

SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

August 2017 Newsletter



Knowing your unique family system

AF announces Enlisted Professional Military Education redesign

924 MXS gets new commander

Key Spouses create network of support

Air Force senior leaders unveil new priorities

944 FW KEY LEADERS

Commander

Col. Bryan E. Cook

Vice Commander

Col. Robert R. Tofil

Command Chief

CMSgt. Jeremy N. Malcom

944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot

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SnapShot Editorial Staff

Commander

Col. Bryan E. Cook

Chief, Public Affairs

Maj. Elizabeth Magnusson

Operations Chief, PA

Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

Photojournalists, PA

Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson

Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz

Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder

Staff Sgt. Lauren Snyder



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Bringing the Heat

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Cover Photo: Airmen from the 924th Maintenance Squadron stand at attention July 9 during a change of command ceremony held on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

Above: Lt. Col. Brandon Kelly, 47th Fighter Squadron pilot, conducts a pre-flight inspection on a A-10 Thunderbolt II on the flightline at Naval Air Station Key West, Florida during the 924th Fighter Group's annual training, July 17. The pilots took this opportunity to teach eight student pilots how to fly in and out of new airspace and firing at a new target range. (U.S. Air Force photo by Technical Sgt. Courtney Richardson)

Right: One of 10 A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from the 47th Fighter Squadron conduct training July 17 at Naval Air Station Key West, Fla. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson)



Developing Air Force leaders

By Col. Bryan Cook, 944th Fighter Wing commander



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

Can you believe summer is almost over? The kids are either in school or about to return to school, and it's the August UTA! That leaves us four days until the much anticipated Unit Evaluation Inspection (UEI) and our chance to show Air Force Reserve Command how well we execute the mission within the 944th Fighter Wing. I hope this UTA finds everyone both excited and ready

to take on our next challenge.

Last month I reiterated the Wing priorities and focus efforts. Our priorities are; readiness, developing Airman, and improving our Total Force Enterprise. Our focus efforts include celebrating our heritage, our families, and being leaders in everything we do. I truly believe if we achieve our priorities while keeping our focus efforts at the forefront of our minds the 944 FW will be ready for the fight, the mission, and taking care of

our Airmen at all times. I am extremely proud of the sacrifice that each one of you make every day serving our Nation.

I wanted to take a moment and talk about developing Airmen. Each and every one of us has a tremendous potential to achieve any and all goals we set in our lives. Be it serving in our Air Force, working at your civilian job, or family objectives and achievements. Many of

these are achievable through hard-work, persistence and many times, by having the right experience. This is where developing our Airmen comes into play.

The Air Force and AF Reserve offer numerous opportunities to further your education, gain experience in different career fields or taking the next step in your organization as a leader. Our job as commanders, flight chiefs, and supervisors is to remove the obstacles and lead everyone onto the path to success. Whether it is taking on new responsibilities, attending professional military education, or a technical school that will further your abilities. We are here to help you achieve your goals in life.

Developing Airmen is not just about going to school in-residence. It is about getting our officer performance reports or enlisted performance reports complete on time, it is about recognizing Airmen that are performing above the standard, and it is about Reserve Officer Development Plans or Reserve Enlisted Development Plans getting pushed forward stating your

goals and desires. At the same time, we need to mentor our Airmen, both up and down the chain in how to be great. Not just good Airmen, but great Airmen. And that mentorship isn't just from the top down. It is about listening, about taking inputs from everyone, and about valuing each and every Airmen that has raised their right hand to serve.

This weekend, please take a moment and thank someone for their service, and ask them about what it is they want to achieve, where do they want to go, what are their goals? Then, provide them some feedback on how to get there. Give them some lessons that you have learned from your experience to help them take that next step, and educate them on our mission and priorities. We have a Wing full of tremendous people from varying back-grounds and experience. Get to know them, and pass on your experience and guidance as we continue to help develop the next Air Force leaders. Thank you for all you do. Keep "Bringing the Heat!"

Feels good to be back!

By Chief Master Sgt. Jeremy Malcom 944th Fighter Wing command chief

First off, let me say thank you to Col. Cook for giving me the opportunity to serve the men and women of the 944th Fighter Wing as your new Command Chief. I am honored to represent the enlisted force of this Wing and look forward to doing my part in the advancement of their careers.

