

SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing
Luke Air Force Base, Arizona
December 2017 Newsletter



Apple, building efficiency within the “Termites”

Veterans in Blue, John Marusiak Jr.

TRICARE Reserve Select policy change

47th Fighter Squadron gets new commander

Air Force resolves Yellow Ribbon travel funding issue

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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www.944fw.afrc.af.mil

Bringing the Heat

December 2017

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Cover Photo: Senior Airman Amanda Gonzales, 924th Fighter Group crew chief, checks her technical orders before beginning maintenance on an A-10 Thunderbolt II in a hangar on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Ariz., November 5, 2017. Gonzales has been chosen to beta test an Integrated Maintenance Database System application at the Apple Design Center in California. This app will allow the iPad to become a mobile workstation instead of an e-reader. *(photo by Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson)*

Psychological Health Program

AFR Directors of Psychological Health will utilize their unique education, knowledge, training, and expertise to increase individual, unit, and Wing readiness and help Airmen and their families maximize psychological health, resilience, and wellbeing so they can prevail over the unique challenges of the mission and life in and out of the military.

- Consultation: DPHs advise Wing leaders and act as a subject matter expert for all issues related to psychological health
- Non-clinical Services: Needs assessments, referrals, consultations, education, training, etc. for Reservists, spouses, and children
- Clinical Services: DPHs provide limited clinical services consisting of an initial evaluation and short term

problem solving for beneficiaries eligible to receive services in the Military Healthcare System (Title 10), their spouses, and children

- Education: Developing relationships/partnerships with local and regional community agencies to offer support and resources to Reservists and their families
- Training: Suicide Prevention, Resiliency, and Clinical Trainings



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Acceptance is more than just accepting each other



By Col. Bryan Cook,
944th Fighter Wing commander

Happy Holidays! If you are anything like me, those words bring up two very different thoughts. My first thought; I can't believe the year is almost over, cookies, lights, snowmen and presents. Then the second thought; total panic as I have not done any holiday shopping. Let the games begin!

There are many thoughts and feelings that are brought on by the holidays. Thoughts like happiness, joy, surprise, thoughtfulness, giving, nostalgia, and of course panic. The holiday season is

for many of us a time that we look forward to and rejoice in as we celebrate family and the religion of our choice. But others, it is a challenging time.

This weekend, as we prepare for our annual Wing holiday party, we are going to start off with our Wingman Day presentation. Although it is mandatory for us to get together to discuss the topics, it could not come at a better time. Wingman day is not something we think about once a year, it is every day in my Air Force.

This year the topic of focus is "acceptance," but it is not the acceptance that you might think. We always talk about accepting everyone in our Air Force for who they are and what they bring to the fight. We talk a lot about accepting different religions, different philosophies, and different cultural backgrounds and norms. This is what is expected in our Air Force.

The acceptance we are going to talk about is accepting the fact that sometimes negative things happen to us in

our lives both personally and professionally. Accepting that we cannot always control the things that impact us negatively. What we can accept is how we choose to handle the impact and how we choose to get help to get us through the rough patches.

That is what our Air Force does; we help our Airmen when they need it. There are a number of resources we have within the Air Force to help us out, and we are going to hear about many of them this weekend. The one resource I do not want us to ever forget about is each other. We talk about Family as one of our pillars within the wing, and it could not be more important than during this time of year. As many of us are having joyous times with our family and friends, some are struggling with other issues and issues of being alone.

Part of being a good wingman is getting to know your fellow Airmen and getting to know them well enough to notice these changes and to be able to step in when someone needs help. We are a very small family in the 944 Fight-

er Wing, and we take care of each other, that is what we do in my Air Force. Every Airman is a valuable resource and important to our mission and vision, part of our charter is to take care of each other along the way.

Please, this holiday season, reach out to each other, get to know someone you work with a little better and ensure we are all being great Wingmen for each other. I look at each and every Airman in the 944 FW as part of my family. I expect everyone to be treated with dignity, respect, and with empathy, which means we have to look out for each other.

