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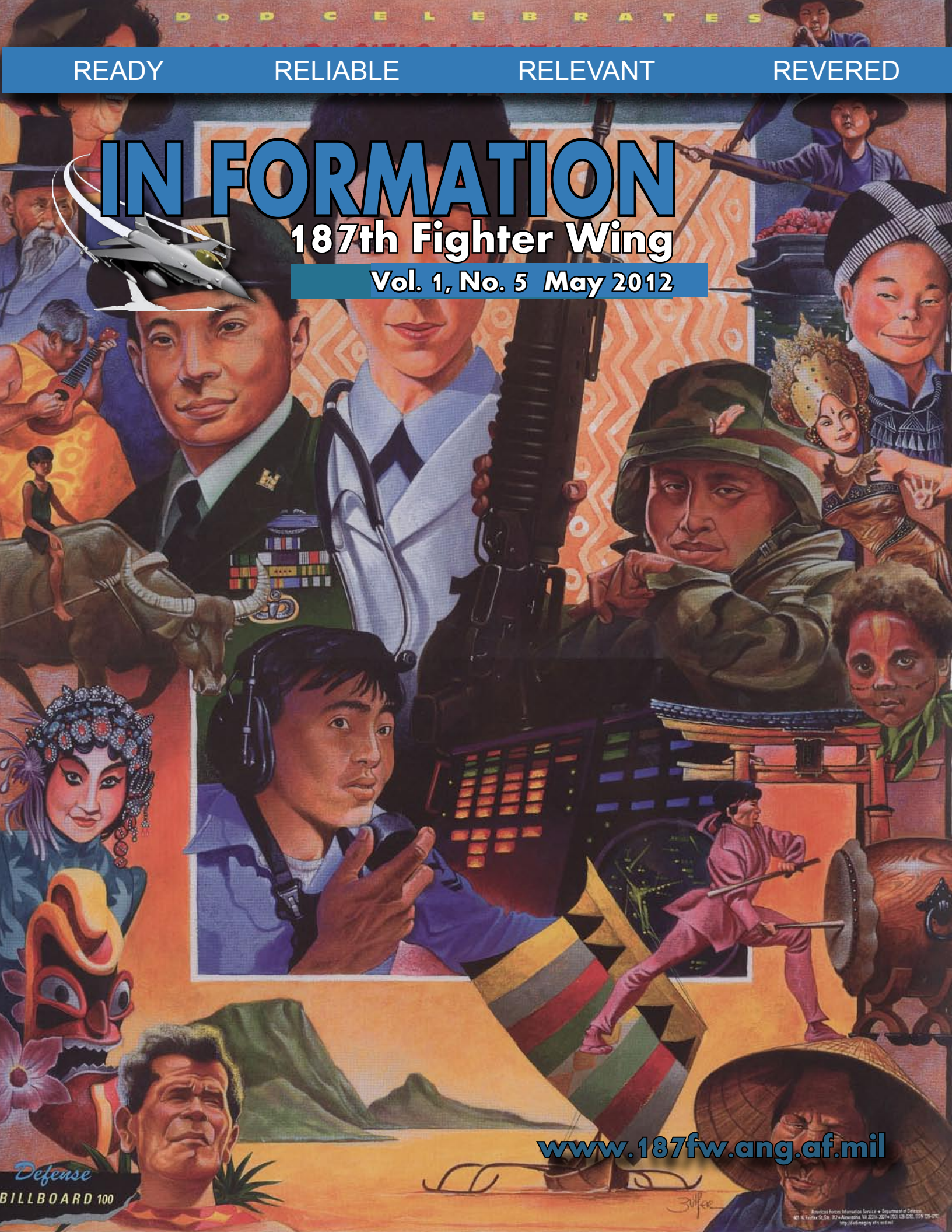
RELEVANT

REVERED

IN FORMATION

187th Fighter Wing

Vol. 1, No. 5 May 2012



www.187fw.ang.af.mil



U.S. AIR FORCE



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187TH FIGHTER WING

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187th Fighter Wing Vice Commander

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Tech. Sgt. Chris Baldwin

Tech. Sgt. Jeff Foster

Tech. Sgt. Monique Randall

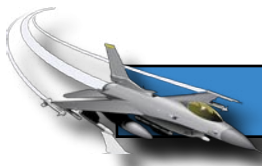
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ON THE COVER >> *May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. It was originally introduced as Pacific/Asian Heritage Week in 1977. This year's theme is "Leadership, Diversity, Empowerment, and Beyond." For more information, visit the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month website .*



MAXWELL AFB, Ala - Members of the 187 Fighter Wing play baseball during the Safety Morale Day on Sun., April 15, 2012. See more photos at *page 10*. (Photo by TSgt Monique Randall)

Submission deadline for the June 2012 publication is June 1. Articles must be submitted electronically to 187FW.PA@ang.af.mil.



