

# THE STINGER

180TH FIGHTER WING, OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD, TOLEDO, OH

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2009

*Happy  
Holidays!*

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# COMANDER'S COMMENTS

## A STRANGE ANIMAL INDEED...

No, I'm not referring to a duck-billed platypus. I'm talking about the folks you see around the base wearing flight suits; the pilots. As the 20+ year old, politically incorrect cartoon shows, pilots have a tendency to be viewed quite differently depending on who you are and where you work. I'd like to share some factual information about the pilots without invoking the "10% truth law" and I'd like to touch on the importance of teamwork.

It takes about three years from the time someone starts the pilot training process until they return to the 180FW as a qualified, F-16 wingman. The journey starts with getting commissioned at the Academy of Military Science, then over a year at undergraduate pilot training, introduction to fighter fundamentals, land survival, water survival and finally a seven-plus month F-16 school. Once the new pilot returns to the 180th, there is an intensive mission qualification training program and then they're qualified to deploy, but just as a wingman. We usually fly in groups of two or four jets, and each pilot must accumulate at least 300 hours before they're eligible to upgrade to flight lead; it takes 500 hours minimum before they can qualify for an upgrade to become an instructor. Those are just a few of the common upgrades; the list goes on with functional check flight pilots, stan/eval flight examiners, mission commanders, etc... The upgrades and learning never stop.

How often are we required to fly? Inexperienced pilots, those with less than 500 hours, are required to fly a minimum of eight sorties each month; experienced pilots need at least six. That holds true for both our full-time force and the traditional guardsmen. Each flight usually lasts around one-half hours. Mission planning and a flight briefing precede each sortie and begin nearly three hours prior



**Col. Keith "Shadow" Newell  
Operations Group Commander**

to takeoff. After the flight we debrief to discuss how things went. Add it all up and it takes about six hours from start to finish or nearly 50 hours of time per month for the inexperienced aviator. Remember those are the minimum requirements. For the traditional guardsmen, you can appreciate trying to juggle your primary job in order to be able to make drills and deployments; the traditional pilot juggles well over a weeks worth of duty at the base each month.

The pilots are only one part of a very big team and you might be wondering how you fit it. I can tell you that we are all like pieces in a big machine; break one part and the machine typically ceases to run properly. Here are a few detailed examples of how your shops help to make the mission a success:

**Security folks** – it wouldn't do me much good to show up at work to find out someone stole all the jets, or worse yet, they wound up with red stars on the tail. **CE** – we couldn't taxi very far without properly maintained surfaces and snow removal. **POL** – no gas equals no go. **Ammo and Weapons** – It'd be

a shame to fly all that distance and not deliver the goods! **Finance** – it's always good to get a paycheck for an honest day's work. **Personnel** – promotion's help with morale and getting the job done. **Engine shop** – Give us more thrust!!! Fire department – we hope to never meet you, but sure appreciate your services! **Crew dawgs** – the life blood of getting that jet ready to go. **Services** – can't do much good on an empty stomach and no sleep. **Comm** – can't get very far in today's world without computers and connectivity. **All of maintenance collectively** – you folks know code three jets don't fly very far; thanks for keeping them healthy!

I didn't have enough room to list everyone, but can tell you that you're all important. Just as in any machine, if one part starts to go bad, it often ruins other pieces; your role in making the mission happen is critical. Thanks for being an integral part on our challenging 180FW team.

In closing, for all who have deployed or still have loved ones deployed in harms way, and to all those who support the mission from back here, thanks for your time, service, and patriotism. Shadow

### PROMOTIONS

#### **Tech. Sgt.**

John E. Lynn, MDG  
Richard L. Maneval, FW

#### **Staff Sgt.**

Justin R. Kuhlman, CF  
Adam T. Glore, MXS  
Ashley M. Westbury, MXS  
Brandon R. Tucker, LGRS

