

SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

February 2016 Newsletter



Headlines:

Airmen remember Gulf War

**Official urges families to learn about
veteran burials**

Counting your blessings

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944th Fighter Wing

Monthly SnapShot

www.944fw.afrc.af.mil

Bringing the Heat

February 2016

944 FW KEY LEADERS

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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944th Mission

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

Mission ■ Airmen ■ Family

Airman 1st Class Michael Rosenberger, a 924th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, inspects an A-10 "Warthog" in the hangar at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Jan. 14. (U.S. Air Force photo/Carolyn Herrick)



Command Commentary

Take pride in what we do and stand for

By Colonel Kurt Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing Commander

Welcome back 944th Fighter Wing warriors. 2016 is proving to be a very productive year. This is our second January UTA replacing the February UTA. I hope you enjoy the month off. Unfortunately, the Arizona Cardinals will not be in the Super Bowl this year, like many of us would have liked, but it should still be a good game.

Much has happened since the last UTA and the plan is to close out the month on a positive note and full of 944 FW excitement.

We will be having our Annual Awards banquet Saturday night to honor and reward our outstanding Airmen and civilians for doing great things the past year and who continue to do great things to better themselves and the Wing.

Please congratulate all our nominees and winners when you see them and I want to thank all the members of the 69th Fighter Squadron involved in organizing this year's AAB in advance for all their hard work and efforts.

I'm going to switch gears for a minute to focus on something really important to me. Last week we lost a member of our Luke Air Force Base community. I would like to take a moment to ask that you keep the family and friends in your prayers as they deal with their loss. Anytime there is an unexpected loss of life with

circumstances such as this, it is a tragedy.

When something as heartbreaking as this hits so close to home, it always makes me realize what is really important. As a Wing we have a mission to accomplish but that can't happen unless Airmen are being taken care of. Taking-care of Airmen means giving them proper guidance and resources so they can succeed. It also means being sensitive to their family concerns and issues because they are our family.

This is why we stand by our mission statement to train and provide combat ready Airmen, because we believe in our mission, Airmen and family values.

As Airmen, we all have at least one thing in common, the "Profession of Arms." Take pride in what we do and stand for. Your specialized knowledge, service to the community and nation, and how these all combine to defend freedom, pursue peace, and protect America and its interests are admirable. I am proud of what we do and I am proud to serve with you.

On Saturday, we will have Commander's Call at the base theater to recognize those who have accomplished and earned acknowledgement.

Afterward, I hope to see you at AAB for an exciting night of entertainment, dinner, and the announcement of our winners of our outstanding Airmen and civilian of the year. Have a great UTA!



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nason

Taking responsibility for your careers

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

Last December I suggested we all take a few minutes at the end of the year to reflect on the previous year; what we got done and what we left undone. I also suggested looking forward and setting new goals and developing a plan to meet them in the new year. I hope all of you included your career in your plan; what you want to accomplish in your career and what you need to do this year to reach your long-term goals. I have urged each of you to take responsibility for your careers, to know your story, to know why you really "joined" the Air Force and to know where you want to go. Drifting along will not get you to your goals. You need a plan and help putting that plan into action. Your Enlisted Development Plan (EDP) and Officer Development Plan (ODP) is one tool to help with that. It's never too early to start working on these plans as the future of the Command seems to be moving toward vectoring all ranks.

It is crazy that February is here already. That means its Development Team (DT) season. Some of you are thinking delirium tremens like feelings caused by the approaching end of the football season. But, I want you to think about development on both the enlisted and officer side. The DT is one of the primary ways the Air Force helps Airman develop and meet their goals. The team reviews your records, goals, training and details for the next several steps to help you advance toward your goals. The DT can't do its job if you don't tell them what you aspire to.

Do you participate in the Enlisted Development Plan or the Officer Development Plan cycle? If you didn't answer "yes," then it's time for some introspection. Are you just drifting along or have you not set goals? Can you say why you really "joined" our beloved Air Force? It's time to take a firm grip on the rudder and steer your career. The best place to start; decide where you want your career to go, then, use the EDP/ODP processes. Get a mentor or several and mentor someone else. The EDP and ODP communicate your goals to senior leadership. If you don't know what you want to do or you have goals but don't communicate them to senior leadership then you are leaving your career free to drift wherever the current takes it.

Be accountable for your career. Set goals, have a plan, communicate it, keep track of your accomplishments, and when next December comes around, you can pause to reflect on the past year and you will have the deep satisfaction that comes from accomplishing what you set out to do. 'Til next time Chief.



