

# 189th Airlift Wing WARRIOR

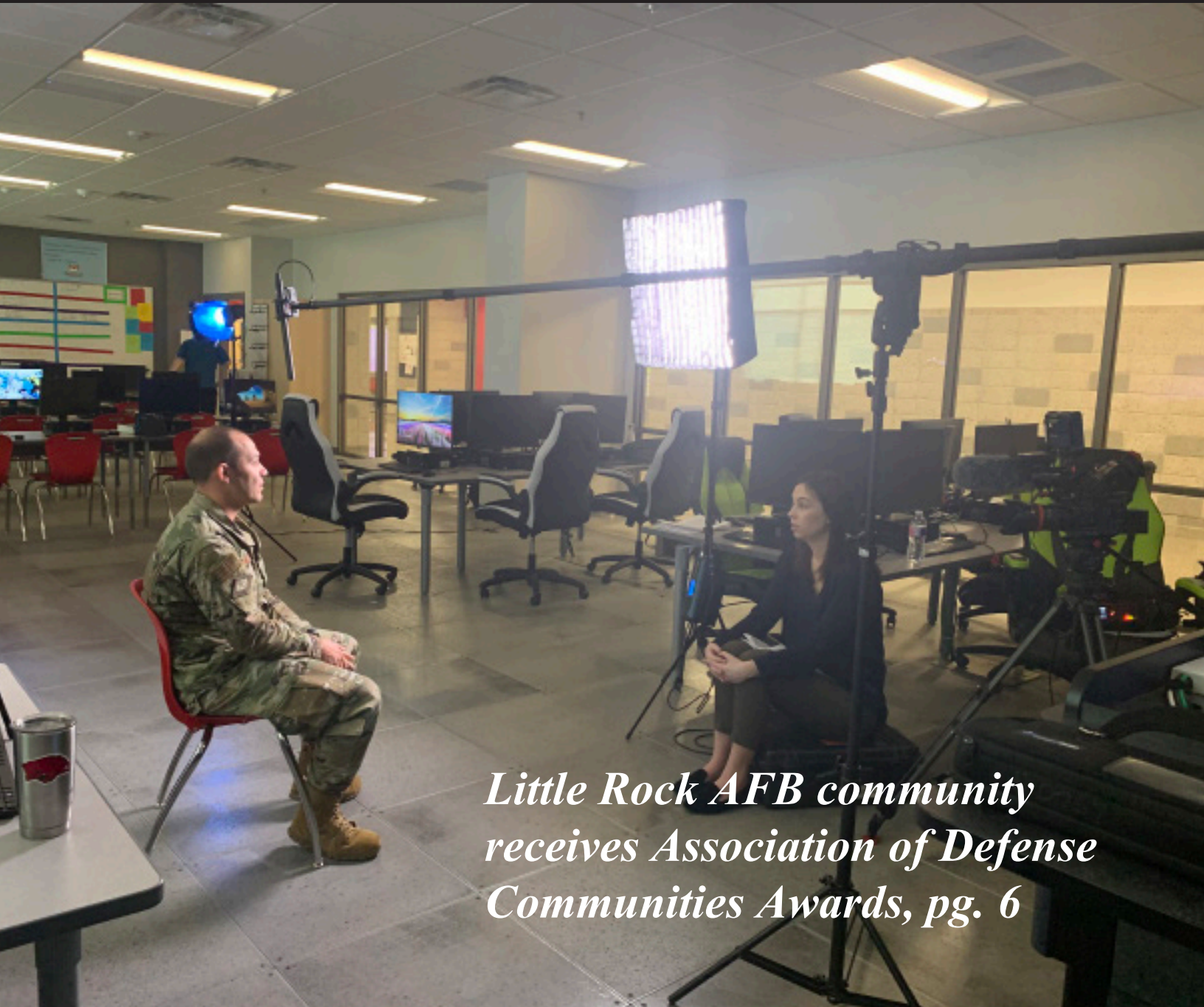


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Arkansas Air National Guard

Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.



