

SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing
Luke Air Force Base, Arizona
May 2019 Newsletter



Col Bryan Cook's final flight
The 944th OG welcomes a new commander
Operation Reserve Kids Engages Families



944 FW KEY LEADERS

Commander

Col. Bryan E. Cook

Vice Commander

Col. James Greenwald

Command Chief

CMSgt. Jeremy N. Malcom

944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot

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Bringing the Heat

May 2019

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Cover photo: Lt. Col. Abel Ramos, 47th Fighter Squadron commander, Col. Bryan Cook, 944th Fighter Wing commander, Major General Ronald Miller, 10th Air Force commander, and Colonel Brian Cusson, 924th Fighter Group commander, pose in front of an A-10 Thunderbolt II for Cook's final flight April 26, 2019, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. Cook assumed command of the 944th FW in June 2017 and has been responsible for training F-16, F-15E, F-35, and A-10 pilots for the U.S. Air Force active duty, Reserve, guard, and other participating nations. He is retiring from the U.S. Air Force in May 2019 after 33 years of service. (Photo by Technical Sgt. Courtney Richardson)

Time to clean and rearrange your house of life!

From Dr. Julie Reese, 944th Fighter Wing director of psychological health

As we step into "Mental Health Awareness Month," let us strive to minimize and remove unnecessary stress, anxiety, unhealthy lifestyle habits, insomnia, toxic relationships, and reactive parenting. All these topics lead to fragile mental health and reduce our ability to be ready for our mission.

- Create space in your life that offers positive and drama-free thoughts and activities.
- Embrace new challenges and opportunities that build resilience and self-confidence.
- Partner with your spouse or significant other in your journey for balanced mental health to ensure a cohesive life strategy.

Remember, "...our values determine the nature of our problems, and the nature of our problems determines the quality of our lives" -Mark Manson. Let us clean house and remove all unused and unwanted items that do not enhance the quality of life we are seeking. Rearrange your life so you can see hidden items clearly and think more creatively. Let's focus on what brings us calm, peace, and joy!





944th Fighter Wing incoming commander Col. James Greenwald

Wow, a lot has happened in the last couple months! I have to say it feels like I am “speeding” a bit, writing this commentary before the change of command, but I am grateful to Col. Cook for handing over this part of the job a few days early.

I am also grateful for the incredible leadership that he has provided during his tenure. I have known Col. Cook for many years and have always valued his mentorship and his example. The 944th FW is in tremendous shape thanks to his leadership. His deep experience and outgoing personality will be an impossible act to follow as commander but I cannot wait to take on the challenge.

In the short time I have been here at Luke, I have made a concerted effort to keep my eyes and ears open and my mouth shut. For at least a little while longer, you can expect me to continue learning about this outstanding team. The wing is doing fantastic and you should all be very proud of your team. So, rather than ramble on about my leadership philosophy or my strategic vision, I will save that for later and keep it light by telling you a little about myself.

I am a farm kid from Wyoming. You will find a bucking horse and the state symbol on my office wall. It is the same one that hung in my bedroom since I was about seven. My brother still runs our family farm about 80 miles north of Cheyenne. As a farmer, he works way harder than I do, and his hard work is vastly under-appreciated. I graduated from the University of Wyoming and was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. I was lucky enough to go through the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program, and was assigned F-16 training here. I will not specify



the year, but it was in a previous century.

Following F-16 training, I flew operationally at Kunsan Air Base, Korea, Hill Air Force Base, UT and Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., then flew as an instructor back here. I then transitioned to the Reserve at Hill AFB and flew there for nearly 16 years before finally accepting a non-flying job on the Air Combat Command Staff. Along the way, I deployed quite a few times and those contingency deployments remain some of the highlights of my career. I have served as a Traditional Reservist, Air Reserve Technician and Active Guard/Reserve. I have experienced life in a unit-equipped F-16 unit and also in a classically-associated unit.

Along the way, I met my bride, Paloma. She is way better than I deserve, and I am grateful for her every day. We have two boys, Garrison, who graduates on June 14 back in Virginia, and Oliver, who will be a sophomore here at Millennium High School next year. My boys will tell you that a scowl is my only facial expression. This is not true. I have at least one other. I am sure of it. Point is, do not be alarmed if you catch me scowling at you. Apparently, it makes my eyes and ears work better. I enjoy backpacking, trail running, and woodworking. I serve as a Boy Scout leader and I am active in my local church.

