



944th Fighter Wing Monthly SnapShot

www.944fw.afrc.af.mil

April 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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The SnapShot wants to highlight you and/or your unit. If you would like to submit an idea, article, or photo for the SnapShot, please e-mail 944fw.pa@luke.af.mil or call 623-856-5388.



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Enjoy what you have accomplished

by Colonel Kurt J. Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing Commander

I want to start out by saying Thank You. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication, for your commitment, and for making our wing stand out. I truly appreciate each and every one of you. Our goal was to be compliant and showcase our wing and especially you, the Airman who make this wing one of the best and most diverse wings in the Reserves. We did that and then some. Let me be the first to congratulate all of you on a job well done.

The CAPSTONE Air Force Reserve Command inspector general team graded our Wing as Effective overall. Two out of our four major graded areas were Highly Effective, and we had zero critical findings and only four significant findings. This really highlights the extraordinary job we did preparing our wing. We were compliant!

As we continue to move forward and grow we can not let our guard down or become complacent. With our new inspection system, we will continually be preparing for our next CAPSTONE event which is 18 months away. We have a fresh start with opportunities and challenges ahead of us. Our wing will jump right into our next cycle by taking a new look at our checklists in June and July to see how we are doing and what we can improve upon. With the help of the newly formed 944th Fighter Wing wing inspection team, I have no doubt we will do even better on our next CAPSTONE inspection.

If it seems as if we just had a Unit Training Assembly, you are correct. We are going on back to back UTA's and I appreciate all your sacrifices and hard work. We will take sometime this UTA to celebrate our success on Sunday. There is a short break before the May UTA but once again we will jump right back into the swing of things with Sexual Assault Prevention and Response training, a Wingman Day, and Commander's Call on top of the normal UTA schedule.

As I mentioned in the past, your efforts and accomplishments do not go unnoticed. I want to send a special congratulations to Senior Airman Perla Tapia Cordero for winning the 10th Air Force Airman of the Year. Between our efforts as individuals and as a wing, I believe the success of the 944th Fighter Wing knows no limits.

Pat yourselves on the back, enjoy what you have accomplished and let us get back to work. I am very pleased with everyone's hard work and will finish like I started by saying thank you for what you do.



Wing CAPSTONE Superior Performers

Superior Individual Performers:

Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Harback, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron

Ms.. Donna Sekoch, 944th Medical Squadron

Superior Team Recognition:

Financial Management Team:

Ms. Denise Sullivan

Mr. James Norton

Ms. Annabelle Arcilla

Ms. Cindy Snyder

Mr. John Buscher

Ms. Terri Clay

Ms. Jeanelle Dupree

Ms. Nicole Eades

Senior Airman Adrienne Gamble

Wing Legal Team:

Leutenant Colonel Alan Goodwin

Major Jenelle Walden

Master Sgt. Keona Ross

Tech. Sgt. Dennis Anderson



Don't Lose Focus

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

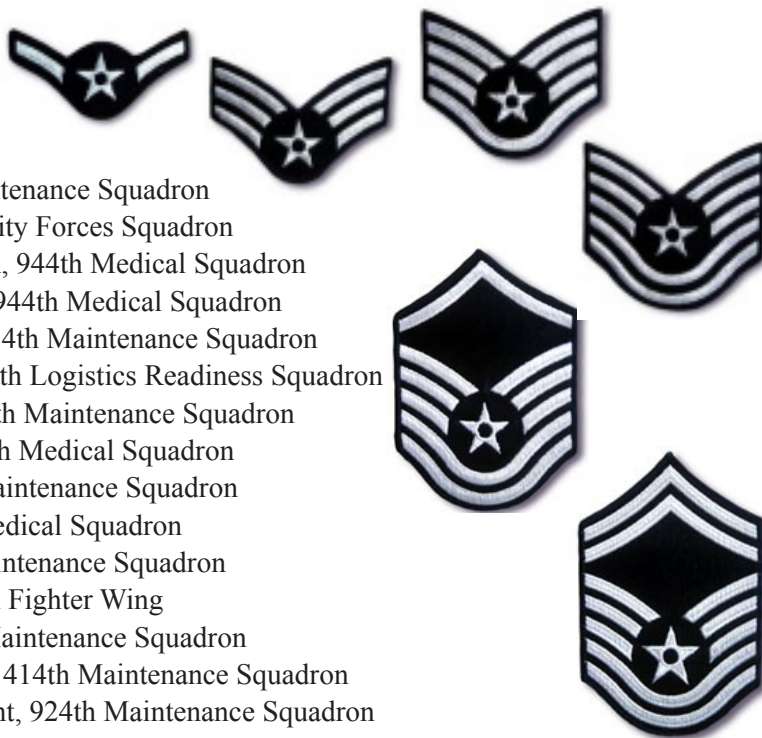
First of all, congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work preparing for the recent CAPSTONE inspection. You all truly shined and showcased the Wing in an outstanding fashion. I wish you all could have been in the room during the out brief to listen to the inspector general team chief talk about how awesome our wing, YOUR Wing is. Take a deep breath and enjoy your success. But it also brings me to my main point, we need to remain focused and take the lessons learned and apply them to our preparation for the next inspection as well as our day-to-day operations. Remember, excellence is the standard and you emulate that every day. Continue that path and live our Air Force Core Values.

