

# Snapshot



944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

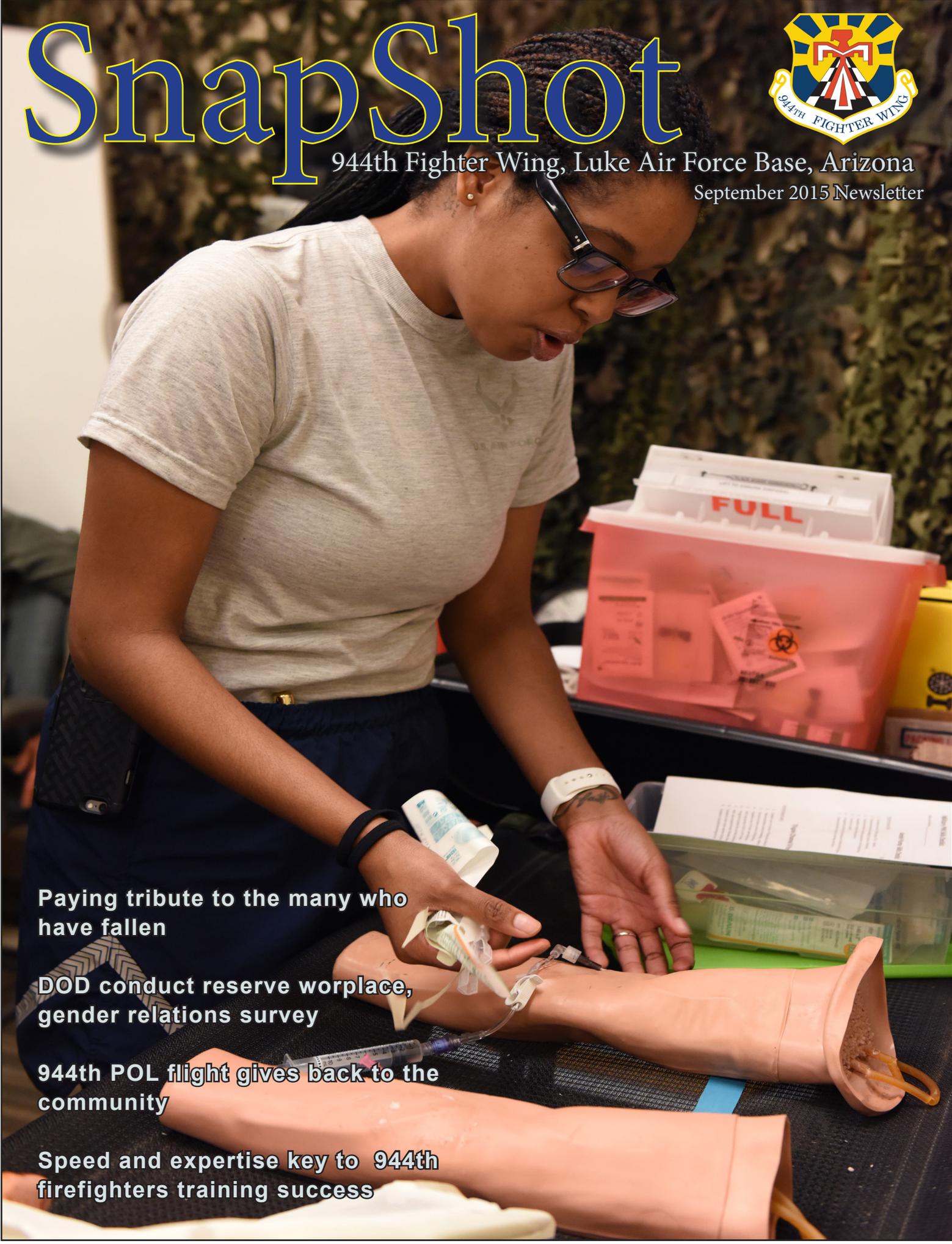
September 2015 Newsletter

**Paying tribute to the many who have fallen**

**DOD conduct reserve workplace, gender relations survey**

**944th POL flight gives back to the community**

**Speed and expertise key to 944th firefighters training success**





# 944th Fighter Wing

# Monthly SnapShot

www.944fw.afrc.af.mil

Bringing the Heat

September 2015

## 944 FW KEY LEADERS

### **Commander**

Col. Kurt J. Gallegos

### **Vice Commander**

Col. Robert D. Whitehouse

### **Command Chief**

CMSgt. Rhonda L. Hutson

## 944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot

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## **944th Mission**

**Train and provide Combat-Ready Airmen.**

**Mission ■ Airmen ■ Family**



## Command Commentary

# Paying tribute to the many who have fallen

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

Fourteen years ago today marks the anniversary of an event in United States history which many of us remember exactly where we were and what we were doing and none of us should forget.

