



944th Fighter Wing Monthly SnapShot

www.944fw.afrc.af.mil

February 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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Take pride in being a Citizen Airman

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

I cannot stress how important a role you play as a Citizen Airman. The image of an Air Force Reservist and what we bring to the table has changed dramatically in the past 10 years. The respect and accolades you receive are hard earned and well deserved.

You bring innovative ideas and technical skills from your civilian careers that help us be as effective as possible when called upon.

On the other hand, the leadership skills and values you learn as a Citizen Airman are equally valuable and can help you excel in your civilian careers and in life.

Some of you serve because of a sense of duty, some for educational benefits, and some for a pay check. Whatever the reason, whether you realize it or not, you are part of an extraordinary group and your contributions are recognized and appreciated.

The 944th Fighter Wing is fortunate to have the highest quality Airmen, who have a sense of purpose and it shows in the way we do business and in our accomplishments.

I wanted to take time to reflect on our significance in this family we call the United States Air Force Reserve.

We are still at war, the ISIS atrocities like beheadings and the burning of a Jordanian pilot let us know that we need to stay vigilant. Experience tells us we must continue to hone our skills and prepare for the worst.

Trust your leaders and leaders lead your Airmen. We must make sure that we take care of and develop our young Airmen. Continue to provide them the tools needed to succeed and we will continue grow as a fighter wing and as an Air Force.

When people ask you what you do, don't forget to add you are a Citizen Airman and hold your head up high when you say it. We are part of the strongest and best fighting machine in the world. As a fellow Citizen Airman and your commander, I am proud to serve with you.

This weekend, we are bringing the heat with our Annual Awards Banquet and it promises to be the best yet. We get to honor the best and brightest of all of our outstanding Airmen. I am excited to see what the evening holds and look forward to a few laughs and spending time with all of you. I hope to see you there and have a great UTA.



**944TH FIGHTER WING
ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
SATURDAY, FEB. 7, 2015
1700 HRS**

BRINGING THE HEAT
WIGWAM RESORT
300 EAST WIGWAM BOULEVARD
LITCHFIELD PARK, AZ. 85340



Accountability for you and your career

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

Accountability... I can hear the groans already. However, the topic I want to write about is your personal accountability to you and your career. No one knows better than yourself what your goals are, where you want to go, and what you want to learn. So doesn't it make sense that you should hold yourself accountable for taking the appropriate actions to mold and shape your career?

Do you participate in the Officer Development Plan and Enlisted Development Plan cycle? If not, why not? These plans offer a way to inform the senior leaders within your organization and Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) as to what career plans you have. If you don't let leadership know what you want to do, you may be leaving your career planning up to fate. This may not be the best course of action for a long and successful career. Have a clear goal and articulate that. If you have concerns or questions please ask, I am also available to assist.

How about documentation? If you do not take the time to document all the great things that you do, then something may fall through the cracks and you may miss an opportunity. Record what you do and provide bullets for your performance reports. You know when they are due, take charge and ensure your supervisor has an accurate picture of what you've done. This has the added benefit of pointing out disconnects between you and your rater, above and beyond, the normal feedback sessions.

Please take some time and evaluate where you are in your career. If you're happy and content in your position, then continue to look to the future. If you're not happy, then it is time to reevaluate what you're doing, how you're doing it, and make a plan to get where you want to go. Seek out a mentor or continue to grow your mentor circle if you already have one. Mentors are critical in your growth.

Both AFRC and the Air Force are putting a lot of effort into getting career progression planning right. All of us need to hold ourselves accountable in achieving our individual goals by participating and communicating. If your career is on autopilot, it's time to take back control.

Just a brief side note before I go, make sure your goals are SMART-Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely. Not everyone is going to be Chief of Staff of the Air Force, or Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, but it could be you! 'Til next time.

Air Force presents FY 16 budget request

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

The Air Force presented its fiscal year 2016 President's Budget request Feb. 2, following the Defense Department and sister services budget briefings.

The Air Force fiscal year 2016 budget request supports the defense strategy and combatant commander requirements. It continues readiness recovery, reduces the short-term capacity risk assumed in the fiscal year 2015 budget while placing significant investments in the nuclear enterprise, space, cyber, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and command and control capabilities.

This budget strengthens the nation's defense strategy and Air Force unique capabilities that are in high demand by our combatant commanders, said Maj. Gen. Jim Martin, the Air Force director of budget, who presented the service's budget request.

"The FY 16 President's Budget is rooted in necessity, what we need today to begin the recovery from three years of reduced budgets, and is based on long-term strategy," Martin said.