Alabama Guard prepares for the state's number one threat

by Capt. Andrew Richardson
Alabama National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

MONTGOMERY-- The Alabama National Guard takes disaster response seriously. Guardsmen from units across the state gathered at the headquarters here, April 28, 2012, for a Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) drill to rehearse the state's hurricane operations response plan.

Staff members from the Alabama Emergency Management Agency were on-hand for the rehearsal due to the close working relationship of the AEMA and the National Guard during disaster relief. "We are a coordinating agency," said Jeff Byard, AEMA Executive Operations Officer. "The National Guard is our force multiplier." Members of U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), the U.S. military's command responsible for North America, were also on-hand, including the Alabama National Guard's Maj. Gen. Charles Gailes, now commander of USNORTHCOM's Task Force 51.

The rehearsal included Alabama National Guard Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) and individual unit actions to prepare for a hurricane response. The event covered pre-hurricane season activities, hurricane approach through land fall, and beyond. This ensures that Guardsmen fully understand the response plan at all levels and synchronize actions from the JFHQ level down to the unit level in response to a hurricane.

Guardsmen briefed from two lecterns standing on the panhandle of Florida on a map that took up the entire drill hall floor. Other Soldiers used placards to show where their respective units would provide a particular asset at a particular time during response as a 4-foot-wide hurricane symbol approached and then landed on the map that spanned 40 feet wide and 85



The command group looks on and asks questions about the hurricane ROC drill. L to R: Jeff Byard, AEMA Executive Operations Officer; Col. Eddie Porter, ALNG Chief of Staff; Maj. Gen. Charles Gailes, USNORTHCOM Task Force 51 Commander; Maj. Gen. Perry G. Smith, ALNG Adjutant General; Brig. Gen. Allen M. Harrell, ALNG Director of Joint Staff; Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Pike, ALNG Command Sergeant Major. (Photo by: Capt. Andrew Richardson, ALNG Public Affairs)

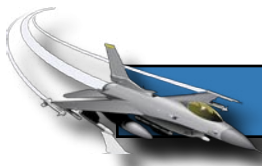
feet long. This rehearsal led to May's week-long hurricane response exercise where the Alabama National Guard will practice in a simulated environment the actions taken in storm response, again from pre-landfall operations to days into the response.

These rehearsals and exercises are key to mission success. "The reason we did so well last year with the tornadoes is because of training events like this," said Maj. Gen. Perry G. Smith, Alabama National Guard Adjutant General. Even though this rehearsal is for hurricanes, the preparations, coordination and many of the missions are the same for most disasters that may face the state. "Hurricanes are what we're known for," said Smith. "This is what we do." "A hurricane will always be the number one threat to Alabama," said

Byard.

"The final result of all the preparation and training prior to this ROC drill, the conduct of this drill and then the exercise in May is that the Alabama National Guard is fully prepared to respond to a hurricane by the June 1 beginning of hurricane season," said Lt. Col. Jim Hawkins, Alabama National Guard Deputy Director of Military Support.





(Stock Photo)

Take no thought for your life...

by MSgt. Steve Huffman
187th Fighter Wing Chaplain Office

Here we are, en-route to Springfield Missouri, it's a partly cloudy day, traffic is light, a beautiful Saturday for traveling. Our plan is to visit our son & daughter-in-law and see our grand children Isaiah and Ruby. Ruby is a special needs child and was just adopted from Taiwan in December. This was my first chance to put my fingerprints on her. Donna (my wife) had made a quick trip up at Christmas and enjoyed a grand time with them all. After 10 hours we arrived. It was late but the kids were all still up and greeted us. As we started to bed, I thought on the 4 great days visiting ahead of us.