So that is me. Ordinary guy. Extraordinarily honored to join your team. In the coming months, I will share some thoughts on my vision for the wing and where I would like to focus our efforts going forward. In the meantime, I cannot wait to meet all of you and learn your stories and I cannot wait to get to work “Bringin’ the Heat!”

April 2019 promotions:

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE

From Airman Basic

Amn Christiana R. Topps, 944th ASTS

Amn Analisa R. Wright, 944th MXG

From Airman

A1C Janel C. Thomas, 944th LRS

From Airman 1st Class

SrA Cruz A. Bale, 924th AMXS

SrA Catherine R. Montes, 944th ASTS

SrA Mayra E. Carranza, 944th AMXS

SrA Noheli C. Tellez, 944th AMXS

SrA Matthew Jason E. Adcock, 944th AMXS

SrA Alberto Hernandez, 944th AMXS

SrA Francesca G. En, 944th MXG

SrA Victoria A. Edmondson, 944th MXS

From Senior Airman

SSgt. Russell W. Williams, 414th MXS

SSgt. Christina A. Smith, 924th AMXS

SSgt. Nicholas E. Paxton, 924th AMXS

SSgt. Marissa D. Kinder, 924th FG

SSgt. Stephen J. Barcelo, 944th AMXS

SSgt. Johanan I. Contreras, 944th AMXS

SSgt. Ashley N. Trojanowski, 944th LRS

SSgt. Dustin G. Bledsoe, 944th MXS

From Staff Sgt.

TSgt. Joshua D. Miller, 944th AMXS

From Tech. Sgt.

MSgt Kenneth L. Ueland, 414th MXS

MSgt Arturo Languren, 944th CES

MSgt Michael A. Williamson, 944th MXS

MSgt Richard L. Timney, 944th SFS

From Master Sgt.

SMSgt Christopher J. Lyon, 414th MXS

SMSgt Anthony L. Abney, 944th AMXS

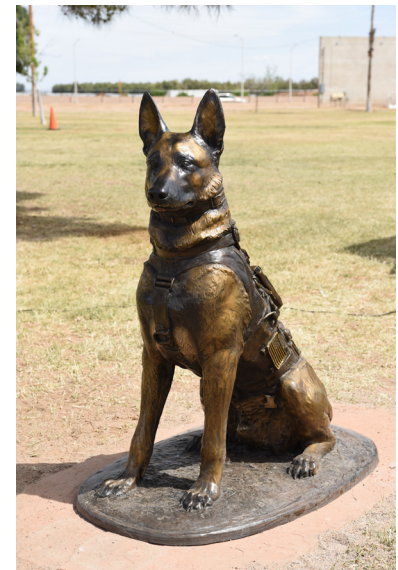
SMSgt Maria I. Guillen, 944th FW



Thank you for your service, DYNGO



Left to Right -Staff Sgt. Kyle Quigg, 56th Security Forces Squadron kennel master, Col. Robert Sylvester, 56th Mission Support Group commander, Lena Toritch, sculptor, Terri Frankel, 944th Medical Squadron and 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron honorary commander, Master Sgt. Justin Kitts, 99th Security Forces Squadron operations superintendent and Dyn-go's prior handler, Brig. Gen. Todd Canterbury, 56th Fighter Wing commander, and Lt. Col. Brian Loveless, 56th SFS commander, present a statue of Dyngo, retired military working dog, to members in attendance during a dedication ceremony April 16, 2019, at Fowler Park, Luke Air Force Base. Dyngo served three deployments to Afghanistan, multiple presidential security details, and missions at the U.N. for which he was awarded a Bronze Star, Air Force Combat Action Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, DOD Competition Iron Dog Award, and Animal Medical Center Top Dog Award. (Photo by Staff. Sgt. Chris Moore)



Col. Bryan Cook's final flight...

Col. Bryan Cook, 944th Fighter Wing commander, assumed command of the 944th FW in June 2017 and has been responsible for training F-16, F-15E, F-35, and A-10 pilots for the U.S. Air Force active duty, Reserve, guard, and other participating nations. He is retiring from the U.S. Air Force in May 2019 after 33 years of service.



