

SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

June 2017 Newsletter



Miller takes command at Tenth Air Force

JASDF pilots graduate Luke's F-35

Goldfein meets with airline executives

Reserve leaders testify before House

944 FW KEY LEADERS

Commander

Col. Kurt J. Gallegos

Vice Commander

Col. Bryan Cook

Interim Command Chief

CMSgt. James M. Nudd

944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot

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Bringing the Heat

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Cover Photo: Citizen Airmen from the 944th Fighter Wing dressed in their local police department uniforms along with defenders from the 56th Fighter Wing perform a 21-gun salute during the S.S. Mayaguez retreat ceremony May 18 at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

Above: Local police officers and Citizen Airmen from the 944th Fighter Wing pose for a photo prior to the S.S. Mayaguez retreat ceremony May 18 at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

Left: Julius Del Rosario, Glendale Police Officer and Tech. Sgt. with the 944th Security Forces Squadron, salutes the American flag during the S.S. Mayaguez retreat ceremony May 18, at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

A pleasure to serve you

By Col. Kurt Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing commander

I hope everyone enjoyed the Memorial Day weekend with family and friends!

This UTA weekend will be bitter sweet for me as my time in the U.S. Air Force quickly dwindles down.

Yesterday, I flew my final flight as an F-16 pilot and I still cannot believe this is it.

I am a fortunate man to have been able to do what I love and fly my entire career up until the day before my retirement.

I was able to spend 14 years in my own backyard flying the F-16 at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, but am grateful to end my career here with this phenomenal wing.

Ironically, this is where I started my F-16 career back in 1990 and ending it here at Luke AFB in 2017.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support in everything we have accomplished together. Producing fighter pilots in four major weapons systems for the Air Force, in the F-16 Viper, F-35 Lightning, F-15E Strike eagle and A-10 Warthog. We are also standing up our maintenance group after 10 years.

You are on your way to bigger and better things and I wish you all the best. This has been a dream assignment and it has been my pleasure to serve you.

On Saturday morning, I will leave you in the hands of your new commander, Col. Bryan

“OP” Cook. Col Cook is more than capable to lead this wing and I have no doubt he will do an outstanding job for you.

As I prepare for the next chapter in my life, I would encourage you to provide him the same support you have shown me. I look forward to hearing wonderful things from the wing and I expect you to continue to keep bringing the heat.

As a reminder, the Change-of-Command is scheduled to begin at 0844 and my retirement will start at 1044.

Have a safe UTA and know you are the best at what you do. Farewell, take care, and thank you for all the good times.

As always, Honored and Privileged to have been your Commander!



When opportunities come knocking be ready

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

The Air Force Reserve offers an abundance of opportunities for any Airman looking to excel in their military careers, prepare them for what the commercial world can offer or the stability that comes with a career in your hometown. Regardless of the reason why or the motivation behind your career, being postured to travel down any of these routes requires you, our Airmen, to be ready and eligible. This may mean a multitude of things such as having passing fit scores, current medical readiness, required AFSC qualifications, Professional Military Education completed, Community College of the Air Force degree and the list goes on and on. Throughout my career, and I can't count how many times, I've heard regrets from Airmen that missed the boat on a career opportunity (promotion or position) or an annual tour deployment to a sweet location because they didn't take that extra step to ensure they were ready for what's next. In the military we can't afford to be short sighted or narrow minded. It's not only the world changing around us it is our personal lives. What may be the case, norm or situation today I guarantee it will not be tomorrow! I personally was never going to get married, stay in the Air Force after my initial enlistment or go to college. Needless to say, I did all three and have to say I had great mentors that helped me to see the light (kick me in the back side several times) and ensure I had the opportunity to do more than what I thought I wanted or was capable of. So please don't sell yourselves short or base future decisions on what you see today and listen carefully to your mentors who are nudging you to take a certain path, trust me they've most likely walked it already!

Thank you and have a great UTA!

