

189th Airlift Wing WARRIOR



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Arkansas Air National Guard

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Awesome Wassom 2 takes flight

Chaplains's article - Pg. 2 ♦ 154th Weather Flight Story - Pg. 3 ♦ Warrior of Month - Pg. 4 ♦ Awesome Wassom 5K coverage - Pg. 7 ♦ Gulfport Training week coverage - Pg. 8 ♦ Retirements, promotions and graduations - Pg. 9



Rekindling friendships

Chaplain Matt Garrison
189th Airlift Wing chaplain

I don't know about y'all, but I had a great time in Gulfport. It was the perfect opportunity for us traditionals to spend a little time rekindling our friendships, and to get to know quite a few new faces.

I spent a good amount of time reflecting on my drive back about how much our unit has changed since joining a little more than six years ago...I believe much more for the better. I also spent some time thinking about what I can do to make it even better (something we

should all probably think about often).

I'm excited to have the opportunity over the next few months (roughly August - December) to be with you all full-time. It's difficult to get to know everyone spending just one weekend a month, especially when much of that time is filled with retirements, promotions, changes of command, etc... All good things, but those events don't give the chaplain team an opportunity to really get to know YOU, and what you love to do.

Chaplain Pierce and

I are excited to have the opportunity to get to know YOU, not just asking questions, but spending some time getting to know what you do, why you love the guard, and how we can better serve you... Turning wrenches, building pallets, whatever we can do to spend quality time getting to know you.

I'm excited for this opportunity, and I want to make the very best of every second I have. If we can help you with anything, please don't hesitate to ask. I look forward to seeing you all over the next few months.

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Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Pelkey

The 189th welcomes Brig. Gen. James Vogel, the new commander of the Arkansas Air National Guard! We're looking forward to working with you, sir!



154th Weather Flight visits FOB Miami

Master Sgt. Paul Wilkerson
154th Weather Flight

Usually when you ask folks about the Air National Guard here in Arkansas, most people immediately think of the 189th Airlift Wing, the 188th Fighter Wing, and the 123rd Intelligence Squadron due to their unique recurring mission.

What you normally won't hear about is the 154th Weather Flight, a geographically separated unit (GSU) attached to Joint Force Headquarters.

The 154th Weather Flight is home to 12 enlisted personnel and two officers and has a pretty unique mission set.

The unit's primary mission is to support the Army's 77th Theater Aviation Brigade, as well as the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team out of Camp Beauregard, LA.

Because of the mission set the weather flight has, it can sometimes lead to unique training opportunities. One of those opportunities came around this summer, as the unit was tasked to provide primary weather support to Task Force Ironhawk during a rotation to the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, CA. Master Sgt. Paul Wilkerson, Technical Sgt. Jeremy McMaster, Senior Airman Alexis Miguel, and Senior Airman Jerry Ellis, along with 453 U.S. Army members from Wisconsin,

formed the personnel side of the aviation task force. The task force also consisted of over 30 helo assets from five states operating under the 1-147th Aviation Battalion. Variations of the UH-60 Blackhawk were on station, as well as AH-64 Apache aircraft, and CH-47 Chinook aircraft.

In addition to helo assets, a platoon of Shadow UAV's were present to provide intel support.

Task Force Ironhawk was tasked with providing aviation attack and assault support to the 5,000 members of the 1st Stryker Brigade, 1st Armored Division out of Ft. Bliss, TX during this rotation that consisted of DATE training, otherwise known as Decisive Action Training Environment. This training employs a force-on-force scenario where all assets deploy into the Mojave Desert and battle against OPFOR combatants within a brigade-sized element. Enemy forces are also equipped with heavy combat equipment to provide both ground troops and aviation assets with the best training possible to mimic what might be seen during actual "first in" deployment scenarios.

Weather flight personnel were charged with providing all aircrews mandatory weather briefings for aircraft flying under the control of the Task Force. Weather airmen also were responsible to provide hourly weather observations 24/7 as well



Left to right: SrA Jerry Ellis, SrA Alexis Miguel, Master Sgt. Paul Wilkerson, and Technical Sgt. Jeremy McMaster gather for a group photo at FOB Miami, where they had just completed ENDEX.

as Mission Execution Forecasts. Also due to the threat of CBRN attacks, our Airmen generated chemical stability forecasts that aided commanders in the decision making process regarding MOPP posturing requirements. Outside of mandatory requirements, several airmen got the opportunity to aid in different training and security duty. Two airmen participated in a CLS training scenario which allowed our combat life savers to practice mass casualty response in a field environment. One other member conducted entry control point security by manning a vehicle mounted .50 caliber machine gun during night operations at a forward operating base.