At 06:30 the next morning Donna awoke with a back ache. It escalated to severe pain in her back and side. Instead of dressing for church (to see Ruby's dedication) we dressed for the emergency room. The CAT scan revealed a 5 mm kidney stone. The doctor immediately scheduled us for a lithotripsy (sonic blaster) Monday morning. He gave Donna some pain

and nausea medication and sent us home. Oh well, the game has changed! As we prayed and ask God to help us through what was ahead we began to get a sense of peace. The Urology doctor called at 11pm just to review our case with us for the next morning. (Everyone we spoke to at the hospital said he was the best).

After getting checked through insurance and getting a pre-op room, there arose a glitch! Donna had a 101 degree fever. Dr Farber (the night owl doc), advised that he could not do the lithotripsy due to the potential of spreading infection throughout her body and that Donna would need an immediate stent placed in the affected kidney to allow drainage. So now they come in and start prepping her for surgery and I am shown to the waiting room.

The stent procedure went good and by that evening again we were sent home with Donna on antibiotics to be seen on Thursday for the lithotripsy. Our plans

sure have changed. My son and family were so gracious with our extended stay. Now Thursday's lithotripsy was successful and the kidney stone was broken in pieces. A follow-up doctor's visit on Monday, 4 days later, would give us the verdict: more treatments or release.

Monday started with an x-ray and then Donna's visit with the doctor. (boy, how we had been praying and had others praying for us too!). The doctor advised that all looked as expected. He removed the stent and released us to travel the next day. "Sweet Home Alabama", here we come!

Summary: The extended time in Missouri gave us- extra time with our kids and grand kids, a chance to work through a difficult time together, renew prayer partner relationships, and again realize how much God cares for us. Life is precious and He cares for you too in your difficulty- give Him a try.



IN MEMORIAM

My Regret: A neighbor shares his reflections

The following email was forwarded to several members of the 187 Fighter Wing:

I had a regret as I left home for a funeral.

The funeral was for an ex-neighbor. He was a CMSgt assigned to the F-16 unit at Dannelly Field--his name is Don Brackin--he ran the life support unit. Don had been deployed to places like Kuwait, Iraq, etc more times that I can count over the past 15 years--he'd been gone more than he'd been home. The deployments took their toll. My wife ran into Susan (his wife) a few weeks ago--Susan told her that Don was not at peace--that he had a lot of issues, that the stress from always being at war had become too much, that he had just seen "too much".

Don was as good a neighbor as anyone could hope for. He helped me a lot when I lived next door to him and I did my best to return the favors--but I couldn't keep up. We were neighbors on Pine Acres Street in Millbrook for and for 12 years--his two daughters and my daughters literally grew up together--but we were good neighbors to each other.

Don and I could not be more different:

- He was a big, rough-looking man with Marine haircut and tattoos everywhere and wore shirtless t-shirts a lot--most of my shirts have a polo guy on them

- He spent his weekends hunting anything in season--I've fired a weapon twice in 30 years and that was only because the AF made me

- I cut my lawn by myself because I enjoyed it--when Don cut his lawn, the whole family cut it with him

- He knew lots of stuff about practical things--he could fix a car; he installed a security system for Susan n; he taught Susan how to fire a weapon to defend herself and the girls while he was deployed--I know how to build PowerPoint charts and plan meetings; for self-defense, I keep a 9 iron beneath my bed (I told him that once and again, he just shook his head)

- During Hurricane Opel, the weather got so bad, Kim and I had the girls in a tub covered with mattresses--it sounded like the roof was coming off--for some reason, I decided to peak out the back door to see what was going on and watched two large trees crash on our

roof. I just knew giant branches had punctured our roof and I could envision water falling into our attic--so I pulled down the stairs and went into the attic with a flashlight. I'm not sure what I was going to do but I went up there anyway. What did Kim do? She called Don. The next thing I know, while I'm walking around the attic, trying not to fall through a rafter, I hear steps above my head (on the roof in a hurricane)--it was Don with a blue tarp.

- The next morning, the doorbell rang--I answered the door and there stood Don with his chainsaw--he asked me if I was "ready to get to work?" The next 6 hours, we pulled trees off of my roof and cut wood--actually, Don cut wood and I stayed out of his way. I brought him water and a towel and once he was finished with the cutting, he helped me stack the wood.