BRINGING THE HEAT

944 FIGHTER WING

Miller takes command at Tenth Air Force

By Maj. Rodney Ellison, Tenth Air Force

NAVAL AIR STATION JOINT RESERVE BASE FORT WORTH, Texas -Maj. Gen. Ronald B. "Bruce" Miller took command of 10th Air Force from Maj. Gen. Richard W. Scobee during a change of command ceremony May 17 at the Naval Operational Support Center Drill Hall here.

Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, officiated the ceremony which formally transferred authority and responsibility for the numbered air force.

During her address to those in attendance, the AFRC commander praised the work of 10th Air Force. "Gen. Miller... you now step into this position at one of the most complex and challenging times in our Nation's history and that's not an understatement," she said. "We are challenged by increased threats all around the world. Our number one job every day when we get up is combat readiness. There's no doubt about that, and Bruce, you are the person to take the helm right now, at this time, and take 10th Air Force to the next level."

After receiving the unit flag, Miller gave his first speech as the commander of 10th Air Force.

"We [the Air Force] provide three things to the joint fight that are craved by our joint partners and allies, 'Global Vigilance, Global Reach and Global Power.' Two of those reside here in 10th Air Force, we have the power and vigilance tenants."

Tenth Air Force is responsible for all Air Force Reserve fighter, bomber, remotely piloted aircraft, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, special operations, rescue, space, and cyberspace missions with units spread throughout the United States.

Miller continued his speech by reflecting on time he spent in deployed locations, as well as when he previously served in 10th Air Force and the impact the numbered Air Force's Citizen Airmen have in conflicts around the globe including the current engagement with ISIS, showing that the Air Force is "always there."

He concluded his first address as commander with instructions to the Airmen.

"So, commanders... as you go back to your units. Figure out what your 'always there' is, help your Airmen understand what their 'always there' is," Miller said. "Those two words are so important that we've added them to the Reserve Vision. 'Reserve Citizen Airmen, an agile, combat-ready force answering our nation's call...always there!'"



Courtesy photo

Grooming Relationships with Communication and Attentiveness

From Dr. Julie Reese, 944th Fighter Wing director of psychological health

Our lives are continually filled with relationships that are important to us, including intimate, family, friendship, professional, etc. How we groom these relationships is indicative of their success. As Reservists, you have a unique life/work perspective, both Military and Civilian, and at times you may believe that those in your life may not "get it" and to some extent you may be correct. This is why it is imperative to share some of your experiences with those around you so they can fully participate in your life.

One of our biggest challenges in relationships is lack of and/or

poor communication skills. It is impossible to plant a tree and expect it to flourish if we walk away without watering, grooming, and caring for it consistently. Congruent and open communication, including verbal, body language, and affect, are a great way to nurture these important relationships.

Being emotionally and mentally present is also an intentional space that we all must continually strive for. We are all guilty of being on our electronic devices, thinking about something else, or being focused on our work when spending leisure time with family and friends. Let's take the time daily to smell, taste, see, hear, and feel the world around us!



Welcome Home!!

Lt. Col. Chad Burdick, 69th Fighter Squadron, returned home from Kuwait

JASDF pilots graduate Luke's F-35

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

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- Two Japan Air Self-Defense Force pilots "Koku-Jieitai," become the first from their country to graduate the F-35 program here May 20.

The occasion marked the final milestone in a series of firsts made possible by the collective efforts of the JASDF, 944th Fighter Wing, and Lockheed Martin.

"The team worked hard to meticulously build this program from the ground up for this moment," said Col. Kurt Gallegos, 944 FW commander. "I am confident these pilots will take back what they have learned here and effectively stand up their own program making an impact."

The two pilots will take part in establishing Japan's first F-35A squadron enhancing their national defense abilities.

"It is a precious opportunity for me to be part of the first graduating class and I feel very lucky to be involved in the F-35A stand-up program in Japan," said one of the newly graduated JASDF F-35 pilots. "I received a lot of information during the training and learned a lot of things from the U.S. Air Force instructor pilots about how to fly the jet and tactics."

