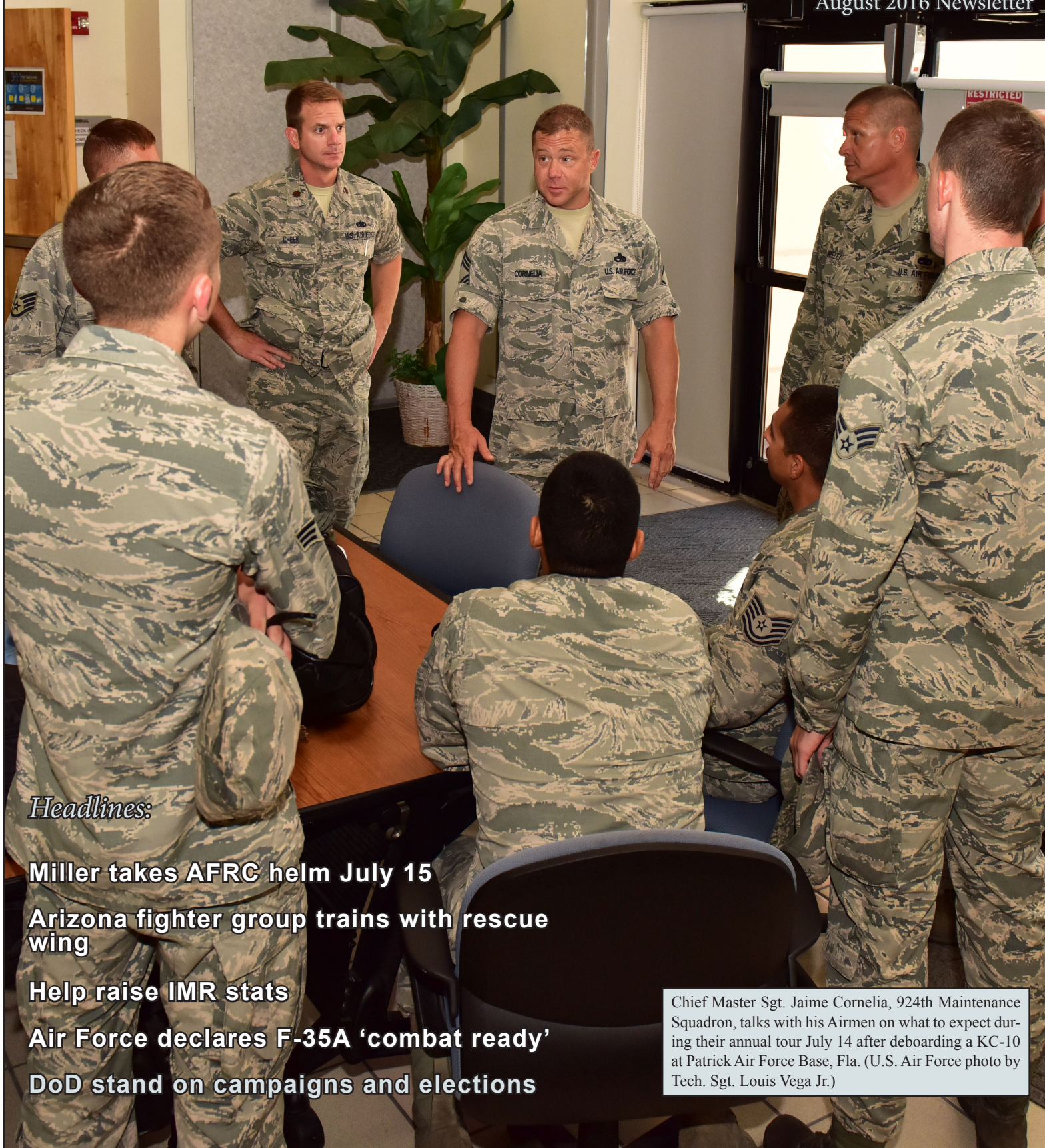


SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

August 2016 Newsletter



Headlines:

Miller takes AFRC helm July 15

Arizona fighter group trains with rescue wing

Help raise IMR stats

Air Force declares F-35A 'combat ready'

DoD stand on campaigns and elections

Chief Master Sgt. Jaime Cornelia, 924th Maintenance Squadron, talks with his Airmen on what to expect during their annual tour July 14 after debarking a KC-10 at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)