In closing, thank you again for all that you do and the sacrifices you make for our wing and the Air Force. I am honored to serve with you.

Promotions:

The following members were promoted 1 April 2014:

Airman Basic Matthew D. Cadle to the rank of Airman, 414th Maintenance Squadron
Airman Basic Dinah A. Romero to the rank of Airman, 944th Security Forces Squadron
Airman 1st Class Angelina L. Pacheco to the rank of Senior Airman, 944th Medical Squadron
Airman 1st Class Wendy N. Riveron to the rank of Senior Airman, 944th Medical Squadron
Airman 1st Class Chasidy A. Ward to the rank of Senior Airman, 414th Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sgt. Steven C. MacNeil to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Staff Sgt. Tenisha L. Puckett to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sgt. Amber M. Werner to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 944th Medical Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Nathan T. Cook to the rank of Master Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Jason C. Frakes to the rank of Master Sergeant, 944th Medical Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Steven Joubert to the rank of Master Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Bradley L. Thomas to the rank of Master Sergeant, 944th Fighter Wing
Tech. Sgt. Bryan J. Vaughn to the rank of Master Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron
Master Sgt. Francis E. Albee to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron
Master Sgt. Sherman Burnham to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron



Welcome Home!!

Tech. Sgt. Victoria Hubbard, 414th Maintenance Squadron, returned home from Southwest Asia



Photo by Senior Airman LausanneKinder

944th Fighter Wing Airmen Honored at Air Show

Staff Sgt. Steven MacNeil and Tech. Sgt. Julie McBroom, both from the 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron, were two of five military members selected by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbird's to be honored for their unselfish accomplishments abroad and at home station. The group was introduced and recognized during the 2014 Luke Days, a two day Air Show which featured static displays of both aircraft and military equipment and a variety of areal performers including the Thunderbirds.



Airman wears two uniforms

by Senior Airman Jared Trimarchi, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar -- Being in the Air Force Reserve gives Airmen the opportunity to serve their country while following their dreams to become just about anything in life. For some, the dream might be to be an actor or a musician, but for one 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Flight Airman, who is deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, his dream was to become a police officer.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Kuehler, who is deployed from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. and is a Morton, Texas native is not your average sized Airman. He stands at 6 feet 7 inches tall, looks like a football player and has a powerful handshake which can probably crush a coconut.

Some days going to work requires him to don a military uniform while he serves the nation as a fuels operations supervisor providing fuel to military aircraft, and other days he wears a police officer uniform and serves his local community by protecting the people who live there. He is also a full time single father of his two sons.

"I thoroughly enjoy both of my jobs, and I feel like a lucky person to be able to do two things that I have a deep passion for; serving my country and helping people," Kuehler said. "Although it is hard at times to manage my schedule between the two jobs, it is worth it."

Kuehler joined the Air Force in 1993 to serve his nation and joined the Reserve after eight years of Active Duty service.

"I come from a long line of military service and pretty much everyone in my family has served," Kuehler said. "I knew as soon as I got out of high school I wanted to join the Air Force and I did."

Kuehler worked as a fuels Airman, but wanted to cross train into security forces because he always had a passion for law enforcement he said.

"During my time serving in Active Duty, there were no positions open to cross train into security forces so I came up with a plan to still serve my country and follow my passion for protecting the public," Kuehler said. "I joined the Phoenix Police Department and have had a great experience working there for the past 13 years."

On the police force, Kuehler works as a patrol officer in one of the most dangerous parts of Phoenix, he said. He receives all types of calls, from domestic disputes to armed robberies. No day is the same, he added.

During his deployment he supervises 21 Airmen who fuel all the aircraft deployed here. He said his job here and his police job at home share some similarities.

"The Air Force set me up for success to become the best police officer I can be," Kuehler said. "And my job as a police officer has helped me be more patient with people which helps me supervise. Both jobs focus on being fit and I enjoy being physically fit to be an Airman and a police officer."

Staff Sgt. Michael Poitevien, a 379th ELRS fuels Airman who is deployed from Yokota Air Base, Japan and is a Long Island, N.Y. native said, "Tech. Sgt. Kuehler is one of the best supervisors I have ever worked with. He is very well-mannered and dedicated to professionalism. He is a great mentor which I have learned much from. I am sure he takes his duties as a police officer as seriously as he does being an Airman."

Kuehler said, neither job is more rewarding and he is grateful to be able to follow his two passions while providing mentorship to his two sons and his fellow Airmen.