*Little Rock AFB community  
receives Association of Defense  
Communities Awards, pg. 6*





# Commander's Commentary

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

Another drill is here and I would like to say welcome back! We have a lot in store this weekend, and I know that we can make all our efforts successful! I am excited to announce that our wing will be hosting its first-ever Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training exposition on March 7th, which is Saturday of drill. We have more than 200 cadets from across the state coming to our wing to see what we do and to learn more about the Air National Guard. This event has a lot of moving parts so I want to thank everyone in advance for their involvement and dedication to making the event a success! Remember, every single cadet coming through our doors could be a future Guardsman. Let's show them what we have to offer and why the Air National Guard is the best choice for service to our country.



Each month we celebrate and honor different observances that honor ethnicities, gender, denominations, and heritage. Throughout March, we will be celebrating Women's History Month. This initiative amplifies women's voices to honor the past, inform the present and inspire the future. From the right to vote to women in the workplace, each woman has a story and plays a significant role in the contribution to the Wing, state, nation, and home. Follow us on Facebook to see different visuals and events hosted by TLR throughout the month.

I would also like to highlight a recent success from our wing's cyberspace squadron. This month, 1st Lt. Thomas Van Dorple interviewed with the Association of Defense Communities for an award our community received. The award recognizes our community for demonstrating exemplary work in improving the quality of life of military personnel and their families through programs, initiatives and partnerships in their region. Through their partnership with Jacksonville High School, our cyber defenders provided a course on cybersecurity and instructed more than 160 kids and potential Guardsmen the importance of cybersecurity at home. The school and our wing shared best practices and collaboratively established a lab for the students to use. I want to take this time to congratulate our wing in creating successful community partnerships. When we represent our community this way, we give back in more ways than you can imagine. The future of cyber is vital to U.S. national security and our way of life. What better way to ensure the success of cyber operations than to teach our young community.

The last thing I want to say is simply thank you. Thank you for being great Airmen and for making my job easy. I hope each of you work hard to accomplish your goals, professionally and personally. Take care of yourselves and your families. Remember, it is easy to keep people in the dark and hard to ask for help or to talk with someone, but when you ask for help, it makes a whole world of difference.

**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





# *The lasting change: adapting and learning*

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

Today's Air Force is changing rapidly. Being an Airman means more than simply knowing your job. Your responsibilities often lie outside your comfort zone and expectations are higher than ever. With deployments on the rise, morale sometimes hard to find, and the constant awareness of personalities or changes of Wingmen around you, adapting to a fast-paced and ever-changing environment is essential to keeping your mind sharp and staying focused. One Guardsman embraced this significant change during a recent deployment.

During his deployment, Master Sgt. Jon Landers, a 189th Aerialport Flight Air Transportation Specialist, stepped into the role of advisor, leading a squadron of

Iraqi Air Force Aerialporters to success and a better understanding of their role as C-130 experts. Landers, in his normal job capacity, loads and unloads cargo aircraft among other things. During his deployment, he advised more than six individuals directly on loading cargo and vehicles onto their aircraft.

"It was a great opportunity to teach our Air Force best practices with our international partner," said Landers. "We had one-on-one time which enabled us to build trust and develop a good relationship. They were extremely receptive of everything we had to teach them. It was one of the best deployments I've ever had."







As trained air advisors, Landers and several others spent time over several months, developing a significant lead in trust with each Iraqi service member they worked with. Emphasizing the importance of this, Landers also expressed that they would have gotten nowhere without this relationship-building experience. Without trust and a certain level of comfortability with each other, both countries' goal of sustainability would not have been met. The team developed a curriculum with the Iraqi Airmen, based on the one they used at home. Going over multiple processes and teaching the Aerialporters to work with the loadmasters, the best practices helped them learn instruction techniques to teach others down the road.

“Our main objective down there was to ensure the sustainability of Iraq,” he said. “We need them to know that we are here to help and they can trust us. We really do care. They have to be able to take care of their service members, assets and aircraft. We had trust and a good relationship, therefore they were extremely receptive to what we were trying to help them accomplish.”



Landers talked about the lasting effect of the Air National Guard's influence on the Iraqi nation. Giving context to the big picture, he emphasized the importance of continual relationship-building. He expressed that working together helps the Iraqi military realize their potential and encourages independence from negative influence. Mentorship and teaching through commonalities sets the bar high and leads by positive example.





# Jacksonville community awarded Great American Defense Communities award

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

The Association of Defense Communities recently awarded Central Arkansas as one of the five 2020 classes of Great American Defense Communities. The ADC is an organization with the mission of supporting all branches of service at the national level with and through the support of communities and states that are home to military installations.