I have been part of this Wing for more than 13 years, serving here at Luke and Davis Monthan. My journey into the Air Force Reserves started right here at the 944 FW more than 20 years ago. I left active duty not knowing what Palace Chase even meant, let alone knowing what the Reserves were about. I quickly found out how close a family the 944th was and could not believe how welcoming they were. It is because of this family that I am still serving today.

I am a very Mission Focused leader. Being a Traditional Reservist for the past 20 years has made me appreciate the time I have to train and learn my job during UTA's and Annual Tour each year. I will work tirelessly to alleviate any distractions that keep you from getting that valued training. We must ensure that our Airmen are ready to do their jobs when called upon.

Another area I will focus on is bringing this Wing closer together. Being spread out over three different states is definitely challenging but not impossible. I want everyone under the banner of the 944 FW to be proud of who we are and what we do.

Thank you all for such a warm welcome so far and I look forward to meeting everyone. Have a great UTA!



Wing Quarterly Award Winners

Congratulations to our Wing Quarterly Award Winners for the second quarter!

Airman of the Quarter:

Senior Airman Matthew Foy,
414th Maintenance Squadron

Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter:

Staff Sgt. Alexandra Rambaran,
924th Operations Flight

Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter:

Master Sergeant Joseph Gordo,
944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Company Grade Officer of the Quarter:

Capt. Brigette Thomas,
944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Field Grade Officer of the Quarter:

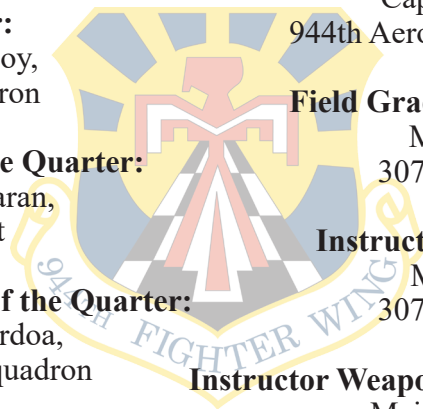
Maj. Jason Gentry,
307th Fighter Squadron

Instructor Pilot of the Quarter:

Maj. Robert Rock,
307th Fighter Squadron

Instructor Weapons Safety Officer of the Quarter:

Major Regginal Ramsey,
307th Fighter Group



944 FW Critical Information List (CIL) – 5/2017 – PROTECT our CIL!

- Unclassified U.S. Government Accounts (user IDs, passwords, etc.)
- Access/ID Cards/Badges (CAC, RAB, etc.)
- Continuity Binders/Operating Procedures/Operations Checklists
- Personnel Rosters (Recall, Organization, Social, Access, etc.)
- Readiness/Status/Limitations/Deficiencies/Shortfalls/Capabilities/Vulnerabilities/Securities of Assets (people, aircraft, equipment, facilities, weapons, munitions, etc.)
- Unclassified information indicating or hinting at the location, dates, size, or other specifics of a deployment or mobilization
- Flying Schedules/Specific Mission Data
- Exercise Documents (Special Instructions [SPINS], plans, schedules, etc.)
- Specifics of Sensitive Operations or Activities (plans, codenames, dates, times, locations, etc.)
- Distinguished Visitor (DV)/VIP Itineraries
- Detailed Maps or Illustrations of Facilities
- Architectures and Configuration of IT/Communications/Utilities (electric/gas/water/fuel)
- Emergency Action and Preparedness capabilities, control/containment procedures, reaction times to crisis situations, AT/WMD defense, current defensive status (INFOCON/FPCON/THREATCON)



THINK OPSEC

Welcome Home!!

