

# INFORMATION

187th Fighter Wing

Vol. 3, No. 7 July 2014



# INFORMATION

## 187th Fighter Wing

Vol. 3, No. 5 May 2014



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

Chief of Public Affairs **Lt. Col. Clare Reed**  
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Photojournalist **Tech. Sgt. Chris Baldwin**  
Photojournalist **Tech. Sgt. Matthew Garrett**  
Videojournalist **Tech. Sgt. Monique Randall**



#### ON THE COVER >>

187th Fighter Wing Key spouse/volunteers.  
(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Monique Randall)

IN FORMATION is the official publication of the 187th Fighter Wing, Alabama Air National Guard. Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force, or the National Guard.

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.

**“Technology supports Pilots in the fight”**  
click the picture below for video:



video provided by the 455<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing – Bagram Airfield

Submission deadline for the August 2014 publication is August 1st. Articles must be submitted electronically to [187FW.PA@ang.af.mil](mailto:187FW.PA@ang.af.mil) or [187fw.pa@gmail.com](mailto:187fw.pa@gmail.com). For more information, contact Public Affairs at (334) 394-7157/(334)394-7682.

# Key Spouse/Volunteer Visit

*Click the link below for more photos from the visit*  
<https://www.facebook.com/187thfighterwing>





July is...  
**Parks & Recreation  
Month**



# AROUND THE PATTERN



## “Your next decision?”

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

Why did you join the Air Guard? How often have you heard that question? If I had a dollar for every time I heard that question, we could use that total for a recruitment incentive account. Today, I ask different questions. Have you asked yourself the question – Why did I join the Air Guard?

Do I have any dollars to count? Some answers are “I am not that kid or that person that joined then” and “I do not have the same thoughts now as then.”

Now that you have joined and you are an Air National Guard member, what would you do if you woke up tomorrow not the rank you are now? What would you do? You, sir, are not a colonel or a chief master sgt. Count your blessings or count your regrets. Colonels and chiefs, did you achieve your position without relying on others and are you contributing or mentoring?

Statistically speaking, we can't all seek to become colonels or chiefs. Realistically speaking, most aren't even seeing that end. Some are wishing and some are hoping, but what shall prevent you? Is it you? If that isn't the case and you are not the issue, can you explore the issue/s that prevent you or others from being all the ANG has possible? You are at the center of this situation. Your move!

What can I, the commander, the vice-commander, the command chief, chief, first sergeant, retention office manager, training manager, and career advisor do for you, if you aren't exploring? You own your career-reputation. If you will ever really own anything that follows you, the next decision is yours. Every decision or lack of decisiveness makes you. Who else is writing your story-legacy? Consider your next move. Do not allow anyone other than yourself to write your story. What or who makes the sun shine on you? Don't pretend.

We need your help to recruit, mentor, build, encourage and hold accountable your supporting team; that is your recruitment incentive.



Contact Information  
334.394.7178 ALANG commercial  
David.betts.1@ang.af.mil  
Office Location:  
187FW Headquarters, Bldg. 1502 (Upstairs- East)



# 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 <sup>st</sup> 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).





187th Fighter Wing, F-4 Phantom static display in front of the wing headquarters building. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chris Baldwin)



# 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



187th Security Forces Squadron team building exercise, July 3. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chris Baldwin)



# CHAPLAIN



## CONFRONTATION

**"A soft answer turns away wrath, but harsh words stir up strife."**

Adapted from material from [www.globalpriority.org](http://www.globalpriority.org)

Submitted by Chaplain Lt. Col. O.T. Brown

### Principle

Conflicts become confrontations when we say unkind things, raise our voice or become aggressive with our expressions. When we are confronted by someone, our natural tendency is to get defensive and argumentative because we don't want to be proven wrong. To be wrong is humbling, and it hurts our pride. We defend our position even when we know we are wrong or have exaggerated the truth.

No one is always right in every situation, yet all of us are usually partly right and that is what gets us into trouble. Since we know we are at least partly right, we open our mouths and freely give our opinions even though we may have only one side of the situation. Sometimes it's because we like to be heard and noticed. Once we have spoken our opinions, we are committed to defend our position. Each time we defend ourselves it is more costly to admit that we were wrong in some way, which is not easy to do.

