

# SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

January 2016 Newsletter



## Headlines:

Martin Luther King Jr. day of observance

Green Dot ro roll out across the Air Force

Reservists go active duty

A New Year, a new you

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# 944th Fighter Wing Monthly SnapShot

[www.944fw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.944fw.afrc.af.mil)

Bringing the Heat

January 2016

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### **Commander**

Col. Kurt J. Gallegos

### **Vice Commander**

Col. Bryan Cook

### **Command Chief**

CMSgt. Rhonda L. Hutson

## 944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot

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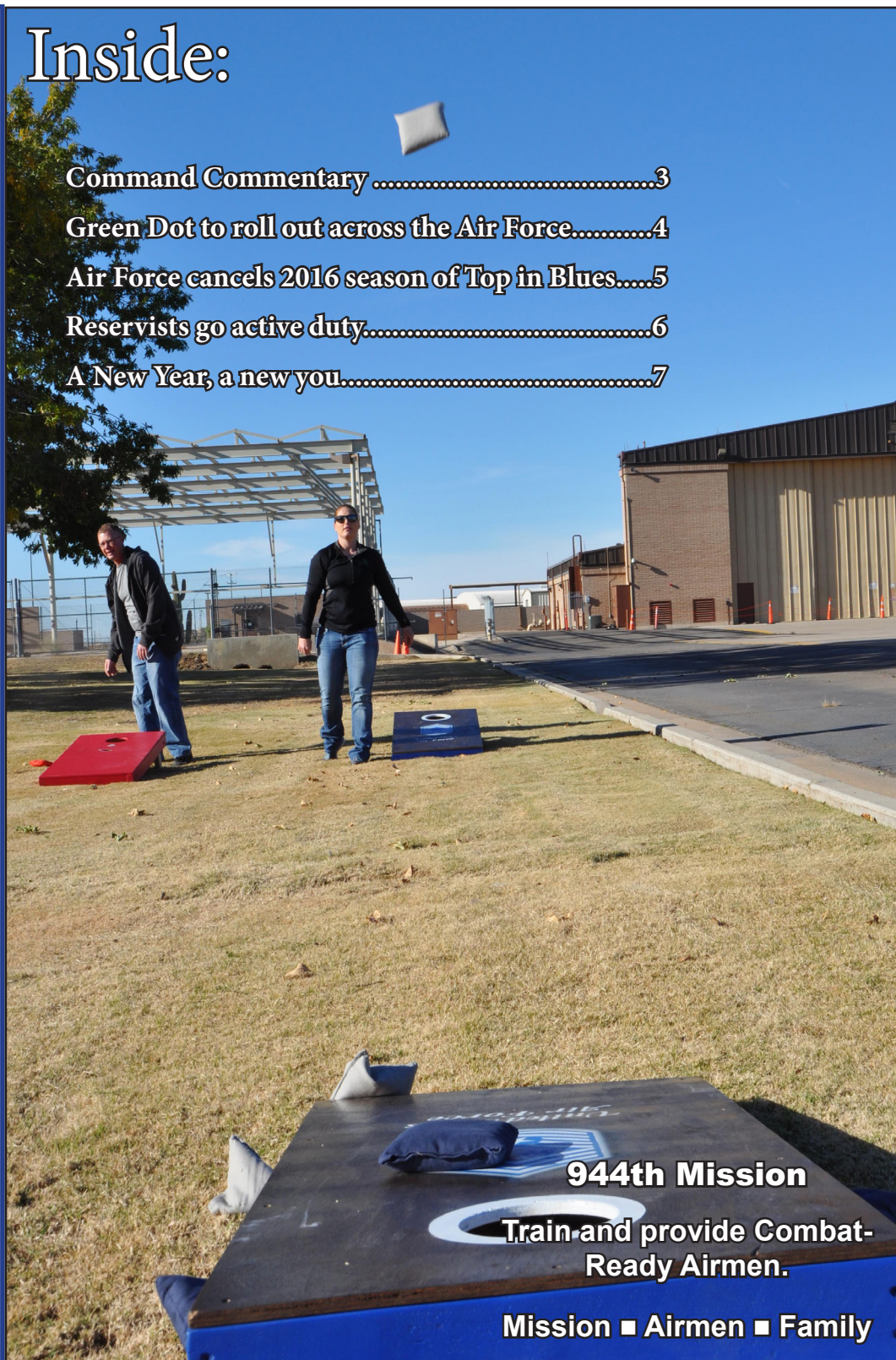
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**944th Mission**

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

**Mission ■ Airmen ■ Family**





## Command Commentary

# Martin Luther King Jr. day of observance



Courtesy photo

this day, and how far this country has come because of Dr. King's efforts and struggles.

