

SnapShot

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



944th Force Support Squadron welcomes new commander
Ohio native retires from Air Force in Phoenix after 26 year career
AFRC Recruiting teams up with Naismith Basketball HOF

944 FW KEY LEADERS

Commander

Col. Bryan E. Cook

Vice Commander

Col. Robert R. Tofil

Command Chief

CMSgt. Jeremy N. Malcom

944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot

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SnapShot Editorial Staff

Chief, Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

Operations Chief, PA

Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

Contributors, PA

Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson

Tech. Sgt. Michael Lahrman

Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz

Staff Sgt. Tyler Bolken

Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder

Staff Sgt. Chris Moore



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Bringing the Heat

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Cover photo: A mass enlistment was held by Team Luke at the Air Force Reserve Jerry Colangelo Classic basketball tournament in Phoenix. A group of 10 future Citizen Airman took part in the enlistment conducted by Col. Robert Tofil, the 944th Fighter Wing vice commander. (Courtesy photo)

Striving for Excellence

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

One of the biggest mistakes we make in life is thinking that failure is a sign to give up or shift focus away from our goals. Failure and mistakes teach us our biggest lessons as they are often humbling, painful, and unforgettable. Excellence is not something we are born into. We have to work hard for it through consistency, diligence, and commitment. We must get back up, wipe off the dust, and keep running toward the finish line. This is how excellence occurs.

As you step into this unit training assembly weekend, remember how excellence is gained and set your path straight ahead.

Embrace the rough roads and tumbles as this is what makes you strong and tests your endurance.

Life teaches us valuable lessons continually if we listen and accept it. Persevere as growth is a gradual process that produces healthy outcomes. Be your best everyday, inspiring those around you. Let's do this together!



**Excellence is
the gradual
result of always
striving to do
better.
-Pat Riley**



Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Doyle



I am Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Doyle, 414th Fighter Group superintendent and here is a little bit about the 414th Fighter Group.

The 414th FG was activated on Oct. 15, 1944, and inactivated just two years later on Sep. 30, 1946. They reactivated the group again, this time in the Air Force Reserve, on July 15, 2010. The group was initially assigned to the 482th Fighter Wing and stood up at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. On Oct. 1, 2012, the Fighter Group was reassigned to the 944 Fighter Wing.

The mission of the 414th FG is enhancing F-15E maintenance, operations, and intelligence Total Force Integration capabilities and efficiencies enabling dominant strike eagle airpower. The Group has two squadrons, the 307th Fighter Squadron and the 414th Maintenance Squadron. We are a Total Force Integrated unit classically associated with the 4th Fighter Wing and we fly the F15E Strike Eagle training active duty pilots and weapons system officers. Something we do a little differently here is we perform our Unit Training Assemblies on Friday and Saturday. This unique construct fosters a great TFI relationship and enables our maintainers to work alongside of their active duty counterparts, maintaining aircraft systems and generating sorties.

My focus areas as the Group superintendent are identifying and grooming future leaders, seeking unique opportunities for growth for Airmen and enhancing TFI relationships while embracing our Reserve identity. I think one of the most important things we can do as leaders is to get out from behind the desk and visit with our amazing Airmen, discover what their needs are and how we can work best for them. Some simple keys to success for our Airmen are career proficiency, living a healthy lifestyle, finding their voice in the organization, and developing personnel and professional goals and a plan to attain them.

I hope to see you around the wing sometime.



(Courtesy photo)

January 2019 promotions:

From Airman Basic

Amn Passion A. Short, 944th ASTS

From Airman 1st Class

SrA Alicia N. Tolbert, 414th MXS

SrA Tiffany M. Caldwell, 414th MXS

SrA Khari D. Parker, 414th MXS

SrA Alberto M. Rodriguez, 924th MXS

From Senior Airman

Staff Sgt. Samuel O. Strong, 944th AMXS

From Staff Sgt.

Tech. Sgt. Luis R. Rosales, 924th AMXS

Tech. Sgt. Jesus R. Maldonado, 924th FG

Tech. Sgt. Susan M. Garcia, 924th MXS

Tech. Sgt. John T. Mifflin, 924th MXS

Tech. Sgt. Sean M. Stoner, 924th MXS

Tech. Sgt. Jordon D. Tuck, 944th AMXS

Tech. Sgt. Joseph J. Ferral Jr., 944th LRS

Tech. Sgt. Kelsea T. Ashmore, 944th SFS

Tech. Sgt. Jeffery J. Bennett, 944th SFS

Tech. Sgt. Alfredo G. Catolico, 944th SFS

Tech. Sgt. Dimitri L. Newham, 944th SFS

From Tech. Sgt.

