



INFORMATION

187th Fighter Wing

Vol. 3, No. 5 May 2014



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187th Fighter Wing Vice Commander **Col. William Sparrow**
187th Fighter Wing Command Chief **Chief Master Sgt. Lindsey McCall**

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Photojournalist **Tech. Sgt. Matthew Garrett**
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ON THE COVER >>

*F-16 Fighting Falcons on the taxiway at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Evelyn Chavez)*

Submission deadline for the July 2014 publication is July 11th. Articles must be submitted electronically to 187FW.PA@ang.af.mil or 187fw.pa@gmail.com. For more information, contact Public Affairs at (334) 394-7157/(334)394-7682.

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The content is edited, prepared and provided by the 187th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, Dannelly Air National Guard Base. All photographs are Air Force/ AL ANG photographs unless otherwise indicated.

June is...
**FIREWORKS SAFETY
MONTH**





"Red Tails" arrive at Bagram

by Staff Sgt. Evelyn Chavez
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

5/2/2014 - BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- A team of Alabama Air National Guard Airmen have arrived at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 100th Fighter Squadron "Red Tails" from the 187th Fighter Wing in Montgomery, Ala. will provide over-watch and close-air-support for ground units here.

This deployment is very unique, according to 1st Lt. Samuel Kniskern, 100th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron intelligence officer-in-charge, as it is not typical for the Guard to complete a six-month rotation with one specific unit. In the Guard, deployments are normally distributed amongst one or two units for three to four months at a time.

"It is different in that normally we will have a smaller number of people deploy with active duty augmentees," said Kniskern.

Despite being in a deployment rotation longer than normal, the fighter squadron's support of contingency operations is nothing new. The unit's history is well known as they were one of the original Tuskegee Airmen squadrons during World War II. They deployed to Italy as bomber escorts in late 1943, supported the Cold War and continued making their mark during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009. This will be the ninth combat deployment for the 187th Fighter Wing since Operation Desert Storm.

"It means a lot to be part of history, the Red Tails marker is something we are really proud of" said 1st Lt. Jeffrey Witt, 100th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron pilot.

"The squadron, flew with distinction during World War II. We are proud to continue the heritage with this deployment," said Witt.

From pilots in the air to the Airmen on the ground, Witt believes that the 100th Fighter Squadron will carry on the privileged tradition.

"We have been around a long time and have successfully deployed and accomplished the mission, we expect nothing less this time," said Witt.

While this is the squadron's first deployment to Afghanistan and the first for several of the squadron's Airmen, they are ready to contribute to the mission.

"I think morale is pretty high, everyone realizes it is a six-month deployment and we are all digging in together... with the short time here we have met, if not exceeded expectations set forth by the previous squadron," said Kniskern.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Evelyn Chavez/Released)



(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Evelyn Chavez/Released)



Father's Day is
June 15th



AROUND THE PATTERN



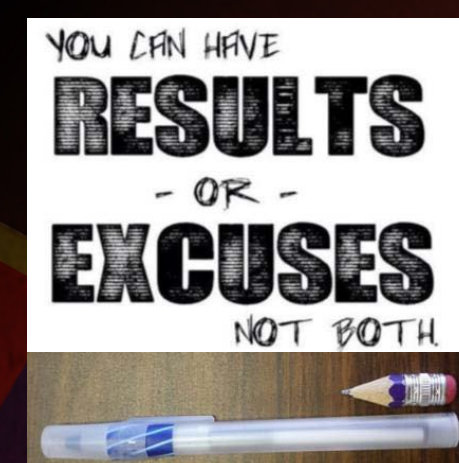
“Are we ON or OFF Track”

by Senior Master Sgt David Betts, Human Resource Advisor
187th Fighter Wing

Collectively, we do the right thing, even if only one is watching. Despite the changes in the world and in our military, one thing must remain constant — our integrity. These standards—*Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do* are not new.

We have the belief that we must take ownership for behavior and the expectation that all Airmen acquire this mindset of accountability for their own actions or lack thereof. As an Airman, you have responsibilities to the 187FW to do what you are trained to do. The commanders provide the framework of principles and procedures to help ensure consistency and alignment between what we say we value and what our actions demonstrate we value. No code of conduct can replace the thoughtful behavior of an ethical Airman. Filling in the blanks and coloring in the squares are not enough to keep us on track. There are areas that are conducive for all to work with intentional efforts to improve. Assuring we are meeting our training requirements so we do not obstruct others, continually improving self such that those you supervise do not know more than you are at least aware of, and improving the knowledge and engagement of those Airmen that are not on track are all examples. If the success of companies like Apple and Google are examples of what being on track looks like, they are always at least one innovation, one year, one good idea and one step ahead of their peers, which assures the attention is on them and that they are providing a product worthy of purchasing. The Alabama Air National Guard sets standards and others follow. The Airmen of the ANG use their resources to the betterment of all Airmen. An Airman may not use military property, information or position for personal gain, including other Airmen. Let us not get off track and stay that way, otherwise this causes a conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest exists when a person’s private interest interferes in any way, or even appears to interfere with the interests of the ANG or USAF. A conflict situation can be when an Airman, supervisor, chief, etc. takes actions or has personal or other interests that may interfere with his or her ability to perform any of his or her work for the ANG or 187FW objectively. It is our duty to report or act when we see or hear about violations of the Air Force Core Values. Being off track can be potentially chaotic; but with accurate communication, mutual respect, team work, covering all



aspects of the design, and giving no excuses, only results, this ride can not only collectively be the one to watch, but certainly a leap of interest for all to enjoy.