#### **Senior Airman**

Ashley A. Bowerman, MOF

# BEST-OF-THE BEST ANNOUNCED

By Lt. Col. Thomas Gee

Public Affairs

The annual 2008 180th Fighter Wing "Airman of the Year" competition was recently held with the winners announced over the November Unit Training Assembly. The various Airman, Non Commissioned Officer, Senior Non Commissioned Officer and First Sergeant of the Year selection Boards chose Senior Airman Paul Dangelo for "Airman of the Year," Technical Sergeant Janeen Przysiecki for "Non Commissioned Officer of the Year," Senior Master Sergeant Robert Siebenaler for "Senior Non Commissioned Officer of the Year," and Master Sergeant John Gibson for "First Sergeant of the Year". Our 180th winners will now compete with the Airman of the Year winners from Ohio's other units for state honors and will also be recognized at the upcoming unit Dining Out in March 2009.



**Airman of the Year  
Senior Airman Paul Dangelo**

Airman of the Year winner Senior Airman Paul Dangelo (pictured above), an Operations Intelligence Journeyman in the Operations Group has been with the unit since 2005. Dangelo volunteered for a six-month deployment

to Iraq when the 180th received a National Guard Bureau tasking to support Army Operations. Dangelo was assigned to the Sunni Engagement team at Camp Slayer, Baghdad, Iraq. During the deployment, Dangelo produced daily intelligence documents that were provided directly to the Commanding General in Iraq, General David Petraeus. These products assisted greatly in decision-making and provided key



**NCO of the Year  
Tech. Sgt. Janeen Przysiecki**

battle situation awareness. He was also responsible for arranging all combat transportation to include convoy and helicopter air travel for his team of 40 Joint Coalition military and Senior Executive civilian personnel. Due to his outstanding efforts, Dangelo was selected for the Join Service Achievement Medal for exceptional meritorious achievement. He recently completed In-Residence Airman Leadership School where he earned the highest academic average in the flight and also led a fundraising effort earning over \$3,000 to establish a trust fund for a child of a fallen Marine. Dangelo currently resides in Columbus, Ohio and is a full-time student at The Ohio State University.

NCO of the Year Winner



**Senior NCO of the Year  
Senior Master Sgt.  
Robert Siebenaler**

Tech. Sgt. Janeen Przysiecki (pictured to the left), a Medical Services Craftsman in the 112th Fighter Squadron, has been with the unit since 1997. Przysiecki participated in several deployments this past year including a Life Flight Conference to improve her skills as an



**First Sgt. of the Year  
Master Sgt. John Gibson**

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# THE FORGOTTEN 500

## WWII VETERAN, ARTHUR "JIBBY" JIBILIAN HONORED

**By Capt. Katherine Cherolis**  
Public Affairs

The Forgotten 500, sounds like a great title for a movie, but it is actually the title of a book by Gregory Freeman, that includes a story about the largest rescue ever of downed American airmen. On Sunday, Dec. 7, Arthur "Jibby" Jibilian was honored for his participation in this effort.

Operation Halyard took place in 1944 with the purpose of rescuing airmen who had been shot down while making bombing runs on the Romanian oil fields in Ploesti.

More than 500 U.S. airmen were rescued, along with some from other countries, all right under the noses of the Germans, and mostly in broad daylight. These agents joined with Yugoslav guerilla leader Gen. Draza Mihailovich to airlift 513 men from a makeshift runway carved on a hilltop. American C-47 aircraft landed on the runway and successfully rescued all of the downed airmen.

Jibby, a Navy Radioman, was recruited by the Office of Strategic Services to join a handful of agents who parachuted into Nazi occupied Yugoslavia in order to plan this escape.

The Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 582, lead by William David and Brian McMahon, contacted the 180th about hosting an event to honor this WW II hero.

Guest and presenters included, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Congressman Robert Latta, Ohio Senator's Teresa Fedor and Mark Wagoner, Maj. Gen. Harry Feucht, Assistant to The Adjutant General for Air, and Col. Mark Bartman, 180th Fighter Wing Commander. Each presented Jibby with various honors and recognition for his contribution to the rescue.