The 944th OG welcomes a new commander

by Staff Sgt. Chris Moore, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

As the sun rises over the Saguaro of the Arizona desert, Col. Korey E. Amundson, 944th Operations Group outgoing commander, passes the torch to Col. Trena Savageau, 944th OG incoming commander, during a change of command ceremony here, April 12, 2019.

The ceremony, attended by family, friends, and personnel of 944th and 56th Fighter Wings, was presided over by Col. Bryan E. Cook, 944th Fighter Wing commander.

The 944th OG is a team of Reserve and active duty Airmen, civilians, and contractors responsible for overseeing the aviation actions of active and reserve instructor pilots assigned to Luke, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico and Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. With their active-duty counterparts, they ensure pilots are ready to meet the requirements of combat air forces.

During his command tour, Amundson was 100 percent mission focused, all while taking care of his people and ensuring the highest of morale in the OG.

"Today is bitter sweet - we're losing a long time member of the 944th FW family, who has become instrumental in expanding our F-35 instructor cadre, as well ensuring success in the F-16 future here at Luke," said Cook. "But it's sweet, because we get to welcome another long-time 944th FW member in Col. Savageau, who has been a tremendous commander for the 69th Fighter Squadron and an asset for our wing."

The 944th OG is tasked to support worldwide mobility and combat employment operations in conjunction with supporting the Air Education and Training Command mission to train F-16 and F-35 pilots for the United States Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and other participating nations.

(Photos by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder)



"It's an exciting time in the 944th OG," said Amundson. "What used to be just the 69th FS has blossomed into a robust AFRC Group with F-16s and F-35s at Luke, F-16s at Holloman, and F-35s at

Eglin. "I foresee the 944th OG continuing to grow our classic association in the F-35 with our partner nations down the street. Col. Savageau has the unique opportunity to shape the future of AFRC here at Luke AFB, and based on her experience and tenacity, I have no doubt that the 944th OG is in great hands. My only advice is to enjoy the ride. Not many people in the world get to sit in your seat and affect the mission and lives of so many great Airmen, it's absolutely awesome!"

The incoming commander, Savageau, received her commission from the United States Air Force Acad-

emy in May 1998. She earned her pilot wings from Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, in October 1999 and has served as an F-16 pilot, instructor pilot, and evaluator pilot. She has operational experience in Southeast Asia and Korea.

"I expect Col. Savageau will continue the long-traditions of the 944th OG as well as continue to expand our cadre in both the F-35 and F-16," said Cook. "I also foresee the relationship between the 56th OG and 944th OG becoming even more efficient as we move forward into the future and expand into new horizons."

Savageau separated from active duty in 2007 and joined the 944th FW's Total Force Enterprise as a traditional Reservist and instructor pilot in the 301st Fighter Squadron and later the 69th Fighter Squadron.

"I am passionate about the mission here, the mission to train the world's best F-16 and F-35 pilots," said Savageau. "But what I absolutely love are the people. Our continuity of mission and our experience make us invaluable. I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve a more integral role in this mission."

The 944th OG, continues to play a key role at Luke and has successfully built an F-35 Foreign Military Sales program from the ground up. They have contributed to the authorization of tactics manuals and syllabi for the U.S., Australia, Norway, Italy, Israel, Japan, and South Korea, and set the foundation for how to train the next generations of warriors.

"I am in awe of you, the younger generation," said Savageau. "You crush the mission, and still find time to be spouses, parents, and endeavor to encourage and lift each other up. I am honored to know and serve with you."

Total Force Enterprise during load crew competition

Below: Senior Airman Kyle Kupiec, 944th Maintenance Group weapons load crew member, inspects a GBU-12 laser-guided bomb during the 56th Fighter Wing Load Crew of the Quarter competition, April 11. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder)



Above: Airman 1st Class Dillin Mattos (right), 63rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons load crew member, installs wings and fins on an AIM-120 AMRAAM Missile. Mattos, Senior Airman Kyle Kupiec, 944th Maintenance Group weapons load crew member, and Tech. Sgt. Antonio Ortega, 944th MXG weapons load crew chief, formed the 3-person team representing the 944th Fighter Wing during the quarterly competition.