Future discussion offered by the Human Resources Advisor: *Leadership 4 Lenses Discovery* during June’s UTA and *Leadership Pictures* in August and *Military Bearing* to Student Flight and Newcomers. There is safety in numbers, ALL IN!



AROUND THE PATTERN

Officers' Promotion Matrix

Promotion to Grade	Unit Vacancy	Mandatory	Required PME
Colonel / O-6	3 years	Not Applicable	Air War College
Lieutenant Colonel / O-5	4 years	7 years	Air Command & Staff College
Major / O-4	4 years	7 years	Squadron Officer School
Captain / O-3	2 years	3 years	None
1 st Lieutenant / O-2	2 years	2 years	None



Promotion Requirements

Where are you now?

Are you ready to take the next step?

Amn – E2	A1C – E3	SrA – E4	SSG – E5	TSG – E6	MSG – E7	SMSG – E8	CMSG – E9
				Sole occupant of at least a TSG UMD position	Sole occupant of at least a MSG UMD position	Sole occupant of at least a SMSG UMD position	Sole occupant of a CMSG UMD position
6 months TIG	6 months TIG	6 months TIG	2 years TIG	2 years TIG	2 years TIG	2 years TIG	2 years TIG
6 months TIS	6 months TIS	6 months TIS	4 years TIS	6 years TIS	9 years TIS	13 years TIS	17 years TIS
1-level PAFSC	1-level PAFSC	3-level PAFSC	5-level PAFSC	7-level PAFSC	7-level PAFSC	7-level PAFSC	9-level PAFSC
PME – BMT (Note 1)	PME – BMT (Note 2)	PME – N/A	PME – ALS	PME – N/A	PME – NCOA	PME – SrNCOA	PME – SrNCOA

Note 1. Promotion to Amn (E2) will be automatic, 6 months from the date member departs for BMT / Tech School, unless the unit commander requests the promotion to be delayed. (The MPF will publish orders / update the Personnel Data System for promotion to E2).

Note 2. TIG requirement is computed from date of entry on the Initial Active Duty Training (date member departs for BMT / Tech School).





Members of the 187th Fighter Wing, gather at Maxwell AFB to congratulate Senior Airman Ashley Smith (AMXS) and Staff Sgt. Wesley Ward (Contracting) on graduating from Airmen Leadership School, May 15. (Courtesy photo)



AROUND THE PATTERN

SGLI Premium Rates Increase

SGLI Premium Adjustment Effective July 1, 2014

Posted 4/28/2014 Updated 4/28/2014

4/28/2014 - WASHINGTON -- The Service members' Group Life Insurance program will adjust its monthly premium rate from 6.5 cents per \$1,000 back to the 2006 rate of seven cents per \$1,000 of insurance, a modest increase to ensure the SGLI program remains in a strong financial position.

The Department of Veterans Affairs continues to place the interests of Service members first and foremost by keeping SGLI premiums as low as possible while also maintaining the necessary reserve levels to ensure funds are available to pay claims to Service members' beneficiaries. Since the start of the SGLI Program in 1965, monthly premiums have decreased from 20 cents per \$1,000 to the current 6.5 cents per \$1,000. There have been periodic increases and decreases, but over the past 30 years premiums have fluctuated only 2.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance.

In order for the program to remain in good financial condition, it is now necessary to increase the premium rate by half a cent per \$1,000 of insurance. Since 2008, as a result of the half-cent reduction and decreases in interest rates, reserve funds have decreased. Insurance companies hold reserve funds to ensure they can pay future claims. It is common practice in the group insurance industry to adjust premium rates as reserve funds increase and decrease. VA also uses actuaries, individuals who deal with financial impact of risk, to conduct program experience studies when evaluating and adjusting reserve assumptions; and each year, an independent auditor verifies the accuracy of their reserve calculations.

For a Service member with the maximum \$400,000 of life insurance, this change will mean an increase of two dollars a month.

The new premium rate will take effect on July 1, 2014. Individual Ready Reserve members who are drilling for points toward retirement or who do not receive pay for other reasons will be billed by their branch of service for the higher premium beginning in July 2014. For information on the new rates, visit <http://benefits.va.gov/insurance/sgli.asp>.