The approximately seven month long course consisted of in-depth classroom academic instruction, simulator training and F-35 orientation before they experienced their first flight. Their training culminated with air-to-air and air-to-ground employment experience.

The graduation was marked by a small ceremony hosted by the 944th Operations Group, Detachment 2.

"Graduating our first two Koku-Jieitai F-35 pilots was a remarkable milestone for Japan, the F-35 program, and the Det. 2 Ninjas," said Lt. Col. Sean Holahan, 944 OG Det. 2 command-

er. "It validated all of the hard work we've put into building this training program, and exercised the entire system from a beddown and sustainment perspective, all the way through academics, aircraft maintenance and flying operations. In the end, our first two Koku-Jieitai pilots graduated with distinction as being the only two 5th Generation fighter pilots in a country of over 126 million people. I'm extremely proud to call them my friends."

The class graduated two weeks ahead of schedule due to reliable aircraft maintenance enabling the instructor pilots to maximize training.

"Lt. Col. Eric "Bodhi" Puels, worked closely with our Lockheed Martin maintenance Ninja leadership to build a schedule that challenged us to fly at a well-above average rate, while allowing down time for aircraft maintenance," said Holahan. "They really set the bar high for the F-35 program."

The 944 FW will train three more classes of JASDF F-35 pilots. The Foreign Military Sales

program also includes training F-35 maintainers with the support of Lockheed Martin.

"I'm just honored that I've been able to be a small part of a world-class operation with strategic impact," Holahan continued. "Over the next year, we will continue to train Koku-Jieitai F-35 pilots, followed by our friends from South Korea."

In addition to the Foreign Military Sales mission led by the 944 OG/Det 2 Ninjas, Luke is scheduled to have six fighter squadrons and 144 F-35s. Over the next several years, Luke will be training FMS pilots from Japan, Israel and South Korea along with partner nations including Australia, Italy, Norway, Turkey, Netherlands, Denmark, and Canada.



June 2017 promotions: Congratulations to the following 944th Fighter Wing promotees

From Airman Basic:

Airman Elizabeth O'Brien, 944 CES

From Airman:

Airman First Class Cameron Collins, 944 CES

Airman First Class Jordan Coomber, 944 CES

Airman First Class Jacob Gonzalez, 924 MXS

Airman First Class Alberto Sanchez, 924 MXS

Airman First Class Bella Torres, 944 CES

From Airman First Class:

Senior Airman Andre Duncan, 924 MXS

Senior Airman Marcus Royal, 414 MXS

Senior Airman David Ruiz, 944 FW Det. 1

From Senior Airman:

Staff Sgt. Daniel Blair, 924 MXS

Staff Sgt. Michelle Busse, 944 LRS

Staff Sgt. Alexis Hausner, 924 MXS

Staff Sgt. John Ramirez, 944 FW Det. 1

From Staff Sergeant:

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Cerillo, 924 MXS

Tech. Sgt. Lyndon Lazarc, 944 FW Det. 1

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Rutherford, 414 MXS

From Technical Sergeant:

Master Sgt. Aracelis Brown, 924 MXS

Master Sgt. James Pumarejo, 924 MXS

Master Sgt. William Weber, 944 FW Det. 1

From Master Sergeant:

Senior Master Sgt. Francis Albee, 414 MXS

Goldfein meets with airline executives



By Staff Sgt. Jannelle McRae, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Courtesy photo

WASHINGTON (AFNS)- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein hosted a National Pilot Sourcing Meeting with airline executives to discuss the national pilot shortage in Alexandria, Virginia, May 18, 2017.

Air Force and sister-service aviation leaders, airline executives, associations and educators identified and discussed opportunities to improve collaboration between airlines and the military to ensure high-quality pilots for the needs of the nation.

