



# 944th Fighter Wing Monthly SnapShot

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March 2014

## 944 FW KEY LEADERS

### Commander

Col. Kurt J. Gallegos

### Vice Commander

Col. Robert D. Whitehouse

### Command Chief

CMSgt Rhonda L. Hutson

## Mission

Train and provide Combat-Ready Airmen.

Mission ■ Airmen ■ Family

## 944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot:

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## 944th Welcomes AFRC IG

*By Colonel Kurt J. Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing Commander*

This month the 944th Fighter Wing welcomes the Air Force Reserve Command Inspection Team. We have had a lot going on this year already, but am I worried about this inspection? No! Rather, I am excited to showcase our wing and especially you, the men and women who make this wing one of the best and most diverse wings in the Reserves.

From March 20-24, AFRC IG will conduct a CAPSTONE event for the 944th. As we have mentioned before, this year the inspection is a little different and our Airmen will be participating in IG hosted Airmen-to-IG sessions, or ATIS. We will have a cross section of our Airmen participate in these sessions. Remember, there is no master question file to study and no wrong answers. The IG facilitators are looking for and will appreciate your honest and open communication.

We are glad to have the IG team here and I am eager to show them our programs and the tremendous work you have done. On that note, I would like to take a moment to introduce you to some changes that your commanders have been working hard on. In February we held our annual strategic plan meeting and charted the future for the wing. One of the changes that came out of the meeting was that we now have a new Vision and Mission Statement which captures the essence of our wing.

**Our new Vision:** The 944th Fighter Wing will provide premier integrated warriors to support and defend our Nation.

**Our new Mission Statement:** Train and provide combat ready Airmen.  
Mission – Airmen – Family

We are going to get back to our Air Force Core Values and this is our chance to get a fresh start. The budget has been approved and we are able to get back to business.

The diversity of our mission is incredible, from our training missions in the F-15, A-10, F-16, and F-35, to our medical experts and everyone in-between. Our unique missions make us an incredible asset to not only AFRC but to the Air Force. Your accomplishments do not go unnoticed, and I have every confidence that we will get the highest rating possible on this inspection.

Thank you for all you do! Let the IG team see your positive attitude and your genuine excitement as we show off this wing to the inspectors.



## OUR VISION:

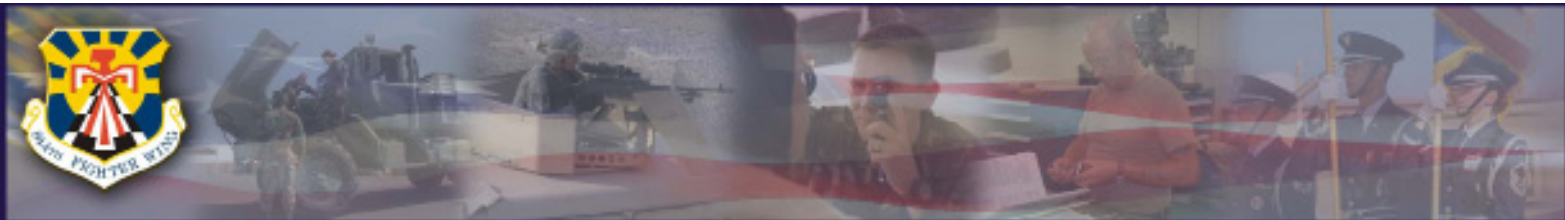
THE 944TH FIGHTER WING WILL PROVIDE  
PREMIER INTEGRATED WARRIORS TO SUPPORT  
AND DEFEND OUR NATION.

## OUR MISSION:

TRAIN AND PROVIDE COMBAT READY AIRMEN

MISSION ■ AIRMEN ■ FAMILY





# The future looks bright for the 944th

By Chief Master Sgt. Rhonda Hutson 944th Fighter Wing Command Chief  
944th Warriors!

I hope this finds all of you well and gearing up for the sizzling summer of Arizona. Col. Gallegos and I recently traveled to San Antonio for the Air Education and Training Command Senior Leaders Conference. Now, that in itself really is not significant, however, what took place was significant to me and I wanted to share a few thoughts with you.

Our first presentation of the conference was from the Air Force Wounded Warrior program. The coordinator spoke first, then, there were four very brave Airmen who addressed the crowd. They were Airmen without legs, arms and digits. Quite overwhelming, but what really moved me was how proud they were of being Airmen and how much they have learned about themselves and helping others. As I listened to Capt. Evans and Staff Sgt. Palomino share their very personal stories, I reflected on our core values: Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. These Airmen sacrificed themselves in order to save others, which is the epitome of our core values. I also became very aware of how I could be doing more and how I want to be a better Airman for them and you.

The week continued with impressive briefs on command transformation and the week ended with the opportunity to attend a Basic Military Training graduation. That morning, the Air Force graduated 200 of the most motivated and energized Airmen that I have ever seen, it was very inspiring! I once heard that there is a distinct difference in when you "enter" the Air Force and when you "join" the Air Force. We all sign on the line, but I challenge you to think about when you truly "joined" and became a part of something greater than yourself. For me, there was a several year separation. As I watched these Airmen take the Oath of Enlistment and recite the Airman's Creed, I knew these Airmen were different. Many already decided to "join." I was so proud and excited for these young men and women. These Airmen are our future and the future looks bright!

Bringing this all full circle, it's critical that we take care of each other and be true wingmen to one another. Remember, we mentor up, down and across. I want to personally thank each of you for what you do and contribute to our great Air Force. It means so much to me that you volunteer to wear the uniform and serve our great nation!

In closing, our CAPSTONE Inspection is in full swing, and I know all of you have been preparing for this for quite some time. The inspection team hit the ground running, and I know you are ready to show off our outstanding Wing and showcase what we are all about. WE ARE READY!