I appreciate all that you do, and I appreciate your service to this great Nation. I hope everyone has a great holiday season filled with family and new friends, and that you do not over stuff yourself during the feasts. I'm extremely proud of what we do here at the 944 FW, help me spread the word, take care of each other and keep "Bringing the Heat!" Merry Christmas!

It's the most wonderful time of the year

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

I love this time of year! There is nothing better than spending time with family and friends over the holidays. We get to catch up with those that we have not seen or talked to in some time and share stories over a meal or a few drinks. It keeps me grounded and thankful for what is important in life.

We have had a great year here at the 944th. We have welcomed many new people to our family, and have had to say goodbye to some who have had a great impact on our unit. Several of our folks have deployed this year, with many more leaving here soon. We have gone through several inspections, TDY's and Annual Tours. With all these challenges and changes going on, I applaud you for keeping mission focused and staying safe.

I would encourage each of you to take this time to appreciate those people who help and support you in your life and career. Be sure to reach out to those families that have someone deployed or are preparing for deployment. This is not an easy time of year to say goodbye to those you love, so let's make sure our 944th family is taken care of.

I am so proud to serve as your Command Chief. Tracey and I wish you and your families the happiest of holidays and safe travels wherever you might be headed this season.



Warrior of the Month



(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz)

Tech. Sgt. Shane Holland, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Duty Title: Flight Chief, Delta Flight

Time in Service: 8 years

Time with the 944th Fighter Wing: 2 years

Civilian Job: Nursing Student

Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona

Hobbies: Reading fiction, favorite book: Fahrenheit 451

Home-life: Wife of 8 years works for Scottsdale PD as a 911 Dispatcher and Telephone Operator; I take care of my 3 year old son full-time while being a full-time student.

Why did you join the Air Force Reserves? To keep serving my country while going to school

How does your job support the mission of the 944th Fighter Wing? I am a flight chief and supervise five Airmen as we perform our mission as an Aeromedical Staging Squadron. I am also a Self-Aid Buddy Care monitor and the Basic Life Support = CPR program manager for the ASTS. I create and staff CPR training for my unit, and during the last year have taught over 30 944 FW members as they prepared to deploy.

If you were on a deserted island.....?

Probably die of dehydration.

December 2017 promotions:

Congratulations to the following 944th Fighter Wing promotees

From Airman Basic:

Amn Daonapa Phimmason, 944th FSS

Amn Francesca Luna, 944th MXG

From Airman:

A1C Keyshiana Fennicks, 944th AMXS

From Airmen First Class:

SrA Andrew Emmons, 924th OSF

SrA Joesph Contois, 944th AMXS

SrA Patrick Horton, 944th AMXS

SrA Benjamin Turner, 944th AMXS

SrA Oscar Macias, 944th LRS

SrA Laura Torres, 944th MDS

From Senior Airman:

SSgt Salina De Luna, 47th FS

SSgt Spencer Shackelford, 944th AMXS

SSgt Joshua Young, 944th AMXS

SSgt Ryan Bucher, 944 MDS

SSgt Shauntella Mack, 944th MDS

From Staff Sergeant:

TSgt Joshua Camarena, 924th MXS

TSgt Christopher Olson, 924th MXS

TSgt Michael Orourke, 924th MXS

TSgt Sean Kenny, 944th ASTS

TSgt Andre Basurto, 944th AMXS

TSgt Jose Contreras, 944th AMXS

TSgt Matthew LaClair, 944th AMXS

TSgt Jimmy White, 944th MXG

From Technical Sergeant:

MSgt Jennifer Dimant, 944th FSS

MSgt Bill Skol, 944th LRS

MSgt Christina Garner, 944th MXG

From Senior Master Sergeant:

CMSgt Matthew Greene, 944th MXS

The wing supported over 10 Veteran's Day events at schools around the valley



BRINGING THE HEAT

Apple, building efficiency within the “Termites”

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

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. -- Most people hear the words Apple and think either a fruit or an electronic device, but for the 924th Fighter Group it means efficiency.