“Being recognized as a Great American Defense Community gives national credibility to the support of our community partners for the base, its mission, personnel, and families,” said Annabelle Davis, the executive secretary for the Little Rock Air Force Base Community Council. “While we know we try to do a great job to support the base and all the wings, it is really gratifying to be recognized for that on a national level.”

The yearly award focused on the contributions made within the educational community, in particular the partnership between the 223rd Cyberspace Operations Squadron and Jacksonville High School. Cyber operators from the wing in coordination with cyber instructors at the school developed the course and rose to the challenge to inspire and educate future cyber operators and Air National Guardsmen. The 223rd, whose prior experience involves the East initiative in the West Little Rock area, provided courses in wireless

encryption security and in-turn showed the students the importance of good encryption and strong passwords. Each student was then provided the opportunity to crack into a network using the knowledge they learned.

“The cybersecurity industry is rapidly growing and there are thousands of unfilled jobs within the U.S. economy,” said 1st Lt. Thomas Van Dorple, the 223rd COS flight commander and military volunteer for the school’s cyber course. “If we can spark their interest in high school, hopefully, that will lead to successful career paths and future growth within this sector for the state of Arkansas.”

The 189th Airlift Wing is no stranger to training and education. Known for it’s flying mission, training Guardsmen, international and inter-service C-130H aircrew as well as cyber operators, the wing adds precedence on the value of training and educating Airmen in the community. Through the labs offered, our cyber team hopes to spark interest and consider cybersecurity as a future Air National Guard career path.

“Our wing is great at training,” said Van Dorple. “It makes sense to leverage what we do well to give back to the community that supports us. As Guardsmen, we are called to serve. This is just another positive outlet to do that.”

So far, the squadron provided outreach to 160 children within the local community. Through the East Initiative to the cybersecurity course offered to students right outside the base, the Guardsmen of the 189th Airlift Wing epitomize the term Citizen Airman and embed their roots deep within the community they represent.

With nearly 300 communities, states, regions, and affiliated industry organizations as members, ADC represents every major defense community and state in the nation. To learn more, visit [www.defensecommunities.org](http://www.defensecommunities.org).



1st Lt. Thomas Van Dorple, a 223rd Cyberspace Operations Squadron flight chief, interviews with the Association of Defense Communities Feb. 18, 2020, in Jacksonville, Ark. The award was won on behalf of the community for the exemplary care and support of the military community. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jessica Roles)





# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH



VISIONARY WOMEN:  
CHAMPIONS OF PEACE  
& NONVIOLENCE



Designed by DEOMI - Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute





# AIR FORCE HISTORY: *Mustache March from days of Olds*

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

The United States Air Force, despite being the youngest American military service, has a few outstanding traditions. Civilians vaguely know the tradition of Mustache March as an occasion used by some to raise money for charity. Many in our own military ranks only know Mustache March as “some damn pilot thing.” Well, it is indeed that, and it comes from one of our greatest Airmen, the first Wolf of the Wolf Pack, Robin Olds.

Born on Bastille Day, 1942, Olds was a life-long maverick in the United States Army Air Corps in World War II, and a United States Air Force wing commander of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing in the Vietnam War. Many pilots fighting in the Vietnam

War superstitiously had a “bulletproof mustache,” but Olds used his as a “gesture of defiance.” The kids on base loved it. Most everybody grew a mustache.

He became the first Wolf when the 8th TFW became known as the Wolf Pack after their victorious air battle over the enemy known as Operation BOLO on Jan. 2, 1967. Readers might remember this battle being mentioned in the first Tinker Take Off issue of the year when the F-4 Phantom was lauded.

As a result of this battle, both Olds and the Wolf Pack became famous. His famous and expansive mustache, quite out of regulation, came home with its owner after Olds’ service in Vietnam was over. When he reported to Air Force Chief of Staff General John P. McConnell, the general walked up to him, stuck a finger under his nose and said, “take it off.”

Olds complied, of course, privately saying, “To tell the truth, I wasn’t all that fond of the damned thing by then, but it had become a symbol for the men of the 8th TFW. I knew McConnell understood. During his visits to Ubon over the past year, he had never referred to my breach of military standards, just seemed rather amused at the variety of ‘staches sported by many of the troops. (It) was the most direct order I had received in 24 years of service.”