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Taylor, 944th Fighter Wing, returned home from Southwest Asia
Senior Airman Ishbel GonzalezAlvez, 924th Maintenance Squadron, returned home from Southwest Asia

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

From Airman Basic:

Airman Paige Green, 924 MXS
Airman Alberto Rodriguez, 924 MXS

From Airman:

Airman First Class Daniel De Sart, 944 LRS
Airman First Class James Kaznowski, 414 MXS

From Airman First Class:

Senior Airman Alexia Davis, 924 MXS
Senior Airman Rachael Helton, 944 ASTS
Senior Airman Joshua Wilder, 414 MXS
Senior Airman Dante Williams, 924 MXS

From Senior Airman:

Staff Sgt. Jessica Armenta, 944 FSS
Staff Sgt. Stephen Beeson, 944 CES
Staff Sgt. Maresa Bridges, 414 MXS
Staff Sgt. Nicholas Burns, 944 CES
Staff Sgt. Eric De Leon, 944 FSS
Staff Sgt. Anthony Madrid, 944 LRS
Staff Sgt. Michael Munguia, 944 CES
Staff Sgt. Richard Rigglesman, 944 ASTS
Staff Sgt. Cody Timmons, 944 CES
Staff Sgt. Ashlynd Vaughn, 944 ASTS
Staff Sgt. Chasidy Ward, 414 MXS
Staff Sgt. Marquise Wiggins, 944 CES

From Staff Sergeant:

Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Aguilar, 944 ASTS
Tech. Sgt. Vanessa Aguilar, 924 MXS
Tech. Sgt. Anthony Alvarez, 944 MXS
Tech. Sgt. Brendan Beeler, 944 MXS
Tech. Sgt. William Byrd, 944 CES
Tech. Sgt. Charles Cerdana, 944 MXS
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Fusaro, 944 MXS
Tech. Sgt. Wade Heratus, 924 MXS
Tech. Sgt. Vinh Tran, 924 MXS

From Technical Sergeant:

Master Sgt. Todd Meagher, 944 CES
Master Sgt. Tina Simmons, 944 FSS
Master Sgt. Thomas Sperever, 944 CES

From Senior Master Sergeant:

Chief Master Sgt. Doran Smith, 944 CES

Warrior of the Month



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder

Tech. Sgt. Adrienne Gamble, 944th Fighter Wing

Time in Service: Six years

Time with the 944th Fighter Wing: Six years

Civilian Job: Electronic Health Record and Practice Manager

Hometown: Redding, California

Hobbies: Hiking, softball, sporting events

Home-life: Three children, Deandra – 23; Daniel 18; Ashley 15

Commander's comments: Tech. Sgt. Adrienne Gamble was an Aviano Air Base annual tour rockstar. Cradle to grave orders execution. Completed 50 AT orders; ensured all pre-certifications done in advance with zero pay delays.

Gamble is a foreword thinker. One hundred percent of Defense Travel System authorizations and vouchers completed within seven days of arrival enabling all to focus on mission.

She is an exceptional trainer. Dedicated time and focus to upgrade training of three 3A personnel. One hundred percent of five and seven level upgrade tasks complete; ahead of training schedule.

Why did you join the Air Force Reserves? To serve my country.

How does your job support the mission of the 944th Fighter Wing? Provide all administration support for the Wing commander, vice-commander, command chief, and Mission Support Group commander.

If you were on a deserted island.....? I would invite family and friends and get a nice tan.

Insomnia

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

As Airmen, you are expected to function at a high level with significant amount of responsibilities, and you meet the challenge with vigor and commitment! With these responsibilities, comes a high level of stressors that is often coupled with varied work schedules and unique shifts, leading you to forget what “being really, truly rested” feels like. According to the National Sleep Foundation, adults need between 7-9 hours of restful sleep every night to fully function at a high level mentally and physically. Anything less, can increase anxiety, depression, family conflict, anger is-

suess, loss of motivation, work problems, and worrisome thinking. This means that a healthy night's sleep MUST be a priority! <https://sleepfoundation.org>

Sleep Hygiene is a valuable part of achieving a restful night's sleep, including shutting down electronics at bedtime, avoiding caffeine 6 hours prior to bedtime, avoiding alcohol 4 hours prior to bedtime as sleep becomes fragmented, enjoy a bedroom environment that is moderately cooler temperatures, quiet, dark, and comfortable, and avoid a heavy meal at bedtime. Exercising 40 minutes per day, late in the afternoon or early evening and at least 2 hours prior to bedtime, will also assist with a restful night's sleep. At times, turning the mind off is the most difficult

part of acquiring a healthy night's sleep; therefore, writing a list of your thoughts, setting it aside, and picking it back up in the morning, is a great way to quiet the mind. As we focus on being “Mission Ready” remember that being your absolute best is well rested and focused, and this will assist you in accomplishing amazing successes!