The September 11 attacks are one of the darkest moments in our history and it stands as a reminder to all of us to pay tribute to the many who have fallen and reinforce our commitment to this great nation.

On that tragic day, 2,996 people were killed. There were 2,606 in the World Trade Center twin towers and of those, 414 were first responder firefighters and police officers who

knowingly rushed in to harm's way. It was the deadliest day in New York history.

We must also remember the 246 victims on four different airplanes and the 125 at the Pentagon.

This hits home for me personally because soon after the event I had the honor of being the first F-16 pilot to drop bombs in Afghanistan.

I carry great pride in the fact that I had the opportunity to be of services to my country and the missions I accomplished were very fulfilling.

Whether you realize it or not, no matter your reasons for becoming part of the Air Force Reserve, you play a major role in the fight against terrorism.

Our fight and commitment against world terrorism is still ongoing with extremist groups like ISIS. As an American service member you carry a great responsibility and burden. For that alone, I commend you for your courage and service.

As summer winds down and the scorching Arizona weather begins to cool, I want to remind you to continue to stay alert and be safe.

Our Capstone inspection is quickly approaching next month so keep up the good work and I look forward to meeting your bosses in November. Thank you and have a great UTA!



# Build resiliency and strengthen skills

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

September is an exciting month. Kids are back in school and football season has started. The Autumnal Equinox, the day the sun crosses south of the celestial equator, is 23 Sep and the official start of the fall season. Back home in Colorado that means the temperatures will start to cool and the trees turn color. But here in Arizona, the land of seemingly endless blazing heat, that benefit of the Equinox is still months ahead.

September is also Suicide Prevention Month. The Department of Defense is suffering one of the worst years in history for Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines ending their lives. By the end of May we lost an average of one service member a day to suicide and unfortunately, that rate has not slowed appreciably since. Suicide is not just a problem in the military, it is an international crisis. September is International Suicide Prevention Month, National Suicide Prevention Month and there are similar focused efforts underway in almost every state and in many organizations and communities. With all this attention, why does this problem persist? General Austin, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army recently said "I do believe suicide is preventable...to combat it effectively we will require sophisticated solutions aimed at helping individuals to build resiliency and strengthen their life coping skills".

General Austin gets right to the point of what I've discussed with you so many times in the past; resiliency. We talked about the four pillars of Comprehensive Airman Fitness; mental, physical, social and spiritual fitness. Talk is not enough, each of us needs to remember these pillars and adopt them into our daily lives. These pillars are all about coping; coping with the stresses of daily life and the additional stresses military service, inspections and deployments cause. No amount of sophisticated solutions will positively impact the trend on suicides unless we adopt these life coping skills. Every one of you is a valued and vital member of the most capable, effective and well trained Air Force the world has ever known. The loss of any single one of you to a senseless act like suicide is unconscionable. Build your Comprehensive Airman Fitness and strengthen it every day. And just as important, intervene with a family member, friend or Wingman who is not coping well with life. We are in this together.

As I wrap this up, next month is our Unit Effectiveness Inspection. Talk about a stressor! As our own leadership team goes over every detail of our business with a fine tooth comb and then inspectors come and do the same, it is easy to lose sight of the big picture in the minute details. In the big picture, we are an amazingly capable Wing adding tremendous combat capability to the world's finest Air Force. We will uncover details to fix. That's why we do these inspections, attention to detail makes the big picture possible.

Gen Welsh said something very simple but very powerful in a talk to Airmen of the 501st Combat Support Wing last month. It rang true with me and I want to close with it. "I don't just like being in the Air Force...I love being in the Air Force"

Til next month



# Leading our future Airmen



Courtesy photo

By Staff Sgt. Joshua Nason, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Military Training Instructors from the 433rd Training Squadron are here at the 944th Fighter Wing all weekend to recruit future Air Force Reserve MTIs.

