

189th Airlift Wing WARRIOR



Vol. 23 No. 02

March 2021

Arkansas Air National Guard

Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.



*Passion turned purpose: a calling from
the heart, pgs. 7 - 8*



Commander's Commentary

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

Welcome back 189 AW Family to another drill. As we welcome spring, it is hard to imagine that less than a month ago we dealt with 100 year record setting low temperatures and snowfall. Definitely gives credence to the old saying that if you don't like the weather just wait a few minutes. Along with the changing of the season comes a new round of weather threats such as tornadoes and flooding. Make sure you know what to do in the event of dangerous weather conditions by visiting <https://www.ready.gov/> to find valuable information and disaster preparedness checklists to keep you and your family safe.



COVID-19 has caused us to undergo enormous changes in our social climate. As we continue to curb the virus, medical professionals have issued countless doses of the COVID vaccine to civilians and military members who have volunteered to receive it. The 189 AW continues to lead the AR NG in percentage of Airmen/Soldiers willing to receive the vaccine. If you are still on the fence, I encourage you to research and talk to medical professionals regarding your vaccine options. You can find a detailed list of distributors and phase progression of the vaccination plan at <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-vaccination-plan>. As we move through the phased vaccination distribution plan, we are asking for your help in completing a two question survey this weekend that will forecast the amount of vaccine needed for our family members. This survey will be available thru QR code from your chain of command. Thanks in advance for helping meet this state requirement.

Each month we celebrate different observances that honor, gender, ethnicities, denominations and heritage. This month, we celebrate 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. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, in-person events might be limited, but be sure to check out or wing's Facebook page for links to great visuals and inspiring stories of women throughout history.

I appreciate your service and the support of your families. Thank you for taking care of your fellow Wingmen. Our vital mission is successful because of what you do every day. If you find yourself in need of some assistance with work/life balance, reach out to your supervisor or mentor for information and direction to find support. No one should suffer in silence. It is an honor to serve with each of you.

FOLLOW THROUGH!