- One day, Kim called me at work in a panic--our house was flooded--I looked out my office window and saw blue skies--I asked Kim to repeat herself--she did but she wasn't as nice about it the second time around. Apparently, a washer hose had ruptured and literally filled our house with water. Kim told me later than when she opened the back door, Belle (our dog) floated out the back door. Kim called Don. Before I even got home, Don had used a shop vac to empty our house of water, had raised furniture off of the floor and had helped Kim move things away from the water. All I had to do was call State Farm. Don was a big man but he had a bigger heart.

Anyway, I'm not sure of the details, but like I said, we had heard Don was working through some issues--he had been diagnosed with PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder) due to the deployments. He was on the verge of retiring from the AF and had bought a motorcycle--he was on his bike and was in an accident Sunday. He died early Monday. When Kim called me with the news, I wanted to cry--but I couldn't--I had to go to a meeting.

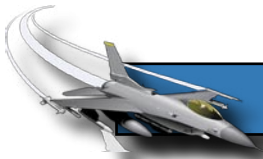
Yesterday at the funeral, the minister told us that this past Sunday, Don was in church (First United Methodist in Millbrook)--the minister told us that after the service, Don went forward in tears. He was crying so hard, the minister couldn't understand him but he comforted him,

he listened and they prayed. Afterwards, the entire church circled Don and prayed with him, they prayed he would find the peace he was looking for. The minister told us that Susan had told the congregation about Don's issues and that many in the church had been praying for him for awhile. That was the last day of his life.

The good news is, the minister, Susan and Don's daughters are all convinced that Don finally found the peace he was looking for and that he is now with our Lord. Before the funeral, I spoke to his daughter Bridgette (who was Kristen's best friend for many years) and is now married with a daughter of her own--I was having a hard time keeping my composure. The thing is, Bridgette had the brightest smile you ever saw on her face--there wasn't a trace of a tear--she looked me straight in the eye told me "it's okay Mr. Tony--his is happy now--he found peace Sunday morning before the Lord took him home". I'm 50 years old and wondered why I couldn't be as strong as Bridgette. After the funeral was over, while walking back to the car with Kim, Kristen and Brooke, Brooke said "isn't God amazing? I'm so happy. Don is with God".

The truth is I have a regret that's eating me up: two weeks ago, on my way home from the office, I decided to drive by our old home--Kristen is getting married soon, Brooke will leave for college in the fall and more change is coming--so I guess I wanted to drive down memory lane and remember how it used to be when the girls were little. I pulled up in front of our old home and rekindled many of the memories that still bring me so much joy. After a few minutes, it was time to go and as I accelerated and passed Don's house, out of the corner of my eye I saw Don standing on the front porch of his home. I didn't stop. I knew he had issues he was working through and I wasn't sure what to say to him. I kept telling myself I should turn around and go back. But I didn't.

Yesterday, I asked Don to forgive me. I'm hoping he will.



AROUND THE PATTERN

232 CBCS recognizes Jim Pearson Elementary School Students



(Courtesy Photo)

ALEXANDER CITY, Ala. -- Lt Col Troy Morgan and MSgt Rusty Morrison of the 232nd Combat Communication Squadron presented a United States Flag that was flown over Iraq to Jim Pearson Elementary School in Alexander City, Ala, on Thursday April 12, 2012. While deployed to Iraq in 2011, MSgt Morrison learned of the school's tremendous support to the United States Military through various programs such as writing letters to deployed service members, support to local Veterans, and their living American Flag tribute by more than 400 students and teachers to commemorate the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001. A United States Flag was flown from Joint Base Balad, Iraq in support of Operation NEW DAWN on September 11, 2011 in recognition of the school's continued support to the United States Armed Forces. Accepting on behalf of the school was principal, Ms. Pam Langford.

Use AF Form 3535 when faxing official documents. All personnel are asked to refrain from using organizational fax cover sheets to transmit documents. According to AFI 10-712, Telecommunications Monitoring and Assessment Program, para 4.4.2, the use of a local form is authorized, however the 187th does not have an official fax form, therefore please use attached sheet when faxing official documents. If you have any questions, please phone or email MSgt Lisa B. McDay, 187th Fighter Wing Knowledge Operations Functional Manager, 334-394-7442 or lisa.mcday@ang.af.mil.



