

189th Airlift Wing WARRIOR



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Arkansas Air National Guard

Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

Winter Safety

Be safe this winter. If you have any questions or concerns about winter safety contact MSgt. JD Crawford at 987-7959.

Photo Feature

We covered the Outstanding Airmen of the Year Competition held here at the 189th Airlift Wing during January UTA. Winners will be announced in next month's issue.

RAT Team Updates

See page 8 for this month's RAT team update and information in case the one of the teams is needed during this icy winter weather season.

189AW Facebook

Check our wing Facebook page for updates on winter delays and closings at www.facebook.com/189aw

Public Website

Visit our website for news, newsletters, photos, videos and more at: www.189aw.ang.af.mil



Col. Tamhira Hutchins-Frye assumes command of the 189th Mission Support Group from Col. Robert Ator (right) at the Little Rock Air Force Base theater on Jan. 11, 2014. Also shown is Col. Steve Eggensperger (left). Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Ian Caple

Welcome to the eye of the storm

By Col. Robert Ator

189th Airlift Wing vice commander

I am pleased to welcome Col Hutchins-Frye back to the 189th Leadership team. As you know, Col. Hutchins-Frye took command of the "True Combatants" in the Mission Support Group during January UTA. I say "took" because it was bittersweet to give up command of such an exceptional team of Airmen that are the heart and soul of our Wing and a constant source of pride to me. I know that the True Combatants are in good hands and am thankful for Col. Hutchins-Frye's desire to take the team to the next level.

As I settle into my new job as your Vice Commander, I

can't help but brag on what this Wing is doing. I am constantly impressed with what you do every day. With that in mind, my challenge to you is to take care - everyday, in everything you do - of yourselves and your fellow Airmen.

Each and every one of us feels the pinch from all our Wing mission sets of the Formal Training Unit, the agile expeditionary combat support and of course our unique Guard mission to support our state. In the last year, every mission set has been stressed. We have felt the additional pressure of sequester furloughs, government shutdowns and continuing resolutions. Even so, each new

challenge has been met with traditional 189th exceptionalism and we continue to provide the very best. The FTU has seen an almost 800% increase in the number of FTU students on our campus. The Wing is in the process of hiring an almost 20 % increase in Wing members, moving offices, renovating 5 Wing buildings and adding 4 more aircraft -- to name a few of the changes. An impressive level of effort has gone into making this happen. For example, our Small Air Terminal loaded/ airdropped 20 more tons in one month than it did in the entire FY11. The support of combatant commanders

SEE STORM PAGE 2



Live by faith not fear

By Lt. Col. Steven Rogers
189AW Chaplain's Office

Have you ever met someone who has the legal name of Jezebel? There is a reason people do not name their little girls, Jezebel! She is one of the most evil women that ever walked the earth. This could partially explain the Old Testament prophet Elijah's great fear of Jezebel in 1 Kings 19. Elijah should not have been afraid of Jezebel because he had just faced 450 Baal worshipping prophets and had them killed after a miraculous victory on Mt. Carmel. However, Elijah was full of fear when he heard that Jezebel had promised to kill him in the next 24 hours.

So why did Elijah run like the wind from Jezebel and hide in a cave? He was acting in fear instead of faith in his Creator God who had just defeated 450 prophets that bowed to a man-made god. When he should have thought that nothing could

harm him because his God was in control of his life, Elijah cowered in a cave, hiding from an evil, crazy woman.

Before we think we are so much braver than Elijah, we need to remember that most of us have hidden in a "cave of fear" or a "cave of worrying" at one time or another. The fear may have been fear of job pressures...Marriage conflict...Cancer...Death... Fear of approval or rejection... Financial fear...Job selection or promotion...Losing a job...Fear of losing weight or completing a fitness test. The list is long and almost endless.

God does not want us to fear. Fear or worrying is sin because when we fear we are saying by our fear that God isn't big enough to conquer our "mountain" or solve our situation. God has a solution for us related to fear or worrying.

God tells us in Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be worry about anything. Instead of worrying,

pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life."

Like He was in the OT prophet Elijah's time, God is still in control! There isn't anything He has not seen, handled, solved or conquered before now. Anything we will ever face, God can walk us through the tough situation, conflict or crises. However, we cannot hide in a cave like Elijah or operate in fear. We need to operate with full faith in God, knowing that God is in complete control of the universe. If God created the universe, put the planets & stars in their place, then He is certainly more powerful than any storm of life that we will ever face.