www.facebook.com/189AW

www.instagram.com/189AW

Publication Staff

Col. Dean B. Martin
189th Airlift Wing
Commander

Maj. Casey Staheli
Public Affairs Officer

Master Sgt. Jessica
Roles
Public Affairs Superinten-
dent/Editor

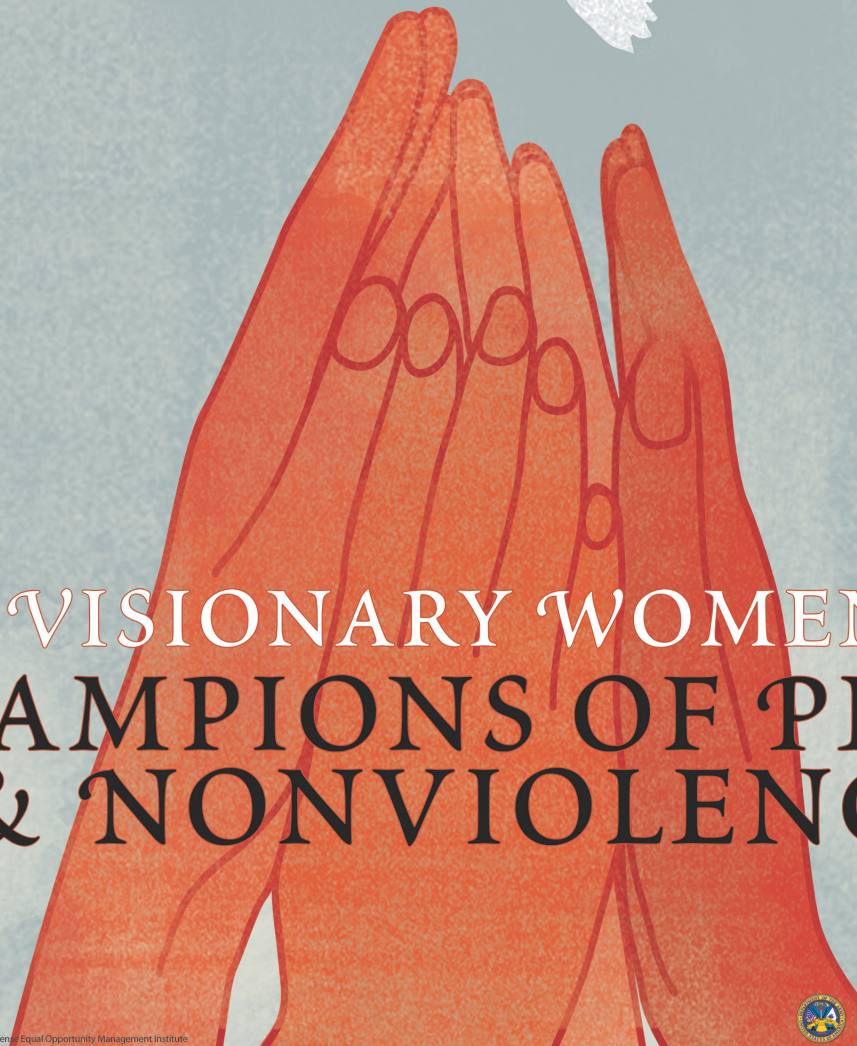
This un-funded Air Force newsletter is an authorized electronic publication for members of the 189th Airlift Wing, their families, retirees and community leaders. Contents of the Warrior are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. All photographs are property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise indicated.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 189th Airlift Wing, 112 MSgt. Dan Wassom Road, Little Rock AFB, AR 72099-4802, DSN 731-6068, commercial 501-987-6068. Call or [email](mailto:) to be added to the distribution list.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH



VISIONARY WOMEN:
CHAMPIONS OF PEACE
& NONVIOLENCE



Designed by DEOMI - Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute





CSAF discusses Accelerating Change at 2021 Virtual Aerospace Warfare Symposium

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett
Secretary of the Air Force, Public Affairs

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., discussed his strategic approach for the Air Force's future during the Air Force Association's 2021 Virtual Aerospace Warfare Symposium, Feb. 24.

His approach details how the Air Force can shape the future to rise above the challenges ahead. Brown first introduced his strategic approach for success called 'Accelerate Change or Lose' August 31, 2020, explaining what must be done to ensure air superiority, and how to defend the United States and its interests through future challenges.

"There's always room for improvement," he explained. "I also think we're changing a bit of the Air Force in how we approach some things. A cultural change takes some time. You'll have some naysayers, some friction points, but I've got to be persistent and consistent on the focus I have ... I'm going to be persistent and consistent on this throughout my tenure."

Four action orders to accomplish that approach include: Action Order A: Airmen, which focuses on improving systems and policies for Airmen. Action Order B: Bureaucracy is aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness to speed up the decision-making process and allow more space for innovation. Action Order C: Competition is designed to help Airmen understand their role in the strategic power competition. Action Order D: Design focuses on helping the Air Force adapt to change, including future budget constraints.

"I really wanted to lay a marker down and be very candid," he said. "I've always hated bureaucracy. It really frustrates me when I watch how slow things sometimes happen when we know we can do better."

Brown explained that some of these improvements involve the steps the service is taking with regard to extremism, racism and racial disparity



in the Air Force.

"I laid this out in 'Accelerate Change or Lose'; it's the environment where all our Airmen can reach their full potential, including their families," he said, explaining that the social detractors hinder that potential.

He described how progress had been made based on the results of the first racial disparity review, which included various recommendations and improvements for Airmen, Guardians and their families. A second racial disparity review was recently announced that includes a broader demographic focus.

"You can't judge improvement if you don't know where you are," he said. "We wanted to use the first report and the second report to set up a baseline so we can actually have something of a benchmark to start from, to ensure we're going to improve, and that's



where my focus is.”