## Promotions:

The following members were promoted 1 March 2014:

Airman 1st Class Ashlynd R. Fine to the rank of Senior Airman, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron  
Senior Airman Jesse W. Bowman to the rank of Staff Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron  
Senior Airman Matthew O. Dinsdale to the rank of Staff Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron  
Staff Sgt. Marzetta O. Barcus to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron  
Staff Sgt. Tremel Z. Ealey to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron  
Staff Sgt. John R. Huff to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 944th Medical Squadron  
Tech. Sgt. Steven P. Shiflett to the rank of Master Sergeant 414th Maintenance Squadron



## Welcome Home!!

Master Sgt. James Martin, 944th Force Support Squadron, returned home from Southwest Asia

## 3rd Annual Salsa Competition

The Rising Six presents the 3rd Annual Salsa Competition! Saturday, May 3, 2014 @ 1530 (3:30) in Bldg 993 in the old Services Hangar. \$3 includes salsa and chips/nachos, a small drink, and a voting ticket!

To participate as a contestant in the competition, please contact SSgt Teresa Killeen at 623-856-3600 or at [teresa.killeen@us.af.mil](mailto:teresa.killeen@us.af.mil) no later than the end of the March UTA.





## 924 FG says goodbye to 45 FS and welcomes new 47 FS commander

*By 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

The 924th Fighter Group held a unit inactivation and assumption of command ceremony at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. March 8.

At the ceremony the 45th Fighter Squadron was inactivated and the 47th Fighter Squadron took over its mission of augmenting the Air Combat Command as an A-10C training squadron as part of the Total Force Integration program. During the same ceremony Lt. Col. Terry McClain assumed command of the 47th FS.

The 45th FS was first activated Dec. 1, 1940 as the 45th Pursuit Squadron and was located at Wheeler Field, territory of Hawaii. The unit provided defense for the Hawaiian Islands and flew combat mission in the Central Pacific until it was inactivated in 1946. The unit has been activated and inactivated several times over the years but has participated in operations in North Africa, Southwest Asia (Vietnam and Thailand), before transitioning to the A-10 aircraft and being assigned to Davis Monthan first under the 355th Fighter Wing and then as a reserve unit under the 944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

Col. John Russell, 924th Fighter Group commander, presided over the dual ceremony and highlighted the significance of the day during his remarks.

"We gather here to mark the inactivation of the 45th Fighter Squadron, recognize the move of the 47 FS to Davis Monthan and to have Lt. Col. McClain assume command of the 47th and this new unit equipped A-10 training mission," he told the group.

"During the last five plus year's, members of the 45th FS have trained A-10 mission ready pilots alongside our Regular Air Force

team," continued Russell. "Most of those graduated pilots have gone on to their operational units and have flown combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan or sat ready in Korea. Our 45th FS instructors typically flew 22-25% of the Formal Training Unit's sorties on a monthly basis and I'm convinced our training here at Davis Monthan is the best it has ever been thanks to the total force team."

The 47th FS is now the Air Force Reserve Command's only combined classic and active association unit.

"This means we'll have some reservists flying down in the active duty dragon squadron to give them some experience and continuity," said McClain. "At the same time members from the 355 Fighter Wing will be working in the 47th FS."

The responsibility of the training, educating, and mentoring A-10 Thunderbolt pilots fell into the hands of the 47th FS beginning in December 2013.

"The same product will come out of the active duty unit and the reserve unit," said McClain. "One of the benefits of the Reserves is that active-duty personnel rotate every three years, in the reserves, we show up and

we stay. There are also less training costs and a smaller footprint." After the assumption of command ceremony McClain spent a few minutes talking to the Airmen in his new squadron.

"To the men and women of the 47th, I know a tremendous amount of effort has been expended over the last year to get us to this point today, but even more is needed now as we pick up the Formal Training Unit load. Thanks in advance for all of you hard work as we continue to transition into the squadron. Tr-1 starts on Monday and I know you'll be ready."





**2014 JOB FAIR**


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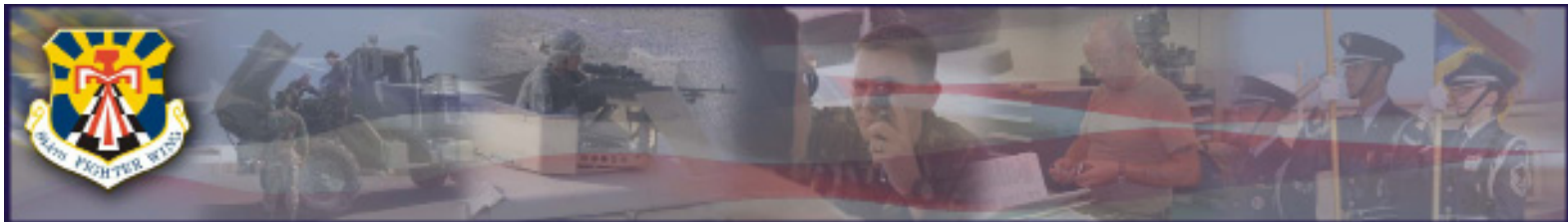
**APRIL 19, 2014**  
**TIME: 0700**  
**LOCATION: THE RAVEN AT VERRADO**  
**\*REGISTRATION FEE: \$30-50**  
\*Registration fee varies based on participant role and Military Grade



**MARCH OF THE FALLEN**

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for more information.





# 69th FS Tradition of the Finest Instructor Pilots

By Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr., 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

One of the components to the 944th Fighter Wing's mission success is the 69th Fighter Squadron.

The unit's lineage dates back to November 1940 when they were constituted as the 69th Pursuit Squadron and two years later they were redesignated the 69th Fighter Squadron. Originally an operational and replacement training unit, the 69th FS has flown combat missions in the Pacific, Korea, and Southwest Asia over the years.

In 1969 the unit made their first imprints on Luke Air Force Base soil as the 69th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron. During this time the 69th trained and worked alongside the German Air Force as they taught German students to fly the F-104 Starfighter. Almost 2,000 Starfighter pilots graduated at Luke during that time.