Photo by Senior Airman Jodi JoiceLeininger, Public Affairs

**Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur presents Arthur "Jibby" Jibilian with a framed picture of the World War II monument in Washington D.C. in recognition of his service during WWII.**

Highlights included Congressman Latta presenting Jibby with a congressional proclamation recognizing him for his actions in connection with the little known WWII event. Maj. Gen. Feucht honored Jibby by presenting him with an honorary Buckeye commission as a Colonel in the Ohio militia.

Jibilian is a Toledo native and currently resides in Fremont with his wife Jo. He is trying to ensure that this story is told and that the Serbian people who provided food and shelter to American and allied aircrews, at risk of their own lives, are recognized for their sacrifice.

Little is known about this rescue due to politics in Yugoslavia, which became a communist state modeled after the Soviet Union and run by Josip Broz Tito. Gen. Mihailovich and his Chetniks, who supported the abdicated Serbian monarchy, were the archrivals of Tito and his Partisans. Influenced by communists who said that Gen. Mihailovich was a Nazi collaborator, the British and Americans sided with Tito and withdrew support for Gen. Mihailovich, according to Freeman, author of the Forgotten 500.

This ceremony not only honored Jibby but also brought more attention to this forgotten mission. It reminded all present of the sacrifice made by fellow Americans and their allies.

As Senator Wagoner said of Jibby, he reminds us that hero's walk amongst us everyday.

**Pictured left, Col. Mark Bartman, 180th Fighter Wing Commander, presents Arthur "Jibby" Jibilian with a framed picture of the 180th F-16 Fighting Falcon. (Photo by Senior Airman Jodi Leininger, Public Affairs)**



# Be prepared!

**By Lt. Col. Thomas Gee**

Public Affairs

A celebration of both continuity and change was held in the Mission Support Flight, Saturday, December 6. The MSF said goodbye to retiring Commander, Lt. Col. MaryThom Williams, and welcomed incoming Commander, Lt. Col. Christy Rowzee, as a part of the official Change of Ceremony during the December Unit Training Assembly. All MSF personnel were on hand to witness this rare and riveting military tradition. The Change of Command from Williams to Rowzee is believed to be one of the first female-to-female personnel Command changes in the State of Ohio.

Col. Nancy August, Mission Support Group Commander and a member of the official party, took the opportunity to thank Williams for her 30 years of dedicated

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*Photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Williams, Public Affairs*

**Lt. Col. MaryThom Williams, pictured right, retiring Mission Support Flight Command, performs the change of command with Lt. Col. Christy Rowzee, formerly the Personnel Readiness Officer, Dec. 7.**

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## **From BEST, pg. 3**

Emergency Medical Technician. She participated in the Small Portable Expeditionary Aero Medical Rapid Response (SPEAR) at the Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus, Ohio, where she trained to become a fully functional Rescue, Decon, and Triage area team member. She deployed to Oklahoma for Advanced International Group sharpening her skills for natural disasters and to Puerto Rico where she assisted in real world minor surgeries, casting and stabilization of trauma victims. She also deployed to the Owens Homeland Security Site where she was recognized and “coined” by General Matthew Kambic, Assistant Adjutant General for Army, Ohio. Przysiecki helped with Operation Phone Card, a program designed to send out over 250 phone cards to service men and women overseas. She is a member of the VFW and is employed full-time at Jobst Vascular Center, Toledo, Ohio, where she functions as a Research Coordinator.

Senior NCO of the Year winner Senior Master Sgt. Robert Siebenaler, a Fire Protection – Military Fire Chief in the Civil Engineering Squadron, has been with the unit since 1992. Siebenaler made several significant contributions as a member of the 180th Fighter Wing. He led the design of a \$500K fire station relocation project at Sather Air Base, Iraq which received favorable comments by the base leadership. He was also instrumental to the Camp Stryker Fire Department’s UH-60 ARFF Training program ensuring mission capability of the department’s resources. Siebenaler was a key contributor to the Fire Muster/CE Rodeo event which was a huge success. He successfully completed all nine Fire Protection Skill level courses in a very short period time thus elevating the Squadron’s readiness level. He is a mentor at all levels in the CES and has established a team atmosphere in several areas including Fire Protection, as well as non-military and military employee relations and morale. Siebenaler is involved in several organizations including the unit’s “Top 3,” the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and the Ohio National Guard Association. He is President of the Edgerton, Ohio Park Board, actively involved with the Toledo Firefighter’s Local 92 charities and is a volunteer Paramedic for the Northwest Ohio Special Olympics. Siebenaler lives in Edgerton, Ohio and is employed full-time as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the Toledo Department of Fire and Rescue Operations.