Brown explained that he was a part of diversity and inclusion councils run by his predecessor, Gen. David L. Goldfein, while Brown was serving as commander of the Pacific Air Forces.

“As a senior African-American officer, I was part of that council, and now as CSAF, I have a chance to help share that council, and what I found is we’ve moved from talking about demographics to actionable-type items,” he said. “We’ve stood up barrier-analysis working groups that represent different diverse groups around our Air Force.”

Brown said these groups had made recommendations such as the recent policy changes for women’s hair which provided him with all the information required to update Air Force dress and appearance standards.

”That’s an example of listening to our Airmen,” he said.

The Air Force has been making these improvements while getting the mission accomplished, all during a pandemic, Brown noted.

“My hats off to, not only our medical professionals but really all of our Total Force Airmen, because we kept the mission going,” he said. “I’ve been asked the question ‘what did you quit doing?’ and I don’t know that we really quit doing anything, but we’re doing a lot of things differently. That’s what I take away from this experience ... there are some things we’re doing probably better than we were before in some cases.”

He acknowledged that while some things have improved, new stressors have also emerged, such as childcare and school issues for working parents, and leadership is working to help those areas.

“As I look to the future, what I see is at some point, we will get past this COVID-19,” he said. “It’ll change how we work through some things, but we have to stay focused right now ... We have to think of new ways we can do our mission in the future.”

**ACCELERATE
CHANGE
OR
LOSE**



GENERAL CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.
AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF



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.





Passion-turned purpose: a calling from the heart

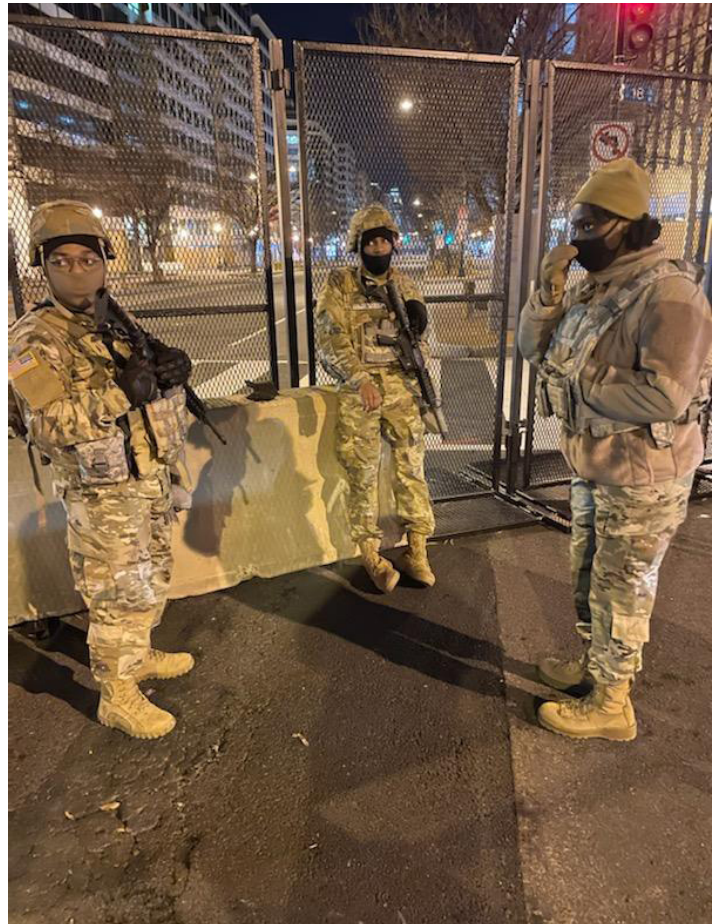
By Master Sgt. Jessica Roles
189th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Physical and mental health play key roles in the overall wellness to individuals. Physical health ensures you have the strength to accomplish your daily duties. Mental health helps keep you socially and mentally prepared to live a healthy life. Recently, an Airman volunteered to support the presidential inauguration in a unique way, learning what it meant to help others' spiritual well-being.

