

# Snapshot

944th Fighter Wing  
Luke Air Force Base, Arizona  
July 2018 Newsletter



Luke ammo Airmen prepare for first ever combat munitions competition  
Multinational first responders extinguish fire  
A brotherhood of Chaplains  
Key Spouse Spotlight



## 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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Bringing the Heat

July 2018

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**Cover photo:** Don Majors, 69th Fighter Squadron honorary commander and Lt. Col. Mathew Morrison, 69th FS instructor pilot, pose for a photo before flight June 29, at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz)

**Below left photo:** A-10 Warthog aircraft perform a fly-over before the Chevrolet Dual II in Detroit Indycar race at The Raceway at Belle Isle Park, Mich.

**Below right photo:** (Left) Ryan Hunter-Reay, winner of Chevrolet Dual II in Detroit Indycar race, speaks with (middle) Maj. Neil Lisowski, 47th Fighter Squadron deputy commander and (right) Lt. Col. Bryan Nickola, 47th FS flight commander, at The Raceway at Belle Isle Park, Mich. Nickola and Lisowski performed a fly by during the national anthem in their A-10 Warthogs from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. (Courtesy photos)





# A great time to reflect

*By Col. Bryan Cook, 944th Fighter Wing commander*

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a safe 4th of July and spent plenty of time with family and friends.

As we celebrate our Nation's birthday, it's a great time to reflect on who we are as a nation, as a military force and as American citizens. By raising your right hand and taking the oath you swore to defend and protect these United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. That is not an oath to take lightly or for the weak. It takes a strong person not only physically but mentally and spiritually to make that kind of promise and it's what makes us the most powerful military. We can have all the best equipment in the world but it is our people who make us great.

The dedication and sacrifice you show on a daily basis in serving your country is what sets us apart.

As Reserve Citizen Airmen you have the additional stress of balancing family, civilian employment, and your military service. This is what makes us unique. It's this uniqueness that I want to challenge everyone to celebrate and work on. Make sure you are balancing your time and energy. We need you to be at your best so we can uphold our legacy and might.

At the end of last month the 56th Fighter Wing had a change of command ceremony. Please help me welcome Brig. Gen. Todd Canterbury and his staff as we continue to grow together and integrate cohesively.

Also, Luke Air Force Base recently hit 20,000 F-35 sortie hours with the collaboration of active duty partner nations and Reserve Citizen Airmen. Keep up the great work and thanks for making us the best Air Force in the world.



# Pride in our history and heritage

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

This month our country celebrates 242 years since we declared our independence. As Americans, we show pride in our country by waving the flag and being appreciative of our freedoms. This pride spills over into our uniformed service. Having spent over 26 years in our great Air Force, I could not be more proud to serve side-by-side with the Airmen of the 944th Fighter Wing.

I have been part of the 944th going back to 1997. I came here

as a senior airman off active duty and noticed something different about this Wing. The people here cared deeply about the mission and how we went about our business. Our planes, equipment and facilities always looked better than any other unit around. As a traditional reservist, I looked forward to coming to drill each month as I knew we would be focused on readiness and training. For me that was building bombs. The bottom line here was that we took pride in who we were and what we did.

The history and heritage of

our wing is amazing. From the heroics of Lieutenants Taylor and Welch during Pearl Harbor as part of the 47th Pursuit Squadron (currently the 47th Fighter Squadron) to our lineage with the Tuskegee Airmen of the 302nd Fighter Squadron, we have a rich history to be extremely proud of. I want to ensure that history and pride is carried on for decades to come. I encourage you all to embrace how great our wing is and help celebrate our accomplishments. Be proud of who we are and what we do to carry out the mission.



## Warrior of the Month



MSgt Daneon Riley



(Photos by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

**Rank/Name:** Master Sgt. Daneon Riley

**Duty Title:** 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron, noncommissioned officer in charge of deployment operations.

**Time in Service:** I have over 27 years of service.

**Time with the 944th Fighter:** Five years

**Civilian Job:** Air Reserve Technician

**Hometown:** Farrell, Pennsylvania

**Hobbies:** I enjoy playing basketball and billiards

**Home-life:** I am married and have two daughters.

**Why did you join the Air Force Reserves?** I was U.S. Army active duty for over seven years and transitioned to the U.S. Air Force Reserve because I wanted to serve my country in a different capacity.