"My police job is phenomenal because I get to help people and put bad guys behind bars," Kuehler said. "Being an Airman is an honor and I love that fact that I help to provide fuel which keeps aircraft in the air and in the fight. I love both of my jobs and I am just grateful to have the opportunity to serve in two different uniforms."



2014 JOB FAIR

Over 60 Local and National Employers Will Be Here to Meet With YOU!

Recruiters From a Variety of Industries Including Aircraft, Healthcare, Government Agencies, etc.

APRIL 8
9AM-3PM
CLUB FIVE SIX
LUKE AFB

AFRC/ANG Teen Leadership Camps announced

Registration for the Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Teen Leadership Camps is open through May 31, according to Air Force Reserve Command Services officials.

These summits are available to youth ages 14-18 who have a parent serving in the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard nationwide. Registration closes May 31, 2014. Selected participants will be notified no later than June 11. Priority goes to those ages 15-18 and to those who have not attended the Summit before.

Register on line at <https://secure.caes.uga.edu/4h/campreg/login/login.cfm?clientID=4>.

This year's camps and locations are:

Camp 1: AFR/ANG Teen leadership Summit -Classic

July 20-25 at the Wahsega 4-H Center, Dahlonega, Ga.

Camp 2: AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit - Adventure

Aug. 12-17 at Cheley Colorado Camps, Estes Park, Colo.

For more information, contact Alan Ray, Services Executive advisor to HQ AFRC, at DSN 497-0215, or commercial 478-327-0215.



944th MDS Mass Casualty Training

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

944th Medical Squadron personnel became familiar with what their responsibilities would be if called upon in an emergency situation during their annual tour. On March 28, their mass casualty scenario unfolded at the Ability to Survive and Operate area of Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

The scenario began with two buses traveling along a route when they encounter a terrorist attack. An explosion occurs and the first bus suffers both minor and major injuries. The second bus stops and starts an incident command system to deal with the triage of the mass casualties. Simulated calls were placed to base emergency first responders however, the fire department is delayed due to an inflight emergency, and security forces have limited dispatch capabilities due to other incidents on the base forcing the uninjured bus passengers to become first responders.

This training was meant to place the medical technicians into an unfamiliar situation and to teach them to act on instinct and training. Other than the few who were involved in putting the event together, the rest of the participants were under the assumption that they were being bussed to the other side of the base to do off-site training.

According to Tech. Sgt. Kenneth

Heng, 944th Medical Squadron medical technician, "this training is the best way to prepare our 4N's with the tools and knowledge on how to deal with the unimaginable."

Heng and Tech. Sgt. Cory Schidler, 944th Medical Squadron medical technician, were the driving force in organizing and executing the training event.

Prior to the actual scenario, a moulage center was set up and volunteers had mock injuries applied to them to provide authenticity. That combined with convincing acting by the victims provided the realism for the training. Once the victims were organized, centralized, temporarily treated, and evacuated to a simulated medical facility the training ended with a "hotwash" or post-brief.

"I feel the training went very well today. We had everyone engaged and ready to do their part," said Senior Master Sgt. Bryan Ebersole, 944th Medical Squadron Superintendent Nursing Services. "The teamwork was very good and we saw some of the younger airman in key roles doing a fantastic job. It gives us, as senior leaders, a good idea of the capabilities and the talent we have in the medical squadron."

In addition to 944 MDS participation the 56th Fighter Wing emergency management, 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron and 944th Safety Office were instrumental to the exercises success.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega

TRICARE.mil named best government and public sector website

WASHINGTON -- The TRICARE Beneficiary website (www.tricare.mil) was recently awarded the Best Government and Public Sector website in an annual competition hosted by Sitecore, a global leader in customer experience management software.

The award recognizes excellence in the website's delivery of effective, meaningful digital experiences across 23 categories.

The TRICARE beneficiary website is informative and easy to use. A key feature is the ability for beneficiaries to answer three questions on the home page to get tailored benefit information on the site, including their own "My Plan" page.

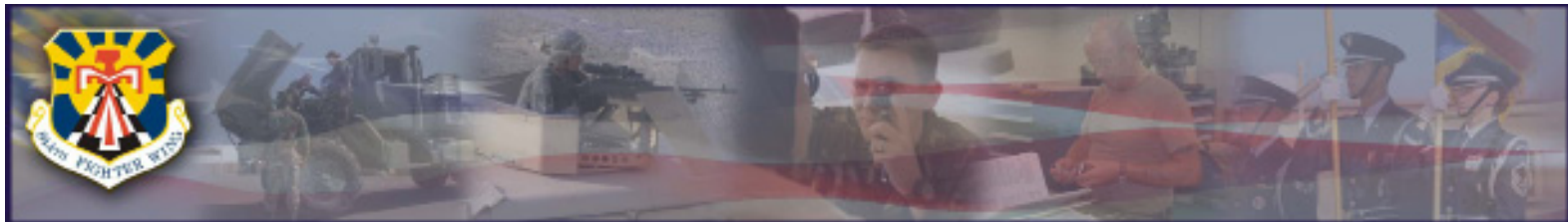
The new "I Want To" banner, also on the home page, allows more direct access to the information and features that beneficiaries want the most, like seeing what's covered, finding a doctor or enrolling in a plan. Additionally, beneficiaries can quickly search for plans and compare them side-by-side from the home page.

