

# 189th Airlift Wing WARRIOR



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Arkansas Air National Guard

Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.



*To the pont: wing immunizations  
ensures readiness for Guardsmen, pg. 6*





# Commander's Commentary

By Col. Dean B. Martin  
189th Airlift Wing Commander

Welcome to another great and productive drill! First, I want to take the time to congratulate all of our senior NCO's who will be guests of honor in this weekend's Senior NCO Induction Ceremony, you all have earned this stripe. It takes unbounded patience and work to be a respected and effective senior NCO and leader. I have faith in each and every one of you that you will rise to that challenge and exceed it. Remember that with greater rank comes greater responsibility. Use your talents, knowledge and work ethic to inspire our future generation of Airmen to follow in your footsteps. Keep up the hard work!



On March 7, we will be hosting an Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training expo, encouraging all AF JROTC cadets throughout the state of Arkansas to visit our wing and see how we contribute to the community, state and Department of Defense. This is a very important event that showcases what each and every one of us do to add to the success of our Guard. Some cadets will be new, learning the basics of what it takes to be an Airman and some will be ready to make the choice to answer the Nation's call. I implore you to take advantage of this opportunity and contribute to the event in any way you can. We need your skills and talent to show these potential recruits their own possibilities.

This month, we will also celebrate African American Black History Month. This observance is held to celebrate the achievements made by African Americans, it is a time for recognizing the central role they have and continue to play in the history of the United States. President Gerald Ford set aside the month of February for this observance in 1976, during the United States Bicentennial. Little Rock Air Force Base celebrates each year with different events throughout the month. Check out the 189 AW and 19 AW Facebook pages for more information.

The 189 AW continues to lead the ANG in innovation. As we strive to make life better for our airmen, I am asking for your help in capturing your hidden talents. We have developed a wing skills analysis survey (instructions on page 2). This information can be used to match expertise to current/future innovation projects. Please take a couple of minutes over drill to complete this survey.

The last thing I want to leave you all with is a reminder that you are surrounded by support. This week, our Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Kendall Penn, shared a message on military suicide with a state audience, via THV11. Knowing you have options and can reach out are extremely important to remember if you are ever in need of help. We know that life can be messy. Know that you are not alone in difficult times. Your 189 AW family is ready to pick you up and carry you through the dark days so you can witness a brighter tomorrow.



**Follow Through!**

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# *Wing Skills Survey Now Available*

## *189th Airlift Wing Skills Analysis Questionnaire*



## *We want to know about you!*

The 189th Airlift Wing Skills Survey is now available! Please follow the instructions below to participate!

- 1) To access the questionnaire, go to the 189 AW SharePoint homepage at [https://org2.eis.af.mil/sites/34153/\\_layouts/15/start.aspx#/](https://org2.eis.af.mil/sites/34153/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/)
- 2) On the left-hand side, click the link "189 AW Skills Analysis Questionnaire"
- 3) On the survey page, select the "Respond to this survey" link
- 4) Answer the questions and select finish

REMEMBER: ONLY ONE SUBMITTAL PER MEMBER

If you have difficulty accessing the site, contact the Comm Focal Point at 501-987-6194





# *Command and control after disaster: 189th Communications Flight ensures restorability*

By Master Sgt. Jessica Condit  
189th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Disasters occur throughout the world, often with little or no warning. Here, in Arkansas, tornadoes and flooding are commonplace and have had devastating effects in the past. The 189th Airlift Wing's Rapid Augmentation Team and Mobile Emergency Operations Center provide quick support and relief to the communities affected by these natural events. In order to provide the best response and support, communication is key to ensuring the required information is shared and received.

The communications flight at the wing stepped up to provide the support needed in the event of a

natural disaster by modernizing and restoring the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability. The JISCC is built for emergency preparedness allowing you to take a preemptive strike against disaster and its consequences.

The goal of the JISCC is to maximize effectiveness by bridging first responder communications systems and deliver high-bandwidth capability anywhere.

"When we go into an emergency like the MEOC does, we have an advantage," said Tech. Sgt. Keith Schalk, a 189th Communications flight information



*Staff Sgt. Sarah Smith, a 189th Communications Flight radio frequency transmissions journeyman and Staff Sgt. Matthew Sewell, 189th Communications Flight network operations, work to set up the satellite antenna for the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability Jan. 23, 2020, at Little Rock AFB, Ark. The JISCC is designed to assist first responders' communication abilities during natural disasters.*





*Tech. Sgt. Keith Schalk, a 189th Communications Flight information systems security manager and JISCC project lead, assists with setup of the antenna for the satellite system. It takes at least six people to successfully set up the JISCC.*

systems security manager and JISCC project lead. “We have a communications system that coincides with the MEOC and is able to provide comms for all the first responders supporting the disaster relief effort whether they are state or federal.”

The JISCC provides not only satellite IP connectivity but also radio frequency network interoperability, allowing command and control to be established only hours after any type of disaster. The equipment in the JISCC is made from a standard design that is interchangeable with other U.S. Department of Defense network systems. The JISCC also includes a voice over internet protocol capability, allowing first responders to use handheld radios to communicate, thus improving productivity across the different supporting agencies and eliminating duplicate efforts. According to Schalk, the communication system is so flexible, emergency responders can communicate with each other from counties or even states away using an ACU interoperability device, compatible with a JISCC.