The “Termites” were chosen by the Air Force Reserve Command to be the test unit to work directly with Apple in the development of an Integrated Maintenance Database System application. This application will increase productivity for the Airmen who work on the flightline.

“Whenever we accomplish a maintenance task on an aircraft, it is documented on the aircraft form and in the database and they both have to match,” said Master Sgt. Scott Jenkins, 924 FG quality assurance lead.

Jenkins has been in contact with AFRC since early this year in hopes of making the maintainers jobs easier with the implementation of the app.

“Documentation is a very crucial part of our job because it accurately tracks everything we do on the aircraft,” said Jenkins. “but when you have 60 Airmen all trying to use eight computers on a training weekend that makes it hard and we don’t want things to get missed.”

The app will allow the Airmen to document actions on the spot right next to the aircraft instead of waiting until they return to the building at the end of the day or whenever they can go inside.

“We maintainers used to have little blue books for our technical orders, then we switched over to tough books, and here recently we have moved to iPads,” said Jenkins. “Although we had these devices, we have only been using them as an e-reader. We know there is more capability, so we started trying to figure out how to use it and one step of that was to perform more aspects of our job on it kind of like a mobile workstation.”

Although the Airmen only have eight desktop com-

puters to share, every Airmen is required to sign out an iPad, which holds their technical orders, before starting work on an aircraft. Therefore, the development of the app is a top priority for the unit.

“When AFRC reached out and asked us to take the lead as the test bed, my leadership accepted without hesitation,” said Jenkins.



Senior Airman Amanda Gonzales, 924th Fighter Group crew chief, checks her technical orders before beginning maintenance on an A-10 Thunderbolt II in a hangar on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Ariz., November 5, 2017. Gonzales has been chosen to beta test an Integrated Maintenance Database System application at the Apple Design Center in California. This app will allow the iPad to become a mobile workstation instead of an e-reader.

In order to test the app, AFRC and Apple requested, at a minimum, an experience IMDS user and a brand-new Airmen to gauge how easy the new app is to use. Jenkin then reached out the 924 FG airframe powerplant general flight chief. “The people who document the most using this form is the APG Airmen, so it only makes sense to use the maintainers that used this form on a daily basis,” said Jenkins.

Master Sgt. Michael Mindziak, 924 APG flight chief, has been working with Jenkins to determine which Airmen are going to the Apple Headquarters and which screens are essential to the limited functional app.

“AFRC sent me a working list of screens they think are pertinent and I am able to work with Mindziak and the unit to determine what screen is necessary and what can wait, to really test out the app,” said Jenkins.

Mindziak thinks this project is a great step in the right direction.

“I think it’s awesome and a great honor to be a part of the initial steps in developing the IMDS app,” said Mindziak, “we need it.”

Mindziak understands that there will be challenges but for good reason.

“I know there will be glitches here and there but in the end, this will truly help the Airmen and create a great product for the Air Force,” said Mindziak.

Going to the Apple headquarters may be overwhelming but Mindziak has one goal in mind.

“I plan on being a huge sponge for any and everything they share with me because it will only enhance our mission,” said Mindziak, “plus I hope to be the first stop for help with the app when problems come up.”

Mindziak continued to say that the overall perception around his unit is very good. The Airmen are excited about the prospect for more efficiency and better time-management.

The two chosen Airmen and Jenkins and Mindziak are scheduled to head to the Apple Design Lab in California for a three days design session to work with Apple engineers and developers to beta test the app. The unit’s hope is that 25 iPads will be ready to test within the unit by early 2018.

Veterans in Blue, John Marusiak Jr.

