



The Stinger

180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, Toledo, Ohio



On the Horizon



5-6 January
Master
Pays 15 Jan

2-3 February
Pays 13 Feb
SUTA February 23-24

8-9 March
Master
Pays 17 March

12-13 April
Pays 23 April
SUTA 19-20 April

3-4 May
Pays 13 May
SUTA 17-18 May

7-8 June
Master
Pays 18 June

12-13 July
Pays 23 July
SUTA 26-27 July

180th Cops play Santa for Swanton

by **Tech. Sgt. Annette R. Kornasiewicz, Public Affairs**

Brisk weather did not discourage several members of the 180th Security Forces Squadron who volunteered their time to support

our local community by giving out toys and distributing groceries at the food pantry in Swanton, Ohio, December 19, 2007. Tech. Sgt. Scott

See **SANTA**, Page 4



Photo by: Tech Sgt. Annette R. Kornasiewicz, Public Affairs

Mary R. Grimsley, right, chooses toys for her neices and nephew as Master Sgt. Richard Wamsley of the 180th Security Forces Squadron, left, and Tech. Sgt. Scott Batch, also an SFS member, middle, try to help her decide. Several SFS members volunteered December 19th, 2007 to distribute food and toys at the Swanton Christian Pantry.

What's Said

"Only our individual faith in freedom can keep us free."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

What's Inside

Retirement pay now tax exempt! See page 3 for more details.



What's Ahead

March UTA

8th - Duty day 1330-2200 hrs.
9th - Duty day 0900-1630 hrs.

“Commander's Comments”

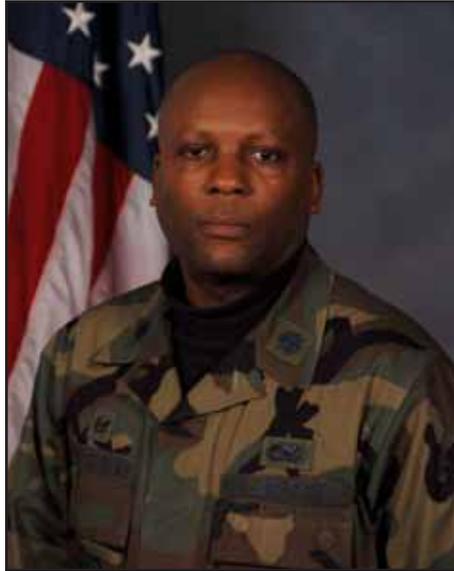
What's happening in Maintenance Group at the 180th

by Lt. Col. Lindsey Whitehead,
Deputy Commander, 180th
Maintenance Group

The 180th Maintenance Group successfully and safely completed yet another banner year in 2007. Since we are all so busy, I would like to spend a few minutes to highlight some of the great things that are going on in MXG. As most of you already know, the wing participated in Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotation 7/8, in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The pilots, maintainers and jets performed superbly. We flew 448 sorties for 1,861 flight hours over about a 40-day period and MXG had zero maintenance non-deliveries while deployed. However, having said that, our nation and state continue to demand the very best we have to offer, and the wing and in particular MXG continues to forge ahead with zeal.

Some time during the fall of this year, MXG along with the rest of the aviation package will be heading back to Iraq. Both Operations and Maintenance are starting their respective spin-up programs now and will “fine tune” their skills during the month of September in Alpena, Michigan. For the next several months, Maintainers and other support personnel will be working extended hours to help prepare and “gold plate” aircraft and equipment for the upcoming AEF deployment. MXG continues to lay the foundation for two highly anticipated mission/personnel changes.

As a result of the 2004 Base Realignment Closure Committee the 180th was selected to perform the Air Sovereignty Alert Mission. This mission consists of pilots, aircraft, maintainers and other support personnel being available 24/7 for any emergency that would require the employment of high performance fighter aircraft within the borders of the United States. It was developed under the auspice of Homeland



Lt. Col. Lindsey A. Whitehead
Deputy Commander
180th Maintenance Group

Security. The ASA Detachment is commanded by Lt. Col. Steve “Spock” Nordhaus and the Chief Enlisted Manager is Senior Master Sgt. William Gummow. We are tentatively scheduled to pick up the alert commitment from Selfridge Air National Guard Base later this summer.