Airmen remember Gulf War



Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Nestor Cruz, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It's been 25 years since the world's nations rallied together in support of the Gulf War. Operation Desert Shield saw the buildup of troops in the Persian Gulf in defense of Saudi Arabia which led to the combat phase known as Operation Desert Storm.

Several 944th Fighter Wing Airmen remember seeing that conflict unfold early in their careers. These are their stories.

The buck sergeant

Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Brook, 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron transportation manager, was a young buck sergeant stationed at Loring AFB, Maine. He deployed to Camp Nacirema ("American" spelled backwards) in Seeb, Oman, as a vehicle operator to provide crew support. Not much was known about his deployed location back then, so getting his team there was half the battle.

"We had tickets to Dover AFB, Delaware, and when we arrived, we reported to the troop movement center," Brook said. "They asked us where we wanted to go. I was the ranking NCO at the time, so I handed a copy of my orders and the guy asked 'Where is this?'"

The Dover Airman told the group they were flying only to Riyadh or Dhahran, so Brook made the command decision to go to Dhahran. Once there, it took a visit to that location's command post to find out exactly where the team was travelling to.

"I went in there and I said 'Hey, you gotta tell me where this place is because I can't get my guys there,'" Brook recalled. The officer on duty at the time looked at his orders and asked him to wait as he went to the classified safe. The officer pulled out a document and said, "Oh, you need to go to Seeb."

Brook remembers the high operations tempo both at home and abroad.

"At the time, Dover was insane, moving massive amounts of people and cargo into the theater in preparation for Desert Storm," he said. "When we got to Dhahran, [the tempo there] was surreal."

In spite of the busy lifestyle, Brook stayed focused on the mission and kept in touch with his family with a weekly 10-minute phone call. He went home after four months in theater.

The Marine

Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Mahan, 944th LRS fuels superintendent, was a student at Northern Arizona University when he decided he needed a change in his life. After a year of college, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in February 1989.

Lance Cpl. Mahan was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, when he was deployed to the Port of Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, on temporary duty receiving maritime prepositioning ships and taking inventory of the offloaded resources.

"I was part of an air combat element and we secured the resources that were spread out to Saudi Arabia," Mahan said. Eventually his group completed the mission and each member went their separate ways. Mahan went on to Bahrain working as a postal worker for two months before returning to Saudi Arabia in December 1990.

"One of the duties I had then, which was very enlightening, was accounting for those who were either missing in action, killed in action, or were present and accounted for," Mahan said. "It was enlightening because the sudden reality of what happens to people. Anytime we had access to television, we would actually see these people we were keeping numbers about."

Up to now, Mahan recalls many names from those lists.

When he returned home from supporting Operation Desert Storm, Mahan noticed a distinct difference in how veterans were welcomed back.

"Coming home, I think [the Gulf War] closed the whole stigma of the Vietnam War," he said. "The Gulf War sort of put a spotlight back on the way we treated Vietnam veterans because we treated Gulf War veterans so well when they came back. There was pizza at the terminal when I got off the plane and that was unlike what the

February 2016 promotions: Congratulations to the following 944th Fighter Wing promotees

From Airman:

A1C Ayanna Blanco, 944 MDS

A1C William Gerrish, 944 MDS

From Airman First Class:

SRA Arnold Dockstader, 924 MXS

SRA Angela Schamante, 944 MDS

From Senior Airman:

SSgt Tiffany Alston, 414 MXS

SSgt Christopher Gaither, 924 MXS

SSgt Eric Williams, 924 MXS

From Staff Sergeant:

TSgt John Alexander, 414 MXS

TSgt Curtis Boyer, 924 MXS

TSgt Sophia Cazares, 944 MDS

TSgt Kenneth Comstock, 944 MSG

TSgt Kyle Cornelius, 944 FW Det1

TSgt Jeff Gronemyer, 924 MXS

TSgt Steven Hutchens, 944 FW Det1

TSgt Alejandro Mendoza, 944 FW Det 1

TSgt Peter McCorkle, 944 CES

TSgt Clinton Taylor, 944 FW Det 1

TSgt Gabriel Ulibarri, 944 CES

TSgt Julio Villalobos, 924 MXS

From Technical Sergeant:

MSgt Travis Morrison, 944 CES

MSgt David Perez, 944 CES

Vietnam vets experienced.

"So I've always had that connection with Vietnam vets," Mahan added. "It was a really defining thing."