STORM

Continued from Page 1

has been no less impressive. Our Security Force Defenders and our Combat Engineers deployed to the AOR and performed brilliantly. Both squadrons garnered many awards and accolades while deployed and kept evil from our shores. Our RAT teams were put on alert during the recent ice storms and continue to be a model for other states that are setting up their programs. All this is a testament to our culture of excellence. Each and every one you embody that excellence. When

faced with challenges the men and women of the 189th have never failed. This record of success is due to the Airmen in the Wing – YOU!

This level of excellence is not easy and I know that a lot has been asked of each of you. You have proven to be the most resilient Airman possible, but I want you to know that your leadership team is committed to ensuring that you continue have everything you need - not only to get the job done, but to care for yourselves and each other. You should feel free to use your chain of command to let us know if fatigue is

an issue, or when we are reaching our limits. There are also many support programs provided by our Chaplains, Nancy K. our director of mental health, and Ed Summers in the Family Readiness Program office. We all stand ready to help you and your family.

I am proud to be "Vice" of the 189th and the Airmen that make this Wing the very best. I look forward to talking with each of you as grow the Wing to face our new challenges together. After all, WE LEAD!

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189th Airlift Wing
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DOD releases new religious accomodation instruction

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

DOD releases new religious accommodation instruction

By Cheryl Pellerin,
American Forces Press Service
/ Published January 22, 2014

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WASHINGTON (AFNS) --

The Defense Department released a new instruction Jan. 22 that details its updated policy on making religious accommodations requested by service members, Pentagon spokesman Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nathan J. Christensen said.

A DOD instruction implements a policy or prescribes the manner or plan of action used to carry out a policy, operate a program or activity, and assign responsibilities.

“The new policy states that military departments will accommodate religious requests of service members,” Christensen said, “unless a request would have an adverse effect on military readiness, mission accomplishment, unit cohesion, and good order and discipline.”

When a service member requests such an accommodation, he added, department officials balance the need of the service member against the need to accomplish the military mission. Such

a request is denied only if an official determines that mission accomplishment needs outweigh the need of the service member, Christensen said.

Requests to accommodate religious practices will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, the spokesman noted.

“Each request must be considered based on its unique facts, the nature of the requested religious accommodation, the effect of approval or denial on the service member’s exercise of religion, and the effect of approval or denial on mission accomplishment, including unit cohesion,” he added.

Immediate commanders may resolve religious accommodation requests that don’t require a waiver of military department or service policies that address wearing of military uniforms and religious apparel, grooming, appearance or body-art standards.

A c c o m m o d a t i o n requests that require a waiver will be forwarded to the respective military department for determination.

Christensen said that factors used to determine if religious apparel interferes with military duties include whether the item:

-- Impairs the safe and effective operation of weapons, military equipment or machinery;

-- Poses a health or safety hazard to the service member



Capt. (Dr.) Tejdeep Singh Rattan joins his graduating class in singing “The Army Goes Rolling Along” during the Basic Officer Leadership Course graduation ceremony in 2010, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. If requests “reflect sincerely held beliefs” and don’t harm readiness, unit cohesion or good order and discipline,” beards, turbans and other signs of spiritual devotion will be approved by the military under a new policy the Pentagon. (Courtesy of U.S. Army)

wearing the religious apparel;

-- Interferes with the wear or function of special or protective clothing or equipment such as helmets, flak jackets, flight suits, camouflaged uniforms, protective masks, wet suits, and crash and rescue equipment; or

-- Otherwise impairs the accomplishment of the military mission.

The spokesman said department officials believe the new instruction will enhance commanders’ and supervisors’ ability to promote the climate

needed to maintain good order and discipline, and will reduce the instances and perception of discrimination toward those whose religious expressions are less familiar to the command.

“The Department of Defense places a high value on the rights of members of the military services to observe the tenets of their respective religions and the rights of others to their own religious beliefs,” Christensen said, “including the right to hold no beliefs.”



The 189th Airlift Wing mission:

-Elite C-130 aircrew training and worldwide airlift

-Highly trained and enthusiastic combatants to combatant commanders worldwide

-Capable, effective, and prompt support to Arkansans in need whenever the governor calls



Warrior of the Month



Rank & Name: SSgt. Nathan Michael

Unit: 189 AMXS

Job Title: C-130H Crew Chief

Status: Technician

Hometown: Cabot, AR

Civilian Employment: 189AW Technician

Family: Daughter Kelsi, Son Michael and my wife

Why I joined the Guard: To protect my country

Most rewarding part of my job: Maintaining the finest aircraft out there: the C-130H

Hobbies: Hiking, bike riding and running

My favorite movie is: Full Metal Jacket

My favorite TV Show(s): Dexter

My favorite book: The Holy Bible

A perfect day would be: Relaxing at the house with my wife

I admire: My mother and father. They are directly responsible for the person that I am today

Something no one knows about me: I have been deployed to Antarctica



WORD ON THE STREET

“What is your favorite winter activity and why?”