The Air Force requested a topline budget of \$122.2 billion in Air Force controlled funding that continues to protect the KC-46A Pegasus, F-35A Lightning II and the Long Range Strike Bomber, the Air Force's top modernization priorities, and supports a total force end strength of 492,000 personnel.

The service made adjustments from the fiscal year 2015 Presidential Budget request to respond to global changes, adding back the highest priority combatant command requirements. These adjustments include re-phasing the U-2S divestiture and restoring the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System to add more command and control and ISR, and reduce risk to capacity.

The Air Force is resubmitting its request to phase out the A-10 Thunderbolt II fleet by 2019, to shift limited funding and manpower to higher priority combatant commander needs, such as ISR and C2, as well as advanced multi-role platforms ready for the high end fight. Planned F-15C Eagle divestitures were changed to increase near-term capacity and support the European Reassurance Initiative.

While the fiscal 2016 budget request exceeds funding levels laid out in the Budget Control Act by almost \$10 billion, Martin said it is a necessity to recover readiness.

"We are grateful for the modest, short-term budget relief that Congress provided for fiscal years 2014 and 2015," Martin said. "It was a start to the long process of readiness recovery, but a return to Budget Control Act funding levels will risk our readiness today and our readiness 10 years from now. We need support of our FY 16 budget request to continue readiness recovery and invest in capabilities we will need in the future."



Courtesy art



Promotions:

The following members were promoted 1 January 2015:

Airman Basic April Delgado to the rank of Airman, 944th Force Support Squadron
Airman Ralph Armijo to the rank of Airman First Class, 924th Maintenance Squadron
Airman First Class Damon Lile to the rank of Senior Airman, 924th Maintenance Squadron
Senior Airman Cecilia Mora Fernau to the rank of Staff Sergeant, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Staff Sergeant Brittany Farmer to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Staff Sergeant Zachary Green to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sergeant Joseph Keegan to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sergeant Brendan Manley to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sergeant Shaun Wahlstrom to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron
Master Sergeant Thomas Romero to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron
Master Sergeant James Witten to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, 944th Security Forces Squadron



Welcome Home!!

Maj. Lonnie Sell, 944th Force Support Squadron, returned home from Dover AFB, Delaware

Maj. Bryan Dalton, 69th Fighter Squadron, returned home from Bagram, AB

Tech. Sgt. Gehovana Gonzales, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, returned home from Southwest Asia

Operations Security Notes

First, let's define what OPSEC is defined as. OPSEC is the process by which we protect information that can be used against us. OPSEC challenges us to look at ourselves through the eyes of an adversary (individuals, groups, countries, organizations). Essentially, anyone who can harm people, resources, or mission is an adversary.

OPSEC should be used to protect information, and thereby deny the adversary the ability to act. The majority of information collected comes from "Open Sources". Any information that can be obtained freely, without breaking the law, is Open Source. It is social network sites, tweets, text messages, blogs, videos, photos, GPS mapping, newsletters, magazine or newspaper articles, or anything else that is publicly available.

Our OPSEC objective is to ensure we control information in a safe and secure environment. It is best employed when making choices about what communications to use, what is written in emails or said on the phone, postings on social networking sites and blogs. Remember, any information you put in the public domain will also be available to our adversaries.

Remember what to protect, how to protect it, and that protecting this information is YOUR responsibility!



Start Small. Think BIG!

Financial Expo
Wigwam Resort
28 February, 9am - 1pm

MILITARY AMERICA Saves
START SMALL. THINK BIG.

Fighter Country Foundation and Luke AFB invite you to an exclusive event just for military families! IT'S FREE!

Register NOW on the Fighter Country Foundation website:
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DoD Military Saves Week
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For more information please call
Cory Carmichael
623.856.6550





Air Force risks becoming too small

By Tech. Sgt. Natalie Stanley, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

During testimony on Capitol Hill Jan. 28, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III stressed the negative impact sequestration will have on future Air Force capabilities, emphasizing further budget cuts will lead to low morale and declined readiness in the Air Force.

“Pilots sitting in a squadron looking out at their airplanes parked on a ramp certainly feels like a hollow force, whether we define it that way or not,” Welsh said. “People are not joining this business to sit around.”

The common tone of the testimony by all the service chiefs was maintaining the faith and trust each military member has in their respective service by ensuring they have the training, tools and equipment needed to win any fight, now or in the future.