Cost/Rates

If you have SGLI coverage, you pay a monthly premium that is automatically deducted from your base pay. The current basic SGLI premium rate is 6.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance. The premium includes an additional \$1.00 per month for Traumatic Injury Protection coverage ([TSGLI](#)). Effective July 1, 2014, SGLI premiums are increasing from 6.5 cents per month per \$1,000 to 7 cents per month per \$1,000.

SGLI Premium Rates July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2014

Coverage Amount	Monthly premium rate	TSGLI Premium	Total Monthly Premium Deduction
400,000	\$26.00	\$1.00	\$27.00
350,000	\$22.75	\$1.00	\$23.75
300,000	\$19.50	\$1.00	\$20.50
250,000	\$16.25	\$1.00	\$17.25
200,000	\$13.00	\$1.00	\$14.00
150,000	\$9.75	\$1.00	\$10.75
100,000	\$6.50	\$1.00	\$7.50
50,000	\$3.25	\$1.00	\$4.25



ALABAMA FIGHTER JET REACHES MILESTONE

7000 Flying Hours

by Tech. Sgt. Matthew Garrett
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Munitions Flight

6/2/2014 - **BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- It is not uncommon for people to celebrate milestones. From birthdays, to graduations or anniversaries, people acknowledge important life events.

For members of the 187th Fighter Wing deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the milestone celebrated is not for a person, but for one of the 187FW's F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft.

Saturday, May 31, 2014, aircraft 398, passed 7,000 flying hours. The aircraft was flown by pilot Lt. Col. Jonathan Shultz, a native of Huntsville, Ala., assigned to the 100 Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. The production superintendent, Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Monk, a native of Eclectic, Ala., waited for 398 to land.

"Over the years, 398 has seen a lot of hard work and dedication from many people," said Monk.

Monk was the aircraft's crew chief from 1997 to 2001. The roll of crew chief for aircraft 398 has been passed down to a new generation. Monk's son, Senior Airman. Joseph Monk is now the crew chief on the aircraft.

"Joseph crewing my old jet is one of the highlights in my Air Force career," said Monk.

Aircraft 398 is only the second in its production block of F-16Cs in the Air Force inventory to reach the 7,000 flying hours milestone.





Lt. Col. Richard Gros, a pilot in the French Air Force and also a student at Maxwell AFB looks closely at the cockpit of one of our fighting falcons, June 3. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Baldwin)

FIRST SERGEANT

Commemorative Bricks

by Senior Master Sgt Kristie Pomilia
187th Fighter Wing 1st Sgt

Commemorative Bricks at the 187th Fighter Wing...you have an opportunity to create a lasting tribute.

The First Sergeant Council is kicking off its commemorative brick fundraiser. The funds raised will be used to cover the costs of Wing morale events. It is an excellent way to recognize a devoted career, to honor service, or acknowledge the dedication and support of spouses and family members.

Members can purchase a 4X8 brick for \$30.00. Each brick is engraved using state of the art laser technology, ensuring durability and resistance to the elements. The bricks can have up to three lines of type with 18 characters per line, including spaces. The finished product will be engraved in ALL CAPS.

When a total of 100 brick orders are received, the information will be submitted to Gift Bricks for engraving. Once the engraving is complete, Gift Bricks will immediately ship the finished product for placement in Memorial Park located near building 1501.

For more information contact a First Sergeant. For ordering your commemorative brick, request an order form from a First Sergeant or visit the website at www.187fw1sgt.donationbricks.com.



Customize a Brick for Someone Special Today

About the Bricks

Beautiful, engraved commemorative clay brick paver, 4"x8" can be purchased for \$30.00.

Installation

Bricks will be ordered when a minimum of 100 brick orders are pending, the bricks will be installed once received, and placement is at Memorial Park.

Example:
CMSAF #1
PAUL W. AIREY
APR 1967-JUL 1969

Personilaztion

Bricks have a three line maximum, with no more than 18 uppercase letters per line, including spaces and punctuation. Finished bricks will be centered. Please use proper rank, etc. No logos or graphics.

Maintenance

Engraved bricks are durable and versatile clay. Normal wear and weather is to be expected and can enhance the plaza's apperance.

Purchaser's Information

Ordering Information for tracking purposes (and so we can reach you to correct any errors associated with your order)

Name

Rank/Title

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Email Address

Contact Phone

Please print clearly. will be personalized exactly as appears

Make check or money orders payable to: 1st Sgt Council

Mail to: 1st Sgt Council
Attn: SMSgt Kristie J. Pomilia
5187 Selma Hwy
Montgomery, AL 36108

Or... go to www.187fw1sgt.donationbricks.com

	Order Received	Payment Received	Order Entered	Payment Information	
Date				Method (Cash, Check, MO)	
Initials				Check/MO #	
Brick Order Number				Payment \$30.00	
				+Additional Quantity	
				\$ Order/Payment Total	
				Initials	

[\(click here to print form\)](#)



CHAPLAIN



The Race!