During this rotation, weather flight members experienced nearly daily small arms attacks, aerial bombardment attacks, as well as realistic convoy attacks during movements between locations within the

battlefield. During one such convoy attack, Technical Sgt. McMaster not only had to egress from the vehicle and provide security, he was also able to score a kill on the enemy vehicle responsible for the attack. Technical Sgt McMaster further was tasked to rescue a captain who had legs amputated in this scenario. Using his Air Force self-aid buddy care training, he was able to apply a tourniquet to the injured captain and save her life.

Overall, the 154th Weather Flight received great reviews from our Army counterparts, as well as Air Force Observer/Trainers that are tasked with assessing unit effectiveness during the rotation. I am very proud of our team, and we were all proud to represent the 154th Weather Flight during this unique training opportunity. If you ever have questions about what the 154th Weather Flight does, please stop by and chat with us!



Warrior of the Month: Airman First Class Christine Odom



Rank and Name: A1C Christine A. Odom

Unit: 189 Force Support Squadron

Job Title: Customer Support/FSMPS

Status: Technician

Hometown: Mayflower

Civilian Employment: Technician at the 189th Force Support Squadron/FSMPS

Family: Tommy (Husband) Gabe (Son), Christian (Son), Frank (Son)

Why I joined the Guard: Career and school opportunities

Most rewarding part of my job: Feeling like I'm a part of something more. Being able to help my wing to the best of my

abilities

Hobbies: Running, reading, hiking, painting, arts and crafts, spending time with family

My favorite movie is: Grease

My favorite TV Show(s): The Walking Dead

My favorite book: Pride and Prejudice

A perfect day would be: A day on the beach with no electronics, my family and a good book to read

I admire: Hard work and perseverance

Something no one knows about me: I'M EXPECTING BABY BOY NUMBER 3!! :D



Driving safely saves lives

Senior Airman Ian Caple
189th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Driving is an everyday part of life for most of us, but driving safely is something that far too many people don't know how to do.

Driving can be scary. There are a lot of people that just plain don't know how to drive. It might be because they just weren't educated on proper techniques or it might just be because they don't care.

I'm a car guy. I like to go fast. I like to think I am a great driver, but sometimes I make mistakes. We all do. Once you get a ticket for a certain offense, there's no excuse for doing it again, but some people never learn.

After receiving a ticket on Hwy. 67/167 one morning for speeding, I was required to take a driver's safety course. I can tell you from experience, it's not worth going that much faster to save a couple of minutes on your morning commute to work. The course was eye-opening.

A driver's safety course might sound boring to you, but I feel that it is something that everyone who gets behind the wheel should be required take. The tests required to get your license in Arkansas teach young teenagers little to nothing about driving and are most likely forgotten

soon after.

These courses cover everything from simple four-way traffic laws up to drunk driving, falling asleep at the wheel, using your phone while driving, approaching school bus stops and many other eye-opening topics.

There are many laws and regulations that most people don't know exist, that if everyone knew, could save hundreds of lives a year and prevent simple accidents.

One of the most important things a driver can do is to be DEFENSIVE. Pay attention to what is happening around you, don't depend on other drivers, anticipate what could happen in front of you, have an idea of where you could go or what you could do if something does happen, don't tailgate and cut out all distractions. Put your phones down!

Clogging up the left lane on freeways and highways has to be one of my biggest pet peeves. There is a simple law in Arkansas that reserves the left lane as a passing lane for those who want or need to pass, not for those who are cruising at or under the posted speed limit. If everyone on the road knew this law existed and followed it, it would make traffic flow more smoothly and remove unwanted frustration.

Other simple safety tips include: wear your seatbelt,



Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Pelkey

Senior Airman Ian Caple stands next to his modified 2015 Subaru WRX on Thursday June 18, 2015.

check your tires, keep your car maintained, don't drink and drive, have the correct child safety seats for your children, don't drive if you think you could fall asleep, keep an eye out for motorcycles and bicyclists, etc.

One thing that scares me the most about so many drivers on the road is their lack of patience. I'm not going to lie, I have road rage from time to time, but there are certain things that you need to have patience for.

Always look twice for motorcyclists and bicyclists, stop at school bus stops no

matter the direction you are travelling, and keep an eye out for drunk drivers. If you see one, call 911 to report it.

There are some disturbing videos online that show what can happen if you lose patience for a split second and/or stop paying attention. It could cost other people their lives.

