



944th Fighter Wing Monthly SnapShot

www.944fw.afrc.af.mil

March 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:

Contents of the 944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, DoD or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 85309. All photographs and graphics are property of the Air Force unless otherwise indicated. Articles can be submitted via 944fw.pa@luke.af.mil.

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.



Check us out on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/944thFighterWing.LukeAFB> or on our web page at <http://www.944fw.afrc.af.mil/>

Genuine Concern helps make a great leader

By Colonel Robert Whitehouse, 944th Fighter Wing Vice Commander

The success of the Total Force Enterprise in today's Air Force is dependent on each of our Citizen Airman becoming great leaders. In my 26 years of service the most successful leaders seem to share four common characteristics: Unwavering Character, Consistency, Genuine Concern, and Humility. Today I would like to discuss the third characteristic, genuine concern.

Legendary basketball coach, John Wooden once stated, "Listen if you want to be heard." In order to get an organization to maximize its performance, Airmen need to feel they are part of something greater than themselves and that they are critical to the unit's success.

They will go the extra mile if they feel their leaders have genuine concern for them. That concern only happens if the leader takes a real interest in the Airman's activities, both within the unit and outside it. The importance of providing time in a busy day to listen to your Airman's personal issues or concerns will empower them to put forth their best effort as part of the team. They will know they are part of the team, and more importantly, the leader will be there for them when needed. Great leaders recognize this need and are empathetic to those they lead.

Another example of this is our current Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Welsh. If you have ever had the opportunity to listen to him speak, he always mentions "Every Airman has a story." He deeply cares about all Airmen, and wants to know each Airman's story. If you haven't had the opportunity to listen to him, please take the time and listen to the lesson he gave at the Air Force Academy in 2011 by using this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRgNVpCi6rY>. While the speech was almost four years ago, it's a great example of a leader having genuine concern for his followers and tremendously inspirational.

Speaking of inspirational, the performance of our 2014 Annual Award nominees and winners which we celebrated last UTA was inspiring to say the least. Congratulations to all of them for their Outstanding efforts over the last year. I look forward to seeing each of you over the UTA and remember if you don't know your Airmen's story, Ask! Have a great UTA.

OUR VISION:

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

OUR MISSION:

TRAIN AND PROVIDE COMBAT READY AIRMEN

MISSION ■ AIRMEN ■ FAMILY





Learning how to deal with change

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

Hello all, it's March and spring is just around the corner; at least where I live in Colorado. The weather is beautiful here at Luke this time of year. It is nice to get out of the snow for a little while.

This month I want to talk about change. Change is inevitable in everyone's life. The challenge to us all is how we deal with change personally. How do you deal with change? Do you embrace it? Do you resist it? Do you deny it?

I believe that to achieve your full potential you must embrace change. Things change constantly and you cannot stop it, so why try? If you embrace the change you can get an early start on figuring out how to work through the change. Some changes actually work out to be welcome positive changes, so not all changes are bad. Embracing change also means that you should take into consideration that you cannot do it all at once. Chip away at it one little bit at a time with small achievable goals that will lead you to the ultimate goal of the change.

Another aspect of change to consider is failing. As with all things, failure is always an option. Learn and grow from each failure and continue to strive to do better next time. The important thing to remember is to never give up after a failure. If you have never failed at anything, then maybe you should look at trying to set more difficult goals.

Winston Churchill said, "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference." Successfully managing change requires having a positive attitude. No team likes to have the 'Negative Nelly' hanging around explaining why something cannot be done. Be positive and work toward a positive outcome. Often, how we deal with changes in our lives will be reflected in how successful we are.

With that said; take time to influence change wherever possible. The 2015 Total Force Climate Survey will be held 13 March - 27 April. Participation will gauge issues such as job satisfaction, available resources and unit performance with a goal of improving their organizations. Senior leaders use this information to guide change where needed. Your input to the process is very important and the Air Force needs honest feedback from its most valuable resource—it's Airmen. Take the time to provide your feedback.

Till next time, keep up the great work and be safe out there.