By D.H. Groberg

Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Donald McLeod

"Quit!" "Give up, you're beaten!" they shout at me and plead,
"There's just too much against you now, this time you can't succeed."
And as I started to hang my head in front of failure's face,
My downward fall is broken by the memory of a race.
And hope refills my weakened will as I recall that scene.
For just the thought of that short race rejuvenates my being.
A children's race, young boys, young men; now I remember well.
Excitement, sure, but also fear; it wasn't hard to tell.
They all lined up so full of hope. Each thought to win the race
Or tie for first, if not that, at least take second place.
And fathers watched from off the side, each cheering for his son,
And each boy hoped to show his dad that he would be the one.
The whistle blew and off they sped, as if they were on fire
To win, to be the hero there, was each boy's desire.
And one boy in particular, his dad was in the crowd,
Was running near the lead and thought, "My dad will be so proud."
But as he speeded down the field, across the shallow dip,
The little boy who thought to win lost his step and slipped.
Trying hard to catch himself, his arm flew out to brace,
And 'mid the laughter of the crowd, he fell flat on his face.
So, down he fell, and with him, hope. He couldn't win it now.
Embarrassed, sad, he only wished he'd disappear somehow.
But, as he fell, his dad stood up and showed his anxious face,
Which to the boy so clearly said, "Get up and win the race!"
He quickly rose, no damage done, behind a bit, that's all.
And ran with all his mind and might to make up for the fall.
So anxious to restore himself, to catch up and to win,

His mind went faster than his legs. He slipped and fell again.
He wished he had quit before with only one disgrace.
"I'm hopeless as a runner now, I shouldn't try to race."
But, in the laughing crowd he searched and found his father's face.
That steady look that said again, "Get up and win the race!"
So, he jumped up to try again, ten yards behind the last;
"If I'm to gain those yards," he thought, "I've got to run real fast!"
Exceeding everything he had, he regained eight or ten,
But trying so hard to catch the lead, he slipped and fell again.
Defeat! He lay there silently, a tear dropped from his eye.
"There's no sense running more. Three strikes, I'm out...why try?"
The will to rise had disappeared, all hope had fled away.
So far behind, so error-prone, a loser all the way.
"I've lost, so what's the use?" he thought, "I'll live with my disgrace."
But, then he thought about his dad, who soon he'd have to face.
"Get up," an echo sounded low, "Get up and take your place.
You weren't meant for failure here; get up and win the race."
With borrowed will, "Get up," it said, "You haven't lost at all,
For winning is no more than this—to rise each time you fall."
So up he rose to win once more. And with a new commit,
He resolved that win or lose, at least he wouldn't quit.
So far behind the others now, the most he'd ever been.
Still, he gave it all he had, and ran as though to win.
Three times he fallen, stumbling, three times he rose again.
Too far behind to hope to win, he still ran to the end.
They cheered the winning runner, as he crossed the line, first place,

Head high and proud and happy; no falling, no disgrace.
But, when the fallen crossed the finish line, last place,
The crowd gave him the greater cheer for finishing the race.
And even though he came in last, with head bowed low,
unproud.
You would have thought he won the race, to listen to the crowd.
And to his dad, he sadly said, "I didn't do so well."
"To me you won," his father said, "You rose each time you fell."
And now when things seem dark and hard and difficult to face,
The memory of that little boy helps me in my race.
For all of life is like that race, with ups and downs and all.
And all you have to do to win is rise each time you fall.
"Quit!" "Give up, you're beaten!" They still shout in my face,
But another voice within me says, "Get up and win the race!"



ABSENTEE VOTING

Deployed Wing Members,

Please exercise your right to vote by submitting your Absentee Voting application to your county election office.

Alabama voters please visit <http://www.alabamavotes.gov/uocavavoterinstructions.aspx?m=voters>

Members who live in another state please visit <http://www.fvap.gov/>

It's not too early to register for Absentee Voting, as a matter of fact the earlier the better.

