

THE

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STINGER

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On The Cover



Spouses of military members at the 180th Fighter Wing were given the rare opportunity to take a ride on a KC-135 Stratotanker and watch F-16 Fighting Falcons being refueled mid-air on July 12, 2015 in Swanton, Ohio.

Military members depend on their families for support that is critical to the success of the mission. The “Spouse Lift” was a fantastic chance for 180th Airmen to give a little something back. (Ohio Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Nic Kuetemeyer/Released)

STINGER

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DEADLINE

Deadline for the next Stinger is the Wed. prior to the UTA @ 3 p.m. Hand deliver articles to the Public Affairs Office in Building 114 or e-mail: 180.stinger@ang.af.mil. For more information call ext. 4072 during the UTA.

ABOUT THE STINGER

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS:

RECREATIONAL SAFETY HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH OUR MISSION

A TRAGIC 12 MONTHS FOR THE ANG

I had the honor of being the 112th Air Expeditionary Force Commander for our last deployment in 2013. I had two basic goals; be ready to execute the mission to highest standards and get every Airman back safely to their families.

Over the past, year we have seen an alarming and tragic trend during Air National Guard Theater Security Package Temporary Duty Assignments. We lost four Airmen to non- work, non-vehicle related recreational accidents. Three drownings and one fall with alcohol as a contributing factor.

Our upcoming TSP is scheduled for three months in the Pacific theater. Unlike our Aerospace Expeditionary Force Deployments of the past decade, TSPs should afford Airmen more

freedom to travel around host countries, and more free time to explore and enjoy recreational opportunities. This opens us up to risks not normally associated with a contingency deployment. Of note, there have been zero combat or peacetime on-duty ANG fatalities in 2015, and we have Airmen deployed throughout the globe.

EERILY SIMILAR TO MY OWN EXPERIENCES

Two of the ANG Airmen who lost their lives during a recent TSP drowned off a rocky shoreline in Okinawa Japan. One Airman was swept off by a huge wave and struggled to get to shore, the other attempted a rescue only to find himself pulled off shore as well. Water rescue experts will tell you that unless you have proper training, attempts to save a drowning victim frequently results in a double drowning.

I have two life experiences eerily similar, one growing up on the shores of Lake Erie, and one TDY to Hawaii in the late 90s.

In my home town of Huron Ohio my friends and I frequently swam at a local sandy beach. Just east of the beach was a man-made rocky shoreline. To us, the bigger the waves the better, we loved swimming the surf and tried to catch waves, bodysurfing our way back to the sand. On one particularly rough day, we were swimming and didn't notice the under currents slowly pulling us closer to the rocky shoreline. After surfing my



Col. Christopher Belli
180th Fighter Wing
Operations Group Commander

way up to the beach I turned around and noticed my friend struggling to swim back to the sandy area. He was getting precariously close to the rocks. Thinking I could help, I jumped in and swam over to him only to discover I too was caught in the undertow. We quickly realized we weren't able to swim our way out of the mess and resorted to washing up onto the rocks. Bruised and battered we crawled up the rocks with a healthy new respect for the power of waves.

Sadly in 2002 not long after our perilous event, four men jumped in the water trying to rescue a woman in a similar circumstance. Ironically, the woman was rescued by fire firefighters but all four men drowned, pulled out into the lake by the undertow.

A second memorable day occurred on my first Century Aloha Exercise in

Hawaii in 1998 after three fellow pilots and I decided we knew how to surf after taking lessons on Waikiki beach on Oahu. After mastering Waikiki, or at least thinking we did, we borrowed some boards from a local friend and proceeded to a North Shore beach near the famous Banzai Pipeline. Remembering my experience from home I was the only one to opt out of this extremely bad idea. The waves were huge! Trying to be a good wingman, I divulged my concerns only to be hit with a barrage insults. I watched as the three struggled to paddle out past the surf and attempt to set up for some rides. Standing there with nothing to do I decided to try and bodysurf. I didn't get much past waist deep before I realized insults or not, I correctly assessed the conditions as I got crushed like an empty can back onto the beach. I spent the next 20 minutes looking out across the surf for my buddies now nowhere to be seen.