Left: Ortega (middle) briefs his evaluator on munitions discrepancies. This is the third time the 944th Fighter Wing was represented during a LCoQ competition and will compete in every quarterly competition in the future.

BRINGING THE HEAT

D&TF prepares recruits for military service

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Tyler Bolken, 944th Fighter Wing

When a young man or woman chooses to enlist in military service, they may face many questions. What will this mean for my life? Can I handle it? How can I best prepare for one of the biggest commitments of my life?

In 2012, the 944th Fighter Wing implemented a training program to assist young men and women in Arizona who enlist in the Air Force Reserve. The program, called the Development and Training Flight, is for enlistees to prepare for their new commitment before shipping to Basic Military Training.

One of the first trainees to complete the program was Tech. Sgt. Crystal Au of Mesa, Ariz. Coming full circle, Au now runs the program as the D&TF chief; a position she has held since 2017.

"I am the trainees' one stop shop," said Au. "I check them into the program, train them before they ship, and handle all of their administrative needs until they return from training and officially join their unit."

Au said when she came through there were only eight trainees including herself. It has now grown to more than 40.

Au explained that in addition to being their primary trainer until they ship to BMT, she is their liaison throughout their entire training process.

Au went on to say that depending on an enlistee's job and school availability, the average person spends seven or eight months in the D&TF. During this time they focus on foundational Air Force knowledge, basic drill movements, rank structure, customs and courtesies, and what it means to be an Airman.



The enlistees are paid for this training, which is one weekend a month, and it gets them in the rhythm of what their Air Force Reserve career will require of them.

"It is good for them to find this out well before the Air Force has invested even more in sending them to their basic and technical training," said Au.

With the growth of the program over the years, other Airman have jumped in to assist Au.

"I knew a couple of the people in the program so I came out one weekend to see what it was about," said Staff Sgt. Devante Williams, 56th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron maintenance supply.

Williams is active duty Air Force and volunteers his time during unit training assembly weekends to help out. He recalls learning about the program and desiring to help Au with training these incoming members.

"I like to be able to help mentor these trainees, teach them about the Air Force, and really just have fun," said Williams.

Former military training instructors also come out and assist some weekends, which broadens the enlistees' experience.

"That really gives them a hands on experience with what they will see at BMT," said Au. "It is usually an eye opener."

Having been in this position for a couple of years, Au said her favorite part is seeing the trainees come back from their training as brand new Airmen.

"They have their military haircuts, their uniform, they are talking a little bit different, and walking a little bit different," said Au. "That is the most rewarding part of this role for me."

Air Force senior leaders update OCP uniform guidance

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) --

The Air Force announced April 23 new rules on Operational Camouflage Pattern uniforms that aim to better fit the needs of Airmen and the jobs they do while also holding fast to tradition.

The changes highlighted include authorization of the Two-piece Flight Duty Uniform in garrison and updated patch guidance for the OCP uniform.

"During the initial rollout of the OCP, we originally matched our sister services regarding patch configurations as we sought to emphasize our role as a joint warfighting force," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein.

"In response to overwhelming feedback received from Airmen, we will make an easy 'sleeve swap' of the patch configuration to further elevate our focus on honoring the heritage of squadrons as the war-fighting units of the world's greatest Air Force. We will now place the squadron patch on the right sleeve along with the U.S. flag and move the higher headquarters patch to the left sleeve of the OCP."

Additionally, to provide commanders with expanded uniform options to fit the myriad of missions, on April 15, the two-piece flight suit, otherwise known as the 2PFDU, will be authorized to be worn in both garrison and deployed locations. The 2PFDU continues an effort to provide Airmen with improved form, fit and function to perform their duties in any environment.

The traditional flight duty uniform will also continue to be an option. Squadron commanders will now have the flexibility to make combat uniform decisions based on what is best for their Airmen to meet mission requirements.

"The new unit patch configuration of the OCP and 2PFDU also aligns with the traditional FDU, elevating the significance of squadron focus and identity, which supports CSAF's intent to revitalize squadrons," said Lt. Gen. Mark D. Kelly, Headquarters Air Force deputy chief of staff for Air Force operations.

