection and help heal wounds, keeping you healthy* ([www.americasblood.org](http://www.americasblood.org))

The blood drive is Saturday, Sept. 10, from **0800-1200 hrs.** The bloodmobile from the Central Illinois Community Blood Center will be in the main parking lot located by P-48 conducting our annual blood drive.

*For more information please contact Chief Master Sgt. Devra Schoby at ext. 859.*