In 1991 the 69th once again became the 69th Fighter Squadron and participated in Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. In February 2001, the 69th FS was deactivated at Moody AFB, Ga., after flying more than 1,500 combat sorties during Desert Storm.

The unit moved back to Luke and joined the 944th FW in March 2010 when Headquarters Air Force authorized the reactivation of the 69th FS as a Reserve unit.

Today, the 69th FS continues its tradition of excellence by arguably being one of the most experienced F-16 cadre in the world, averaging over 2300 fighter hours per instructor. The reserve instructors enabled the 56th Fighter Wing

Operations Group's 22,574 training sorties, 30,358 flying hours, and the graduation of 294 combat-ready pilots. There are currently 55 personnel assigned.

"We support the 944th mission by providing highly qualified AFRC Instructor Pilots to train the 'Finest Fighter Pilots in the World' and support 56th Fighter Wing requirements," said Tech. Sgt. Adam Raley, 69th Fighter Squadron, aviation resource manager, NCOIC, and squadron historian.

Lt. Col. Gerald Brown, 69th Fighter Squadron Commander assumed command March 2013. He is a command pilot with over 3,600 hours in the F-16, including 400 combat hours.

"I am honored to be a part of this incredible team," said Brown. "Those who have worn the 69th Fighter Squadron patch in the past and those who continue to do so today know it is an honor and a privilege."

The 69th FS instructors literally wrote the book for future joint combat operations with a re-write to joint close air support techniques, tactics, and procedures (TTP's) in addition to governing directives for the joint strike fighter's TTP's.

"The mission will evolve as Luke's mission evolves, the arrival of the F-35 platform, and the hard work of both 69th personnel and Ops Group leadership to not only provide continuity in the F-35 bed down effort, but to secure an association of our IPs into that new mission," said Brown.

"The reputation of the 69th FS and the character of its personnel continue to carry on through the generations," said Colonel Kurt Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing Commander. "We are proud to have the 69th FS and its members a part of the 944th FW team."



The 69th FS patch was designed by a member of the squadron during WWII who used to work for Disney. The pilots wore the werewolf on their jackets, planes and everywhere else therefore, it was adopted on the patch. The patch temporarily changed when the 339th Tactical Fighter Squadron which converted to the 69th Tactical Fighter Squadron brought their dragon patch. With pressure from the Werewolf Alumni Association, a move to go back to the werewolf started and in September of 1990 it was approved.

"Legend has it that a member of the 69 TFS was against the idea of adopting the werewolf over the dragon until one night at a country bar a woman told him that his dragon patch had a wimpy looking dragon. Soon after that the squadron did all the paperwork and received Air Force approval to make the werewolf the patch again," said Tech. Sgt. Adam Raley, 69th Fighter Squadron historian.

## New 944th Command Chief gets to know the wing

By Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr., 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 944th Fighter Wing welcomed their new Command Chief during the Feb. Unit Training Assembly.

To kick off her new assignment Chief Master Sgt. Rhonda L. Hutson made her rounds visiting each unit during her wing immersion starting Friday and continuing through the weekend.

"What impressed me most was the pride and enthusiasm everyone exuded as I visited each work center," stated Hutson. "It was clear to me that they all wanted to be here and are eager for the next challenge."

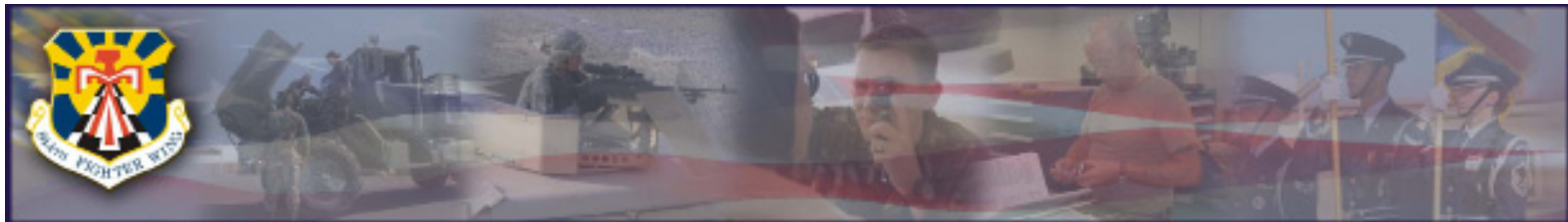
Besides the numerous briefings, the unit immersion included visit's to 944th FW squadron's, plenty of face time with Airmen and concluded with an unofficial welcome get together by the Top Three.

When asked about her philosophy of success, Hutson replied, "success is a team sport. Not just one person can claim it, it takes a team. The 944th Warriors have done just that. This unit is rich in history and the current Airmen continue to carry that legacy on with extreme pride."

With the F-35 coming to Luke Air Force



Base and the 944th FW's involvement, her plans are to help build the organization for the future.



# Providing World Class Customer Service

ARPC NOTAM 126 - Commanders -- The Air Reserve Personnel Center is committed to providing generations of Airmen with world class customer service. In order to do virtual transactions across the cyber chain, ARPC relies heavily on a complex relationship of outside organizations to support this work. The vast majority of problems that cause systems degradation of virtualized personnel service delivery do not occur within ARPC or its control. Our personnel center does not own or control the external network, connections, or support for this virtual capability. Even so, we take our responsibility to our customers seriously. We aggressively work with our partners to ensure timely and effective resolution of any system interruptions that affect our Airmen and their mission. In an effort to provide the most efficient service possible, I need your help to ensure our Airmen know who to contact if there is a problem

accessing Tier 0 online services, i.e., MilPDS, myPERS, vPC-GR, ARMS, AFPC Secure, Discoverer, vMPF, etc.

