

SnapShot



944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

October 2016 Newsletter



7 tips to help deal with change

Knocking Leukemia out of the park

Combat style training

Local Family Continues Fine Legacy at
944th

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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Bringing the Heat

October 2016

Command commentary.....	3
Knocking Leukemia out of the park.....	5
Pioneering new ground.....	6
Building Partnerships.....	7

Local Family Continues Fine Legacy at 944th.....	8
Education key to addressing flat-rate per diem concerns.....	9



Cover Photo: Col. Kurt Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing commander and Col. Bryan Cook, 944 FW vice commander, prepare to fly Sept. 8. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

Above: 944th Security Forces Squadron conduct combat training Sept. 9 at Camp Navajo, Arizona Army National Guard facility in Belmont Arizona. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

Right: 944th Force Support Squadron and 944 Aeromedical Staging Squadron participate in training Sept. 9 at Camp Navajo, Arizona Army National Guard facility in Belmont Arizona. (Courtesy photos)



Insight into HCC program

By Col. Kurt Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing commander

Welcome back and happy new new fiscal year! As advertised we are starting this year off in a Continuing Resolution. I would like to extend my appreciation to you for adapting and making due with the resources available during the next couple months. As you know, our funds are limited and the timeframe when we will receive more and how much, is still unclear. Press on and continue to do what you do.

Hopefully, you are aware that the 944th Fighter Wing has a great program called the Honorary Commander Program.

The Honorary Commanders Program provides us an excellent community outreach opportunity that helps us connect with our surrounding communities. The program expands the Wing's ability to foster relationships between local civic and

business leaders and wing personnel. It also serves as an excellent vehicle for promoting a better understanding of Air Force Reserve Command and our mission.

Last month we bid farewell to a terrific group of Honorary Commander's, who I think left with a better understanding of what our Airmen do and are now great advocates for AFRC. Last evening, we welcomed a new group of Honorary Commander's and hope their experiences with us will be just as eye opening.

In the 944th we have two Honorary Commanders assigned to each commander including the Vice Commander, the Command Chief, and myself. New Honorary Commanders are inducted bi-annually during a symbolic ceremony.

For the next two years the new Honorary Commanders will be invited to Wing and unit ceremonies, social functions, commander's

calls, graduations, award banquets and other important events. The Honorary Commanders are encouraged to extend reciprocal invitations to their host military commander, and unit members.

Every year the program gets bigger and our presence in our local communities are strongly supported. Please take some time over the next couple years to get to know your new Honorary Commander.

This UTA, I look forward to seeing everyone during commander's call on Saturday. The Wing continues to grow, so remember to get to the base theater early to get a seat.

Finally, Halloween is right around the corner and I would like to remind you to be safe, enjoy yourselves, and watch out for children during the holiday.

I want to thank you again for all you do. Keep Bringing the Heat!



CSAF letter to Airmen

By Gen. David L. Goldfein, Air Force Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON (AFNS)- Fellow Airmen, I just completed my 3rd month as your 21st Chief of Staff and have had the opportunity to see many of you in action. I continue to be inspired by your daily contributions to the joint fight in ALL of our core missions. Thank you and your families for your continued dedication and commitment to excellence!

Today, I am releasing the second in a series of short papers that provide my thoughts and intent on the key focus areas we will address during my tenure. As with the first focus area (Revitalizing Squadrons), the second directly aligns with our strategic vision and supports Secretary James priorities: Taking Care of Airmen; Balancing Today's Readiness with Future Modernization; and Making Every Dollar Count.

The second CSAF focus area is Strengthening Joint Leaders and Teams ... a Combined Arms Imperative. Airpower and what our Air Force brings to the joint team is foundational to all current and future campaigns. Our ability to operate seamlessly as a joint force across multiple domains on a global scale is critical to ensuring mission success throughout the spectrum of conflict. As such, strengthening how we organize, train, and present forces to combatant commanders ... and how we build joint leaders with the tools, experience, and training to both support and lead joint teams is critical to success.

Additional information will follow as the team lead, Brig Gen Brian Killough, develops the plan and sets future milestones. For now, I need all of us to be thinking about how our daily activities contribute to joint operations. Airmen across our Active, Guard, Reserve, and Civilian force have always been innovators – we've been breaking barriers since 1947. This is an area where our creativity will serve us well.