For those interested in joining the prestigious ranks of those who lead future Airmen through the Gateway to the Air Force, there will be multiple opportunities to meet with the MTIs throughout the September Unit Training Assembly.

The MTIs will also be spending some time with the Development and Training Flight, which will give the future Airmen a unique opportunity to speak with the MTIs before leaving for Basic Military Training.

“The DTF asks very detailed questions. So I am looking forward to the best POC for trainees to come and speak with them,” said Technical Sgt. James Oberhaus, Development and Training Flight Program Manager.

To be a MTI some of the qualifications

include:

- Staff Sgt. promotable to Tech. Sgt./Master Sgt. at least four years from high year tenure.
- Skill level commensurate with pay grade.
- 42 months of retainability.
- Meet minimum physical profile of 121221.
- Project an outstanding professional military image.
- Excellent records with overall ratings of 5 on the last 3 Enlisted Performance Reports.
- No record of disciplinary action or financial irresponsibility in Air Force career.
- Current PT composite score of 80 or better in the past 12 months and no physical training failures in the past 12 months.

The career benefits include monthly special duty pay; outstanding awards program; Eligible for the Air Education Training Command Master Instructor Badge and Master Military Training Instructor; earn 12 credits toward a Community College of the Air Force degree; provided with MTI PT clothing; and MTI ribbon.

Currently there are Active Guard Reserve, Traditional Reservist and Air Reserve Technician positions available.

**For more information please email:**

433trs.recruiting@us.af.mil or visit these locations during the UTA

Friday, 11 September 2015, at 1400, – Wing Standup

Saturday, 12 September 2015, at 1000-1200– 69th Conference Room

Saturday, 12 September 2015, at 1300 - Development and Training Flight, Building 993, Room 22

Sunday, 13 September 2015, available until 0900 to answer questions.

## September 2015 promotions: Congratulations to the following 944th Fighter Wing promotees

### From Airman Basic:

Amn LibbyWilson, 944th ASTS

### From Airman:

A1C Justin Bartlett, 944th FW (Det1)

### From Airman First Class:

SrA Christopher Fielder, 944th CES

SrA Branden Harrison, 944th CES

SrA Jami Mora, 944th SFS

### From Senior Airman:

SSgt Ilija Balach, 924th MXS

SSgt Todd Boothe, 944th ASTS

SSgt Sean Kenny, 944th ASTS

SSgt Dane Williamson, 414th MXS

### From Staff Sergeant:

TSgt Kenneth Ueland, 414th MXS

### From Technical Sergeant:

MSgt Lyndie DeYoung, 944th ASTS



**944TH FIGHTER WING  
ENLISTED CALL  
SUNDAY, NOV 8  
1500 HRS**

**BASE THEATER  
PLEASE BE SEATED  
15 MIN PRIOR  
TO START TIME**



# Training records important part of Airman's readiness

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

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- During the 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron annual tour at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, deployment, reviewing training records was just the tip of the iceberg for the LRS training manager.

The mission of the 944th Fighter Wing is to train and provide Combat-Ready Citizen Airmen in support of our national objectives. Developing Airmen is a top priority for the wing and the Training Business Area program is one of the electronic equivalents to paper training records used to track readiness.

Working with several sections during the deployment Master Sgt. Christian Nerone, 944th LRS training manager, ensured training records were in good order. "I had the opportunity to get with Senior Master Sgt. Jay

Lindsay, superintendent of our own 944th LRS Readiness office and review their TBA program," said Nerone.

The review included a comprehensive, hands on look, from the ground up involving a thorough evaluation of the newest Career Field Education and Training Plan for the Logistics Plans 2G0X1 Air Force Specialty Code.

During that evaluation an additional 81 tasks for five level skill upgrade were deciphered which was a correction or transition of over 50 percent. Nerone said, "The findings from our review allowed us to rebuild the corresponding task groups and apply them to the individual training plans."