As you may know by now, effective April 1, we are increasing the number of primary assigned aircraft. With this increase in aircraft, the MXG will “grow” about 18 full-time positions and about 104 traditional military positions.

Over the last several months, MXG has experienced some senior enlisted leadership changes as well as equipment upgrades for 2008. The on going 229 Engine conversion continues to be on track. The 229 engine is the engine of choice for our operators. The engine’s proven reliability and performance speaks for itself.

In March, 2006, we sent our first F-16 to be inducted into the Common Cockpit Configuration Program. This is a depot level avionics upgrade that reduces the number of installed avionics components

that could fail before, during or after flight.

These new components enhance the combat capability of our pilots by providing color displays in the cockpit, advanced flight instrumentation and line-of-sight information projected onto his/her helmet visor. All of these enhancements reduce the need for pilots to look down into the cockpit or waste movements attaining critical flight information during stressful training or combat sorties. We expect to have all the Stinger F-16’s modified by the end of 2009.

Starting mid-January 2008, we are upgrading nine of the CCIP jets with the ARC-210 radio upgrades. This field-level upgrade will be done in our hangar. The ARC-210 Radio streamlines the current radio structure in our Block 42 F-16’s, making them much more reliable and capable than the current multi-radio suite currently installed. These new radios have been combat proven, and have performed flawlessly for aircrews and maintainers. The enhanced capabilities of these radios will offer our pilots outstanding performance in the most demanding training and combat scenarios. Stinger F-16’s scheduled for the next AEF Cycle will be modified here at the 180th FW by early summer 2008.

Lastly, while these major events will keep us extremely busy, I know that the Maintenance Group, as well as the rest of the wing, will continue to raise the bar and set new standards by which true excellence can be measured. As we have done in previous years, the Stingers will face each challenge with professionalism, motivation and energy.

Thank you all for your commitment, loyalty and personal sacrifice as we press forward to win the war on terrorism, to develop and take care of our Airmen, and to recapitalize and modernize our force.

Tax exemption for military retirement pay signed into law

by **John W. McCance**
President, Air Force Association
State of Ohio

It is indeed an honor and pleasure to inform you that at noon, December 20, 2007, I had the opportunity to represent each member of the Air Force Association across Ohio as Governor Ted Strickland signed into law House Bill 372 that allows tax exemption of military retirement pay, along with other benefits.

This landmark legislation was championed by a by-partisan group of Ohio legislators from both the Senate and House of Representatives. Leading this effort was State Senator Larry Cates, Senator Steve Austria, Senator Ron Amstutz, Speaker of the House Jon Husted, Representative Ross McGregor, Representative Pete Ujvagi, and many others.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the entire Ohio General Assembly for their recognition of the importance of this legislation and the speed in which they moved it through both chambers and on to the governor. Governor Strickland is to be commended for his leadership, vision, and speed which he



demonstrated in signing it into law today.

Numerous organizations across Ohio joined with the Air Force Association in supporting and testifying on behalf of this bill. Significant leadership was provided by the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, among others.

Thanks also to those of you who reached out to your elected officials in support of this legislation. Your efforts paid off today and in the future for all Ohioans as we reap the benefits of keeping those military members, the best and brightest our nation has to offer, here in Ohio.