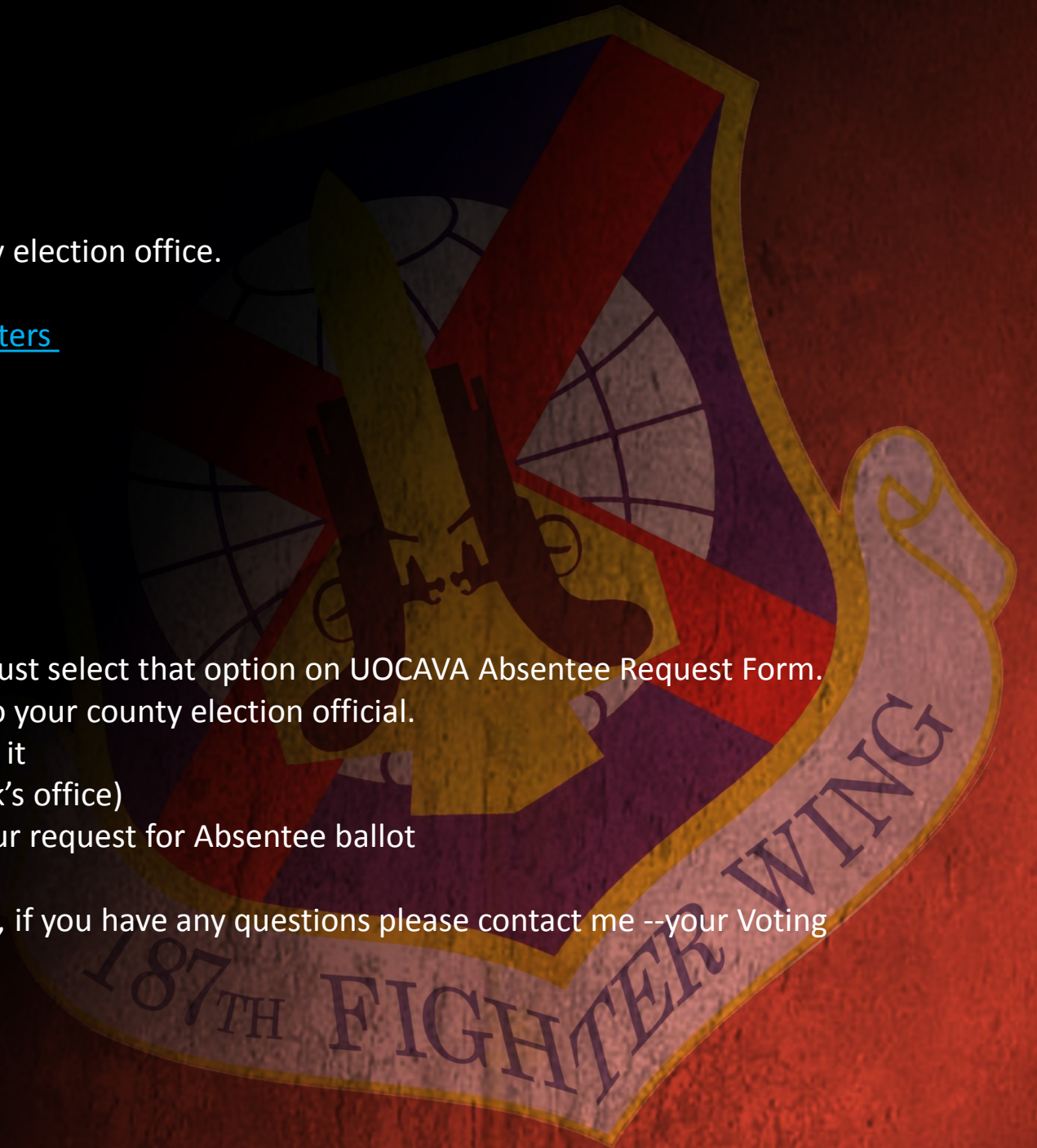
Other useful information:

- Currently all requests must be mailed to the county election official.
- Under Federal Law, you can decide to have the federal portion of the ballot emailed to you. Must select that option on UOCAVA Absentee Request Form.
- You must hand mail both parts of the Ballot via U.S. Mail or Commercial Carrier(UPS, Fed-Ex) to your county election official.
- The best way to fill-out your Absentee ballot is utilizing the online assistant then print and mail it
- Municipal elections are not covered under this process (You must apply through your City Clerk's office)
- The preferred method to receive your ballot is via email. However, you must specify this on your request for Absentee ballot

The websites above are very helpful and walk you through the process pretty clearly . However, if you have any questions please contact me --your Voting Assistance Officer-- [via email](#) or cell at 334-657-5485.

Respectfully,

Charles P. Griggs, Lt Col, AL ANG
Wing VAO/MSG-Dep CC



Public Affairs Managers Course



Capt Amy Rittberger and **Tech. Sgt Chris Baldwin** successfully completed the Public Affairs Managers Course, a two week course that gives a better understanding of what it takes to flourish in today's Air National Guard Public Affairs environment. It was held at the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center located in McGhee Tyson, TN.



PT SCORES & FITNESS

Fitness Honors

The following individuals scored EXCELLENT during last month's Fitness Assessment.

PERFECT SCORE

No one received a perfect score of 100 with no exemptions.

EXCELLENTS

LTC	Steven Tindoll	CPTF
LTC	Darrell Messer	MED
LTC	Erin Quijano	OPS
MAJ	Courtney Ridner	MED
CPT	Brandy Brown	FW
MSG	Mataya Williams	CES
MSG	Tony Matthews	OPS
SSG	Stephanie Speckman	SFS
SRA	Ilesha Bynum	FSS
SRA	Ian Cobb	SFS
SRA	Heather Dunn	AMXS
SRA	Mary Estrada	FW
SRA	Cory Smith	CES

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



187TH FIGHTY



VACANCIES

Air National Guard Technician

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>ANNC NUMBER</u>	<u>CLOSE DATE</u>
PURCHASING AGENT	ALAF14-100	6/13/14
PUBLIC HEALTH TECHNICIAN	ALAF14-102	6/13/14
IT SPECIALIST (NETWORK)	ALAF14-105	6/10/14
TRAINING SPECIALIST	ALAF14-113	6/30/14