Thank you for your continued leadership, dedication, and excellence. While we face challenges today, they are not the worst challenges we have faced in our 69 year history ... and we follow a long line of Airmen who found opportunity in every challenge. We remain the finest Air Force on the planet with unlimited opportunities ahead. This is now our time ... and I'm proud to serve with you as the 21st Chief of Staff. Fight's on!

7 tips to help deal with change

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

"Isn't it funny that day by day nothing changes, but when you look back, everything is different." — C.S. Lewis

I recently read an article by Terri Babers, Certified Life Coach-Maxwell Leadership Team, about the concept of positive changes.

Fighting change is pointless as change is coming and will change your life regardless of the amount of anger and frustration you push back with. So why not embrace change and make it a positive?

Change is ever present, and the march of time and change affects everyone in the Wing whether we like it or not. How we react to change and manage the pressures of change determines how we grow and develop over time.

First, each of us have to see change as a process and not just a binary thing, like flipping a switch. Secondly, choose to give change a positive meaning in your life. Finally, take a deep breath and be flexible. Change is going to happen so lean into it and plan to enjoy the experience.

Now on to Ms Baber's 7 tips to deal with change.

- 1. Notice that change that is taking place.**
- 2. Face your feelings about the change.**
- 3. Figure out when and if you can accept or reject the change.**
- 4. Adopt an attitude of anticipation.**
- 5. Choose your thoughts about the change, accept the positive and reject the negative.**
- 6. Learn to relax.**
- 7. Set smart goals to move forward.**

As some of you may or may not know, my tour as the Wing's Command Chief ends in Feb. 2017, so I have been thinking about change a lot and thought I'd pass on some of my observations, framed around these tips, on our upcoming changes.

One, I can safely say that I have indeed noticed that change is coming up fast. We have five more months together, before I move along to my next challenge. That is only 10 more drill days so the change is coming up faster than I would like to think!

Two, my feeling about leaving the Wing are mixed. I will certainly miss all of my friends and family that are here at the Wing, but I will also love the opportunity to travel less. Over time, the travel becomes stale and I have been traveling to UTA weekends for about the last eight years.

Three and four kind of merge together. The third tip can be equated to the serenity prayer. I accept that this change is good for both the Wing and I. We will both gain positive experiences from the upcoming change. I am very excited for the next Command Chief to be a part of the long line of excellent leadership that the Wing has enjoyed throughout its history. The fifth tip talks about accepting the positive thoughts and reject the negative thoughts. We have experiences, ups and down during my time at the Wing. I will cherish the great times and keep the lessons learned from the hard times in the front of my mind.

The sixth tip is to learn to relax. Over the last few snapshots, I have been sharing some of my thoughts on helping each other and every one of these tips lists always say to relax in some form or fashion. I am trying to put into practice some of these tip. I exercise regularly and practice conscious relaxation when I go to sleep at night. Over time these are coming more routine and I am finding that for me they are helpful.

The seventh tip is to set some new goals. I have been working on setting some new goals in my civilian career at Air Force Space Command.

So why am I sharing these insights with you? Because dealing with stress and change is best when shared with family and friends. All of you in the Wing are part of my military family and sharing these thoughts with my family is important to me. We all have to figure out how we are going to deal with any upcoming changes in our lives.

One final tip from my friend Rachel. Consider taking up journaling, this is the practice of writing down your thoughts. This is not just writing down a list or log of your daily activities, but your thoughts and feelings. This serves two purposes; it focuses your attention and clarifies your thoughts, and then to get things that would just rattle around in your mind out and down on paper. It's a weird process, but it really works. It becomes a dialog with one of the most important support people in your life, YOU!

I am looking forward to our remaining time together; keep up the great work and know that we all should be proud of what we do for each other, the Wing, the Air Force, and the Nation. Til' Next Time Chief



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Knocking Leukemia out of the park

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



Photo by Sarah Sachs/Arizona Diamondbacks

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- Through love, hope, and the help of Phoenix Children's Hospital a Citizen Airman and his family celebrated defeating cancer with a trip to the ballpark.

Mason Weedman, son of Carrie and Maj. Aaron Weedman, 69th Fighter Squadron instructor pilot, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at age three. Mason, now six-years old, completed his last chemotherapy treatment in July and is currently cancer free.