944th Fighter Wing Monthly SnapShot

www.944fw.afrc.af.mil

Bringing the Heat

August 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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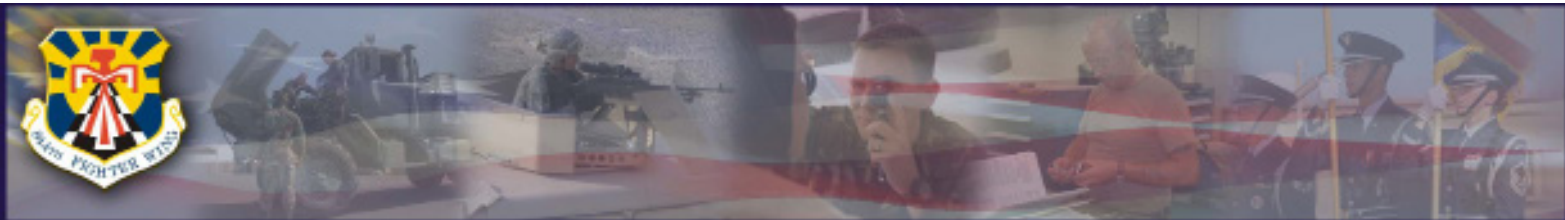


From left to right: Staff Sgt. John Brantley and Senior Master Sgt. James Harnisch, 165th Air Support Operations Squadron joint terminal attack controllers, observe an A-10C Thunderbolt II from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. fly by after firing on a target they helped the pilot find July 20 at Avon Park Air Force bombing range, Fla. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

944 FW Mission

Train and provide combat
ready Airmen.

Anytime, Anywhere



Command Commentary

AF leadership changes

By Col. Kurt Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing commander

Welcome back! If you are stationed at Luke Air Force Base I hope you enjoyed the July UTA off and were able to spend some quality time with your family and friends. If you were at Davis-Monthan or Seymour Johnson Air Force Base's thanks for the hard work and continuing to do what you do so well.

This summer has been abnormally hot and August is typically the hottest month of the year. Already there have been numerous heat injury related incidents and deaths here in Arizona due to the heat and outdoor activities like hiking. Have fun but pay close attention to the temperatures when participating in these activities and remember to stay hydrated and safe in our quest for zero.

Since the last UTA there have been several leadership changes within the Air Force. We said goodbye to Gen. Mark Welsh and welcomed our new Chief of Staff, Gen. David Goldfein, who happens to be my old squadron commander when I was in the 555th Fighter Squadron.

The Air Force Reserve Command also hailed a new commander as Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller took the helm from Lt. Gen. James Jackson. In July, AFRC enlisted members honored Lt. Gen. Jackson, with an Order

of the Sword ceremony organized by our very own Chief Chin Cox. This is an honor awarded by the NCOs of a command to recognize individuals they hold in high esteem and for their contributions to the enlisted corps. It is well deserved and we wish him and his family all the best.

Closer to home Brig. Gen. Brook Leonard took command of the 56th Fighter Wing last month and I look forward to working closely with him in the coming year. Our mutual support for one another will only contribute to the success of our F-16/F-35 missions and the well-being of our Airmen and Luke Air Force Base.

Although, there have been a lot of changes in the past month or so, the 944th Fighter Wing is always consistent in our ability to adapt, grow, and execute our mission. Welcome back and I hope you are refreshed and ready to get back to work. Keep bringing the Heat.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nason

What must we guard against?

By Chief Master Sgt. Rhonda Hutson, 944th Fighter Wing command chief

944 Warriors! There is a link on every Air Force Computer desktop to AFD-1508: America's Air Force: A Profession of Arms, "The Little Blue Book".

It is only 12 pages long, 10 if you don't count the covers. And it's in large font so it is not a terribly long read. Have you read it recently? Ever? In the Little Blue Book General Ronald Fogleman, our 15th Chief of Staff says, "We are not engaged in just another job; we are practitioners of the Profession of Arms. We are entrusted with the security of our nation, the protection of our citizens and the preservation of its way of life. In this capacity, we serve as guardians of America's future. By its very nature, this responsibility requires us to place the needs of our service and our country before personal concerns."

What does this mean? Maj Matthew Cavanaugh, U.S. Army, wrote that the Profession of Arms is "society's armed wing, principally charged with guarding the safety and interests of that society. In some way, every political entity must use force or at least threaten to use force for it to survive in the international system. The members of the Profession of Arms are the custodians of the specific military knowledge that enables national survival."

Without a doubt this is a dangerous and deadly job. But to be a "profession," we must continuously seek and develop new knowledge for the uncharted problems of the future. As a profession we must encourage study and participate in debates and discussions that strive to continually drive innovation to stay effective in an ever changing world.

What must we guard against? The bureaucracy culture. Bureaucracies churn out ever-restrictive rules and seek to capture every eventuality in codified routines. Bureaucracies demand the willful suspension of judgment for the sake of nonsensical bureaucratic rules. We have all seen or heard stories of bureaucratic requirements that make no sense. Just ask anyone who has deployed to the AOR about nonsensical rules about wear of reflective belts in combat zones.