Back-to-School Safety Reminders

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 whether your student is walking, biking, skateboarding or riding the bus, you will want to go over these safety tips from the Glendale Police and Transportation departments:

For students walking, biking, or skateboarding to and from school:

- Have a primary and safe secondary route to and from school (for an approved list of safe routes, check your school district website)
- The route should always be in view of others in the neighborhood.
- Walk or ride in groups.
- Wear reflective or bright colored clothing to increase your visibility.
- Have the appropriate bicycle or skateboard safety equipment; reflectors and lights (front and rear), helmets, knee and elbow pads.
- Pay attention to your surroundings; look both ways before crossing streets.

-Walk your bike across intersections.

-If a stranger, on foot or in a vehicle, approaches you, don't stop or talk to them. Go as fast and safely as you can to a safe place and tell an adult.

For students riding school buses:

-While at the bus stop be patient and well behaved as you wait for the bus, and remain on the sidewalk.

-When the bus arrives remain in a straight single file line.

-Before entering or exiting the bus wait for the signal from the bus driver.

-Most importantly, listen and follow instructions from the bus driver.

For adults driving in school zones:

-Be vigilant and observant, especially in school zones, near bus stops and while backing out of driveways.

-Use all mirrors and visible angles when traveling through a school zone.

-Obey traffic lights and street signs (take extra time at intersections near schools to make sure they are clear).

-Avoid distractions like texting, phone conversations or loud music

-Always be prepared to stop.

AF announces Enlisted Professional Military Education redesign

By Senior Master Sgt. Katherine Grabham, Office of the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

WASHINGTON- Air Force officials announced major changes to the enlisted professional military education program today via an initiative called Enlisted Professional Military Education for the 21st Century, or “EPME 21.”

A major initiative of EPME 21 is that time in service will no longer dictate an Airman’s EPME enrollment -- Airmen will only be required to complete distance learning courses as a prerequisite to their resident attendance. This initiative is now in effect.

Also, the Air Force will transition to 100 percent resident EPME, allowing all active duty, Guard and reserve Airmen an opportunity to attend Airman Leadership School, the NCO and senior NCO academies prior to promotion.

The changes are a result of the 2017 EPME triennial review, said Chief Master Sgt. JoAnne Bass, the Chief of Air Force Enlisted Developmental Education at the Pentagon.

“The committee determined changes were needed to the existing EPME structure in order to align EPME with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff’s policy requiring rank-based educational opportunities,” Bass said. “This also enables all Airmen an opportunity to attend resident PME in order to truly leverage the educational experiences gained from instructors and peers.”

One of Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright’s three priorities is leadership – developing Airmen who are ready to lead. One of his objectives in this is to cement EPME changes and infuse agility into Air University processes to improve the ability to provide timely, updated content delivery.

“If this sounds familiar, it should. It was the staple of our EPME for almost 43 years before a recent change to a time in service model,” Wright said. “While this model was effective for some, we quickly found it didn’t meet the needs of all our Airmen, causing many NCOs to lose the opportunity to attend in residence at all.”

Rather than requiring Airmen to complete EPME at set times based on how long they’ve been in the Air Force, the new model transitions to a rank-based continuum of

learning.

Removing the TIS determination “just makes sense,” Wright said. “We must ensure timely, focused and operationally relevant training and educational solutions at all levels. Providing Airmen with the appropriate PME at the right times in their career is a must. If we deliver it too soon, it’s not effective for where they are in their careers. If we deliver it too late, it’s not effective at all.”

Wright notes that the model provides Airmen greater flexibility and time, allowing them to focus their energies on the mission.

“Commanders, superintendents, first sergeants and supervisors remain central to inspiring a culture of innovation, agility and excellence, while promoting a continuum of learning that spans an Airman’s career,” he said.

Airmen will not be notified from the Air Force Personnel Center or Air University on when to enroll themselves into distance learning, but must manually enroll themselves.

“This new EPME structure allows Airmen to decide the best timeframe to complete their distance learning,” Bass said. “They will have to complete the distance learning prior to being scheduled for the resident portion, but each Airman now has more flexibility as to when the right time is for them.”