Promotions:

The following members were promoted 1 March 2015:



Airman Basic Katherine Carrillo to the rank of Airman, 924th Maintenance Squadron

Airman Glenn Brown to the rank of Airman First Class, 944th Security Forces Squadron

Airman Luis Gonzalez to the rank of Airman First Class, 944th Security Forces Squadron

Airman Nathan Verlinde-Laksono to the rank of Airman First Class, 944th Security Forces Squadron

Airman First Class Alexis Angarica to the rank of Senior Airman, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman Nayeli Grant to the rank of Staff Sergeant, 944th Medical Squadron

Senior Airman Donald Mcguire to the rank of Staff Sergeant, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman Esteban Salazar to the rank of Staff Sergeant, 944th Security Forces Squadron

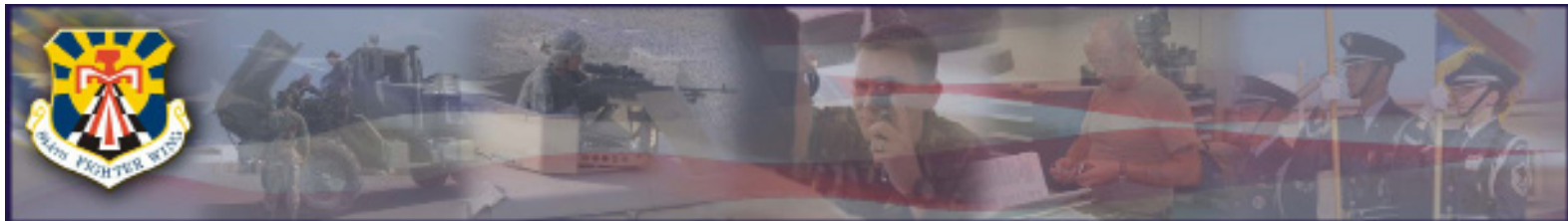
Staff Sergeant Christopher Lyon to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron

Technical Sergeant Michael Barrett to the rank of Master Sergeant, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron

Technical Sergeant Logan Goldschmidt to the rank of Master Sergeant, 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron



BRINGING THE HEAT
944 FIGHTER WING



The Best of the Best!



944th Fighter Wing Annual Award Winners



Airman of the Year:
Staff Sgt. David Hainley,
924th Operational Support Flight



Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year:
Tech. Sgt. Jovita Holguin,
47th Fighter Squadron



Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year:
Senior Master Sgt. Chin Cox,
944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron



First Sergeant of the Year:
Senior Master Sgt. David Merris,
944th Force Support Squadron



Company Grade Officer of the Year:
Capt. Jason Gentry,
307th Fighter Squadron



Field Grade Officer of the Year:
Maj. Eric Puels,
69th Fighter Squadron



Junior Civilian of the Year:
Ms. Jeanelle Dupree,
944th Fighter Wing Staff



Senior Civilian of the Year:
Ms. Denise Sullivan,
944th Fighter Wing Staff

Instructor Pilot of the Year:
Maj. Bryan Dalton,
69th Fighter Squadron

Weapon Systems Officer of the Year:
Maj. Sriram Krishnan,
414th Fighter Group



Carter's message to DOD workforce

By DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Ash Carter, who was sworn in as the 25th secretary of Defense Feb. 17, laid out his top priorities in a message to the Defense Department workforce. Carter's message reads as follows:

I am honored to become your Secretary of Defense. I am proud to lead men and women who devote their lives to the highest calling – the defense of our nation. And I am grateful to follow in the footsteps of Secretary Hagel, one of our nation's most honorable and conscientious public servants.

We live in challenging times – times that demand leadership and focus. And starting today, I will be calling on each and every one of you to help carry out three top priorities.

Our first priority is helping the President make the best possible national security decisions for protecting our country– and then implementing those decisions with our department's long-admired excellence.

We confront a turbulent and dangerous world: continuing turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa, and the malignant and savage terrorism emanating from it; an ongoing conflict in Afghanistan; a reversion to archaic security thinking in parts of Europe; tensions in the Asia-Pacific; the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and intensifying threats in cyberspace.