What must we do? Study, challenge the status quo, and always press forward to make our profession better, smarter, faster, more effective. Consider the obvious and not so obvious. But mostly, spend some time developing your critical thinking. Michael Pollan, a food writer, observed that the average American spends 27 minutes a day cooking. The average cooking show takes 30 minutes to get through. So we as a people spend more time watching about cooking than actually cooking. Are we doing the same thing with our profession? Are we watching 2-3 hour long war movies and spending next to no time at all actually having any serious discussion on the use of force in the real world? Seize these opportunities and nurture our business.

When was the last time you spent any time and effort reading books or articles on diplomacy, military theory, history, or foreign affairs? How many of you have studied the precarious states many of our allied countries are in? Where are the new trouble spots brewing? Where might we be engaged in the future? What can I learn in advance of that area?

Famed Astronomer Carl Sagan take on critical thinking is insightful ; "If we don't improve our understanding of critical thinking and develop it as a kind of second nature then we're just suckers ready to be taken by the next charlatan who ambles along."

While I asked many questions, they are intended to spark your critical thinking and dive into what the profession of arms truly means. Take some time to build your critical thinking. Ponder on your commitment to your profession of arms, take 10 minutes and read the "Little Blue Book". 'Til next time, Chief.



Wing News

Okinawa tour benefits Citizen Airmen

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



KADENA AIR BASE, Japan—Integrating seamlessly into the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base, Japan and providing some much needed manpower relief was key to the success of Operations Patriot Habu.

During the two week annual tour trip, Citizen Airmen from the 944th Fighter Wing were given the opportunity to serve alongside Active Duty counter parts. The significance of an off station AT proved to be invaluable for both wings.

“We supplied a well trained and seasoned labor force during a transition period of the year for the 18th Wing,” said Lt. Col. Kip Schlum, 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander.

“Traveling to a different location is important because the variety of training is undeniable. The hospitality and professionalism from the host wing was beyond excellent,” he added.

Jointly the group helped inventory well over 30 thousand line items worth over 10 million dollars in the short time they were on the Island.

“It never ceases to amaze me how smart and experienced members of the 944th are,” said Colonel Paul Theisen, 944th Mission Support Group commander. “Collectively the group accomplished an outstanding amount of work during the two weeks. The key was the advon team and site survey which helps us hit the ground running. It was great to hear over and over from the 18th leadership that they would reach out and request 944th members again.”

Vehicle maintenance members assisted with preparing and spraying corrosive preventive

compound on Airfield Damage Repair construction equipment. This spray process saves 3.5 million dollars every five years in vehicle maintenance repair cost.

Vehicle operations personnel provided 100 percent accountability for a critical equipment conex worth \$20,000 and identified 2,300 items for Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office. In addition, the 944th provided an individual to backfill as the Noncommissioned Officer In-Charge

of Equipment Support for the nine million dollar fleet and 39 million dollars of critical equipment.

Vehicle Management Airmen were able to get exposure to the Defense Property Accountability System which is a DOD program being implemented Air Force wide. This training will be taken back to home station and provided to active duty members at Luke Air Force Base.

Members of the fuels flight hit the ground running dispensing over 40,440 gallons of JP8 fuel to 26 F-15. As well as filling in the middle management roles which are currently vacant in the 18th Petroleum, Oils and Lubricant unit which happens to the largest in the Pacific Air Force.

Supply individuals inventory over 7,000 line items of individual protective equipment items. The extra manpower enabled their active duty counter parts, who were working 12-hour shifts, to meet a deadline required for the transition to the Enterprise Supply System.

Providing personnel with expertise in Transportation Security Administration experience was an added bonus for the Traffic Management Office. Additionally 944 TMO personnel assisted their active duty counter parts with inspecting items received at the water port, training they could not receive at their landlocked home station.

The LRS training manager provided classes and mentoring on the Training Business Area process and reiterated the necessity of supervisor involvement in airman's progression in training.

August 2016 promotions:

Congratulations to the following 944th Fighter Wing promotees

From Airman First Class:

Senior Airman Justin Bartlett, 944 FW Det 1
Senior Airman Matthew Cadle, 414 MXS

From Senior Airman:

Staff Sgt. David Emery, 414 MXS
Staff Sgt. Jarvis James, 414 MXS
Staff Sgt. Andrew Plante, 944 MDS

From Staff Sergeant:

Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Brown, 414 MXS
Tech. Sgt. Damien Ginter, 944 FW Det 1
Tech. Sgt. Charles Gonzalez 944 FW Det 1
Tech. Sgt. Jason DeJesus, 944 FW

From Technical Sergeant:

Master Sgt. Dawn Watson, 414 FG

From the office to the pulpit and everything in between members of the 944th Chapel staff mixed in with the 18th Wing chapel staff to help multiply their workforce.

