



944th Fighter Wing Monthly SnapShot

www.944fw.afrc.af.mil

January 2015

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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New year brings new opportunities

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

I hope everybody had a great time with family and friends during the holiday season and is rejuvenated and ready to get back to work. We have a fresh start and I for one am excited for what the new year has to offer.

The start of a new year brings opportunities, goals to complete and challenges to overcome. I have seen what you are capable of and I have no doubt that this year will be as good as the last, if not better.

The 2015 defense budget has been released and we are operational, which means 944th Fighter Wing plans and improvements are moving ahead according to schedule.

Our newly constructed maintenance unit led by Maj. Karwin Weaver, is starting to gain momentum and we have 16 highly qualified Airmen already.

With the arrival of 19 F-35's on Luke Air Force Base and counting, we have one pilot currently in training to become an instructor pilot and there are plans to send three more in the near future.

This unit training assembly will be our first Commanders Call of the year and I hope you will enjoy the inspirational speakers we have to kick-start the year in the right state-of-mind.

February UTA we will host the 2015 Annual Awards Banquet and I hope everyone comes out to support what is expected to be one of the best ever.

Later this year will mark our next Air Force Reserve Capstone inspection and an opportunity to again showcase and improve our Wing capabilities. Our now fully functional Wing Inspection Team will help us by conducting exercises and SAV's throughout the year to prepare us.

Our future looks promising and I hope you are as excited as I am about what it has in store for us. Welcome back, thank you and have a safe and successful year.



944th Fighter Wing

2015 Annual Awards Banquet



7 February 2015

Social Hour ~ 5 p.m.

Ceremony ~ 6:30 p.m.

Wigwam Golf Resort

300 East Wigwam Blvd.

Litchfield Park, AZ

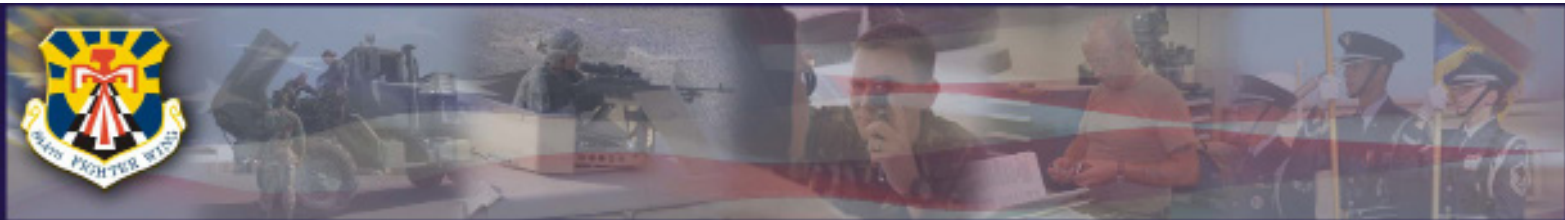
"Today's Airmen, our present day Heroes"

RSVP by Jan. 30

Link below:

<http://tinyurl.com/944FW-AA>

For more information contact 944 FW/PA DSN 6-5388 Commercial: 623-856-5388 or 944fw.pa@us.af.mil



The importance of serving your country

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

Welcome to 2015, 944th Warriors!

Hopefully you are starting the new year rested and ready to face the challenges ahead.

Service, We hear so much about it all the time; I wanted to take a look at it and share how really rare the military service is in today's society.

At the end of World War II, nearly 10 percent of the entire U.S. population was on active military duty. This large population meant that nearly 75 percent of the baby boomer generation (born prior to 1955) have had an immediate family member—sibling, parent, spouse, child—who served in uniform. Of Americans born since 1980, the Millennials, only about 30 percent are closely related to anyone with any military experience.

That said, 70 percent of the American population has no direct connection or experience with the military. That is a huge number of people who don't know who we are or what we do outside of portrayals in the media; which we all know is hit or miss.

Let's compare the military experience to farming. Approximately 4 million people live and work on the country's 2.1 million farms. The remaining 310 million Americans value the work of farmers but don't really have a frame of reference about them. The military has approximately 2 million people currently serving. That's only half of the population of farmers. When you buy your produce at the grocery store, do you think of the farmers that grew it? Probably not. Likewise, 70 percent of Americans go about their daily lives and never give a second thought to the freedoms and liberties that your service provides. In the same way we all go to the grocery store and expect the shelves to be stocked, we can all expect the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Your service is what stocks the shelves of liberty.