In addressing these challenges, I have pledged to provide the President my most candid strategic advice. I will count on your experience and expertise as I formulate that advice. I will also ensure the President receives candid professional military advice.

But as we tackle the many threats to our national security, we must never lose sight of our nation's enduring strengths – or of the opportunities to make a brighter future and better world for our children. The United States remains the strongest and most resilient nation on earth. Because of you, we have the finest fighting force the world has ever known. We have friends and allies in every corner of the world, while our adversaries have few. We have long possessed the world's most dynamic and innovative economy. And our values, principles, and leadership continue to inspire hope and progress around the world.

Safeguarding America's security and global leadership will depend on another of my main priorities: ensuring the strength and health of you who make up the greatest fighting force the world has ever known – our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, civilians, and contractors all around the world.

I will do that by focusing on the well-being, safety, and dignity of each of you and your families. I will ensure your training and equipment are as superb as you are. And I pledge to make decisions about sending you into harm's way with the greatest reflection and utmost care – because this is my highest responsibility as Secretary of Defense.

Honoring all these commitments also requires us to focus on building the force of the future, which is my third priority.

We must steer through the turmoil of sequestration, which imposes wasteful uncertainty and risk to our nation's defense. We must balance all parts of our defense budget so that we continue to attract the best people – people like you; so that there are enough of you to defend our interests around the world; and so that you are always well-equipped and well-trained to execute your critical mission.

To win support from our fellow citizens for the resources we need, we must show that we can make better use of every taxpayer dollar. That means a leaner organization, less overhead, and reforming our business and acquisition practices. It also means embracing the future – and embracing change.

We must be open to change in order to operate effectively in an increasingly dynamic world; to keep pace with advances in technology; and to attract new generations of talented and dedicated Americans to our calling.

I first arrived at the Pentagon more than three decades ago, and have had the privilege of serving 11 Secretaries of Defense in Democratic and Republican administrations. I took the oath of office this morning because I love our country and am devoted to you who defend it. And I am committed to our fundamental mission: the defense of our nation.

I look forward to leading and serving alongside you at this extraordinary moment in our nation's history. May God bless you and your families, and may God bless America.



Courtesy photo

Connecting with others through Key Spouse program

By Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, Air Force Reserve Command commander;

Fellow Citizen Airmen, Have you met your Key Spouse yet?

The Key Spouse Program is an Air Force commander and family program designed to enhance readiness and ensure a sense of Air Force community. As we focus on connections this year, I encourage you and your family to connect with others in your unit and organization through this program. It is

a great way to stay informed on activities and deployments and meet other Air Force Reserve families.

If you haven't had a chance, I encourage you to read We Leave no Family Behind (<http://www.citamn.afrc.af.mil/features/story.asp?id=123431966>) article in December's Citizen Airman Magazine.

This story captures why staying connected is so important for both you and your family. If you have a spouse or family member who

would like to become a Key Spouse, please contact your First Sergeant, Supervisor or your nearest base Airman & Family Readiness office to learn more.

Barb and I value you as a member of our Air Force Reserve and Air Force "Big Blue" Family. Thank you for supporting this program and for staying connected to each other. Thanks for all you do.





A diverse country committed to being unified



Courtesy photo

By Deborah L. James, Secretary of the Air Force

Airmen of the United States Air Force: There is no other country in the world so widely diverse, yet so deeply committed to being unified, as the United States of America. The challenges we face today are far too serious, and the implications of failure far too great, for our Air Force to do less than fully, and inclusively, leverage our Nation's greatest strength: its remarkably diverse people. Across the force, diversity

of background, experience, demographics, perspective, thought and even organization are essential to our ultimate success in an increasingly competitive and dynamic global environment. As airpower advocates, we must be culturally competent and operationally relevant to effectively accomplish our various missions.

As Airmen, whether military or civilian, we must continue to build and maintain our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and the associated promise of enhanced mission performance. These concepts infuse innovation and forward thinking into our culture and mission areas and resonate within our Service's core values demonstrating that integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do are part of our character.