Due to the level of experience the 18th Security Forces Squadron immediately integrated deployed 944 SFS members onto all five of their flights. This provided good experience for 944th members and much needed assistance for their active duty counter parts.

“We are hard pressed to keep members engaged at home station so being able to provide additional support here is perfect,” said Lt. Col. Amy Evan, 944th SFS commander.

In addition to keeping an eye on the 80 plus members of the 944th, the First Sergeants volunteered their time for a joint courtesy town patrol. They walked several miles and passed through numerous bars during the four hour shift to ensure the safety of military members.

Welcome Home!!

Major Jeremy Hedges, 69th Fighter Squadron, returned home from Southwest Asia
Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Krino, 47th Fighter Squadron, returned home from Southwest Asia



Miller takes AFRC helm July 15

AF Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.-Maj. Gen. Maryanne Miller will assume the leadership of Air Force Reserve Command from Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson during a change of commander ceremony at the Museum of Aviation here July 15.

Miller will become the first female in the history of the Air Force Reserve to be Chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of the Air Force Reserve Command. Before taking command, Miller will be promoted to lieutenant general.

Jackson, who retires from the Air Force after the change of command with more than 38 years of military service, has led the Air Force Reserve since 2012.

Miller joined the Air Force in 1981 and was a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at The Ohio State University. She is a command pilot with more than 4,800 flying hours in numerous aircraft. She currently serves as the deputy to the chief of the Air Force Reserve in Washington D.C. Prior to her current assignment, she commanded two wings and held numerous staff positions at the unit, Air Staff and Joint Staff levels.

Miller is the latest of many women accomplishing major firsts in the United States Air Force in the past few years. In 2012, the Air Force appointed its first female four-star general, Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger. Most recently, Gen. Lori Robinson became the first woman to command Pacific Air Forces in 2014. Robinson followed at United States Northern Command in May, being the first woman to command a major unified combatant command.

Media members interested in attending Miller's assumption of command can contact the AF Reserve Public Affairs Office at 478-327-1753 or 478-327-1758.



Arizona fighter group trains with rescue wing

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr., 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.-Citizen Airmen with the 924th Fighter Group, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona and the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, are training together to perfect skills needed during combat.

Approximately 200 Airmen slowly trickled in during the weekend from D-M to the beautiful ocean side scenery of Cocoa Beach, Florida, and are scheduled to stay through the end of the month.

In addition to Airmen, pilots from the 47th Fighter Squadron flew in 10 A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warhog" aircraft here to train with the 920 RQW's helicopter squadron, the 301st. The squadron operates the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter to conduct combat search and rescue operations.

"My hope is that everyone will emerge from this deployment more competent in the mission of the A-10, more confident in their ability to do their mission and more cohesive as a unit," said Col. Thomas McNurlin, 924 FG Commander. "As a new unit, we have people from all over the Air Force who haven't worked together for very long. Getting them to a deployed location in a

new setting will force them out of their comfort zone and encourage them to overcome the challenges by working together."

The training will focus on tactics the A-10C can offer during combat operations, providing close air support for the combat search and rescue squadron.

CSAR units and platforms form a major part of the resources dedicated to those in need. The Air Force has been designated by the Department of Defense as the lead service for CSAR. The mission of the 920th is, "combat and civilian search and rescue, rocket launch support, humanitarian relief."

The rescue wing is an Air Force Reserve Command unit commanded by Col. Jeffrey L. Macrander. Its primary mission is CSAR, and it is the only Reserve rescue wing in AFRC. They have three geographically-separated units, the 943rd Rescue Group at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., the 304th Rescue Squadron at Portland, Ore, and the 920th Aerospace Medicine Flight at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va..

"Fixed wing airframe aircraft are the most reactive support platform," said Lt. Col. Roderrick Stout, 920th Operations Support HH-60G pilot. "Working with A-10s hones that ability, and provides the 920th rescue wing

the training necessary to afford air combat command with world class combat search and rescue forces."

This is the first time the fighter group has come out to Patrick AFB to train with the rescue forces but does train with the 943rd Rescue Group, which is an HH-60 unit collocated at D-M. The deployment provides the A-10C community an opportunity to share best practices and refine tactical skills with the rescue squadron.

The 924th consists of three units; the 924th Maintenance Squadron, the 47th FS, and the 924th Operational Support Flight. It is an AFRC unit under the 944th Fighter Wing stationed at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.