When we have disagreements, which we all have, it is important to manage and control the tone of our voice. A soft answer turns away wrath. When our response is soft and gentle, our opponents will respect us and consider our point of view, this gives us a chance to continue the discussion. It is amazing how powerful words are in the hands of those who know how to use them. The words "I'm sorry" are powerful, but when they come from a soft, sensitive tongue, they are disarming.

A soft slow answer is more powerful than tanks and guns.

Good relationships give us the right to express our opinion without confrontation. Poor communication destroys relationships, wastes time and energy and hinders us in resolving the problem. We may win the argument, but lose the point we were trying to make, and possibly lose the relationship in the process. We can't have good communication without good relationships.

### Steps to Follow

- Maintain good relationships so that you can communicate your opinions without fear of it escalating to a confrontation. It is more important to maintain healthy relationships than lose friends through the need to always be right.
- Look for a way to agree. Try to see where they are coming from. When there is a misunderstanding, it is important to maintain open communication. This does not mean at any cost or not expressing your own opinion. What it means is that you are in disagreement with the opinion they have, or the position they hold, not negating it.
- Notice where things are going and see if it is worth engaging in at the present time. If you go on the offensive and they go on the defensive you are only going to build walls of separation.

- Control confrontations using soft answers and a smile, a smile has power. If someone wants to argue with us and we are right, if we smile and have a soft answer, the conversation is going to become difficult for the other person. Control your emotions; breathe deep before you respond on the defense. Your body language is also crucial in managing confrontation.
- Always finish with a peaceful close. Shake hands after a disagreement and acknowledge that you don't have to agree on everything, making room for a difference of opinion.
- Develop the skill of seeing value in others and their opinions. Don't be boastful or have an over confident attitude, but rather downplay your knowledge. By acknowledging that they may be right you can defuse the situation and then you win the right to express your opinion. It is better to get part of something than nothing at all.

***Remember...Thoughts become Actions.  
Actions become Habits. Habits become your  
Destiny.***

"Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Law?" Matthew 22:36 CEV



# 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.

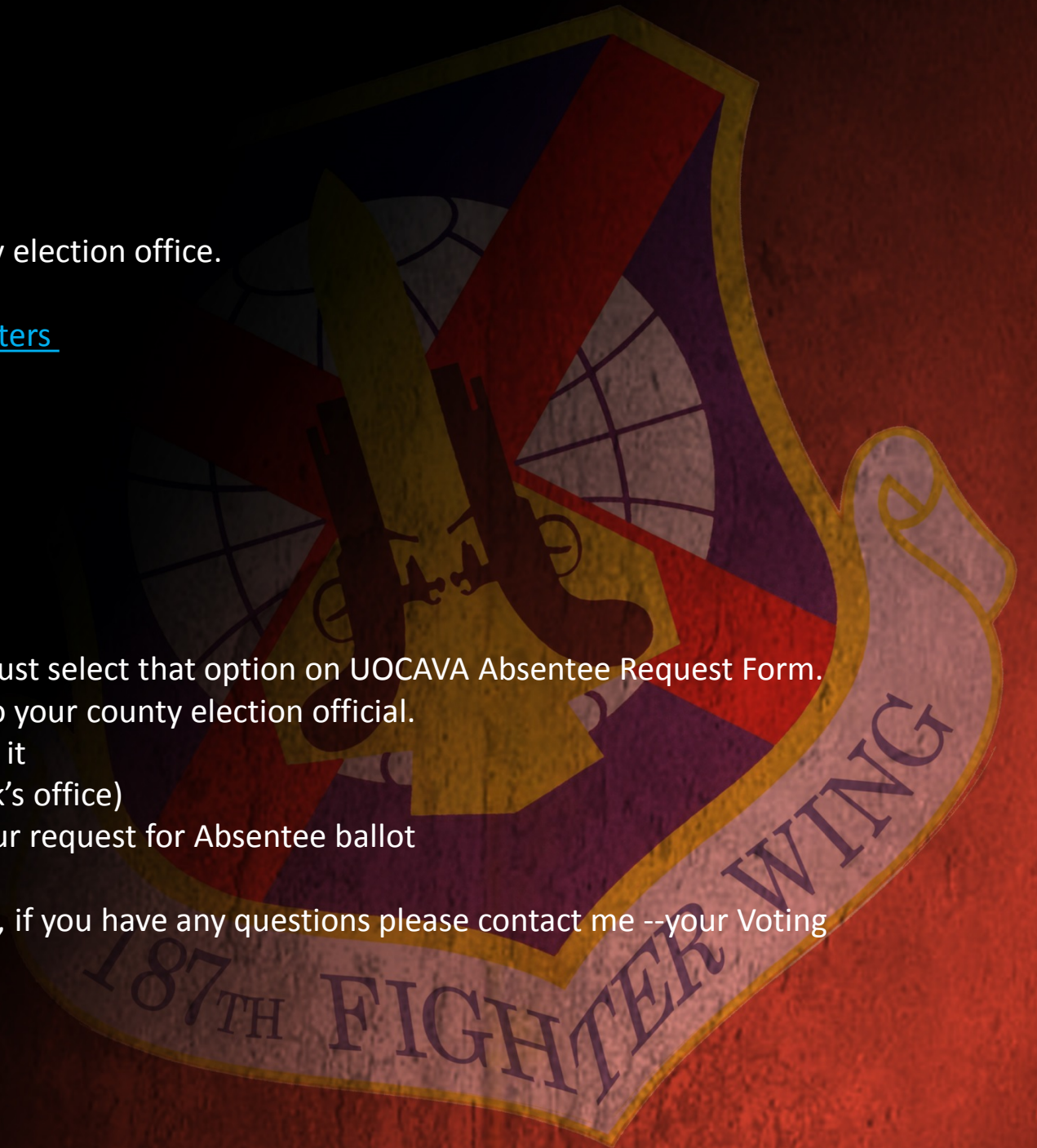
Other useful information:

- 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



Members of the 187th Fighter Wing, Alabama Air National Guard, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, show their pride for the University of Alabama football team, July 1, 2014. The members posed in front of the F-16 Fighting Falcon dedicated to the city of Tuscaloosa. (U.S. photo by Tech. Sgt. Matthew Garrett/released)





# PT SCORES & FITNESS

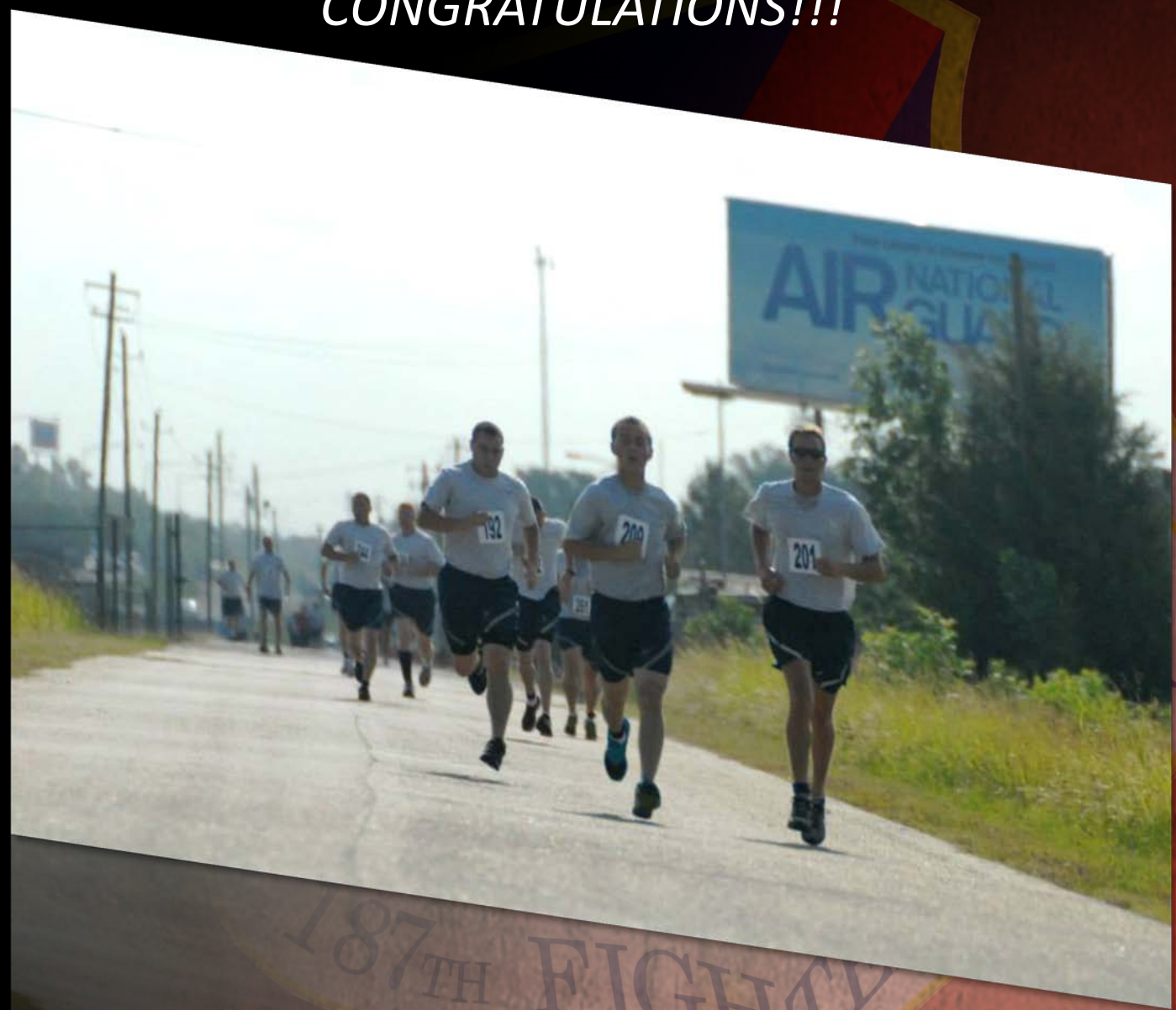
*Fitness Honors*

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

**EXCELLENTS**

CPT	Amy Rittberger	FW
CMS	Joseph Harris	COMM
SMS	Vivian Kelly	FSS
SMS	Bernadette Hollinger	FSS
MSG	Phillip Cosby	CES
MSG	Curtis Miller	SFS
MSG	Jeffery Carter	SFS
MSG	Terry Reilly	AMXS
TSG	Adam Miller	COMM
TSG	Steven Colley	SFS
TSG	Zachary Greene	AMXS
SSG	Liane Towle	MDG
SSG	Shaina Davis	MDG
SSG	Derica Whatley	SFS
SSG	Cole Hunter	OPS
SSG	Mark Stone	LRS
SRA	Matthew Pitts	FW
SRA	Eric Morris	SFS
A1C	Phillip Powell	SFS
A1C	Laura Hayle	SFS
A1C	Dquandre Johnson	SFS

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



187<sup>TH</sup> FIGHTY



# AMMO the AFSC

by SMSgt Kristie Pomilia

The Munitions Systems Specialist career field is commonly referred to as Aircraft Munitions Maintenance Organization (AMMO). It is the explosives branch of the Air Force. As an AMMO troop, some of the duties include shipping and