In order to fully maximize our Nation's extraordinary diversity, our Air Force's focus will be inclusive and comprehensive. We must recognize and appreciate the value of having diversity in each organization. Fostering inclusion ensures an environment that capitalizes on the strengths of every individual and removes any artificial barriers to an Airman's opportunity to achieve his or her maximum potential. Our foundation will be a reaffirmation of our dedication to leadership's role because diversity and inclusion are not programs or initiatives; they are na-

tional security imperatives and critical force multipliers. Our Service's strategic readiness and geopolitical significance depend on our ability to effectively utilize all of our strengths.

In the coming months, we will assess current Air Force initiatives used to attract, recruit, develop and retain our Airmen. We will capitalize on best practices both inside and outside the Air Force. As your Service leadership, we will lead the way.

This approach is necessary because our increasingly diverse citizenry places a special trust in us and we must keep that trust by ensuring our Air Force is representative of the best of the populace from which we draw our considerable strength. We are the product of our talents, not the sum, and it is our responsibility to create an environment that best supports and projects our Service's collective and inclusive excellence. You have our word on the Air Force commitment to diversity and inclusion and the maximizing of their benefits on behalf of our Service and Nation.

We must be an Air Force powered by talented Airmen reflecting the best of the Nation we serve. We will continue to nurture and lead this effort from the front and we expect our leaders and Airmen at all levels to do the same.

PA Specialist named Graydon Williams Award winner

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

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee presented the 2014 Graydon Williams Award to Tech Sgt. Louis Vega Jr., 944th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs specialist, during a luncheon Feb. 11.

This year, Tech. Sgt. Graydon Williams' sister, Alma and husband Harry Shappell, and his brother Neal Williams, attended the ceremony honoring an Air Reserve Technician who has "I would like to express what an honor it is to man with a great work ethic," said Vega, who was hired as an ART in 2013.

Vega was also recognized by Col. Kurt Gallegos, "TSgt Vega has done a phenomenal job with the other events he has been involved in,"

"Not only does Vega significantly contribute to the wing as a PA specialist, he is also actively pursuing a degree in Public Relations [Maj. Magnusson], my goal for this year is to job easier," said Vega.

He thanked his wife, Christine for encouragement and Maj. Elizabeth Magnusson, 944th FW PA mother, Kathleen and youngest son, Vicente also attended.

"2014 was an extremely busy year for our office and we are already bringing the heat for 2015," said Vega. "Ever since I can remember I always wanted to be part of a team ... I am thankful and proud to be part of the 944th FW team and I humbly accept this award."

The Graydon William Award is presented annually to an Air Reserve Technician or Active Guard Reserve member who personifies the character and traits of the late Tech. Sgt. Graydon Williams, a 944th Fighter Wing maintenance ART who died at a young age of cancer. The essence of the award is based on superior performers who do not seek recognition, perform clearly above expectations, and have not been adequately recognized for their overall contributions and impact on the wing.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder

gone above and beyond in service to the unit. receive an award that was named after a good started working with the PA office in 2009 and

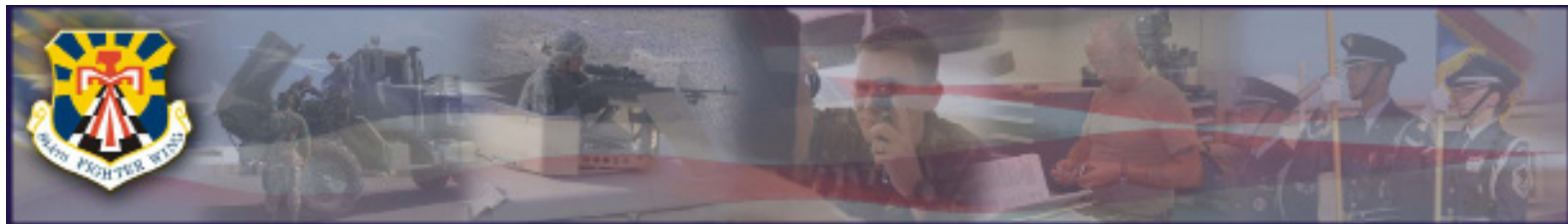
legos, 944th FW commander.

every retirement, banquet, luncheon, and all said Gallegos.

ute to the wing as a PA specialist, he is also to further his career development."

continue to learn, bust my butt and make your

ing him to apply for the position he's now in officer, for taking a chance and hiring him. His



AF responds to National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force

*By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs,
Operating Location-P*

The Air Force responded to the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force's recommendations in a report to Congress March 4.