Two new website features empower beneficiaries to make decisions and manage their benefits online. Beneficiaries can use the new Pharmacy Home Delivery calculator (www.tricare.mil/pharmacy) to calculate how much they can save by switching their prescriptions from a retail pharmacy to TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery.

The new Go Paperless page (www.tricare.mil/gopaperless) explains how beneficiaries can use paperless solutions to enroll, pay a bill, get proof of coverage and much more.

The TRICARE.mil project is one of the largest government implementations of Sitecore and has cut costs by reducing the time developers have to spend maintaining the website, allowing them to focus on major functional enhancements instead of daily maintenance.

Since launch, the number of technical issues reported by users has reduced dramatically. To find out more or to enroll in TRICARE's programs for reservists, visit: www.tricare.mil/trs.



944 Fighter Wing Produces Excellence

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

The 944th Fighter Wing produced yet another 10th Air Force stand out. On March 22 during the Unit Training Assembly Commander's Call, Senior Airman Perla Tapia Cordero, 69th Fighter Squadron personnel journeyman, was notified that she had won the 10th AF Airman of the Year Award. She is the third Airman in a five year span who has won a 10th AF level Airman of the Year award.

"I was shocked when I won Airman of the Year for the Wing and now to have won Airman of the Year for 10th AF it feels pretty amazing," said Tapia Cordero.

Though, her journey has been filled with her share of disappointments, her superiors always believed in her and continued to create and submit packages on her behalf.

"I began to get discouraged," Tapia Cordero explained. "At one point I actually asked my supervisor, to stop wasting her time submitting the packages because I was never going to win. They obviously never listened to me and I'm glad they didn't because now I see the results. What's more, to have witnessed the time and effort my leadership put into those packages, it has motivated me to go above and beyond, to volunteer more on and off base, and take on more responsibilities."

Currently, Tapia Cordero is a full time student at Arizona State University and on course to graduate in spring 2015. Her goal is to

obtain a bachelor's degree in secondary education with an emphasis in chemistry.

On top of going to school she works and does veteran to veteran volunteer work at a valley hospice facility. She is also a council member and outreach team liaison for her church. On the weekends, she spends time with family, friends and prepares for powerlifting competitions.

"Perla is the kind of Airman who epitomizes the "Excellence in All We Do" core value, so she continued to be a stellar performer, regardless if she won or not," said Master Sgt. Jacqueline Flores, 69th Fighter Squadron personnel programs NCOIC, about her Airman. "Just like most stellar performers, she doesn't do what she does for recognition, that's just a nice byproduct."

Ultimately, Tapia Cordero's goal is to begin the commissioning process and find different ways to help the military

and her civilian community.

When asked who she believes helped her in her success Tapia Cordero said, "This entire process couldn't have been accomplished if it wasn't for the 944th Fighter Wing. I want to send a special thanks to my leadership for all their hard work and most importantly my supervisor, MSgt Flores. If it wasn't for all of your determination this wouldn't have been possible. I would like to say thank you to my loving family for always supporting me in everything that I do."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega

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

Members of the 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron spent time after work hours March 22 helping pick up trash around the South Gate Visitor Reception Center.

The ASTS's Community Service Team led the initiative to help beautify the base.

The newly formed team was co-founded by Capt. John Lewis, 944th ASTS medical readiness and logistics officer and Senior Airman Ashlynd Fine, 944th ASTS medical technician. As managers of the Community

Service Team the duo work together in determining which areas need the most help, plan monthly events, raise awareness, and coordinate with other units and civilian organizations.

Lewis explained that the thought behind the trash pickup event at the South Gate is that when guests arrive at Luke Air Force Base, a clean visitor center is the first thing people see and the first impression we as a community make.

"The volunteer turnout was great. We had a good mix of officers, junior and senior enlisted," said Fine. "I think all of us that participate in the Community Service Team appreciate the diversity and camaraderie between ranks."

