

183d Wing News



183d Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, 3101 J. David Jones Parkway, Springfield, IL, 62707

HONEY BADGER 2018

183d Wing Airmen attend two week exercise focused on training and team building

by 183d Wing Public Affairs

VOLK FIELD, WI — Nearly 300 members of the 183d Wing recently deployed to Volk Field CRTIC, WI, for a two week exercise, HONEY BADGER 2018. The focus of the exercise is multifaceted, combining annual and deployed training requirements with leadership, team building, and morale focused events. In the spirit of the exercise motto, “Fun, Train,



Fun”, unit members worked and trained with other members of the Wing that they wouldn’t normally work with directly, leading to stronger bonds and greater cohesion within the unit.

A majority of the members that attended the exercise are part of the 183d Mission Support Group (183MSG), whose organizations include, the 183d Civil Engineering Squadron (183CES), 183d Security Forces Squadron (183SFS), 183d Force Support Squadron (183FSS), 217th Engineering Installation Squadron (217EIS), 183d Logistics Readiness Flight (183LRF), and 183d Communications Flight (183CF). Also participating in the exercise, were members of the Wing Commander’s staff, and the Air Operations Group.

For many of the members attending the exercise, it was their first time participating in such an event. “Nearly two-thirds of the members in the 183MSG have become part of the unit in the past



Remember ...
Lemarré Kemp
Harold Byrd
Ragan Donley
Warren Coulter
Sherry Swann
Edmon Johnson
Alan Lewis
Donald Lockman Jr.
Brian McMiller
Jan Metcalf
James V.
Arthur Potts
Robert Potts
Philip Quinn
Tom Smart
Brian White
Joseph Woods
Jesse Zaiger

ten years. HONEY BADGER is chance for them to attend a mass training exercise and experience the hard work and camaraderie that goes along with it”, said Col Donald Carpenter, 183MSG Commander.

Resiliency training, provided by Lila Dilbaitis, 183d Wing Director of Psychological Health, focused on teaching members how to remain healthy in all aspects of their life; physical, mental, spiritual, and social. Members healthy in these aspects of their lives, are more likely to perform their deployed duties to their fullest potential, helping them accomplish the deployed mission more effectively.

Deploying members also train on basic first aid and life saving skills such as Self Aid and Buddy Care (SABC) and CPR. SABC teaches members the basics of airway management, recognition and control of bleeding, shock management, dressings, bandaging, and splinting, management of fractures, nerve agent/chemical environment, heat/cold related injuries, burn injuries, psychological injuries, victim assessment, triage, and patient transportation/litter movement. These skills can be vital

to the preservation of life should a member become injured in the field.

Weapons training was also accomplished for deploying members during the first week of the exercise. Airmen trained on disassembling, cleaning, and reassembling the M4 rifle. This training is vital to prevent weapon misfire or malfunction. Weapon malfunction can be caused by carbon build up which is caused by use and also by dirt and sand getting into the weapon. Training also included a live fire portion. Airmen fired from four positions in order to qualifying; prone supported, prone unsupported, kneeling and standing.

Ability To Survive and Operate (ATSO) training is also essential to members due to deploy. Military members need to be able to survive and operate under many hazardous conditions including chemical warfare. The training included education on Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) levels. Members start in MOPP level 2, which includes donning the chemical suit and boots, gloves and gas mask are worn on the hip, then transition into MOPP4, where the member also dons the gloves and gas mask. Once in MOPP4 members went to the training area to inspect M8 paper for chemical contamination,



and check the area for unexploded ordnance (UXO). If the paper is found contaminated, it is reported to the team lead who calls it in, reporting the size, shape, color and location. Personnel in the area are then evacuated to safe distance from the ordnance. If a member's clothing is found to be contaminated, that person will process through a decontamination area where the suit is carefully removed and gloves and boots are rinsed to eliminate the contaminating agent from them.

Members of the 183d Force Support Squadron conducted search and recovery training. When a catastrophic event such as a plane crash or mortar attack has taken place, a team of trained personnel are deployed to search for and recover personal remains and effects. When remains or effects are found, they are labeled and bagged, and a post is placed in the ground to mark the spot where the item was found so that it can be recovered and processed appropriately.

Aside from training for deploying members, several 183d organizations conducted job specific training focused on getting or keeping members qualified on tasks within their career fields.



gun, firing a 5.56mm round, and the M240 heavy machine gun, firing a 7.62mm round. Thousands of rounds of spent brass ensure that our Security Forces are ready to take the fight to the enemy if needed.

A favorite team-building exercise among many members, was the obstacle course. Teams of four pooled their mental and physical skills to overcome barriers on dry land and over water. The land portion of the course saw teams use various sizes of wood planks to help them transverse the obstacles, taking a large plastic drum along with them, all while trying to not come in contact with the ground until the barrel and all members had safely crossed to the other side. The "wet" side of the course, equally as challenging, again pitted the teams against the obstacles using various sized planks of wood, sometimes coupled with a pair of equal length metal poles and a piece of rope. No barrels were present on this side of the course though. The challenge here was to cross the course with no team members having contacted the water, and bringing all materials used in the process with



The Logistics Readiness Flight (LRF) provided bus and forklift training, ensuring that its members are able to transport personnel and move and load cargo safely. LRF personnel did both in support of the HONEY BADGER exercise. Communications Flight personnel accomplished Security+ training, keeping them up to date on security procedures necessary to administer and maintain a base network securely.

Security Forces (SFS) members trained on multiple types of weapons, keeping them qualified should they need to deploy. Weapons training was accomplished at Hardwood Range, a short drive from Volk Field. While there, SFS members trained on the M203 40mm grenade launcher, M249 light machine



them, to the other side. It took the physical abilities and mental prowess of each member of each team to complete the course. It was an afternoon of fun, teamwork and “team building”.

The exercise wasn't all about work. It was also about members of the Wing bonding after duty hours through social and sporting events. Both weeks of the exercise, a cookout was held and karaoke was provided by the Communications Flight. Teams from Security Forces and Civil Engineering battled it out in a softball game both weeks, with Civil Engineering emerging the victor each time, and the sand volleyball courts were a big draw each night of the exercise.

“There have been numerous meetings for the past six months dedicated to planning the trip. I believe it went smooth. These efforts paid off and hopefully members came away from the trip with a favorable experience, said Capt Stephen Summers, 183d Wing Installation Deployment Officer and Officer In Charge of Week 1. “It was great to see members of the 183d out and about during the evening hours. The camaraderie displayed at Volk Field was something that we don't have a chance to see at home station all that much. Ideally, we can make this more of a regular (yearly) event, giving our members a chance to meet each other and enhance morale.”, he went on to say.



“The second week of Honey Badger came off of a very solid first week of training. Overall, the second week went very well, effective training and very favorable training conditions,” said Capt Steve Younker, Officer in Charge of Honey Badger Week 2. “Training ranged from classroom refresher courses to hands-on training, to site visits of actual operations. Many Airmen visited Hardwood Range to witness how the culmination of support functions to put bombs on targets when F-16 and A-10 aircraft maneuvered with precision, to strike their targets, as well as evade simulated SAMs (Surface to Air Missiles). HONEY BADGER provided a venue where members were getting signed off on core-task training, some ancillary training, and qualifications. The best part was getting out and away from home station to train with other 183d members from varying areas and career fields throughout base. These interactions, conversations, and experiences are a force multiplier in 183d unit cohesion and sets us up for success in future exercises and contingencies,” he added.

Fun, Train, Fun! HONEY BADGER 2018 lived up to its motto and many 183d members are already looking forward to next year's exercise.