MSgt Anthony Maldonado, 414th MXS

MSgt Thomas A. Starr, 924th MXS

MSgt Timothy R. Legler, 944th LRS

From Master Sgt.

SMSgt. Chad M. Howery, 414th MXS

WARRIOR OF THE MONTH

STAFF SGT. CASEY O'NEAL

944TH AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON CREW CHIEF



(Photos by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder)

Time in Service: 10 years

Time with the 944th Fighter Wing: Two and a half years

Civilian Job: Air Reserve Technician at the 61st Aircraft Maintenance Unit

Hometown: Canadian, Texas

Hobbies: Spending time with my family, traveling, and fishing.

Home-life: I live in Surprise, Ariz. with my wife, Kendra, and my son Reilly. We are expecting a little girl in February.

Why did you join the Air Force Reserve?

After getting out of the Marine Corps and working for Lockheed Martin, I wanted to continue my military career.

How does your job support the mission of the 944th

Fighter Wing?

As F-35A crew chiefs we are total force integrated with active duty at the 61st AMU. We assist the 61st AMU with inspecting, maintaining, and servicing 23 assigned aircraft worth over 2.3 billion dollars. We also train reserve and active duty Airmen on proper maintenance procedures, safety, and documentation so that the pilots can train to be combat ready. We were vital in the 61st AMU completing the 25,000 F-35A sortie for Luke AFB and the 944th FW winning the General Welsh Award. Our actions increased the capabilities of both the 61st AMU and the 56th Fighter Wing. We are here to fly, fight, and win.

If you were on a deserted island.....?

I would probably try to find fresh water, food, and shelter to survive until I can escape or I am rescued. I would also fish to pass the time and to keep from going crazy.

944th Force Support Squadron welcomes new commander

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

The 944th Force Support Squadron held an assumption of command ceremony to officially welcome Maj. Jessica Takashige as their commander here, Jan. 13.

Col. Gavin Tade, 944th Mission Support Group commander, presided over the event and gave accolades to Takashige, who was already serving as the interim commander for almost a year, building familiarity with the position and the squadron.

“Jessica is a special officer and she likes to work hard,” said Tade. “She takes care of her people, she takes care of her Airmen, and she takes care of the United States Air Force.”

Before transitioning to Luke, Takashige served as interim executive officer, Air Force Reserve Command/A1, Robins Air Force Base, GA.

“Thank you to the FSS for being the awesome unit that you are,” said Takashige. “You recently deployed to support world-wide missions and simultaneously helped family support back home. Without the FSS the wing cannot get done the things they need to function.”

Takashige is responsible for ensuring the unit’s mission to train all assigned Reserv-

ists to perform military personnel, family readiness, services, and communications functions for world-wide deployments in support of Air Force requirements.

At home station, the 944th FSS provides support services to mobilize and deploy 1,900 Reservists via military personnel, education and training services, Airman and Family Readiness, lodging, food service, and fitness. In addition, the unit consists of communications support, responsible for performing client support technician duties to include operating systems and customer support throughout the wing.

“I am incredibly proud of the services that you provide to our 1,900 Airmen in this wing, service members around the globe and their families,” said Takashige. “As we approach the end of the Unit Effectiveness Inspection in October, I challenge you to look for ways we can improve our processes.”

Looking to the future, she shares her hopes with the Airmen she will be leading.

“Finally, I ask that each of you take care of each other, and take care of yourself as I will take care of you,” said Takashige. “I look forward to continuing to serve with each of you and getting to know you and your families.”

(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz)



Ohio native retires from Air Force in Phoenix after 26 year career

By Staff Sgt. Tyler J. Bolken, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

After 26 years of service, Col. Robert R. Tofil retired from the U.S. Air Force on Jan. 11 during a ceremony here.

Tofil retired as the vice commander of the 944th Fighter Wing, a position he has held since June 2017. The vice commander role directly supports the 944th FW commander, Col. Bryan E. Cook.

“We grew up here and the majority of our time has been here at Luke,” said Tofil.

Tofil, an Ohio native, began his career by attending the Air Force Academy in 1993, before becoming a fighter pilot with more than 2,600 flight hours throughout his career. Tofil’s first stint at Luke was as a student in 1995, but he returned here multiple times throughout his career, and it is where his family considers home.

Cook said he and Tofil had several conversations leading to this bitter-sweet day.

“Although this decision to retire is difficult, it is the right decision for him and his family,” said Cook. “He epitomizes integrity, service before self, and excellence in everything he does.”