Help raise IMR stats

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

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.—The 944th Medical Squadron has challenged members of the 944th Fighter Wing to surpass the Air Force Reserve Command individual medical readiness standards Wing wide.

“Our members, their families, and our Combatant Commanders all trust that the warriors we send forward in our nation’s defense are medically fit and ready”, says Colonel Curtiss B. Cook, commander of the 944th Medical Squadron. “The process by which this is accomplished is known as Individual Medical Readiness or IMR for short”.

IMR involves multiple components, including the Periodic Health Assessment, immunizations, laboratory studies, dental review, and many other parts depending on one’s job in the Air Force.

Squadron unit health monitors are responsible for tracking their Airmen’s medical and dental requirements but Airmen are able to check their own IMR status through the Air Force portal fitness and health section under the ‘My IMR/ASIMS’ tab.

“There is no reason each Airmen can’t be responsible for knowing their own IMR status,” said Ms. Donna SeKoch, 944 MDS medical records administrator. “They should know what is due for them and when it is due by before going yellow or red.”

According to SeKoch, Airmen are encouraged to contact their UHM to find out how to locate their individual IMR information on the portal and the UHM’s are urged to educate their Airmen to help remedy the current situation.

The dental program allows a civilian exam via DD 2813, a dental form filled out by the members’ civilian dentist, to be posted two years in a row but on the third year a military exam will be required and a DD 2813, will not be accepted as an exam.

“Following an age grid pattern starting at 19, 22, 25, etc., are when long PHA’s are due which means, the member is required to see a military doctor and dentist,” said SeKoch. “Members should start tracking themselves when a DD 2813 is due and when their military dental exam will be due.” Another thing to consider when tracking individual IMR status, before being scheduled for a PHA, members have to fill out a web health assessment through the AF portal the month before their PHA is due. Web HA’s are good for 60 days and if a PHA is not accomplished within the 60 days a new Web HA must be completed.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Barbara Plante

“Members cannot expect to complete their web HA at the end of the month to be scheduled for a PHA at the beginning of the next month,” said Master Sgt. Miguel Gonzales, 944 MDS health services manager.

“The reason it must be completed the month prior is because the MDS office needs time to review and schedule before the next unit training assembly.”

New Airmen to the Wing are urged to accomplish all labs and immunizations as soon as possible as appointments are not needed for these areas of IMR. The human immunodeficiency virus lab test is due every 2 yrs.

If an Airman shows yellow in any category of IMR they are over the 12 month period and should complete what is needed immediately before they are considered overdue. If an Airman is showing red they are overdue and can be considered for no points and/or no pay unless they have a legitimate reason for not accomplishing IMR requirements.

“Individual Medical Readiness is every Airman’s responsibility,” said Gonzales. “The main reason for not meeting the standard is that the individual Airman does not understand the PHA process and the impact of being not current on the requirements.”

For more information on IMR please contact your squadron UHM representative or Ms. Donna SeKoch at 856-7609, Master Sgt. Miguel Gonzales at 856-7613. References: AFI 36-2254V1, 1.6., Medical Qualifications or click on [Individual Readiness Reference Tool](#).

MDS customer service hours and processes change

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.—Starting August 2016 unit training assembly, the 944th Medical Squadron will have new customer service hours and processes here.

The changes were put into effect to help 944 MDS Airmen accomplish essential tasks to achieve upgrade training.

The initial idea behind the proposal was to improve efficiency and to meet Air Force mandatory training requirements.

The new walk in hours are now: 0900-1130 and 1300-1430, Saturday and Sunday of the UTA.

A new appointment system for Wing members needing case status updates, view medical records, reenlistment paperwork, etc., has been set-up to avoid confusion. Members must call Master Sgt. Miguel Gonzales at 856-7613 to set up an appointment.

For medical record requests and/or copies, please email: 944MDs command staff support at 944mds.mds@us.af.mil for requests.

The new schedule will stay in effect until further notice. The goal of the of the 944 MDS is to find the best balance between maintaining customer service with training needs.

Top Three Meeting!!!

Sunday,
August 7, 2016

at
11:30 to 12:30
in the
DFAC



Preventive measures lead to a healthier Air Force

By J.D. Levite, Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs



August is
**Preventive
Health
Month**

Courtesy graphic

FALLS CHURCH, Va.—Preventing illness or injury is the goal of the Air Force's Preventive Medicine program, a topic that is highlighted in August during Preventive Health Month.

Preventive Health extends beyond health care at an individual level, concentrating rather on the health of individuals, communities and specific populations to help groups reduce their risk of disease, disability and death.