Extremely compact, the JISCC can be transferred to nearly any location in support of a mission. The entire communications requires six people to set up and takes only a few hours to set up, once a site is established. The main requirement for the JISCC to work effectively is a clear distance of separation. This allows the systems to send and receive messages from

the satellites in a quick and concise manner.

“We have a lot of comm folks consisting of new and eager Airmen who are excited to be part of this opportunity,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Sewell, 189th Communications Flight network operations and JISCC alternate project lead. “We’ll have a team A and team B that’ll consist of the right amount of people. It’ll be similar response that the RAT team has which is we get the call and we’re ready to go out within 24 hours.”



*Tech. Sgt. Keith Schalk raises the top of the antenna which utilizes satellite systems to increase communications during state emergency response. The Arkansas Air National Guard's MEOC and RAT work hand-in-hand with the JISCC to provide effective results during emergency response efforts.*





## *Immunizations gets to the point*

Palms sweaty, pulse racing, you walk down a long hall and end up at the back of the clinic facing the immunizations lab. Sitting down, Staff Sgt. Jesse Elizondo greets you with a smile and a needle. Is this time for panic you might ask yourself? As you are in your chair waiting to be poked and prodded with a needle, Elizondo says, “All done!” Surprised by the ease and quickness of the process you fill out your necessary paperwork and leave the office.

The immunizations technicians at the 189th Medical Group strive to ensure each Airman who comes for support receives the quickest and easiest experience within the immunizations lab. During December unit training assembly, the lab provided immunizations and blood draws to more than half the wing, ensuring each Airman who walked through was either complete or one step closer to total mission readiness. While one may have reservations about needles, the members of the 189th MDG make it easier to get the job done.







# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



## HALLOWED GROUNDS: Sites of African American Memories



Designed by James Ladner for the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute







# BE <sup>189<sup>th</sup></sup> Airlift Wing the KEY Spouse

## Annual Key Spouse Orientation 2020

*Join us for the opportunity to learn more about the Key Spouse Program  
and meet other spouses of the 189<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing*

**5 February 2020 @ 8AM**

**MSG Conference Room (Bldg 103, Office 123)**

**or**

**6 Febraury 2020 @ 6pm**

**Grinds Coffee Shop in Cabot**

### **Why should you become a Key Spouse?**

- ✓ Be an essential part of our 189<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and increase the quality of life and resiliency within our unit
- ✓ Establish yourself as a first person resource for family members, providing them with information from squadron leadership about events, programs, and other available resources
- ✓ Attend Commanders Calls and Town Hall Meetings, and gain essential training and resources to better assist families

**For additional information, contact the  
189AW Airman and Family Readiness Office  
at (501) 987-5952 or [Lauren.A.Morgan6.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Lauren.A.Morgan6.civ@mail.mil).**





# PRESIDENTS DAY



## BY THE NUMBERS

Feb. 18, 2019: Presidents Day is observed on the third Monday of February. Although many believe Presidents Day is a time to honor all former U.S. presidents, the federal holiday is actually the official observance of George Washington's birthday (Feb. 22).

### April 13, 1743

The date President Thomas Jefferson was born in Shadwell, Goochland County (now in Albemarle County), Virginia

### Oct. 27, 1858

The date of President Theodore Roosevelt's birth in New York City

### Presidential places

Number of counties, towns and minor civil divisions matching the last names of presidents:

- » Washington: **94**
- » Jefferson: **61**
- » Roosevelt: **13**
- » Lincoln: **70**

### Feb. 12, 1809

The date of President Abraham Lincoln's birth in Hardin County, Kentucky

### 6 feet, 4 inches

Abraham Lincoln's height, tying him with Lyndon B. Johnson as the tallest president in history

### 42

The age that Theodore Roosevelt became the 26th and youngest U.S. president in the nation's history, upon the assassination of President William McKinley on Sept. 14, 1901