The updated Master Task Listings, core task groups and Individual Training Plans allow Lindsay to move forward with the upgrade training of his section members with confidence and increased the unit's readiness for upcoming inspections.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Barbara Plante

It also ensures that members have the required task and skills needed for their skill level upgrades to accomplish their job.

"It is great to have a Training Manager that is passionate about his TBA like MSgt Nerone. His expertise and accessibility to provide training on this program has made a difference in LRS since he has come aboard," said Lindsay.

Nerone is very good at expressing the importance of how keeping TBA properly updated and maintained is a responsibility of not only the Trainer but also the Trainee.

"This concept has assured a great "checks and balance" within the LRS in which I have endorsed 100 percent." Lindsay added.

# DOD conducts reserve workplace, gender relations survey



WASHINGTON -- Air Force reservists and members of the other reserve components are being asked to participate in the 2015 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Reserve Component Members.

The 2015 WGRR is voluntary and confidential. The survey is scheduled to run through Oct. 9.

Results from the 2015 WGRR will provide information to leaders of Congress and in the Department of Defense components about members' experiences of unwanted, gender-related behavior. The final report is due to the DOD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office in March 2016.

About 487,300 reserve component members – 150,300 women and 337,000 men – will take part in the largest survey fielded on this topic for reservists. Members can see if they are included in the survey by logging onto the Defense Manpower Data Center website – [www.dodsurveys.mil](http://www.dodsurveys.mil) – and providing the requested information.



# 944th POL flight gives back to the community

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Barbara Plante 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- “Not everything that counts can be counted. And not everything that can be counted, counts.” - Albert Einstein

As an Air Force Reservists, getting the chance to serve an annual tour in Alaska in July and August is a big plus. For the members of the 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron it wasn't just about getting out of the heat and providing some much needed additional manpower for the mission was also about taking the opportunity volunteer their time.

The 673rd Logistics Readiness Group at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, has partnered with the state and has a three year contact in the Adopt-A-Highway Program. This provides them the chance to become a vital part of an important public/private partnership that's dedicated to keeping Alaska's roadsides clean and attractive.

“On behalf of Col. James Petrick, 673rd Logistics Readiness Group commander, thank you for coming out today to help with the clean-

up, I want to especially thank those folks from the 944th out of Luke Air Force Base,” said Senior Master Sgt. Donald Crowl, 673rd LRS, right before the group got to work.

The 944th Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants Flight helped clean-up more than 300 pounds of debris on a one and half mile stretch of road side just outside the JBER gates. “After getting all of our training done we decided to spend some time giving back to the community,” said Tech. Sgt. Ramsay Tandal, 944th LRS, POL flight.

There are many reasons Airmen volunteer their time, gaining new experiences and insights, giving back and helping others, creating connections with people, a sense of accomplishment... Whatever the reason is, volunteerism is a powerful, practical and sustainable way to help develop the whole airman concept.

“This was a great way for us to give back. We always try to leave a place better than we found it,” said Tech. Sergeant Christopher Saenz, 944th LRS, noncommissioned officer in charge of fuels distribution.



# Speed and expertise key to 944th firefighters training success

By Staff Sgt. Joshua Nason 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Arizona--It's a sight that nobody in the Air Force wants to see. Emergency response trucks racing to the flightline while a lone fighter jet sits with an unresponsive pilot in the cockpit yet this is something that Air Force firefighters constantly train for.

One such training was conducted by 20 firefighters from the 944th Civil Engineering Squadron at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, during the August UTA.

“This is the type of training that we need to remain proficient in as these are situations we could face not only at Luke, but also in a deployed location,” explained Senior Master Sgt. Adam Ura, 944th

Civil Engineering Squadron fire emergency services deputy chief.

The aircraft egress training conducted, specifically focused on responding to an emergency that required the immediate removal of an unresponsive pilot from the aircraft.

In a flurry of activity, multiple vehicles from the fire department quickly responded to the aircraft, sprayed down any possible fire hazards, and immediately dispatched firefighters to get into the cockpit and remove the pilot.

The speed and expertise of the firefighters was evident to Maj. Peter Cossette, 944th Fighter Wing chief of inspections, and the Airmen playing the role of the unresponsive pilot.

