

# *THE* **STINGER**

The Official Magazine of the 180th Fighter Wing  
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## ABOUT THE STINGER

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# COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Col. Lindsey Whitehead  
180th Fighter Wing  
Vice Wing Commander

Well the moment has arrived and I am finally hanging up the cleats as a member of the Air National Guard and United States Air Force after almost 40 years. I was asked to provide some comments for this month's Stinger, and I can say, with some certainty, this was difficult to do because I have been a part of something special my entire adult life. Given that, it has truly been a privilege and an honor to have served with some of the most unselfish and dedicated people on the planet and needless to say, I am humbled.

As I thought about what to write about, it occurred to me that it needs to be about our Airmen being successful in their careers, some guiding principles that I believe helped me, and what the Air National Guard has to offer which in some cases completely changed my life. I would like to talk about character, courage, commitment and confidence, or the four Cs.

As a member of the 180th, we are all in the company of a diverse group of individuals with broad interests; individuals who are members of their local governments, sports clubs, school boards and colleges. While these Airmen come from various backgrounds, experiences and social upbringings, they come to know, depend on and support one another as a family. Clearly, the 180th, and for that

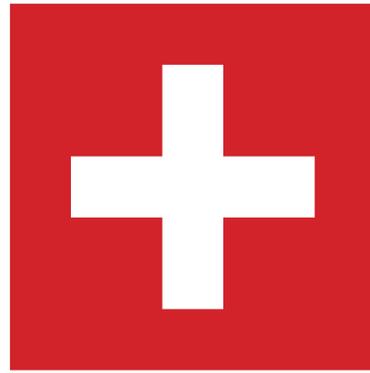
matter, the entire Air National Guard is the epitome of teamwork, family and the four Cs.

One of the great values of the ANG is that it prepares us to make the right choices. In choosing to put on the uniform, our Airmen proudly display that they value the four Cs. They willingly accept the leadership challenges facing them everyday. Not just during their military obligation, but also in everything they do as they successfully progress throughout life. These are important values. They help our Airmen have the courage to make the right choices when faced with difficult decisions. Living up to the standards of the ANG involves repeated challenges, a daily choice to strive to reach one's potential and following a moral code. Meeting that challenge brings credit upon the Airmen, as well as those supporting him or her day in and day out. The ANG is about making the leaders of tomorrow, now.

So why is wearing the uniform so important? For starters, its different, and less than one percent of the U.S. population has the right stuff to wear it! Additionally, it builds team camaraderie and most importantly provides a sense of belonging. So ask yourself, what do I stand for when I wear the uniform? I think it is the symbol that embodies the four Cs. It takes a special individual to put on the uniform. So here we go, I will start with character.

*Continued on pg. 25*

# The Medical Corner



*By Col. Thomas C. Sodeman  
Chief of Aerospace Medicine*

**W**ith the approach of the holidays, I would like to discuss a few safety issues to keep you out of trouble and enjoying the holidays. These are food, safety and carbon monoxide.

The upcoming weeks can feature food, family, sporting events and celebrations. Improper preparation, storage and transport of food can lead to illness, spoiling the season and potentially leading to hospitalization or worse, as well as degrading your ability to perform your mission. Properly handled food can reduce or eliminate these risks.

Eggs can be a big offender. When preparing food using eggs, once out of their shells it is important they remain refrigerated until actual use. Bacteria loves to grow in raw eggs, and given time and some amount of warmth they can multiply and produce toxins that can lead to nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, three words no one wants to hear during the holidays. Even if your bowls and utensils appear clean they are still contaminated with bacteria, and it only takes one to start multiplying and causing trouble. The best approach with eggs is to shell them right before use, to minimize the time they are exposed to bacteria and warmth. Trying to save time by shelling them ahead of time, especially the night before, is asking for trouble.

Cooked foods can still present problems, namely if they are allowed to come to room temperature and sit for a while. Again, in this situation, bacteria in the environment will multiply and produce toxins and subsequent grief all around. If you are planning on travelling with cooked food it is best to plan ahead and decide whether it can travel hot or cold. If you have a short distance to go, and can secure the food so that it does not spill and potentially burn a passenger, hot may be the way to go. If the distance is more than a few minutes, it may be best to travel with food on ice and reheat

it once you have arrived.

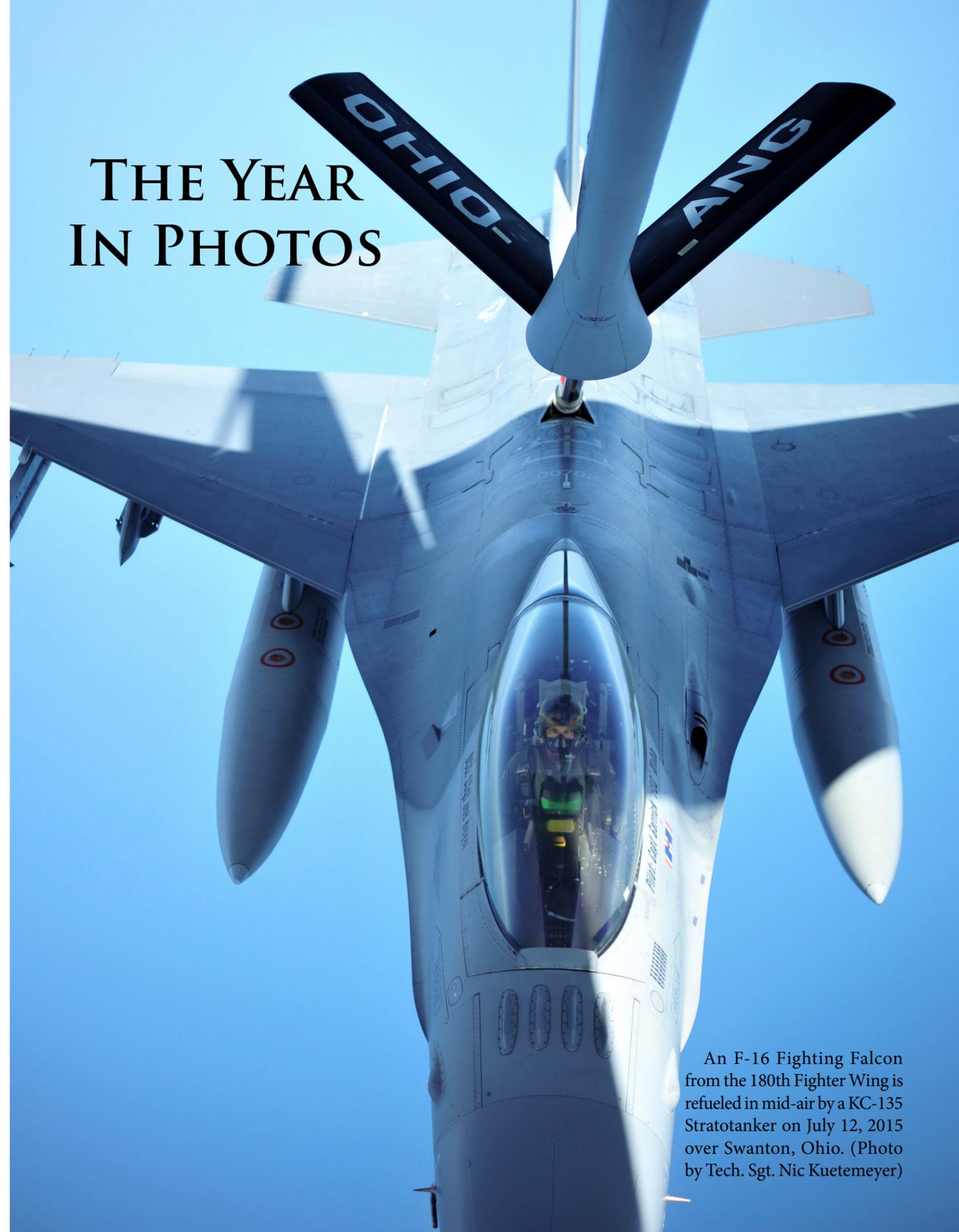
Milk based foods, such as dips or dressings, can also be a problem. For example, having a half-eaten bowl of onion dip sit out for a few hours and then thrown in the fridge. Someone finds it, finishes it off and then discovers our friends, the bacteria, have been at work and wind up sick. Saving products such as this is not worth the risk.