RAND, the University of North Dakota, the National Air Carrier Association, Airlines for America, Civil Air Patrol, the Regional Airline Association and the Air Force briefed participants on manning, challenges and opportunities for industry, aviation educators and the military.

“Flying is a national treasure and national investment,” Goldfein said. “A challenge I have as the chief of staff of the Air Force is to ensure we can continue the long term: protect

this nation and protect our critical infrastructure.”

At the end of fiscal year 2016, the Air Force’s total force -- made up of active duty, Reserve and Guard -- was short 1,544 pilots. The Air Force is addressing this shortage through numerous lines of effort; working to increase retention of trained pilots, increase pilot production through the training pipeline and reduce pilot requirements inside the force, to name a few. The airline executive meeting was one of the service’s many efforts to address the shortage.

“This meeting was valuable to bring us all together to discuss the challenges we’re each facing,” said Faye Malarkey Black, the Regional Airline Association president. “Just starting the dialogue between all of the participants in the room was an important step forward.”

“A4A and its members have a longstanding and unwavering support for our nation’s military services and we ex-

press our sincere gratitude to General Goldfein and his senior staff for hosting the meeting,” said Billy Nolen, Airlines for America senior vice president of security, safety and operation. “We look forward to our mutually beneficial partnership as we continue exploring areas of common interest.”

Participants committed to collaborate, beginning with gathering data across industry and the military to build a better understanding of the national pilot supply, enabling a strategic approach to addressing the pilot shortage. The group also agreed on the need to broaden recruiting efforts across both military and industry to increase diversity among the pilot community.

“We want our workforce to reflect the diversity of our customers,” said Steve Dickson, the senior vice president of flight operations for Delta Air Lines. “We need to make sure the opportunities for a flying career are understood by and available to young people of all backgrounds.”

Participants decided to work together to provide more accessible pathways for students to realize their dream of becoming career aviators. In addition to creating new pathways to becoming a pilot, participants also agreed existing pathways should be improved and expanded to take advantage of available technology and safety research to ensure pilot training and qualification are focused on quality performance measures.

In addition, the group agreed to explore improving the effectiveness of the “shared resource” of pilots who fly for both the military and commercial airlines.

“We’re not going to fix the numbers anytime soon, so we have to get after how we use those pilots in both uniforms,” said Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, the Air Force Reserve Command commander.

She noted 80 percent of Reserve pilots were part-time reservists and of those; 96 percent also fly for commercial airlines.

With pilots being a national asset, the Air Force is dedicated to finding long-term solutions by continuing a relationship with commercial and educational partners to address the national pilot supply.

“Today’s aviation enterprise doesn’t adequately meet the needs for national defense and national commerce,” Goldfein said. “This is the beginning of something I think will have big payoffs if we’re disciplined in the way we approach it.”

Reserve leaders testify before House

By Lt. Col. Denise Kerr

WASHINGTON- Senior leaders from the military reserve components testified before the House Appropriations Sub-Committee for Defense on readiness and the President's fiscal year 2018 budget request May 24.

Congresswoman Kay Granger, R-Texas, chairwoman of the HAC-D and Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, D-Indiana, ranking member, led the hearing and listened to the reserve chiefs discuss their budget priorities and operational readiness. The committee questioned the panel on their top issues, pay and benefits disparities, and deployments.

"Your Air Force Reserve operates with 16,000 fewer Airmen, and 220 fewer aircraft than we did in Desert Storm," said Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command. "The stress of our size, the steady state operations tempo and our funding shortfalls keep us challenged but we remain a lethal, combat-ready force, composed of amazing and resilient airmen and families."

Nearly 70,000 Reserve Citizen Airmen support the nation in military and humanitarian operations around the world. Last year, the AFR responded to more than 10,000 Air Expeditionary and volunteer taskings across the U.S. and in 30 foreign countries.