Of the Commission's 42 recommendations, Air Force officials disagreed with only one and are already in the process of implementing 25, as well as developing plans or pilot programs for another 16.

"The body of work that came out of the commission will help us advance the ball toward an even stronger total force," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, "and I'm convinced the future of the Air Force includes a greater reliance on our Guard and Reserve components."

The disestablishment of the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command was the only recommendation in which the Air Force disagreed with the commission. Elimination of the AFRC would not result in substantial savings, as nine different major commands would have to assume the roles and responsibilities currently accomplished by the Headquarters AFRC. Additionally, the current structure allows the Chief of the Air Force Reserve to manage authorized and appropriated Reserve resources as required by key statutory obligations.

Over the last two years, the Air Force has made significant progress toward improving collaboration and cooperation between the components to strengthen and institutionalize relationships across the total force. All three components have participated in the Air Force's budgetary discussions and planning from start to finish beginning with the fiscal year 2015 President's Budget. This process enables an integrated approach to maximize capability and capacity in times of increasing fiscal constraints.

Transformation during wartime is difficult and the Air Force is short of warfighting capacity in nearly all mission areas.

Even though the NCSAF report identified possible cost savings associated with moving approximately 36,000 active Airmen into the reserve component and related savings of roughly \$2 billion, Air Force analysis does not support this concept.

Based on secretary of defense-mandated dwell rates, the Air Force has capacity shortfalls across almost all mission areas, assuming approximately a 12% risk to meeting deployment demand and other requirements; shifting the 36,000 to the reserve component would exacerbate this risk to nearly 20%. To effectively meet requirements and maintain the active component's 1-to-2 and reserve component's 1-to-5 dwell times, the Air Force needs to grow both the active component and the reserve component.

"No one is more invested in total force integration than the Air Force," said Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, the Chief of Air Force Reserve. "Going forward, there is no doubt that our Air Force is going to rely more, not less, on our Reserve and National Guard forces. It is essential to leverage our reserve components more effectively in the current global security environment."

The Air Force has spent the last year thoroughly analyzing 80 percent of the Air Force mission-sets and taking a close look at our active component and reserve component balance. Over the course of the next year, the Air Force will continue evaluating the remaining 20 percent of the mission areas, as well as re-look at major mission areas that need further examination.

The overall assessment so far resulted in changes to the Air Force's fiscal 2016 budget. Nearly 3,000 positions were added to the reserve component's end strength. The Air Force bought back F-15C Eagles for ANG units and actively associated them; re-established a classic association with the RQ-4 Global Hawk; made some adjustments in the space positioning, navigation and timing system; and grew reserve component in the cyber mission area.

"The evolution of our total force over the years is a great success story, but much of that story has yet to be written," said General Mark A. Welsh, III, the chief of staff of the Air Force. "We need to be as good at the headquarters level as our Airmen are at the operational and tactical levels. Those Airmen, who've been fighting side-by-side for



Courtesy art

years, don't see the difference between an active component member, guardsman or a reservist. And those who benefit from American airpower really don't care. They just know that without it ... you lose."

The NCSAF was established by Congress in 2013 to determine how the Air Force's structure should be modified to best fill current and future mission requirements, and the commission first presented their findings on Capitol Hill in January 2014. During the same period, the Air Force initiated a comprehensive review of the Air Force total-force enterprise.