The Weedman's are huge sports fans with a special connection to baseball and the Arizona Diamondbacks. In an effort to highlight his success story and honor his recovery the Arizona Diamondbacks paid tribute to Mason and other children battling cancer during September childhood cancer awareness month at Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona.

"The whole family was on the field during the game including doctors from the hospital and an autographed framed jersey was

presented to my son," said Weedman.

A video featuring Mason and his family along with the men and women at PCH who helped the family in their struggle against leukemia was unveiled at the game.

The Weedman family instantly connected with the hospital upon moving in the Phoenix area which provided invaluable care for Mason.

Two years earlier at age four, Mason was invited to Chase field as part of an honorary player starting line-up in a campaign to raise money for PCH. PCH was established in 1983, and has grown to become one of the largest children's hospitals in the country. It has a medical staff of nearly 1,000 pediatric specialists.

The family stood firmly behind the belief that cancer would not defeat them.

"This is not going to define Mason or our family, this is just a little

piece of history and it will be something that will carry him through the rest of his life," said Carrie. "Cancer will not stop him to grow and reach his dreams."

Mason continues to be an active six-year old boy involved in the sports that he loves.

"I am appreciative to all the guys in the 69 FS and in the Air Force Reserve for their hard work to help our family. Picking up the slack like taking an extra flight or working extra hours because I couldn't be at work. It made a huge difference whether they realize it or not," Weedman said while expressing his gratitude toward his fellow Airmen for their sacrifices during his family's time in need.

According to Weedman, the strength and courage he and his family had during their battle with cancer came from the support they received and has made the family even stronger. They are ready to see what the next chapter of their lives has in store for them.

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

From Airman:

Airman First Class Matthew Griffin, 414 MXS

From Airman First Class:

Senior Airman Jonathan Bass, 924 MXS

Senior Airman Ayanna Blanco, 944 MDS

Senior Airman William Gerrish, 944 MDS

Senior Airman Jeremy Knipe, 924 MXS

From Senior Airman:

Staff Sgt. Daniel Miranda, 414 MXS

Staff Sgt. Luis Mendoza Chavez, 414 MXS

Staff Sgt. Patricia Harris, 414 MXS

Staff Sgt. Anselmo Hermosillo, 924 MXS

Staff Sgt. James Tyler, 924 MXS

Staff Sgt. Ashlie Ward, 307 FS

From Staff Sergeant:

Tech. Sgt. Peter Deasis, 944 CES

Tech. Sgt. Monica Falcon, 944 FSS

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Ferguson, 924 MXS

Tech. Sgt. Luis Granado, 924 MXS

Tech. Sgt. Garrick Tilly-Grantz, 944 LRS

From Technical Sergeant:

Master Sgt. Fredrick Arreola, 944 CES

Master Sgt. Dominic Garland, 414 MXS

Master Sgt. Gehovana Gonzales, 944 ASTS

Master Sgt. Paul Martin, 944 FW Det. 1

From Senior Master Sergeant:

Chief Master Sgt. Michelle Johnston, 944 ASTS



Pioneering new ground



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

By Maj. Shannon Vinson, 924th Fighter Group

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- As the Air Force Reserve Command's only unit-equipped, both actively and classically associated organization, the 924th Fighter Group stood up at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Arizona, in the spring of 2014.

Just days after taking possession of a fleet of 28 A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft from Active Duty Air Force, the group seamlessly assumed operation of over 400 personnel and AFRC's largest formal training unit flying hour program.

This was the first time a new AFRC unit-equipped aircraft maintenance unit had been successfully established in almost 30 years.

With oversight of the 47th Fighter Squadron, 924th Maintenance Squadron and the 924th Operations Support Flight,

the 924 FG is charged with functionally integrating with several active duty units including the 355th Fighter Wing in the 357th Fighter Squadron, 355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron and 355th Component Maintenance Squadron. In addition, the 355 FW is functionally integrated with the 924 FG's 47th Fighter Squadron and the 924th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and produces the world's most lethal A-10C attack pilots while keeping "Mission – Airmen – Family" first at D-M AFB, Arizona.

Because there was no existing manpower model for a unit-equipped classic and active associate fighter group, the leadership of the 924 FG had to pioneer new ground. "This is exactly what our AF is about; innovation," said Lt. Col. Brian Cusson, 47 FS commander.

During the tumultuous formative stages of the initial

stand-up, the 924 MXS sustained an impressive fully Mission Capable rating within the year. And in spite of significant facility, resource, and manning challenges, they continue to meet AFRC's 77 percent MC standard.

Today, the group continues to successfully graduate combat mission ready pilots on time or ahead of schedule. The 47 FS unit yields 13 percent of all 11F pilot production for the Total Force and traces its lineage to the historic P-40Bs that fought during and after the attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II.

Leading the group from the beginning, Col. Thomas McNurlin, 924 FG commander, has acted as both the commander for the overall group and as the interim maintenance squadron. His background and various leadership positions with the Air National Guard AFRC Test Center uniquely prepared him for this unexpected dual-hatted role.

"I wanted to ensure we were accomplishing the mission safely while doing our very best to take care of Airmen," said McNurlin. In spite of some unforeseen obstacles, the group has successfully graduated every single Combat Air Force formal training unit pilot student on time or early with no class A, B, or C safety incidents.

During the past two years the group has deployed numerous Airmen in support of Operations INHERENT RESOLVE and ATLANTIC RESOLVE. The 924th Airmen were key support and were credited with destroying multiple high value targets and saved over 24 International Security Force lives during the deployments.

This year, the group demonstrated their persistent dedication to excellence by claiming the championship title in the worldwide biennial, "Hawgsmoke" competition. Out of 14 A-10C teams from across the globe, the 47 FS team of four company grade officer pilots were the "Best of the Best," winning top overall pilot, top conventional team, and top overall team. This is the second time in a row the 924 FG took top honors at the event.

"It was truly a feat of Airmanship to see these young officers show what's best about our nation and service: teamwork, dedication to mission, and honoring our great Air Force history and heritage," said Cusson.

In addition, the unit excelled during "Combat Shield," the ACC annual inspection, by increasing the overall grade in battle systems sets 40 percent in one year.

"When looking at the accomplishments of the 924 MXS, I realized that the dynamics of this organization are unlike any I've been associated with in my career, and the results have been phenomenal," explained Lt. Col. Bo Shelton, 924 MXS commander "There's a relentless dedication to mission here. No other unit has done what we've done with our [limiting factors], a true reflection of "Service before Self."

Combat style training

Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Barbara Plante, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

CAMP NAVAJO, Ariz.- Speaking in hushed tones and through hand signals, the 944th Fighter Wing Security Forces fire team stepped out on combat patrol as a cohesive team.

Thus began the September unit training assembly with a three day training exercise in the cool pine forest of Camp Navajo, Arizona Army National Guard facility in Bellemont, Arizona, a short two hour drive from the base.

Thirty-one members of the 944 SFS were given the opportunity to sharpen their combat skills during the UTA. The three day event included camp set up, battle drills station training, movement techniques, react to contact, ambush demonstrations, ambush application, team building and more.

"The outstanding working relationship we have with the Arizona Army National Guard here at Camp Navajo, combined with close location to Luke and the cooler weather made this training invaluable for our team," said Master Sgt. Christopher Buscaglio, 944 SFS, Senior Security Forces manager.

"Getting out of the heat of the valley and into the cooler weather of Northern Arizona provided the perfect setting for this type of training. Open space along with the natural coverage of the pine trees was just what was needed."

Members of the 944th Support Squadron Service Flight and Aeromedical Staging Squadron provided real world support to ensure a successful training event.

"The training is going well, we have a lot of new individuals in the squadron and this is giving them a good education on map reading, combat formation, and reaction to ambushes. I have been with the unit for 15 years and am getting ready to retire, it is time to hand it over to someone else," said Tech. Sgt. Daniel Watzek, 944 SFS, fire team member.



"Time and time again our 944 SFS Airmen prove themselves to be proficient in what they do," said Col. Paul Theisen, 944th Mission Support Group commander. "Capt. Joel Brown, 944th SFS operations officer, did a great job setting up the training. It was instrumental in honing combat skills needed in the field, boosting morale, and provided our Airmen the confidence needed when called upon."

Building Partnerships

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

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- Airmen from the 944th Civil Engineering Squadron helped strengthen the relationship between the Department of Defense and a Navaho community in Gallup, New Mexico recently.

The DoD and Southwest Indian Foundation are partnered to provide newly constructed homes for Navajo Nation members as part of an Innovative Readiness Training project and Operation Footprint.

Thirty Citizen Airman from the wing, teamed-up with 11 U.S. Navy Seabees from various units one last time as the final Air Force unit to work on the project before they hand it over to the Navy.

"We were fortunate to be the last AF rotation on the Gallup, New Mexico IRT," said

Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Bohannon, 944 CES superintendent. "The Navy will be taking over the project after our rotation is complete. We felt motivated to make sure we ended the AF involvement in the project on a high note."

SWIF has a fulltime staff and operates a warehouse that is open year-round where homes are constructed for placement in the local area. The warehouse is approximately 6,000 square feet and is designed to accommodate construction of three homes at a time. The homes are constructed in three phases with each home in a different phase, creating an assembly line process that allows individuals from all CE specialties to be gainfully employed at the site. Reserve, Guard and active-duty service members

from all branches work and train in the warehouse during the summer months.

The group also has a staff that works off-site. The mission for those working off-site is to construct foundations, install minimal infrastructure and set homes. The homes built during the IRT project will be provided to needy families within the Navajo Nation.

"This project was by far the best experience I have had since enlisting," said Staff Sgt. Donald McGuire, 944 CES structure specialist. "The team I was assigned to was very cohesive and eager to learn. I could not have asked for better men or women to work with on this project. This cohesion and the quality of Airman and Sailors, made the work more enjoyable and ultimately productive."

McGuire was assigned to lead a team composed of plumbers, administration personnel and an education manager from both the ...*Continued on page 8...*



Courtesy photo

Local Family Continues Fine Legacy at 944th



Courtesy photo

By Staff Sgt. Nestor Cruz, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- It's not unusual for people to follow in the footsteps of their parents when choosing a career. But one family has taken that notion a step further by having three generations serve in the 944th Fighter Wing.

Senior Airman Ashlynd Vaughn, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical technician, is the daughter of Tech.

Sgt. Jeff Fine, an Air Force Reserve Individual Mobilization Augmentee based in California. Fine, who previously served with the 944 FW as a recruiter and unit historian, encouraged his daughter to join the Air Force Reserve Command in 2012.

"At first I looked at joining the Air National Guard but then I switched to AFRC and I've been with the 944th since," said Vaughn.

Vaughn's mother, Sherri Kohls, served with the 944th Tactical Fighter Group for four years as Staff Sgt. Sherri Fine and was an intelligence operations specialist. Kohls's mother, Capt. Louise Stanco, was a Medical Service Corps officer with the 944th Medical Squadron

from 1990 to 2004. Stanco was officer-in-charge of admin before moving on to medical readiness then mobility.

Today, Vaughn is a traditional reservist saving lives with the 944 ASTS. She's proud of her family legacy and the high standard set for her by the family name.

"At first, I was always 'Jeff's daughter,' before I got married," Vaughn said. "Everyone seemed to know my dad. People really liked him, so they were excited I was

there.

"It set the bar high for me, too, because everyone knew who I was, so I couldn't mess up. I had to live up to the name," she added, laughing.

For Vaughn, having a parent still serving in the Air Force has its advantages.

"My dad still mentors me because he's still in the military," said Vaughn. "He mentors me especially during events that come up in my military life, like reenlistments, opportunities we have in our unit, etc. If I don't know what to do, I'll call him."

Sometimes the mentoring roles are reversed for father and daughter.

"It's funny because he'll do the same thing with me (call for advice) since everything in the military changes all the time, like I helped him with navigating the Defense Travel System and with his orders," said Vaughn.

These days, Vaughn says people see her more as an ASTS Airman with a professional attitude rather than simply "Jeff's daughter." And no one could be any prouder than her own father.

"She (Vaughn) has come into her own through her efforts and I am extremely proud of her," said Fine. "As a father and fellow Airman I love being part of her life. I love seeing the great work she is doing in support of her community and country."

"In all my years of service both public and through the military, I have seen few individuals who are as passionate, dedicated and hard working as Ashlynd in the service of others," Fine adds. "She is amazing. I'm probably biased being her father, but I can't say how many people come up to me and tell me the same. A proud father I am."

Building Partnerships continued...

AF and Navy services. At the end of the deployment, senior leadership recognized him as, "Top Team Lead," stemming from the accomplishments of his team during the project. The 944th team was given the opportunity to see a few stages of the project that most teams do not get to see.

The team completed one of the three homes in the warehouse and placed it on a permanent off-site foundation. Additionally, they started one of the three homes from scratch in the warehouse and built it up to 40 percent completion which including the floor system, walls and roof. Lastly, the team undertook offsite grading, foundation, and stem wall work in preparation for placement of the finished homes.

"Our team exceeded expectations and left a lasting impression on the IRT project," continued Bohannon. "We received high praise from the AF and Navy project senior leadership for working well as a team and bringing the project ahead of schedule at the end of the two weeks. I was really impressed with the great attitudes and the ability to work seamlessly with the Navy personnel."

IRT is a civil-military program that builds mutually beneficial partnerships between U.S. communities and the DoD to meet training and readiness requirements for active, Guard, and Reserve service members and units while addressing public and civil-society needs. For more information on IRT please visit <http://irt.defense.gov/> or <http://irt.defense.gov/Portals/57/Documents/IRT%20Brochure.pdf>

Education key to addressing flat-rate per diem concerns

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga- Since the Department of Defense implemented a change to Joint Travel Regulations in 2014, thus establishing a flat-rate per diem allowance for long-term temporary duty assignments, Air Force Reserve Command units have continued to execute operations amid questions and concerns from Citizen Airmen who believe the new policy is having a negative impact on their ability to perform the command's mission.

The issues on this subject range from decreased volunteerism for missions with longer term travel to increased administrative requirements on units and Citizen Airmen.

In a recent memorandum to commanders, Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, AFRC commander, acknowledged these concerns and said the key to incorporating the flat-rate per diem allowance in the Reserve mission does not lie in implementing new policies or changing the JTR.

Instead, Miller asserted the key to addressing reservists' concerns is education.

"Based on our staff's analysis, we have determined the JTR, as currently written, provides enough flexibility to accomplish the mission," Miller said.

The new policy was put in place to encourage travelers to take advantage of cost-saving opportunities when they

are on a long-term TDY – 31 days or more at a single location. The commercial hotel industry typically offers reduced rates to ensure occupancy for these "extended stays." Additionally, Department of Defense analysis demonstrates the flat-rate per diem adequately covers lodging, meals and incidental expenses, represents a better model for actual costs incurred, and saves taxpayer dollars.

The flat rate is as follows:

- * On the travel day to the TDY location: 100 percent of lodging per diem at the locality rate and 75 percent of the meals and incidental expenses rate.

- * For TDYs 31 to 180 days: a flat rate of 75 percent of the locality rate (lodging and M&IE) for each full day, starting day two through the end of the TDY.

- * For TDYs (approved by the appropriate authority per the JTR) more than 180 days: a flat rate of 55 percent of the locality rate (lodging and M&IE) for each full day, starting day two through the end of the TDY.

Miller acknowledged the details of the policy are confusing. She urged travelers who are on long-term TDY orders to contact their servicing Defense Travel Management Office-contracted commercial travel office, which is required to assist in finding adequate lodging within the

flat-rate per diem allowance.

"If the traveler and the CTO are unable to find lodging at the reduced per diem rate, the authorizing official may then authorize reimbursement of the actual lodging rate (not to exceed the locality per diem rate), but the traveler receives M&IE at the 75 percent or 55 percent rate," the general said.

Miller reminded reservists the flat-rate policy only applies when travelers are TDY to a single location for more than 30 days. If travelers are TDY for more than 30 days but to multiple locations, the flat-rate per diem only applies to locations where they are TDY for more than 30 days.

Additional information, including answers to frequently asked questions, can be found by searching for "flat-rate per diem" on the DTMO website (<http://www.defense-travel.dod.mil>).

"I encourage commanders to assess their local mission requirements and use all the tools at their disposal, such as negotiating contracts with local lodging facilities for long-term TDY requirements or using the AO waiver authority granted by the JTR, to mitigate adverse effects on their Citizen Airmen," Miller said. "Take care of the mission – it's yours to own."

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2nd Annual BIRDIES & BOGIES GOLF INVITATIONAL

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4 | VERRADO GOLF CLUB | BUCKEYE, AZ
Benefitting the 944th FW Booster Club

Top Three Meeting!!!

Sunday, October 16, 2016
at 1130 to 1230
in the Dining Facility



944th Security Forces Squadron fire team members, conduct combat training Sept. 9 at Camp Navajo, Arizona Army National Guard facility in Bellemont Arizona. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)