Master Sgt. David Haddock
189 CF

“Deer hunting in Sheridan, because it is peaceful and relaxing being out in nature.”



Master Sgt. Teresa James
189 CF

“Being cuddled up with a blanket, eating comfort food and watching movies, because it’s too cold outside to do anything else!”



SSgt. Jonathan McWhirter
189 CPTF

“Spending time with my family and newborn son during the cold and holiday seasons, because it is too cold to do anything else out there.”



Capt. Veronica Tice
189 FSS

“Snowskiing around the world. I’ve been to Switzerland and Austria and enjoy it because it’s refreshing, fun, exhilarating and beautiful.”



Senior Airman Jeff Swislocki
189 Contracting

“I go to crossfit at Sherwood Crossfit during the cold winter days because I enjoy the comradery and love staying in shape.”



A1C Gary Skouras
189 CE

“I go hunting in Brinkley during the Winter because it’s a great way to get out in nature and spend time with family.”



SMSgt. Victor Siever
189 LRS

“I like staying warm in front of the fireplace at my house and playing guitar, because it’s too cold outside.”



Master Sgt. Darren McGuirk
189 LRS

“Snowskiing in France is my favorite winter activity, because I was raised in Massachusetts and I’ve done it my whole life. The French Alps are beautiful.”



Outstanding Airmen of the Year Competition

The Outstanding Airman of the Year Competition consisted of a written exam, prepared speech, board interview and PT test as part of the selection process. Nominees had to stand the test of “Whole life/Whole career” scrutiny which included: leadership and job performance in their primary duty, significant self-improvement and base or community involvement, to name a few.



Airman 1st Class Trevor Grooms sits before the OAY panel of judges answering questions as part of the OAY competition package. The panel (L to R) Command Chief Master Sergeant Stephen Bradley, 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard, Command Sergeant Major Deborah Collins, Senior Enlisted Leader for the Arkansas Air National Guard, Command Chief Master Sergeant Asa Carter, Arkansas State ANG Command Chief, Command Chief Master Sergeant Ricky Sowell, 189th Airlift Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard and SrA Joshua Summers, (observer) 189th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Air Transportation Journeyman.



Staff Sgt. Julie Darrough, 188th Fighter Wing, Knowledge Operations Management, presents her prepared speech before the OAY panel of judges. The panel (L to R) Command Chief Master Sergeant Stephen Bradley, 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard, Command Sergeant Major Deborah Collins, Senior Enlisted Leader for the Arkansas Air National Guard, Command Chief Master Sergeant Asa Carter, Arkansas State ANG Command Chief, Command Chief Master Sergeant Ricky Sowell, 189th Airlift Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard and SrA Joshua Summers, (observer) 189th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Air Transportation Journeyman.



Tech Sgt. Jean Schnauffer, 188 AMXS Aircraft Armament, Senior Airman Ebene Sturgis, 189 FSS Readiness, Airman First Class Trevor Grooms, 123 Intel Cyber System Operations, Master Sgt. Brian Anible, 188 MSG First Sergeant and Senior Airman William Verdier, 188 MXS Jet Propulsion take their exam as part of the Outstanding Airman of the Year Competition (OAY).



Master Sgt. Marcus Booker, 188 Information Assurance Manager and Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Pflieger, 189 Security Forces Squadron Superintendent take their exams during the OAY competition.



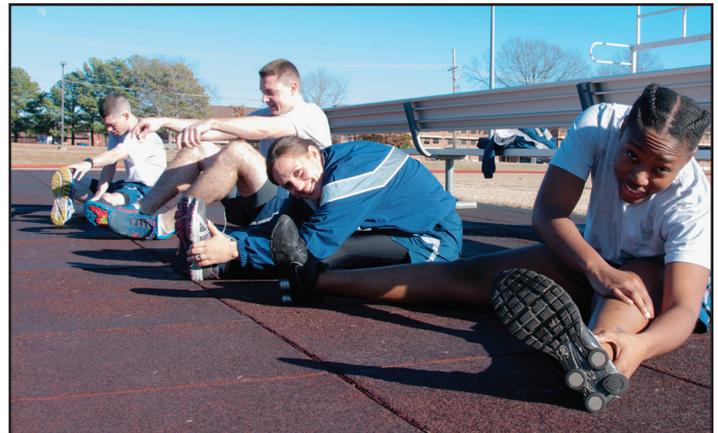
Outstanding Airmen of the Year Competition, cont