"We see patients one-on-one, but we also look at a global view," said Col. Patrick Monahan, chief of Population Health Operations. "We determine how to care for the population in the best way possible."

Col. Thomas Moore, chief of Health Promotion, said it's the community-level impact of preventive medicine that motivates him. "It's better to prevent than cure. 'An apple a day keeps the doctor away.' There's a lot of wisdom in that," he said. "We can help a lot of people versus just the one on one. That's the interesting part for me."

Preventive Health breaks down into three

separate stages: primary, secondary, and tertiary. Primary prevention is meant to keep people from getting sick in the first place. There are many ways to do this from immunizations to targeting exposures that might get people sick.

The Air Force's Health Promotion effort focuses on primary prevention, too. In addition to advocating for new policies that make it easier to adopt healthy habits, such as improving dining facilities to offer healthier foods,

Moore said they also create campaigns to promote the adoption of healthy behaviors like eating right and not smoking. They also work to keep Airmen from unhealthy behaviors.

He said, "We want to make sure people are as healthy as they can be and that we have the best fighting force ready to go."

Preventive Health's secondary stage is the one most Airmen have experienced in one way or another. It includes things like the annual Periodic Health Assessment, hearing tests, cancer screenings, and blood tests.

While it mostly works behind the scenes, Population Health plays a big part in the secondary stage by using data from military treatment facilities around the Air Force. "Once we identify areas we do well in and areas we have challenges in, we deep dive into more investigative work and see how we can improve," Monahan said.

One example of how Population Health improves preventive health is with breast cancer screening. Using the data available, Monahan

is able to find a group of patients that should be receiving that screening based on their gender, age and other factors. He can then push for outreach campaigns to help make sure those people are getting that recommendation.

The final stage is tertiary prevention. At this point an individual already has a disease, but it's still in a stage that's early enough to treat. A good example of this is diabetes, which can be treated with a change in diet and nutrition long before it gets to the point where medicine is needed.

"All kinds of things can happen if your diabetes gets bad enough and isn't well controlled," Moore said. "So the efforts we make early on to try and prevent it from progressing to that stage, that's tertiary prevention."

Moore said many of the factors that have led to an increase in life expectancy for humans can be attributed to the concept of preventive health. Things like improved sanitation and just getting people to wash their hands have made a huge difference to public health overall because it has prevented people from contracting diseases they may have gotten otherwise.

"It's much better to get that shot periodically or get your blood sugar checked to make sure you're not diabetic," Moore said. "We can stick you and take a little bit of blood right now and send you down a path that hopefully keeps you healthy. Or you're going to end up in a situation where you're giving yourself a shot every day."

Preventive health covers topics ranging from the flu shot to tobacco cessation to alcohol consumption, and the Air Force is exploring new avenues for all of these issues. Throughout August, our site will cover all these topics and more while expanding on Preventive Health. (Original article from Air Force Medicine)

Back to school safety message

From the 944th Fighter Wing Safety Office

As summer vacation comes to an end for students, the Safety Office is reminding families of important safety messages as they get back into school routines.

Many school districts are back in session or will be in the next couple of weeks and school zones will be buzzing with children. School buses will be making their rounds and motorists should allow extra time for school zones.

Don't rush and never pass a stopped school bus when the lights are flashing red as this is illegal in all 50 states.

Approximately 100 children are killed each year and another 25,000 injured while walking to and from school.

When driving around children be extra cautious because kids are unpredictable. Remember to think safety especially when children are involved.





AF & Wing News

Air Force declares F-35A 'combat ready'

By Air Combat Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va.-

The F-35A Lightning II fifth generation fighter aircraft was declared 'combat ready' today by Gen. Hawk Carlisle, the commander of Air Combat Command.

Carlisle lauded the aircraft's performance, noting that the aircraft had met all key criteria for reaching initial operational capability: Airmen trained, manned and equipped to conduct basic close air support, interdiction, and limited suppression/destruction of enemy air defenses in a contested environment with an operational squadron of 12-24 aircraft; the ability to deploy and conduct operational missions using program of record weapons and missions systems; and having all necessary logistics and operational elements in place.

"I am proud to announce this powerful new weapons system has achieved initial combat capability," Carlisle said. "The F-35A will be the most dominant aircraft in our inventory, because it can go where our legacy aircraft cannot and provide the capabilities our commanders need on the modern battlefield."

The F-35A is the latest addition to ACC's fleet of deployable and fifth generation aircraft. It provides air superiority, interdiction, suppression of enemy air defenses and close air support as well as great command and control functions through fused sensors, and will provide pilots with unprecedented situational awareness of the battlespace that will be more extensive than any single-seat platform in existence.