AROUND THE PATTERN

New Supply Asset Management System come online 1 Jun

Supply will soon convert to a new system called Asset Management. This system will replace the current DD Form 1348-1A that each person must sign when an asset is delivered to his/her shop. Asset Management is similar to the system used by FEDEX and UPS. For example: when the driver delivers an order to your home, an individual must sign the Hand Held Terminal (HHT) before taking custody of the order. Our target date for implementation is 1 June 2012.

Here on Dannelly Field, Supply customers, will now “sign” for any order by entering a 4 digit PIN into the HHT. Individuals will create this PIN during the self-registration process. Personnel must self-register in ES-S by going to <https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-ess/ess/homepage/menu/HomePageMessage.shtml>. Anyone not registered, will not be able to accept any type of assets and items will not be left in anyone’s section until they have been signed for in the HHT.

After completing registration, please email User ID and your Org/Shop codes to TSgt Shannon Dean, Functional Systems Management. He may also be contacted for additional information at 334-394-7518.

COME ENJOY FUN, COMPETITION, AND CAMARADERIE

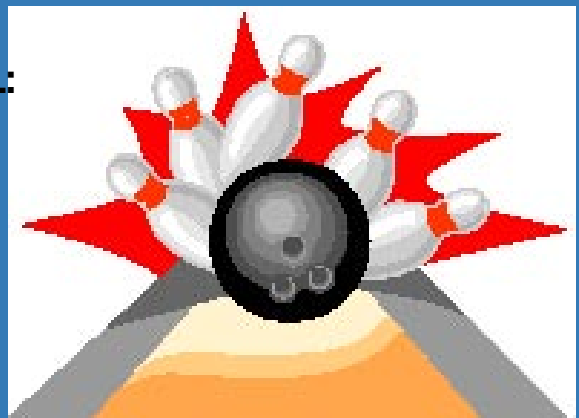
SATURDAY, 19 MAY 2012

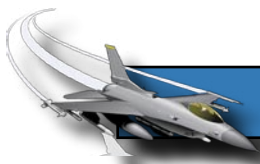
**MAXWELL AFB, 575 E. SELFRIDGE ST, BLDG 45
1700-2000**

6 PEOPLE PER LANE, 8 LANES, SO SIGN UP EARLY!

**COST:
\$5 PER PERSON
INCLUDES: 2 HOURS OF BOWLING & SHOE RENTAL**

**TO SIGN UP TODAY, PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL:
DIANE WATTERS:
FLORA.WATTERS@ANG.AF.MIL EXT. 7430
OR
LT COL TJ NORVELL:
ELMER.NORVELL@ANG.AF.MIL EXT. 7403**





AROUND THE PATTERN



VISION

The vision of the 187th Fighter Wing Retention Office is to ensure the right people are in the right job at the right time. Utilization of retention resources will enable the retention team to retain qualified ANG members within the force structure which in turn will assist the Alabama Air National Guard's effort to meet and/or exceed its ANG mission.

MISSION

The mission of the 187th Fighter Wing Retention Office is to utilize all retention resources in motivating and guiding all members toward their full potential in the Alabama Air National Guard. Utilization of these resources will result in an outstanding performance and identify and eliminate career irritants.

Direct recruiting and retention inquiries to MSgt Stan Krasinski at stan.krasinski@ang.af.mil.

187th Fighter Wing Outstanding Airmen of the Quarter *(1st Quarter 2012)*

Airman

SrA Kelli Harlan

187th Communications Flight

NCO

SSgt Eric Gramatzki

187th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Senior NCO

MSgt Tony Emfinger

187th Maintenance Squadron



Congratulations 187th Fighter Wing CCAF Graduates

MSgt Ernest Baggett (retired)- Logistics

MSgt William Box – Financial Management

MSgt Kimberly Boyd – Information Management

MSgt Gina Cox – Logistics

SSgt Alyssa Nelson – Intelligence Studies and Technology

MSgt Terry Riley – Human Resource Management

SrA Joshua Wingard – Aviation Maintenance Technology



AROUND THE PATTERN



ALABAMA AIR NATIONAL GUARD 187TH FIGHTER WING MEMORIAL CEREMONY

May 23, 2012
Memorial Monument

In memory of:

- MSgt Francis P. Cranford – Clinic*
- MSgt Fred C. Griffin – 13 December 2010*
- CMSgt Joseph L. Cothran – Cam Sq*
- SrA Brian A. Briggs – 12 June 2011*
- MSgt Robert W. Heath – CE*
- SSgt Jerrel W. Maddux – 27 August 2011*
- SMSgt Van Cates – 17 September 2011*
- SMSgt Frank Danner – 25 January 2012*
- MSgt Fred W. Bozeman – Cam Sq*
- MSgt Clarence W. Sullivan – Cam Sq*
- CMSgt Donald Brackin – 26 March 2012*
- SMSgt Roy E. Langley – 30 April 2012*

187TH FIGHTER WING

Dining Out

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2012

6:30 P.M.

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL

300 TALLAPOOSA ST

UNIT POCS

MDG - CAPT THOMAS

MSG - LT RIZZO & LT SANDERS

MXG - LT DALEY & LT MERIWEATHER

OG - LT CLENDENIN

FW - CAPT ROBERTS & LT PRUITT

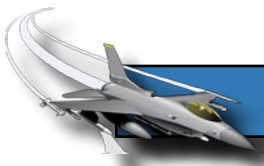


SMSGT & UP - \$60

TSGT & MSGT - \$50

AB - SSGT - \$40

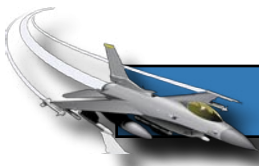
**ACCEPTING CASH OR CHECKS
(PAYABLE TO 187 FW EVENT FUND)**



AROUND THE PATTERN

Wing Safety Morale Day





Military provide health services to Alabama residents

by Tech. Sgt. Melissa E. Chatham
Air National Guard Readiness Center Public Affairs

SELMA, Ala. - The Air National Guard and other service members provide free specialized health care to Alabama residents during the Innovative Readiness Training mission Alabama Care 2012 taking place May 1-10 in Demopolis, Hayneville and here.

Alabama Care 2012 is an ANG led IRT multiservice mission comprised of active duty, reserve, and National Guard members from Army, Navy and Air Force components focusing on military medical personnel deployment and readiness training in a joint-service environment while simultaneously providing free medical, dental, ophthalmology services to the community.

“This is huge for me... I’ve never trained in a multiservice environment, said Cmdr. Carmen Bios, from the Navy Operational Health Support Virginia, Delta Detachment.” We all pull together for one mission, I feel very fortunate... we are helping people and for me, that is very rewarding.”

IRT provides real-world training opportunities for service members and units to prepare

“Military members focus on training their junior enlisted and officers, which assists them in gaining knowledge and enhance their skills in a deployed environment,” said Col. Jerry Arends, the director of IRT mission Alabama Care 2012.

“Some reservists don’t have the same [civilian] job as they do in the military and Alabama Care gives them the opportunity to they otherwise could not receive back at their for their wartime missions while supporting the needs of America’s underserved communities.

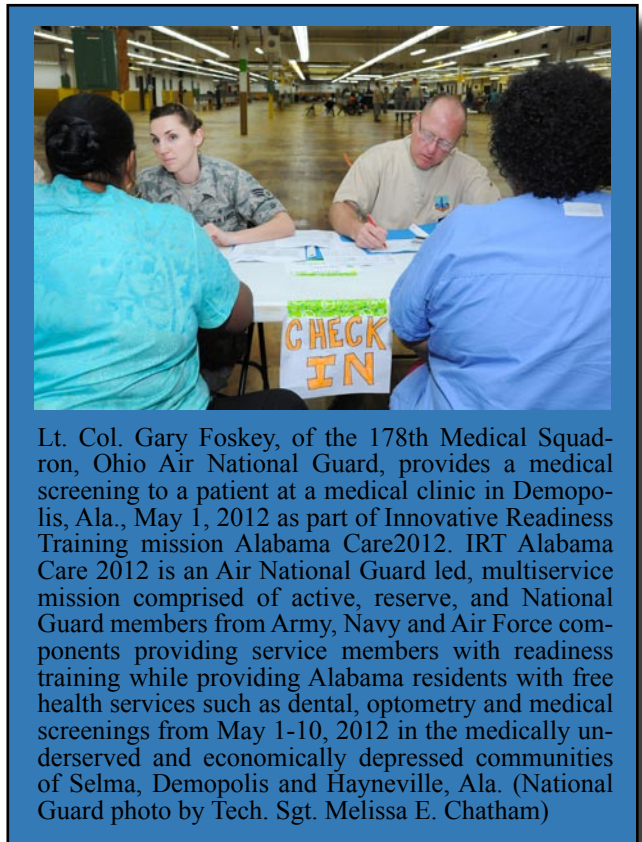
The Alabama Care 2012 health care initiative is a premier world-class field training event for all the service members who participate. The mission provides significant, valuable and realistic training in a deployed environment helping to shape future leaders.