### Feb. 22, 1732

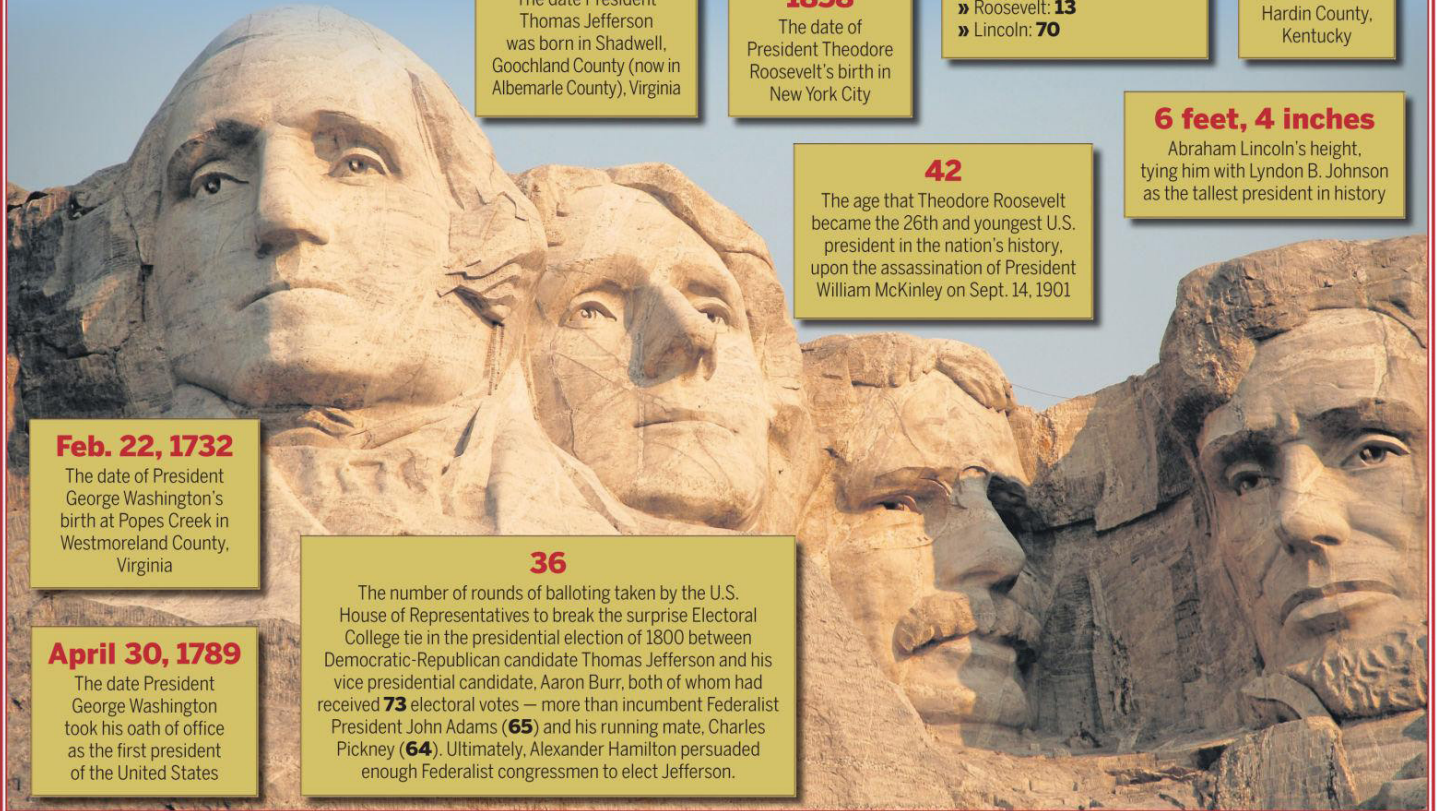
The date of President George Washington's birth at Popes Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia

### April 30, 1789

The date President George Washington took his oath of office as the first president of the United States

### 36

The number of rounds of balloting taken by the U.S. House of Representatives to break the surprise Electoral College tie in the presidential election of 1800 between Democratic-Republican candidate Thomas Jefferson and his vice presidential candidate, Aaron Burr, both of whom had received **73** electoral votes — more than incumbent Federalist President John Adams (**65**) and his running mate, Charles Pickney (**64**). Ultimately, Alexander Hamilton persuaded enough Federalist congressmen to elect Jefferson.



INFOGRAPHIC BY DAVID THOMETZ/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER | SOURCES: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU; WHITEHOUSE.GOV; PIXABAY; METRO CREATIVE

# Happy Presidents Day







# ***MXG Top Performers:***



***Oct - Nov 2019***

***AFCT 85-1365***

***DCC-MSgt Jason Hanna***

***ACC-SSgt Jeremy VanValkenburgh***

***DSG CC-TSgt Jason Fuller***

***SSgt Kyle Flannigan***

***ACFT 85-1366***

***DCC-MSgt David Rogers***

***ACC-SSgt Cory Jackson***

***SSgt Zach Miller***



***Dec. 2019***

***ACFT 89-1184***

***DCC-MSgt Nathan Michael***

***ACC-TSgt Brandon Bascue***

***SSgt Adam Hodges***

***SrA Morgan Bridgeman***





# *Warrior of the Month:*

## *Senior Airman Chibueze Ekeh*



**Rank/Name:** Senior Airman Chibueze Ekeh

**Unit:** 189th Civil Engineer Squadron

**Guard Status:** DSG

**Position:** Water and Fuels Maintenance Specialist

**Hometown:** North Little Rock

**Time on Station:** 5 years

**Time in Service:** 5 years

**Goals:** Become a successful real estate investor and obtain a Masters degree in psychology

**Hobbies:** Reading Music, basketball and video games

**Core Value Portrayed:** Service Before Self

**How this core value is portrayed:** SrA Ekeh recently returned from a six-month deployment. While deployed, he assisted with several high-priority projects that enhanced mission effectiveness as well as improved the quality of life for deployed service members. In his civilian career, Ekeh is employed by the Arkansas Support Network, where he works with individuals with developmental disabilities. Ekeh is a hard-working and dedicated team player.