Dr. King is famous for his "I have a dream" speech and being the leader of civil rights movement to end segregation in the United States. His character driven, non-violent approach and persistent dedication to this cause is why we celebrate and observe this day. It is a day to focus on equal rights of all people, regardless of their background. As members of America's military, we truly embody the diversity of this nation. Within our ranks are members of every race, gender and religion. It is one of the things that makes me most proud of our military...we are and represent the fabric of what's great about America.

Some of you may have grandparents who can remember what it was like first-hand during the 1950 - 60's. A few of us were even around

*By Colonel Paul Theisen, 944th Mission Support Group Commander*

Welcome back! I hope you had a great time during the holidays and are ready to wipe the slate clean and start the new year fresh and on the right note.

January 18th is celebrated as the observance of Martin Luther King (MLK) Day. Many of us get excited about it simply because it is a federal holiday, which means a day off. However, today I want to take time to reflect on the history of the civil rights movement, why we observe

then, not naming names beside me. Some of you may have your own stories of racial discrimination and/or witnessed it. Whatever your story, I ask that you use this day to learn, remember, reflect, and improve upon what was started so many years ago.

The Air Force is just like the street I grew up here, in Phoenix. I was so fortunate to grow up surrounded by a diverse culture, including immigrants from various backgrounds. They were hardworking people who did amazing things together. We had block parties frequently and we accepted each other without issues. Now, I was just a kid but I can't remember being exposed to any racial or ethnic biases. We were all Americans; all were equal in our neighborhood, it was a great block to live on. I realize some may find this sappy. However, after learning of Dr. King's efforts, I was so struck by his struggles and exemplary focus on character that I spoke with my wife about naming our son Martin after Dr. King, and we did. I wanted him to see people for the content of their character and in turn, develop a solid character...which he has. I'm a lucky dad!

Of course in life, and in the 944 FW, there is always room for improvement. I have witnessed many parts of our society that do not epitomize the acceptance I am advocating. So I ask that you be that pillar of character not only in your work and family life, but also in your community. We need strong leaders to advocate that character and acceptance matters. Please remember that we would not be the nation we are without our differences and our acceptance of them. It's the American way and what makes us so strong.

I look forward to what 2016 has to offer, and I hope you do as well. Continue to stay positive, develop a solid character, work hard and keep bringing the heat because it really does matter.

Have a great UTA.

# Potency of leadership exhibited by Airmen

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

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were joyous and filled with new memories created with family and friends. I told you last month that I use this time of year to reflect on the past year and set goals for the future and I encouraged you to do the same. I know the holidays are busy and there are many demands on your time that may have made it difficult for you to take time to reflect. So, this month I am going to give you some guides to help you focus when you contemplate the past year and look towards the future.

A couple years ago, our Chief of Staff, Gen. Mark Welsh, gave a speech at the Air Force Academy that has received much attention because of the potency of leadership he exhibited. I spent time reflecting on his message and I want to share some of it with you today. Yes, his speech was to our future officers but I want you to know it applies to every Airman in our Air Force.

The main points from his speech I want you to reflect on are:

- You better be willing to make decisions. Sometimes without all the information you want. Get ready.
- You better be good. "Your job is to lead them. Are you ready?"
- You will make a difference.
- We are a team. Everyone is important.
- Attention to detail is it important? You better have it.
- Leadership is a gift given by those who follow.
- Are you ready to lead? If not, rededicate yourself to the effort.

What amazingly potent yet simple ideas. Read them again. What part can't you agree with? This is the sort of leadership we all want. This is the kind of leadership that has made the Air Force the greatest fighting force ever known in history. This is the leadership I want you all to exhibit and to expect.

Last year in my January article, I cited a bunch of statistics the point of which was that by choosing to serve your country you have set yourself apart from the vast majority of Americans. You have elected to dedicate yourself to something ....*Continued on page 7...Chief*



# Green Dot to roll out across the Air Force



Courtesy photo

*By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs*

Airmen will take the first step of a five-year strategy to decrease interpersonal violence across the service in January when 1,500 Airman implementers attend one of 22 Green Dot prep sessions worldwide.

The Air Force contracted the non-profit Green Dot organization to provide these violence prevention tools to the total Air Force over the next three years.

"As a service, our number one priority has and will continue to be response. However, in order to stop violence before it occurs we must dedicate time to prevention," said Chief Master Sgt. Melanie Noel, the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response senior enlisted advisor. "Helping our Airmen understand what they can do to prevent violence and how they can do it is the first step."