“My doctors have wanted me to be in charge of operations so I can have increased responsibility and get involved,” said Senior Airman Javier Perez, of the 439 Aerospace Medical Squadron, Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass. “Back at the home unit, I don’t get many opportunities to be put in charge... members should definitely experience an IRT mission; you get to train, see different parts of the country, meet different people, and it’s just something everyone should do.”

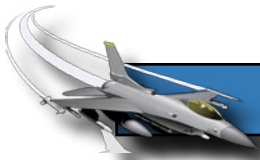
IRT missions provide airmen like Perez an opportunity to have a leading role in patient care and other critical skills as well as gain joint service experience by work in a multiservice environment while providing a valued service to a local community.

Incidental to military readiness training, Alabama Care 2012 provides medical, dental, and optometric care and civil engineering support to assist local health and municipal authorities in addressing underserved, unmet community health and civic needs while increasing the quality of life for local residents.

“If you look at the line we have today - it’s a true blessing that ya’ll [the military] came here to help and I want to thank God for the military being here,” said one Alabama resident. “It is so beneficial... we have a lot of people with diabetes... people need to go to the dentists, but can’t afford it, I thank the military and Selma Mayor [George P.] Evans for allowing Alabama Care to come to Dallas County, Selma!”



Lt. Col. Gary Foskey, of the 178th Medical Squadron, Ohio Air National Guard, provides a medical screening to a patient at a medical clinic in Demopolis, Ala., May 1, 2012 as part of Innovative Readiness Training mission Alabama Care2012. IRT Alabama Care 2012 is an Air National Guard led, multiservice mission comprised of active, reserve, and National Guard members from Army, Navy and Air Force components providing service members with readiness training while providing Alabama residents with free health services such as dental, optometry and medical screenings from May 1-10, 2012 in the medically underserved and economically depressed communities of Selma, Demopolis and Hayneville, Ala. (National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Melissa E. Chatham)



TOUCH & GOS

2012 UTA SCHEDULE

January 7-8	<i>May 19-20</i>	September 15-16
February 2-5	<i>June 9-10</i>	October 20-21
March 3-4	July 14-15	<i>November None</i>
April 14-15	August None	December 1-2

** Denotes changes released by the commander on 27 Jan 2012*

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO NOVEMBER UTA

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 19	Ben Brown Bowling Tournament
June 9	187 FW Dining Out (Embassy Suites)

SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Interested in joining the Alabama National Guard Speakers' Bureau? Contact 187 FW/PA for additional details at (334) 394-7157.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service will be held to honor former members of the 187 FW than have passed on, Wednesday, 23 May at 1600 at the Base Memorial..

NEW BASE NUMBERS

Many base numbers have changed in the last few months, please check your directory before dialing.

CHAPEL SERVICE

Chapel Service will be held, Sunday, May. 20, 0800 -0830, in Bldg 1502, HQ Conference Room. Contact the Chaplain's Office for additional information.

CONSIDER JOINING THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA

Are you a member of the National Guard Association of Alabama? The mission of the National Guard Association of Alabama is to promote the homeland of America by insuring the Alabama Army and Air National Guard has the necessary personnel, equipment, and infrastructure to carry out assigned missions.

In addition, the National Guard Association of Alabama:

- * Educates the public with regard to the role of the Army and Air National Guard in homeland security and homeland defense
- * Promotes the welfare of individual Guardpersons
- * Aids the Alabama State Military Department in acquisition and modernization of equipment
- * Provides communication with the business community to improve understanding and support of the mission of the National Guard
- * Works in conjunction with the National Guard Association of the United States to accomplish its mission

For more information visit: <http://www.ngaal.com>. Support the organizations that support YOU!