In May 2018, Air Force leaders decided to transition to the OCP following feedback from Airmen that it is the best, battle-tested utility uniform available. It will also eliminate the need to maintain two separate uniforms – one for in-garrison and one for deployments.

The service expects to fully transition to OCPs by April 1, 2021.

For more information, Airmen should view Air Force Guidance Memorandum 2019-01 and check Air Force Instruction 36-2903 for updates, which are available on the public website of the Air Force's Personnel Center at <https://www.afpc.af.mil/Career-Management/Dress-and-Appearance/>.

UPDATED UNIFORM GUIDANCE

WWW.AFPC.AF.MIL

TIMELINE

- 2019**
 - 1 APR** Expansion of in-use AFPS to include all Airmen
- 2020**
 - 1 JUN** Current brown flight duty uniform (FDU) replaced by OCP
 - Special brown flight duty uniform (FDU) replaced by OCP
 - Old green and black flight duty uniform (FDU) replaced by OCP
- 2021**
 - 1 APR** OCP utility uniform (U) replaced by OCP

BENEFITS

- The OCP works in all climates and across the spectrum of missions we perform
- Over 100,000 Airmen have been issued and/or are already wearing OCP. This includes AFPC, AFSC and our AFSC Defenders
- The OCP will bring back Air Force heritage with unit patches
- The OCP celebrates our joint warfighting capability and close ties with the Army



HQ ARPC reduces retirement order processing time

By Maj. Joe Simms

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. --

Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center concentrated efforts during the month of February to reduce the inventory of retirement applications for Guard and Reserve members turning 60 years of age.

The Directorate of Personnel and Total Force Services (DPT) reallocated manning to serve the retirement section, increasing the number of technicians by 50 percent, and processing approximately 2,200 retirement orders to establish health and pay benefits.

“Our primary goal was to provide each age 60 retiree their retirement order to establish their health insurance and begin the process to receive their retirement pay,” said Richard Barshney, Retirement Lead Technician. “This effort also allowed us to reduce our current inventory so we can focus on innovation, automation and process improvement within the retirements section.”

Age 60 retirements are only one type of retirement HQ ARPC processes but it typically is the most time consuming to complete, according to Barshney. Retirees must first submit a myPers ticket with a completed AF Form 2656 in and ARPC Form 83 which can be found at <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/retirement/>. Once the two forms are received by the retirement technician, confirmation notification is sent to the retiree as the technician begins the auditing process.

This auditing process may take a technician anywhere from one hour to two days depending on the case. During the audit, technicians must confirm the retirement application includes the member’s entire service history, verify the retiree’s point credit summary and ensure bank account information is included for pay.

Due to manning and system issues leading up to the surge, retirement specialists saw an increase in inventory stretching back several months until leadership reallocated manpower to tackle the problem.

As of March 1, HQ ARPC was processing applications for retirees turning 60 that month, and have continued processing the current month’s workload into April.

“Our goal is to be at least one month ahead and sustain that level of production,” Barshney said. “We aren’t there yet but now we are in a better position to reach that goal than we were at the beginning of the year.”

Title 10 law mandates retirees must apply for retirement pay benefits which requires them to initiate the process. It is recommended by HQ ARPC that retirees submit their application three to four months prior to their 60th birthday to allow enough time to process the order. Applications received prior to the recommended date will not be processed any earlier as applications are placed in the queue based on birth month or reduced retirement pay date, according to Lt. Col. Melissa Johnson, DPT Director of Operations.

“This three to four month lead time allows technicians to reach back to the retiree if they require any additional information and still process the order by the time they turn 60,” said Johnson. “It also allows both the retiree and technician time to adjust if there are any updates or changes to the process, such as the release of a new AF Form 2656.”

When the retirement order is processed by the technician, it is uploaded to the retiree’s myPers profile and a copy is mailed to the physical address on file. The order is also submitted to Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) for pay via an automated system when feasible, as well as regular mail, to establish a pay file.

According to Barshney, the key for current and former retirees is to understand the process and what is required of them. Retirees approaching age 60 no longer receive a notification in the mail with the steps required to receive their benefits. However, there are several tools at their disposal to find information on the process.