By Airman 1st Class Caitlin Diaz-Gorsi, 56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

John Marusiak Jr.'s passion for aviation ignited after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. At age 24, Marusiak stepped forward to serve his country like so many young men of his era during World War II. He enlisted into the Army Air Corps as a pilot and attended training at Luke Field, now known as Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.

During World War II, Marusiak completed a total of 105 missions over Europe including providing ground cover during the invasion of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

After the war, Marusiak continued to serve the Air Force as a test pilot for newly introduced technology. In 1965, he retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Air Force and moved to Arizona with his wife, Angie. There, he and his wife founded an electrical discharge machine shop that grew to become one of the largest, high technology, precision machine shops in the Southwest United States.

Marusiak continued flying until he was 95 and now has a family comprised of five children, 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Marusiak, who turned 100 April 19, continues to reflect on his career as a fighter pilot as being some of the best days of his life while still living with his family in Scottsdale, Arizona.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Marcy Copeland)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

Dear service member,

Do you have the flexibility you need to succeed both at work and in the military? Just one month is left for you to nominate your employer for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest honor the Department of Defense gives to employers for supporting National Guard and Reserve employees.

Lt. Col. Traci Earls of the Army National Guard nominated her company, Cargill, for a Freedom Award in 2017, and they won! What did she have to say about them? I feel honored to be a part of an organization [that] respects and supports those of us serving in the armed forces.

Nominate your employer: FreedomAward.mil

The nomination form takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. Just click "Nominate Employer" on the FreedomAward.mil homepage to share how your employer supports you and fellow military employees. Nominations must be submitted by Dec. 31, 2017.

Thank you for your continued service to our Nation!

If you encounter any errors while submitting a nomination please contact osd.ESGRITSupport@mail.mil or 1-800-336-4590 opt 3

-The Freedom Award Team

Connect with us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/GoESGR/>

<https://www.facebook.com/YellowRibbonReintegrationProgram/?ref=settings>

<http://www.yellowribbon.mil/yrrp/>

This is Your Benefit! Are You Ready?

from TRICARE Communications

Starting Jan. 1, 2018, cost changes for TRICARE benefits transition from a fiscal year period to a calendar year period. Changing from fiscal year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30) to calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) makes the TRICARE benefit consistent with civilian health plans. The change will largely affect those plans which have an enrollment fee and are currently billed by the fiscal year.

Take command of your health care and prepare for the upcoming changes to TRICARE:

- Update your personal information in DEERS
- Make sure you have a current DS Logon
- Sign up for eCorrespondence in milConnect
- Sign up for TRICARE benefit updates

For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/changes. And follow TRICARE on Facebook and Twitter.

Take
COMMAND
☆☆☆ Enhance Your TRICARE Experience

Did You Know?

CHANGES TO TRICARE COSTS AND BILLING ARE COMING.

Some out-of-pocket costs will be updated in January 2018. Also, the TRICARE benefit will change from a Fiscal Year (October–September) period to a Calendar Year (January–December) period to align with the annual enrollment season.

Find out more at www.tricare.mil/changes.



TRICARE Reserve Select policy change

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- A significant change will be made to the Tricare Reserve Select policy regarding re-instatement, beginning January 1, 2018.

Those TRS Reserve Citizen Airmen who lose their TRS coverage and are dis-enrolled for failure to pay monthly premiums due to financial reasons within their control, will no longer have the second option of seeking a new TRS enrollment.

For reinstatement requests received by the contractor beyond 90 days from last paid-through-date/dis-enrollment will be locked out from purchasing new TRS coverage for 12 months.

TRS coverage re-instatements are handled directly by the regional contractor and approved based on

the following obligations being met: the request being received by the contractor or postmarked no later than the referenced 90 days, payment of all premiums from the last paid-through-date through the current month, plus the amount for the following two months is included, and information is provided to establish recurring electronic premium payments or electronic funds transfer. Failure to meet any of these three requirements results in coverage not being re-instated for the Reserve Citizen Airman for 12 months.

