

SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing
Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

August 2019 Newsletter



Master of his own dojo

Davis-Monthan Citizen Airmen help build
a healthy, hungry-free tomorrow

Developmental education opportunities for
Reserve Citizen Airmen

944 FW KEY LEADERS

Commander

Col. James L. Greenwald

Vice Commander

Col. Sean M. Rassas

Command Chief

CMSgt. Jeremy N. Malcom

944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot

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SnapShot Editorial Staff

Chief, Public Affairs

Capt. Monique Roux

Operations Chief, PA

Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

Photojournalists, PA

Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson

Tech. Sgt. Michael Lahrman

Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz

Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder

Staff Sgt. Tyler Bolken

Staff Sgt. Christopher Moore



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Bringing the Heat

August 2019

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Cover photo and above: Citizen Airmen from the 944th Security Forces Squadron conduct close quarters battle exercises during their annual tour July 29-30 at the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Joe Foss Range shoot house in Buckeye, Ariz. CQB tactics are used when small units or teams of operators engage an enemy at close range. In these situations, security forces personnel would perform a swift takeover of a building occupied by an opposing force. They hone their skills to ensure they are ready for a scenario that could have grave implications for law enforcement officers or hostages if they are not. The 944th SFS also conducted training on improvised explosive device recognition, convoy operations, Armament Systems and Procedures expandable batons, and combatives during their two week annual training. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

Our goals, objectives, and priorities are more than slogans



By Col. James L. Greenwald, 944th Fighter Wing commander

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Tyler Bolken)

Welcome to the August UTA! We are closing in on the end of summer. Kids are getting ready for school, and parents are rejoicing. If your family is like mine, you're probably trying to squeeze those last few summer activities in amongst the back-to-school shopping, class registration, orientation nights, and the dozens of other school activities all picking up speed about now. Add in our "normal" stuff like work (drill weekend, anyone?), scouts, church, etc. and all of a sudden it's almost overwhelming – so many activities! So little time!

I've found that when I insist on trying to cram everything in, I focus too much on making all the puzzle pieces fit, and not enough on the actual activities. The next thing I know it's Christmas and I'm wondering where the summer went! It's one of the hardest things to do, but when I force myself

to NOT do something so I can focus more attention on my priorities, I manage to stay just a little more sane when things get really busy. These are the times when it's important to prioritize. Being emotionally present for the important stuff is better than being physically present, but mentally elsewhere. In other words, doing a few things well is better than doing a lot of things poorly.

I know that's not groundbreaking wisdom. It's obvious, but really difficult nevertheless. This topic has been on my mind, not just because this is a really busy time of year, but because we are also in the middle of the wing's strategic planning process. One of the most important things to come out of that is a short list of 944 FW goals, objectives, and priorities. These are more than just slogans, or quiz questions for First Sergeant interviews, or things to memorize

just in case the IG asks during an inspection. Our objectives and priorities are important tools to help us all decide where to concentrate our efforts, and where to delegate or shed when the "to do list" exceeds the resources.

For example, I've been referring almost daily to Maj. Gen Borgen's and Lt. Gen Scobee's priorities as we navigate the current fiscal challenges. There literally are not enough dollars available to pay for the man-days and travel that we need to perform. Those priorities helped me make the difficult decisions about what remained funded and what got canceled. Those decisions have been directly in line with AFRC and 10 AF strategic priorities. The current 944 FW priorities of Readiness, Developing Airmen, and Improving Total Force Enterprise, are well aligned with those of our NAF and MAJCOM.

This will surprise no one: every once in a while, my priorities don't align perfectly with those of my bride. When that happens, we have to communicate in order to arrive at some mutually agreeable priorities. Otherwise our efforts undermine each other. With good communication, we support each other. That's why we go to all the trouble to craft 944th FW objectives and priorities, and why I work with your commanders to deliberately update them and ensure mutual agreement each year. I look forward to sharing our results with you in the coming months, and seeing all the great things you do with them.

I appreciate your patience and professionalism during the recent turmoil. I know some of you have been more impacted than others. I ask that you all continue to bear with us as we close out the year and continue into 2020. So let's finish out the summer with quality time. Let's get those kids safely back to school, and let's use our energy and resources wisely by continuing to focus on our priorities. I'm incredibly proud of all of you – keep bringin' the heat!