The seed for establishing a Community Services Team was planted in September 2013 when members of the unit were asking about volunteer opportunities. "We are in our in-

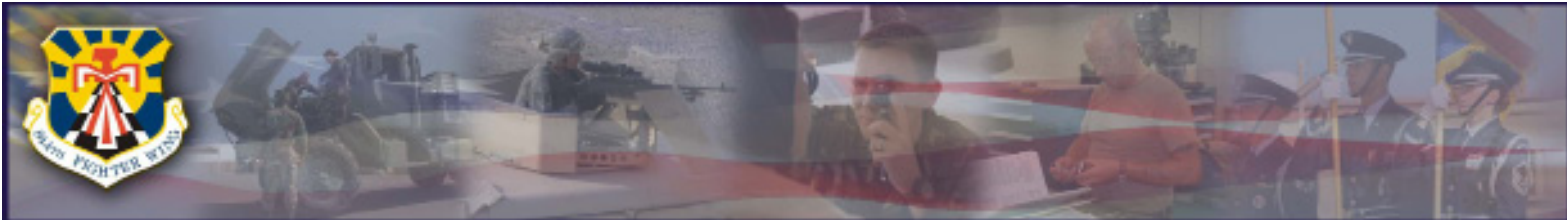
944th Community Service Team helps clean up Luke

fancy, but we are ready to grow and be more beneficial for the community. Doing community service work allows our members to reflect on the difference they can make in society," said Lewis. "I think that some members will gain a greater understanding of their roles in the community, as well as the impact of their contributions towards those in need of service. It is a win-win situation."

The 944th ASTS Community Service Team hopes to grow, branch out and coordinate more events on and off Luke AFB.

Lewis went on to say, "I would like the rest of the wing to know that we encourage anyone from the 944 FW to join us in our endeavors, and help us increase our reach."

On Saturday, April 5, during the Unit Training Assembly the Community Services team will be outside of the 944th ASTS building at 4pm. The group will be pulling weeds and picking up trash around the building and look forward to seeing new faces.



CSAF: Budget cuts affect combatant commands

by Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr
American Forces Press Service

Painful budget reductions will reduce the future capabilities of combatant commanders, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III told Congress here March 26.

Testifying alongside Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James at a hearing of the House Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee, Welsh discussed the difficult decisions budget constraints have presented and will continue to present to the Air Force's role in defending national security.

"Every major decision reflected in this budget proposal hurts," he said. "Each of them reduces the capabilities our combatant commanders would love to have and believe they need. Your Air Force is the finest in the world, and we need to keep it that way. We built this budget to ensure that Air Force combat power remains unequaled, but that does not mean it will remain unaffected."

There are no more easy cuts, the general said. "We simply can't ignore the fact that the law is currently written [to return] us to sequestered funding levels in [fiscal year 2016]," Welsh said. "So that's also considered as part of our plan. To prepare for that, we must cut people and force structure now to create a balanced Air Force that we can afford to train and operate in [fiscal 2016] and beyond."

Because the Air Force needed to cut billions rather than millions of dollars out of its budget, "the normal trimming around the edges just wasn't going to get it done," Welsh said.

"So we looked at cutting fleets of aircraft as a way to get to the significant savings that are required," he added.

Welsh explained the logic of the "very tough decisions" that had to be made.

"In our air superiority mission area, we al-

ready have reductions in our proposal," he said. "But eliminating an entire fleet would leave us unable to provide air superiority for an entire theater of operations. We are the only service that can do so."



Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance constitute the No. 1 shortfall of the combatant commanders, Welsh noted. "They would never support even more cuts than we already have in our budget proposal," he said.

Noting the Air Force has "several aircraft" in the global mobility mission area, Welsh said he spoke with Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno during budget planning to get his thoughts on reducing the airlift fleet.

"His view was that a smaller Army would need to be more responsive and able to move quicker," Welsh said. "He did not think that reducing airlift assets further was a good idea, and the [Air Force] secretary and I agree. We looked at our air refueling fleets and considered divesting the KC-10 as an option.

Just one example, but the analysis showed us that the mission impact was too significant."

Welsh echoed testimony from James, who told the panel that a return to sequester fund-

ing levels in fiscal 2016 would put the mobility fleet back on the table.

"We looked at the KC-135 fleet, but we would have to cut many more KC-135s than KC-10s to achieve the same savings," he said. "And with that many KC-135s out of the fleet, we simply can't meet our worldwide mission requirement."

In the strike mission area, Welsh said, cutting the A-10 fleet would save \$3.7 billion across the future-year defense program and another \$500 million in cost avoidance for upgrades that wouldn't be necessary. "To get that same savings would require a much higher number of F-15E's or F-16s [to be cut], but we also looked at those options," he added.

Air Force officials ran a detailed operational analysis, Welsh said, comparing divestiture of the A-10 fleet to divestiture of the B-1 fleet, reduction of the F-16 and F-15E fleet, and to deferring procurement of a large number of F-35s, as well as to decreasing readiness by standing down a number of fighter squadrons and just parking them on the ramp.

"We used the standard DOD planning scenarios," Welsh said. "The results very clearly showed that cutting the A-10 fleet was the lowest-risk option, from an operational perspective, of a bunch of bad options. While no one is happy, from a military perspective, it's the right decision, and it's representative of the extremely difficult choices that we're facing in the budget today."

The U.S. military must modernize, Welsh said, but today's declining budgets place limits on modernization.