Regarding carbon monoxide, as you know this is a product of combustion, from fires, furnaces, internal combustion engines and grills. Every year there are stories in the news of a family that is sickened or has members die due to a faulty furnace producing carbon monoxide, or someone running their car in a closed garage to keep warm and perishing. Carbon monoxide has no smell, and nothing to warn of its presence, except for carbon monoxide detectors. It can produce symptoms, namely headache and flu like illness. If you have no detector, and everyone in the house has a bad headache and feels awful while the furnace is running, this is a big clue that you need to get out of the building and seek help.

Other common sources of carbon monoxide that can lead to grief are portable generators, they regularly kill during power outages, and charcoal grills used indoors. Japanese grills, called hibachis, were designed for Japanese homes, which are very porous and have better ventilation than western homes. Homes here are built almost air tight, and a small charcoal grill can lead to grief quickly, even with a stove top fan running. Never use a charcoal grill inside under any circumstances.

As usual, the Medical Group has answers to your questions, either regarding food and fuel, or any other health issues. We would like to wish you and yours safe and happy holidays, and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year. 🍷

## THE YEAR IN PHOTOS



An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 180th Fighter Wing is refueled in mid-air by a KC-135 Stratotanker on July 12, 2015 over Swanton, Ohio. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nic Kuetemeyer)

Airmen assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing wait for pilots to arrive for morning training sorties Jan. 12, 2015 in Key West, Florida. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Amber Williams)





U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jasen Jazwiecki, Combat Arms Training and Maintenance instructor at the 180th Fighter Wing in Swanton, Ohio, coaches Airmen as they prepare to qualify with the standard issue M4 rifle at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center small arms firing range in Alpena, Michigan on June 8, 2015. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nic Kuetemeyer)



Though more than a foot of snow delayed his return home by a day, the delay worked in favor of Staff Sgt. Jeremy Behnfeldt, who was able to see his daughter for the first time in over six months on her birthday, Feb. 2, 2015. Behnfeldt and 12 of his Security Forces Squadron teammates deployed to Southwest Asia in July, 2014, to conduct an air base defense mission in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Inherent Resolve. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Beth Holliker)

A military spouse takes a photo of an F-16 Fighting Falcon from inside a KC-135 Stratotanker on July 12, 2015 in Swanton, Ohio. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nic Kuetemeyer)



A crew chief assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing prepares an F-16 Fighting Falcon for night flying exercises Aug. 20, 2015. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Hughes)



# COMBAT ARCHER

STINGERS PROVE LETHAL



Story & Photos By  
Senior Master Sgt. Beth Holliker

**M**ore than 120 members of the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, deployed 38 short tons of cargo and eight F-16 fighter jets to Tyndall Air Force

Base, Florida, in September to participate in Combat Archer.

The two-week exercise is part of the Air Combat Command Air-to-Air Weapons Systems Evaluation Program, which assesses a unit's overall operational effectiveness,

weapons systems performance and reliability.

"Combat Archer is not just a training event," said Maj. Gregory Barasch, 112th Fighter Squadron director of operations. "It is a formal evaluation of the total weapon system; man, machine and missile, as well as the squadron's ability to conduct air-to-air missions."

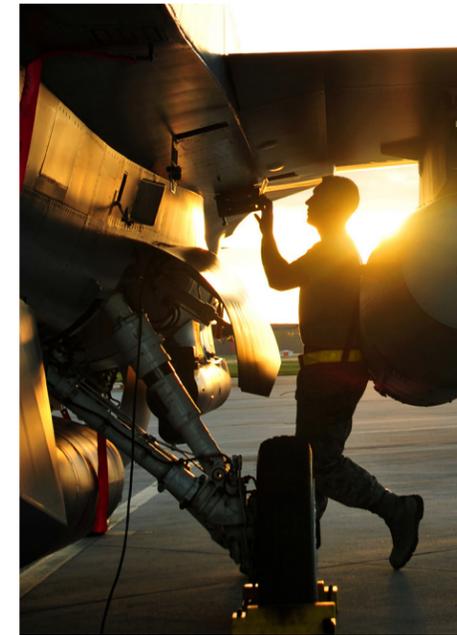
**W**ith over 30 Combat Archer exercises conducted annually, the primary purpose of WSEP is to evaluate the effectiveness of the total air-to-air weapons system including aircraft, weapon delivery systems, munitions, aircrew, support equipment, technical data and overall maintenance operations. The secondary objective of Combat Archer is live-fire missile training for pilots before ever deploying to a combat environment.

"Exercises like Combat Archer provide a rare opportunity to load and employ live missiles with threat-realistic targets, maximizing the live-fire opportunities," Barasch said.

180th FW Weapons Supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Roger Newsome, said that over the course of the two-week exercise our eight jets logged 129 flight hours, flew 122 sorties and fired 10 live missiles, meeting all requirements with zero discrepancies.

"The experience of shooting an air-to-air missile for the first time takes away any questions," said Capt. Roy Poor, an F-16 pilot with the 180th Fighter Wing. "Now we can employ in combat with confidence."

**A**long with the rare chance to fire live missiles, Combat Archer also provided the opportunity to conduct Force Integration sorties, training with dissimilar aircraft, fourth and fifth generation fighters like the F-15 Strike Eagle and F-22 Raptor, as well as the Navy's F-18 Hornet.



