

ALABAMA



AL
ANG
FW
187

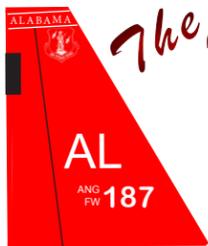
The

REDTAIL REVIEW

The Official Newsletter of the 187th Fighter Wing

2017, Vol. 2, Issue No. 2





Command

187th Fighter Wing Commander
Col. Randal Efferson
187th Fighter Wing Vice Commander
Col. William Sparrow
187th Fighter Wing Command Chief
Chief Master Sgt. John Harris

Public Affairs Staff

Chief of Public Affairs
Lt. Col. Clare Reed
Broadcast Journalist
Tech. Sgt. Monique Randall
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Foster
Staff Sgt. Jared Rand
Photojournalist
Senior Airman Hayden Johnson

Contact

For imagery submissions, questions about The REDTAIL REVIEW, or information, you can call our office at (334) 394-7157 or email us at usaf.al.187-fw.mbx.public-affairs@mail.mil.

About The REDTAIL REVIEW

The REDTAIL REVIEW is the official quarterly publication of the 187th Fighter Wing, Alabama Air National Guard. Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force, or the National Guard. The content is edited, prepared and provided by the 187th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, Montgomery Regional Air National Guard Base, Ala. All photographs are Air Force/Alabama ANG photographs unless otherwise indicated.

In This Issue

03.....Wing Vacancies
04.....187th Fighter Wing hosts
Tuskegee Airman Legacy Open House
08.....Wing Throwback
10.....Education Benefits:
Read about the benefits of joining the Alabama ANG
11.....F-35 Site Survey Team Visit
12.....Career Spotlight: 2W0X1
Munition Systems Specialists
14.....Rain or Shine:
187th SFS ensures readiness with heavy weapons training
20.....Quarter in Photos

COVER PHOTO BY:
SrA Hayden Johnson

*187th Security Forces
Airmen prepare and
load heavy weap-
ons systems June 29,
2017, at the heavy
weapons firing range at
Fort Rucker, Ala.*

SEE MORE ABOUT THE 187
SFS TRAINING ON PAGE 14



– Wing Vacancies –

Vacancies are open in the following career fields:



- 1C3X1 Command Post
- 2A0X1 Avionics Test Station and Components
- 2A3X3 Tactical Aircraft Maintenance
- 2A3X4 Fighter Aircraft Integrated Avionics
- 2A6X1 Aerospace Propulsion Mechanic
- 2A6X2 Aerospace Ground Equipment
- 2A6X3 Egress
- 2A6X4 Fuels
- 2A6X5 Hydraulics
- 2A6X6 Electrical/Environmental
- 2A7X1 Aircraft Metals Technology
- 2A7X2 Non-Destructive Inspection
- 2A7X3 Aircraft Structures
- 2F0X1 Fuels Management
- 2R0X1 Maintenance Management Analysis
- 2R1X1 Maintenance Scheduling
- 2T0X1 Traffic Management
- 2T1X1 Vehicle Operations
- 2T3X1 Vehicle Mechanic
- 2W0X1 Munitions
- 2W1X1 Armament
- 3D0X2 Cyber Systems Operations
- 3D0X3 Cyber Surety
- 3D1X1 Client Systems
- 3D1X2 Cyber Transport
- 3D1X3 RF Transmissions
- 3D1X7 Cable and Antenna Systems
- 3E0X1 Electrician
- 3E0X2 Electrical Power Production
- 3E1X1 Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning
- 3E2X1 Pavement and Construction
- 3E3X1 Structural
- 3E4X1 Utilities
- 3E7X1 Firefighter
- 3E9X1 Emergency Management Services
- 3M0X1 Photojournalist
- 3N0X5 Security Forces
- 3P0X1 Personnel
- 3S0X1 Health Admin
- 4A0X1 Finance
- 6F0X1

To learn how you can join our team, get paid training and great benefits while serving part-time, call our recruiting team at (334) 394-7190.



“Like” us on Facebook:
facebook.com/187thFighterWing





187th Fighter Wing hosts

Tuskegee Airman Legacy Open House





Story and photos by
Senior Airman Hayden Johnson

The 187th Fighter Wing hosted the 3rd Annual Tuskegee Legacy Open House June 24, 2017, on base.

The purpose of the event was to showcase different careers with the Air National Guard, exhibit historical and current military aircraft, and highlight the legacy of the Tuskegee Airman.