Stepping out into the cold weather in Washington D.C., Tech. Sgt. Aisha Bullock knew she would be in for long days and nights. Recently, Bullock cross-trained from a medical technician to a chaplain's assistant, becoming the noncommissioned officer in charge of religious affairs for the 189th Airlift Wing. The change in careers also changed her outlook on how she could help people and increase resilience across the force. Over the course of four days, Bullock and the Arkansas Air National Guard chaplaincy team provided support to National Guard members supporting the inauguration, giving them advice and sharing resources to improve lifestyles and improve spiritual and mental well-being.

"Being over here in the chapel, it's made me really enjoy being around people," she said. "The trip really sealed the deal for me that this is where I'm supposed to be and take care of people's needs in a different way."

Between Bullock and the two chaplains who were part of her team, the group provided services to hundreds of Soldiers and Airmen braving the cold to provide National Guard support to the Nation's capitol. With 12 to 16-hour days to look forward to, the chaplaincy team worked along-side individuals wearing full battle gear and ready for anything that came their way. During the inauguration, she and the crew were assigned to the metro area and spent the day with the troops, riding between the various locations to provide support. Because the metro area was heavily guarded, Bullock said it was even more important to share their presence with the troops and take care of their needs.



"I wasn't anticipating what I signed up for," she said. "It was long, hard work, but it was extremely gratifying to know that I was helping people feel better by just chatting with them and sharing what we had to offer as a chaplaincy force with others. It was a beautiful thing to have joint operations taking care of each other. We helped an Army chaplain take care of his troops and it was a really good working relationship. It was much more fulfilling than I could have imagined."

One instance that she recalled was when Chaplain Pair, the Arkansas Air National Guard lead chaplain would interact with the troops. At the end of the conversation, he would pull out a wrapped Lifesaver, giving it to the Airman or Soldier and let the individual know that they are a Lifesaver. It was something that put a smile on almost everybody's face and broke the ice even in their seriousness and

(Cont. pg. 8)



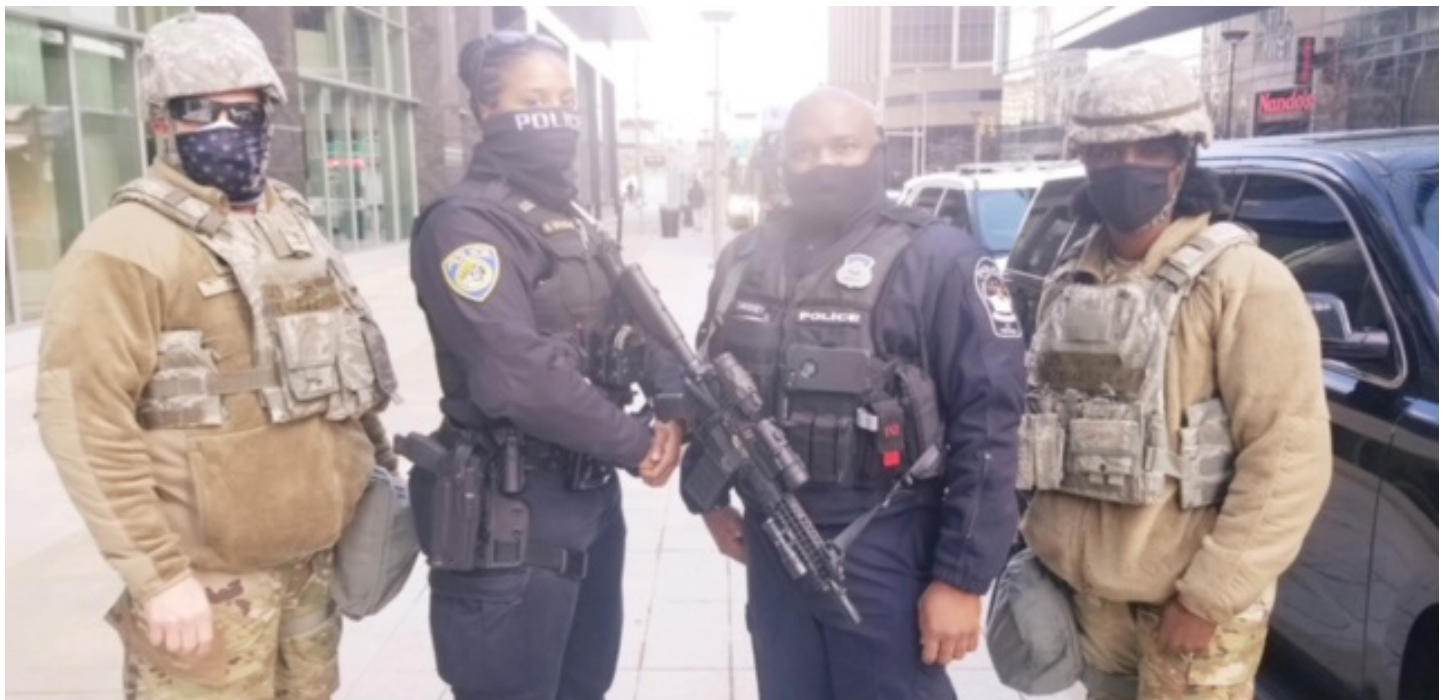
stillness that this little lifesaver brightened their day.