Upon completion of the Air Force's internal review and the commission's report, the Air Force established the Total-Force Continuum, or TF-C, an organization led by a brigadier general from each component. The TF-C is charged with pursuing legislative, policy, educational, operational and organizational changes to more fully integrate the three components into "One Air Force" and identifying the optimal balance of Active, Guard and Reserve across all mission sets. Subsequent recommendations continuing the Air Force's efforts at integrating across the components will be presented in future budget proposals.

"One unified Air Force needs to be the way we do business without even thinking about it," said Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke, III, the director of the Air National Guard. "We are committed to ensuring we evolve in our total-force integration with a synchronized team always ready to deliver unparalleled airpower anywhere in the world."



Scobee gets real with 944th Fighter Wing Airman



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Nason

Mission briefings, hands-on squadron tours, newcomer's orientation, mentoring sessions, keynote address for the annual award banquet and most importantly talking with Airman were on the agenda.

Accompanying the general was his command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Brandhuber. Both of them echoing the same mantra during their visit; meeting and being with Airmen is the best part of their job and how important it is to build a culture where you enjoy what you do.

"The 944th has a special place in my heart since I spent so much time here. We are a professional force, at 10th Air Force we do everything combat which provides lots of opportunities for our Airman," Scobee said as he address the newest members of the 944th during their first orientation briefing.

The Air Force Reserve is involved in every mission the active duty Air Force currently dose. If a Reservist wants to deploy or stay home and train there are all kinds of excellent opportunities available. "Bring the experience you have to make the 944th FW a better Organization," Scobee added.

"Our Nation cannot afford the military that we had in the past and that is why the Reserve is so vitally important because we can be so much less expensive than the active duty. We capture the training/tal-

By Tech. Sgt. Barbara Plante 944th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Richard Scobee, 10th Air Force commander, an Arizona native and former 944th Fighter Wing commander visited the wings Airman and facilities during a three day whirlwind trip Feb. 5-7.

ent coming off active duty and save the tax payers an extraordinary amount and we will continue to do this for a long time to come."

Fielding questions from the group the general and the chief discussed, challenges facing 10th AF, budget concerns, finding a balance between family, civilian job and military service, deployment opportunities, the F-35 operational mission, and even the Super Bowl outcome.

"I want to thank you for serving, I know as a reservists it takes time, your family comes first and next your civilian job because if you have those two thing squared away you can focus on the military mission when you are here or deployed," said Brandhuber.

While addressing Airmen of the Mission Support Group Scobee summed it by saying, "It is fantastic what you do to keep this place running. When I come back to the wing it is great to see what an outstanding place you have made the 944th. The example of force integration is phenomenally great here at Luke AFB and you all add so much to the fight."

The trip culminated with the general providing the keynote speech for the 944th Annual Awards Ceremony.

In a voice often laced with emotions Scobee proudly told the story of his father Francis Richard "Dick" Scobee, commander of the Space Shuttle challenger that was lost on Jan 28, 1986. He talked about his dad's journey from enlisting in the Air Force as an 18-year-old, turning wrenches on the flight line, to commanding a space shuttle.

"There is no country in the world where you can be what you want, do what inspires you. Be an officer, be an NCO do what drives you to show up on drill weekends. [His father] was able to improve lives by being present. He made an impact, not by how he died, but by how he lived!"

In conclusion he finished his story by saying, "So, I ask you all, how are you going to live your life? Make an impact like these outstanding Airmen of the Year, they lead by example. Thank you ALL for serving this great country...because you have a choice."

944th FW reservist receives F-35 firefighter training

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

Local fire departments gathered Thursday to receive training on F-35 crisis procedures in case of an emergency here and in the surrounding areas of Luke Air Force Base.

Sixteen local fire departments including Avondale, Buckeye, Buckeye Valley Fire District, Daisy Mountain, El Mirage, Glendale, Goodyear, Peoria, Rural Metro, Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise, Tolleson, and Wittman will receive training through April 25, 2015.

Kenneth Heng, Goodyear firefighter and 944th Medical Squadron medical technician reservist, is no stranger to Air Force firefighter training and was one of the firefighters participating in the training.