Citizen Airmen-Senior Airman Libby Wilson, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron command support staff



Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Tyler Bolken, 944th Fighter Wing

Senior Airman Libby Wilson, command support staff specialist with 944th Medical Squadron, stands in her work section at the 944th Fighter Wing, July 13 at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

Wilson, a traditional reservist, wears the uniform during drill weekends, but her work for the Air Force continues during the week with her civilian profession, as a training support specialist for A-10 pilots at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

“I like that I still have the opportunity to make a difference,” said Wilson.

Wilson, originally from Phoenix, said military is in the family and she felt it was her responsibility to join the Reserve in June 2014. In balancing both jobs, Wilson said she enjoys different aspects of each.

“In the Reserve role, we stay busy with a ‘whatever is needed’ mentality, which keeps me on my toes. Whether it is processing travel vouchers, orders, or anything else to support the commander.”

Regarding her civilian role directly supporting the pilots, Wilson said, “It has helped me learn so much about what the Air Force does. It is really awesome to see the commitment of the pilots through the time and consistency they put in, and it is very rewarding to be able to support that.”

July 2019 promotions: Congratulations to the following 944th Fighter Wing promotees

From Airman:

Airman First Class Taylore Garcia, 944th ASTS

Airman First Class Jonathan Stich, 944th CES

Airman First Class Joseph Ward, 944th ASTS

From Airmen First Class:

Senior Airman Steven Chavarin, 944th AMXS

Senior Airman Nathan Gagne, 944th CES

Senior Airman Alex Moore, 944th CES

Senior Airman Monroe Tahmahkera, 944th AMXS

Senior Airman Darnelle Tanner, 944th AMXS

From Senior Airman:

Staff Sergeant Joseph Cius, 944th AMXS

Staff Sergeant Eric David, 924th AMXS

Staff Sergeant Daniel De Sart, 944th LRS

Staff Sergeant Ishbel Gonzalezalves, 944th OG

Staff Sergeant Kyle Kupiec, 944th AMXS

Staff Sergeant Roy Solorio, 924th MXS

From Staff Sergeant:

Technical Sergeant Benjamin Carlassara, 944th AMXS

Technical Sergeant Stephen Carillo, 924th AMXS

Technical Sergeant James Horton, 944th AMXS

Technical Sergeant Lauren Shaffer, 924th OSF

Technical Sergeant William Tylor, 414th MXS

From Technical Sergeant:

Master Sergeant Cesar Acosta, 944th MXG

Master Sergeant Donnell Henry, 944th AMXS

Master Sergeant Jonathan Jimenez, 944th CES

Master Sergeant Perla Tapia, 924th OSF

From Senior Master Sergeant:

Chief Master Sergeant Nikolaus Schmitter, 924th FG

Master of his own dojo

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

What do you do when you are stationed in Korea for four years? For one Airman, the answer was to learn a legendary new skill.

Master Sgt. James Pumarejo, 924th Maintenance Squadron munitions flight chief, owns and operates a full-time martial arts studio in Tucson, Arizona.

In the unit, Pumarejo is responsible for overseeing administrative actions and monitoring training for 40 Citizen Airmen along with providing strategic leadership for over 150 active-duty Airmen.

“The Munitions flight deals with everything from the bullets for the police at the gates to the bombs and missiles on our airplanes,” Pumarejo said. “We have eight different shops that are collectively responsible for the accountability, building, shipping, storing, inspecting, and delivery for 122 aircraft, five flying squadrons, and 38 custody accounts.”

Pumarejo has been an ammo troop for 16 years with eight of those spent on active duty. During that time, he was stationed abroad and chose to pick up a new skill, martial arts.

“The training was really old school and pretty brutal,” Pumarejo said. “I don’t teach that way, but I do keep it very traditional.”

After fulfilling his original service commitment Pumarejo chose to leave the military.

“I began teaching martial arts on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and the classes filled very fast. That led to me opening an off-base studio in town,” he said. “That studio also grew quickly and gave me comfort to leave active-duty.”

Though his business was a success the economy wasn’t kind.

“When the economy changed directions and health insurance skyrocketed at the same time, I had to do some soul searching and make some big decisions,” Pumarejo said.