Bass explained that distance learning provides students with basic competency development and the resident courses allow students to apply what they learned.

“It is necessary to complete both the distance learning and the resident courses to achieve development of the required competencies at the appropriate proficiency levels,” she said. “We expect staff and master sergeants to complete their respective distance learning so when they become technical and senior master sergeants, they are immediately eligible for resident attendance.”

Resident EPME is a promotion requirement -- Airman Leadership School, NCO Academy, SNCO Academy and the Chief Leadership Course are required for promotion to E-5, E-7 and E-9, respectively.

Airmen who have previously completed NCO or

SNCO distance learning courses under the previous policy and have not attended resident EPME, will still receive EPME credit and will not be required to attend the resident portion. Additionally, those currently enrolled in NCO or SNCO distance learning courses may still complete the course and receive credit upon completion. Or, they may withdraw with no adverse actions and reenroll at a later date, prior to attending resident EPME.

“This change clearly sends a signal that our senior leaders value deliberately developing our enlisted corps,” said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services. “This is a positive move in the right direction, as we continue to develop the force and support our Airmen.”

Additionally, EPME 21 will institute a new requirement called Professional Development Unit that will capture diverse education, training and life experiences. This will allow the AF to capture those experiences. Each Airman will complete 24 PDUs per year with one PDU equaling approximately one hour of learning, which equates to three days of development in the span of a year.

Many activities that enlisted Airmen already do will count towards the 24 PDUs. Professional Enhancement Seminars, Senior Enlisted Joint PME, college classes and even earning professional certifications accumulate points. Many Airmen have already attended programs like Profession of Arms Center of Excellence or other major command courses. Additionally, Airmen actively plan and participate in Air Force, Joint and coalition exercises, gaining experience in warfighting activities ranging from aircraft generation, command and control and force protection. And finally, Airmen deploy and lead both small and large teams across our Combatant Command Areas of Responsibility. These all count.

For more information, visit myPers. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force Retirees Services website.

Amundson new 944 OG commander

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

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- Airmen, family, friends, and distinguished guests gathered in Hangar 999 for the 944th Operations Group change of command ceremony held here July 14.

Col. Bryan Cook, 944th Fighter Wing commander, was the presiding officer during the ceremony where Col. Robert Tofil relinquished command to Col. Korey Amundson.

"It took 69 seconds to decide [Amundson] would be the man for the position," said Cook. "He cares for everybody and takes care of everything."

Amundson was the 944 OG deputy commander before assuming his new position and has been at Luke AFB for over 15 years in many different roles.

"Fifteen years here has given me a lot of perspective on how things work here at Luke," said Amundson. "We do a real good job of creating fighter pilots and we're always going to accomplish the mission, it's just a matter of how it's going to get done."

A command pilot with more than 2,700 flying hours and 100 combat hours, Amundson is responsible for the U.S.



Air Force Reserve's most experienced F-16 group, an F-35 Foreign Military Sales Detachment, and an F-35 formal training unit at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

"The Air Force is smaller now than ever," said Tofil. "We have 30 percent fewer people and 37 percent fewer aircraft than what we had in the first Gulf War. I challenge all of us to not give up and continue to work hard despite these challenges."

Tofil has filled many positions here in the span of 22 years with the 944th and will continue to support the wing as the new wing vice commander.

The 944th Operations Group is tasked to support fully qualified, combat ready, Air Force Reserve Command F-16 and F-35 instructor pilots. These pilots support all aspects of the 56th Fighter Wing formal course training which produces 90 percent of all USAF F-16/F-35 pilots, as well as supporting the contingency deployment needs of the Combat Air Forces.

YOU CAN BE A PACER!

Most of the time... pacing someone for a lap or two at a slow to moderate pace is all that's needed.

Meet fellow Airmen in the wing. (Everyone will love & appreciate you)

Feel great knowing that you helped improved someone's run time; or were the difference between a PT pass or failure of a fellow Airmen.

Improve your own fitness. (With practice, running sucks less).



For mere PT mortals (most of us), running sucks - most days of the year, most minutes of every hour! However, we are Airman, we have volunteered to answer our nation's call, and the Fitness Test is a mandatory requirement.