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to report any problems accessing self-service (Tier 0) applications. This includes requesting updates for system maintenance issues. The AFPOA/A1 Service Desk can be reached at DSN 665-5004 or 210-565-5004.

ARPC is working with senior leadership across the Air Force to streamline our technology infrastructure and increase system reliability for our Airmen. While ARPC does not own the majority of these systems or the infrastructure they operate through, we will continue to take the lead on finding a long term solution to building a world class personnel service delivery solution for our warfighters.

//signed//

SAMUEL C. MAHANEY, Brig. Gen., USAFR  
Commander, HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center

View past NOTAMs - <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/news/index.asp?catid=284>

## Defense budget proposal affects Air Force Reserve units

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- The Department of Defense budget request for fiscal 2015 includes a number of proposed changes for the Air Force Reserve.

If enacted into law, the DOD budget request would increase the number of Reserve fighter wings equipped with F-16 fighters, create a classic associate B-1 bomber group, increase the number of Reserve KC-135 tankers, inactivate the Reserve airlift wing at Pope Field, N.C., retire the A-10 fighters, and inactivate the Reserve's E-3 AWACS classic associate group.

"These force structure changes are significant, but they ensure the Air Force Reserve remains an integrated, flexible and combat-ready force," said Brig. Gen. William "Buck" Waldrop, director of plans, programs, requirements and assessments for Air Force Reserve Command.

"Maintaining the appropriate active-Reserve force mix is critical to sustaining Air Force forward presence, rapid response, and high-rate rotational demands within a smaller force, and analysis of force mix must consider the three components as a complete system," he said.

Major changes in Air Force Reserve structure include:

- Beale AFB, Calif. - Add eight KC-135 Stratotankers to the 940th Wing and inactivate the 583rd RED HORSE Squadron.
- Dyess AFB, Texas - Activate a B-1B Lancer classic associate group.
- Whiteman AFB, Mo. - Retire 27 A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and replace them with 21 F-16 Fighting Falcon (Block 40) aircraft in the 442nd Fighter Wing, tentatively scheduled for 2018.
- Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. - Retire 28 A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and replace them with 21 F-16 Fighting Falcon (Block 40) aircraft in the 924th Fighter Group, tentatively scheduled for 2019.
- Travis AFB, Calif. - Convert four C-5 Galaxy aircraft from the active inventory to the backup inventory.
- Little Rock AFB, Ark. - Convert Detachment 1, 22nd Air Force to the 913th Airlift Group equipped with 10 C-130J Hercules aircraft.
- Peterson AFB, Colo. - Reduce the number of C-130H Hercules from 12 to eight in the 302nd Airlift Wing.

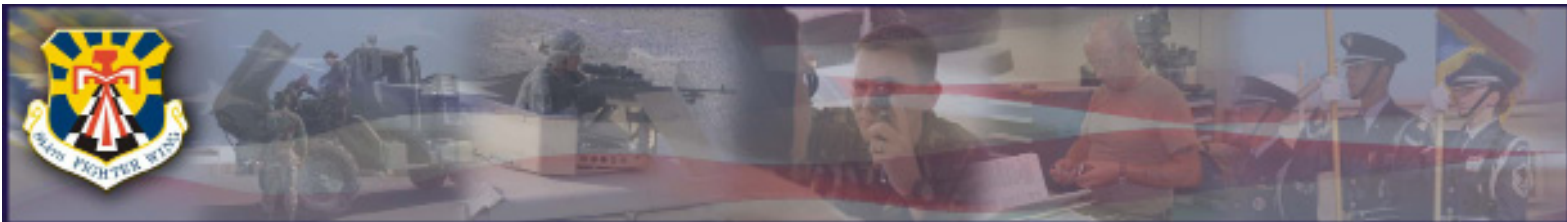
- Dover AFB, Del. - Convert four C-5 Galaxy aircraft from the active inventory to the backup inventory.

- March ARB, Calif. - Inactivate the 4th Combat Camera Squadron.
- Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii - Inactivate the 624th Security Forces Squadron.
- Barksdale AFB, La. - Inactivate the 307th RED HORSE Squadron.
- Keesler AFB, Miss. - Inactivate the 403rd Civil Engineer Squadron.
- Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska - Inactivate the 477th Civil Engineer Squadron and 477th Security Forces Squadron.
- Joint Base Andrews, Md. - Inactivate 459th Security Forces Squadron and 459th Civil Engineer Squadron, but retain the explosive ordnance disposal flight.
- Joint Base Charleston, S.C. - Convert eight C-17s from the primary inventory to the back-up inventory.
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. - Convert eight C-17s from the primary inventory to the back-up inventory.
- Pope Field, N.C. - Inactivate the 440th Airlift Wing.
- Tinker AFB, Okla. - Add four KC-135 Stratotankers to the 507th Air Refueling Wing and inactivate the 513th Air Control Group, an E-3A AWACS classic associate unit.
- Moody AFB, Ga. - Inactivate the 476th Fighter Group, an A-10 Thunderbolt II classic associate unit.
- Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station, Pa. - Inactivate the 911th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. - Inactivate the 42nd Combat Communications Squadron.

The proposed authorized end strength for the Air Force Reserve in fiscal 2015 is expected to decrease 4.7 percent from 70,400 to 67,100 authorized reservists.

"The vast majority of our people serve locally on a part-time basis, and force structure changes pose significant challenges for reservists," said Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, commander of Air Force Reserve Command. "I will ensure that Reserve leaders at every level are doing everything they can to help reservists through the transition."





# SecAF outlines top priorities during 'State of AF' address

by Rich Lamance, Air Force News Service

After her second month in office, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James laid out her top three priorities as part of a "state of the Air Force" address, during the 30th annual Air Force Association Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition Feb. 21.

James laid out the path she, and other senior leaders, feel the Air Force needs to pursue, basing her priorities upon an Air Force that faces dwindling budgets, resources, and people.