"And we must maintain the proper balance across all our mission areas," he added, "because that's what the combatant commanders expect from us."

DOD announces recruiting, retention numbers through February 2014

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Defense announced today recruiting and retention statistics for the active and reserve components for fiscal 2014, through February 2014.

Active Component.

Recruiting. All four active services met or exceeded their numerical accession goals for fiscal 2014, through February.

Army - 22,295 accessions, with a goal of 21,965; 102 percent

Navy - 12,902 accessions, with a goal of 12,902; 100 percent

Marine Corps - 8,501 accessions, with a goal of 8,489; 100 percent

Air Force - 11,011 accessions, with a goal of 11,011; 100 percent

Retention. The Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps exhibited strong retention numbers for the fifth month of fiscal 2014.

Reserve Component.

Recruiting. Four of the six reserve components met or exceeded their fiscal-year-to-date 2014 numerical accession goals.

Army National Guard - 21,075 accessions, with a goal of 21,182; 99.5 percent

Army Reserve - 10,858 accessions, with a goal of 11,710; 93 percent

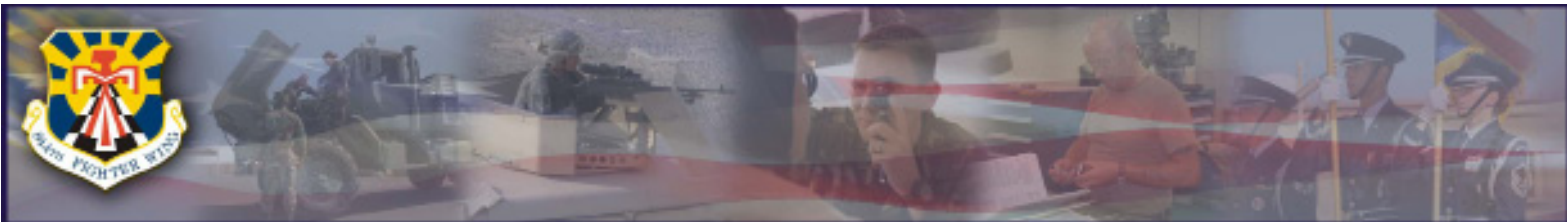
Navy Reserve - 1,708 accessions, with a goal of 1,708; 100 percent

Marine Corps Reserve - 3,404 accessions, with a goal of 3,301; 103 percent

Air National Guard - 3,926 accessions, with a goal of 3,926; 100 percent

Air Force Reserve - 2,707 accessions, with a goal of 2,249; 120 percent

Attrition - All reserve components have met their attrition goals or were within the allowed variance. Current trends are expected to continue. (This indicator lags due to data availability.)



Air Force customs courtesies: Reveille and Retreat



by 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

As Reservists we are not exposed to certain military customs and courtesies as much as our active duty counterparts. Some Airmen have been in the military a while and know exactly what to do when it comes to customs and courtesies, while others are new or unversed in certain protocol procedures.

The military custom and courtesies displayed during reveille and retreat are sometimes unfamiliar or not practiced enough because most Reservists are only on base over the weekends when reveille and retreat are not played. The expectations behind reveille and retreat are worth becoming familiar with or revisiting.

Reveille is played at the beginning of the duty day and is initiated with a bugle call, which is followed by the playing of "To the Colors." Retreat signifies the end of the duty day and that the flag is being retired for the day. It is initiated with the "Retreat," followed by the playing of the "National Anthem."

According to AFI 34-1201 during Reveille and Retreat, all personnel participating in outdoor activities should stop their activity and show respect for the flag. You are to stop where you are and face the flag, if the flag is not visible turn in the direction of the flag or music.

If in you are in a military uniform, come to parade rest at the first note of Reveille or Retreat. You will then go to the position of attention and salute at the first notes of "To the Colors" or the "National Anthem." If not in military uniform, come to attention and place your right hand over your heart at the first note of "To the Colors" or the "National Anthem." If you are wearing a hat while in civilian clothes, remove it and place it over your left shoulder so that your hand is over your heart. Service members and veterans, even if they are not in uniform, may render a salute during reveille or retreat if they so choose.

On Luke Air Force Base if you are in a vehicle, drivers should safely come to a stop and wait until the music of "To the Colors" or the "National Anthem," has stopped. Remember, each base has its own specific requirements on this procedure.

Reveille is played at 0700 and Retreat at 1700 Monday through Friday on Luke AFB. The proper honors, customs and courtesies shown to our flag reinforce the proud heritage this country was built on.

944 FW Family Readiness Center hosts open house



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega

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

After months of remodeling, the 944th Fighter Wing Family Readiness Center moved into their new offices and celebrated with an Open House during the March Unit Training Assembly.

Their new location is in building 993, room 32 located near the main entry doors.

"We received a lot of positive comments

about our new office mainly because we're easy to find and it's a welcoming environment," said Master Sgt. Linda Flores, 944th Family Readiness NCOIC. "We love the traffic we're exposed to."