Upon hearing the news, many of his fellow air warriors were stunned, but they kept a stiff upper lip – and put a rug on it. It was a touching display of masculine solidarity with aircrews worldwide growing mustaches, perhaps hoping to restore balance to a universe obviously going to hell in a handcart.

This incident with the world’s most famous manstache is given credit as the impetus for the Air Force tradition, “Mustache March,” in which aircrews, aircraft maintainers, and other Airmen worldwide show solidarity by a symbolic, albeit good-natured “protest” for one month against Air Force facial hair regulations.







## *ANG Yellow Ribbon modernized, involves family in deployment readiness*

Tech. Sgt. Morgan Lipinski  
Air National Guard Readiness Center

Fiscal year 20 marked the modernization of the Air National Guard's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, updating policies to be more accommodating for Airmen and their families.

"Service members are required to attend Yellow Ribbon events during pre-deployment and re-integration," said Tech. Sgt. Artina O. Mills, the National Guard's interim Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program manager. "Event workshops focus on deployment stressors like financial planning, childcare, healthcare entitlements and interpersonal communications."

Previously, members were authorized to invite two designated individuals who would receive reimbursement for attending. However, limiting additional invitees for Guardsmen resulted in decreased participation from larger families, Mills said.

"A lot of times, only the member would go while the spouse would have to stay home with the kids," Mills said. "This was a disservice to our military families. It's important for everyone to hear about their resources and prepare for the cycles of deployment."

Recently, the ANG published an updated policy stating that attending Yellow Ribbon is mandatory for first-time deployers only and these members may be authorized more than two designated individuals if they are: 1) the service member's current spouse; 2) the service member's current dependent child\*.

This update not only encourages more family engagement, but also paves the way for reinventing Yellow Ribbon, Mills said.

"The last policy was really restrictive with travel and lodging reimbursement, so events were often held at member's home units," Mills said. "This local model gave members no incentive to bring their families on base for a day of briefings."

Effective FY20, the ANG implemented the Yellow

Ribbon regional model, now joining states by region to host large-scale Yellow Ribbon events.

"Members are now sent to events in different cities and they're excited to go! Especially since their families are encouraged to come too," Mills said.

The regional model's larger audience also attracts more vendors, resulting in access to diverse resources otherwise not offered at the local level.

"It's also important to remember that Yellow Ribbon happens right before leaving and upon returning home from deployment," Mills said. "This is a critical time for military families to spend valuable time together and bond with other families also experiencing deployment."

Placing family deployment readiness as a priority directly contributes to the service member's success downrange.

"This updated Yellow Ribbon policy and regional model absolutely improves deployment readiness," Mills said. "When our members know that their families are taken care of, they have one less thing to worry about and can focus on their duties while deployed."

### **Footnotes:**

\* According to 37 U.S.C. §401, a service member's current dependent child is defined as unmarried and:

a. is under 21 years of age; or

b. is incapable of self-support because of mental or physical incapacity and is in fact dependent on the member for more than one-half of the child's support; or

c. is under 23 years of age, is enrolled in a full-time course of study in an institution of higher education approved by the Secretary of Defense and is in fact dependent on the member for more than one-half of the child's support.



# *Warrior of the Month:*

## *Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Porter*



**Rank/Name:** Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Porter

**Unit:** 189th Airlift Wing

**Guard Status:** DSG

**Position:** Broadcast Journalist

**Hometown:** San Antonio, Texas

**Time on Station:** 3

**Time in Service:** 12

**Goals:** To enter the UAMS Sonographer program and become a sonographer, working in the medical community and assisting those in need

**Hobbies:** Hanging out with my kids, beer tastings, movie critiqueing, salsa dancing, shopping with friends, glamping

**Core Value Portrayed:** Excellence in all we do

**How this core value is portrayed:** TSgt Porter's core value most portrayed is excellence in all we do. His dedication to the mission and the priorities of the wing are prevalent in every aspect of his work. He works tirelessly to achieve the goal of showcasing the wing's innovation goals, Tech. Sgt. Porter also highlights the wing's daily mission, accessioning video imagery to share world-wide. He tirelessly supports the commander's vision by creating inspirational and motivational videos to support wing functions and records changes of commands, retirements and promotions for wing leadership.