When Reserve Citizen Airmen's premium payment is not made at the beginning of a month, contractors attempt to contact them before the end of the month that the premium payment is due; to inform them their payment was not received. These attempts are made by phone and notification by regular mail and email.

At the end of a month and still no premium payment is received by the contractor, that TRS coverage is dis-enrolled to the last date of the previous month of coverage. Upon a dis-enrollment, notification is sent to the Reserve Citizen Airman, informing them a change has been made to their TRS coverage and to take immediate action.

Reserve Citizen Airmen can update their contact information by:

- Logging into MilConnect at: [//milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/](http://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/))
- Call 1-800-538-9552 (TTY/TDD: 1-866-363-2883)
- Visit any RAPIDS site at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi/appj/site

47th Fighter Squadron gets new commander

944TH FIGHTER WING

Mission

Forging combat Airmen to fly, fight, and win.

Vision

Provide mission-ready Reserve Airmen, anytime, anywhere.



Important Phone Numbers

Wing Command Section 623-856-0944

Chaplain 623-856-5303

Command Post 623-856-5600

Equal Opportunity 623-856-5560

Financial Management 623-856-5716

Inspector General 623-856-6682

Public Affairs 623-856-5388

Staff Judge Advocate 623-856-5333

Reserve Recruiting 623-856-5339

Customer Services (IDs) 623-856-5358

Training/Education 623-856-5318

Family Readiness 623-856-8324

Help Desk 623-856-8024

Sexual Assault Hotline (24/7) 623-856-4878

Wing Key Spouse 515-988-7951

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255



Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. -- Lt. Col. Abel Ramos, A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot, accepts command of the 47th Fighter Squadron from Col. Thomas McNurlin, 924th Fighter Group commander, on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, Nov. 5, 2017. The 47th Fighter Squadron conducts training for pilot initial qualification, transition, and instructor qualification in the A-10C. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson)



Air Force resolves Yellow Ribbon travel funding issue

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Air Force leaders have resolved a situation that temporarily limited how many guests the service could fund to accompany Reserve Citizen Airmen to Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program training weekends.

"I'm delighted we are going back to the way we've always done it," said Mary Hill, Yellow Ribbon program manager at Air Force Reserve Command headquarters, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

Yellow Ribbon promotes the well-being of reservists and their loved ones by connecting them with resources before and after deployments through a series of weekend training sessions around the country. It began in 2008 following a congressional mandate for the Department of Defense to assist reservists and National Guard members in maintaining resiliency as they transition between their military and civilian roles.

The Joint Travel Regulations that govern military travel designate that a service will provide transportation and food allowance for a Reserve Citizen Airman and up to two guests –

called "designated individuals" – to attend Yellow Ribbon training. The law governing Yellow Ribbon, though, encourages wide family member participation. In the past, Hill said, "designated individuals" was considered a separate category of traveler allowed by law – for example, close friends of an unmarried reservist – and has always been limited to two.

Last November, Air Force travel pay professionals brought the discrepancy to the attention of the AFRC Yellow Ribbon office by rejecting reimbursement of expenses submitted for more than two guests. Air Force Reserve leaders directed Yellow Ribbon to comply with this interpretation of the JTR for events through fiscal 2017 while they pursued a waiver to allow all DEERS-eligible children and one other guest to attend, as had been done in the past. The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System is a computerized database of military sponsors, families and others worldwide who are entitled under the law to TRICARE benefits.

"We have always used DEERS to determine the children a member was able to bring to an event," Hill said. "If they are eligible for DEERS enrollment they would be included as eligible to attend with their military member."

Jeffrey R. Mayo, deputy assistant secretary for Air Force manpower and reserve affairs at the Pentagon, has authorized Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, to approve more than two designated individuals to attend Yellow Ribbon events with pre- and post-deployers. He did so in his role as

the Air Force's Per Diem Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee principal.