(Left) Senior Airman Josh Miller, an F-16 mechanic from the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, conducts a preflight inspection on a fighter jet before an early morning training sortie Sept. 15, 2015 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. (Right) Master Sgt. Jamie Paxton, an aviation resource management specialist and Maj. Gregory Barasch, an F-16 fighter pilot, both with the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard load flight authorizations before training sorties September 16, at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

*"Exercises like Combat Archer provide a rare opportunity to load and employ live missiles with threat-realistic targets, maximizing the live-fire opportunities"*

Senior Airman Jake Sorosiak and Staff Sgt. Samuel Kimple, weapons loaders from the 180th Fighter Wing, upload an Air Intercept Missile, commonly referred to as an AIM-120, to be loaded on an F-16 Fighting Falcon Sept. 15, 2015 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.



*Training with dissimilar aircraft allows sister services and coalition partners to work together on mastering combat tactics and operational-level campaigns in a controlled, strategic, advanced and realistic environment.*

Training with dissimilar aircraft allows sister services and coalition partners to work together on mastering combat tactics and operational-level campaigns in a controlled, strategic, advanced and realistic environment.

"It's been great working alongside some of the other forces," said Master Sgt. Stacie Dice, an F-16 mechanic with the 180th Fighter Wing. "We're out here with the Navy and the Active Duty Air Force, flying alongside other aircraft from those units."

**T**hough the F-16 pilots and maintenance personnel from the 180th Fighter Wing train maintaining their currency and efficiency to provide effective combat power at home and abroad, sorties are conducted utilizing training munitions. These training munitions are built and weighted the same as live munitions, giving pilots a realistic feel of flying fully loaded jets.

Flying with training missiles affords pilots opportunities to familiarize themselves with the feel of the jet loaded with various munitions configurations during simulated combat training missions similar to what might be experienced in a real-world combat environment. The pilots train on the step-by-step process of firing a missile without actually employing one.

Not only that, this training provides the

F-16 Fighter pilots from the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, prepare to launch out for a training sortie Sept. 17, 2015 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

strategic agility needed to fight against a formidable and aggressive adversary in a continually strained fiscal environment.

"We were able to learn the strengths and weakness of each airframe," said Poor. "While also learning how best to maneuver together allowing for maximum lethality in a combat situation."

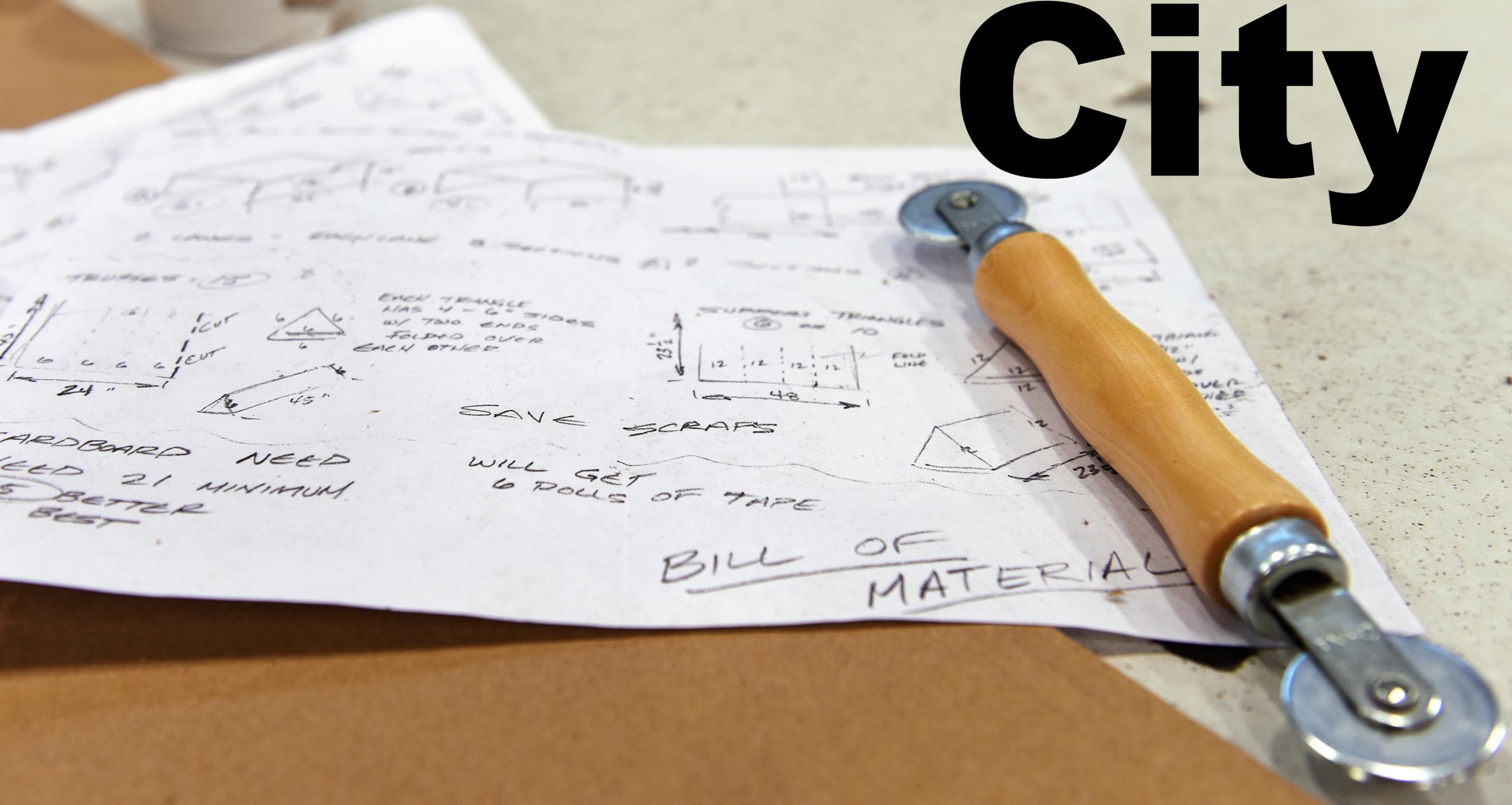
**O**ur mission here at the 180th Fighter Wing is to be the most lethal, innovative and efficient fighter wing in the Total Force," said Dice. "Nothing says lethality like putting a missile on target."

With more than 500 personnel from five units, 30 fighter aircraft and over 45 live missiles shot, this exercise was the largest in Combat Archer history. 🇺🇸



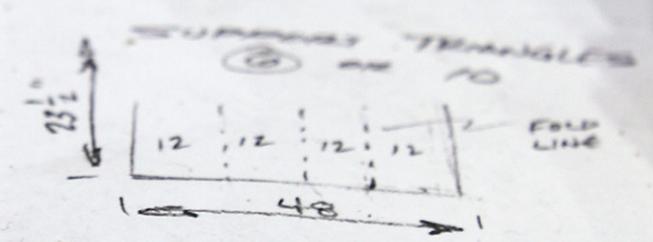
*"Combat Archer is not just a training event"*

# Construction City



TRUSS = 15  
CUT  
24"  
45"  
NEED  
21 MINIMUM  
BETTER  
BEST

EACH TRIANGLE  
HAS 4 - 6" SIDES  
W/ TWO ENDS  
FOLDED OVER  
EACH OTHER



SAVE SCRAP  
WILL GET  
6 ROLLS OF TAPE

BILL OF MATERIAL

Story By  
Staff Sgt. Shane Hughes

**C**ub Scouts, wearing hardhats and tool belts, pulled sheets of cardboard from stacks towering above them. They raced back and forth across the hangar as they hurried to begin building bridges and buildings. Meanwhile, other scouts sketched out designs on graph paper with rulers while their teammates used T-squares to cut cardboard to create support beams.