“This is about showcasing our unit, but at the same time telling the public about our heritage,” said Lt. Col. Paul Griggs, the project officer for the event. “[...] Everything we do is about linking us, the present and the future, to our past, and continuing in that legacy of the Red Tails.”

The Tuskegee Airman had a willingness to be a part of something greater than themselves, which is truly inspiring to others, said Griggs. This event was an opportunity to showcase that tradition and heritage.

“We are very proud of our Tuskegee Airman heritage, and we hope to continue that tradition.” said Col. Brian Vaughn, 187th Maintenance Group commander. “Part of having an event like this is to make sure the community knows we are here and the public is aware of this great heritage in our backyard.”

Along with emphasizing the wing’s heritage, the open house was a chance for the wing to thank the community for their continued support during the F-35 basing team visit last month.

“It’s no secret that we are in contention for the F-35,” said Griggs. “We had a team here about a month or so ago, and they interacted with the community and with community leaders, and they said without question that the community support here in Montgomery was second to none. I think that just says it all, and even today, the city of Montgomery has been so supportive. We have a wonderful relationship here in the River Region.”

“Everything we do is about linking us, the present and the future, to our past, and continuing in that legacy of the Red Tails.”



Wing Throwback

May 1988

Members of the 187th Tactical Fighter Group witnessed a bit of Air National Guard history as the unit's first F-16A "Fighting Falcon" touched ground at Dannelly Field on Sunday, May 1, 1988.



THE PHANTOM FLYER

187 Tactical Fighter Group
Alabama Air National Guard

"READINESS IS OUR PROFESSION" JULY 1988



The landing of the 187th Tactical Fighter Group's first F-16A "Fighting Falcon" at Dannelly Field marks a new era in Alabama Air National Guard history.



F-16 pilot Capt Robert Huddleston taxis the new arrival down the flightline.



A bird's eye view: Group Commander Col Ted D. Tyus steps up to take a closer look at his new charge.

New Era Begins as Dannelly Welcomes First Falcon

Members of the 187th Tactical Fighter Group witnessed a bit of Air National Guard history as the unit's first F-16A "Fighting Falcon" touched ground at Dannelly Field on Sunday, May 1.

The F-16 and its escort of F-4's arrived shortly after 3:00 p.m. Colonel Ted Tyus led guardsmen in a ceremonial salute as Captain Robert Huddleston taxied the aircraft to its designated spot on the flightline.

Huddleston, who piloted the fighter from Nellis Air Force Base to its new home at Dannelly, emerged from the cockpit looking tired but pleased as fellow aircrew members applauded nearby.

After "presenting" the newly-acquired aircraft to the group commander, Huddleston greeted the crowd of guardsmen, photographers and reporters eager to see the unit's first F-16 at close range.

During an interview on the flightline, Huddleston echoed Lieutenant Colonel Rendell Clark's earlier comments praising the F-16's multiple-role capability and strengths over the F-4. Clark added that the F-16 will significantly enhance the pilot's ability to defeat an enemy in combat operations.

The F-16 is a newer, sleeker, more highly sophisticated aircraft than the F-4. Many of the unit's pilots are presently attending schools to learn just how sophisticated the "Fighting Falcon" really is.

According to Tyus, the unit's remaining F-16's are expected to arrive prior to January 1, 1989. The 187th will house 20 Falcons when delivery is complete. He says the F-4's will be moved out on a one-to-one basis as the new aircraft arrive.

Tyus says the long-anticipated arrival of the F-16's sadly marks

the end of an era for the unit, however. Because the F-16 is a single-seat fighter, the 187th will say goodbye not only to the F-4, but to many weapons systems officers, or back-seaters, as well.

Ceremonies marking the unit's official conversion to the F-16 are planned for Saturday, October 22. Tyus encourages family members to take part in this important event.