The HQ ARPC website <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil> is one tool that doesn’t require a CAC card or login. MyPers is another source of information where current or soon to be retirees are able to calculate their estimated retirement benefits and find instructions from the retirement technicians themselves. Finally, the Total Force Service Center is available 24 hours a day at 1-800-525-0102 for questions or to initiate a myPers ticket request.

HYDRATING WITH FLUIDS

*from Senior Airman Jovante White,
944th Medical Squadron*

- Do not rely on thirst as a good indicator of your fluid needs. If you are thirsty, it is likely you are dehydrated. Consuming fluids at regular intervals throughout the day will prevent dehydration. Always begin exercising well hydrated. To ensure this, drink 14 to 22 fluid ounces about two to four hours before strenuous exercise.
- Sustained exercise, especially in the heat, can result in high sweat rates and substantial water and electrolyte loss. A sports drink with carbohydrates and electrolytes is important to replace lost nutrients.
- Conversely, too much fluid can result in hyponatremia (low salt levels in the blood), which is life threatening. During exercise, limit your fluid intake to one quart per hour, or up to 1.5 quarts per hour in hot weather, to avoid hyponatremia. Do not drink more than 12 quarts per day. Women can be at greater risk than men of developing exercise-associated hyponatremia.

<https://www.hprc-online.org/resources/chapter-5-hydrate-with-fluid>

Operation Reserve Kids Engages Families

944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The stress of deployment separation is never easy for any family, but thanks to the 944th Fighter Wing Airmen and Family Readiness Center, children have a better understanding of the rigors of the deployment process and what happens while their parents are away.

The 944th FW A&FRC hosted 43 youth here, ages 6 to 15, as they participated in Operation Reserve Kids, April 6. The event provided participants with insight into what their parents experience during deployment. The intent of the program is to reduce stress for families during separation.

Staff Sgt. Brianna Creveling, 944th FW religious affairs non-commissioned officer, and her family are no strangers to deployments. Creveling served two deployments, the most recent being to support Airmen in Southwest Asia.

“The first time we participated in [Op Kids] was just before I deployed,” said Creveling. “So getting the family acclimated to what I was going to be doing and getting them excited helped with the process. It takes a toll on the whole family when we deploy, but giving them something to get excited about and look forward to helped the whole family get through it.”

The event started off with a mission brief from Col. Bryan Cook, 944th FW commander, and then proceeded with a deployment line. The children visited different agencies to include medical readiness, logistics readiness, chaplain

corps, and finance.

“The program is designed to educate kids and get them excited about the military while also providing parents an opportunity to bond with their children,” said Jessica Maldonado, 944th FW A&FRC director. “The children also get the opportunity to learn about what their parents do in the military.”

The young recruits also visited the 944th Maintenance Group to learn more about the F-16 Fighting Falcon and F-35 Lightning II before they “deployed” to the Ability to Survive and Operate compound on base.

“It was nice to see the process of how [my wife] gets ready to go and to understand where she is going to be,” said Tyson, Creveling’s husband. “It helped our kids and I get started with the separation process and help us stay calm and get through it together.”

While “deployed,” the children went through a mini fitness challenge, obstacle course, and got to shoot the “adversary” with paintball guns.

“Our Key Spouses and Honorary Commanders also helped put together ‘care packages’ for the kids to receive during mail call at their ‘deployed lo-



cation’ to really get the full experience,” said Maldonado.

The care packages included a photo frame, stickers, plush bear, a bracelet, crayons, a coloring sheet, and a letter from their parents.

“I was just deployed, living in tents like the ones they had at the ATSO area,” said Creveling. “For my kids to be able to come and see, ‘oh this is where you were living?’ It makes it more real for them and easier for us to connect and I think that’s awesome.”

The “deployers” ended their military

adventure with a welcome home party and short commander’s call. Cook and Chief Master Sgt. Jeremy Malcom, 944th FW command chief, handed the children individual certificates and the traditional challenge coins for their accomplishments during Operation Reserve Kids.

“Operation Reserve Kids is a great opportunity for us to connect with families,” said Maldonado. “We want to see the program continue to grow so we can reach more in the future.”