"The Fiscal Year 2018 President's budget request continues our efforts to build readiness and capability by adding 800 positions across our rated, space, cyber and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions," said Miller. "The budget request, with additional Overseas Contingency Operations support, begins to fund weapon system sustainment closer to required levels, ensuring we can produce the exercise, training, and combat sorties needed to sustain the best Air Force in the world."

On May 23, President Donald J. Trump sent Congress a proposed defense budget request

of \$639.1 billion. The Air Force's portion of the FY 18 budget request will help with filling critical gaps, improving lethality and readiness recovery.

"We must continue to leverage our strengths and always partner with the active component to successfully field new weapon systems, as we have with the F-35 and KC-46, and support space, cyber, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions," said Miller, in her written testimony.

Reserve components also receive funding through the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation for weapon systems modernization and recapitalization. In FY 17, \$105 million in NGREA provided F-16 all-weather targeting pods, enabled KC-135 defensive systems, and updated A-10 digital displays and personnel recovery equipment for the Pave Hawk helicopters.

Miller stressed the need for a stable and predictable budget, which will ensure the AFR is a combat-ready operational reserve.

Congressman Steve Womack, R-Arkansas, said he understood that funding can resolve a lot of issues and asked each reserve chief to list their top priorities.

"The two things I think are the most important for the Air Force Reserve are the critical skills manning, particularly our pilot shortage and our need for cyber professionals," said Miller. "On the cyber front, industry is just pulling them – we can attract them and train them,

but we don't always keep them. So your Reserve is the capacity that can keep them in uniform, which is great. The other priority is weapon systems sustainment and that is a vital piece of our readiness."

Miller emphasized, portions of our force are stressed, but Reserve Citizen Airmen are resilient, engaged and honored to serve.



Courtesy photo

UPCOMING EVENTS:

944th FW Airmen & Family Readiness

June 4, 2017 : 1200 - 1300 hrs

July 9, 2017 : 1200 - 1300 hrs

BLENDED RETIREMENT Q & A HOLIDAY FINANCES

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

Air Force Reserve recruiting military training instructors

By Staff Sgt. Heather Heiney, 403rd Wing Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. - Beneath the shadows of deep blue campaign hats, military training instructors march flights of Airmen down the Lackland bomb run during each basic military training graduation. It is the culmination of weeks spent transforming civilians into warriors.

The 433rd Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio offers Reserve Citizen Airmen the chance to experience this moment and they are currently hiring traditional reservists to fill open MTI positions.

The 433rd TRS mission is to recruit, train and maintain a cadre of MTIs who augment Air Education and Training Command. They support the 737th Training Group and seven basic training squadrons in preparing approximately 37,000 enlisted trainees each year for military service. The 433rd TRS is unique to Air Force Reserve Command as it is the only unit of reserve MTIs.

Master Sgt. Carlos Recoder, 433rd TRS MTI recruiting non-commissioned officer in charge, recently visited the 403rd Wing to spread the word about MTI opportunities and visit with the wing's development and training flight to give them advice about what to expect during BMT.

"It's a challenging job and every day is different," he said. "Every day you're adapting."

Recoder also said the job is intensely rewarding because at the end of the day, the trainees became Airmen because of the work that MTI put in.

"This job is really going to be what you make if it," he said. "It's the way you look at life and challenges and why you put on the uniform."

In a letter to potential MTIs, 433rd TRS Commander Lt. Col. Jannette Thode wrote, "Our Reserve MTIs are every bit as extraordinary as the active duty MTIs and the MTI you remember from your days in BMT. Each MTI, active duty and Reserve, is hand-picked for this special duty assignment; an assignment that is likely to be the most rewarding you've ever done in the Air Force. MTIs are crucial in shaping the future combat capability of our Air Force."