After pushups and situps, six OAY candidates hit the track running, as their last event in the competition, while the judges watch from the sidelines. Master Sgt. Jeremiah Brewer, (far back) 189th Operations Group Training Manager and Enlisted Academic Aircrew School Registrar (EAAS), keeps time and tally of their scores. Runners (l to r) Senior Airman William Verdier, 188MXS Jet Propulsion, Tech Sgt. Jean Schnauffer, 188AMXS Aircraft Armament, Airman 1st Class Trevor Grooms, 123 Intel Cyber System Operations, (behind Grooms) Master Sgt. Brian Anible, 188MSG First Sergeant, Master Sgt. Anatole Paradis, 189AMXS First Sergeant and Senior Airman Ebone Sturgis, 189 FSS Readiness.



Six OAY candidates listen as Master Sgt. Jeremiah Brewer (far right) explains time, form and rules for the Air Force PT test, part of the OAY Competition. (l to r) Senior Airman William Verdier, Airman 1st Class Trevor Grooms, TSgt Jean Schnauffer, Master Sergeant Anatole Paradis, MSgt Brian Anible and (front) SrA Ebone Sturgis.



Airman 1st Class Trevor Grooms, Senior Airman William Verdier, Tech Sgt. Jean Schnauffer and Senior Airman Ebone Sturgis warm up with stretches prior to the PT test.



Tech Sgt. Jean Schnauffer, counts and watches for proper pushup form as Senior Airman Ebone Sturgis, meets her goal.



Tech Sgt. Jean Schnauffer, and Master Sgt. Anatole Paradis, running their timed 6 laps around the track at Little Rock Air Force Base.



Promotions



To Senior Master Sergeant

William Earnhart, 189 CF
Bradlee Coen, 189 LRS
Timothy Lenahan, 123 IS



To Technical Sergeant

Jeremy Sears, 189 MXS
Andrew Avaritt, 189 MXS
Nicholas Butler, 189 MXS
Scotty Daniel, 189 MXS
James Grant, 189 MXS
Joseph Kraska, 189 MXS
Bartholomew Kogel, 189 MXS
Martin Cassidy, 189 LRS



To Staff Sergeant

Megan Dove, 123 IS



To Senior Airman

Shaqueelah Rogers, 189 OPS

PME Graduations

Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy

MSgt. Misty McClean, 13 Dec 2013, 189 MDG
SMSgt. Vinson Hulen, 13 Dec 2013, 189 MXG

Non-Commissioned Officer Academy

TSgt. Gwendolyn Hernandez, 19 Dec 2013, 189 OSF
TSgt. Larry Hill, 19 Dec 2013, 189 MXS

Retirements

CMSgt. Sandra Jackson, 189 CF, 1 Jan 14
TSgt. Charles Basham, 154 WF, 21 Jan 14
MSgt. Charles Price, 189 LRS, 24 Jan 2014
MSgt. Trevor Gillespie, 189 FSS, 31 Jan 14
CMSgt. Dirk Dull, 189 CES, 31 Jan 14

The RAT Corner

QUICK NOTES:

Team "C" you are in the "bucket" through April; are your bags packed and are you ready to assist affected local communities at a moment's notice?

Additional volunteers are needed for all three teams. Being part of a RAT is a great opportunity to deploy with your family from the 189th to assist local communities after a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. As many of those who have previously deployed with a RAT can attest, lending a helping hand to our fellow citizens in a time of need can be one of the most rewarding things we get to be a part of during our military service. The rotation schedule means you are only in the RAT deployment "bucket" for 3 out of every 9 months. Give us a call if you are interested in signing up!

RECALL PROCEDURES: Texts and Telephone Calls are our primary means of contacting personnel when we receive a mission tasking and begin activating a RAT. If either your primary or alternate telephone numbers have changed and you have not previously let us know, please send an email to william.catton@ang.af.mil with your updated information so that we can keep our recall roster up to date.

RAT ROTATION SCHEDULE:

TEAM C: "In the bucket" Feb 01, 2014 - Apr 30, 2014
TEAM A: "In the bucket" May 01, 2014 through July 31, 2013
TEAM B: "In the bucket" August 01, 2014 through October 31, 2014

CONTACT INFO:

If you have any questions or would like to join a team, please contact CMSgt Ken Fisher at 501-987-7978 or MSgt Bill Catton at 501-987-2169.