Motorcycle Safety Training: What AF riders need to know

By Arthur "Triple A" Albert, Air Force Safety Center

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. -- Training season for motorcyclists is just around the corner, and as training gets into full swing, it may be helpful to shed some light on the Air Force's training requirements, as well as what the proper acronyms are for the Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses. I'd also like to dispel some misinformation circulating around the Air Force.

In 2013, Air Force motorcycle training requirements went from a one-time requirement to a five year requirement, intending to build on a rider's skill level. So in a nutshell, Airmen riding through 20 years of service will be required to attend at least four training courses. Each of the courses will build on the other as shown in the below chart.

Level I (Initial) (New Rider) Training will only be accomplished for those members who have a motorcycle operator's permit from their home state and have no motorcycle endorsement

Level II (Intermediate) Riders entering the service with an endorsement will automatically be required to attend a Level II training course within 1 year. Note: If unable to safely complete this training based on instructor's recommendation, member may be directed to attend Level I training.

Sustainment/Refresher The purpose of this training is to help riders advance their skills while reinforcing positive behavioral traits required to operate a motorcycle safely. Sustainment/Refresher training may be satisfied by participating in an approved structured Mentorship course as outlined in AFI 91-207, or repeating a Level II course.

Additional training maybe required if a rider who currently rides a Cruiser style motorcycle decides to ride a Sport bike style motorcycle. Sport bike riders will complete a Level II Sport bike training course.

What do all the Motorcycle Safety Foundation acronyms mean? In 2014, the MSF updated their training curriculum. To distinguish between the new versions

of the courses MSF at first placed a "U" after the acronym to specify it as an updated version of the course. In an effort to clear up confusion on the courses and provide a standardized way of interpreting which course the acronyms stand for, the following guidance is offered. All of the older MSF courses will be shown with the year the course was replaced by an updated course (i.e., BRC 2013, BRC2 2013, ARC 2013, MSRC 2013, etc...). The "U" will be dropped from the updated courses and will be designated with just the acronym for the course, as this is the most current curriculum offered (i.e., BRC, BRC2, ARC, MSRC, etc.). One thing to note, when it comes to BRC2 2013 and BRC2, only the newer version is approved for Sport bike-related training because it concentrates on more advanced braking, maneuvering and behavior. Since the MSF completion card for BRC2 and BRC2 2013 are the same, the training location using the older curriculum will annotate the card at the top with 2013. The Air Force is encouraging all in-house training programs to switch over to the new BRC/BRC2 curriculum.

One of the most frequent miscommunications we hear is that the Air Force is getting out of the motorcycle safety training business. This simply is not the case. In 2017, a decision was made to focus the limited training resources available on those personnel who truly have an intention to ride a motorcycle and to also turn the requirement for obtaining a license over to the states. It is the state licensing programs



that provide riders not only with the basic operations of a motorcycle, but provide a key element in the licensing – the laws. The Air Force stands steadily behind training, focusing on the "Right Training, Right Time, Right Bike." Simply put, in the Air Force we want to focus training not on the basic balance and control that the states are better equipped to provide, but concentrate Air Force sponsored training more on the advanced skill sets and behavior our riders need to safely operate their own motorcycles on public streets and highways. When you make the effort to at least obtain a learner's permit or endorsement from your home state, proving you understand the laws associated with riding a motorcycle and illustrating your desire to ride, that's when we step in to ensure you have the best training available to help you accomplish the task of riding safely.

Questions or Comments please email the Air Force Motorcycle Program Manager at: AFSC.SEGT@us.af.mil.

Air Force handpicks Reserve Airmen to lead customer-focused innovation

By Master Sgt. Meredith Mingledorff, 355th Wing Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. -- Maj. Gen. Cedric D. George, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, director of logistics, visited the 924th Fighter Group here March 25, to meet with the Reserve Citizen Airmen and further develop the Battle Record Information Core Environment application for maintainers.

The BRICE app is an iOS app provided with a tablet that brings technical data, forms, and other tools to Airmen on the flight line. The new app has proven to reduce wasted man hours walking back and forth to the tool crib, or office for computer access. This improves flight readiness, data entry, and quickens turnaround time for routine maintenance.

George handpicked the 924th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron to beta-test the app for the entire Air Force, calling the squadron “unapologetically visionary.” The squadron is known throughout the Air Force for finding innovative solutions to their unique challenges.