One more quick comparison, each year all branches of the military recruit about 200,000 new people to serve in the military while about 300,000 students study abroad.

As a country, America has been engaged in active war nonstop for the past 13 years. The Air Force has been engaged in the Middle East for almost 25 years. The American public has not. A total of about 2.5 million Americans, roughly three-quarters of one percent, have served in Iraq or Afghanistan at any point in the post-9/11 years.

So why am I pointing out this statistic? For two reasons; first, to reaffirm to you the importance of your decision to serve and how rare that gift truly is. Second, to point out how those of us with military experience need to share our experiences with the rest of the American public.

Harvard's famed chaplain Peter J. Gomes said "It's not enough to 'believe' in service. You should find a way, yourself, to serve." You have accepted that challenge, and I thank you for that. Now we all must look for ways "to promote a culture where more people want to serve."

In the future, when you are thanked for your service, please take to time to have a meaningful engagement with the person. They may be a veteran who shares your experience and understands or a person looking to know more. Acknowledge and open a dialogue, you might be surprised! Looking forward to sharing 2015 with you! 'Til next time Chief

944 FW members help get toys ready

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

944th Fighter Wing members helped get toys ready this holiday season in preparation for Operation Holiday Open House.

Military Assistance Mission teamed up with local organizations to collect holiday gifts for Arizona military and their families. The groups collected thousands of toys for the open house.

"This year's event was great, it gets better every year," said Shawanda Harris, 944th Force Support Squadron volunteer. "Hopefully more people can come out and volunteer next year. It felt good seeing the excitement in all of the kids and parents faces and knowing that I was a part of that." The event was for all branches (E-6 and below) of Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve and their families and kicked-off Saturday, Dec. 20 from 12pm - 4pm at the Navy Operation Support Center, at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. It was an opportunity to relieve some of the financial burdens that go along with the holidays for the military members and their families. At the event there was a trackless train, face painting, Santa, fire truck, arts and crafts and a bouncy house. Over 1,600 people attended and everyone was able to take home a 13 gallon bag full of toys.

"This is the first year I have volunteered for the NOSC event and attended the event on Saturday," said Senior Airman Jacobi Goodman, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron volunteer. "They helped my 4-year old daughter pick out gifts for her sister, and they also made sure she was safe until we were reunited, I felt that it was a huge success."

Civilians and military personnel from all services volunteered their time to make sure that military families have a wonderful Christmas this year.





Wing Quarterly Award Winners

Congratulations to our Wing Quarterly Award Winners for the 4th Quarter!

Airman of the Quarter:
Senior Airman Christian Modebelu,
414th Maintenance Squadron

Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter:
Staff Sergeant Perla Tapia Cordero,
69th Fighter Squadron

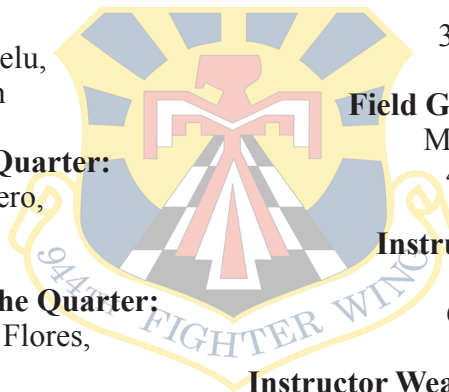
Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter:
Senior Master Sergeant Jacqueline Flores,
69th Fighter Squadron

Company Grade Officer of the Quarter:
Captain Jason Gentry,
307th Fighter Squadron

Field Grade Officer of the Quarter:
Major Christopher Plante,
47th Fighter Squadron

Instructor Pilot of the Quarter:
Major Bryan Dalton,
69th Fighter Squadron

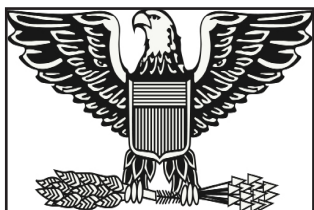
Instructor Weapons Safety Officer of the Quarter:
Major Sriram Krishnan,
414th Fighter Group



Promotions:

The following members were promoted 1 January 2015:

Airman Quereshia Love to the rank of Airman First Class, 414th Maintenance Squadron
Airman Meshael Tigney to the rank of Airman First Class, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Airman First Class Alec C. Andsager to the rank of Senior Airman, 944th Force Support Squadron
Airman First Class Kimberly Dasilva to the rank of Senior Airman, 414th Maintenance Squadron
Airman First Class Kurtis R. VanHoof to the rank of Senior Airman, 924th Maintenance Squadron
Senior Airman Renee L. Boehm to the rank of Staff Sergeant, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Senior Airman Melissa E. Jones to rank of Staff Sergeant, 944th Force Support Squadron
Senior Airman Amber R. Villa to the rank of Staff Sergeant, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron
Staff Sergeant Abby C. Boon to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 944th Force Support Squadron
Staff Sergeant Nathan R. Campbell to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sergeant Kyle P. Mann to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sergeant Manuel Medina to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 944th Security Forces Squadron
Staff Sergeant Robert Sosa to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Technical Sergeant Antonio E. Manzo to the rank of Master Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron
Technical Sergeant Alfredo Medrano to the rank of Master Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron
Technical Sergeant Christopher A. Sharos to the rank of Master Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron
Master Sergeant Kenneth Bohannon to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron
Master Sergeant Jamie L. Mazingo to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron

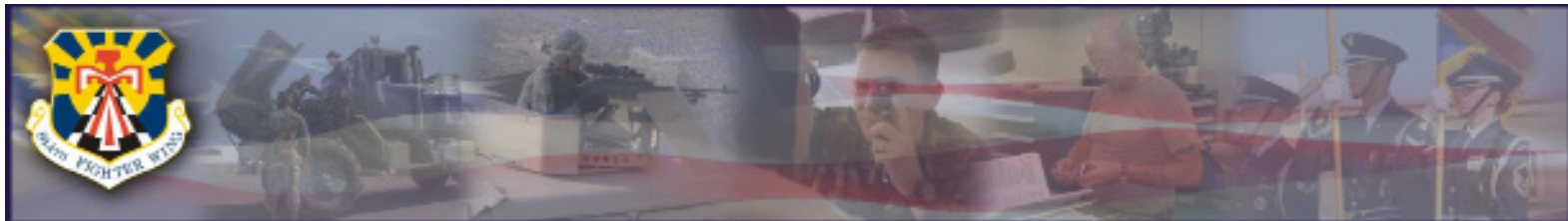


944th FW Colonel Selects

Col (Sel) Korey Amundson, 69th Fighter Squadron
Col (Sel) Alfred Rossum, 944th Medical Squadron

Congratulations !!!





Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee changes leadership

By Col. Nahaku A. McFadden, Air National Guard advisor to the Commander, Air University

Maj. Gen. Jane Rohr ushered in new era of leadership when she took the reins of the Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee at a meeting here. Rohr, the Air Force Space Command's mobilization assistant to the commander, is succeeding Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Connecticut adjutant general.

In addition, Maj. Gen. John Nichols, Texas adjutant general, replaced outgoing vice chairman, Maj. Gen. Robert Millmann, the 7th Air Force's mobilization assistant to the commander.

"As a member of this committee, I thought it was an interesting concept to have all components in a forum to discuss issues related to people," Rohr said. "I'm excited they asked me to be the chairman."

Specifically authorized by Congress, the ARFPC reviews major policy matters that directly affect the reserve components and the Air Force's mobilization preparedness. The core members of the committee consist of five general officers from the Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. Additionally, the committee has six permanent advisory members: the deputy assistant secretary for reserve affairs; the commander of Civil Air Patrol - U.S. Air Force; the CAP national commander; the chief master sergeant of the air force; and the command chiefs from the Air Force Reserve Command and the Air Guard.

The committee's recommendations, Rohr noted, provide direct and unfiltered feedback to the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force regarding the reserve component.

"We want to do our best to try and resolve issues from unintended consequences of policies that affect our people, their benefits and their ability to do their jobs," Rohr explained. "It is critical to what we are trying to do."

Focusing on such topics as Force Support Squadron Integration, Total Force Continuum and National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force, and the Enlisted Evaluation System, the committee was

briefed on the most relevant issues affecting the force. More than 100 senior leaders attended the meeting, one of the largest turn-outs to date.