The team made the open house festive with donated snacks and giveaways for the Airmen who visited. They even had a raffle for an easy bake oven which was given to one lucky participant.

According to Tech Sgt. Thomas Pizzuto, 944th Family Readiness technician, "the open house went well. We had over 50 Airmen come by each day. It was good exposure especially now that we have moved from the back of the building to the front."

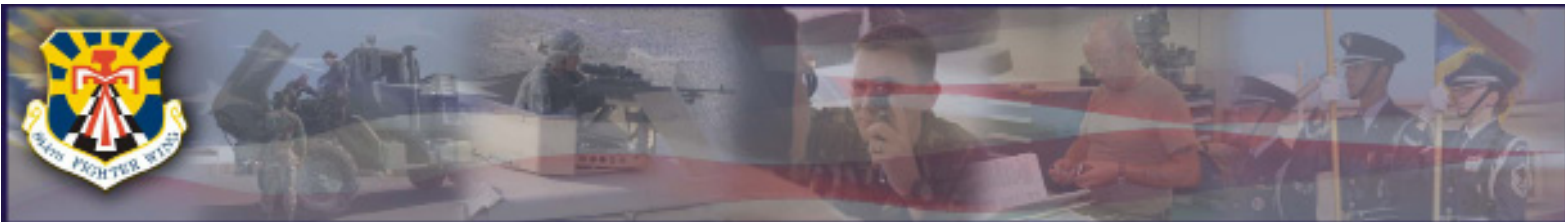
The open house was not only a way to show off the new offices but it also gave wing members an opportunity to become familiar with what the Family Readiness team has to offer including information on programs like Military OneSource and Military and Family Life Consultants.

Flores mentioned that the 944th FW Family Readiness team is always looking for an occasion to promote programs and services to members and their families. Deployment briefings, finance 101 for first term Airmen, transition assistance program briefings, and family events are just some of the activities offered on a regular basis.

"We are never the wrong place to go," said Flores, "we are here to help not only our Airmen, but the whole family." The mission of the Family Readiness Center is to support Air Force Reservists readiness and retention by helping families adapt to the demands of military life.

The new location will also be where the Newcomer's Briefing will be held starting April UTA.

For more information on the Family Readiness Center, call 623-856-8324. For information on Luke AFB helping agencies visit www.lukeids.com or for information on base activities visit www.lukeevents.com.



Situational Awareness: Always be aware

by Senior Master Sgt. James King, First Sergeant, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

I was driving to work a couple weeks ago when the DJs on KNIX started telling a story about situational awareness. DJ Ben commented that police and military are trained to be constantly aware of their surroundings which allows them to prevent potential issues. As I thought about that comment, I realized that after 24 years of service, my situational awareness is not anything I consciously think about but is more instinctual now. I am always evaluating my surroundings and people who are within my view - just like the military has trained me my whole career.

Let me share with you the story the DJ told on the radio.

Carolyn Coffey, from the morning show, told a story about going to a park near her house to walk her dog. She described it as a large, busy park where she has gone many times before without issue. During this visit, a man stopped and started petting her dog, Dinky. She did not think anything of it since people do that all the time because her dog is so little and cute. She continued on her walk around the park and ran into the same man again. This time he stopped and started talking to her. She said that she had "that feeling" that something was not right with the guy. After a minute or two the man grabbed her arm and she started to back away and began yelling. She noticed a bunch of guys playing basketball and started backing toward them. At the same time, the guys playing basketball noticed her situation and stopped their game. The entire team walked over to see what was happening and help. Part of the team surrounded Carolyn protecting her from this guy while others started talking with the guy. The basketball players assumed it was a boyfriend/girlfriend fight but were surprised when Carolyn said she had never met him before. The guy started yelling at the basketball players but began to walk away. The players followed to see if they could get a plate number from his car, however, he continued walking. The police were not involved in the altercation and Carolyn was able to go home safe but was shaken-up due to the incident.

There are several things I would like to highlight from this story. First, even though Carolyn might not have had official training, she did have good instincts. We all have that little voice inside of us that can sense when something is just not right. Listening to that

voice or feeling will go a long way in keeping you safe. More times than not – there is a reason you have those feelings. The next two things she did were also the right things to do. She started moving toward a large group of people and yelling to get their attention. This will alert other people that something is not right and even if they don't get personally involved, they may call others (i.e. the police) for help. Having a large group of people around will help deter an attacker from continuing their assault. Once Carolyn was surrounded by the basketball players – her immediate response that she did not know this guy alerted them that this was an attack and allowed the guys to keep him away from her. Ideally, one of the guys should have called the police immediately, but that may not have been possible if they did not have a phone (remember – they stopped in the middle of a game to help).