"Bringing the F-35A to initial combat readiness is a testament to our phenomenal Airmen and the outstanding support of the Joint Program Office and our enterprise partners. This important milestone for our fighter force ensures the United States, along with our allies and international partners, remains prepared to deter, deny, and defeat the full spectrum of growing threats around the globe," added Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the Air Force.



Gen. David Goldfein, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, said that dynamic new capability will benefit the joint warfighter.

"The combat ready F-35A is the latest fifth generation fighter aircraft in the Air Force's inventory and provides our nation air dominance in any environment. The F-35A brings an unprecedented combination of lethality, survivability, and adaptability to joint and combined operations, and is ready to deploy and strike well-defended targets anywhere on Earth," Goldfein said. "Today's declaration

of IOC is an important milestone on the road to achieving full warfighting capability for the F-35A."

The 34th Fighter Squadron of the 388th Fighter Wing, based at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, is the service's first operational F-35A squadron, having met all the established criteria for Initial Operational Capability including a successful June deployment to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho and a series of eight-aircraft sorties held in mid-July. 34 FS Airmen will fly and maintain the F-35A alongside Air Force Reservists from Hill's 419th Fighter Wing.

"Our Airmen have worked tirelessly to make sure our aircraft are combat ready: meeting challenges head-on and completing all the required milestones," said Col. David Lyons, 388th FW commander. "We're very proud that the Air Force has declared us combat ready and we're prepared to take this aircraft wherever it's needed in support of our national defense."

Those sentiments were echoed by Col. David Smith, 419 FW commander. "It's an

honor to fly and maintain the F-35 with our active duty counterparts here at Hill," Smith said. "Our units were the first to fly combat-ready F-16s nearly 40 years ago and we're very proud to have made history once again in bringing the Air Force's newest fighter jet to IOC."

For more information click this link: <http://www.acc.af.mil/AirCombatCommandsF-35AProgram.aspx>

For questions, contact Air Combat Command Public Affairs at (757) 764-5007 or via e-mail accpa.operations@us.af.mil

WINGMAN TOOLKIT.ORG



Guarding the gates

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

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan- Active-duty Airmen stationed at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, foster positive joint relationships on a daily basis, either with their Okinawan hosts or with their sister branches around the island.

That hospitable work ethic also extends to their Reserve colleagues visiting from Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, this month.

Citizen Airmen with Luke's 944th Security Forces Squadron travelled to Kadena the end of June to provide extra manning for their active-duty counterparts. The joint mission is part of the Reservists' annual tour, dubbed "Operation Patriot Habu," and Kadena Airmen are excited to have them here.

"Having the 944 SFS come in and bring seasoned troops really helps us out," said Staff Sgt. Ian Watson, 18th Security Forces Squadron training instructor. "We're hurting for manpower during this [PCS] season, when people are moving to other bases, so the fact they came is a huge help."

Many Airmen with the 944 SFS serve as civilian law enforcement members, which allowed them to seamlessly embed themselves within the flights here.

"We integrated the Reservists into our five

flights: two day-shift flights, one swing-shift flight, and two mid-shift flights," Watson said. "When we found out many of them are civilian law enforcement, it was easy incorporating them into our daily training and operations since we know they have their certifications."

The younger Airmen, relatively new to the Air Force, are excited to learn from their experienced visitors.

"I'm impressed with the level of experience [the Reservists] brought with them and it's going to be interesting to learn from them," said Airman 1st Class Trent Jones, 18 SFS unit scheduler. "I want to know what they know and use that knowledge at my current level to get me on my game."

The excitement of working with new people is shared by the visiting Airmen as well.

"Going off-station for this year's annual tour is very beneficial to me because I have



the opportunity to work with active-duty Airmen, meet new people and do something new," said Senior Airman Dominique Castillo, 944 SFS member. Between the monthly unit training assembly with the 944th, Castillo serves as a correctional officer back home in Arizona.

With the high level of professionalism both sides bring to the table, non-SFS members are hard-pressed to distinguish between active-duty and Reserve cops patrolling the base or standing watch at the gates.

AF birthday commemoration in September

From Air Force Reserve Command

The Air Force's 2016 Birthday is coming up in September and is a celebration of the proud history and heritage of American Airmen.

The service's longstanding culture of innovation, and the unique global aspects of Airpower and the Air Force's enduring contribution to national security.

The 2016 Birthday theme of "American Airmen ... Bringing AIRPOWER to the Joint Fight" is designed to advance those key narratives through the lens of the Airmen

leading and supporting joint operations around the globe and across all mission areas.

Today's diverse Airmen stand ready to fly, fight and win against worldwide threats in air, space and cyberspace.

The Air Force relies on partnerships, both domestic and abroad, to employ Airpower as part of the Joint team, in support of national security requirements.