The trip to Washington D.C. was Bullock's first and she was overwhelmed by the history that surrounded her. A visit to Arlington Cemetery pulled an emotional response from her as she took in the solitude and quiet of the grounds.

"It was an awesome experience and if you ever get a chance to go, it's very humbling," she said. "To go there and feel the presence of those who served before us is beautiful. The chaplain corps has existed since the beginning of the armed forces, and I think we're doing a much better job of listening to people. It made me think of all these people and hope that the words of encouragement and time I spent with them helped to get them through the day."

Bullock said she is glad she took the opportunity to add this step in her life to her faith walk. She explained that being a chaplain's assistant means so much more than completing the daily tasks expected of her. She explained that she chose to use this change of pace to look at the other side of the coin.

"If this is what the chapel is supposed to do, then this one of the best places to be in the military."





PT test pushed to July, updates to scoring, physical components ahead

By SAF/PA

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Physical fitness assessments will now resume for Airmen on July 1.

Testing was initially delayed from October 2020 to April 2021 to ensure the health and safety of Airmen during the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure social distancing practices remained in place.

When assessments resume, the three-component fitness test (1.5 mile run, 1 minute of pushups and sit-ups) will be reset with scores calculated on a new three component scoring table. In addition, work is underway to separate scoring into five-year age groups as opposed to the previous ten – for example, age groups will start at <25, 25-29 years old, 30-34, years old, etc.

These changes come in addition to other modifications to the physical fitness assessment.

In December 2020, the waist measurement as a point-driven component of the fitness assessment test was removed. It will still be administered to determine compliance with body composition standards, as required by Department of Defense Instruction 1308.3.

As testing resumes, scores earned on the three-component fitness test will be redistributed. Final decisions on percentage component breakdowns will become available in June.

Additionally, the Air Force Fitness Working Group has explored alternatives to the testing components and scoring measures. As mentioned by [Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.](#) in December, there are on-going studies and reviews to determine a list of alternative strength and cardio components for the physical fitness assessment. For example, some alternative options being explored for the current components include the 20-meter High Aerobic Multi-shuttle Run (20M HAMR), row ergometry, planks, burpees and other alternatives.

If necessary, commanders may delay official fitness assessments beyond July 2021 based on the

recommendation of local public health officials, the continuation of closed fitness centers and extended statewide restriction of movement and gatherings.

“We are also conducting a holistic review of policies associated with the physical fitness assessment program to determine if they are still a good fit for today’s Air Force,” said [Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly](#), Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. “This includes a review of who’s accountable for conducting our testing and how it gets administered.”