**How does your job support the mission of the 944th Fighter Wing?** My office maintains the overall deployment function for the 944th FW which includes, individual deployments, annual tours, and securing airlift for deployments. Our office works directly with numerous entities to ensure the communication is in place for successful deployments. We train unit deployment managers to understand all areas associated with deployments. We are also the focal point for host tenant support agreements for the Wing to include geographical separated units located in two different areas of the country.

**If you were on a deserted island.....?** I would use my logistic experience to find a way off of the island.

## June 2018 promotions:

Congratulations everyone!

### From Airmen First Class:

SrA Marlen Cherop, 944 MDS

SrA Michael Estes, 944 CES

SrA Alicia Kube, 944 MXS

### From Senior Airman:

SSgt Terrance Arnold, 944 AMXS

SSgt Benjamin Bowen, 924 AMXS

SSgt Monica Casanova, 944 ASTS

SSgt Uriel Casim, 944 MDS

SSgt Rickey Franklin, 924 AMXS

SSgt Susan Groenke, 944 MDS

SSgt Charles Hayes, 944 AMXS

SSgt Lucio Murillo, 924 AMXS

SSgt Joshua Pettit, 414 MXS

SSgt Alyssa Salazar, 924 OSF

SSgt Camden Spruce, 924 MXS

### From Staff Sergeant:

TSgt Juan Campos, 944 MXS

TSgt Mansfield Cody, 924 AMXS

TSgt Michael Giles, 944 AMXS

TSgt Christian Lucero, 944 AMXS

TSgt Brice Olsen, 924 MXS

TSgt Antonio Ortega, 944 AMXS

### From Technical Sergeant:

MSgt Joshua Jacobson, 924 AMXS

MSgt Kevin Maiorano, 944 ASTS

MSgt Robin Roberts, 944AMXS

MSgt Timothy Skeldon, 924 AMXS

MSgt Brian Williams, 944 CES

MSgt Erik Wise, 414 MXS



# Luke ammo Airmen prepare for first ever combat munitions competition



*Story and photo by Senior Airman Ridge Shan, 56th Fighter Wing*

Members of the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron munitions flight have formed a team to compete in the first ever Air Force Combat Munitions competition, taking place June 11-14, 2018, at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

The competition will challenge seven teams of ammo maintainers from bases around the world to compete in various tasks that simulate the range of activities required in live combat munitions operations.

“There are multiple different sections in the ammo career field,” said Master Sgt. Johnathan Keehart, 944th Maintenance Squadron/56th EMS munitions control noncommissioned officer in charge and competition team leader. “The competition will focus on several of those aspects, particularly storage, inspection, and conventional weapons. We’ll setup a munitions assembly conveyor, build and assemble bombs, and inspect an inventory for discrepancies.”

Each team is allowed a maximum of 10 members with a limit on the number of individuals who meet certain skill-levels. The members of Luke’s team were nominated by their respective sections in the munitions flight based on their strong work ethic and high level of competency.

“There are a lot of people from different shops on our team who both know bombs, and also bring with them special knowledge that will help us throughout the competition,” said Senior Airman Corey Keleher, 56th EMS conventional weapons crew chief and competition team member. “For example, one of our guys is an inspector, which will help us in the inspection challenge.”

Luke’s team has trained daily since their formation in February.

“The training has been really beneficial,” Keleher said. “We don’t always get to build the specific bombs being used for the competition, so when we’re practicing our speed and efficiency, we also get to take a step back and really learn new things.”

In addition to preparing them for the competition, their practice is reinforcing important operational skills, which will allow them to uniquely excel as functional technical experts.

“A lot of times in our career field, when you get to a work center, you’re stuck in your area for quite a while,” Keehart said. “You get really good at one job, but your knowledge becomes kind of limited. This competition helps to bring a lot of different ammo maintainers together. We have one member of the team who has been in the job for eight months, but because of how extensively we’ve been training, she knows how to build these bombs and setup the munitions assembly conveyor better than some people who have been in six, seven, or eight years.”

The team is optimistic about their chances, and fully intend to impress their ammo peers



come game day.