Make A Difference!

Leave No Airman Behind

For info contact TSgt Vandecruze (480)459-7307 text/call
Ralph.vandecruze@us.af.mil / rvandecruze@gmail.com

924 MXS gets new commander

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

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- The 924th Maintenance Squadron stood at attention July 9 during a change of command ceremony held on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Lt. Col. Collin Shelton relinquished command to Maj. Bobby Cheek who took over as the new 924 MXS commander. Shelton's new position and duty title will be the 924th Fighter Group deputy commander.

Cheek has been with the 924th since May 2015 as the operations officer.



Over 120 Airmen, family members, and guests attended the ceremony.

Wheels up in Tucson, wheels down in Key West

Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST, FLA.-

Reserve Citizen Airmen of the 924th Fighter Group rolled up their sleeves and embraced the humidity to complete their annual training here July 18 in the tropical environment of Boca Chica Key, Florida.

The unit brought along 10 A-10 Thunderbolt II's, supported by two KC-135 Stratotankers, and about 190 personnel including flying students.

"We chose this destination based on flying training because that's our mission," said Lt. Col. Brian Cusson, 47th Fighter Squadron, "Termites," commander. "We are using this time to make sure our instructor pilots remain razor sharp and practice things they rarely do."

Alongside the almost 35 instructor pilots, came eight student pilots who are in their last phase of training.

"There is a lot of value added to the students because they get to learn how to deploy, conduct mission planning, and how to get in and out of new airspaces," said Cusson. "They are also going out to new target ranges in a new airspace they haven't seen before."

While the "Termite" mission is the same, the location is drastically different from what

the team is used to.

"The terrain is 180 degrees different from the desert of Tucson," said Cusson. "In Tucson we have dry weather with access to great ranges in the desert environment. Here we have to deal with things that we normally don't have to worry about like flying off of an island, working through thunderstorms daily, and flying over water."

The change of scenery doesn't just affect the pilots, the maintainers have to make adjustments as well.

"Operating in a humid environment coming from a [dry one] is a challenge," said Major Bobby Cheek, 924th Maintenance Squadron commander. "The change in environmental factors afford the Airmen with different troubleshooting learning opportunities."

Cheek went on to explain that while they are adjusting to the climate change, this location is still a benefit for his team.

"Anytime you're exposed to different variables and you have to troubleshoot different problems, it's only creating a better maintainer," said Cheek. "Our training goal here is to practice and demonstrate a movement as if we were activated and mobilized for a contingency operation, if we are ever called upon."



While the unit's primary focus is the training mission, both commanders also recognize that team building is just as important.

"As a commander [we] are responsible for unit morale," said Cusson. "One of my objectives is for my team to mingle with our neighbors."

At home station the Airmen are separated geographically.

"We are all in the same location here so I want the operations people to walk around and meet the maintainers, see what they do, and learn something," said Cusson. "I want them to get to know their family."

BRINGING THE HEAT

944 FIGHTER WING

“Outlaws” embracing the In-laws

Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Naval Air Station Key West, Fla.- The 924th Fighter Group works on unit camaraderie while launching A-10 Thunderbolt II's here July 18.

The 924th is recognized for their footprint on the Total Force Integration initiative.

“We have traditional reservist, air reserve technicians and active-duty Airmen all integrated to complete the mission,” said Major Bobby Cheek, 924th Maintenance Squadron commander.

During this annual tour the unit has about 50 traditional reservist, 40 air reserve technicians, and 30 active-duty Airmen in their total force package.

“The goal of true TFI is to not know who’s who, that’s the only way it can work,” said Cheek.

The 924th aircraft maintenance superintendent, Chief Master Sgt. Jamie Cornelia, who spent 10 years on active-duty and 17 years as an ART, appreciates having active-duty Airmen assigned to their unit.

“We have active-duty filling position in every shop across the board in our maintenance unit, and without them we could not do the mission,” said Cornelia. “We call them our in-laws.”

Cornelia explains that with low manning and the amount of time it takes to hire a full-time ART in the unit it becomes very difficult for his team to do their jobs.

“I’d take more if they give them to me,” said Cornelia.

When an Airman is newly assigned to the unit, regardless of their affiliation, Cornelia has one task he asks of each of them.