Green Dot prepares organizations to implement a strategy of violence prevention that reduces power-based interpersonal violence, which includes not only sexual violence, but also domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, child abuse, elder abuse, and bullying.

"Green Dot is the Air Force's first step in arming Airmen for violence prevention using an evidence based public health model,"

said Dr. Andra Tharp, the Air Force's highly qualified prevention expert. "Although that sounds complicated, really what it means is that we know Airmen are a vital part of the solution and we will use methods like this that have been subjected to rigorous scientific testing and were proven to be effective in reducing violence."

Reflective of Green Dot's wider scope, command-designated Airmen at each installation will conduct

50-minute long sessions across the Air Force. Installation leadership will also have oversight of Green Dot through the Community Action Information Board and Integrated Delivery System, and track completion through the Advanced Distributed Learning System.

"It's on all of us to take responsibility to prevent interpersonal violence in our Air Force," said Air Force CAIB chair, Brig. Gen. Lenny Richoux. "There are more good Airmen out there who want to take care of their wingman than there are predators seeking to inflict acts of violence inside our family, and I have confidence our Airmen won't let me or each other stand-alone against this criminal behavior."

The 1,500 Airman implementers will complete training by March 2016. They will return to their units to train peer leader Airmen at each base followed by training for all Airmen.

"Taking care of one another requires an integrated approach using the expertise of the medical community, sexual assault prevention and the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence," Richoux said. "Old-school analog leadership from commanders and supervisors and between Airmen is the key to our success."

## January 2016 promotions:

### Congratulations to the following 944th Fighter Wing promotees

#### From Airman First Class:

SrA Glenn Brown, 944 SFS

SrA Luis Gonzalez, 944tSFS

SrA James Sawyer, 414 MXS

SrA Nathan Verlinde Laksono, 944 SFS

#### From Senior Airman:

SSgt Stephen Carrillo, 924 MXS

SSgt Joseph Pare, 414 MXS

SSgt Akili Proctor, 944 LRS

SSgt James Wilkins, 924 MXS

#### From Technical Sergeant:

MSgt Gerald Wile, 944 CES

#### From Master Sergeant:

SMSgt RW Ehart, 924 MXS

## Top Three Meeting!!!

Sunday,

Jan. 10, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

in the Dining Facility.

# BRINGING THE HEAT

## 944 FIGHTER WING





## Air Force/Wing News

# Smith assumes 414th MXS command



Photo by Senior Amn. Aaron J. Jenne

Christopher Freeman (left), 414th Fighter Group commander, passes the guidon to Maj. Paul Smith, 414th Maintenance Squadron incoming commander, during the 414th MXS assumption of command ceremony, Dec. 5, 2015, at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina. Smith assumed command of more than 190 Airmen.

while 19 percent of the members polled were in favor of keeping Tops in Blue. Around 17 percent suggested a modified program, and six percent had “other” opinions.

In consideration of this feedback from a wide range of Airmen, the secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force made the decision to take a pause in the Tops in Blue program to reassess its mission, venue, themes and cost.

“The decision to pause and reassess the 2016 Tops in Blue season was a tough one,” said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, the director of manpower, personnel and services. “While Airmen’s feedback was extremely important, it was just one of many factors considered as we seek to meet our core mission requirements in a time of constrained resources. The Air Force will continue to support our Airmen and their families while recognizing their entertainment preferences have changed.”

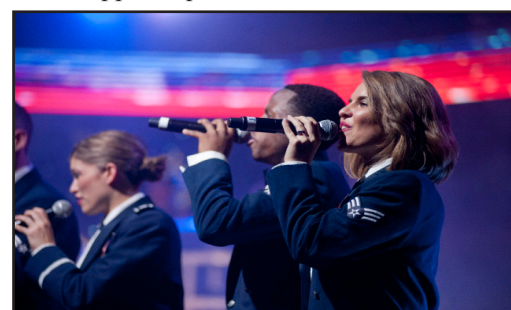
“The feedback indicated this was not a cut-and-dry decision,” explained Brig. Gen. Lenny Richoux, the director of Air Force Services. “There are Airmen who enjoyed the performance, and we do care about what Airmen value. However, considering a changing demand for entertainment combined with constrained resources, it is important that we take a look at alternatives and ask for a broad base of inputs and opinions.”

Richoux said the Air Force Services Activity will consider a wide range of options to both entertain and educate Airmen. Some of those include increased use of contracted musical, sports-related, and other professional acts in both deployed and home station locations.