"I'm glad to take on this opportunity," remarked Nichols, the incoming vice chairman. "This process has matured and improved over time. We vet an issue, we figure out how it will affect Airmen and we work together to come up with a solution."

"Just as I do in my position as Adjutant General for the state of Texas," Nichols added, "this committee is trying to provide our

Airmen the best equipment and best training ... anything that allows them to serve easier."

As the new chairman, Rohr said "it is amazing" to talk to the Secretary of the Air Force directly.

"We have some smart people on this committee," she observed. "The fact they are here to work in an integrated fashion is terrific."

Previous AFRPC sessions have addressed the topics of Total Force Integration / Total Force Enterprise, medical continuation policy, Personnel Reliability Program, per diem waivers, military personnel

appropriation program management and the ARC pregnancy policy.

Airmen who want to suggest a strategic-level policy change to the ARFPC can contact the ARFPC executive director and the support staff at: usaf.pentagon.saf-mr.mbx.saf-mrr-workflow@mail.mil. Captions: Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James is briefed by the senior leaders of the Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee. She is seen here with Maj. Gen. Robert Millmann, mobilization assistant to the commander 7th Air Force, Maj. Gen. Jane Rohr, mobilization assistant to the commander Air Force Space Command, and Maj. Gen. John Nichols, Texas adjutant general. ARFPC reviews major policy matters that directly affect the reserve components and the Air Force's mobilization preparedness.



Courtesy Photo

Be a UPAR!

As a Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR) you will write articles of newsworthy events to help tell your unit story and submit them to your Public Affairs office for review and possible submission in our Newsletter, as well as other media outlets.

Contact PA @ x5388 or 944fw.pa@us.af.mil

944TH FIGHTER WING COMMANDER'S CALL

JANUARY 10, 2015 AT 1500

BASE THEATER

BRINGING THE HEAT

944 FIGHTER WING

PLEASE BE SEATED

15 MINUTES PRIOR



944th pilot aims high and logs 4,000 flying hours

By Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Col. Gregory Jones, 944th Operations Group commander, completed 4000 flying hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon, Jan. 9.

He first flew the F-16 in 1990 when he went through the training course here; after 25 years of service, he reached a milestone that very few pilots are able to achieve.

"I've been lucky in that I've consistently been assigned to jobs that included flying the F-16," said Jones. "The Air Force Reserve is definitely a great place to be for a tenured flying career."

There are only 42 pilots who have flown over 4000 hours and only one other here at Luke, Col. Kurt Gallegos, 944th FW commander.

Although Jones is being recognized, he credits the people who have helped him with this accomplishment.

"It's important to highlight the impressive job the F-16 maintenance community does efficiently generating safe and effective aircraft for both training and combat missions."

Jones' next assignment is to the 10th Air Force Fort Worth after completing his time here as OG commander.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder

Air Force Fitness Management System slated for upgrade



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder

by Debbie Gildea, Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard officers and enlisted members who want to maintain copies of their pre-July 2010 fitness records need to access the Air Force Fitness Management System (AFFMS) and save or print their records by Dec. 30, Air Force Personnel Center officials said Dec. 9.

AFFMS will be offline from Dec. 31 - Jan. 11 to enable AFPC teams to transition content to the improved Air Force Fitness Management System II, said 1st Lt. Nathan Strickland, the AFPC Special Programs branch chief. When the new system comes back online, it will not include fitness information older than July 2010.

The new system - AFFMS II - will improve accessibility and fitness program managers' ability to manage fitness program records. In addition, it will feature more stringent security controls to protect members' information from unauthorized changes or updates.

"This system will provide Total Force Airmen with a more up-to-date, user-friendly fitness management system that will better support the overall Air Force Fitness program," Strickland said. "Before the system goes down, we want to make sure that Airmen are aware of the pending change and have time to go into the system to save their older records."

While there is no requirement for Airmen to maintain fitness records, Strickland advises Airmen who would like to maintain a copy of their fitness history prior to July 2010 to go to the current AFFMS site by Dec. 30 and download or print their pre-July 2010 information. Records can be printed or saved as PDFs, he said.

"In the interim, base fitness assessment centers and unit fitness program managers will maintain hard copies of fitness score sheets for Airmen who test while the system is down and will update those records once AFFMS II is up and running," Strickland said.