He talked with his wife and made the decision to join the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

“To be honest, there were a lot of things I really missed from being in the military like the strong camaraderie within the ammo community,” Pumarejo said. “When I talked to the recruiter and learned that a new unit was standing up, I became heavily invested in it which lead to an Air Reserve Technician position, I now hold.”

An ART is a full-time Department of Defense civil service employee who also fulfills the traditional reservist requirement of one weekend a month and two weeks a year.

Pumarejo also still works full-time at his martial arts studio.

“Balancing both is challenging and a key component has been the support I have received from my wife and son at home and at the business,” Pumarejo said.

His military leaders admire his ability to be flexible. “I know he puts in a lot of hours at both jobs, sometimes I wonder how he manages his time and is able to be successful at both, said” Johnnie Gilbert, 924th Maintenance Squadron superintendent. “He is driven for success.”

Pumarejo explains that skills he learned along the way are the reason for his success in both careers.

“Discipline, respect, communication and organization, as well as managing people have carried me back and forth in both fields,” Pumarejo said. “Personally, caring for the people I lead, making sure their efforts are recognized, and working to get them the resources they need to succeed has been my recipe for success.”

Pumarejo’s supervisor admires that quality in him.



“He is a hard charging, tireless supervisor,” said Gilbert. “He is always the first to jump at any opportunity to recognize his troops up to and including Air Force Reserve Command level awards. He is a constant advocate for his people in all venues.”

Pumarejo attributes where he is in life today to the Air Force.

“Martial Arts and the military gave my life a different trajectory and life skills that have completely changed me,” he said.

He was able to train in martial arts while stationed in Korea on active duty. That time led him to teaching in the U.S., leaving the military and eventually opening his own studio. When times got hard, he was able to join the Reserve and split his time between the three things that he loves: his family, building bombs, and teaching martial arts.

Pumarejo wishes that more people would take advantage of the Air Force Reserve with the understanding that they can still manage serving their country as well as their personal goals.

Story continued on page 7...

Davis-Monthan Citizen Airmen help build a healthy, hunger-free tomorrow

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

Citizen Airmen from the 924th Fighter Group kicked off their annual tour by volunteering at the local food bank July 13 in Tucson, Ariz.

The reservists spent their Saturday morning supporting the needy, spanning five counties by building 3,360 food boxes at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

The mission of the food bank is to change lives in the communities they serve by feeding the hungry today and building a healthy, hunger-free tomorrow. They distribute 65,000 meals daily, and serve 190,000 people every year.

Typically, the 924th FG travels to another location for the duration of their annual tour and gives back to the community by visiting local restaurants, local attractions, and buying souvenirs. However, this year they are staying home in Tucson.

"I wanted to find another way to extend our support to the local community and I immediately thought of the food bank, so I reached out," said Chief Master Sgt. David Garcia, 924th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron specialist flight chief.

The food bank representatives jumped on Garcia's request for the 924th FG to assist because this is always a tough time of year for the organization.

"Summer is a critical time to get volunteer help because many of our volunteers leave town, yet the demand for [food assistance] stays the same," said Norma Cable, public relations and marketing specialist at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

The food bank had a previous relationship with the 355th Fighter Wing stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base but Garcia wants to help the 924th FG establish a relationship of their own.

"I want to help the unit continue to support the food bank by volunteering during our monthly drill weekends and by conducting food drives," Garcia said. "This is just the beginning."

Once the date and time were set, Garcia informed the Airmen and quickly had all the volunteers needed.

"The Airmen know how fortunate they are and how unfortunate others are for different reasons, so getting help was easy," Garcia said.

Assisting at the local food bank allowed the Airmen to process the gravity of their help.

"The food bank is super important and a lot of times we can lose sight of the fact that there's always someone worse off than you," said Staff Sgt. Matt Snyder, 924th AMXS aerospace propulsion craftsman.

Snyder has always been aware of the need for food banks and volunteers and he looks forward to helping again in the future. This mindset is what Garcia hopes the rest of the unit will take away from the experience.

"I want my Airmen to not stop here, this one time. I want them to help in this community as well as their hometowns," Garcia said.

The food boxes the Airmen built will support two different programs.

"The food goes to low-income seniors, 60 and over, with a 7-10 day supply of food as well as low-income families, children, and others with monthly emergency food assistance," Cable said. "We are so grateful for the

presence of the Air Force Reserve to get this important work done."