“We can’t continue to cut force structure to pay the cost of readiness and modernization or we risk being too small to succeed,” Welsh said.

Welsh stated 24 years of combat operations has taken a toll on the Air Force and the need for modernization is no longer a debatable issue.

“We currently have 12 fleets of aircraft that qualify for antique license plates in the state of Virginia,” he said. “Air Forces that fall

behind technology fail and joint forces without the full breadth of the air, space and cyber capabilities that comprise modern airpower will lose.”

Welsh credited improved combat squadron readiness over the past year to the Balanced Budget Act, which targeted individual and unit readiness, but stated future sequestration would immediately reverse this trend.

“Squadrons would be grounded, readiness rates would plummet, Red and Green Flag exercises would have to be cancelled, Weapons School classes would be limited, and our aircrew members’ frustration will rise, again,” Welsh said.

He explained sequestration has led to intentional underfunding of infrastructures that produce combat capability over time including training ranges, test ranges, space launch facilities, simulation infrastructure, and nuclear infrastructure.

Welsh appealed to the members of the Senate Armed Services Committee to join with the military to ensure current and future combat capability.

“We do need your help to be ready for today’s fight and still able to win in 2025 and beyond,” he said. “Our Airmen deserve it, our joint team needs it, and I believe our nation still expects it.”



Courtesy Photo

Maintaining the technological edge

By Ed Gulick, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs,

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer urged members of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to help the service maintain their technological edge at their winter board meeting Jan. 27.

“We need your help,” Spencer said. “We need the expertise you provide because it is really critical. Our budgets are shrinking, our capacity is shrinking and there’s no way to accomplish (our mission) with the budgets we have without technology and innovation.”

Spencer cited current modernization efforts, including the F-35A Lightning II, KC-46A Pegasus, long range strike bomber and the intercontinental ballistic missile fleet upgrade, as current costly programs the service must pay for. He then urged the group to look at how their studies can help the service save money while keeping its technological edge.

“We need your help to focus on what we can do versus what we can’t,” Spencer said. He then highlighted some technologies, such as measuring time in femtoseconds, hypersonics and quantum entanglement, as areas of advancements that need to be studied to determine how they can be used to advance the service’s mission.

“(The Air Force) cannot survive without you,” Spencer said. “The technology has leaped so fast, it’s hard for us to keep up with it. We want our adversaries to say, ‘Where did they get that and what are we going to do about it.’”

The SAB was tasked by Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, to conduct studies on the cyber vulnerabilities of embedded systems in air and space systems, enhanced utility of unmanned air vehicles in contested and denied environments and utility of quantum systems for the Air Force.

The SAB is made up of 50 experts among the nation’s top civilian scientists and engineers on matters of science and technology relating to the Air Force mission.

The current SAB will be completed by the end of June 2015, and then be briefed to the secretary of the Air Force, chief of staff of the Air Force and other Air Force senior leadership. The findings and recommendations of the SAB will then be used to shape and guide Air Force policy.



Courtesy photo



Air Force BMT introduces innovative Capstone Week

By Tech. Sgt. Joshua Strang Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs,

Air Force basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph-Lackland will soon restructure its current eight-and-a-half-week course to make room for a new five-day program called Capstone Week, beginning Jan. 27 with trainees entering BMT.

“Our basic military training today does a tremendous job developing young men and women into Airmen,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody. “But as we looked at the current structure, we saw an opportunity to further enhance those Airmanship skills with a final week focused entirely on character development. These are core skills every Airman needs to be successful in our Air Force.”

The first Capstone Week, which will culminate the BMT experience, begins March 23.

Capstone week’s purpose is to give the Air Force one more critical tool to further develop professional, resilient Airmen who are inspired by heritage, committed to its core values, and motivated to deliver airpower. While BMT will still provide new Airmen the same high level of military and physical training, Capstone Week serves to specifically concentrate on character building.

“We developed Capstone Week to better prepare Airmen for their first assignments by reinforcing our core values of integrity, service and excellence through an interactive environment emphasizing character development, the profession of arms, and our Air Force heritage,” said Gen. Robin Rand, the Air Education and Training Command commander. “The course focuses on the importance of every Airman treating each other with respect and dignity, better preparing them to become skilled warriors ready to do our nation’s business.”

Capstone Week will provide instruction and promote discussion among Airmen in a more interactive forum than the highly-structured BMT curriculum, according to Kevin Adelsen, the AETC Capstone Week program manager. Some key areas that Capstone Week will cover, include wingmanship, resiliency, leadership and followership, sexual assault prevention and response, the warrior ethos, and how Airmen can balance their personal and professional lives.