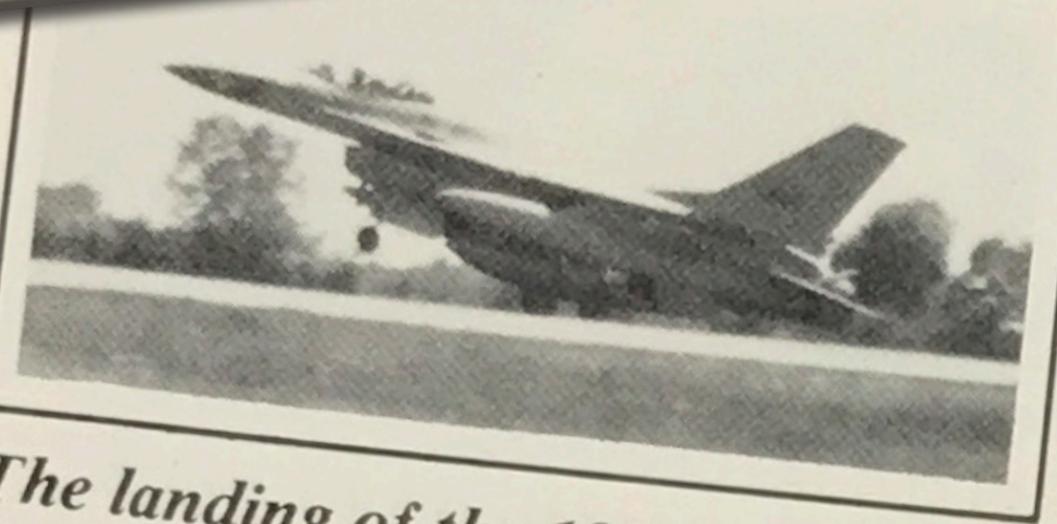
**The Fighting Falcon:
A new era
See Pages 6 & 7**

Official Mission Statement of the 187th TFG — Employ conventional munitions against surface targets in the offensive counterair, battlefield, air interdiction, and close air support roles. Employ conventional munitions against airborne targets in a limited defense counterair role.

THE FIGHTING FALCON:



Capt Bob Huddleston brings home the 187th TFG's first F-16 "Fighting Falcon."



The landing of the 187th Tactical Fighter Group's first F-16A "Fighting Falcon" at Dannelly Field marks a new era in Alabama Air National Guard history.

THINKING OF JOINING THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD?

You may have heard that Governor Kay Ivey signed into law a provision that will provide greater college tuition payment benefits to Alabama Air National Guard members. Eligible members can receive tuition assistance up to the average cost of tuition at an accredited in-state supported college or university. Here are some of the requirements:

Guardsmen **MUST** complete Basic Training to be eligible.



Guardsmen **MUST** complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and have on file with the school before applying (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>).

Guardsmen **MUST** use ALL State and Federal Education Benefits before ANGEAP can be applied.



The benefit **CAN** be used for a Technical Certificate, Undergraduate, or Graduate Degree.

Guardsmen **MUST** remain in good standing with BOTH the Alabama National Guard and the post-secondary school they are attending (2.0 GPA).



The new law goes into effect September 1, 2017.



F-35 SITE SURVEY TEAM VISIT 'A HUGE SUCCESS'

Story by Staff Sgt. Jared Rand

An F-35 Basing Site Survey team comprised of Air Force subject matter experts visited Dannelly Field Air National Guard Base, Ala., May 22-26, 2017 to verify the 187th Fighter Wing's ability to bed-down a squadron of F-35A fighter jets.

"The visit could not have gone better", said Col. Randy Efferson, commander of the 187th Fighter Wing. "The team was very professional, fairly assessed our wing, and our Airmen did a great job presenting the facts. However, the icing on the cake is that our community, both state and local, is so amazingly supportive. Our Airmen can't go downtown without being thanked for their service, and I know that type of support had to leave a lasting impression. On behalf of the Red Tails, I have to say thanks to our community because it's really a team effort".

The survey team verified previously gathered data including the quality and capacity of available airspace for

training, how much it would cost to modify existing facilities to support the F-35, and environmental factors. The site survey findings, along with military judgement, will be used by Air Force leadership to determine which two Air National Guard bases will receive F-35's slated for delivery in the early 2020's. The other bases in the running are Gowen Field, Idaho, Jacksonville, Florida, Selfridge, Michigan, and Truax Field in Wisconsin.

"All five bases being considered are top notch and would do a great job with the F-35 mission," Efferson said. "But we think there are several things that set us apart making Dannelly an ideal location based on survey findings, military judgement, and our amazing Tuskegee Airmen heritage. It's incredibly important to keep that legacy alive in manned fighter aircraft right here in Alabama to continue inspiring future generations."

The 100th Fighter Squadron, the 187th Fighter Wing's squadron of F-16 aircraft, is one of the original Tuskegee units, tracing its roots directly to the heroic African American legends who fought in World War II.



MUNITIONS SYSTEM SPECIALIST

career spotlight



alpha • foxtrot • sierra • charlie

Experience an exciting career in the Air National Guard as a Munitions Systems Specialist. Handling high-explosive incendiary rounds, nuclear weapons, and a vast array of bombs is all in a day's work for these well-trained professionals. As a Munitions System Specialist, you'll work with weapons systems of every kind on a variety of aircraft. You will learn to identify munitions by filler, color code, marking, or physical characteristics, and to demilitarize nonhazardous munitions and operate munitions material handling equipment. Working with munitions is a dangerous job, but you'll be given the training necessary to expertly manage any situation that comes your way.