In addition to scheduled Air Force Fitness Management System (AFFMS II) maintenance and updates, the Air Force is exploring replacing the system with a newer, more flexible application.

In addition to the updates above, diagnostic testing is now available for Airmen to choose when they are ready to test. If an Airman completes a diagnostic physical fitness assessment or a mock test with the Fitness Assessment Cell or Physical Training leader, and passes, he or she can decide to make the mock test an official test score. According to [AFMAN 36-2905, Air Force Physical Fitness Program](#), the FAC, PTL and Unit Fitness Program Manager are able to conduct the physical assessment for all Airmen, either inside or outside of their unit. Airmen can make their test official by initialing next to their total score and fitness category section, prior to leaving the testing location. If the member fails the mock test, it will not be officially counted.

Airmen may determine their next fitness assessment due date by visiting the Official Physical Assessment Due Date Matrix on myPers which will be updated and available shortly. Fitness assessment due dates will primarily depend on the date and score of the last official test.

Space Force will follow these policies until service-specific fitness policies are developed and fielded.

Future PT test updates will be released as they are available.



ANG Federal Tuition Assistance BETA Program

DSGs (Enlisted and Officer) can now take advantage of Fed TA to pursue off-duty educational opportunities!



DSGs (Enlisted and Officer)/Technicians can now take advantage of Fed TA to pursue off-duty educational opportunities!

The ANG Fed TA program will pay 100% of your tuition not to exceed:

- \$250 per semester credit hour, or
- \$166 per quarter credit hour, and
- \$4,500 maximum per fiscal year

ANG Fed TA will approve up to 124 Semester Hours (186 Quarter Hours) for an undergraduate degree and 42 Semester H (70 Quarter Hours) for a graduate degree.

1 AFSC and 1 Leadership certification under the AF COOL Program

The institution must be a national or regional accredited institution, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and have a signed DoD Partnership MOU.

Request Fed TA through the Air Force Virtual Education Center no earlier than 45 days and no later than 7 days PRIOR to course start date.

Contact your Education Services Office NCOIC for more information:
MSgt Arianne Pierpoint Located in Bldg 103 Room 100 @
(501) 987-1443 or arianne.pierpoint@us.af.mil



Published: 01 January 2020



Free College Tuition for all Guardsmen!

Arkansas National Guard Tuition Waiver Program (NGTW)

Who is eligible? All current National Guard Soldiers that meet the following criteria:

- Arkansas Resident
- Completed Basic Training
- Does **not** already hold a bachelor or higher degree
- Enrolled in undergraduate degree program at Arkansas public institution of higher education
- Not currently flagged for serious misconduct (such as AWOL, ASAP, etc.)

How do I get NGTW?

- Enroll in an Arkansas **public** institution of higher education
 - Must be considered to be in "good standing" by that institution
 - Complete FAFSA studentaid.ed.gov/sa/ and YOUuniversal scholarships.adhe.edu/ applications
 - Let your school know you plan to use the NGTW and follow their policies
- Submit application in accordance with the directions at:
 - <https://arkansas.nationalguard.mil/EIB/NGTW/>
 - Application is available online at <https://arkansas.nationalguard.mil/EIB/NGTW/> (click on Financial Aid and then NGTW)
 - Download the application, read the attached Statement of Understanding, complete the form, and submit in accordance with the directions
 - Complete NGTW application each semester and submit 60 day prior to - 30 days after the start of the semester, along with your 'Letter of Good Standing' memo signed by Commander
 - Send to Education Services POC listed below, they will verify eligibility and forward approvals to Arkansas Department of Higher Education and they will pay the school directly for the hours.

What does NGTW cover?

- Pays tuition; may cover mandatory fees; does not cover other fees, books, etc.
- Pays up to 120 credit hours or until completion of bachelor's degree, whichever comes first

How is NGTW different from FTA, GI Bill, & GTIP; and can I use those too?