The 180th Fighter Wing partnered with the Boy Scouts of America's Erie Shores Council to host the annual Construction City event Nov. 21 for more than 450 scouts, parents and volunteers who built cities and bridges entirely out of cardboard.

Construction City is a science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, initiative, which teaches the

scouts about the entire construction process, from zoning and acquiring proper permits to design, construction and demolition.

"We find that this event really opens up the first step for careers in engineering," said Steve Porter, the staff advisor for Construction City. "The scouts are designing a structure, they're drawing blueprints, they're purchasing permits,

they're purchasing land, and they're building on that land."

The scouts were assigned to one of two divisions, buildings and bridges. Scouts assigned to the building division were able to build any structure they wanted, but were limited in supplies, using only tape and cardboard. The structures were then judged, based on creativity and merit.

The structures they built ranged

from historical landmarks such as the Washington Monument and the Eiffel Tower to local landmarks such as the Toledo Fire Department, the 180th FW and the Ohio State University football stadium.

Older scouts were placed in the bridge building division where they built 12-foot long bridges, which were judged on their structural integrity.

"We're not rewarding the scouts by how much weight the bridge can carry," said Stephen Way, a volunteer who tested the structural integrity of the bridges. "We reward them based on a ratio. We weigh the bridge first, we load the bridge through a winch system, and we calculate how much force the bridge can hold. We reward the scouts based on how much force the bridge can hold versus how much it weighs."

Way said the average weight of bridges was between 40 and 80 pounds, but one bridge weighed over 200 pounds. He said the load ratio was between 1-to-1 and 4-to-1 with an average ratio of 2.5-to-1. His advice to scouts was to keep their designs simple.

"The best designs are the simplest," Way said. "Sometimes the designs are very intricate and the scouts run out of time. If they had completed the whole process, it would've performed real well."

Before they could begin building anything, the scouts were required to visit 10 different stations to purchase permits.

"At each one of those stations they're getting facts about those permits," Porter said. "They get to learn about the different careers in those fields as they're going

**"It really is an all-encompassing program. It's educational, but they don't realize it. They're just having fun."**

through it"

"Once they get their 10 permits, they have to go to a city administrator to get their building permit, and from there they have to visit the surveyor, who guides them to their plot of land," said Jennifer Faguett, an adult leader with Pack 101, playing the role of a city administrator. "This process helps give them an idea of how much planning it takes to build something."

Regardless of how the bridges or buildings performed during the judging and structural testing, the event is about

having fun while learning important leadership skills.

"The entire Boy Scouts of America organization is a leadership development program, and the purpose of all of this is to put the boys into situations where they have to work together to succeed," said Ed Caldwell, the scout executive and chief executive officer for the Erie Shores Council. "This event teaches them leadership skills by teaching them to work together to develop a plan and take it all the way from the design to completion."

"There's art involved and there's science

*(Left) Sean Adkins, a Webelo scout from Pack 200 in Toledo, Ohio, sketches bridge blueprints during a Construction City event at the 180th Fighter Wing Nov. 21, 2015. (Right) William Brenneke, a Webelo scout from Pack 361 in Port Clinton, Ohio, measures the walls of The Ohio State University's Buckeye Football Stadium during Construction City at the 180th Fighter Wing Nov. 21, 2015. (Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Beth Holliker)*



*(Above) More than 450 scouts, parents and volunteers build cities and bridges entirely out of cardboard during Construction City at the 180th Fighter Wing Nov. 21, 2015. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Hughes)*



**“This event teaches them leadership skills by teaching them to work together to develop a plan and take it all the way from the design to completion.”**

involved,” Porter said. “It really is an all-encompassing program. It’s educational, but they don’t realize it. They’re just having fun. They’re working together in teams and they’re having to problem solve.”

Kyle Beckett, a Cub Scout with Pack 3233, said the most important thing he learned was how to use triangles to stabilize tall structures. Pack 3233 built a 30-foot tall replica of the Washington Monument which almost reached the

ceiling of the hangar.

Dominick Davis, another Cub Scout with Pack 3233, said the most challenging part of building the monument was setting the blocks into place. The monument was made of stacked blocks of cardboard. The adults picked up the monument as the scouts placed the next block in the tower beneath it for every 3-foot block.

After all the bridges were tested and all the buildings had been judged, the scouts

moved on to the final stage of the event, and arguably the most entertaining part for everyone involved, the demolition. The scouts descended on their cardboard creations with the ferocity of a barbarian horde collapsing bridges and toppling towers. After the last structure was demolished, they gathered their tools and cleared away the debris, leaving the hangar cleaner than they found it, as if they had never been there at all. 🦁

*(Left) Stephen Way, a managing director for an engineering consulting group, explains how a winch system applies force to a bridge and tests its structural integrity during Construction City at the 180th Fighter Wing, Sat. Nov. 21, 2015. (Right) Cub Scouts from Pack 3233 celebrate after completing a 30-foot tall replica of the Washington Monument during Construction City at the 180th Fighter Wing Nov. 21, 2015. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Shane Hughes)*



## COMMENTS from pg. 3

### Character

What is character? Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary defines character as, “one of the attributes or features that make up and distinguish an individual.” For me, character includes the ability to walk your talk, it is about maturity which balances courage and consideration enabling you to say what needs to be said, give honest feedback and address issues in a straightforward way. Essentially, it is what you believe in and what you stand for...your convictions.

Character is the combination of emotional, intellectual and moral qualities that distinguishes an individual. It goes back to wearing the uniform, which is a person’s discernable behavior, is an indication of one’s character. A person with strong character shows drive, energy, determination, self-discipline, willpower and nerve.

### Courage

It is easy to think of courage in connection with very dramatic, extraordinary events like fighting a war, living with a terminal illness or running into a burning house to save someone. But some of the greatest acts of courage are in the everyday decisions in life. It takes courage to realize that the choices you make may not be popular or understood by others. Again wearing the uniform takes courage. Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that an Airman needs. The great Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” It takes courage to be in the Air National Guard. Now let’s talk about commitment.