receiving, building, testing, operating, protecting, inspecting, storing and performing maintenance on all types of conventional munitions systems. Ammo troops maintain a wide variety of small arms ammunitions to large-scale guided bombs. AMMO is responsible for maintaining the U.S. Air Force's entire munitions stockpile.

AMMO has nine distinct areas within the AFSC: Equipment Maintenance (TM), Precision Guided Munitions Missile Shop (PGM), Line Delivery, Conventional Maintenance, Munitions Control, Storage and Handling, Munitions Inspection and Munitions Accountability.

Upon completion of initial skills training, trainees will work with a trainer to enhance their knowledge and skills. Once qualified as a 5-skill level the AMMO troop may be assigned to crewmember or crew chief positions.

Due to safety concerns the Munitions Storage Area ("Bomb Dump") is isolated from the rest of the base. Isolation from the main base breeds a culture within the Munitions section where the troops go out of their way to take care of their own.





# TOUCH & GOs

## 2014 UTA SCHEDULE

Next Drill is *August 2-3*

September 6-7

November 1-2

October 4-5

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](mailto:david.sellers@ang.af.mil)

*Final Photo*



Staff Sgt. Thaddaeus Perry and Airman Sydney Foster replacing brake pads on a NHU-141 munitions trailer. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Baldwin)