Interested applicants must have the following job qualifications:

- Be a staff sergeant promotable to technical sergeant with one year time in grade or a technical sergeant or master sergeant at least four years from his or her high year tenure.
- Have a skill level commensurate with his or her pay grade
- Have 42 months of retainability as of their report no later than date
- Meet the minimum physical profile
- Project an outstanding professional military image
- Have excellent records with overall ratings of 5 or exceeds some, but not all ex-



Courtesy photo

pectations/ exceeds most, if not all expectations (New Form) on the last three enlisted performance reports. Applicants must submit their last three EPRs or a Letter of Evaluation (Air Force Form 77) from supervisors in lieu of EPRs.

- Have no record of disciplinary action or financial irresponsibility in their Air Force career
- Have a current physical training composite score 80 or better in the past 12 months and no PT failures in the past 12 months

Candidates who are selected for MTI duty will then attend a seven-and-a-half week course and have 90 days after graduation to complete the training qualifications and certification before they begin to lead their own flights of trainees.

Members interested in applying for MTI duty should request an application from the 433rd TRS recruiting team at 433trs.recruiting@us.af.mil or 210-671-2410.

By employing the state-of-the-art, conventional and advanced materials and processes in its work, the APTO team leads the way in ensuring Air Force supremacy today and for generations to come.

National Police Week honors defenders

By Airman 1st Class Caleb Worpel, 56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Courtesy photo

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- Luke Thunderbolts, local police departments and members of the community came together to recognize the service and sacrifice of law enforcement personnel May 15 through 19 during National Police Week.

The tradition dates back 55 years and was started by President John F. Kennedy who signed a proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which that date falls as Police Week.

“A lot of people do not understand what police officers and their departments do,” said Master Sgt. Christopher Seale, 56th Security Forces Squadron mid-shift flight chief. “Police Week is important to Luke as well as local police departments to show the capabilities we possess.”

According to Seale, Police Week is a time to remember those who have fallen while defending others. It is also an opportunity to learn what security forces members and police officers

do on a routine basis.

Throughout the week, the 56th SFS hosted various events. Monday consisted of a police awareness day held in the commissary parking lot featuring the display of modern weapons used in ground combat, a face-painting tent and 56th SFS military working dogs. Tuesday was a police day for kids held with a safety discussion and MWD demonstration. Wednesday morning featured a 24-hour remembrance run in the air park where 56th SFS members took turns running in 30-minute intervals for fallen comrades.

On Thursday, a retreat ceremony was held to remember 56th SFS Airmen who lost their lives when Cambodian, Khmer Rouge communist forces seized the S.S. Mayaguez in international waters sparking an American military response. The incident took place May 12 to 15, 1975. Twenty-three men assigned to the 56th Special Operations Wing lost their lives. The S.S. Mayaguez retreat ceremony and 21-gun salute took place at the Wing flagpole.

“It is important to remember the stories of these Airmen and others who have died in action,” said Major Scott Haselden, 56th SFS Commander. “We have seen the risks associated with our line of work close hand, but this is nothing new to defenders.”

Airmen and local law enforcement personnel came together Friday for a golf tournament at the Falcon Dunes Golf Course, and a four person scramble and 50/50 raffle. Twenty percent of all proceeds from the event will be donated to the Air Force Assistance Fund and the remaining portion to the Arizona 100 Club, a local organization which provides assistance to statewide public safety agencies, officers, firefighters, paramedics and their families.

“We have something for everybody during Police Week,” said Tech. Sgt. Luis Carrasco, 56th SFS flight sergeant. “All of the events help showcase what we do as security forces members and police officers. Every day is about honoring fellow defenders while educating the public and building relationships with local law enforcement personnel.”

Police officer representatives from the city of Glendale, Surprise and Mesa attended and participated in the assorted activities. Kim Dominguez, Glendale Police Department recruitment unit sergeant, reflected on the significance of Police Week.

“We value the partnership between the local police departments and Luke,” said Dominguez. “The importance of Police Week is to recognize that police officers hold the line every single day. We are the ones who protect our society and communities.”



Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Hunter, 944th Civil Engineering Squadron Explosives, Ordnance, Disposal superintendent, talks with members of the Phoenix Rotary club May 19 during a tour at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photo taken by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)