To save copies of pre-July 2010 records, go to the Air Force Portal, hover the cursor over the "Life & Fitness" menu and select "AF Fitness Management System" from the drop down menu. For more information about the fitness management system and other personnel issues, go to myPers.

BRINGING THE HEAT

944th FIGHTER WING



Paying it forward

Commentary by Staff Sgt. Perla Tapia-Cordero, 69th Fighter Squadron

As the holidays approach, often we don't think about those service members who aren't able to spend time with their families.

Around this time four years ago, I was in basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. I won't ever forget that feeling of loneliness I had during that holiday season. Although, I had the privilege of being surrounded by great Wingmen, I still missed my family, friends and especially my son who was two at that time.

On Christmas Eve, I remember our military training instructor brought in a box that was full of personalized Christmas cards that children from a nearby school created. Who would have known that such a simple gesture would make such a huge impact in my life.

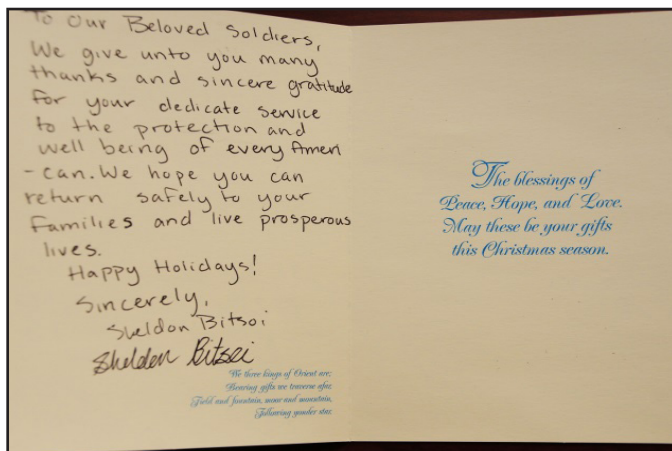
This year, I have decided to pay it forward and give back, but this time to our Luke Airman. We wanted them to know that their sacrifices don't go unnoticed and that our community truly cares. With help from Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Heng, 944th Medical Squadron medical technician, we were able to collect over 600 personalized Christmas cards for our Luke Airman created by local community members and schools.

Heng, my accomplice for this project, was a huge part in the success of this endeavor. He emphasized to me that he believes if we don't learn to give back to the younger troops, or "pay it forward," we can't expect them to do the same. Over his 20+ years of service, Heng has learned that the Airman currently

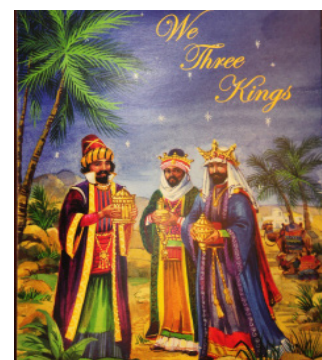
serving, are the future of this Air Force. It takes us keeping their spirits and morale high. Airman in today's Air Force need to know what a critical component they are to the success of the Air Force and its mission.

Thanks to the 56th Fighter Wing First Sergeant Council, all the cards were handed out during the holiday season.

Hopefully this will become an annual event and next year get more members of the community involved.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.



Fitness is an essential part of having a combat-ready force

By Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson Air Force Reserve Command Commander

Fellow Citizen Airmen, as we begin 2015, I hope all of you took some well-deserved time off to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. As we reflect on the holiday season, we might also notice a change in our own reflections in the mirror caused by all of the wonderful dinners and desserts we enjoyed during the holiday season. If you could not say "no" to that second piece of your mother-in-law's pumpkin pie or just couldn't not pass on "just one more" cup of delicious eggnog, now is the time to start thinking about your fitness goals for the coming year.

Are you shooting for a personal best? Or your first excellent score? One of the best ways to improve your score is to improve your 1.5 run time and the best way to improve your 1.5 mile run time is to get outside (or get to the treadmill in the fitness center) and start logging some miles. Yet, for some, a little additional motivation might be beneficial. Have you ever considered training for a half marathon or even a marathon?

The Air Force Marathon (which also offers Half Marathon, 10k and 5k distances) will be held on the weekend of 18-19 September at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. Registration opens on January 1st and I encourage as many Citizen Airmen as possible to think about participating in this year's events. Simply go to www.usafmarathon.com to register.