Garcia and other senior leaders also shared their feelings about the selflessness and efficiency their Airmen displayed.

"The commander and I are proud of the camaraderie that we saw today. We got here, formed the line and immediately got to work, in fact finishing ahead of the schedule," said Chief Master Sgt. Catherine Buchanan, 924th FG superintendent. "We are proud of each one of you and look forward to doing this again in the future."



Developmental education opportunities for Reserve Citizen Airmen

From HQ ARPC Public Affairs

Air Force Reserve Citizen Airmen are selected every year to attend Developmental Education courses boarded through the Reserve School Selection Board (RSSB A&B), Reserve Developmental Education Designation Board (RDEDB), and Enlisted Developmental Education Board (EDEB).

The boards are held quarterly over a five-day period at HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center, Buckley Air Force Base, CO, and attended by officer and enlisted senior leaders from a cross-section of the AF Reserve.

“Many enduring learning habits and networking opportunities are formed in the halls of these great professional development tours” said Col Shelley Kavlick, Reserve Advisor for Air War College at Maxwell AFB. She also stated that attending these leadership courses “challenge students to think above the operational level” preparing them for future leadership roles.

Reserve members selected for one of these courses experience unique opportunities ranging from short five-day courses located around the globe, to 10-month fellowship programs that lead graduates to notable follow-on assignments.

Maj. Chris Ryan, Legislative Liaison, Air

Force Senate Liaison Office, Washington D.C., attended the Air Force Legislative Fellowship and was later assigned to an Air Force Senate Liaison position for a three-year tour in Washington DC.

“I would absolutely recommend this fellowship program as it widens one’s knowledge past the Reserve Enterprise level and allows members to understand how senior leaders and Congress approach national defense issues,” Ryan said.

Officers such as Maj Ryan are selected upon consideration of the whole-person concept, justification with senior rater input, functional development team recommendations and the future needs of the Air Force.

Enlisted Force Development prepares Airmen for the transition from the tactical to operational and eventually, strategic levels of decision making and leadership.

SMSgt Misty Phipps, Superintendent, Personnel Management, Headquarters U.S. Air Force was selected to attend the Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Academy in California. She noted, that throughout the entire course they had to move as a team, not as individuals in order to succeed, and that it was a great way to ‘get



out of the blue’ and see things from a different point of view.

TSgt Travis Brite, Instructor, Basic Loadmaster Course, 733rd Training Squadron, JBSA-Lackland Texas, attended both the NATO NCO Orientation Course and NATO NCO Intermediate Leadership Course where he formed friendships and experienced professional growth with members from over 22 NATO countries.

High performing AF Reserve officer and enlisted members looking for new challenges and career broadening opportunities should review the invitation to apply found on the myPers/Force Development page (<https://mypers.af.mil/app/home>) or ARPC Force Development page (<https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/force-development/>).

A complete list of educational opportunities, and when the boards are held, can be found on the myPers Force Development page.

Master of his own Dojo continued... “Being in the reserve is an excellent opportunity to start off adult life on the right foot,” Pumarejo said. “Developing a trade in the military and earning education and healthcare benefits allows young adults to start out life without debt and something to fall back on; it’s a win-win.”

Even though he is satisfied with his life, Pumarejo is still adding new goals to his life.

“I plan to continue to work tirelessly to provide better pay, facilities, and resources for our Airmen as well as continue teaching Martial Arts and passing on the same skill I rely on,” he said. “I want there to be no doubt that I made things better for those around me and future generations.

Pumarejo’s drive and selflessness doesn’t go unnoticed.

“He is a great example of working to get what you want, not expecting it to be given to you,” Gilbert said.

944th Fighter Wing Warriors of the month June & July

Jose Lee - June

Name and Rank:
Staff Sgt. Jose L. Lee
Unit:
944th Civil Engineer
Squadron
Duty Title:
Engineering Assistant
Time in Service:
6 years
**Time with the 944th
Fighter Wing:** 6 years
Civilian Job:
Department of Interior
Hometown:
Somerton, Ariz.



(Photos by Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz)

Hobbies: Farming, gardening, and going out to the range.
Home-life: Married to my wife Nitza and we have one son. We have a small farm in southern Arizona with many animals and we're constantly growing new stuff in our garden. The farm keeps us pretty busy.

Why did you join the Air Force Reserves?