“There’s going to be a lot of stiff competition from every single one of the other bases,” Keehart said. “Each base is bringing their own aspect to the table. At the end of the day, I believe everyone is going to build very fast and it’s going to come down to who has the least amount of discrepancies. It’s going to be about attention to detail, and I think we’re going to do very well.”

# A Brotherhood of Chaplains

*Story by Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

A trio of Reserve Citizen Airmen have taken the concept of a military brotherhood to a literal level. Their wives are sisters, making them brothers-in-law as well as brothers-in-arms.

Chaplain (Capt.) Matthew Wilson, 944th Fighter Wing, was the first of the three to join the Air Force Reserve Command six years ago. His wife's twin sister married Chaplain (1st Lt.) Daniel Smetana, 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, S.C.

The youngest of the three sisters married Chaplain (1st Lt.) Jonathan Ledbetter, 414th Fighter Group, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. All three chaplains were commissioned by the same man: their father-in-law, retired Lt. Col. Bert Campbell, Jr., who had served in the Army National Guard.

"We all made the decision to join after getting married," said Wilson. "Our spouses never imagined we'd be in the military when we got married, but when it was first presented to me as an idea, the first person I talked to was my wife. She and her sisters had so much respect for their dad and they had seen how good his time in the military was, so they were all very supportive of us pursuing careers in the military."

Smetana was the next to join the Reserve, receiving his commissioning two years ago. Ledbetter was the last of the three to receive his commissioning on May 4, 2018.

Ledbetter looks up to the other two brothers-in-law in both uniform and faith. "Shortly after Chaplain Wilson was commissioned as an AFRC chaplain, I began considering seriously the opportunities to serve as a chaplain as an extension of pastoral ministry in a civilian congregation," he said. "Wilson's compassion for Airmen and his desire to serve their families was an inspiration for me in pursuing the chaplaincy."

Chaplain Smetana was commissioned more recently, so he has been my resource for specific questions regarding preparation for chaplain ministry."

Connections in faith, family and service create a unique bond for these three chaplains.

"The greatest significance of my connection with the other two chaplains is mutual support," said Smetana. "Being Reserve chaplains, we all have similar experiences. Yet, being in different environments, we also have varying perspectives. Knowing each other as well as we do, we are able to help each other quickly and clearly when questions come up. And being close family members, this makes for encouraging and fun family conversations as we share our various experiences."

Ledbetter agrees, saying their shared bond is more than being fellow Reserve chaplains.

"Chaplains Wilson, Smetana and I are more than brothers-in-law," said Ledbetter. "We, along with our other brothers-in-law, are best friends."

Sharing experiences and constant communication are important in this family.

"Our family gets together at least twice a year and we talk on the phone often," said Wilson. "Being in the Air Force the longest, I'm able to help the others when it comes to getting orders or taking care of travel vouchers. But when it comes to life, I have a ton of respect for them so they've definitely given



me wise council."

That same admiration and respect is shared by the other two chaplains.

"When it comes to a career in the Air Force, it is clear that Chaplain Wilson is the 'older brother,'" said Smetana. "We are just trying to keep up with him. He has been in the longest, so he is our go-to guy for advice and direction. While that is a great help to us 'younger' guys, it also sets the bar for us and gives us something to shoot for."

Naturally, as Reserve Citizen Airmen, the three have their own civilian duties. Wilson is director of Grand View Camp, a year-round Christian camp in the White Mountains of Arizona near the New Mexico state line. Smetana is the pastor at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C., while Ledbetter serves as associate pastor at University Baptist Church .....*continued on page 7*



# ASTS AIRMEN TRAIN WITH ANG, VA

*Story and photo by Tech Sgt. Nestor Cruz, 944th Fighter Wing*

Airmen with the 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron recently participated in a multi-agency exercise to train on moving patients during a simulated emergency.

The National Disaster Medical System exercise, spearheaded by Phoenix Veterans Affairs in partnership with the Arizona Air National Guard at Phoenix Sky Harbor, brought together various agencies including the 944 ASTS, Army National Guard, Department of Homeland Security, the Red Cross, and local fire departments for the purpose of responding to a simulated national disaster.