Click the link below for more available jobs

<http://alguard.state.al.us/Careers/HRO/jobannouncements/default.aspx>



CONGRESIONAL DELAGATION VISITS BAGRAM FOR MOTHER'S DAY

By: Master Sgt. Cohen Young
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

5/18/2014 - BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- A Congressional delegation visited May 12, 2014 to check on the welfare of hometown constituents, Afghan election results and concerns of women in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The delegation comprised of U. S. Reps. Martha Roby (Ala.), House of Appropriations Committee; Susan Davis (Calif.), House of Armed Services Committee; Niki Tsongas (Mass.), House of Armed Services Committee; Renee Ellmers (N.C.), Energy & Commerce Committee; Cheri Bustos (Ill.), Agriculture; Transportation & Infrastructure; Ms. Debra Wada, professional staff member; Ms. Jaime Cheshire, professional staff member and Maj. Janine Garner, U. S. Marine Corps service escort visited members of the 187th Fighter Wing, Alabama Air National Guard currently deployed to Bagram Airfield in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Roby had visited the 187th before they left Alabama and now she was in Afghanistan visiting them.

"I was there when the 187th deployed a couple weeks ago," said Roby. "It's really awesome to be here in Afghanistan with them to celebrate Mother's Day and to offer a bit of encouragement to the men and women of the 187th."

Lt. Col Ryan Barker, 100th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander and Maj. Adrian Meyer, 455th EAMXS commander briefed the delegation on the current climate of the ANG along with the mission and challenges at Bagram.

"It's a very important mission and one that I know they don't take lightly," said Roby. "They are executing in a great way and we are very proud of the job this unit is doing. We know they are going to be successful here with the mission that they have been given."

It meant a lot to unit members to receive a visit from their own state representative.

"It's great to know that our representatives are thinking about us and are very much aware of our deployed status," said U. S. Air Force Lt. Col Ryan Barker, a resident of Montgomery. "It means a lot to us that they took time out of a busy international schedule to stop in and check on us."

The congresswomen also stopped in Kabul for a few meetings, but the highlight of the trip was arriving within a day of Mother's Day and having an opportunity to meet with deployed mothers from the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"As a mom, to get the chance to be with our men and women in uniform on Mother's Day is quite meaningful," said Roby. Those of us in congress get on planes and travel back and forth away from our families, but it really puts into perspective when we're spending time with our men and women in uniform that are away from their children for six and in some cases nine months to a year. I thank all of our men and women for their sacrifices all around the world and keeping us safe at home."

Unit members were happy that the Congresswomen visited, and happy to speak with the delegation about Operation Enduring Freedom and the treatment of Afghan women.



....continued on next page

"I applauded Representative Roy for understanding of the Afghanistan culture and supporting Operation Enduring Freedom," said Tech Sgt. Calnecia Gregg, a native of Montgomery, Ala., and currently assigned to the 455th EAMXS. "I look forward to working with her concerning Alabama education."

The highlight of the visit occurred when the Representatives learned it was one mother's birthday. Ellmers and Roby hugged U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Cynthia Jackson, maintenance supply NCOIC and a resident of Montgomery, Ala., as the entire room sang, "Happy Birthday" to her and she instantly broke into tears of joy.

"It was really cool for the congresswomen to sing happy birthday to me," said Jackson. "It was the highlight of my day."

"Congresswoman Roby is a great American," added Barker. "Very engaging and all of the folks from Alabama took a lot of personal pride in knowing that she has us in the crosscheck, and that she has our best interest in mind."



(U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young/Released)





FRIENDSHIP KNOWS NO BORDERS

by Staff Sgt. Natasha Stannard
42nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs
(story and photos provided by 42nd ABW/PA)

6/4/2014 - **MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala.** -- Four-year-old Sarah reached out to grasp her friend Fatou's hand as she has every day since Fatou first arrived at the Maxwell Air Force Base child development center in August 2013.

On this day, Sarah led Fatou to the dance floor, placing her in a specific position like a delicate wall fixture. With Fatou in place, Sarah grabbed the plastic microphone and pressed the play button as she began to sing "Dora, Dora, Dora the Explorer."

Fatou launched her arms into motion, slicing the air as she moved side-to-side. Sarah belted the lyrics, giving them a few changes, "Fatou, you can do it. You can do anything," she sang as Fatou's arms waved on.

Fatou danced around, singing along with the music as though English wasn't a new language, and as though the girl from Senegal wasn't just submerged into a completely different culture less than a year ago.

When Fatou's family first arrived here from Senegal to accompany her father Maj. Papa Dieumb Gueye as he went through the Air University's Air Command and Staff College, she didn't how to ride a tricycle or where to wash her hands. Now, thanks to Sarah, she does.

"I've never seen two kids just connect like Sarah and Fatou," said the girls' CDC teacher Daphne Collins.