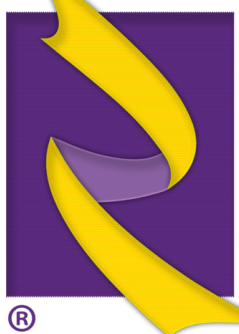
Hill said she thinks Mayo's decision will immediately increase the amount of attendees at events, which typically draw overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants.

"We didn't like it any more than they did and are glad we have a solution before our first event of the new fiscal year," Hill said. "We want everyone in the immediate family of a reservist preparing to deploy or returning from a deployment to attend this training. Those family members are the primary purpose of Yellow Ribbon."

On any given day, nearly 6,000 Air Force Reservists are serving on active duty worldwide in support of combatant commanders and other agencies and major commands. Each year, the Air Force Reserve Yellow Ribbon program trains 7,000 reservists and those closest to them in education benefits, health care, retirement information and more at the weekend training events.

AFRC continues to meet the needs of our Reserve Citizen Airmen and their families through the Yellow Ribbon Program and has announced dates and locations of Yellow Ribbon training in November and December. Due to security concerns, the Reserve doesn't share this information online. Deploying reservists should contact their unit Yellow Ribbon representative for specific details.

944th Fighter Wing Yellow Ribbon Representative
Master Sgt. Kenneth Heng, kenneth.heng@us.af.mil
DSN: 896-7613
Comm: (623) 856-7613



**YELLOW
RIBBON
REINTEGRATION
PROGRAM**

For Those Who Serve and Those Who SupportSM



Terrie Frankel

944th Fighter Wing Honorary Commander

Full Name: Terrie Frankel

Commander assigned to: 944th Medical Squadron

Place of business: Retired author, producer, composer

City where you reside: Sedona, AZ

Where you were born/grew up: Chicago, IL

A little about Terrie:

Terrie Frankel is one of the Doublemint Twins and was USO Performer in Vietnam. She received the Presidents Award from the Vietnam Veterans of America. Presently she is a Lifetime Member of the Sedona Marine Corps League and serves on several Committees to further the causes of Veterans. Terrie speaks both Cantonese and Mandarin. A New York Times Best Selling Author, member of the Grammy's and Producers Guild of America (served two terms on the Board of Directors), Terrie is a proud patriot who is honored to have served as Honorary Commander of the 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and presently the 944th Medical Squadron. Terrie lives in Sedona, Arizona and resides at the House of Seven Arches.

Terrie is assisting in the establishment of two local Military Service Parks, while shepherding K-9 Military Working Dog Bronze Statues to both Sedona and Luke Air Force Base. She is also in charge of the USO Pod at the Verde Valley Military Service Park in Cottonwood, Arizona.

What is an Honorary Commander?

An Honorary commander is a member of the local community who is assigned to each of the 944th Fighter Wing's five groups, 11 squadrons, wing commander, vice commander, and command chief. The program provides a great community outreach program and the ability to foster relationships between local and civic business leaders. For more information, contact the 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 623-856-5388.

Words from our Honorary Commander...

I enjoy the opportunity to openly support our military while enlightening our Community of Sedona with the remarkable ongoing accomplishments of our men and women Airmen at Luke Air Force Base.

HONORARY COMMANDER

Upcoming Events



DECEMBER UTA Sunday Dec. 3

WINGMAN DAY
- 7 a.m.
*Check with your unit
CSS for details.



DECEMBER UTA Sunday Dec. 3

WING HOLIDAY PARTY
- 9:30 a.m.
Hangar 999



FEBRUARY UTA Saturday Feb. 10

Annual Awards Banquet
- 5 p.m.
Wigwam Resort
*More information to
follow





Students from the Peoria High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps tour different agencies within the 944th Fighter Wing, Nov. 29, 2017. The students visited the 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit, and a tour of an F-16 on the flightline. (Photos by Tech Sgt. Nestor Cruz)