She feels the Air Force's No. 1 priority, above aircraft, weapons or equipment, is its people. "Having the right people in the right job at the right time, who are trained and developed should be our number one priority."

The Secretary added, "taking care of people means to me recruiting, retaining and reshaping our force, so that we have the right people in the right jobs for the immediate future, as well as thinking ahead to the longer term. We are going to be smaller. We will be going through a force-shaping set of procedures, which will include mostly voluntary measures. We may do some involuntary as well, this will be a big deal over the next year or two."

James said the other part of taking care of people is compensating people fairly. She believes compensation has escalated over the last dozen years or so, but she expects to see a leveling off in the years ahead. She also believes that to grow Airmen, the Air Force needs to be more diverse.

"Taking care of people also means growing our leadership, developing our people, and getting more diversity of thought at the table. That includes people who come from diverse backgrounds. People with diverse backgrounds have different approaches to problems, and I'm convinced we will get better solutions if we have diversity of thought."

James also stressed that family programs, along with a good balance of work and family time are key to growing better and more productive Airmen.

"It means protecting family programs, achieving a work-life balance, which is hard for a lot of people in the Air Force, because there is a lot of work and it's hard to get that work-life balance in there. It means leveraging the best talents of our active, Guard, Reserve and civilian teams. We also need to ensure a climate of dignity and respect for all, period, whether you are on duty or off duty."

While most of what she sees in the Air Force is extremely positive, James said there are important Airman issues that need to be improved.

"One of the things I'm tracking on is sexual assault and sexual harassment. I'm listening and watching to see what changes have been

made over the last year or two, and I'm impressed with what I've seen. I get that our top leaders, without question, get the importance of it; they're on it, we're working it and that's the way it needs to remain - persistent focus



will create an atmosphere throughout the Air Force that that behavior won't exist."

The second Airman issue involved 92 missile crewmembers at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont, who had some level of involvement in the cheating incident involving a monthly proficiency test on nuclear weapons.

"Some of these officers were directly involved with the cheating, others knew something about it, but for whatever reason, they failed to stop it and they failed to report it."

James traveled to the missile bases, and came away with a sense that the Air Force nuclear mission is in good hands.

"I am convinced after all of this that, number one, our nuclear mission is safe and secure. One test does not make or break anything, and there are plenty of outside evaluations and inspections which demonstrate to me that these Airmen know their job, they are performing it well, so our nuclear mission is safe and secure"

James' No. 2 priority is balancing today's readiness with tomorrow's modernization. "When it comes to today's readiness, I have the utmost confidence in our Air Force. If they are called upon tonight to do a mission half way across the globe, they will step up and do a magnificent job.

"With that said, I wouldn't be truthful with you if I didn't tell you readiness has slipped recently. Last year, during sequestration, was a particularly difficult time. We had to stand down some of our flying squadrons. So readiness has slipped. And we need to reverse this. The Chief is committed, I'm committed, we are all committed to returning the Air Force to higher levels of readiness than we have today. We owe it to our Airmen, we owe it to our

country and that's what we're going to do."

James said that with the immediate relief the Air Force has been provided in fiscal years 14 and 15, "we're going to take most of that and we're going to beef up our readiness. It doesn't mean it will be perfect, it doesn't mean that will fix it, it doesn't mean that we wouldn't like to do more - but it will be a top priority moving forward.

"That's today's readiness. Then there's tomorrow's readiness, which is my way of talking about modernization and the need to recapitalize our platforms to ensure we stay ahead of the threats, and be able to control the skies, project power and extend global reach for the years to come."

The Secretary said the top three priorities for modernization remain the newest fifth generation fighter, the F-35 Lightning II, the new KC-46 tanker, recently named the Pegasus, and the Long Range Strike Bomber.

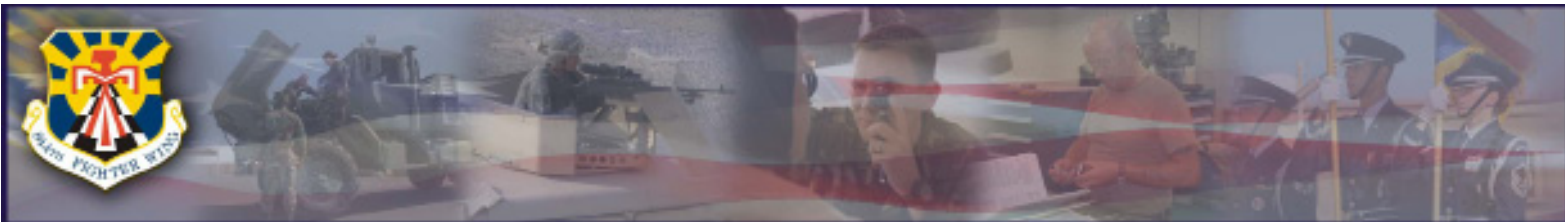
James third priority is to make every dollar count, and said added value to the taxpayer is important. "We need to make sure our programs are on budget and on schedule. We need to be able to deliver auditable books of how we allocate and spend our money."

She said the details on how she plans to advance these priorities will be revealed as early as next month.

She mentioned that like all give and take, there may be things we don't like, with hard choices that have to be made. "I mentioned force shaping measures, there will be headquarters reductions, there will be a number of areas where we will be reducing. I'm telling you this now to get you prepared and ask for your help in telling the total story on how we can achieve these savings, sometimes in very unpopular ways. So we can take some of those savings and reinvest them in some of the key areas - people, readiness and modernization."

While there will be tough decisions to be made in the months and years ahead, James looks at the Air Force in a positive light. "Our future is very, very bright...whether we're flying an aircraft to project visible airpower capability, or launching a satellite from Florida to provide GPS for the nation, or whether we're guarding a missile silo in the Great North, or refueling an airlifter over the Pacific, or providing close air support in Afghanistan, our security depends on these amazing Airmen.