As I watched the enormous waves continue to roll in, I became more and more concerned. Still not finding my friends I stood and turned to alert the lifeguards only to see them jumping on 4-wheelers and head down the beach. They rode over a quarter mile stopping to pick up surf boards. I then saw them conversing with three silhouettes who had just drug themselves from the water. In as little as 20 minutes my fellow Airmen had managed to drift uncontrollably almost out of sight. I thought I lost some friends that day, fortunately this day ended in a good story instead of a tragedy.

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“I spent the next 20 minutes looking out across the surf for my buddies now nowhere to be seen. As I watched the enormous waves continue to roll in, I became more and more concerned.”

GLOBEMASTER

STINGERS TRAIN TO IMPROVE DEPLOYMENT
CAPABILITIES ON THE C-17



A C-17 Globemaster III sits on the runway at the 180th Fighter Wing in Swanton, Ohio during a joint C-17 deployment training exercise June 6, 2015.

Photos & Story
By Staff Sgt. Shane Hughes

Airmen from the 180th Fighter Wing participated in a joint, multi-unit C-17 Globemaster III training exercise that took place over six days, from June 3 to June 8.

The training provided Airmen with an opportunity to practice realistic scenarios with other military units and civil authorities as a way to help build strong working relationships and improve deployment capabilities. Members of the Ohio Air National Guard, the U.S. Air Force Reserves, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, Ohio Red Cross, Ohio Disaster Medical Assistance Team and U.S. Customs and Border Protection participated in the training.

During the event, Airmen learned about the proper preparation and loading of a C-17. The training covered a wide range of topics including vehicle preparation, pallet building, winching, chain restraint procedures, trailer uploads and heavy equipment uploads.

“Most of our Airmen have never seen any of the heavy equipment they’re training on,” said Master Sgt. Craig Essert, the load trainer noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 89th Airlift Squadron at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. “They’ll be much better

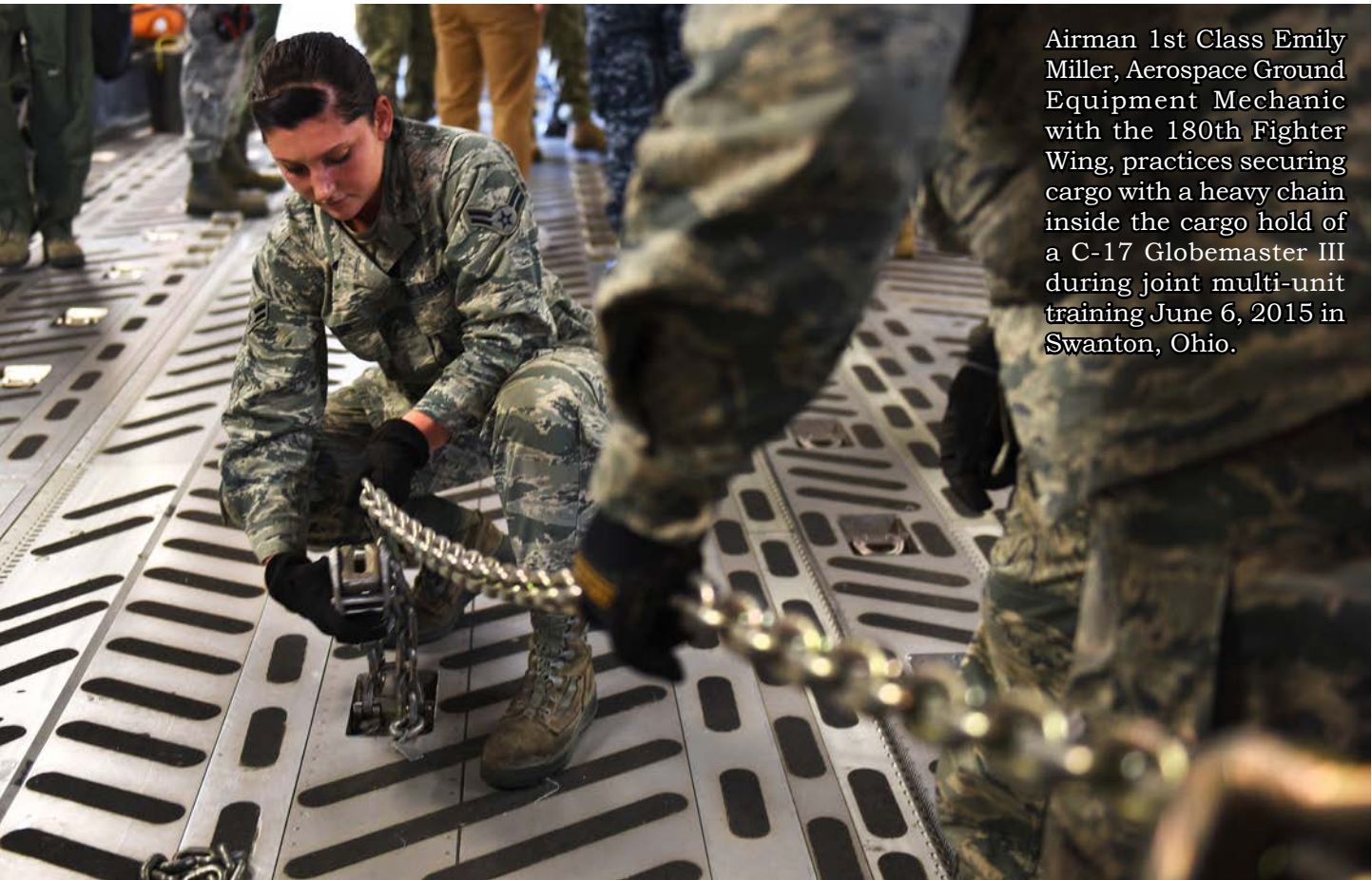
prepared if they have to do this during a deployment, which helps them be more efficient and reduces the risk of damaging any gear or the aircraft in the process.”