Adelsen said BMT schedule adjustments allowed for condensing the current training to make room for the Capstone transition period.

“We’ll retain all current BMT requirements in the first seven-and-a-half weeks and use the Capstone Week to reinforce and expand on previous training,” Adelsen said.

Following the traditional Airman’s parade at the end of BMT’s first seven-and-a-half weeks, trainees will transition that weekend to a Capstone squadron. Airmen will move into a revamped training facility on Lackland and experience Capstone Week in an environment far different from that of the first part of BMT, according to Adelsen.

Capstone will be a BMT graduation requirement, Adelsen added. Immediately following Capstone, Airmen will travel to their designated technical training locations across the United States.

“BMT’s Capstone Week will ensure Air Force basic training remains a center of excellence and our Airmen remain the best fighting force in the world,” said Chief Master Sgt. Gerardo Tapia, the AETC command chief. “It’s a fantastic and innovative way to ensure we prepare Airmen to become men and women of character - great wingmen, leaders, citizens and warriors. This is not going to be the ‘last’ week of BMT, but rather the first week of the rest of their Air Force careers.”



Courtesy photo

944 FW members met Pro Bowl players



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

Selected individuals from Luke Air Force Base including four members from the 944th Fighter Wing received a treat Jan. 21 while Pro Bowl players from the National Football League visited here.

The objective was to provide a fun experience for both parties. Airmen were urged to share their Air Force story and have fun. A couple places the NFL players visited on base were the 56th Security Forces kennels and a static display of an F-16 and F-35. Players also talked to deployed members via skype.

It was a chance to interact with the players, take photographs and get autographs.

It was also a chance for the NFL to show their appreciation to Air Force military and civilian work force.

The NFL brought plenty of activities for Luke AFB Airmen and their families to do. 944th FW members participated in a variety of events throughout the week.



Texting and driving in Arizona

As of Mid-September the Department of Public Safety officers had made 19,800 traffic stops related to distracted driving in 2014 and about 2,400 collisions were also linked to the same issue, reported DPS.

Around 3,640 drivers were stopped for cell phone-related infractions while a slightly smaller number were pulled over the "other occupant-related issues" that included electronic media use and texting. DPS vowed that its "Highway Patrol division will continue its intensive statewide patrol effort to target distracted drivers in Arizona through education and enforcement of existing state laws."

Current prohibitions:

- No state restrictions on texting or cell phone use, except for school bus drivers.
- Texting drivers might find themselves cited under the state's law against driving at a speed that is not "reasonable and prudent."
- In Phoenix, Flagstaff and Tucson, drivers are prohibited from text messaging. Fines are \$100 or \$250 (accident).
- School bus operators may not use cell phones while driving.

Texting and Driving Statistics:

Texting while driving is a growing trend, and a national epidemic, quickly becoming one of the country's top killers. Drivers assume they can handle texting while driving and remain safe, but the numbers don't lie.

Texting While Driving Causes:

- 1,600,000 accidents per year - *National Safety Council*

-330,000 injuries per year - *Harvard Center for Risk Analysis Study*

-Eleven teen deaths EVERY DAY - *Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Fatality Facts*

-Nearly 25% of ALL car accidents

Texting While Driving Is:

- About six times more likely to cause an accident than driving intoxicated
- The same as driving after four beers - *National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.*
- The number one driving distraction reported by teen driver

Texting While Driving:

- Makes you 23 times more likely to crash - *National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.*
- Is the same as driving blind for 5 seconds at a time - *VA. Tech Transportation Institute*
- Takes place by 800,000 drivers at any given time across the country
- Slows your brake reaction speed by 18% - *Human Factors & Ergonomics Society*
- Leads to a 400% increase with eyes off the road

For more information on this topic visit: <http://www.azdps.gov/Media/News/View/?p=506> or <http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/28/00701.htm>.

Information provided by Tech. Sgt. Richard Teets, 944th Fighter Wing Ground Safety

944th FW hosts the Phoenix Chamber

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

The Phoenix Chamber of Commerce held their board of directors meeting here at Luke Air Force Base Jan 22 and was able to visit various base facilities as well as receive an overall mission brief.

Their tour included a stop at the 56th Security Forces kennels for a military working dog demonstration and a visit to an F-35 static display.

Members from the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce met with Crash, 56th Security Forces military working dog, at the kennel as part of the tour.



BRINGING THE HEAT

944 FIGHTER WING