"And, the more time I spend with them, the more I see them carry out these indispensable missions, the more proud of them I am, and of their families. From the sacrifices they endure, sometimes in remote locations around the world, our Airmen are very dedicated professionals, they are steadfast to their commitment to America, and they are living our legacy."



## Air Force customs courtesies: Salutes



*By 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

Customs and courtesies are the core of our military discipline. By upholding our military customs and courtesies we not only help maintain order and build a foundation for self-discipline, they also help to define who we are as Airmen.

The salute is one of the most visible displays of customs and courtesies the military has. Although the origin of the salute is uncertain, some historians believe it began in late Roman times when assassinations were common. A citizen who wanted to see a public official had to approach with his right hand raised to show that he did not hold a weapon.

This practice gradually became a way of showing respect. By 1820, the motion was modified to touching the hat, and since then it has become the hand salute used today.

Most historians believe that the U.S. military salute was influenced most by the British Navy. The naval salute differs from the "open hand" British army salute in that the palm of the hand faces down towards the shoulder. This dates back to the days of sailing ships, when tar and pitch were used to seal the timber from seawater. To protect their hands, officers wore white gloves and it was considered most undignified to present a dirty palm in the salute so the hand was turned 90 degrees.

Today the salute is a courteous exchange of greetings and is an act of courtesy and respect. Each salute you render says you are a proud member of the military.

Military personnel in uniform are required to salute when they

meet and recognize persons entitled by grade to a salute. In salutes exchanged between senior and junior officers or between officers and enlisted members, the junior member always salutes the senior person first. When returning or rendering an individual salute, the head and eyes are turned toward the person saluted. The junior member should initiate the salute in time to allow the senior officer to return it.

Remember that some people are automatically entitled to a salute: the president of the United States who also serves as the commander-in-chief, commissioned officers and warrant officers, any Medal of Honor recipient and officers of friendly foreign countries. All branches of the Armed Forces are part of the military team; therefore, remember to extend the same military courtesies to members of the other services. A salute is also rendered when the United States national anthem, "To the Colors," "Hail to the Chief" or foreign national anthems are played.

There is not an exact prescribed distance on when to render a salute if you are approaching a member who should receive a salute however, use your good judgment for when the salutes should be exchanged. A superior carrying articles in both hands need not return a salute, but should render a verbal greeting. If the junior member is carrying articles with both hands, verbal greetings should be exchanged.

In a work detail, individual workers do not salute rather the person in charge salutes for the entire detail.

When an officer's vehicle is occupied and clearly marked with a placard on the front bumper, a salute should be rendered. For safety purposes, some areas such as the flight line and other areas are marked "No Hat, No Salute."

A salute is not generally expected when both military members are in civilian attire. However, the new Air Force physical training attire is considered an official uniform. When approached by a higher-ranking military officer dressed in blues, a battle dress uniform or a flightsuit, a salute should be rendered. Salutes are not rendered indoors except for formal reporting or ceremonies.

The exception to the rules is when it is inappropriate or impractical, for example, in public conveyances such as planes and buses, in public places such as inside theaters or when driving a vehicle.

Remember to practice what's written in Air Force Manual 36-2203. Although it is the Air Force guideline for drill and ceremonies, it includes everything you need to know on rendering our Air Force customs and courtesies.

When in doubt, salute -- you can't go wrong by rendering the proper courtesy.



## Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day ceremony March 27, 2014

The men and women of Luke AFB and the public are cordially invited to witness this landmark occasion. The inaugural Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day ceremony will take place on March 27, 2014. This event begins at 11:00 am at the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Air Park across the street from the 944th Fighter Wing on W. Super Sabre St.

On April 4, 2013, Governor Janice Brewer signed into law a bill designating the fourth Thursday in March as the Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day. This day will mark the occasion to honor the men and women who participated in the Tuskegee Airmen Experience from 1941- 1949. The Airmen were the first African Americans allowed to fly fighter aircraft in defense of our nation.





## Congressional report recommends more reservists, less AFRC structure

WASHINGTON -- The National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force issued its report to the president and Congress Jan. 31.

The report calls for moving more Air Force manpower into the reserve components but “disestablishing” Air Force Reserve Command and its three numbered air forces.

“Many of the commission’s recommendations are valid,” said Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command. “However, AFRC provides me the ability to execute my key statutory obligation to manage Air Force Reserve resources. Without AFRC’s structure, the Regular Air Force would have to recreate and duplicate what we use today.”

The commission’s report calls for creating integrated wings with active-duty and reserve Airmen serving together at the squadron, group and wing levels.

“In practice, the Air Force Reserve is integrated with the active component today,” Jackson said. “However, each component maintains separate administrative chain of command to comply with law and service policy. This ensures readiness and the effective force management of component personnel.”

The commission, established by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, studied how the Air Force structure should be modified to best fulfill current and anticipated mission requirements for the Air Force in a manner consistent with available resources.

Jackson said that Air Force leadership has been receptive to his concerns.

“Both the secretary and the chief of staff have asked for my



thoughts on the commission’s report,” said Jackson. “I couldn’t be more pleased with the support the Air Force Reserve receives from Air Force leadership.”

The commission traveled to 19 different locations and interviewed reservists, guardsmen, and active-duty Airmen.

“Providing adequate operational support funding to increase volunteer opportunities for reservists, increasing associations between Reserve and active Air Force units, and reducing the number of Reserve duty statuses without reducing the overall compensation of reservists are all positive recommendations that require further analysis to ensure they can be implemented correctly,” said Jackson, who testified before the commission on four separate occasions.

## Scholarship programs provided by AFA for 2014



### **The Col. Loren J. and Mrs. Lawona R. Spencer Scholarship**

This scholarship provides funds to United States Air Force Personnel (officer or enlisted, Air Force civilian, full time National Guard and full time Reserve) for them to pursue graduate level education in the management and administration fields in preparation for senior level leadership roles. Please visit our website at <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/teachers/scholarshipsteachers/spencer> for more information and for an application.