### Commitment

Steven Covey, the author of the book, “*The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*”, writes that it is with commitment that we find two ways to put ourselves in control of our lives immediately. He goes on by saying, “We can make a promise...and keep it. Or we can set a goal and work to achieve it. As we make and keep commitments, even small commitments, we begin to establish an inner integrity that gives us the awareness of self control and the courage and strength to accept more of the responsibility for our own lives. The power to make and keep commitments to ourselves is the essence of developing the basic habits of effectiveness.” Truly, powerful words. As Airmen, you signed up, took an oath, made the commitment to attend Basic Military Training, complete your Professional Military Education requirements, stay physically fit, wear the uniform and participate in local community events. As my children will attest to, once you commit to something quitting is not an option.

Vince Lombardi, the legendary football coach for the Green Bay Packers, probably says it best about commitment. “Individual commitment to a group effort, that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.” The 180th is 100 percent dependent on its Airmen to being committed to this profession of arms. Our success depends on it.

### Confidence

No matter what you do in life, you must have confidence. Confidence is many things. Confidence is the belief that you can learn to control your outcomes. Confidence is built on both belief and evidence; belief that you can grow and learn, and evidence that proves you have done so. Truly confident people trust their capacity to learn whatever is required of them. For me, confidence is watching our maintainers do what they do best, orchestrate and produce safe, reliable and airworthy jets to support our nation’s number one priority, Homeland Defense and the Aerospace Control Alert mission. Pure precision, hours of practice, knowing that everyone will be at the right spot, that the weapon systems work, and that the jets in the air will land safely every time. Confident people also think about their failures and difficulties in ways that give them information about what to do differently the next time. They take pride and ownership in their successes. Success generates further evidence that they are good and can continue to get better. The need for confidence extends into every area of your life. Whatever goals you choose for yourself, the vision of your quality of life, requires confidence.

Give yourself credit for everything you try. By focusing on what you can do, you applaud yourself for efforts rather than focusing on your mistakes. Approach new experiences as opportunities to learn rather than occasions to win or lose. Confident people have expectations that are realistic. Even when some of their expectations are not met, they continue to be positive and accept themselves. As most of you know, I am a Michigan Wolverine fan, but this quote by the Woody Hayes sums it up, “Success, it’s what you do with what you’ve got.”

Confidence is that little voice inside of you that tells you that you are okay, that you are a good person and that you know how to deal with things in good times and bad. The good news is, as you try these new things, you are gaining confidence in spite of your fears. In fact, that is what real self-confidence is, your belief that you can do things well even when you have doubts.

### Lastly

I submit to you that the ANG is about leadership and that our Airmen are the embodiment of all that it has to offer. Wearing the uniform, being committed and confident that we will succeed, and having courage and character will serve you all well into the future. When I think about our Airmen, I think about some profound words by Denzel Washington, “At the end of the day, it’s not about what you have or even what you’ve accomplished. It’s about what you’ve done with those accomplishments. It’s about who you’ve lifted up, who you’ve made better. It’s about what you’ve given back.”

In closing, I want to bid farewell to each and every one of you. I have immensely enjoyed being a guardsman here at the 180th as well as at the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, Ohio. I appreciate having had this wonderful opportunity to work with you all. As a member of the ANG, I’ve had this once in a life time experience of irreplaceable camaraderie. I hope it will continue in the years to come.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with all of you over the years. It has been an honor and a treasured experience for me. I wish you all happy holidays and continued success into the New Year. 🦁



# The Silver Beaver

Story By  
Staff Sgt. Shane Hughes

The Boy Scouts of America recently recognized Col. William Giezie, the 180th Fighter Wing mission support group commander and a life-long scout, with their highest award for dedicated service.

“The Silver Beaver award is the highest possible award a member can receive for service at the council level,” said Ed Frey, the President of the Erie Shores Council. “It is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated significant and sustained leadership at the council level.”

Giezie has been actively involved in the scouting program since he was eight years old. Giezie currently serves as the Erie Shores Council vice president of district operations. The Erie Shores Council covers

eastern Fulton, Wood, Lucas, Ottawa and Sandusky counties. In addition to his service at the council level, he also serves as the unit commissioner for two Boy Scout troops

“He’s showing hundreds of volunteers how to structure and organize events in different places so they have a coordinated local program and a coordinated large-scale program.”

and three Cub Scout packs in the Eagle Bay district, a merit badge counselor, and an assistant scoutmaster for Troop 316 in Oak Harbor, Ohio.

“His role as the vice president of district operations is to bring together thousands of volunteers from all levels of the organization,

so they’re all pulling on the same line at the same time,” Frey said. “That’s a huge role and he’s doing an incredible job.”

As the vice president of district operations, Giezie helped develop the training program for the annual popcorn sales fundraiser. He said he worked with unit representatives from the troops served by the Erie Shores Council and helped them to develop budgets and determine which products would generate the most funds for the program.

“Over that four year period, that represented about \$4 million worth of popcorn sales that generated about \$2.8 million worth of fundraising to the local Boy Scout council,” Giezie said.

“He did a great job getting the kids motivated to sell popcorn for our fundraiser,

which isn’t necessarily a fun thing to do,” said Jerry Britt, an assistant scout master with Boy Scout Troop 316 in Oak Harbor, Ohio. “It helped with our overall success and the success of the individual boys as well.”

Britt said the reason the popcorn program had record sales, which increased the number of activities, was successful because of Giezie’s leadership.

“He elevated our understanding of commitment and service to others to a level it had never been before,” Frey said. “He’s showing hundreds of volunteers how to structure and organize events in different places so they have a coordinated local program and a coordinated large-scale program.”

“He didn’t just run the whole program himself,” Britt said. “He empowered all the leaders and volunteers around him, and that was the key to the overall success.”

Britt said Giezie ran a merit badge program for the scouts. The program helped the boys earn merit badges that are difficult to get such as the environmental science merit badge. He also opened his personal

“He elevated our understanding of commitment and service to others to a level it had never been before.”

wood shop to all the boys participating in the Pinewood Derby program, one of the biggest events of the year. By doing so, he helped give kids access to resources their own parents might not have and helped teach the kids how to build the cars.

Giezie said his effectiveness as a leader stems from a passion for mentoring others, both the scouts in the program and the adult volunteers who lead them, and a desire to give back to the program that gave so much

to him growing up.

“The adult leaders who worked with me when I was a scout were fantastic,” Giezie said. “They spent a lot of time mentoring me and developing me into the person I am today. I owe them the same level of responsibility to give back to the program today.”

While the Silver Beaver is awarded to Giezie for service at the council level, it is also an acknowledgement of his life-long service to the scouting program and the positive influence his leadership has had on those he’s mentored.

“All of these people have crossed his path as a youth, they have crossed his path as a unit leader, and now they are crossing his path as a council leader,” Frey said. “All of these folks cross his path, they change how they are, and they go forward and emulate him. The number of lives he’s touched is in the thousands.”



“The number of lives he’s touched is in the thousands.”



# LAND NAVIGATION

*Old-School Training in a High-Tech World*

Story & Photos By  
Tech. Sgt. Nic Kuetemeyer

Security Forces Airmen from the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard conducted old-school land navigation training at Oak Openings Metro Park in Swanton, Ohio, Sept. 27, 2015.