“I was very impressed to see

just how much they knew about my aircraft,” said Cossette who is also an F-16 instructor pilot. “Before I knew it, the locked canopy was open, the engine was shut down, and I was lifted out of the aircraft and down the ladder.”

The training, conducted twice a year, proved to be a success in the eyes of the firefighters as well.

“Our guys operated safely, and with a sense of urgency,” said Master Sgt. Ryan Kemp, 944th Civil Engineering Squadron, fire emergency services assistant chief of training. “There were no showstoppers such as ladder slips or broken hoses. There were definitely a lot of smiles from our guys today after the successful extraction.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Nason



# Survivor shares his story of resilience

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. -- Retired Capt. David Berling, spoke to members of the 944th Medical Squadron about his personal experiences, perseverance, and resilience with hopes of motivating the audience during the August Unit Training Assembly.

Berling was involved in a private plane crash in 2007, four years after commissioning as a contracting officer in the Air Force.

"The plane crashed nose first into a field about a mile short of the [Hawthorne Municipal] airport and hit the ground at approximately 150 miles per hour," said Berling. "The plane came to rest upside down, which was a blessing because gravity kept my blood in my core and kept me from bleeding out through my leg wounds."

He suffered multiple injuries requiring two above the knee amputations, 28 surgeries, and was a hospital inpatient for more than two months.

Having a "type-A personality," Berling had always had a "do it by myself attitude" and "I can accomplish anything on my own" mantra, he struggled with admitting he needed help.

"I felt I had failed professionally, personally, and within my marriage," said Berling.

Trying to cope with variables out of his control, he was determined to keep fighting.

"I was determined to walk and would have endured anything to make that possible," said Berling.

He also spoke with his wife, Missy about their marriage.

"Missy and I had a heart-to-heart... [we] decided together to put the past behind us and rebuild our marriage," said Berling. "...I believe

that due to a higher power, I was given a second chance at life and I was determined not to screw it up."

Though he endured so many hardships, he lauded his support system.

"When I was finally discharged [from the hospital] ... Missy and I went back to see the personnel from the [Intensive Care Unit]," said Berling. "They didn't recognize me at first but after I said 'Air Force, plane crash,' they said, 'oh yeah, the big swollen guy. You look great.' ... it was nice to show people who had been responsible for keeping me alive just two months prior, how far I'd come."

Following his full recovery, Berling and his wife visited and thanked all the individuals who played a part in his recovery.

"You can't control what happens in the world around you," Berling said while imparting life lessons he wished someone had shared with him before he learned them on his own. "You can only control how you react to it."

Although, he was eventually medically retired from active duty in 2009, Berling

is currently working on recertifying his private pilot's license and training on his hand-cycle in hopes of being named to the U.S. Paralympic Team.

Berling also co-authored the national award-winning book, *Just Living the Dream*, which recalls the family's perspective of Berling's journey through the crash and recovery.

"There was no way I could fail with the support I was given," said Berling. "...human spirit is often much stronger than we think and we honestly don't know what we can overcome until we're put in a situation with no way out but through."



# Strengthening our Nurse Corps



Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.--Members of the 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron recently completed a week-long Nurse Leadership and Force Development course, here Aug. 24-28.

The course covered a myriad of topics from

medical related to leadership essentials and team building.

The chief clinical nurse for 944th ASTS, Lt. Col. Debbie Davis, directed and facilitated the training. "My vision was to provide training opportunities to improve the nurses' leadership and officer skills," said Davis. "The focus of the week is on force development and leadership attributes. The week-long program gives us a chance to build our team relationships that often are pushed aside during the busy [Unit Training Assembly] weekends."

Capt. Julie Browne, 944th ASTS physician assistant, agreed. "This training gave us the opportunity to come together and collaborate with one another instead of working as individuals during the busy UTAs."

Although the training was geared more towards the nurse corps, Browne was able to take advantage of the opportunity to participate as a PA.

The training also included readiness skills verification, emergency burn management, aeromedical patient movement, team building exercises, defense travel system review, and blues uniform inspection.

"Our mission at the Aeromedical Staging Squadron is the transport of the injured and ill through intro-theater and theater operations," said Davis. "As the chief nurse, it is my responsibility to ensure that these nurses are skilled and prepared to lead and provide expert care in the field when called to do so."