Promotions

Chief Master Sgt.
David W. Parker

Master Sgt.
John C. Deraedt
Norman J. Drzewiecki
Richard W. Snyder

Technical Sgt.
Jason P. Mims

Staff Sgt.
Richard E. Barrera
Brandon R. Bohland
Ryan A. Konopinski
Ian M. Manahan
Paul Stutzenstein

Senior Airman
Melissa A. Billau
Joshua D. Hartle
Maxx V. Parker
Christopher T. Ray
Madeline L. Ruyle
Ashley R. Zuchowski

Airman First Class
Jodi L. Joice



Gaston awarded HRA of 2007

Chief Wade L. Gaston, the Human Resource Advisor at the 180th Fighter Wing, was selected as the Human Resource Advisor of the Year, 2007, for the State of Ohio. He will now go on to compete on a national level for the Air National Guard distinction. Congratulations and good luck, Chief Gaston, from your Stinger Family!

A 180th THANKS!



The 180th would like to thank the folks at VFW Post 9716 of Streetsboro, Ohio who donated \$250 to the Minuteman Fund! Look for more fundraising opportunities in the coming year to help support our future retirees.

See **SANTA**, Page 1

Batch, SFS member and organizer of the first "Santa for Swanton," said he wanted to find a community close by, and one that perhaps was underserved, to help during the holidays.

"When I contacted Swanton Christian Pantry, they said we could definitely help their cause," said Batch.

Hundreds of toys were collected from unit members during the months prior to the holiday. The toys and cold weather clothes were given out to those Swanton residents eligible to receive goods from the pantry. Dan McQuaid, a lawyer in the area for many years, began the program out of his office in about 1985, he said. The cause provides potatoes, onions and other food staples to about 70-100 families monthly.

"It's great to have all the volunteers here today," said McQuaid. "This is really helping. I have people who can barely get here this year because of gas prices."



Photo by: Tech Sgt. Annette R. Kornasiewicz, Public Affairs

Volunteers from the 180th Security Forces passed out toys donated from unit members to those in need at the Swanton Christian Food Pantry December 19, 2007. Members are, from left, Tech. Sgt. Jason Klocinski, Master Sgt. Dwight Coffield, Master Sgt. Scott Bedee, Staff Sgt. Brett Lohman, Master Sgt. Eric Evans, Senior Airman Melanie Crouch, Tech. Sgt. Scott Batch, Master Sgt. Richard Wamsley, 1st Sgt. Joel Dauer, Maj. Steve Agard and Senior Airman Pete Cushman.

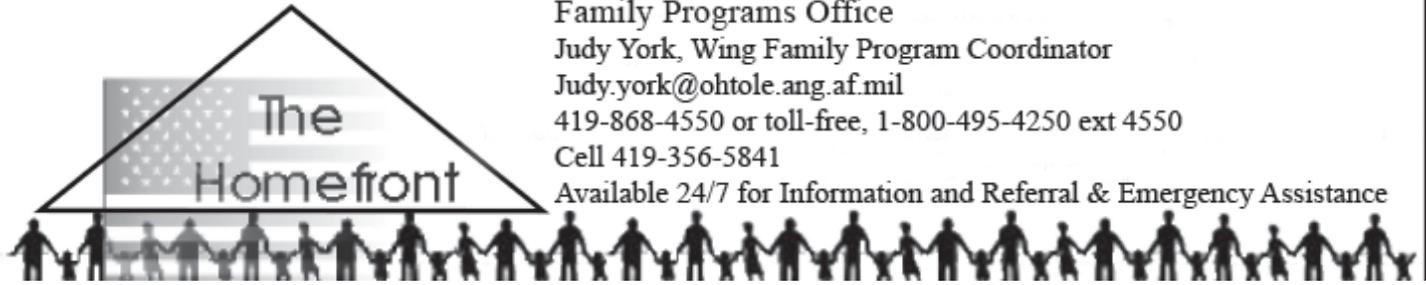
Officer Vacancies

<u>Job No.</u>	<u>Title of Position</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Closeout</u>	<u>Location</u>
180-07-18A	MEO	Civilian, Enlisted eligible for com.	11-Jan-08	Toledo
180-07-17A	Maint Ops Flight Commander	Captain to Major	3-Feb-08	Toledo
180-07-16A	Maintenance Office	Civilian, Enlisted eligible for com.	3-Feb-08	Toledo
180-07-15A	Main Gp Exec	Civilian, Enlisted eligible for com.	3-Feb-08	Toledo