That brings up the guys playing the game. Situational awareness is something that should be going through your mind at all times. The guys heard the yelling and in the middle of a game, were able to assess that something is wrong. Be aware of what is happening even when you are engrossed in other activities. The next thing the guys did was to come to her aide in a large group. One on one is not as good as ten on one. Because there was so many of them, they were able to protect Carolyn and still focus on the bad guy. This is no different than a concept you may have heard of – the Wingman concept. We do not recommend that you go out unless you have two or more people. Attackers are less likely to mess with a group than they will with a single person. There is safety in numbers.

As you are aware of issues that come up around you, please assess your ability to render help by yourself or if you should call for additional help. If you are going to call for help, make sure you are watching and noting anything that could help the police later – hair color, height, weight, tattoos, direction they left, etc.

As I think about the comment again that the military trains their people to be aware of their surroundings, I realize that I have been trained but that sometimes I take it for granted as it is just part of my life now. When you think that the training the military provides year after year is redundant, you need to understand that it is training that other people wish they had in their lives. We get the training and need to use it to protect ourselves and our communities.

944th FW Rising Six Presents:



3rd ANNUAL SALSA SHOWDOWN!

This year the Rising Six has added

****QUESO****

to the SALSA CONTEST!

If you would like to enter your **tastiest** and/or **hottest** sauce, Please fill in an Entry Form (2nd slide) **NLT COB April UTA**; email form to: tina.simmons.5@us.af.mil

Entry is FREE!!

FREE Admission!

SPRING FEST!

SATURDAY APRIL 12
9AM - NOON
FOWLER PARK

Easter Egg Hunts!
9:30 AM ... Ages 0-2
10 AM ... Ages 2-5
10:30 AM ... Ages 5-8
11 AM ... Ages 9-12

Petting Zoo - Face Painting
Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides
Trackless Train Rides - Vendors
Refreshments - DJ Music

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FORCE



Tuskegee Airmen commemoration day ceremony

by Senior Airman Grace Lee, 56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

They served in the U.S. military during a time when they were discriminated against and separated because of the color of their skin, but adversity didn't stop them from showing the world that one's race doesn't determine what one is capable of achieving.

Known as the Tuskegee Airmen, these African-Americans served as pilots, aircraft mechanics, crew chiefs and more during World War II.

Luke Thunderbolts, members of the local community, and four Tuskegee Airmen and their families came together to take part in the inaugural Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day ceremony March 27 at the Luke Air Force Base Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Air Park.

"We welcome you to the very first Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day ceremony," said David Toliver, Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Inc. president. "We are delighted that you chose to come out to be with us to share this very important moment."

The ceremony took place in front of the F-16 static display near the 944th Fighter Wing headquarters building because of what it represented - the bond the 944th FW has with the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. Although the Tuskegee Airmen were never stationed at Luke, Luke did acquire the 301st and 302nd fighter squadrons which were two of the original Tuskegee Airmen squadrons after WWII.

"The F-16 has a red tail in memory of the 332nd Fighter Group, which was known as the Red Tail Angels by the bomber groups that they escorted," said Ben Bruce, 56th Fighter Wing ground safety manager, Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter historian and guest speaker. "The nose of the F-16 is painted with the words 'by request



Four original Tuskegee Airmen, Lt. Col. Robert Ashby, Sgt. Howard Williams, Sgt. Rudolph Silas and Sgt. Ralph Stewart pose with the Red Tail after celebrating the inaugural Arizona Tuskegee Airmen commemoration day. The ceremony was the first of its kind after Gov. Janice Brewer signed legislation designating the fourth Thursday of March as a day to celebrate the men and women who shaped the first black military wing in the Army Air Corps.

Their names are Lt. Col. Robert Ashby, Sgt. Howard Williams, Sgt. Rudolph Silas and Sgt. Ralph Stewart.

Near the end of the ceremony, Ashby and Silas laid a wreath at the base of the F-16 static display in memory of their deceased comrades.

Afterward, Col. Kurt Gallegos, 944th FW commander, and Col. Jeremy Sloane, 56th FW vice commander, made closing remarks.

"Today signifies the celebration of the day the Tuskegee program began in March of 1941," Gallegos said. "Even though we no longer have the 302nd or the 301st, this air park behind me serves as a constant reminder of the accomplishments, contributions and the sacrifices the Airmen made in the defense of our country. I can assure you our future aviators and maintainers will always remember the Red Tails."

While many may think of pilots when the words "Tuskegee Airmen" are mentioned, they were actually a group of men and women whose jobs varied, one of which was Stewart's, who served as a crew chief and a flight chief from 1943 to 1946.

"My fondest memory was being able to serve with some of the best people I've ever met," Stewart said. "I feel honored to be one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, and if I had the opportunity to serve again, I would. It's important to have a day of commemoration so people can be educated and appreciate the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen."



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega

to' taken from the nose art of Col. Benjamin Davis whose P-51 read 'by request.'"

After Bruce spoke, each of the four Tuskegee Airmen was introduced.