The daughter

Chief Master Sgt. Rhonda Hutson, 944th Fighter Wing command chief, remembers her days as young Airman 1st Class Rhonda Daniels stationed at Wurtsmith AFB, Michigan. ...*story continued on page 7...*



Air Force/Wing News

944th FW January Warrior of the Month



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

Col. Kurt Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing commander, congratulates Senior Amn. Elisabeth Yates, 944th Medical Squadron medical technician, for earning Warrior of the Month for the month of January. One of her achievements include winning Distinguished Graduate and the Academic Excellence Award in her Airman Leadership Class.

detail, policy encourages each service secretary to provide additional elements, such as the firing team and pallbearers, if resources permit. However, full honors are always provided for active-duty deaths," Skillman said.

"Military honors may consist of three-rifle volleys by a firing team," she said, and added that veteran service organizations often participate in burials with military honors to serve as pallbearers and to provide a firing team.

The Veterans Affairs Department also offers other benefits, such as headstones, Skillman said.

"We want to honor every eligible service member and make sure (the services) are there to render honors," Skillman said.

Here are the team sizes and what they provide, if resources allow:

- 7: Provides for six- or seven-member firing party, six pallbearers, two to six flag folding detail, one to present the flag, one to initiate taps.
- 6: Provides for six in firing party, six pallbearers, two to six flag folding detail, one to present the flag, one to initiate taps.
- 5: Provides for three in stationary firing party, two for flag folding and presentation detail, one from either flag or firing detail can initiate taps.
- 4: Provides for three in firing party, two to leave and tend to flag while one dedicated to taps.
- 3: Provides for three in firing party, two leave to tend to flag and also initiate taps – minimum for a firing party.
- 2: Legal minimum – cannot execute firing party, as weapons must be attended at all times. The two-person team can accomplish taps, flag folding and flag presentation.

Official urges families to learn about veteran burial honors

By Terri Moon Cronk, DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Planning funerals for military veterans and retirees can be overwhelming for their families, and the Defense Department's director of casualty and mortuary affairs wants family members to familiarize themselves in advance, when possible, to know what to expect with military funeral honors.

Deborah S. Skillman said families should learn about military funeral honors eligibility ahead of time to know what choices are available. She also recommended that family members should ensure they have access to the veteran's discharge papers, also called DD Form 214, to prove eligibility.

It's also critical for family members who want military funeral honors to tell the funeral director, who can make the request for them, Skillman said. The honors are not automatic, and must be requested through the veteran's branch of service, she noted.

"Families (also) need to know DOD is going to be there when the honors are requested," Skillman added.

DOD policy is mandated by law to provide a minimum of a two-person uniformed detail to present the core elements of the funeral honors ceremony, and one service member must represent the veteran's branch of service, she said. The core elements include playing taps, folding the American flag and presenting the flag to the family.

Burials with military funeral honors can be conducted at national, veterans' or private cemeteries, she said.

Options exist if resources permit

"While DOD is required to provide a (two-service-member)



Courtesy photo



SecAF speaks at CSIS for Smart Women, Smart Power series

By Senior Airman Hailey Haux, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James spoke at the Center for Strategic and International Studies as part of its Smart Women, Smart Power series Jan. 14.

SWSP launched in December 2014 and convenes top-level women leaders to discuss critical and timely issues in their respective fields, reflect on their professional experiences, and share ideas and insights.

With the 25th anniversary of the start of Desert Storm on Jan. 16, James recalled lessons she learned from that particular operation.

"I remember being in awe of the first time the fantastic combination of stealth and precision weaponry (was used), all of which was enabled by space," James said. "That was the first time that the investments that had been made, in some cases a decade or two decades, actually came together on the battlefield and for the first time the world saw what the United States military could do in this new era."

Among many things, James was asked about setting up no-fly zones in Iraq and Syria as well as the limits of the air campaign in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

"I would first tell you all, it's very much a whole of government approach," James said. "There are more than 60 countries involved with the coalition doing different aspects of the work and, of course, it's a joint situation.

"But make no mistake; it has been very heavily the United States

Air Force that has covered this air campaign," she continued. "This is everything from striking the targets to the very important intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance to the assets in space that enable everything that goes on. The strategy is we are going to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL."

With technology being key in maintaining air superiority, the Air Force is focused on the Defense Department's third offset strategy which is finding the next key technology that will help ensure the U.S. maintains the advantage over adversaries.