Other options include modifying the Tops in Blue program to include messages and teaching moments for Airmen that talk to the real challenges associated with military life.

Tops in Blue’s last 2015 show will be January 15, 2016, at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. For a complete schedule of their final shows, click here.

For information about additional morale, welfare, and recreation events, Airmen should contact their local MWR facilities or force support squadrons.



Courtesy photo

# Air Force cancels 2016 season of Tops in Blue

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force officials announced on Dec. 21 that Tops in Blue, the service-unique entertainment program, will cancel its 2016 season, allowing an extended review of the program.

Over the last year, submissions to the Air Force’s Airmen Powered by Innovation program reflected recommendations to cancel Tops in Blue because of the required manpower and associated cost. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James noted the topic was often a discussion during her base all calls with Airmen.

Combined with today’s fiscal realities and resource constraints, and changing Airmen demographics and entertainment preferences, James sought additional feedback from Airmen about the program. Headquarters Air Force decided on two methods to gather this feedback.

The first method was to attach Tops in

Blue questions to an internal survey already set to reach 4,674 Airmen. The second was an email sent from the deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services to the major commands asking them for Airmen feedback by means of the wing commanders and command chiefs.

The first survey, an internal communications assessment group, indicated a wide awareness of Tops in Blue among Airmen. About half of all Airmen surveyed agreed they would attend a future Tops in Blue event.

While there is widespread awareness among the force, only about 25 percent of all Airmen have seen a performance within the past five years. Of all the age groups, and representing a third of the overall Airman population, the 25- to 34-year-old age group was the least likely to have a positive opinion of Tops in Blue.

In addition to the official survey, feedback solicited from the MAJCOMs and bases showed 41 percent recommended divesting,





# Reservists go active duty

By Staff Sgt. Sarah Hanson Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

At the beginning of fiscal year 2016 the Air Force Personnel Center launched the Voluntary Limited Period of Active Duty program.

The program is offering some great opportunities for Air Force Reservists interested in returning to active duty.

Under VLPAD, opportunities to serve an active-duty tour for a period of three years and one day are being offered to Air Force Reserve members for certain Air Force specialties. During that time, selected Reservists will receive the same benefits as active component Airmen.

Right now the program has Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor openings for captains through lieutenant colonels at various locations such as Auburn University and Texas A&M University.

"I taught AFROTC twice, the first time was from 1996-1999 and the second time was 2000-2004," said Col. Ellen Moore, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command manpower, personnel and services director. "I wanted to become an ROTC instructor because I wanted to give back and help shape our future leaders for the Air Force."

Moore also mentioned how great it has been to see where her cadets are now and how they have progressed in their own Air Force careers.

In addition to AFROTC instructors, other officer opportunities will be available under VLPAD including AFROTC detachment commanders, Air Command and Staff College instructors, remotely piloted aircraft pilots, and T-6 instrument simulator instructors.

Opportunities will also be available for enlisted Airmen in nearly 100 different career fields, including maintenance, aircrew operations and command control systems operations.

The VLPAD program and several other programs are being put in place to help bolster the Air Force's end strength from 312,980 to 317,000.

"Being selected for any of these special duties or career fields is a significant achievement for any officer or enlisted Airman," said Lt. Gen. James Jackson, AFRC commander. "Not only are these opportunities helping our Citizen Airmen but they are also allowing us to assist in some critical, yet undermanned career fields across our Air Force."

Unit Reservists require a letter of recommendation from their Wing Commander. Individual Mobilization Augmentees and members of the Participating Individual Ready Reserve require a letter of recommendation from their Unit Commander (or equivalent) and Readiness and Integration Organization Detachment Commander.

For more on the VLPAD program, visit the myPERS web page - [https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/30624/kw/vlpad/p/16,17](https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/30624/kw/vlpad/p/16,17).



Courtesy photo

944th Fighter Wing

## 2016 Annual Awards Banquet

30 January 2016

Social Hour ~ 5 p.m.

Ceremony ~ 6:00 p.m.

Wigwam Golf Resort

300 East Wigwam Blvd.

Litchfield Park, AZ



"Gala night, old Hollywood black tie"

RSVP by Jan. 15

Link below:

<http://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=268927&k=00674A007950>

For more information contact 69th FS DSN 6-0569 Commercial: 623-856-0569 or [marta.turner@us.af.mil](mailto:marta.turner@us.af.mil)

## HRDC doing good in the community and around the Wing 2015

Master Sgt. Jason Cvacara, 944th Logistics Readiness first sergeant, presented Isaiah Mainer, 6, melanoma cancer survivor, with the United States flag, certificate, and teddy bear. Cvacara was also recognized by the University of Arizona for his efforts. The flag was flown by Maj Raymond Naylor, 69th Fighter Squadron instructor pilot.