The training, conducted using traditional navigation techniques such as maps, plot points

**Even though it may sound “old fashioned,” techniques like land navigation will help the 180th execute the mission at home and abroad.**

Staff Sgt. Kyle Meyer, security forces journeyman at the 180th Fighter Wing, operates a compass to determine the direction he and his fellow Airmen need to walk to successfully navigate a training course set up in the Oak Openings Metro Park in Swanton, Ohio, Sep. 27, 2015.



and compasses, helps Airmen remain proficient on the equipment and art of navigation in austere conditions or in the event of an emergency when technology fails.

“Technology can fail; a battery can die on anything,” said 2nd Lt. Sam Thornton, the security forces operations officer at the 180th FW, explaining why old fashioned navigation techniques are important to practice in today’s world of smart phones and satellites. “We have a GPS unit you can plug coordinates into and it’ll take you right where you need to go, but if you’re in a wooded area, the canopy can keep it from working.”

The term “land navigation” refers to finding one’s way by using maps, plotting points on a grid, counting footsteps to judge distance and using a compass to find direction. It is a very precise process that must be followed exactly in order to successfully find a way through any terrain without the use of Global Positioning System, or GPS, street names or easily recognized landmarks such

as buildings.

The 180th FW Airmen have a unique training ground available to them in the Oak Openings Metro Park. Because it contains such highly varied ecosystems like sand dunes and wetlands, it presents a challenging course for Security Forces.

Thornton explained that going up and down hills, navigating through thickly wooded areas, and crossing rivers can all throw off distance and directional calculations. If an Airman walks a few degrees off the line set by the compass, they could end up very far away from their intended point on the map. In a deployed or combat environment, being able to rely on these techniques could make the difference between reaching safety or not.

**“We have a GPS unit you can plug coordinates into and it’ll take you right where you need to go, but if you’re in a wooded area, the canopy can keep it from working.”**

“In security we do a lot of off-base patrols,” said Thornton, who helped set up the course and plot points the Airmen needed to reach. “If your vehicle breaks down, you might have to walk and if you don’t want to take the road, you can just bring out a map.”

Maintaining trained, qualified Airmen who are ready to deploy is a top priority for the 180th FW. Even though it may sound old fashioned, techniques like land navigation will help the 180th execute the mission at home and abroad. 🇺🇸

**“Technology can fail;  
a battery can die on anything”**

# STRUCTURE FIRE TRAINING

Story & Photos By  
Staff Sgt. Shane Hughes

A high-pitched, metallic ring split the autumn air as Staff Sgt. Andrew Burton drove the striking edge of an axe into a Halligan bar. The Halligan bar wedged deeper into the door jamb and the metal groaned as it resisted the force.

“Drive,” Senior Airman William Echols called out to Burton. Burton slammed the axe into the Halligan bar again, and again, and again. The sharp snap of splitting wood signaled that the crossbar locking the door from the other side had splintered and could now be breached.

Forcible entry was one of four different techniques firefighters from the 180th Fighter Wing practiced during the Regularly Scheduled Drill on Saturday, Nov. 7th.

Staff Sgt. Justin Askins, the incident commander for the training exercise, said the firefighters rotated through four different training stations where they practiced forcible entry, hose advancements, ladder placements, and fire suppression techniques. The training concluded with a structural exercise, where the firefighters applied all of the skills simultaneously during a simulated structure fire.

“The scene that we created was a five-story building showing smoke on the fourth floor,” Askins said. “It gave everyone a way

to apply the skills from all those different training evolutions.”

Airman 1st Class Lamar Smith said the training allowed him to practice skills outside of the classroom setting. He said the training reinforced the importance of safety and accountability when responding to a structure fire. The training also allowed him to revisit basic firefighting skills.

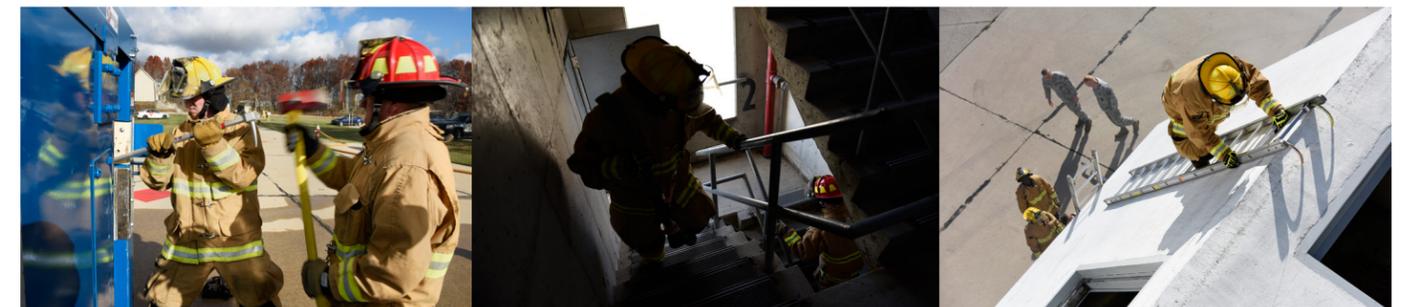
“You go to technical school, and after tech school you forget some of the things you learned there,” Lamar said. “We covered a lot of the basics from tech school. Repetition is what makes us better at our jobs.”

“The training is a lot better for the traditional Guardsmen,” Askins said. “They’re out here one weekend a month,

and a lot of this stuff is so hands-on that if you’re not out here doing it every day, you risk losing that repetitive knowledge. That hands-on training is pretty crucial and really helped drive those skills home.”

The training took place at a specialized training facility owned by the Toledo Fire Department, which includes a five-story training tower. The 180th FW partners with the TFD and other civil authorities to share resources and maximize training benefits. The practical application of skills during simulated scenarios which reflect real-world situations allows Airmen to improve their ability to perform their jobs at a high level of success and ensures they are ready to deploy. 🇺🇸

(Left) A U.S. Air National Guard firefighter assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing ascends a ladder during a Regularly Scheduled Drill training exercise Nov. 7, 2015 in Swanton, Ohio at a specialized training facility owned by the Toledo Fire Department. (Center) U.S. Air National Guard firefighters assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing ascend a stairwell while carrying a firehose. (Right) U.S. Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Andrew Burton, a firefighter assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing, slams the striking edge of his axe into a Halligan bar held by Senior Airman William Echols.



The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the red and white stripes and the blue field with white stars. The text is overlaid on this background.

**AIRMEN  
OF THE  
YEAR**



**CHIEF'S AWARD**  
**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CHARLES MASON**  
 CLIENT SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN

**A**ssigned to the 180th Fighter Wing's Mission Support Group as a client systems technician, Airman 1st Class Charles Mason is a shining example of excellence for all to follow. His outstanding customer support and tireless efforts to learn and develop solutions for high visibility issues and tasks have led to recognition from both the wing and Mission Support Group commanders in less than one year of assignment to the wing's Communication Focal Point. Mason's ability to provide top-notch technical support to the Air Combat Command Inspector General team earned him the title of superior

performer at the conclusion of the wing's capstone inspection.