To serve my country.

How does your job support the mission of the 944th Fighter Wing?

Bases need infrastructure to accomplish the mission. My job plays a big role in planning, building and maintaining that infrastructure.

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

I would start a garden and call it home.



Bradley Pugmire - July

Name and Rank: Staff Sgt. Bradley T. Pugmire
Unit: 944th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Duty Title: Avionics Technician
Time in Service: 7 years
Time with the 944th Fighter Wing: 1 year
Civilian Job: Currently onboarding with the ART program.
Hometown: Ukiah, Calif.
Hobbies: Hiking, dancing, motorcycles, and Tinder.
Home-life: Single father of a 5-year-old girl. I plan to purchase a home here in Phoenix next year.
How does your job support the mission of the 944th Fighter Wing?

The F-35 utilizes some of the most advanced aerospace technology in the world. Together with Lockheed-Martin, we ensure the continued operability of this cutting edge technology which encompasses all of the aircraft's offensive and defensive capabilities in flight by applying in-depth systems theory, electronics troubleshooting principles, and classic hands-on maintenance.

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

I would probably misapply the survival training I received nine years ago in SERE, eat some berries that I shouldn't have, and die. But I'd like to think I'd live long enough to build a nice bungalow on the beach and maybe improvise some kind of coconut-based ukulele. Might even learn how to play.



(Photos by Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz)



Rustyn L. Sherer

944th Fighter Wing Honorary Commander



Full Name: Rustyn L. Sherer

Commander assigned to: Maj. Patricia Hartman, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron

Place of business: Arizona Public Service

Duty title: Community Affairs Manager

City where you reside: Gilbert, Arizona

Where you were born/grew up: Born in Alexandria, Louisiana/Raised in Tempe, Arizona

Family members: Grace his wife and Hayden his 15-year old son

A little about Rustyn in his own words:

I'm passionate about America, Arizona, my family, giving back to the community, learning, coaching, volunteering, the energy business, and food. I love games, competition and being challenged. I think I'm the type of person that actually hates losing more than I like winning. I work long hours, nights and weekends; and when I want something, my nature is relentless.

I specifically requested the 944th FW because I value the Guard and Reserve. It's incredible to me that on top of family duties, full-time jobs and full lives, there are those that volunteer for military service as a second/concurrent career. That's a compelling story; and recognizing that the 944th is right in my own backyard is awesome! I want to continue to tell the story of the 944th FW, especially in the East Valley, where, sadly, F-16s and F-35s aren't seen with regularity. I also wanted to become involved to learn more about the wing, the people, and the operation. Now, I want to figure out ways to support the wing; and help define how I can be best deployed "down range."

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 hope to take away some great friendships and long-term relationships with 944th leadership and my fellow Honorary Commanders. As a civilian, I also hope to impress upon everyone I meet in uniform, how grateful I am for their service. Finally, I want the 944th to know that I am an advocate and resource for the unit now; and will be when my Honorary Commander time is complete.

Beating the Heat!

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



As we embark upon this incredibly hot UTA, please remember that hydration and heat safety is essential not only to your physical wellbeing, but our mental health is also tremendously impacted!

- Heat waves are related to more violent behavior and aggression.
- Heat waves may be associated with higher drug and alcohol abuse.
- Anxiety tends to decrease with a rise in temperatures.
- Depression and lowered mood tends to increase with a rise in temperatures. (<https://psychcentral.com/blog/the-psychology-of-a-heat-wave/>, 2018).

Our mission requires us to be at the top of our game and this includes tolerance, patience, and focus! This cannot happen effectively when we are overheated and poorly hydrated. Please take good care of yourselves so you are better able to emotionally regulate and accomplish the goals set before you. Keep an eye on your Wingman, and let's do this!



(Courtesy photo)

944TH FIGHTER WING

BRINGING THE HEAT

944TH FIGHTER WING
FY 20 UNIT TRAINING
ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 2019
05-06 (CAPSTONE 3-8)

NOVEMBER 2019
02-03

DECEMBER 2019
07-08

JANUARY 2020
11-12

FEBRUARY 2020
08-09

MARCH 2020
07-08

APRIL 2020
04-05

MAY 2020
02-03

JUNE 2020
06-07

JULY 2020
11-12

AUGUST 2020
01-02

SEPTEMBER 2020
12-13