Jessica Paul, Family Advocacy, raised over \$2000 for Airmen in need during the Holidays via gift card drive.

Master Sgt. Kenneth Heng, 944 Medical Squadron and Staff Sgt. Perla Tapia Cordero, 944 Fighter Wing, delivered over 780 Christmas cards personalized by the community/local schools to Luke AFB Airmen.

Join HRDC every Sunday of the UTA at 1000 in the Wing Conference room.





# A New Year, a new you

By Ms. Jessica Paul, 944th Fighter Wing family advocacy manager,

What is your New Year's resolution? If you are like most Americans, chances are you have either made resolutions in the past or may have made new resolutions for 2016. Some experts estimate that more than 40 percent of Americans make New Year's resolutions, but only about 8 percent actually achieve their resolution.

So why do so many people fail to fulfill their New Year's resolution? Most people make resolutions as a way of renewing themselves or to motivate themselves to make a change. Oxford's dictionary defines resolutions as "to make a firm decision to do or not do something." However, changing habits or behaviors can be challenging and takes time to achieve. Often people set unrealistic goals and expectations on themselves.

What steps can you take to make sure you are part of that 8 percent of Americans who accomplish their resolutions? Below is a list of helpful hints to help you stay on track to accomplishing your goal.

1. Set goals based on your values
2. Set sub goals (immediate, short-term, and long term)
3. Consider potential obstacles and strategies to overcome them.
4. Share you goals with others.
5. Revisit and adjust goals as needed.

To learn more about this topic you are invited to join Family Advocacy on Sunday, 10 Jan, from 1200-1230 in the 944th Family Readiness classroom for a lunch and learn about Accomplishing Goals.

For additional information contact Ms. Jessica Paul, Family Advocacy Outreach Manager, 623-856-2289 or Jessica.Paul.4@us.af.mil.



Ms. Jessica Paul, 944th Fighter Wing  
Family Advocacy Outreach Manager

*commentary continued from page 3...* bigger than yourself. You have opted to lead. Even if you don't supervise a single Airman, you are seen as a leader by the American public. Your example brings to life the selfless acts of service and generosity we associate with this time of year. The difference is, you lead this way every single day. Your decision to serve is an act of leadership most Americans will not make. Part of your job is to help those Americans serve in their own way. Make service attractive, important and essential.

Your example leads. As Gen. Welsh says, "you make a difference." So you are all leaders. BAM! But are you ready to achieve Gen. Welsh's vision? Here is where you can focus your goals for the year. You can learn to be effectively decisive, you can know that those subordinate's under you expect you to lead, they expect you to decide and admit if you're wrong. They expect to be part of the team. Every member of the team is important, never forget that. Look for contribution wherever it exists. You have to pay attention to detail but you have to let detail be addressed at the appropriate level. Finally, you lead because others allow you to. They elect to follow you. Are you ready to be the leader you expect your leaders to be? This is what I want you all to reflect on. You are already an example to the vast majority of Americans who have never served in their military. Are you ready to lead within the elite team of the United States Air Force? Every time I ask this question of myself, and the answer is no; I do not fully live up to the standard Gen. Welsh set. So my goals for this year are to fix the shortcomings I have. Do you want to lead? Then I encourage you to do the same.

Do you need a starting point? Every Airman has a story. You're not ready to lead that Airman until you know her/his story. Get to know your team. 'Til next time Chief.

## 2015 944FW SPEED MENTORING & VOLUNTEER FAIR

Presented by Top 3 & HRDC

Date: Sunday, 31 January 2016

Time: 1200-1500

Location: Hanger 999

OPEN TO ALL  
PERSONNEL



Free Food

Door Prizes

Gift Certificates

Prize Give Aways

Great opportunity to network

Talk with subject matter experts

Volunteer with local organizations

POCs: MSgt Kelley Scogin

SSgt Perla Tapia Cordero

## Looking for a new job?

### Get employment help every Friday before the UTA

Are you looking for a new job or just want to spruce up your resume? Then don't miss out on this great opportunity! A rep from AZ Veterans Employment Services will be available at the 944th Airman and Family Readiness Office from 0800-1000 the Friday before every UTA (see dates below) to assist members looking for employment. Call Mike Chaco, AZ Veterans Employment Advocate, at 602-372-4259 to make your appointment.



Jan 29  
Mar 4  
April 8

April 28  
June 3  
Aug 5  
Sept 8







LETTERS  
TO THE  
DEPLOYED

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.

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