“If you can tell the difference

between a traditional reservist, ART and active-duty person, I want to know about it because we should never be able to tell,” said Cornelia, “In fact no one should know the flavor of our unit.”

Cheek and Cornelia explain that getting off-station and being able to bring all of the Airmen or at least a large portion of them, brings them closer because they really only have each other in a new location.

“Team building is always good and temporary duties are great for building morale and creating a unit identity,” said Cheek. “I mean we are in Key West, what better place.”

Key Spouses create network of support

Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- For many Airmen, having a good wingman, or being one, is an essential part of Air Force culture.

Several Luke spouses have taken the wingman concept to heart and recently completed initial training for the Key Spouse Program, enabling them to serve as wingman to their fellow spouses.

“The Key Spouse Program empowers spouses and creates resilient families through effective communication between squadron leaders and unit families,” said Jessica Maldonado, 944th Fighter Wing Airman and Family Readiness Center director. “Key spouses play an important role in establishing and maintaining contact with unit families with special emphasis on newly arrived spouses or spouses of deployed Airmen.”

The journey to becoming a key spouse starts with the unit commander, who interviews potential candidates, before they can start training at the A&FRC.

“We provide initial training and continuing education for key spouses and key spouse mentors on a quarterly basis,” Maldonado said. “The initial training provides the tools, information and resources needed to effectively serve as a unit representative.”

The training proved to be invaluable to Luke’s newest key spouses.

“It was great to come together as a team and learn about all the opportunities we have for support and assistance to help care for our families,” said Chris Kelly, 944 FW key spouse and spouse of Master Sgt. Matthew Kelly, 944th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant.

Key spouses provide support to unit families by creating a link between them and unit leaders.

“Our key spouses work closely with unit leaders to bring important information to the families and voice their concerns to the unit leaders,” said Kelly.

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Air Force senior leaders unveil new priorities

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON- In a recent letter to the Total Force, Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright released their new priorities and addressed issues Airmen face day to day.

“For more than 70 years, our fellow Americans have asked you to be the sentinels of air and space for the nation, and you continue to deliver unmatched air and space power every day,” the leaders said. “Looking forward, our obligations to the country will never change. We will always lead and support the joint force in defending our homeland, owning the high ground and projecting power with our allies.”

As the demands for Air Force capabilities continue to increase, the senior leaders established the following priorities to ensure the

Air Force is always able to answer the nation’s call and win:

Restore readiness ... to win any fight, any time.

Cost-effectively modernize ... to increase the lethality of the force.

Drive innovation ... to secure our future.

Develop exceptional leaders ... to lead the world’s most powerful teams.

Strengthen our alliances ... because we are stronger together.

“Everything we do as a team should advance or augment these priorities,” they continued. “Each and every one of our Total Force Airmen has a role to play in making us successful in this endeavor. We will prevail through the power of our people. You and your families represent the absolute best of our nation. We are humbled to lead our great Air Force and honored to serve with you every day.”



Key Spouses continued from page 9...

Some of the helpful information provided to families are the names of helping agencies and how to contact them.

“We provide information to our key spouses on resources available to them both on and off base,” said Maldonado. “Since the goal of the Key Spouse Program is to increase the flow of information between unit leaders and unit families, knowing our resources is vital to the success of the program.”

Those helping agencies include the A&FRC, Chaplain Services, Family Advocacy, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and Military One Source.

Since the Key Spouse Program is a commander’s program, a senior non-commissioned officer such as a first sergeant or a superintendent may serve as a point-of-contact for key spouses and create a link to the commander.

In addition to the unit-appointed senior NCO, key spouses can turn to key spouse mentors for additional support.

“Key Spouse Mentors serve as experienced role models providing leadership, encouragement and a voice of reason to our key spouses,” said Maldonado. “To be a key spouse mentor, volunteers should be knowledgeable about the military lifestyle and a reliable member of our team.”

While key spouse mentors support key spouses, they do not supervise them, she added.

Family members interested in becoming a key spouse can call their unit commander or the A&FRC at 623-856-8324.



Lt. Col. Sean Holahan, 944th Operations Group Detachment 2 commander, leads the formation in saluting the new 944 OG commander July 14 during a change of command ceremony at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)