Enlisted Vacancies

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>AFSC</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Open</u>	<u>Close</u>
CES	Readiness Supervisor	3E971	MSgt (Promotable SSgt may apply)		Until Filled
CES	Readinesses NCO	3E971	TSgt		Until Filled
FW	Financial Services	6F071	MSgt		14-Jan-08
AMXS	Acft Ord Sys Mech	2W171 (2)	MSgt		14-Jan-08
LRS	Supply Technician	2S071 (2)	MSgt		19-Feb-08
MXS	Power Supt Sys Mech	2A672	TSgt		19-Feb-08

POC/DSN MSgt Widener X 4070



Family Programs Office
 Judy York, Wing Family Program Coordinator
 Judy.york@ohtole.af.mil
 419-868-4550 or toll-free, 1-800-495-4250 ext 4550
 Cell 419-356-5841
 Available 24/7 for Information and Referral & Emergency Assistance



Santa visit a big success



180th FW children packed the Baker Building Thursday, December 6, in anticipation as they waited and hoped to see Santa Claus. This is an annual tradition at the 180th FW and this year was the biggest turnout yet with almost 400 adults and children. The employees of Flower Hospital provided supper while the children waited for Santa's arrival. Families boarded buses that took them to the hanger so everyone could see Santa arrive in an F-16 Fighter Jet. Each child then had the opportunity to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas and get their picture taken with him. Pictures are available in the Family Program Office if you did not pick them up at the party.

Thank you to everyone that made the party possible and a huge success. The Family Readiness Group volunteers did another outstanding job with the decorations, door prizes, crafts and food. Thanks to everyone in Vehicle Maintenance for arranging the bus transportation and to Maintenance Personnel and Operations for helping Santa arrive safely. Most of all, thank you Santa for taking time out of your busy schedule to bring smiles to the children of the 180th Fighter Wing.





Women's Basketball

OPERATION: MILITARY KIDS

Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008 at Noon
Ohio State vs. Wisconsin



Ready Families...Anytime, Anywhere!



All Ohio Military Service Members and their families receive \$4 tickets to the game when ordering in advance with the attached order form. All fans are required to have a ticket.

- Experience historic Ohio Stadium during a one hour **behind the scene tour** prior to the basketball game. See the 2006 Big Ten Football Champions locker room, press box, club level and much more. Use the order form to reserve your time by Friday, Jan. 4, 2008.
- Meet **Brutus the Buckeye** at the game.
- Shoot **postgame lay-ups** on the court.
- Meet Tamarrah Riley during a postgame **autograph session**. – Please one item only.
- Receive **FREE** parking.

For more information, call Sue Ann Carroll at 1-877-460-2177

Call **1-800-GO-BUCKS** or visit
ohiostatebuckeyes.com

Promotional codes are non-transferable and only intended for original recipient. Tickets are based on availability. Refunds or exchanges will not be issued. All groups are subject to NCAA bylaws.

THE PEOPLE. THE TRADITION. THE EXCELLENCE.



Ready Families... Anytime, Anywhere!



OPERATION: MILITARY KIDS Ticket Order Form

Why Preorder?

You can sit together with other military families and experience the Ohio Stadium tours and your tickets will be mailed right to your house.

You will receive an email one week prior to the game outlining the day's activities.

Name: _____

Unit: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Email: _____

Ohio Stadium Tour Time: 8:30 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 9 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m.
 (circle one) 10 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.

Branch: (circle one) Army Coast Guard Air Force Marine Navy

Military Status: (circle one) National Guard Reserves Active Duty

Deployment Status: (circle one) Predeployment Currently Deployed Postdeployment Not Deployed

Advance Order Deadline:

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008

Tickets will be held at will call for orders received after deadline.