“Our Airmen are empowered to make decisions at the lowest levels and are encouraged to tell us what they need to get the mission done,” said Col. Brian Cusson, 924th FG commander. “We’ve built this fighter group from scratch and the Air Force picked the perfect squadron to demonstrate how to bring the future faster.”

Reserve Citizen Airmen at the 924th are dedicated to innovation and reforming the organization using new technology to improve maintenance production times by employing and testing the app which may also provide a cost savings due to efficiency.

“Since the beginning, our folks have always leveraged innovation to do more with less while optimizing the advantages of our seamless Total Force maintenance team here at DM,” said Cusson.

The Total Force effort combines the talents of Active Duty, Reserve, civilian employees, and government contractors from Amazon Web Services, Apple, Verizon, Monkton, and others who are providing the

architecture and hardware for BRICE. The app is supported by the Defense Information Systems Agency, U.S. Air Force Headquarters and AFRC Logistics offices that manage the program.

Maintainers have been using the application for approximately one year. They were invited to provide direct feedback to George and his development team on their experiences and ideas for improving the app.

Initial testing was limited to 150 users, who were issued iPads with the application loaded, and used it every day during the first test phase. Seventy-eight percent of users, reported the tool reduced their travel time by one to two hours per job and that it is easy to implement.

The discussion focused on providing innovative mobile solutions for a rapidly deployable Air Force, and meeting needs in the most cost-effective ways possible. Early cost savings is an estimated \$8,500 per year, per maintainer for the Air Force, according to Christopher W. Butigieg, AFRC logistics program manager.

George and his development team say they need the talents of Davis-Monthan’s Airmen on the ground to make BRICE a viable solution for the entire Air Force. He encouraged Airmen to not only provide their ideas and experiences, but to also learn code and write their own applications in the future.

The development team agreed new applications to meet additional Air Force needs should be fast and simple, doing only one or two tasks extremely well. The goal is to have Airmen ready and equipped with the tools they need completely mobile and secure.

“My job is to leverage data,” said George. “The right data leads to the right decision, and this team at Da-

vis-Monthan is crucial to me and my team in getting this app right.”

Members of the 924th AMXS and the rest of the development team were recognized by George.

“You are incredible. You are the best Airmen this Air Force has ever had, and you are our future. You will optimize our Air Force and I thank you for your insight and your service,” said George.

BRICE will implement the maintainers’ feedback into its next update at the end of this month, and will continue to test and scope the tool more broadly across the Total Force at Davis-Monthan AFB.

The 924th FG is a geographically separated unit of the 944th Fighter Wing located at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona and consists of four units; the 47th Fighter Squadron, the 924th AMXS, the 924th MXS, and the 924th Operational Support Flight. The unit-equipped fighter group is responsible for one half of the Air Force’s A-10 pilot training mission. The Total Force effort includes active and classic associations with the regular Air Force’s 355th Wing including the 355th Fighter Group and the 355th Maintenance Group at Davis-Monthan AFB.



(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson)

Upcoming Events

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A

4

Change of Command

944th Fighter Wing

8:44 a.m. in Hangar 999



5

Retirement Ceremony

Col. Bryan Cook

8:44 a.m. in Hangar 999



****WING PHOTO WILL BE DIRECTLY AFTER CHANGE OF COMMAND. PLEASE STAY IN PLACE AND AWAIT INSTRUCTION. ****



Visit our website:

<http://www.944fw.afrc.af.mil> to keep up-to-date on the wing happenings!

Important Phone Numbers

Wing Command Section

623-856-0944

Wing Safety

623-856-5361

Chaplain

623-856-5303

Command Post

623-856-5600

Equal Opportunity

623-856-5560

Financial Management

623-856-8063

Inspector General

623-856-6682

Public Affairs

623-856-5388

Staff Judge Advocate

623-856-5333

Reserve Recruiting

623-856-5339

Customer Services (IDs)

623-856-5358

Training/Education

623-856-5318

Airman & Family Readiness

623-856-8324

Help Desk

623-856-8024

Sexual Assault Hotline (24/7)

623-856-4878

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-8255

Happy Mother's Day

May 12, 2019