The training also incorporated aeromedical evacuation procedures including loading and unloading patients and in-flight emergency medical response, such as resuscitating a simulated patient experiencing cardiac arrest while flying.

“This was a great opportunity for our Airmen to build teamwork and relationships with people from other organizations we don’t normally train with,” said Master Sgt. Rob Garcia, a load instructor with the 89th Airlift Squadron. “It will really help us be more effective if we need to work with other agencies in the future.”

“This was a great event that demonstrated a joint effort, highlighting Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, government agencies and community partners, working and training together to become better and more efficient at what they do,” said Lt. Col. Steven Agard, commander of the 180th Fighter Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron. “Outstanding training was provided and everyone learned and improved.”

(From left) Tech. Sgt. Justin Brothers, Master Sgt. Caroline Sussman, and Master Sgt. Kelly Earehart wait to offload cargo onto a forklift during joint multi-unit C-17 Globemaster III deployment training exercises June 6, 2016 at the 180th Fighter Wing in Swanton, Ohio. The exercises provided training on the proper handling and placement capabilities of deployable assets to Airmen of all ranks.



Airman 1st Class Emily Miller, Aerospace Ground Equipment Mechanic with the 180th Fighter Wing, practices securing cargo with a heavy chain inside the cargo hold of a C-17 Globemaster III during joint multi-unit training June 6, 2015 in Swanton, Ohio.



Airmen from the 89th Airlift Squadron direct a forklift during joint multi-unit C-17 Globemaster III deployment training exercises June 6, 2016 at the 180th Fighter Wing in Swanton, Ohio.

MEDICAL CORNER: WATER QUALITY

BY LT. COL. THOMAS SODEMAN, 180TH MEDICAL GROUP

With the return of warm weather it’s once again time to mention water quality in the Toledo metropolitan area. As you most likely know, Lake Erie is in the middle of its usual algae bloom, and the city of Toledo has been monitoring the lake water for the presence of microcystin, which as you recall led to a ‘do not drink’ order last year. So far even though microcystin has been detected in the water, it has not yet risen to the level that would trigger another alert. The hope is it will not rise to this level, but the algae is wily and unpredictable regarding toxin production.

Regarding the toxin itself, the worry is not that drinking the water will lead to poisonings and death. There is no way you could drink enough water, even at the height of a contamination alert, that it would be enough to kill you. The concern is more regarding what the long-term effects of exposure to microcystin would be. The short answer is we don’t know what the effects would be, but it may be prudent when the levels rise to avoid drinking the water.

Microcystin can kill, but this is usually livestock drinking water heavily contaminated with the algae, or dogs eating dried algae at a contaminated lakeshore. The only humans who have been killed were in Brazil, when kidney dialysis patients were treated using machines that were heavily contaminated with microcystin. The important lesson from this is to watch your dogs closely if you go to the Lake Erie shore.

On another note, you may have seen articles in the news regarding contaminated cilantro from Mexico. If you are like me, you enjoy cilantro in a variety of dishes.

The cilantro in question has been contaminated with a microscopic parasite called Cyclospora.

In healthy people this poses little risk of death, however it does pose a risk of diarrhea, especially in people who have compromised immune systems. Washing cilantro will not remove the parasite, however cooking it will render it harmless. The Center for Disease Control has excellent information on Cyclospora. And the Food and Drug Administration has material pertaining to this current outbreak.

http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/resources/pdf/cyclosporiasis_general-public_061214.pdf

http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cms_ia/importalert_1148.html

Despite how things sound, these are both manageable issues. The state and city have marshaled resources to deal with the water supply, and there are multiple research projects going on as we speak related to preventing and dealing with outbreaks of algae in Lake Erie. Contaminated cilantro has been removed from groceries, if you are worried you have some in your possession you can simply toss it out. This affords you an excellent opportunity to try growing cilantro at home, as we have done.

As always the Medical Group is here to help members of the 180th Fighter Wing, and their families, remain healthy. Stay tuned to the next issue of the Stinger for more health topics.

Comments from page 3 WHAT CAN WE DO as LEADERS and WINGMAN?

The 180th mission statement guides us to protect the homeland and provide airpower for America while supporting our families. Less the fact that someone getting hurt or killed is tragic, we don’t need to look past our own mission statement to see that personal safety has **EVERYTHING** to do with our mission. So what can we do about it? As a former Chief of Safety, I empathize with anyone trying to promote safety. Telling adults ‘not run with scissors’ can be discouraging, but is not an excuse to resign ourselves to do nothing. My intent for this article was to stress all recreational safety. Surprisingly I focused on the most significate problem, 75 percent of ANG sports-and-rec fatalities and 60 percent of U.S. Air Force fatalities over the last year have been water related. Consistent in every safety investigation of these tragedies are three factors; misperception of the situation, lack of risk management, and lack of experience. Look back at my two examples; they ooze with those three factors.

There are two options leadership can take to mitigate risk, restrict the activity or encourage it to be done safely. When I’m TDY to a location with cold, snow and mountains I’ve got my ski boots. When I go TDY to a warm ocean, I have my dive gear. To avoid being a hypocrite I side on the “promote it to be done safely option”. My advice for leaders; engage your Airmen on their recreational plans and interest. This will not only help you to help them identify risks, but will strengthen professional bonds. Foster open dialogue about their activities and ask lots of questions. If it sounds like they are getting in over their heads, throw them some options to moderate the risks. Suggest consulting locals, especially service members presently assigned to the base. During Sentry Aloha 2014, I found a great intermediate surf spot with lifeguards after talking to the local F-22 drivers. They described the beach as ‘not sharky’, which I found very appealing. My attempts to a good wingman and talk my buddies off the North Shore of Oahu were unsuccessful, I knew it was a bad idea before we left Waikiki. Suggesting we ask our instructor’s to assess our abilities to surf the Banzi Pipeline before we left may have produced a better outcome. As leader or wingman there is no 100 percent sure-fire way to keep every Airman safe, but the mission depends each and everyone one of us. Safety has **EVERYTHING** to do with our mission.



180th Fighter Wing Airmen donate blood during a Red Cross blood drive in the Baker Building August 12, 2015. Stinger Airmen donated 32 units of blood and seven double red blood cell donations during the Red Cross visit. (Ohio Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Amber Williams)

PROMOTIONS

To Major: Robert Ryu	To Tech. Sgt.: Brent Cartwright Cody McLuckie Laura Richter Jessica Davis Amber Williams	To Senior Airman: Adam Pawlicki Austin Engfer David Wiseman Shanae Thomas Kyle Niese Emilee Wilson Andrew Noble Charles Deraedt Ryan Keel Annamarie Herold Michael Yunker
To 1st Lt.: Joshua Earl David Gorka	To Staff Sgt.: Patrick Papenfus Sarah Deleon Andrew Smithhisler Ryan West Todd Polker Ashley Crawford Anthony Lamping Michael Conant Cory Meek Zackary Koehn Rebecca Hejduk Deacon Gilmore Corey Eubank David Price	
To Chief Master Sgt.: Kevin Burdick Stephen Vary Barry Fawcett		
To Senior Master Sgt.: Daniel Campbell Walter Connolly		
To Master Sgt.: Matthew Gruse Jacob Falk		

COMMUNITY LEADERS JOIN 180TH AIRMEN FOR JET DEDICATION

PHOTOS & STORY BY
BY TECH. SGT. NIC KUETEMEYER

Sixteen fighter jets at the 180th Fighter Wing were dedicated to northwestern Ohio communities during a ceremony attended by the mayors, special guests, and Airmen belonging to each community on Aug 9, 2015 on base in Swanton, Ohio.

Each F-16 Fighting Falcon had the city, town, or village name printed on the fuselage of the jet. The mayors and special guests got the chance to take photos with the jets and Airmen from their communities. The community appreciation day is part of the 180th's continued efforts to build and maintain positive relationships with the surrounding civilian population.

U.S. Air Force Major Holly Caldwell, project officer for the appreciation day and Swanton, Ohio native, said the day was about recognizing and showing appreciation for the communities the 180th serves in.

"It's an opportunity for the 180th to show the communities a little of what we do here," said Caldwell.

Community leaders and guests were thrilled to be invited to the base and get a chance to talk with Airmen about what they do.

Mayor Ann Roth, Swanton, Ohio, was happy to take time out of her day to visit the 180th.

"I'm always excited to partake in anything the 180th does," Roth said. "It's a pleasure to be associated with the guard base."

Roth brought members of the Swanton fire department, school system, and American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and said it was a high honor having a 180th fighter jet dedicated to the Village of Swanton.

"I couldn't imagine being more honored for the Village of Swanton," said Roth, "than to have its name on one of the planes."

The 180th was eager to show the surrounding communities just how vital they are to the Ohio Air National Guard mission and the morale of the Airmen who serve.



RETIREMENT PACKETS

If you are an Ohio Air Guard/Reserve or an Ohio Army Guard/Reserve retiree, contact Sgt. 1st Class Richard Wright at 614-336-7277 for assistance in submitting your retirement packet nine months before your 60th birthday, or at whatever age you become eligible to begin receiving non-regular retired pay. If you find you are missing any documents for your packet, contact Ms. Jeanette Carter at 614-336-7038 (ONG HQs). Once you complete your packet, mail it to the following address for processing:

U.S. Army Human Resources
Center of Excellence - Fort Knox
ATTN: AHRC-PDR-TR
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.
Dept. 420
Fort Knox, KY 40122-56402
1-888-276-9472

REAL SUPERHEROES VISIT WATERVILLE LIBRARY

PHOTO & STORY BY
BY STAFF SGT. SHANE HUGHES

An Airman from the 180th Fighter Wing represented the wing July 28 during "Real Superheroes" at the Waterville Branch Library.

Master Sgt. Norman J. Drzewiecki, an information protection manager, was one of four guest speakers for the event, which highlighted civil service jobs in the community.

"We want our kids, and our adults, to know all about the people in our community who keep us safe," said Patti Lusher, a librarian at the Waterville Branch Library. "Our theme this summer is superheroes, and we wanted the kids to be aware that even though superheroes are cool, they're made up. We have people all around us that are real superheroes, even though they might not look like it."

Drzewiecki opened his speech by calling the kids his troops and got them engaged with questions. The kids reacted with awed excitement when he compared the speed of the F-16 to the police cruiser of a Waterville Police officer who'd been asked how fast he can drive earlier in the event.

He told the kids about the ribbons on his uniforms and focused most of his talk

on the importance of making the right choices in life.

"It's up to me, and all my wingmen, to do the right thing," Drzewiecki said. "Back in 2000 I got to ride in an F-16. The reason I got to ride in an F-16 is because I made the right choices. I need all of you guys to make the right choices at home and school."

He also told the kids about the variety of jobs in the Air Force, ranging from police and firefighters to logistics and photography.

"In the military, it's not all about shooting and wars and things like that," Drzewiecki said. "There are a lot of people out there who are trying to do bad things to the United States, and it's up to all of us to defend freedom for you guys."

At the end of his speech he passed out stickers of the base logo and received a certificate of appreciation from the library.

"He did a great job," Lusher said. "He was able to relate to the kids really well."

"He was super friendly," said Sandra Bublick, a parent who attended the event. "The stickers and the conversation were great, and the kids loved him."





Spouses of military members at the 180th Fighter Wing were given the rare opportunity to take a ride on a KC-135 Stratotanker and watch F-16 Fighting Falcons being refueled mid-air on July 12, 2015, in Swanton, Ohio. From the refueling pod on the underside of the tanker, spouses watched as the F-16s approached, close enough to wave “hello,” the lower side of the tanker’s tail to receive fuel. The spouses were also given the chance to talk to the fighter pilots with headsets from the refueling pod. Military members depend on their families for support that is critical to the success of the mission. The “Spouse Lift” was a fantastic chance for 180th Airmen to give a little something back. (Ohio Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Nic Kuetemeyer)

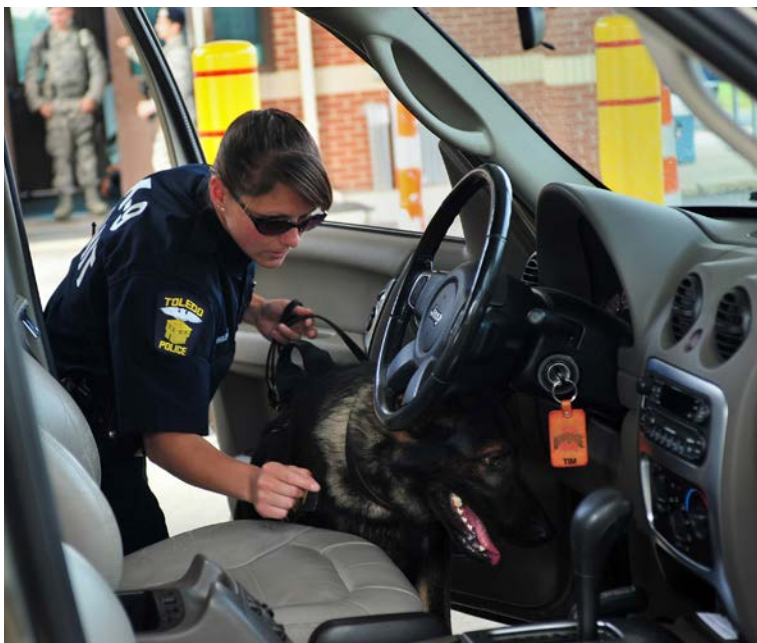


IN MEMORIUM

CANINE OFFICER FALCO



Our deepest condolences and sympathy go out to the men and women of the Toledo Police Department, who lost a working dog in the line of duty. Falco, a canine officer with the TPD K-9 unit, was killed Aug. 12, while attempting to take down a suspect who fled into a vacant building. Three days earlier, Falco and his handler, Samantha Snowberger, had been searching vehicles coming onto base for the community jet dedication. Over the years, TPD has frequently assisted the 180th Security Forces with vehicle searches and helped keep our Airmen safe. Thank you for your service Falco.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION.....

VA WILL NOW DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY USING DRIVING DISTANCE

WASHINGTON — In order to expand eligibility for the Veterans Choice Pro-gram, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced on April 25 that it will determine eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program based on the distance be-tween a Veteran's place of residence and the nearest VA medical facility using driving distance rather than straight-line distance. This change has been published in the "Federal Register" [<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/04/24/2015-09370/driving-distance-eligibility-for-the-veterans-choice-program>] and is effective immediately.

"VA is pleased to announce the distance calculation change from straight-line to driving distance for the Veterans Choice Program," said Secretary Robert McDon-ald. "This update to the program will allow more Veterans to access care when and where they want it. We look forward to continued dialogue with Veterans and our partners to help us ensure continued improvements for Veterans to access care."

The change from straight-line to driving distance roughly doubles the number of eligible Veterans. Letters are being sent to the newly eligible Veterans to let them know they are now eligible for the Veterans Choice Program under this expan-sion. If a Veteran does not remember receiving a Veterans Choice Card or has other questions about the Choice Program, they can call (866) 606-8198.

Effective immediately, VA is also changing the mileage calculation for beneficiary travel. The change will ensure consistency in VA's mileage calculations across the two programs. The beneficiary travel calculation will now be made using the fast-est route instead of the shortest route.

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2695>