Also, if you are an experienced marathon or half marathon runner, I strongly encourage you to consider applying to be a member of the AFRC MAJCOM Challenge Team. We will field a team of four marathon and six half marathon runners who will be competing against other MAJCOM Teams. The AFRC Team is open to all Reservists and RegAF members assigned to AFRC organizations regardless of status or location of assignment. If selected for the AFRC team, funding will be available for your entry fee, travel, and lodging. If you are interested in applying for the AFRC MAJCOM Challenge Team, please contact my POC, LtCol Brian Biggs, at brian.biggs@us.af.mil or DSN 497-1111 for more details.

Fitness is an essential part of having a combat-ready force able to meet the challenges of an uncertain world. I wish all of you the very best as you pursue your personal fitness goals in 2015.



Courtesy photo



DoD Releases 2015 Military pay and compensation rates

WASHINGTON --Today, the Department of Defense announced the 2015 military pay and compensation rates for service members, with most service members receiving a one percent increase in basic pay.

The new rates for basic pay, basic allowance for housing, basic allowance for subsistence, and the cost of living allowance rates for the contiguous United States will take effect on Jan. 1, 2015.

Basic pay for service members will increase one percent, except for general and flag officers who will not see an increase in 2015. For example, an E-4 with 3 years of service will see an increase in basic pay of \$22.20 per month, while an O-3 with 6 years of service will receive a basic pay increase of \$54.30 per month in 2015.

Basic allowance for housing rates for service members in 2015 will increase on average \$17 per month, or 0.5 percent. Rates are calculated using median current market rent and average utilities (including electricity, heat, and water/sewer) for each pay grade, both with and without dependents. Two changes were made to BAH rate computations for 2015: renter's insurance, which contributed an average of one per-

cent to rates, was eliminated, and the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act reduced housing rates on average one percent for service members.

However, individual rate protection for service members remains an integral part of the BAH program. This means that even if BAH rates decline - including through the elimination of renter's insurance and the reduction in the calculated rate - a service member who maintains uninterrupted BAH eligibility in a given location will not see a rate decrease. This ensures that service members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if housing costs decrease.

Service members can calculate their BAH payment by using the basic allowance for housing calculator at: <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm>.

The 2015 basic allowance for subsistence rates for military members will increase by 2.9 percent over last year. The new rates are:

- \$367.92 per month for enlisted members
- \$253.38 per month for officers

The annual adjustments to basic allowance for subsistence -- a monthly nontax-

able cash payment to military members intended to be used to buy food -- are linked to changes in food prices as measured by the annual change in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cost of Food at Home Index. From the beginning of October 2013 through the end of September 2014, the index rose by 2.9 percent, forming the basis for the increased BAS rates.

The Defense Department also released its 2015 contiguous United States cost of living allowance rates. Roughly 12,000 members will see a decrease in their CONUS COLA payments, while some 7,000 members will see an increase or no change, and 4,000 members will no longer receive a CONUS COLA payment.

CONUS COLA is a taxable supplemental allowance designed to help offset higher prices in high-cost locations, and rates vary based on location, pay grade, years of service and dependent status. Rates can increase or decrease depending on the prices in a specific duty location compared to prices in an average CONUS location. Service members can calculate their CONUS COLA rate at: <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/conusCalc.cfm>.



HIRING OUR HEROES. U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

Hiring Our Heroes – Tempe, AZ

A Free Hiring Fair for Veterans,
Transitioning Service Members, and Military Spouses
University of Phoenix - Phoenix Campus
1625 W. Fountainhead Parkway, Tempe, AZ 85282
January 13, 2015

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: 8:30 AM

HIRING FAIR: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

A Workshop for job seekers that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 8:30 AM.

EMPLOYERS

Must register for FREE at HiringOurHeroes.org/events

JOB SEEKERS

Register for FREE at HiringOurHeroes.org/events

Thanks to our local partners:

- Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
- Arizona Department of Economic Security
- And all of our other local partners

For registration questions, please email hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5807.



HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG

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Download the free Hiring Our Heroes mobile app! All our powerful tools and resources at your fingertips. [Available on the App Store](#) [Google play](#)

AIRMAN'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.

I AM A WARRIOR.

I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.

MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN.

I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,

A TRADITION OF HONOR,

AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN,

GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,

MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,

ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.

I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN:

WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.

I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND,

I WILL NEVER FALTER,

AND I WILL NOT FAIL.