First Sergeant of the Year winner Master Sgt. John Gibson from the Fighter Wing section has been with the unit since 1981. Gibson developed and enhanced several programs benefiting 180th members. He refined and improved the current “Family Care Program” sending Caregiver Acknowledgement Letters to identified individuals ensuring they understood the program and their responsibilities. Gibson organized a list of “Local Professionals” who were willing to perform their services at reduced rates for deployed members and their families during the 2008 Aerospace Expeditionary Force Deployment. He worked with Unit Career Advisors and the Retention Office Manager to improve the current “Performance Feedback Program” for Fighter Wing and Operations Group Enlisted force to include vital “retention type” questions used to gap the (6-year) span and provide insight into members separating from the unit. He reinstated the “Diamond Sharp Award” program to recognize those enlisted members who demonstrated exceptional adherence to the Air Force Core Values awarding them with a Certificate, 1st Sergeant Coin and “Shirt Gibby” Coffee Mug. Gibson recently completed the Senior Non-commissioned Officer Professional Military Education (Course 12) program and broadened his professional military education by attending the Annual Senior Leadership and 2008 Professional Airman’s Development conferences. He is the President of the First Sergeant Council, active member of the “Top 3” Council and assists with the Enlisted Field Advisory Council. A resident of Swanton, Ohio, Gibson works full-time as a Federal Technician at the 180th.

Congratulations to all unit members who were nominated for the Airman of the Year honors and good luck to our winners in the State of Ohio competition.

# FITNESS; COMING OF AGE

**By Tech. Sgt. David M. Thomas**

UFFPM, 180th MDG

Inspiring, motivating and surprising, that is what I found the 180th Medical Group's 2008 fitness testing to be. As the fitness monitor for my unit I am expected to be a leader and an example to my fellow Airman. To show the standard with my own fitness and motivate others to do the same but this year I am proud to have had the tables turned on me! I am amazed at how far this group has come as we move forward to comply with the needs of the Air Force and the Air National Guard. When I joined this unit in 1998 the fitness requirements were meek and a large portion of the Medical Group found themselves dreading that "grueling" three-mile walk once a year. There were those of us who ran the mile and a half, of course, some of us passing with ease, still others feeling like they weren't going to make it through the pain of the next week and must at least consider joining the walkers next year. Then the guard gave us the step test and FITNESS AGE. It was my first assignment as fitness monitor and though it was an exponentially easier and safer judge for the fitness of guard members it revealed some disturbing truths and I believe an utter wakeup call for many. As young Airmen in their twenties began to see scores that described them as members in their forties and fifties and those in their thirties and forties found out that according to the test they were sometimes beyond retirement age, a grumbling was heard. There was shock and disbelief on the surface, and even some of the leadership was quick to deny the validity and assure the masses that it was temporary and would not last. I, of course, believed. I was a 35 year old man with a fitness age of 19, I was sold.

As the Air Force stepped up on fitness for its Airmen the guard followed suit and true to the predictions of some, Fitness Age was short lived, but gave way to more demanding criteria to insure that Airmen would be better prepared to deploy and be fit enough to