"As firefighters we train for what we hope will never happen," said Heng. "The more we train, the more comfortable all will feel if an emergency happens and the smoother the call

goes."

Tech. Sgt. Heng came into the 944th FW in September 2003 as a firefighter before transitioning to MDS and becoming the NCOIC of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians program with the 944th MDS. Heng was also a U.S. Navy reservist Damage Controlman (firefighter), before entering the Air Force Reserves.

Thursday's training consisted of a brief power point presentation to discuss the hazards of the aircraft and pilot rescue. After the briefing, firefighters were taken to an F-35 to look at the areas discussed in the briefing as part of the hands on portion.

"The training went through a familiarization of the F-35 and some basic information that we need to consider when responding to a crash," continued Heng. "Knowing and being familiar with some of the immediate dangers is essential."

Mr. Steven Kinkade, 56th Civil Engineer

Squadron assistant fire chief for training, organized the training with support from the 61st Fighter Squadron.

"The training has provided our off-base community partners with what they need to know if they arrive at a downed F-35 prior to Luke AFB responders getting to the scene," said Kinkade.

The training was conducted to familiarize local departments on the associated hazards with the F-35 and prepare them for an emergency in their response area if an aircraft were to crash.

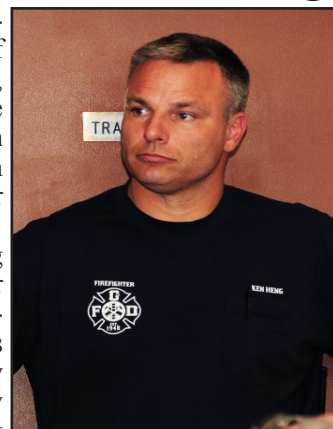


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.



944th Fighter Wing Legal Office



Please stop by the 944th FW Legal Office if you need a Power of Attorney, Will, or have general legal questions. Walk-in legal assistance hours are 0800-1100 on Sunday of drill weekends. You can also set an appointment by calling DSN 896-5333 or Commercial 623-856-5333.

Many clients have visited a legal office to obtain a will or other legal document, and realize after arriving that they need to gather more information or documents from home. Completing an online worksheet will help minimize multiple visits. By filling out an online worksheet, clients are able to consider critical issues online prior to visiting the legal office. After receiving a ticket number, a client may take the ticket number to the legal office. An attorney or paralegal will then access a client's data with the ticket number.

Reservists and their families also have access to the legal assistance website:

<https://offlegalassistance.bww.af.mil>

The website is designed for active duty and reserve component members, retirees, and dependents. The website was created to increase efficiency and track client satisfaction with the Air Force legal assistance program. The website is a public site; therefore, clients may access it from home without requiring a CAC card. Features of the site include:

- **Legal Topics:** Links and short papers about common military legal issues.
- **Legal Worksheets:** Access to online questionnaires for wills, living wills, and powers of attorney. After completing the online worksheet, the website provides each client a unique "ticket number." Data entered by clients is secure and may be accessed only after clients visit the legal office and provide their ticket numbers to legal office personnel.
- **Online Survey:** Following a visit to the legal office, clients are encouraged to provide feedback concerning the professionalism and helpfulness of our legal professionals.

Reserve members on federal active duty under Title 10 or those preparing to deploy and dependants of these members may utilize the active duty legal office for mobilization and deployment-related legal assistance. The active duty legal office will require a copy of the member's orders before providing legal services to reserve members or their dependents. Reserve members not on active duty orders or having deployment orders are not eligible to receive legal assistance at the active duty legal office. These members and their dependants should visit our office during the UTA.

944th Fighter Wing – Legal Office
Building 988 Room 103
DSN: 632-5333 or Commercial 623-856-5333
Legal Assistance Walk-In Hours
Sunday 0800 - 1100 (drill weekends only)
<https://offlegalassistance.bww.af.mil>

\$\$\$ Military OneSource: Taxes and Tax forms \$\$\$

You could pay for financial counseling, tax consultations, or your tax software, but why? Military OneSource helps service members and eligible family members by providing access to no-cost financial counseling, tax consultations and secure online tax preparation and filing. Get started on your taxes now by meeting with a trained Military OneSource tax consultant for military-specific advice regarding your tax questions, at no cost. Call 800-342-9647 today or visit <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/taxprep> for tax services.