Return Orders to:

AGOH-J1-FR

ATTN: Sue Ann Carroll

2825 West Dublin Granville Road

Columbus, Ohio 43235

Phone: 1-877-460-2177

Ticket Order Form				
Game #	Opponent	Game Date	Adult-\$4	Student-\$4
WB12	Wisconsin	Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008		
			x \$4	x \$4
			Subtotal	
			Grand total	\$

Payment Options	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Check (Payable to The Ohio State University)	

FOR OFFICE ONLY: Date Rec'd: _____ Status: _____ Date Notified: _____ Check #: _____
 Acct. # _____ By: _____ Date: _____



New Legislation Affects TRICARE Supplements

FALLS CHURCH, Va. - Many TRICARE beneficiaries are getting letters from their employer stating they will no longer offer TRICARE supplements as an employer sponsored medical option effective January 1, 2008.

To view the full release, please visit:

<http://www.tricare.mil/pressroom/news.aspx?fid=340>

Here are some frequently asked questions and further information about the new legislation:

1. Does TRICARE cover flu vaccines?

Yes. Each year TRICARE covers flu vaccines based on the current flu season guidelines published by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

TRICARE Prime Beneficiary:

As long as you get your flu vaccine from your primary care manager you won't be responsible for a deductible or copay. If you choose to get your flu vaccine from another TRICARE-authorized provider, you may be responsible for the Point of Service deductible (Individual \$300/Family \$600) and 50% cost share.

TRICARE Standard/Extra Beneficiary:

You may get your flu vaccine from any TRICARE-authorized provider (network or non-network) who is licensed to give the vaccine. Standard/Extra deductibles and cost shares apply.

TRICARE For Life Beneficiary:

Medicare will pay for the flu vaccine once every flu season. In some cases this may mean twice in one year. For example, if you received a vaccine in January 2007 for one flu season, you could get another flu vaccine in October 2007 for the current flu season

2. Update on Breast MRI Screening:

A very astute reader noted that in Change 62 to the TRICARE Policy Manual, the age for the MRI Breast Cancer screening for TRICARE Standard is for age 35 and older, while for TRICARE Prime screening is available at age 30 or older.

Why the difference?

The different age restrictions for Standard and Prime beneficiaries stipulated in TRICARE Policy Manual, Chapter 7, Sections 2.1 and 2.2 are correct. Due to current statutory and regulatory provisions, there are differences for TRICARE Standard and Prime Beneficiaries for preventive services, such as the breast MRI for breast cancer screening. 32 CFR 199.4(g)(37) limits breast cancer screening for asymptomatic high risk women to 35 years of age or older. This is the controlling regulatory provision for TRICARE Standard beneficiaries.

For TRICARE Prime beneficiaries, there are regulatory provisions, under 32 CFR 199.18(b)(3), which allow enhanced preventive care services under certain conditions. Under those provisions, TRICARE is able to expand the breast MRI screening for high risk women to Prime beneficiaries under age 35. This regulatory provision applies only to TRICARE Prime beneficiaries.



From TRICARE, Page 8

There is a rule making change in process to revise the regulation and remove this age restriction. However, revising the regulation requires a complex, lengthy and time consuming process and TMA felt it was better for our beneficiaries to have faster access to the breast MRI screening within the current regulatory provisions rather than wait for the completion of the rule making process and revision of the regulation. At such time as the regulation is revised, the TRICARE Policy Manual will also be revised.

3. Is Equine-Assisted Therapy covered?

Equine Assisted Therapy provides a metaphoric experience with horses to promote emotional growth. This experiential therapy which teaches people about themselves, allows recognition of dysfunctional patterns of behavior, and helps define healthy relationships. Though this therapy may currently be offered to service members at specific locations, it is not a TRICARE covered benefit, but a service coordinated activity. You must check with your specific service component to see if it is available for members at your location.