"Think of super computers that can crunch data and make sense out of different databases, I think that will be part of it," James said. "I think another piece is likely to be, I'll call it, human machine collaborations. Human interfaces with technology in different, new and creative ways."

When asked about China and Russia's hand in space, James said the Air Force is

shifting people and resources toward space.

"We are going to start treating space the way we treat everything else in the U.S. military," James continued. "That is, we need to get our heads around the fact that one day there could be a conflict on Earth that, in some way, bleeds into space. We are going to start experimentations, the various types of practice things that we do in other domains in the military to make sure that we can defend appropriately our constellation in space."

At the conclusion of the event, James answered questions from the audience that ranged from maternity and paternity leave, women in combat roles, and the use of remotely piloted aircraft. vlpad/p/16,17.



Courtesy photo

Top Three Meeting!!!

Sunday,
Jan. 31, 2016
at
11:30 to 1230
in
Club Five-Six.

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"

Dress Code:

Military ~ Mess Dress or semi-formal

Civilian ~ Black tie or semi-formal

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



Counting your blessings

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

Have you ever asked yourself, "What went right today," and could not come up with one good thing that happened that day? You are not alone. We all have those days that seem like nothing can go right. So how do you pull yourself out of your rut or better yet take a not so good day and turn it into a great day?

There have been many studies done that show that having an attitude of gratitude can actually promote positive thinking and ultimately undo the effects of negative emotions. Cultivating gratitude has many benefits, which include helping you cope with stress, build positive emotions, strengthen relationships with others improve your health, and helps you sleep better.

One method researchers have found beneficial to cultivating an attitude of gratitude is to count your blessings. There are many different ways you can incorporate counting your blessings into your daily routine such as writing down three blessings each day or sharing your blessings with your family or friends. But you will want to be sure to pick a method to count your blessings that works best for you; you do not want it to become an added chore or stressor. The key to counting your blessings is to practice it on a regular basis so that it becomes easier to focus on the good stuff; that way when you have those bad days you will still be able to find the good stuff to help lift your spirits. *For more information on resiliency contact Ms. Jessica Paul, Family Advocacy Outreach Manager, 623-856-2289.*



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

...Airmen remember Gulf War story continued... "It was an interesting time then because we hadn't been in a conflict for a while," she said. "At the time, at all the B-52 bases, they either came over and dropped off stuff and we'd store it or they would pick up and just go, so we were a stopping point."

Hutson's unit received notification in December 1990 that all Wurtsmith jets were deploying. She remembers the days prior to her deployment.

"I was leaving and my parents showed up and they were freaked out," Hutson said.

Her parents reaction to Hutson's impending deployment may have bordered on premonition as the harsh reality of the conflict reared its head.

"We left home January 1991 and we were on the ground a day before the air war officially kicked off," Hutson said. "We stayed in a hotel downtown for three or four nights because our compound wasn't ready. The air war kicked off and we moved to our compound and everything was good even while the buses were picking up people and moving stuff."

"Then there was a terrorist attack on one of the buses," she continued. "It was interesting because we knew now the bad guys were

watching what we were doing."

Hutson witnessed more danger during daily operations in theater.

"I remember our wing commander deployed with us and he wasn't supposed to be flying because they wanted him to run the wing," Hutson said. "For whatever reason, he decided he was going to fly. His jet got shot up and we could see from the munitions storage area as he made his approach. He was being escorted by a pair of F-16s and the tail of his B-52 was shot off. We were all wondering 'Is he gonna make it?' It was crazy."

The young munitions Airman worked with a close-knit group who supported and protected each other, especially in a foreign country.

"The first part of my career, females were relatively new to the military," Hutson said. "When we first got there, the local leaders wanted our women to wear 'abayas' but our wing commander said 'No, we are Americans and we're not wearing them.'"

Looking back, Hutson has watched her beloved Air Force transform over the years.

"Back then, we did things that were regarded as acceptable norm then but would not be today," Hutson said. "I watched our Air Force go from how it was then to what we are today and it was a huge shift. It needed to happen and I'm very proud to be part of it."

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



944TH FIGHTER WING
COMMANDER'S CALL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2016
1400 HRS

BRINGING THE HEAT
944 BASE THEATER
PLEASE BE SEATED 15 MINUTES PRIOR
TO START TIME

Staff Sgt. Cecilia Mora-Fernau, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical aerospace journeyman, participates in the Wing Physical Fitness competition Jan. 10 on Luke Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)



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.