“The purpose of the exercise was to test our ability to fill our NDMS responsibilities,” said Dr. Michael Chess-er, Phoenix VA hospitalist and retired 944th ASTS physician. “It was important to pull the ASTS into the mix for two reasons: to give some exposure to our new Critical Care Air Transport Team that is in the training pipeline and to continue to foster relationships with the reserve, guard and VA. The ASTS’s primary mission is patient staging and can be a major asset if we have a real world event.”

Tech. Sgt. Justin Sanderson, 944th ASTS emergency medical technician NCO in charge, said his squadron’s CCATT played an important role in the exercise.

“The role of the ASTS was two-fold: to integrate critical care transport via our CCATT team into the hospital system and to provide on-the-spot training for members (civilian and Department of Defense) who have never conducted or have very little litter carrying skills,” Sanderson said.

During the exercise, a simulated emergency in another state, led to the transport of patients into Arizona for medical care.

“The NDMS portion was only a two-day event, simu-

lating evacuation of patients from Southern California into the Phoenix medical system,” Sanderson said. “This is where the DoD comes in, utilizing military aircraft to transport large number of patients from the disaster area into surrounding states.”



## ***A Brotherhood of Chaplains continued...*** in Clemson, S.C.

The dual nature of reserve life has been a blessing for these men of the cloth.

“Being a reservist for all three of us really helps support us to do our civilian ministry,” said Wilson. “What we’ve learned in our civilian ministry we’ve been able to bring in to the Reserve as well. Both careers strengthen the other.”

Wilson’s chaplain team recently swept the 2017 U.S. Air Force Reserve Command Chaplain Corps Awards, taking home all five awards. Does this mean a sibling rivalry exists among the three brothers?

“I think we all have a competitive nature, but that has driven us not so much to outdo one another, but to push each other to be better Airmen,” Smetana said.

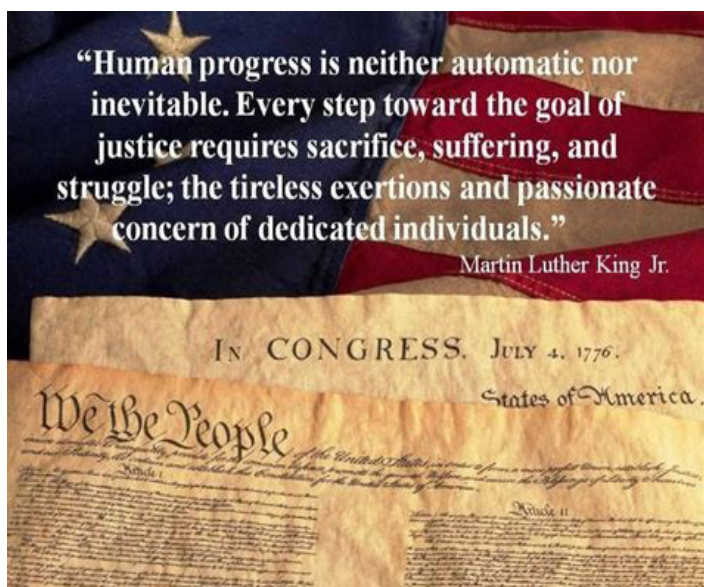
# Independence

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

America has been a free country for two hundred and forty-two years because courageous individuals stood up for the freedoms and rights of every individual in this country. Today, it is the continued courage, selflessness, and sacrifice of each and every one of you that upholds these freedoms and rights that every American is able to enjoy.

Independence gives each of us the platform to make daily choices in our lives that reflect our Mission, our character and integrity, and our dedication to supporting personal wellness as a whole. These choices are important as you navigate through life impacting those around you including, your fellow Wingmen, your family and friends, and strangers you interact with.

It is not just that we have freedoms and rights to do whatever we want; it is that we have the freedoms and rights to always do the right things. This is the foundation of courage, selflessness, and sacrifice.



## Multinational first responders extinguish fire

*Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua King, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs*

U.S. Air Force and Kuwaiti firefighters recently joined forces to put out a hangar fire, here.

The fire, which was caused by an electrical failure, engulfed a hangar and destroyed a Kuwaiti Air Police AS356-(MOI) 03 Dolphin helicopter.

The Kuwaiti firefighters worked side-by-side with the American firemen and they were able to put the fire out before it spread to other buildings and equipment nearby, said Kuwaiti Brig. Gen. Omar E. Al-Marshoud, Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base fire chief.