RAIN OR SHINE

187TH SFS ENSURES READINESS WITH HEAVY WEAPONS TRAINING



*Story and photos by
Senior Airman
Hayden Johnson*

In the Air National Guard, security forces Airmen are commonly seen checking IDs at Entry Control Points or patrolling flightlines. However, behind the scenes, members of SF are required to receive extensive training in law enforcement and combat tactics.

On June 29, 2017, members from the 187th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron had the opportunity to qualify in a heavy weapons, combat arms and training (CATM) course at Fort Rucker, Ala. Courses like these allow members to be eligible and ready to deploy when the time comes.



**“WE ARE
ALWAYS GOING
TO ACCOMPLISH
THE MISSION.”**





“We are out here today the lack of qualified qualifying people on personnel could the MK 19 and the M2, which is a 40MM automatic weapon and make a unit unable to support certain mission requirements,” said Walker. It’s her mission to make sure the 187th is ready. Typically a specific mission calls for two to three qualified members. Because of the weapons training program, the wing has approximately eight to ten ready at any given time, qualified on these weapons.

“The reason we qualify them is for mobility purposes, just in case we ever get a call saying we need you.” To ensure mission readiness, Walker, along with other CATM instructors, have a special duty to ensure the highest quality of training and to teach Airmen a multitude of weapon knowledge and capabilities through rigorous courses.

“It is really helpful for the wing to have that back-up,” said Walker. Alabama summers tend to be very hot and humid, however on this day in particular, tropical storm Cindy was causing a downpour during the early parts of training. Even through the rain, instructors and students continued training.

“We are always going to accomplish the mission,” said Tech. Sgt. Eric Morris, the non-commissioned OIC of CATM with the 187th SFS. “We can go out with the Army, Navy, or Marines, whoever we’re attached to. We support the mission.” “Unless it’s lightning within five, we’re not stopping.”

When a call comes, stopping.”



QUARTER IN PHOTOS

*Captions (Clockwise, from top left)
Photos by SrA Hayden Johnson
(unless otherwise noted)*

A member of the 187th Security Forces Squadron patrols the flightline June 24, 2017, during the annual Tuskegee Legacy Open House at Montgomery Regional Air National Guard Base, Ala.

Members of the 187th Fighter Wing received their Associate's Degree from the Community College of the Air Force June 3, 2017, at Montgomery Regional Air National Guard Base, Ala.

Master Sgt. William McManus receives the Governor's Award from Alabama Governor Kay Ivey during the Governor's Luncheon May 18, 2017, at the Maxwell Club on Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

U.S. Representative Martha Roby R-Ala., and Representative Kay Granger R-Texas, chairwomen of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, talk with 187th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Randal K. Efferson July 23, 2017, at Montgomery Regional Air National Guard Base, Ala. Their visit was to talk about Alabama's military facilities and the future of the 187th

Fighter Wing. (Photo by SSgt Jared Rand)

Col. Randal K. Efferson, 187th Fighter Wing commander, presents a memorabilia shadow box to Lt. Gov. of Alabama Kay Ivey May 23, 2017, after Ivey signed eight military related bills at the Maxwell Club on Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Lt. Gov. of Alabama Kay Ivey places her hand over her heart amidst Alabama military leadership May 18, 2017, during the Governor's Luncheon at the Maxwell Club, on Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

An F-16 Fighting Falcon and P-51 Mustang practice for the Maxwell Airshow April 7, 2017, at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. (Courtesy photo by Thomas Meneguini)

Master Sgt. William Coulter receives the Governor's Award from Alabama Governor Kay Ivey during the Governor's Luncheon May 18, 2017, at the Maxwell Club on Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

The 187th Fighter Wing Honor Guard posts the colors May 25, 2017, during the annual Memorial Day Ceremony in the Dining Facility on Montgomery Regional Air National Guard Base, Ala.



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



**American
Red Cross**

187th Fighter Wing Annual Blood Drive

Dining Facility – Bldg. 1501

03 August 2017

1230 – 1630

Contact information: Capt Baldwin-Brown 334-394-7101
caroline.e.baldwinbrown.mil@mail.mil or Capt Rizzo, 394-
7560 sean.d.rizzo.mil@mail.mil

Please sign up on redcrossblood.org
'187thFighterWing' is our sponsor code

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS