

SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

March 2017 Newsletter



Best of best honored

MSG gets new commander

Top 10 lessons learned over a 27 year career

DBIDS upgrade provides faster, secure gate flow

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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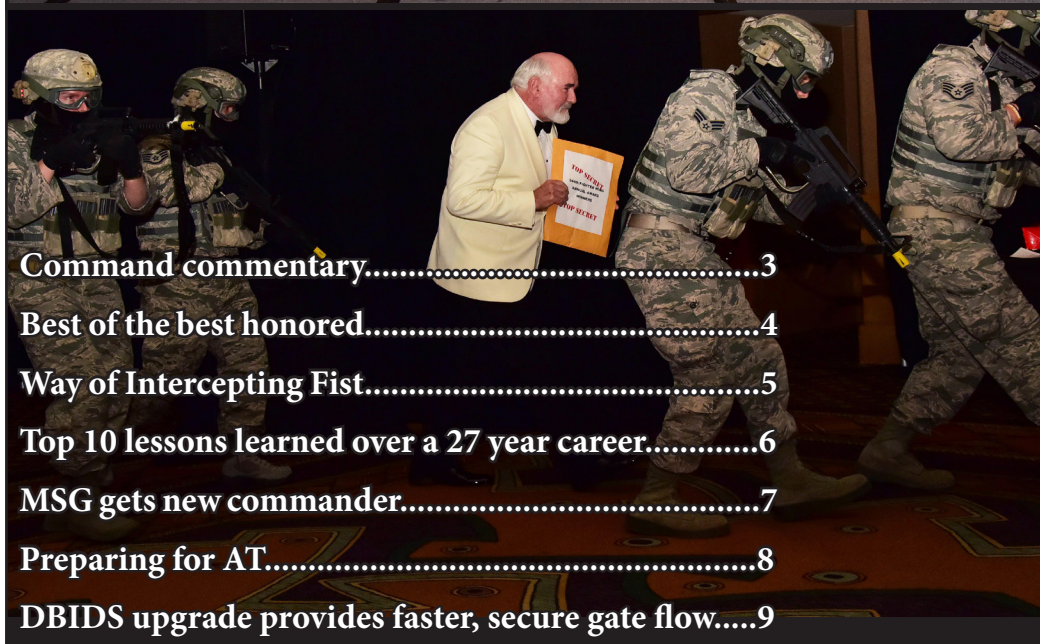
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Cover Photo: A member of the 944th Fighter Wing Honor Guard performs the POW/MIA ceremony Feb. 11 during the 944 FW Annual Awards Banquet at the Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nestor Cruz)

Above: 944th Fighter Wing Annual Award Banquet nominees pose for a photo during the 2016 AAB at the Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

Left: Airmen from the 944th Security Forces Squadron escort an actor portraying James Bond onto the main stage with a "top secret" envelope containing the names of the 2016 AAB winners Feb. 11 at the Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

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Events and milestones in horizon

By Col. Kurt Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing commander

Welcome back! Last month was a busy and exciting month for the wing.

Our Annual Awards Banquet was a huge success and I would like to say thank you to all who supported the event and congratulations to this year's winners. This one was extra special to me because it was the last one before I retire and the fact that over 500 people attended, speaks a lot for the work and preparation that went into it.

Last month we said goodbye to a valued member of our team and this month we welcome a new one. Chief Master Sgt. James Nudd will be our interim command chief and will take the reins of carrying on our mission as our wings senior NCO until a new command chief is selected. He is coming to us from Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. I think you will be pleased with what he brings to the table. Please help me welcome him into his new family and make his transition as seamless as possible.

I want to send out a special congratulations to Staff Sgt. Allen Long from the 944 Fighter Wing Detachment 1, for winning the Graydon Williams Award this year. The award is given to an Air



Reserve Technician who goes above and beyond and demonstrates outstanding effort. Graydon Williams was a member of the 944 FW and embodied these traits and was taken from this world by cancer. Every year members from Graydon's family make the trip from out of state to see the award presented. This is a great honor and speaks for the character of Staff Sgt. Long and the quality of Airmen this wing has. Great job!

We have a few events and milestones in the horizon. First, our Japan Air Self-Defense Force counterparts will make their 100th sortie mission later this month. Lt. Col. Sean Holahan, 944th Operations Group Detachment 2 commander, and his team were instrumental and worked countless hours to make sure this day would happen.

Next month we will host Boss's Day and later on the same day we will also host Operation Reserve Kids. I can't wait to see and meet all your boss's and family. It should be a great day!

In preparation for next year's AAB there will be a fundraising golf tournament event on April 21st at the Falcon Dunes golf course here on base. Save the date and practice your swing. Thank you again and have a great UTA!

Servant Leadership: recipe for mission success

By Chief Master Sgt. James Nudd, 944th Fighter Wing interim command chief

First of all let me personally thank Col. Gallegos and the 944th Fighter Wing leadership team for this opportunity to continue serving the enlisted force of 10th Air Force, specifically the Airmen of the mighty 944th Fighter Wing. I look forward to helping execute one of Air Force Reserve Command's most diverse and challenging mission sets that just happens to be dispersed at four locations in three states and requires us to professionally maintain and prepare the Air Force's next generation of warfighters.

Secondly; Wow! I'm already impressed with the warm welcome, professionalism of the Airmen and all the "over the top" help that's been extended to make my transition from Whiteman Air Force Base to Luke AFB seamless. It's been one of the easiest moves I've ever experienced in over 32 years.

In the coming months while we navigate through the hiring of your next Command Chief the care, feeding, development and sustainment of our Wing's enlisted force will remain this position's number one priority with our senior NCO's taking lead ensuring all obstacles and challenges are addressed or immediately up-channeled and the Airmen have the tools and time to train, develop and execute our mission.

Servant leadership is the recipe for mission success and will be the cornerstone of our enlisted leadership model going forward. I personally look forward to meeting each and every one of you in the coming months and hearing of your stories, jobs and successes and not to sound cliché but the door is always open and time will be available for anyone needing to bend my ear.

Thank you and have a great UTA!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

944th FW Booster Club Event

April 21, 2017 :: 11a.m. Registration
will begin

944TH FW GOLF TOURNAMENT

April 21, 2017 :: 1:00 p.m. Shotgun start

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

Best of the best honored

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

LITCHFIELD PARK, Ariz.—As a celebration of outstanding achievements by wing members the 2016 944th Fighter Wing Annual Award winners were honored during a “Casino Royale” themed black tie gala held at the Wigwam Resort on Feb. 11.

During the event, which was heavily steeped in heritage and evening gowns, Mr. Dan Clark, founder and CEO of Dan Clark and Associates, provided the keynote speech for over 500 attendees.

As a son of a former service member, and one of the most sought after motivational speakers, Clark delivered an inspirational speech about ‘Service before self.’ He emphasized the importance of our service member’s sacrifices and the appreciation he has for them.

His presentation was filled with humorous stories and emotional experiences throughout his life in dealing with service members that had attendees on the edge of their seats.

“I was impressed with his knowledge of our culture and the homework he did in preparation for our event,” said Col. Kurt J. Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing commander. “Having him speak to our Airmen was exactly what we needed. I hope the message hit home and our Airmen use it and take pride in what they do and continue to strive for excellence in all they do.”

Clark’s other titles and accomplishments include: university professor; award winning athlete who fought his way

back from a paralyzing injury that cut short his football career; a New York Times best-selling author; a gold record songwriter/recording artist, and adventurer. He delivers customized keynote speeches and transformational programs on leadership, building winning teams, relationship selling, and creating a culture of excellence to entry level employees, emerging leaders, and seasoned executives.

Gallegos presented Clark a framed photo of the 944 FW and a plaque as a token of appreciation and thanked him for talking to the group. Clark humbly accepted.

The evening ended with “007” delivering a “top secret” envelope with the winner’s names and then the presentation of the awards with a group photo of all the winner’s afterward.

“944th members have to balance their military service, personal lives and professional careers each and every day,” said Chief Master Sgt. Rhonda Hutson, 944 FW command chief. “Many have to make hard sacrifices in several areas to ensure the Air Force accomplishes its missions. The individuals considered for the 2017 annual awards clearly demonstrated sustained and superior performance throughout the year. Tonight is all about them!”

“Congratulations to the award winners, you are the best of the best,” Gallegos said while closing the ceremony. “Thank you for all you do in service to your country!”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nestor Cruz



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.



The Best of the Best! 944th Fighter Wing Annual Award Winners



Senior Civilian of the year: Ms. Cory S. Zehner, 924th Fighter Group

Junior Civilian of the year: Ms. Donna L. Sekoch, 944th Medical Squadron

Field Grade Officer of the year: Maj. Daniel W. Daehler, 944th Operations Group

Company Grade Officer of the year: Capt. Julie L. Moroz, 47th Fighter Squadron

Instructor Pilot of the year: Maj. William L. Wisheart, 69th Fighter Squadron

Weapon System Officer of the year: Maj. Sriram Krishnan, 307th Fighter Squadron

First Sergeant of the year: Senior Master Sgt. Jason D. Cvangara,

944th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the year: Senior Master Sgt. Katherine F. Soehnen,

944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Non-Commissioned Officer of the year: Master Sgt. Scott A. Jenkins,

924th Maintenance Squadron

Airmen of the year: Senior Airmen Elisabeth F. Yates, 944th Medical Squadron

Way of Intercepting Fist

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.—Before pilots can get wheels up they must ensure they have all of their personal protection gear such as flight helmets, oxygen masks, and parachutes.

One of the Airmen responsible for making sure the pilots are prepared for any emergency situation during flight is Senior Airman Michael Bonit, 47th Fighter Squadron aircrew flight equipment technician.

The mission of the 47 FS is to train, educate, and mentor the world's finest attack pilots for the Combat Air Forces while honing the core competencies of A-10 instruction, operations management and aircrew life support.

"My job is to inspect, maintain survival equipment for the fighter pilots," Bonit said. "I have to make sure everything like the oxygen, mask, helmet and the g-suit, are functioning properly."

The 47 FS conducts training for pilot initial qualification, transition, and instructor qualification in the A-10C Thunderbolt II.

"I like being at the school house," Bonit said. "It's an upbeat, positive environment that focuses on education and expanding yourself, something I love."

When Bonit isn't in Air Force uniform, he dons another, expanding his own personal knowledge.

"I love marital arts," Bonit said, "It's all about self-expression and confidence."

Bonit has been practicing a variety of martial art systems such as Tai Chi, Wingchun, and Wu Shu since he was nine years old.

"My favorite is Jeet Kune Do created by Bruce Lee," Bonit said. "I was strongly influenced by him as a child."

JKD, translated to English as Way of Intercepting Fist, is not classical martial arts, where the practitioner is held to rigid rules and precision. JKD's movements are simple and direct using the smallest amount of movements and energy to protect oneself.

"Self-expression is big part of JKD, they encourage it more than other martial arts and that's what I love. Everybody is different and JKD allows my body to tell me what to do" Bonit said. "I really want to master the technique and educate myself about the history of the art, there is so much to learn."

Bonit contributes his mental focus and respect at work and in his personal life to martial arts.

"When my co-workers see me they say 'martial arts is breathing to me,' it's true," Bonit laughed. "Martial arts is my life, it's my stress relief, it give me energy, it's moving meditation."

As much as Bonit enjoys his job he's set his sights on a new goal, becoming U.S. Air Force Chaplain.

"Martial arts allows you to see the fruits of your labor pay off, with dedication," Bonit said.



March 2017 promotions:

Congratulations to the following

944th Fighter Wing promotees

From Airman First Class:

Senior Airman Alba Hays, 944 FW Det. 1

Senior Airman Iniki Ittisukananth, 924 MXS

Senior Airman Francisca Siqueiros, 944 MDS

Senior Airman Alonzo Willis, 924 MXS

From Senior Airman:

Staff Sgt. Morgan Johnson, 414 MXS

Staff Sgt. Angel Rivera, 414 MXS

Staff Sgt. Adam Thompson, 924 MXS

Staff Sgt. James Vilchis, 924 MXS

Staff Sgt. Hayley Williams, 944 FSS

From Staff Sergeant:

Tech. Sgt. Christopher La Roche, 924 FG

Tech. Sgt. Cory McComb, 924 MXS

Tech. Sgt. Donald McGuire, 944 CES

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Mounts, 414 MXS

Tech. Sgt. Salvatore Spatola, 924 MXS

Tech. Sgt. Michael Williamson, 944 FW Det. 1

From Technical Sergeant:

Master Sgt. Krystle Baysinger, 414 MXS

Master Sgt. Lonya Foy, 944 FW Det. 1

Master Sgt. Christopher Lyon, 414 MXS

From Master Sergeant:

Senior Master Sgt. Aaron Tatro, 414 MXS

BRINGING THE HEAT

944th FIGHTER WING

Top 10 lessons learned over a 27 year career

By Maj. Elizabeth Magnusson, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.—The 944th Fighter Wing bid farewell to their Command Chief, as she retired after 27 years in the Air Force during a ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 12 at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.

Chief Master Sgt. Rhonda Hutson, 944 FW command chief, said her tear filled good-byes to the men and women of the wing during an emotional ceremony attended by over 150 family, friends and wing members.

During her ceremony, that highlighted her movement up the ranks and her service to our nation, Hutson shared the top ten things she learned in her career “David Letterman” style.

In her words:

#10 – Don’t try to fool your supervisor about the dumb things you have done by trying to cover it up. Own your mistakes and work diligently to correct them. We are all human, but the recovery is the test of character. In keeping with that theme – words matter, especially when talking to senior leaders. Everyone fails, it’s how you choose to learn from it and apply that lesson moving forward that matters.

#9 – Success is not a solo act, it comes from teamwork. You didn’t get to this point in your career by yourself. Make sure you thank everyone around you – ALWAYS.

#8 – Using a quote, “people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care”. People want to know you genuinely care, and they will go to the ends of the

earth with you. They don’t want to know about all the decorations and accolades you have – they want to know you – the person.

#7 – Always be humble, kind and compassionate. Conceit is a very ugly thing, as nobody is irreplaceable. Everyone you come in contact with today is dealing with something in their lives – keep that in mind...

#6 – No matter how busy you think you are, take that two minutes and talk to another Airman. That two minutes could be what saves their life.

#5 – Mentorship is an invaluable thing. If it weren’t for someone taking the time I would have had a very different and undesirable ending. Pay that forward every day.

#4 – Not everyone has the best intentions, but that doesn’t mean you should be the same way. Always be true to your heart and yourself, treat people with respect and kindness.

#3 – There is an epiphany when you realize the difference between when you sign on the dotted line and when you truly join the Air Force. For me that was later in my career, but I challenge you all to think about this.

#2 – Don’t be afraid to share your story. Everyone has one filled with rich experiences. Being brave enough to so, will enrich others’ lives around you.

And the number one things I’ve learned in my career is...

“One day your life will pass before your eyes, make sure it’s worth watching”. Savor every moment and live your life to the fullest. You never know when your time is up.



MSG gets new commander

By 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.—The 944th Mission Support Group changed command Feb. 12, during a ceremony held here in Hangar 999.

Col. Paul Theisen, relinquished his command to Lt. Col. Gavin D. Tade, the incoming 944th Mission Support Group commander. Col. Kurt J. Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing presided over the event.

In his opening remarks, Gallegos thanked Theisen for his outstanding leadership of the MSG.

“Col Theisen has done a fantastic job as our Mission Support Group commander,” said Gallegos. “We’re very lucky that he joined our team just over two years ago and we are even luckier because we are not losing him from the wing, he’s just sliding over to a new position.”

During the ceremony Theisen asked the audience to take a look at the Airmen lined up in formation for the ceremony.

“They are the true reason we’re all here today,” explained Theisen. “I’m humbled to have been given the chance to work with them and provide all the support I could so they can do their mission to the absolute best of their abilities without question of purpose or doubt of importance. I sincerely thank you for your dedication and your willingness to step forward when your nation needs you.”

Theisen was rendered a final salute by the MSG as they stood in formation, a sign of respect for both the out-going and incoming commanders.

“I have had some incredible assignments, experiences, deployments and opportunities in my career,” shared Theisen. “Those are being eclipsed today. The relevance that you bring to the fight is substantial. Col. Tade, you my friend, have just become the lucky recipient of the honor to serve these fine American Air-

men”

Tade was the 10th Air Force Deputy Director for Operations and Plans at the Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas before accepting the guidon from Gallegos, officially taking command of his new group.

“Col. Tade has a big job ahead of him,” said Gallegos. “But I know he is up to the challenge. He brings a lot of energy and a new perspective that will be great for the MSG and the wing as we grow and get busier.”

During his remarks, Tade gave a peek into what the group can expect during his time here.

“To the Airmen of the 944th Mission Support Group,” said Tade. “I believe we get better each and every day. Each time I drive through the gate I strive to be better and over the next few years I challenge you to be better. Better at taking care of our Airmen, better at taking care of our mission, and better at taking care of our country.”

“One heart, one vision, one desire equals the best MSG in the Air Force,” said Tade at the conclusion of his speech. “Now let’s get to work!”

Tade is a command pilot with a Master’s of Science degree in aviation safety from the University of Central Missouri and more than 1,820 hours flown in the T-3, T-37, T-38, AT-38, and F-16.

His major deployments have included Northern No-Fly Zone enforcement in 1999 and 2002 as well as Southern No-Fly Zone enforcement in 2001 with more than 45 combat hours. He also led several missions in support of Operation Noble Eagle in 2001, 2002 and 2004.

The mission of the 944 MSG is training and equipping Reservists to provide agile and timely support for contingencies and operations worldwide.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

2017 Graydon Williams Award winner

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.—The 944th Fighter Wing Detachment 1 maintenance unit continues to grow and show the quality Airmen they possess as one of their own was selected for the coveted Graydon Williams Award.

Mr. Cliff Jones, Tempe Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee chairman, presented the 2017 Graydon Williams Award to Staff Sgt. Allen Long, 944 FW Det 1. low observable aircraft structural maintenance technician, during a luncheon held here Feb. 22 at Club Five-Six.

Allen has been with 944 FW Det.1 since February 2016 and was previously assigned to the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., working as an aircraft sheet metal fabrication technician on the A-10.

Members of Tech. Sgt. Graydon Williams’ family attended the event including his sister Alma and her husband Harry Shappell and Neal and Marla Williams, brother and sister-in-law to Graydon Williams.

The award is bestowed upon an Air Reserve Technician who has followed in Williams footsteps of going above and beyond in service to the unit.

Preparing for AT

Story and photo by Maj. Elizabeth Magnusson, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany-Troop movements within the military is a common occurrence but have you ever wondered what it takes for a smooth transition?

One of the requirements as a Reservist is to conduct fifteen days of Annual Tour. Sometimes AT is performed at homestation but when possible Reservists travel to active duty bases to gain invaluable training.

As a member, traveling to a new location for AT can be pretty easy. You arrive at the appointed time for prearranged transportation to the location, lodging is set up, vehicles are waiting, and there is nothing you really have to do.

However, when you are in charge of moving a large unit, behind the scenes there is a whole group of Airmen who have worked countless hours to make the AT happen.

“Akin to deploying, it takes 180 days to prepare for an away from homestation AT,” said Master Sgt. Simon Dimant, 944th Force Support Squadron personnel systems manager and project officer for this year’s FSS AT.

“Every year Air Force Reserve Command releases a list of active duty host wings who are requesting support to help back fill people who are deploying or help prepare for a major event like an inspection,” explained Dimant. “As a Reserve unit we look at the list and see which assignment would match up best with our unit’s goals for training that year.”

Once the location is selected then communication begins between the units and a site survey is conducted several months in advance. This is done to coordinate with local leadership, lodging, the local FSS for meals and sustainment, logistics for both transporting the unit to the location and transportation needs while at the AT location, communication support, and each office that will host the incoming Airmen is visited.

The same team that did the ground work during the site survey then arrives at the location a couple days before-hand to ensure that everything is in place and ready to go when the main body of Airmen arrive.

“From staging vehicles to prearranging lodging, to arranging work stations, there is a lot that goes into preparing for an AT,” said Maj. Melissa Greene, 944th Force Support Squadron commander. “But it is invaluable to have a great bed-down plan so our Airman can just arrive at a location and hit the ground running without having to worry about



anything. We don’t have a lot of time at the location so to be value added to our hosts we don’t need our Airmen worrying about getting a hotel room, how they are going to get to their duty location or anything else.”

So how did this year’s 944 FSS AT prep go?

“Even with all the moving parts and a few last minute changes our arrival at Ramstein Air Base yesterday went really smoothly,” said Senior Master Sgt. David Merris, 944 FSS first sergeant. “My hat off to our Airmen who worked so hard to be here ready to go. Now it’s time to get to work.”



LRS first sergeant receives flag

Photo and caption by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr., 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.-Senior Master Sgt. Jason Cvancara, 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron first sergeant, received an American flag made of plastic army men and police officers Mar 2, here.

Brylee Lessard of Crookston, Minn., which borders Fargo, N.D., created a large American flag as part of her 4-H school project and entered it at the Minnesota State Fair and was named “grand champion” for her project. Brylee was inspired to do the project after the loss of a Fargo police officer and she gave the Fargo Police Department the flag in his memory.

Cvancara is originally from Fargo and occasionally reads the local news stories from the area. To show his appreciation for what she had done, he arranged to have a flag flown in an F-16 for her and sent it to her along with a letter thanking her for her concern.

Brylee and her family flew to Phoenix specifically to meet Cvancara and were given a tour of Luke and she recreated a smaller version of the flag to present to Cvancara as a gesture of her appreciation to the men and women of the armed forces for all their sacrifices.

“The fallen officer was the first in over 100 years and I was impressed with Brylee’s level of maturity,” said Cvancara.

DBIDS upgrade provides faster, secure gate flow



Courtesy photo

By Vicki Stein, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas—As visitors to Joint Base San Antonio go through the base gates, they may notice traffic is flowing faster but what they may not notice is security is also stronger.

Thanks to a Defense Biometrics Identification System 5.0 upgrade, ID card scanning speed has been reduced to a single second or less and the DBIDS equipment footprint is 40 percent smaller.

DBIDS is a card-scanning tool that uses barcodes and biometrics to identify cardholders. The system verifies authorizations and assigns access privileges based on identity, affiliation and the current threat level.

“That equates to rapid identity proofing and vetting of personnel requesting access onto our installations and al-

lows Security Forces to stop potential threats at the base perimeter,” said Derrick Austin, Air Force Security Forces Center Chief of Police Services and Installation Access Control.

Security Forces have been using the devices since 2009, but they were not always as quick to provide scanned data results.

One of AFSFC’s missions is to provide functional implementation guidance for Police Services, which includes DBIDS. Program goals are to improve the system’s availability, usability and affordability for installation commanders and Security Forces.

Airmen using DBIDS 5.0 light up when talking about the quick response and ability to move traffic. Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland DBIDS administrator Senior Airman Hunter Templeton said that when he did a test on the previous DBIDS 4.0 platform, it could take nine seconds or as much as 15 to 20 seconds to respond.

“DBIDS 5.0 is down to three seconds but usually a half of a second,” Templeton said.

The new equipment includes handheld scanners and all-in-one computers.

“This is a full upgrade and the system is working great. It’s amazing. I love it!” Templeton said.

The new DBIDS Scanner responds faster and with more accuracy than a human checking an ID card. This means with the heavy volume of traffic entering a base during peak traffic hours, entry controllers can now scan credentials instead of relying on visual ID card inspections, and it lessens the bottleneck or choke point at base entry control points.

It gives us better vetting,” Templeton said. “We’re not going to allow anyone on base who should not enter. It will make everyone’s life easier. People coming on base won’t be as frustrated, and Airmen handling traffic won’t have to deal with frustrated people who have been sitting in long lines. We’re predicting 300,000 scans monthly and may even double the monthly amount last year of 177,000.”

He added it allows Security Forces Defenders to identify personnel with wants and warrants, which makes the perimeter and base safer.

Austin said DBIDS is installed at every Air Force installation stateside and overseas, to include Air Force Re-

serve and Air National Guard bases.

“If a person’s status changes for any reason, like being barred, once the status is updated in DBIDS by the barring authority, all installation entry controllers will see the person was barred,” Austin said. “In six years, DBIDS annual scan statistics increased from 1,000,000 scans per year to 86,000,000 scans in 2016.

He said Scott Ulrich, Melia Goodman and Travis Cambern from the Air Force DBIDS Development Team had a vision of transitioning Security Forces from visual ID card inspections to electronic interrogation of all credentials.

“They imagined a system that’s easy to employ, interconnected globally and capable of continuous screening of DBIDS records,” Austin said.

The system is maintained by the Defense Manpower Data Center, owners of Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, and the Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System, or RAPIDS.

When a DoD credential is initially scanned at an installation entry control point, the cardholder is automatically registered in DBIDS once the ID Card is validated in DEERS. Also, information is screened by the FBI National Criminal Information Center. DBIDS is interconnected with DEERS and NCIC for continuous vetting.

In 2016, entry controllers detected 4,000 people with warrants, flagged 233 armed and dangerous, 71,000 personnel with terminated ID Cards, 3,500 barred, 73,000 expired ID cards and 22,580 ID cards reported lost or stolen. Austin said that in 2009, it was impossible to detect these categories of unauthorized personnel. “Now, Security Forces are able to stop potential threats, protecting our people and warfighting assets.”

Looking to the future, Austin said experts are already working on the next generation of DBIDS, to include a web-based virtual visitor center to allow DoD card holders to request visitor passes online. Also, DBIDS scanners will be able to read REAL ID compliant driver’s licenses, making visitor passes obsolete.

“If you see your entry controllers using the DBIDS scanners during peak traffic hours, assist them by having your credentials ready to be scanned and understand if minor delays occur, there’s a good chance an unauthorized person has been detected,” Austin said “It’s for everyone’s safety.”



Chief Master Sgt. Rhonda Hutson, 944th Fighter Wing command chief, stands at attention Feb. 12 during her retirement ceremony while the 944 FW Honor Guard presents the colors at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photo taken by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)