- Federal Tuition Assistance covers credit hours beyond a bachelor's degree, pays tuition only, and usually can't be used in conjunction with GI Bill
- GI Bill is paid directly to the Soldier and can be used to pay tuition, fees, books, etc., but has very strict eligibility guidelines based on each Soldier's service
- NGTW CAN BE USED WITH GI BILL- NGTW will be applied to tuition first so that your GI Bill can be used to cover all addition costs, if you choose to use them both
- NGTW is replacing GTIP so they can't be used together and no new GTIP applications are being accepted (with the exception of a few grandfathered Soldiers)

For More Information:

- ❖ Visit us On-Line: <https://arkansas.nationalguard.mil/EIB/NGTW/>
- ❖ Contact the Arkansas National Guard Education Services Office:
 - Email to arianne.pierpoint@us.af.mil
 - Call 501-987-1443 Education Services NCOIC: MSgt Arianne Pierpoint



EDUCATION SERVICES INFORMATION

****AFVEC must be accessed Thru the AF Portal via Chrome****

Members MUST have the initial counseling/briefing and all info in their AFVEC profile updated prior to adding an education goal, please contact the Education Services Office NCOIC to schedule your counseling.

- Briefings will be available every month on Saturday afternoon of drill, a calendar invite will be sent out to the members and/or supervisors that request to attend.
- If members are unable to attend the in-person briefing, the ESO is offering an electronic version of the counseling/briefing, accomplished via email correspondence.

ED SERVICES INFO CONTINUED...

**** NGTW Updated Website and Application****

- Please review the new updated NGTW flyer, as the website has changed as well as the application. Applications are no longer in excel format and are PDF only, with either the member's digital signature or printed out and signed by hand.

****Education Services Has Moved to a New Location!****

- The Education Services NCOIC has moved to room 100, still in building 103 (Wing Headquarters), right near the front door of the building where the Retention office is also located.
- Come see MSgt Pierpoint for all voluntary education needs! She can assist you with Federal TA, NGTW, AFVEC, transcripts and anything having to do with your education record.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Arianne Pierpoint at 501-987-1443.



Warrior of the Month:

Master Sgt. Arianne Pierpoint



Rank/Name: Master Sgt. Arianne Pierpoint

Unit: 189 FSS/FSDE

Guard Status: Full-Time

Position: Education Services NCOIC

Hometown: North Bend, Oregon

Time on Station: 17 years

Time in Service: 7 years

Goals: To assist others in achieving their goals

Hobbies: Camping, hiking and anything outdoors-related

Core Value Portrayed:

How this core value is portrayed: MSgt Pierpoint has been assigned as the primary point of contact to execute the ANG Federal Tuition Assistance

Beta Program for the 189th Airlift Wing. MSgt Pierpoint plays a pivotal role within the 189th FSS/ Force Development office. Her position touches the bases of all commander's priorities. The innovated program gives DSG's the opportunity to utilize the benefits of Federal Tuition Assistance that was once out of their reach. The opportunity highlights the culture of our wing by investing in our members' education and ensures we are developing Airmen both personally and professionally. Additionally, her attention to detail and follow through are essential to the success of this program, our Airmen and the mission of the 189th Airlift Wing.

223rd Cyberspace Operations Squadron graduates newest cyber defenders

The newest class to graduate from the 223rd Cyberspace Operations Squadron's schoolhouse is class 21-04, the Cyber Protect and Defend Course. The Airmen came from several major commands as well as the United States Space Force to train with the 189th Airlift Wing's key experts in cyber defense and security. The graduates will use the skills learned during the course to support the mission of their home station unit. Officiating the ceremony, was Maj. Gen. Chad Raduege, the Director of Cyberspace and Information Dominance, and Chief Information Officer, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. Congratulations to each of you on your success and we look forward to your continued contributions to the United States Air and Space Force!



For individual photos, please click the Flickr icon or visit us on Facebook, @189AW!