As a service with joint origins, the Air Force is the foundation for multi-service, interagency and coalition operations. We provide the joint team the ability and freedom to fight in the air, on the ground and at sea.

Our Air Force is fully engaged as part of America's Joint Force in every region of the world and every mission area across the full spectrum of military operations.

Since the first flight as an independent service in 1947, the Air Force has provided our Nation's most responsive and effective source of global vigilance, reach and power in peacetime

and war.

The current threat environment is expanding, with existing adversaries and emerging near-peer competitors located and operating around the world.

The Air Force leverages critical partnerships with allies and partners to sustain presence, support deterrence, and provide combat capability in every region of the world.





DoD stand on campaigns and elections

From 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.-As the presidential election heats up over the next few months the Air Force and Department of Defense fully supports the right of members to participate in our Nation's political process. However, there are some rules that regulate the political activities of DoD personnel.

These longstanding and well-defined policy regarding political campaigns and elections are to help avoid the perception of DoD sponsorship, approval or endorsement of any political candidate, campaign or cause.

In addition to mitigating the perception of endorsement or support, no candidate for civil office is permitted to engage in campaign or election-related activities while on a DoD installation or in a DoD facility. Any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating the DoD, or any component or personnel of the department, with or in support of political campaign or election events is strictly prohibited. It is vitally important to know that there are different rules for the different statuses within the Armed Forces. There are some limitations across the spectrum including not wearing the uniform for any political events and members cannot display political signs on any installations including at on-base housing.

Active Duty members may not participate in partisan political activities. This includes campaigning for a candidate, soliciting contributions, marching in a partisan parade and wearing the uniform to a partisan event.

When on social media Active Duty members must ensure that their political posts are clearly marked that they express the ideas of the individual and not DoD. They can not post or make direct links to a political party, partisan political candidate, campaign, group, or cause because such activity is the equivalent of distributing literature on behalf of those entities or individuals, which is prohibited and that would constitute political activity. This would include, for example, suggesting that others like, friend, or follow the political party, partisan political candidate, campaign, group, or cause, or forwarding an invitation or solicitation from said entities to others.

Traditional Reservists have a little more leeway when participating in political activities. When off duty they can participate in campaigning events but they may not wear their uniform when performing these activities. Here are a list of things that TRs CAN participate in:

1. **Register to vote and vote as they please.**
2. **Sign nominating petitions for candidates or petitions for legislative action.**
3. **Express personal opinions about candidates and issues.**
4. **"Like" a political page or follow a political Social Media account.**
5. **Attend political meetings or rallies in civilian attire.**
6. **March in a partisan political parade in civilian attire.**
7. **Serve as an election official.**
8. **Give money to a political organization.**
9. **Put a political bumper sticker on their personal car.**
10. **Wear a political button/T-shirt with civilian attire.**
11. **Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing personal views as a private citizen.**
12. **Hold and exercise the functions of civil office in the United**



Courtesy art

States government, a state, District of Columbia, a territory, possession, or commonwealth of the United States.

Keep in mind, an on-line user profile showing one as military member, poses a high risk that personal views will be associated with the military. In addition, if a letter to the editor identifies an individual as a Reservist, the writer should state that the views expressed are personal and not those of the Defense Department.

If Reservists are on Active Duty orders, Air Force Instruction 51-902, Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force, restricts how they can serve in elected positions. For example, the rules differ for Active Duty less than 30 days, 30 days or more, or 270 days so make sure you know what you can and cannot do.

Finally, Civilian DoD employees, while in their personal capacities, may volunteer with a political campaign or political organization unless they are appointed by the president, are career SES, contract appeals board members, National Security Agency employees, Defense Intelligence Agency employees, or National Geo-Spatial-Intelligence Agency employees. Examples of permitted volunteer activities include: organizing political rallies and meetings, making phone calls on behalf of a candidate, serving as a delegate to a party convention, and working for a political party to get out the vote on Election Day. These employees are, however, prohibited from soliciting or receiving political contributions.

No matter what status you fall under make sure you know what is allowed and how you can participate in this year's elections. Prior to engaging in any activity related to the political process, make sure you are familiar with the rules prescribed by DOD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty, and as amplified in the 2016 DoD Public Affairs Policy Guidance concerning Political Campaigns and Elections, in order to ensure a full understanding of the extent and limitations of appropriate involvement in the political process.

If you have questions, contact the 944th FW Legal Office at 623-856-5333.



Please visit the 944
FW on Facebook and
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A student from a local High School gives Sparky a "high five" July 14 during a tour conducted by the 944th Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. (U.S Air Force photo taken by Maj. Elizabeth Magnusson)