When the U.S. firefighters arrived and began to communicate with the Kuwaiti's through a translator, they realized it was too hot to enter through the front door to attempt to put out the flame.

The combined team made the quick decision to cut a door sized gap in the backside of the building ventilating the smoke and helped save the adjacent building which had another aircraft inside, said Tech. Sgt. Patrick Bentley, 386th Civil Engineer Squadron

assistant chief of operations.

Even though they work in different buildings, speak different languages and use different equipment their goals are the same.

"We're firefighters, they're firefighters, so we both want the same thing; to save lives, save property, save as much as we can. Having that communication and connection helps us do that quicker," said Bentley. "Working together more, them getting to know their equipment, us using theirs, just working together, will create a better relationship and partnership going into the future."

The two fire departments have been working together for the past two years, Al-Marshoud remembers what the Americans did for him and his family more than 20 years ago.

"I was here in 1990, American troops saved us, my country and my family," said Al-Marshoud. "I hope we will work together more in the future. It would be my pleasure to have some troops near mine, eating

with us maybe even learn some English."

That is a sentiment felt on both sides.

"The fact that we worked together so smoothly and even with the barriers we overcame it together and got the job done and that's what it's all about," said Bentley.





# How to gauge food portion sizes

*From the 944th Medical Squadron*

One of the most important things you can do to achieve and maintain a healthy weight is to become aware of “portion sizes.” This refers to the actual amount of food you eat at a single time. It isn’t necessarily the same as the “serving size”—or standardized amount of food—that you see on a Nutrition Facts label.

A portion of food can be either bigger or smaller than a serving size. For example, your portion of whole-wheat pasta might be one cup, but that’s actually two servings (one serving = ½ cup). Examples of serving sizes include:

- one slice of bread.
- ½ cup of cooked vegetables.
- ½ cup of fruit.

- 1½ ounces of hard cheese (cheddar, swiss, parmesan).
- 8 ounces milk.
- 3 ounces of your choice of meat, fish, or poultry.

Watching portion sizes is especially important if you’re trying to lose weight. In any case, it isn’t always practical to use a measuring cup when you’re dishing up a plate of food or spreading peanut butter on your toast.

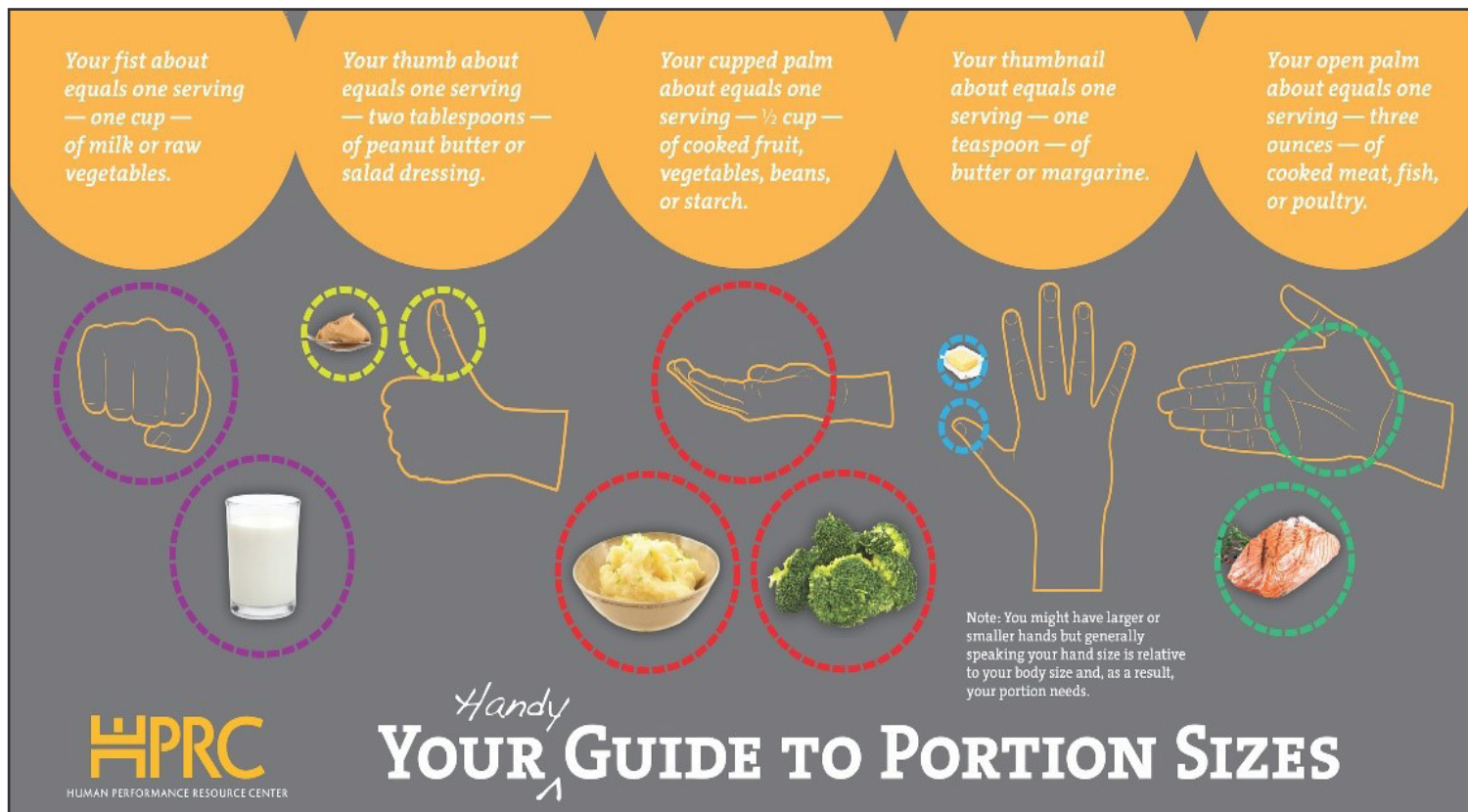
A more realistic way to gauge your portion sizes is to “eyeball” them—that is, to visually compare your food portions to a familiar frame of reference. The infographic on the right uses your hand as your guide to keep portion sizes in check.