### **Lt. Col. Romeo and Josephine Bass Ferretti Scholarship**

This scholarship is made possible by a bequest from the estate of Lt. Col. Romeo and Josephine Bass Ferretti and was established for minor dependents of Air Force (active duty or retired) Reserve or Air National Guard enlisted airmen pursuing an undergraduate degree in the area of science, technology, engineering or math. Please visit our website at <http://www.afa.org/LtCoiRomeoandJosephine-BassFerrettiScholarship> for more information and for an application.

### **Mike & Gail Donley Spouse Scholarship**

The Air Force Spouse Scholarship program is designed to encourage Air Force Spouses worldwide to pursue an associate/bachelor or graduate/postgraduate degree. Please view our website at <http://www.afa.org/SpouseScholarship> for more information and for an application.

### **Capt. Jodi Callahan Memorial Scholarship**

The Jodi Callahan Memorial Scholarship provides financial assistance and recognition to an active duty Air Force, full time Guard or Reserve person who is pursuing a Master's degree in a non-technical field. Please view our website at <http://www.afa.org/Callahan-Scholarship> for more information and for an application.





# Hagel Outlines Budget Reducing Troop Strength, Force Structure

By Nick Simeone, American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has proposed cuts in military spending that include further reductions in troop strength and force structure in every military service in the coming year as part of an effort to prioritize U.S. strategic interests in the face of reduced resources after more than a decade of war.

At a Pentagon news conference today detailing President Barack Obama's proposed Pentagon budget for fiscal year 2015, Hagel called the reductions -- including shrinking the Army to its smallest size since before World War II and eliminating an entire fleet of Air Force fighter planes -- "difficult choices" that will change defense institutions for years to come, but designed to leave the military capable of fulfilling U.S. defense strategy and defending the homeland against strategic threats.

Under a Pentagon budget that will shrink by more than \$75 billion over the next two years -- with deeper cuts expected if sequestration returns in fiscal year 2016 -- Hagel and other senior defense and military officials acknowledged that some of the budget choices will create additional risks in certain areas.

Some of that risk, Hagel said, is associated with a sharp drawdown in the size of the Army, which the proposed budget calls for reducing to as low as 440,000 active duty soldiers from the current size of 520,000, while ensuring the force remains well trained and equipped.

The cuts assume the United States no longer becomes involved in large, prolonged stability operations overseas on the scale of Iraq and Afghanistan. "An Army of this size is larger than required to meet the demands of our defense strategy," Hagel said. "It is also larger than we can afford to modernize and keep ready." But he said the smaller force still would be capable of decisively defeating aggression in one major war "while also defending the homeland and supporting air and naval forces engaged in an-

other theater against an adversary."

The budget request calls for special operations forces to grow by nearly 4,000 personnel, bringing the total to 69,700, a reflection of the asymmetrical threats the nation is likely to face in the future, Hagel said.

The restructuring and downsizing are in line with a two-year budget agreement that the president and Congress worked out in December, which limits defense spending to \$496 billion. But Hagel warned today that if the budget for fiscal year 2016 returns to the steep, automatic spending cuts imposed by sequestration, "we would be gambling that our military will not be required to respond to multiple major contingencies at the same time."

Asked to define that increased risk, a senior Defense Department official expressed it simply. "If the force is smaller, there's less margin for error," the official said. "Let's face it -- things are pretty uncertain out there."

The proposed budget also envisions a 5-percent reduction in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve. "While it is true that reserve units are less expensive when they are not mobilized, our analysis shows that a reserve unit is roughly the same cost as an active duty unit when mobilized and deployed," Hagel said.

In addition, the Army Guard's Apache attack helicopters would be transferred to the active force, while Black Hawk helicopters would be transferred to the National Guard, part of a broader realignment of Army aviation designed to modernize the fleet and increase capability.

Within the Air Force, the defense budget calls for saving \$3.5 billion by retiring the A-10 fleet and replacing it with the F-35 by the early 2020s.

"The A-10 is a 40-year old, single-purpose airplane originally designed to kill enemy tanks on a Cold War battlefield," Hagel said. "It cannot survive or operate effectively where there are more advanced aircraft or air defenses." In

addition, the service also will retire the 50 year-old U-2 surveillance plane in favor of the unmanned Global Hawk.

Hagel warned that much deeper cuts in Air Force structure and modernization will be necessary if sequestration is not avoided in 2016.

Among other proposals in the budget request:

- The Army will cancel the Ground Combat Vehicle program
- The Navy would be able to maintain 11 carrier strike groups, but any steep future cuts could require mothballing the aircraft carrier USS George Washington;
- Half of the Navy's cruiser fleet, 11 ships, will be placed in reduced operating status while they are modernized and given a longer lifespan
- The Navy will continue buying two destroyers and attack submarines per year
- The Marine Corps will draw down from about 190,000 to 182,000, but would have to shrink further if sequestration returns
- An additional 900 Marines will be devoted to securing U.S. embassies; and
- The Defense Department is asking Congress for another round of base closings and realignments in 2017.

Hagel said most of the recommendations in the budget were accepted by senior military officers. Addressing reporters alongside him, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the spending plan reflects a balancing of the military while ensuring it remains the world's finest.

"It reflects in real terms how we're reducing our cost and making sure the force is in the right balance," Dempsey said.

Dempsey and Hagel will testify on the budget before Congress next week. Lawmakers will have the final say on spending decisions.