Continually performing at a level far beyond his rank and age, Mason not only completed basic military training and technical school, he also completed two volumes of his required career development course increasing his knowledge of the information technology field. In addition to, he also completed an advanced security course, improving network administration and increasing the Communications Focal Point productivity by more than 30 percent, all within one year of enlisting into the Air National Guard.

Outside of his military duties, Mason

is focused on finding time to support his community. He has served countless hours rebuilding a daycare in an effort to provide a safer environment for children. He has represented the 180th Fighter Wing, the Air National Guard and the Air Force at several community events from parades and flag raising details to numerous speaking events, bolstering ties with those communities who continue to support the wing.

Mason exemplifies the Air Force core values; integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do. He is an example to follow. 🇺🇸



**HONOR GUARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR**  
**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DAVID BOUSONVILLE**  
 SERVICES SUSTAINMENT APPRENTICE

**D**uring this award cycle, Airman 1st Class David Bousonville was assigned to the Force Support Squadron as a services sustainment apprentice. Excelling at his primary duties within the Services Flight, he is most recognized for his role as a member of the 180th Fighter Wing Honor Guard. This year, Bousonville dedicated over 50 hours supporting Honor Guard and Color Guard events, honoring our fallen veterans and promoting patriotism throughout our communities.

Bousonville selflessly volunteered his

time, performing 20 percent of the Honor Guard details, showcasing the Air Force commitment to our veterans and their dedicated service. He proudly represented the 180th Fighter Wing, Air National Guard and the Air Force by assisting with four Color Guard events in local communities and also escorted student flight members during the Heroes in Action Community Salutes event.

Outside of his dedicated military service, Bousonville continues to remain focused on pursuing his Bachelor of Science in psychology from the University of Toledo while also working toward his Associate of Applied Science in hospitality management

through the Community College of the Air Force. In addition to balancing his studies, Bousonville is a certified dog obedience trainer, a youth mentor for the Bowling Green Big Brothers, Big Sister program, and still finds time to donate over 400 hours of his time as a mentor for the Zoo Teen organization.

Bousonville is an outstanding Airman and promotes patriotism and honor within the community through his actions and dedication. 🇺🇸



**AIRMAN OF THE YEAR**  
**SENIOR AIRMAN JACOB SOROSIAK**  
 AIRCRAFT ARMAMENT SYSTEMS SPECIALIST

**T**hroughout this award period, Senior Airman Jacob Sorosiak has surpassed expectations as an F-16 weapons loader, maintaining 100 percent certification on nine munitions, seven qualification standards and a zero discrepancy record throughout 11 weapons loading evaluations. His flawless execution of the mission directly contributes to the section's 96 percent qualification rate. Exemplifying service before self, Sorosiak volunteers for early shifts and prepares for the day before weapons crew arrival. He is also responsible for inspecting over 750 pieces of alternate

mission equipment valued at more than \$8.5 million.

Highly motivated, Sorosiak continues to pursue his Bachelor's degree in nutrition and recreation. He also takes time to motivate those around him, spearheading the Drill Fit Challenge within the weapons section, promoting the "Fit to Fight" mentality among fellow Airmen. Maintaining a 100 percent on his own physical fitness tests, he coaches 10 Airmen within his section, directly contributing to a 13 percent increase in passing scores within the weapons section.

In his spare time, Sorosiak is passionate about giving back to his community. He

enjoys tutoring students at a local school and provides free health and fitness training at a local gym. He has donated suitcases of clothes and food to the B+ Foundation, which works with homeless individuals and families with children battling cancer. Most notable was his generous donation of \$2,000 to a community member living with Cerebral Palsy, allowing him the vacation of a lifetime to Walt Disney World.

Sorosiak exemplifies the whole Airman concept and is committed to excellence. 🇺🇸



**NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR**  
**TECH. SGT. DENNIS DOUGLASS**  
 AIRCRAFT ARMAMENT SYSTEMS SPECIALIST

**D**uring this award period, serving as a dedicated weapons crew chief, Tech. Sgt. Dennis Douglass is responsible for leading a three-person load team, directly contributing to the team's 98 percent pass rate of evaluated certifications while also delivering a 100 percent quality assurance evaluation rating. Going above and beyond his primary assigned duties, Douglass has also taken on the role of unit career advisor for the weapons element where he is responsible for providing career guidance to more than 85 Airmen, leading to a sustained retention rate of over 90 percent.

Leading by example and with an unending positive attitude, Douglass has taken it upon himself to mentor six Airmen, focusing on professional military education and customs and courtesies, resulting in the promotion of a fellow Airman. He continually volunteers for additional duties in an effort to improve his technical proficiency, skill-level and preparedness.

Always striving for excellence, Douglass continues to work toward a degree in adolescence and young adulthood social studies, maintaining a 3.5 grade point average earning him a spot on the dean's list for both the spring and fall semesters. While

balancing his studies, Douglass still finds time to volunteer with the Habitat for Humanity and Love Medina City organizations. He is also the coordinator for the children's ministry at Grace Church in Medina and currently serves as the vice commander for American Legion Post 808.

Douglass is an exemplary Airman and his acts of selflessness are to be emulated. 🇺🇸



## SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR

MASTER SGT. SHERRI SZYMANSKI

MAINTENANCE GROUP TRAINING MANAGER

**D**uring this award period, as the training manager for the 180th Fighter Wing's Maintenance Group, Master Sgt. Sherri Szymanski effectively managed the training requirements for over 450 maintainers, confirming training requirements were fulfilled and assuring the readiness of the group. She was solely responsible for designing and executing a remedial professional military education end of course training program that resulted in an 89.6 percent passing rate and enhanced technical readiness capability. Szymanski energetically

conducted 19 staff assistance visits where she identified program discrepancies and inefficient processes, significantly reducing workload and allowing for efficient mission focus.

Dedicated to self-improvement, Szymanski continues to strive for fitness excellence and healthy lifestyles by providing fitness testing mentorship and support for fellow Airmen, promoting the "Fit to Fight" mentality. Committed to leading by example, Szymanski invests time in reading leadership publications allowing her to develop her skills in working with people of all ranks and personalities and fortifying teamwork.

While balancing military and family life, Szymanski remains involved in her local parent/teacher organization that works to raise money for school functions or donates items to the school, helping to alleviate hardships for local teachers. She also volunteers with the Children's Protective Services, ensuring safe environments for children while also serving as an assistant den leader for the Boy Scouts of America.