Of course, your hand might be larger or smaller than someone else’s, but your hand size generally equates to your body size and, as a result, your portion needs. What’s more, it’s one measuring device you’ll always have on hand.

Your handy guide to portion sizes: Your fist about equals a one-cup serving of milk or raw vegetables. Your thumb about equals one 2-tablespoon serving of peanut butter or salad dressing. Your cupped palm about equals one half-cup serving of cooked fruit, vegetables, beans, or starch. Your thumbnail about equals a one-teaspoon serving of butter or margarine. And your open palm about equals one 3-ounce serving of cooked meat, fish, or poultry.

To learn more about how portion sizes have changed in the past 20 years, visit the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute’s “Serving Sizes and Portions” web page.

<https://www.hprc-online.org/articles/how-to-gauge-food-portion-sizes>.







# 944TH FIGHTER WING



*Stacy  
Cisero*

944 CES

## Stacy Cisero

944th Civil Engineer Squadron Key spouse

*A little about Amanda in her own words...*

I am married to Master Sgt. Jesse Cisero assigned to the 944th Civil Engineer Squadron and we have a son Ryan and a daughter Cara. I am an orthodontic technician living in Surprise and cooking and gardening are my hobbies. I make soaps, lotions and jewelry along with a myriad of other projects that catch my eye.

*Why Amanda wanted to become a Key Spouse:*

With 23 years of being a military spouse, I am happy to see this program be implemented. I am eager to be a part of a program that brings all of our spouses and families closer together.

*A message from Amanda as a Key Spouse:*

I look forward for the opportunity to share and network with my fellow Key Spouses. I want to be a resource for my fellow military spouses and their families




For more information on the Key Spouse program, contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

Jessica Maldonado, 944th Fighter Wing A&FRC Director

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A photograph showing a man in a military uniform, Lt. Col. Sean Holahan, assisting a young woman, Sarah Pattschull, in putting on a flight helmet. The man is seen from the back, wearing a green flight suit with a patch on the sleeve. The woman is looking down at the helmet. The background is a plain wall with a small plant visible on the right.

**Lt. Col. Sean Holahan, 944th Operations Group deputy commander, helps Sarah Pattschull, 16, Soteria Salvation student mission team member, put on pilot gear during a tour at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.**  
(photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)