Although this is only the second year the training has been held, Davis has high hopes of continuing it annually.

"The training was very successful and will definitely be repeated next year," said Davis. "We have collaborated with the active duty and invited them to participate with us next year; they are very open and excited about the opportunity to collaborate with us."



## Shirt Commentary

# How much is it worth?



Courtesy photo

*By Senior Master Sgt. James King, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron first sergeant*

As a first sergeant, we deal with a multitude of issues involving our Airmen. Most of the issues come from a lack of judgment in the decisions they have made and are now dealing with the consequences. One of these stories involved shoplifting at the Base Exchange. In the course of three weeks, there were two different shoplifting incidents involving a tenured NCO and a SNCO that I was made aware of.

The shirts were talking about the different incidents we have dealt with and theft became the topic of conversation. Both incidents involved shoplifting from the BX with items totaling under \$75. The items were not basic needs (i.e. food or clothes for their starving kids) but luxury items like sunglasses, cologne, or a watch; items that could be saved for and bought at a later time if money was an issue. We all tried to rationalize why someone would shoplift and came up with a variety of reasons like a lack of money, to see if they could get away with it, the excitement/thrill of stealing, or maybe they have done it for years and just now being caught. The bottom-line is it really does not matter because it is breaking the law.

The second thing we discussed was the money or cost of the items. The items were not high dollar items but things that ranged between \$20-\$35. They were items that any Airman could have saved up for by not eating fast-food a couple times or buying one less soda/energy drink, etc. to come up with the money to purchase the items. The people who stole the items may not be aware of it yet, however, there is a reimbursement or recover fee that store can charge that is \$200 plus the cost of the item. If they did not have the money to buy it before, they will definitely feel the hurt when they get that bill. This is just the beginning of the "true" cost of the item – let's make some reasonable assumptions as to the punishment from the Article 15.

If the commander decides to offer the Article 15 instead of court martial, the commander has a range of options for punishment. Using these two examples, we have a NCO and SNCO that absolutely know right from wrong. They are in a position of leadership where the commander depends on their experience to make decisions for their unit. This incident would make any commander question if they should retain their rank or lose a stripe. If they lose a stripe, the pay cut would be \$667/month for the SNCO and \$669/month for the NCO (using Active Duty base pay and BAH). The minimum time required to get the stripe back is two years so there would be a loss of pay around \$16000 for the duration of the two years. It could be more if they don't get the stripe back right at the two year mark. Now there is the referral EPR for the Article 15. This can be deal breaker for a lot of reenlistments at the NCO or SNCO level – it may cost them several years of their career. This is too hard to calculate but could be thousands more. Now that \$30 item has a cost that could very well top \$20,000 - \$30,000 dollars or more.

The piece that we discussed that hit home most was the intrinsic costs that do not have a monetary value. People that you work with will know that you have done something wrong when you are wearing one less stripe on your sleeve. The personal guilt that you feel knowing that you have let down your family, friends, peers, and leadership knowing you are not living up to the core values that should be considered in all decisions you make. The internal value of knowing that you probably will not have the same level of trust or responsibility in your job, wondering if your leadership has questions about your decision making abilities due to this lapse in judgment. You will never know what is possibly in the back of their minds when they are talking with you or what opportunities they may not be considering you to do.

You may be able to steal an item once or twice and get away with it, but you will eventually be caught and the lack in judgment has a cost that is greater than you realize. Think about shoplifting – How much is it really worth?





# 2015 RISING SIX ANNUAL

# SALSA CONTEST

During the September UTA. Saturday September 12th 1400-1500  
At the 944th MSG Common Area, Building 993

PLUS A CAKE WALK EVERY TEN MINUTES,  
DOOR PRIZES, RAFFLES  
& PHOTO BOOTH



Attendees will judge all entries and vote for their favorite one.

Fee is \$2 per person to judge all entries.

\$2 Fee includes Salsa tasting with chips, small drink, 1 voting ticket.

Additional voting tickets \$1

Photo Booth \$1

Cake Walk \$2

READY TO GET YOUR SALSA ON?

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](mailto:944fw.pa@luke.af.mil) or call 623-856-5388.



Please visit the 944th FW on Facebook and LIKE us.