OTS eliminates component distinctions

By Phil Berube, 42nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force Officer Training School here has removed all service component distinctions from its line officer commissioning courses.

Regular Air Force and Reserve cadets no longer receive their commissions through Basic Officer Training or Air National Guard cadets through the Academy of Military Science.

With the start of OTS Class 15-03 in early January, all line officer cadets receive the same training at the same time in the same classrooms. Instead of saying they graduated from either BOT or AMS, the newly commissioned officers will simply say that they received their commissions from OTS.

“Neither of those acronyms--BOT and AMS--is necessary any more as we now have ‘one furnace, one metal,’” said OTS Commandant Col. Scott Lockwood. “We have one program, which is just OTS.”

The current class of 78 Guard, 15 regular Air Force and 13 Reserve cadets will graduate together March 13.

The move to one program started in late 2014.

In October, the school celebrated its first-ever simultaneous graduation of regular Air Force, Reserve and Guard cadets. Though they graduated together, the cadets attended either BOT or AMS classes, which ran in parallel over eight weeks.

The graduation was heralded as a true ‘total force’ milestone.

However, just as OTS has removed service distinctions in the classrooms, Lockwood said he would like to avoid the ‘total force’ label altogether at the school.

“It is no longer needed, much like the caveat from the chief of staff when he said when we quit calling things ‘total force,’ we will know we are there,” he said.

In this go-around, Lockwood said he’s aware that the percentage of students heavily favors the Guard. In future classes, he sees a more-balanced mix of students.

“We will attempt to offer up the traditional number of seats to each

component, but we also would ideally have a percentage mix that better reflects the overall populations being trained throughout the year,” he said. “However, we will simply fill seats as needed, and that can alter the mix from one class to the next.”

The average size of future classes will be between 150 to 200 cadets, he said. He anticipates commissioning about 800 regular Air Force, 500 Guard and 200 Reserve line officers this fiscal year.

Tweaking the mix of students here and there is not nearly as important as the benefits the cadets will realize from sharing the same instructional environment from the start.

“They will not feel as if there is a difference in quality and professionalism,” said Lockwood. “They will all have faced the same crucible and belong to the same fraternity as a whole. This will better perpetuate a trust, loyalty and commitment to the service, to include all components.”

The colonel said the Air Force as a whole will also benefit by enmeshing cadets from the three components together from day one in the service.

“Not only will they make important relationships that will benefit them throughout their careers, but it will

greatly increase the education of our regular Air Force and Reserve cadets on the Guard and who they are,” he said. “It is simply too late in their careers to end up commanding a total force wing and then have to start from scratch in finding out about how the Air National Guard operates.”

In fiscal 2014, OTS commissioned 748 second lieutenants and trained more than 1,300 officers through its Commissioned Officer Training and Reserve COT programs. AMS commissioned 511 Guard officers during that same time period.

Officer Training School is part of Air University’s Jeanne M. Holm Center for Officer Accessions and Citizen Development. The center also includes Air Force ROTC, Air Force JROTC and Civil Air Patrol-U.S. Air Force.



Courtesy photo

944 FW Airman earns Levitow award



Photo by Senior Airman Grace Lee

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

Airmen making the transition from junior enlisted to non-commissioned officer, is a milestone most look forward to.

On Thursday, Feb. 12 at Luke Air Force Base, an Airman Leadership School graduation took place. Senior Airman Melinda Charlton, 944th Force Support Squadron personnel apprentice, took home the John L. Levitow Award given to the Airman who excels both academically and as a leader during the course.

The award is the highest and most prestigious ALS graduation award.

ALS is required for all Airmen when they reach 48 months, time in service, or when they are named staff sergeant select. ALS provides instruction on key subjects such as Air Force heritage, time management, Enlisted Performance Report writing, leadership styles and warrior mind-set.