Cook said he will miss the friendship and support he has received from Tofil during their time together.

“He takes on all challenges with a smile and a humble, calm demeanor,” said Cook. “The Air Force is losing somebody pretty special today.”

Family, friends, and fellow Airmen were in attendance at the afternoon ceremony. Tofil expressed his gratitude for their support.

“The Air Force is like a family, and it is all about accomplishing the bigger objective together,” said Tofil. “Looking ahead, I cannot wait to spend more time with my family, cook more meals, and play some more golf.”



(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz)

AFRC Recruiting teams up with Naismith Basketball HOF

By Master Sgt. Chance Babin, Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service teamed up with the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to sponsor seven early season collegiate basketball tournaments from coast to coast throughout the holidays.

The tournaments were held from the Northeast in Connecticut and Atlantic City, to South in Miami and reaching west to Phoenix and Los Angeles to help brand the Air Force Reserve. Nearly 56,000 people attended the tournaments combined and more than 2.5 million viewers tuned in to watch the games.

At the Air Force Reserve Jerry Colangelo Classic Basketball tournament at the Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix, Arizona, recruiters from Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, held a mass enlistment for 10 future Reserve Citizen Airmen. The enlistment took place at center court, but the boon for advertising was the tournament's final game.

The championship game held December 9, 2018, featured the 7th ranked Tennessee Volunteers against the top ranked Gonzaga Bulldogs. The game was decided on a 3-pointer by Tennessee in the waning seconds, knocking off the nation's No. 1 ranked team 76-73 to take the title. The game aired live on ESPN with Air Force Reserve branding streaming to a national audience.

"Having this amazing game go down to the wire live on ESPN to a national audience was exactly the kind of advertising we are looking for by sponsoring these national tournaments. As in all sponsorships, we hope to keep viewers until the end of the game. Games like this really put us on the map and increase our impressions to the viewing public," said

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Johnson, AFRC RS, chief of advertising. "The highlights were shown repeatedly on ESPN Sports Center and social media, magnifying AFRC's presence at the game. It was a great value buy for Reserve recruiting."

Nearly 10,200 people attended the tournament in Arizona and more than 771,000 television viewers watched the games, not to mention the countless social media views.

The Air Force Reserve Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament and the Hall of Fame Women's Showcase were the first of the numerous tournaments. Both were held at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Connecticut and featured eight men's teams and one women's game.

The women's side was headlined by the University of Connecticut women's team, winner of 11 national championships. The men's tourney featured a couple of coaches who have Final Four resumes in Michigan head coach John Beilein and South Carolina's Frank

Martin.

"We're just so excited to have the Air Force Reserve sponsoring all of our collegiate basketball events throughout the rest of this year. It's very exciting and it's good early season basketball," said John L. Doleva, president and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame. "And what a wonderful relationship we have. I hope we are helpful to the Air Force Reserve as well and we very much appreciate all you being here today. I look forward to a long-standing relationship."

The tournament drew a television audience of nearly 486,000 and had 21,431 fans in attendance.

AFRC recruiters worked the entire tournament, and as the lead sponsor AFRC had a huge digital presence in the arena as well as two logos on the court and behind the basket. The recruiters were also at mid-court to recognize the all-tournament team members and present the Air Force Reserve Naismith Hall of Fame trophy to the winning teams.

"We are excited to represent the 439th Air Wing and Westover Air Reserve Base in the recruitment of men and woman here to be a part of the Air Force Reserve," said Senior Master Sgt. Anne Pfeiffer, the recruiting flight chief with 439th AW, Massachusetts. "This type of venue brings nationwide branding along with local participants and spectators who share the love of competition and the desire to win!"

Having not only the men's tournament, but having the UConn Huskies women's team was an opportunity to reach a more diverse audience.

"UConn is a massive national brand in women's basketball, and they have an enormous following here in the Northeast," Pfeiffer said.

(continued on page 7)



(Courtesy photo)

“Additionally, the fact that AFRC Recruiting Service is sponsoring the American Athletic Conference, which UConn is a part of, will give us access to more events at the university in areas like men’s and women’s basketball, football and ROTC.”

Geno Auriemma, the head coach for the UConn’s women’s basketball team, spoke about the importance of having Air Force Reserve as a title sponsor of the tournament.

“I think especially during this time of the year in November people are sometimes forgetful of our veterans and all the people that serve,” Auriemma said. “Anything we can do to bring some attention, recognition and appreciation for our people in uniform I think it’s a good thing and it’s an honor for us to be asked to be involved. We’re proud to have you guys and to represent you.”

UConn defeated the Vanderbilt Commodores 80-42 in their game during the tournament.