serve. Some retired, some separated, but a good number endured and have come to be inspiring. A top three enlisted member in my unit went from passing the three-mile walk to a failing as 54 year old fitness age and then a failing 69.6 fitness score in the first year of the new program, only to grow and earn an excellent 93.55 in 2008. That's a leader. Another member went from a failing score in 2007, surviving a serious medical condition in between to performing well enough to rate a high 82.95 in 2008. That's an inspiration. I saw Airmen who were at one time not able to complete the test in the past, come across the line with the group, and young men and women, who I used to cruise by, leave me behind. I was awed by new members who chose to test on their first drill weekend as opposed to the old climate of finding any excuse to put it off. My unit has gone from having one or two excellent scores in the infancy of this program to enjoying a hearty nine this year and the Airmen who have scored an excellent in my unit represent various age groups. They are not only the rare, extremely fit middle agers and very young athletes; they are the average guard doing what all guard members should, which is striving for "Excellence in all we do." I am now 42, but still in good shape by most people's standards. I have never failed my fitness test and have indeed always scored well, but I hate to run and find that I have not been able to break into the rank of the excellent, to include this year when I scored an 89.

Last year I had decided that an excellent was not within my grasp, I just couldn't run fast enough and every other assessment category I was already maxing out. After this year, there is no way I am going to settle for that. I want to be a part of that group from my unit, the leaders who pushed themselves and attained a new personal best. This is one of the great things the Air National Guard has to offer, a requirement to improve your health, for the good of the guard and the good of yourself.

## **From BE, pg. 5**

service. "Lt. Col. Williams was an excellent example of leadership that we have in the Air National Guard today," said August. "I commend you for the excellent job you did and you can stand proud today."

Rowzee, who was the Personnel Readiness Officer at the 180th prior to her selection as new MSF Commander, addressed the personnel after she assumed command of the flight. "I am honored to be given the opportunity to try and pick up where Lt. Col. Williams is leaving off," said Rowzee. "As she turns over the Command, she leaves behind her a legacy of service, dedication and success that I hope to emulate."

After the Change of Command ceremony, MSF honored Williams with several retirement awards. She was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal, First Oak Leaf Cluster, a retirement certificate, Minuteman Trophy and United States Flag.

Williams, whose military career began in 1978, reflected on her time and service as she addressed the MSF one last time with her comments stressing the critical importance of "being prepared". "If I can give you any words of advice it is to be prepared," said Williams. "Be prepared for the sense of pride and camaraderie that underlies everything you do, for the respect of your peers, your family and your community for what you do every time you put on the uniform," said Williams.

"As I say farewell to you all today, please remember and never forget no matter where my travels lead me I will always be an American Airman."

Congratulations to Lt. Col. MaryThom Williams for a long and distinguished career and best wishes to Lt. Col. Christy Rowzee as she assumes Command of the Mission Support Flight.

# FIRST FOR 180TH FIGHTER WING

## 180TH SFS MEMBERS AWARDED THE COMBAT ACTION MEDAL



Tech. Sgt Darling, Staff Sgt. Parris and Staff Sgt. Roberts (pictured left) were awarded the Combat Action Medal. They are the first recipients to receive this honor at the 180th FW. There are three others who have citations pending. Sgt.'s Darling, Parris and Roberts earned this award while deployed with nine other 180th FW SFS members to Mosul, Iraq, January 2006. Members performed over 128 security missions including combat, small arms attacks, RPG attack, IED attacks and traveled over 2500 miles in Iraq. The 180th SFS expertise and leadership lead to the graduation of more than 1000 Iraqi Police Cadets. **(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Holliker, PA)**

## Government travel card: Welcome to the Citibank era!

**By Lt. Col. Robert Michalak**

180th Finance Comptroller

The moment has arrived. Effective this Nov. 30, 2008, Citibank is now the new provider for the Government Travel Card. Bank of America cards are not be used any longer. It is encouraged that everyone review the Government Travel Card Folder available on the 180th FW Financial Management CoP for current pre-populated forms, checklists, card delivery status and a host of other documents. You can access all of this by selecting either <https://km.saffm.hq.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=OO-FM-MJ-21> or <https://wwwd.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=OO-FM-MJ-21>. From there, go to the Government Travel Card Folder and hunt for the desired document. If the Card Deliver Status file shows your name and says "Sent" but you have not received the Citi Card, you must complete sections I and III of the Citibank Undeliverable Form and submit to Lt. Col. Robert D. Michalak for further action.