The CDC, which acts as a daycare for military members at Maxwell, is no stranger to foreign children as many officers from different countries attend the various AU colleges. It's no surprise when the children don't know some things specific to American culture, such as language and customs, said Collins.

With the struggles of attending a new school as a foreign student in mind, Collins looked to veteran CDC attendee Sarah and spoke to Sarah's mother, Master Sgt. Alisha Caton, telling her about the new shy girl from Africa and asking if Sarah could look out for her.

She felt Sarah would be a good friend for Fatou because she has attended the CDC since the age of six weeks, giving her a sort of tenure. Sarah is all about fairness among peers. When other children don't share the plastic microphone or building blocks, she is quick to tell them they need to share. She is also the first to relinquish play time with any of the said toys as soon as someone asks for a turn.

Before Caton even got the chance to ask her daughter about the buddy system, she started hearing a new name at the house.

"For a while all she talked about was Fatou," said Caton. "I was talking to the teachers and they said her and Sarah are best friends. Sarah takes her everywhere holding hands, and just took her under her wing. I was really proud of her for that."

The teachers said when it comes to Fatou, Sarah makes sure she is treated equally and understands the CDC play rules, often saying, "It's Fatou's turn," or "Fatou, you have to share."

"If somebody's mean to Fatou, Sarah does not like it. She goes to bat for Fatou," said Collins.

Caton, who is an Air National Guardsman with the 187th Fighter Wing, said she wasn't just proud of the two girls, but thankful they both got exposure to completely different cultures.

"I have been so grateful for this opportunity, which you don't often get in a small town," she said.

Fatou's father also added his appreciation and emphasized the importance of the friendship for not only the girls, but his family and career.

"Going to school is easier when you don't have to worry if your family is going through difficult times," he said.

With about four hours of homework each night, if someone in his family like Fatou was struggling as she had when she first arrived, keeping up with the AU course work would have been difficult. He and his wife, Barane, are both very thankful for not only Sarah's hospitality, but the care from others like Collins who make Maxwell feel like home.

"Everyone here has been great, and I'm especially grateful for the friendship between Sarah and Fatou," he said, adding that her teachers also take really great care of Fatou and her brother Papa.

Gueye also said he appreciates all the other programs Maxwell provides for international officers' families to be able to join and feel welcomed.

"This is my first time on duty with my family, so this is really nice for me," he said. "Even in Senegal I'm only home for two weeks at most, so it's been very nice to have them join me as I study here."

The "best hometown in the Air Force" may not be Fatou's actual hometown, but it is where her best friend Sarah made her feel a part of a family, and she plans to keep in touch after they part ways in June.

Click the link below for more photos

<http://www.maxwell.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123413315>

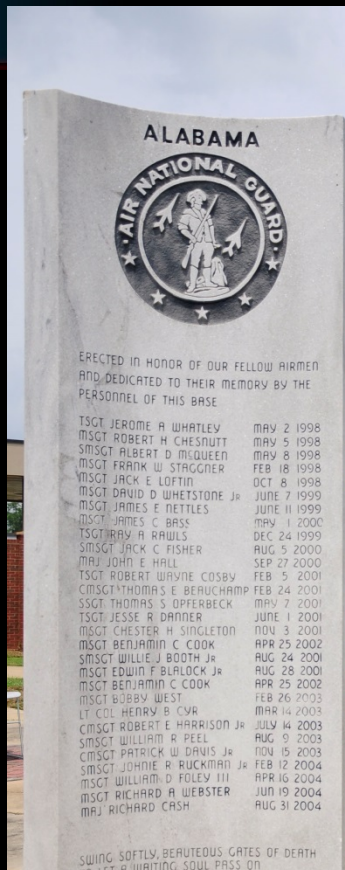
"We made Fatou a going away gift with a few things to remind her of her time here with Sarah, along with tools to keep in touch with us as they go back," said Caton. When Fatou was asked if she is going to miss Sarah, she looked down without saying a word as she bobbed her head up and down.

Sarah said, "I'm going to miss Fatou," and her mom added that they are definitely keeping in touch to maintain their friendship - a priority sought among forces now reflected by two girls once separated by language, and soon to be separated by an ocean.



Sarah Caton, right, hugs her best friend Fatou Gueye at the Maxwell Air Force Base child development center, May 20, 2014. Both girls are 4-year-old students at the center. When Fatou, who is from Senegal, first arrived to the CDC she did not speak English, and was not familiar with American customs. Thanks to Sarah Fatou is now fluent in English and comfortable with cultural norms. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Natasha Stannard)

MEMORIAL CEREMONY



The 12th annual Memorial Ceremony took place at Dannelly Field Air National Guard Base, May 28 in memory of fallen members of the 187th Fighter Wing. Of the eight members honored this year, six were retired and two were active members. The Service members honored were:

Maj. (Ret.) Robert C. Boone, Maj. (Ret.) Linda S. McGrue, Airman 1st Class Austin B. Owens, Tech. Sgt.(Ret.) Bobby Jones, Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) Thomas D. Salyer, Master Sgt. (Ret.) James Tatum, Senior Airman Juston G. Martin, and Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Billy R. Lambert. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Baldwin)



AIRMAN OF THE QUARTER

Senior Airman Jasmine Bass

by Tech. Sgt. Chris Baldwin
187th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Senior Airman Jasmine Bass, 22, a 187th Fighter Wing Security Forces Airman at Dannelly Field, Alabama Air National Guard Base and daughter of a pastor at a local church, was selected as the 187th Fighter Wing's Airman of the Quarter after less than three years in uniform.