Szymanski transcends leadership expectations and goals, while leading by example. 🏆



## FIRST SGT. OF THE YEAR

MASTER SGT. JUSTIN BRINKMAN

MISSION SUPPORT GROUP FIRST SERGEANT

**M**aster Sgt. Justin Brinkman is assigned as the First Sergeant for the 180th Fighter Wing Mission Support Group. During this time, he volunteered time away from his family and civilian job to support several in-garrison training deployments. Brinkman served as the operational first sergeant to Key West, Florida, Biloxi, Mississippi, Alpena, Michigan, and Tucson, Arizona. During these exercises, he was the dedicated focal point for the readiness, health, morale and welfare of our Stinger Airmen.

While balancing the duties of both his military and civilian careers, Brinkman was focused on furthering his professional military education. He successfully completed both the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy and the Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Course.

Outside of his military responsibilities, Brinkman is the director of the Elmwood High School Marching Band, pep band, four jazz bands, five concert bands and the pit orchestra. He is also a member of the Elmwood Education Association where is the dedicated building representative and the lead supplemental contract negotiator,

leading to the acquisition of over \$90,000 of musical instruments and equipment for the district. In his free time, Brinkman also volunteers as the director of both the Elmwood Community Jazz Band and the Fostoria Community Band.

Brinkman inspires excellence in others by encouraging Airmen to maintain positivity and professionalism every day, continually setting a shining example for all to follow. 🏆



## COMPANY GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

**2ND LT. JENNIFER FERRARI**  
INSTALLATION DEPLOYMENT OFFICER

**A** dynamic leader, 2nd Lt. Jennifer Ferrari spearheaded pre- and post-deployment operations and successfully deployed over 400 Airmen and 200 tons of cargo to various locations around the world. This directly contributed to more than 390 training sorties and a 95.4 percent mission capable rate. Ferrari provided excellent oversight, managing 275 Theater Support Packages and 116 Reserve Component Period mobilizations and deployment preparations, providing 391 combat ready Airmen. As the wing's installation deployment officer, she is responsible for coordinating joint deployment

operations that moved 40 Marines and one half ton of cargo. This enabled successful Naval tasking and mission execution.

Reaching above and beyond her primary duties assigned, Ferrari is the alternate Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. She leads 35 facilitators who implemented the "Flip the Script" training program. In that capacity, she provided over 100 hours of training and cultivated facilitator response skills. Ferrari was the lynchpin in the coordination and execution of Sexual Assault Response and Prevention training of more than 900 Airmen over 12 sessions, increasing program awareness.

While balancing military and family

responsibilities, Ferrari continues to pursue a master's degree in military history through American Public University and sets aside time to volunteer with the Cherry Street Mission and the Life Revitalization Center. She also volunteered her time to serve as the captain of the 180th Fighter Wing Dragon Boat Team, raising money for the local Partners in Education Program. She also orchestrated the wing's first ever "Denim Day," raising more than \$700 for a local women's crisis center and fostering ties with our local communities.

Ferrari demonstrates strong leadership in all aspects of her life. 🇺🇸

# Promotions & Retirements

## **To Airman 1st Class**

- Airman Andrew T. Mccrory
- Airman Adam B. Coe

## **To Senior Airman**

- Airman 1st Class Callie M. Stull
- Airman 1st Class Sheila C. Cobb
- Airman 1st Class Mark J. Skala Jr
- Airman 1st Class Justine N. Logan
- Airman 1st Class Caleb S. Schaafsma
- Airman 1st Class Andrew B. Denucci
- Airman 1st Class Collin N. Newsome
- Airman 1st Class Jay-Jay A. Merritt
- Airman 1st Class Nicholas J. Rinke
- Airman 1st Class Andrea R. Villegas
- Airman 1st Class Kathryn M. Dobbs
- Airman 1st Class Kerry M. Cramner
- Airman 1st Class John A. Burden
- Airman 1st Class Marisa M. Shipman
- Airman 1st Class Cody G. Keil
- Airman 1st Class Brett T. Sloan
- Airman 1st Class Justin C. Joseph
- Airman 1st Class Kyle J. Reed
- Airman 1st Class Zachary J. Yeckley
- Airman 1st Class Ryan R. Hesterman
- Airman 1st Class Evan M. Sanders
- Airman 1st Class Tyler M. Roberts
- Airman 1st Class Dylan J. Cleghorn
- Airman 1st Class William Z. Echols
- Airman 1st Class Nicholas R. Coci
- Airman 1st Class Tanner A. Duvall
- Airman 1st Class Josiah D. Colson
- Airman 1st Class Michael E. Pahl
- Airman 1st Class Nicholas G. Benson

## **To Staff Sgt.**

- Senior Airman Jonathan F. Pirro
- Senior Airman Samantha J. Wood
- Senior Airman Erin E. Brubaker
- Senior Airman Jerrie L. Reeder II
- Senior Airman Tyler S. Waldron
- Senior Airman Damon S. Whorton
- Senior Airman Erik D. Nagucki
- Senior Airman Nicholas H. Hinline
- Senior Airman Travis L. Sumner
- Senior Airman Eric R. Miller
- Senior Airman Michael L. Young
- Senior Airman Kathryn E. Beck

## **To Tech. Sgt.**

- Staff Sgt. Shawn K. Spears
- Staff Sgt. Steven C. Popke
- Staff Sgt. Patrick M. Langenderfer
- Staff Sgt. Nathan R. McKarns
- Staff Sgt. Brian L. FleckAller
- Staff Sgt. Todd E. Copic II
- Staff Sgt. Cody L. Gomez
- Staff Sgt. Andrew D. Everett

## **To Master Sgt.**

- Tech. Sgt. Bradley J. Haas
- Tech. Sgt. Amy L. Lolo
- Tech. Sgt. Chastity A. Morgan
- Tech. Sgt. Gregory S. Corson
- Tech. Sgt. Steven A. Smith
- Tech. Sgt. Matias Sanchez

## **To Senior Master Sgt.**

- Master Sgt. Matthew J. Michael
- Master Sgt. Susan L. Miller
- Master Sgt. Chris A. Nihart
- Master Sgt. Kevin M. Boes
- Master Sgt. Edmund J. Poitingner
- Master Sgt. Jacqueline L. Vettraino
- Master Sgt. Charles W. Wasnich
- Master Sgt. Charles Hollingsworth III
- Master Sgt. Melissa D. Hurst

## **To Chief Master Sgt.**

- Senior Master Sgt. James D. Brotherton

## **Retirements**

- Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Koeninger
- Lt. Col. Michael Digby
- Chief Master Sgt. Laurie Liebich
- Col. Lindsey Whitehead
- Tech. Sgt. Joel Stier
- Capt. Janeen Hume
- Master Sgt. John Davis
- Master Sgt. William Linser
- Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Davis
- Maj. Alvy Vollmer
- Tech. Sgt. James Kropf
- Senior Master Sgt. Roger Gritzmaker

# CDC/PME 90% Pass Rate

- Airman 1st Class Anthony Barrow
- Airman 1st Class Lamar Smith
- Staff Sgt. Michael Dohrmann
- Staff Sgt. James Atchison
- Master Sgt. Steven Smith