The main thing I wanted you to get out of this is to pay attention, stay off of your phone, be patient, take a driving course, send your children to a driving course and be safe!



Annual 189th Airlift Wing Family Day



Clockwise from left: Members of the 189th take a swim in the base lake after their canoe capsized during the race; the winners of the annual family day canoe races, members of the 189th Logistics Readiness Squadron, pose with their trophy; 189AW Airmen hide in the shade before the canoe races; 189th members get their floaties ready before participating in the canoe races; teams battle it out to get to the finish first.





Second annual Awesome Wassom 5K run



Clockwise from left: Col. Chris Montanaro, 189th Maintenance Group commander, members of the 189th and their families, run down the last straight to the finish line; Col. Robert Ator, 189th Airlift Wing commander, pushes a dummy on a gurney through the finish line; Members of the 189th and their families line up to begin the Awesome Wassom 5K race at the intersection of MSgt. Dan Wassom Road and Vandenberg Blvd; Members of the 189th Maintenance Group and their band Two Hole Punch, perform live during the event; Members of the 189th and their families begin the hot 5K run at the intersection of MSgt. Dan Wassom Road and Vandenberg Blvd. on Sunday June 7, 2015.



Gulfport 2015



Clockwise from left: Tech. Sgt. Clayton Woods, a loadmaster with the 189th Airlift Wing, sits in the back of a 189th C-130H; A beautiful 189th Airlift Wing C-130 stands out against the beautiful gulfcoast sky prior to a morning flight. Col. Dom Sarnataro, 189th Operations Group commander, is at the controls; Col. Robert Ator II, commander of the 189th Airlift Wing, addresses his Airmen at the beginning of the wing's 2015 annual training period at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center; Staff Sgt. Jason Rog, a 189th Airlift Wing loadmaster, works the numbers prior to a morning flight during the wing's annual training in Gulfport, Mississippi; Senior Airman Jared Dumais, a loadmaster with the 189th Airlift Wing, prepares for the morning flight June 11, 2015; Col. Dom Sarnataro, commander of the 189th Operating Group, prepares for a morning flight.





Promotions



To Senior Master Sergeant

James D. Crawford, 189 AW HQ
Chad D. Cooley, 189 OPS



To Master Sergeant

Mitchell W. Holland, 189 OG
Kenneth W. Dahl, 189 LRS



To Technical Sergeant

Evan A. Chynoweth, 189 AMXS
Deidra I. Maltbia, 189 LRS
Benjamin A. Hawkins, 189 LRS
Brandon L. Garrett, 154 TRS
Jennifer L. Evans, HQ ANG
Cody M. Fowler, 189 LRS
Rowan St. Michael Leehue, 189 MDG
Brad G. Burl, 189 LRS



To Staff Sergeant

Jay A. Mandrell, 189 SFS
Cody L. Ealy, 189 SFS
Tanner W. Hand, 189 MXS
Ebony R. Brown, 189 SFS



To Senior Airman

Payton Mishel Denson, 189 LRS
Charles Lynne Chambers, 189 CES



To Airman 1st Class

Keneshia L. Ferrell, 189 FSS
Savannah R. Splechter, 189 AW
Breeanna L. Smith, 189 FSS
Aisha V. Bullock, 189 MDG
Endia L. Johnson, 189 MDG

Retirements

SMSGt. Steven Garrison, 189 AWHQ, 30 June 2015
Master Sgt. Robert Patrick, 189 MXS, 1 June 2015
Technical Sgt. Keith Gonelli, 189 CES, 3 June 2015

PME Graduations

Airman Leadership School

Senior Airman Kourtney Smedley, 189 LRS, 21 May 15
Senior Airman Bruce Booth, 189 LRS, 21 May 15
Senior Airman Vicki Wray, 189 CPTF, 17 June 15

The RAT Corner

QUICK NOTES:

We have now switched to our Force Package (FP) concept and have had a few call outs in the last few months and you have represented the 189AW and the Arkansas Air National Guard very well. As we lean into future operations I believe we will be as busy as ever and therefore need to always be ready at a moment's notice. Please contact the Emergency Management flight if you would like to join or if you would need to leave the team so we can update our recall list.

We will be having Training for our RAT team on the 3rd and 4th of June. If you are interested in attending please contact the Emergency Management flight @ 501-987-2169.

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.

CONTACT INFO:

If you have any questions or would like to join a team, please contact Master Sgt. Bill Catton at 501-987-2169.