It was while working at a local motor manufacturing company she then decided to join the guard. "I wanted to do something other than an average everyday job," said Bass.

Bass was chosen for the Airman honor among the more than 400 hundred currently serving in the unit.

She helps secure the installation and ensures no individuals without the proper credentials are allowed access to the base.

She also conducts vehicle searches and oversees the flight line.

She plans on attending college soon and majoring in forensic sciences.

She volunteers to mentor young children at her father's church and also enjoys playing basketball.

Master Sergeant Damian Pichea, a security forces flight chief at the 187th Fighter Wing, nominated Bass for a unit Airman of the Quarter honor, the first step to the top award.

"I call her a go-getter," he said. "She's very proactive and willing to go the extra mile to get the job done for the wing, and the Air National Guard; it just made it easy to nominate her."

Bass' peers had plenty of good things to say about the quarterly award winner.

Staff Sgt. Stephanie Speckman, a colleague in security forces, said "Bass is pleasant to work with and exemplifies the qualities that make her a great security forces sentry."

"She is a good worker and easy to get along with" said Senior Airman. Sean Harris.

"Very dependable, assign her a job and know it will get done with no questions asked" added Joe Lester. "Not all airmen are like that."

Airman First Class Chaka Nettles said "she has the potential to be a great senior noncommissioned officer one day".





TOUCH & GOs

2014 UTA SCHEDULE

Next Drill is *July 12-13*

August 2-3	October 4-5
August 24-28 - Gulfport, MS	
September 6-7	November 1-2
	December 6-7



Reminder: Don't forget to take advantage of the on base gas pumps; it contributes to the wing's morale fund for YOU!

JOIN THE HONOR GUARD



If you are interested in learning about opportunities with the Base Honor Guard, contact [Tech Sgt. Mia Powell](#)



REMINDERS & NOTICES



IMPORTANT NOTICE



In accordance with the ALNG TAG'S Policy Letter dated 21 November 2013, Privately Owned Weapons (POWs) are allowed on ALNG installations. Members must adhere to the following to comply with the policy:

- POWs are **NOT** allowed until member receives a commander's brief,
- POWs are **NOT** allowed until member signs a statement of understanding,
- POWs are **NOT** allowed inside any building,
- POWs must be stored in a locked privately owned vehicle,
- Members must be eligible to carry a POW, according to all statutes and ordinances,
- Park in a valid designated area; (DANG defines a valid designated parking area as any legal POV parking space).
- Personnel will not use POWs under any circumstances to aid Security Forces**
- POWs are **NOT** allowed on federal installations, i.e. Maxwell and Gunter AFB.

****This is the TAG's policy and it's not negotiable.****

For additional information contact:

Senior Master Sgt. David E. Sellers, 187th Security Forces Manager at 334-394-7535 or david.sellers@ang.af.mil



UPCOMING EVENTS

Explore new depths with Maxwell Pool for Discover Scuba. The free class will be available June 21 and July 26 from 9 – 11 a.m.

The class is open to participants ages 10 and older. All participants 18 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Space is limited.

Maxwell Pool is located at 89 Ashe St. For more information, call (334) 953-5956.

DISCOVER SCUBA

Free Class

CLASSES **JUNE 21 & JULY 26**
AT **MAXWELL POOL**
FROM **9-11AM**
FOR **AGES 10+**

ALL STUDENTS AGES 18 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN

42nd FSS MAXWELL POOL • 89 ASH ST. • 334-953-5956

Find us on **facebook**

Gear up for the amazing Maxwell race starting at 2 p.m. June 26. Competitors can compete in teams or solo in a foot race throughout Maxwell. Prizes will be given to the top single and team competitors.

For a full listing of rules and to register stop by the Maxwell Community Library.

Maxwell Community Library is located at 910 Schumacher Ave. For more information, call (334) 6484.

THE AMAZING RACE
Scavenger Hunt

June 26 • 2pm
Prize for top team & single competitors
Foot race throughout Maxwell
Register at Maxwell & Gunter Community Library
Maxwell • 910 Shumacher Ave. • 334-953-6484

FORCE

Final Photo



Airman 1st Class Trevor Banks, aircraft maintainer conducts liquid oxygen (LOX) serving on an F-16C Fighting Falcon. Liquid oxygen is used to provide oxygen to pilots at altitudes above 10,000 feet. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Baldwin)