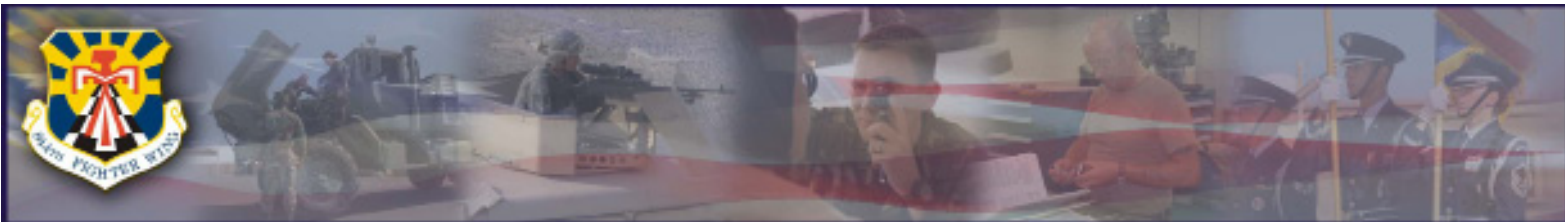
"This is the first time in 13 years we will be presenting a budget to Congress that is not a war footing budget," Hagel noted.

## KEY NOTES:



**Beware of fake SmartDocs e-mail:** Recently some myPay users received a fake e-mail asking for the answers to myPay security questions. You should NEVER share the answers to your myPay security questions with anyone. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service, myPay, or SmartDocs will never ask you for this information. By sharing the answers to your myPay security questions you may allow someone to access your myPay account. The fake SmartDocs e-mails came from smartdocs@dfas-mil.

org and smartdocs@dfas.mil.org. If you responded to this e-mail request with the answers to your myPay security questions, please log into myPay and change your security questions immediately. If you received one of these e-mails but did not respond, delete the message immediately. Again - do NOT respond to the request for information. Official SmartDocs e-mail address is SmartDocs@dfas.mil. They will never ask you to directly respond to an e-mail. If provided a link to SmartDocs or myPay sites, use your mouse to hover over the link. The text that appears should show mypay.dfas.mil, and match the link in the email.



## The Little Blue Book

By Master Sgt. Darin E. Andsager, First Sergeant, 944th Force Support Squadron

We all have memorized what our three Core Values are, "Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do", but do you really understand them?

I invite all members to read "The Little Blue Book"; it is a 17 page in depth description of our core values. It is available on-line at <http://www.usafa.af.mil/core-value/>.

Upon reading this book myself, I found that it refreshed and enhanced my understanding of our core values, but it also made me reflect back on how I have lived and followed these core values not only in my professional life, but also my personal life. I discovered that this has forced me to evaluate myself and my actions which lead to these questions; did I do that right thing? Did I put my desires first? Could I have done better?

I encourage everyone to read this book, reflect back on your

actions and then ask yourself those questions.

I would like to share a quote from Gen Rondald Fogleman, former Chief of Staff of the Air Force that explains in a nutshell why our core values are so important.

***"The Air Force is not a social actions agency. It is not an employment agency. ...The Air Force exists to fight and win a war—that's our core expertise. It's what allows us to be called professionals. We're entrusted with the security of our nation. The tools of our trade are lethal, and we engage in operations that involve risk to human life and untold national treasures. Because of what we do our standards must be higher than those of society at large. The American public Expects it of us and properly so. In the end, we earn the respect and trust of the American people because of the integrity we demonstrate".***

— General Fogleman

## 944th FW WIT forms

By Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr., 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 944th Fighter Wing new wing inspection team met March 19 to be sworn in as part of the new Air Force Inspection system construct.

Col. Kurt Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing Commander, orchestrated the proceedings.

Each squadron nominated two people to form the nucleus of the WIT along with the Wing inspector general inspections. Additionally members were nominated as specific subject matter expertise in critical areas.

"I want the brightest and best folks for the WIT to ensure the growth and success of the 944th FW," said Gallegos.

WIT members will play a large role in the new Air Force inspection processes.

"As a WIT member, I have an obligation to independently assess wing programs within the four Major Graded Areas; Managing Resources, Improving Performance, Leading People, and Executing the Mission, while ensuring they are in compliance with all established instructions and directives," explained Chief Master Sgt. Richard Schuldt, 944th Security Forces manager and WIT member. "I must be a subject matter expert in my Air Force Specialty Code and have a full understanding of how other AFI's and DoD directives tie into scenario development."

Schuldt went on to explain that as part of the WIT team members must validate and verify wing, group, and squadron self-assessment program results. An assessment is a snap shot on how well a program is doing. If a program is lacking, it must be reported in order to fix the problem.

"Air Force Core values and moral character

play a huge part in being a WIT member," said Schuldt. "In other words, you report on what you observe and evaluate, regardless of the assessment score. You would be doing everyone a disservice by not assessing a program accurately, so you want to remain consistent in your reporting."

According to Lt. Col. Shawn Ortiz, 944th IG/I, each individual must have the maturity and skills to develop scenarios to evaluate unit readiness, and possess excellent writing and communication skills.

Although the WIT is a big part of the Commanders Inspection Program (CCIP), it actually has a minimal role in this CAPSTONE event. Most of their work will take place throughout the inspection cycle and prior to the CAPSTONE. In the future, the WIT will be conducting exercises, SAVs, etc. for the wing in place of higher level inspection teams such as those who used to come from 10th Air Force or AFRC as part of the new Air Force Inspection System governed by AFI 90-201.

The CCIP, including the WIT, is required to be fully functional by Oct 2014. "We are in the early stages, there is still a significant amount of training that must be accomplished," said Ortiz. "But we are well on our way to having a great



team in place."

On top of being selected, AFI 90-201 requires that all IG personnel and augmentees display adherence to Air Force core values, hold a security clearance commensurate with the duties required, meet fitness and medical currency requirements, display good military bearing and appearance, have no convictions by courts martial and no general officer letters of reprimand. They must also be a 7-level or higher in an assigned AFSC, E-7 or above (E-6 if highly experienced/qualified) and a recognized subject matter expert in their operational field.

Wing members should familiarize themselves with the new AFI's and CCIP. This is a new way of looking at the inspection process and a new way of doing business for most.

"We should look at WIT members as being part of the same team, with everyone striving to meet our mission requirements," stated Ortiz.