On the men’s side, the tournament was divided into two four-team brackets. In one bracket the College of Holy Cross won the championship game over Siena College. Stony Brook University and Norfolk State were the other participants. Holy Cross Head Coach Bill Carmody discussed AFRC’s involvement in the tournament and some similarities.

“This is great. The Air Force Reserve sponsors this thing and you have eight teams come in here and all you ever talk about is playing together, playing as a team, working as a unit to

try to accomplish a certain goal,” Carmody said. “I’m not in the Air Force and never have been, but certainly in the Air Force those are the kind of things you are looking for. You’re looking for leaders to emerge and the team falls behind them and the main thing is you share the wins, the losses, the ups, the downs, and then you feel good about that and I think you can accomplish a lot.”

In the other bracket, the Michigan Wolverines took home the title by defeating the local favorite, Providence College, in the championship. South Carolina and George Washington University

were the other teams in the bracket. The championship game was nationally televised on ESPN, giving AFRC a broad ranging audience.

Michigan Head Coach John Beilein shared his view on the military and collegiate athletics.

“It’s so huge to have something with that brand, the Air Force Reserve, involved with something like this. I think the longer we are involved in athletics and the armed services there is so much of a connection between the two and when we can bring that together it’s good stuff,” Beilein said. “We really study it. We study what the military does. We try to make sure they understand there’s no way you win in basketball without teamwork and I know there’s no way you win in the military without teamwork, so I know there’s some great analogies that you can make. But we’re just basketball and you guys are saving our country and that’s a much bigger task and we’re proud of you.”



(Photos by Master Sgt. Chance Babin)

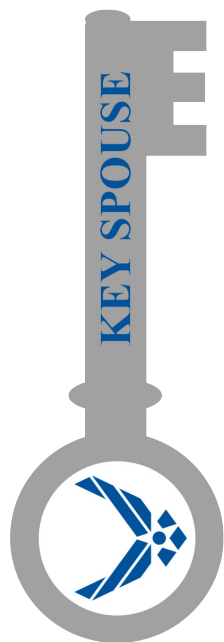


Airman & Family Readiness Center

MILTAX:

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MilTax is a suite of free tax services for the military, including easy-to-use tax preparation and e-filing software, personalized support from tax consultants, and current information about filing taxes in the military. It's designed to address the realities of military life – including deployments, combat and training pay, housing and rentals and multistate filings. Click the button on the right for more info or find the link here: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/tax-resource-center/miltax-military-tax-services>



Key Spouse Program

The Key Spouse Program is an official unit/family program designed to enhance readiness and establish a sense of Air Force community.

It is a commander's program that promotes partnerships with unit leadership, volunteer Key Spouses appointed by the commander, families, the Airman & Family Readiness Center and other community and helping agencies. The program has been standardized across the Air Force to address the needs of all military families with special emphasis on support to families across the deployment cycle.

Air Force Key Spouse Program offers additional deployment support resources

- in most units that have a first sergeant
- serve as an ongoing community connection at all times and especially across the deployment cycle
- provide a volunteer opportunity for spouses interested in giving back to their communities

Contact the Airmen & Family Readiness Center to find YOUR Key Spouse and for more information.



Jessica Maldonado
944th Fighter Wing A&FRC Director
Office: 623-856-6683 • Mobile: 602-705-6828
Email: jessica.maldonado.7@us.af.mil



NEW PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

WHEN:

UTA SUNDAYS AT 7:30 A.M.

WHERE:

61ST AMU CONFERENCE
ROOM
(BLDG 460)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OR
EMAIL THE 944TH FIGHTER WING
CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE AT 623-856-
5303 OR 944FW.HC@US.AF.MIL



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 9

Annual Awards Banquet

Renaissance Hotel
Medallion Ceremony - 4:30 p.m.
Social hour - 5 p.m.
Dinner - 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9

Commander's Call

Hangar 999 at 1:30 p.m.

facebook



Visit our website:

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

MARCH 13

Graydon Williams Award

Tempe, Ariz. - more info
to follow

APRIL 6

Operation Reserve Kids

Register by March 1.
(link on page 10)

For more information, call
the Airman and Family Readiness Center (623) 856-8324

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



OPERATION: RESERVE KIDS

When:

Saturday, April 6, 2019
12:30-4:00pm

Registration deadline:

March 1, 2019

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/operation-reserve-kids-2019-tickets-52890209039>



Space is limited, first come, first serve.

A simulated deployment experience for children
6-15 years old.

For more information call:

944th Airman & Family Readiness at
(623) 856-8324