To view the full release, please visit:

<http://www.tricare.mil/1bcac3263827/1138/weekly-update.cfm> and see weekly update for October 9-19, 2007

4. Updates to Health Net Federal Services Provider Directory

Although TRICARE North Region network providers have the requirement to notify Health Net Federal Services of any changes to their demographic information, they often get caught up in the details of seeing patients, running their businesses and more. As a result, they sometimes forget to notify Health Net when changes occur. With over 100,000 providers in the network, some changes may not be reported or captured. Health Net would appreciate your assistance whenever possible.

How You Can Assist

When you discover a network provider directory record that is not accurate, please let us know as soon as possible. You can notify us:

1. Through your local TRICARE Service Center (TSC). If you are located near a TSC, contact the TSC Manager and inform him/her about the error.

OR

2. By e-mail to provrel@healthnet.com. Provide the provider name, specialty, address, city, state, zip and telephone number along with the change that needs to be made. Our Provider Network Management department will research and validate any necessary changes. Please provide your name and telephone number in the event clarification is required.

OR

3. By suggesting directory changes online at www.healthnetfederalservices.com. Select "Find A Provider" link under Popular Tasks on the beneficiary home page. Once you have located the provider listing, click on the provider name link. This will take you to the Provider Profile page where you can select the "Suggest Changes to This Provider" link.

The 180th Dining Out



**by Staff Sgt. Bruce Hedrick
Public Affairs**

The 180th Fighter Wing participated in a Dining Out ceremony on December 1st, 2007 at the Park Inn hotel. This has been the first such event on record for the unit since July 11th, 1997.

Guests were surprised at this event when Senior Airman Jacob H. Heilman, a Civil Engineering Firefighter Journeyman, asked for his girlfriend's hand in marriage. A Dining Out is a formal tradition that first began in the Air Force in the 1930's. It brings honored guests and military personnel alike together for an evening outside of the daily activities.

The next scheduled Dining Out is March 2009.



The Stinger

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Public Affairs Officers: Lt. Col. Thomas Gee and Capt. Katherine Cherolis

Editor: Tech. Sgt. Annette R. Kornasiewicz

Photos: 180th Public Affairs

Stinger Deadline

Deadline for the next Stinger is the Saturday of UTA @ 4 p.m. Hand deliver articles to the Public Affairs Office in Building 114 or e-mail: 180.stinger@ohtole.ang.af.mil. For more information call ext. 4014.



Photo by A1C Jodi Joice, Public Affairs

Ohio Army National Guard soldiers wait for their aircraft to take them to Fort Hood, Texas before deploying to Southwest Asia on January 5, 2008 at the 180th Air National Guard unit in Swanton, Ohio.

January 21st is Martin Luther King Day

Test you know of Martin Luther King, Jr., courtesy of www.cyberlearning-world.com.

1. In which city was Martin Luther King, Jr. born?
A. Atlanta
B. Albany
C. Austin
D. Annapolis
2. How old was King when he was assassinated?
A. 38
B. 39
C. 40
D. 42
3. What year was King assassinated?
A. 1978
B. 1968
C. 1958
D. 1959
4. In 1964 King won a prestigious prize. Which one was it?
A. Pulitzer Prize
B. Nobel Peace Prize
C. The Pulitzer Prize
D. The Congressional Medal of Honor
5. Whose techniques did King usually follow?
A. Mohandas K Gandhi
B. Malcolm X
C. Martin Luther King, Sr.
D. Abraham Lincoln
6. King led an important protest against what on April 3, 1968?
A. slavery
B. poverty
C. discrimination
D. starvation in India
7. What does SCLC stand for?
A. Southern Christian Leadership Council
B. Southern Committee for Lutheran Churches
C. South Carolina Literacy Committee
D. Southern Colored Likes Committee
8. What was the first Civil Rights action King was involved in?
A. March on Washington
B. "I Have A Dream" speech
C. Montgomery Bus Boycott
D. Leading a march against on Washington

Answers: 1. A, 2. B, 3.B, 4. B, 5.A, 6. B, 7. A, 8. C

**The Stinger Family will see you next
drill, UTA February 2-3 and SUTA
February 23-24**