The application on the Citi website is current, but does not contain the pre-populated information that is on the 180th FM CoP. Please do not use the application on the Citi website. All applications need to be completed electronically, then printed out to obtain signatures and submit all three documents (application, CBT Completion, Statement of Understanding) to the AOPC for further processing. The AOPC for this installation is Lt. Col. Robert D. Michalak. 555th members can also submit to MSgt Stan George if desired. Repeat, three documents with signatures are required in order to process a new application. (This is the same procedure as before, just a different application). Excess blank stock should not be printed for future use, as the applications may change and older versions are not accepted. The CoP will always contain the most current version.

Electronic processing of the application will be used. Upon receipt of the three completed documents, the AOPC will input your name and the email you included on your application (if not fulltime, use a readily accessible email address) into the Citi Card Management System. From then on, both the member and the supervisor input information for the new account and receive emails as to how to proceed with completing the application. Electronic applications should eliminate the excessive processing time as well as illegibility of the written information.

Upon receipt of the member's first bill, the member can establish their own account in the Card Management System (more info. to come) which will allow them the ability to view transactions, bills, statements, change profile information, make payments and more.

Units desiring to establish unit level AOPCs (Agency Program Coordinators) may do so. Please contact Lt. Col. Robert D. Michalak.

**VACANCIES**

Please see the Air Force Portal for vacancies, <https://www.my.af.mil>.

# 180TH

Fighter Wing

Upcoming

Events

## 180th Fighter Wing Dining Out March 21, 2009

Holiday Inn French Quarter,  
Perrysburg

Tickets on sale September to  
January 2009 for members.

Families are encouraged to  
bring their children and spend  
the night. Baby-sitting services  
will be provided during the  
meal and ceremony.

Staff Sgt. and below - \$25  
Tech. Sgt. to Senior Master Sgt.  
and Lt. to Capt. - \$35  
Chief Master Sgt., Majors and  
above - \$50

## 10 quick facts: the new post 911 G.I. bill

1. The Montgomery GI Bill is not going away and the rules governing MGIB have not been changed.
2. If you left active duty anytime before September 11, 2001, your GI Bill benefits have not been changed and you do not qualify for the Post 911 GI Bill.
3. The new Post 911 GI Bill does not go into effect until August 1, 2009. Any classes taken before that date will be paid under the MGIB payment plan.
4. The New Post 911 GI Bill is NOT retroactive. It will only cover courses taken after July 31, 2009.
5. Using the MGIB now will not disqualify you from switching to the Post 911 GI Bill later.
6. If you elect to switch to the new Post 911 GI Bill, your remaining months of MGIB benefits will be switched to the new program.
7. Once you switch to the new Post 911 GI Bill you cannot switch back.
8. The ability to transfer your MGIB benefits has not changed.
9. Several factors determine how much of a benefit you will receive from the VA under the Post 911 GI Bill.
10. The Post 911 GI Bill housing stipend is only payable to veterans and members of the Guard and Reserve who are taking classes on campus and are considered by the school to be three-quarter or full-time students. Remember, only the Dept. of Veterans Affairs can answer your person and specific benefit questions. Call them at 1-888-GIBILL-1 if you have questions about your GI Bill eligibility. Please visit <http://military-education.military.com/2008/09/10-quick-facts.html> for the full article.

## "Tie One on for Safety" Campaign

This is the 22nd year for the holiday ribbon campaign which encourages motorists to tie the MADD ribbon to their vehicles as a pledge to be safe on the roadways. The campaign also reminds drivers to buckle up, because a seatbelt is the best defense against a drunk driver. According to ODPS crash statistics, 473 Ohioans were killed in alcohol-related crashes in 2007. Of those crashes, 37 of the fatalities occurred between Thanksgiving and New Years. Of those killed in car crashes in 2007, 482 were not wearing their seatbelts. Please be responsible, if drinking designate a driver and always wear your seat belt!

# STINGER

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### DEADLINE

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

### COMMAND

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**Vice Commander**  
Lt. Col. Edgar Thompson

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To the family of...