

# SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing  
Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

September 2019 Newsletter



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**New faces, same mission: 'Sustain the excellence'**

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**Self-assessment**

Col. James Greenwald sits in the cockpit and prepares for flight in an F-35 Lightning II August 6 at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

## 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

September 2019

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## 2nd Quarter Award Winners

Congratulations to our

Wing Quarterly Award Winners for the second quarter!

AMN: Senior Airman Jovito Palo, 924th AMXS

NCO: Staff Sgt. Demetrice Fair, 414th MXS

SNCO: Master Sgt. Rochelle Lester, 924th MXS

CGO: Capt. Julie Browne, 944th ASTS

FGO: Maj. Gabriel Gassie, 307th FS

IP: Maj. Bridgette Fitzsimmons, 307th FS

IWSO: Maj. Kathleen Frost, 307th FS



# Hopelessness is our enemy and we must defeat it

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

Wow, it's September already! I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable Labor Day weekend!

Although September starts out with a fun family break, it's important to come back to reality and think about two other notable events September brings.

The first is our National Day of Remembrance, September 11. It's been nearly 20 years now since that terrible day when 2,996 Americans lost their lives to a terror attack on our own soil. Since then, our military has been continuously engaged in the War on Terror. Soon, we will have Airmen who were not born yet on 9/11. It's vitally important that we continue to remember not just those who lost their lives in the attacks, but also the nearly 7,000 Americans Killed in Action, and over 58,000 Wounded in Action during the War on Terror. On September 11, please join me in honoring their service, their sacrifice, and their memory.

The second thing we should remember is that September is National Suicide Prevention month. Perhaps even more tragic than the 9/11 attacks and ensuing combat losses is the number of American service members who die by their own hand.

An average of 300 of our brothers and sisters take their own lives each year. Since 9/11, we've lost almost as many service members to suicide as we have to combat. In the Air Force, suicide kills 20 times more Airmen than combat. Tragically, we lost one of our teammates to suicide in May. The message of National Suicide Prevention month is that suicide is PREVENTABLE. We have to do something.

You've probably heard about Gen Goldfein's direction for all wings to take a Resiliency Tactical

Pause. RegAF units were required to do this by 15 Sep, but AFRC units have until 31 Dec 2019. The 944 FW will do our Tactical Pause during the December UTA. However, this subject needs to be a part of our 944 FW culture. Here are some things I want you to think about:

Right now, someone in this wing is contemplating suicide. The experts tell me that this person most likely feels isolated--they think they have no one to

2. Every one of you makes an important contribution to the mission of this wing. Your efforts MATTER, and I want all of you to follow my example and remind each other how meaningful those efforts are.

3. We all have one thing in common: We are imperfect. We make mistakes. We have bad days. That does not mean we are weak, or failures, or burdens to others, it means we are human.

4. Occasionally we all need a hand. That doesn't mean we are weak. Lean on your teammates! We all have opportunities to lend a hand as well. Don't miss the chance to pay it forward when it's your turn. This is a part of being a good wingman.

5. We Americans love the come-from-behind victory. So when you get knocked down (and every one of us will), make the decision to get back up. If you've made mistakes, accept your responsibility, make the necessary correction, and move forward.

Above all, remember that you are a member of the world's greatest Air Force. The next time you consider what you think is wrong with the Air Force, remind

yourself of that. There is none better. Our culture of Airmen includes a healthy dose of swagger because we are the best. Be proud of your team!

This month as you remember 9/11 and the tragic toll of suicide, know that there is no enemy, no adversity, no predicament or misfortune that cannot be overcome by the power of Airmen. Watch out for each other. Lend a hand when you can, and ask for one if you need it. Hold your heads high and keep Bringin' the Heat!



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

talk to. This person might feel like nothing they do matters, or they are a burden to others, or they have made mistakes they simply can't recover from. This person feels hopeless. Teammates, hopelessness is our enemy and we must engage it and defeat it.

You will hear several consistent messages from me as we engage that enemy. All of us need to hear it and believe it and share it:

1. Every one of you is precious to this wing, to your country, and to your family. Believe it. It's true.

# The 944th FW Warrior of the Month: Senior Airman Gina Renee Trujillo



The August 944th Fighter Wing Warrior of the Month is Senior Airman Gina Renee Trujillo, Administration Helper for the 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

The Warrior of the Month program is a way to recognize and spotlight the Airmen of the 944th Fighter Wing for their positive impact and commitment to the mission.

**Time in Service:** Almost two years.

**Time with the 944th Fighter Wing:** Nine months.

**Civilian Job:** Museum Collections Manager.

**Hometown:** Buckeye, Arizona.

**Hobbies:** Basketball, museums, traveling, and concerts.

**Home-life:** I have a Polydactyl cat named Nickels.

**Why did you join the Air Force?**

For the retirement, friendships, and service

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

I help make sure people get paid and I write orders.

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

I would be with the one I love, my cat Nickels. I would make the most of what I had around me. I am a 'glass is half full' kind of person and will always try to make the best of any situation.



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

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

### From Airman Basic:

Airman Yecencia Baltazartzintzun, 414th FG

### From Airman:

Airman First Class Morgan Brewer, 944th OG  
Airman First Class Austin Resmerita, 944th CES

### From Airmen First Class:

Senior Airman Brandon Clouse, 944th MXS  
Senior Airman Glen Cullen, 944th MXS  
Senior Airman Viktorija Danyte, 944th CES  
Senior Airman John Foscue, 414th MXS  
Senior Airman Brianna Griffin, 414th MXS  
Senior Airman Audra Hacker, 944th ASTS  
Senior Airman Dennis Jones, 414th MXS  
Senior Airman Joseph Rodriguez, 944th AMXS

### From Senior Airman:

Staff Sergeant Alicia Bizzel, 944th MXS  
Staff Sergeant Gary Koch, 924th MXS  
Staff Sergeant Katrina Reading, 944th ASTS  
Staff Sergeant Cleveland Sandoval, 924th MXS

### From Staff Sergeant:

Technical Sergeant Jessica Armenta, 944th FSS  
Technical Sergeant Alexis Hausner, 924th MXS  
Technical Sergeant Nathaniel Knapp, 924th MXS  
Technical Sergeant Michael Layton, 414th MXS  
Technical Sergeant Kyle Lundeen, 924th MXS  
Technical Sergeant Loren Lupe, 944th CES  
Technical Sergeant David Mingus, 924th MXS  
Technical Sergeant Casey Oneal, 944th AMXS  
Technical Sergeant John Ramirez, 944th AMXS  
Technical Sergeant, Joshua Taylor, 944th CES

### From Technical Sergeant:

Master Sergeant Brian Garten, 944th CES  
Master Sergeant Natalie Semensow, 944th SFS

### From Master Sergeant:

Senior Master Sergeant Ralph Johnsen, 924th MXS  
Senior Master Sergeant Michael Mindziak, 924th MXS  
Senior Master Sergeant Joseph Murphy, 944th MXS  
Senior Master Sergeant Jason Park, 944th AMXS

### From Senior Master Sergeant:

Chief Master Sergeant Michael Bannon, 944th MXS



# Citizen Airmen: A closer look – Cedric Lee James

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

944th Fighter Wing Development and Training Flight recruits learn procedures, techniques, and receive information that will prepare them for success before attending basic military training and becoming Reserve Citizen Airmen. What assets do these recruits come with and what characteristics do they possess?

Cedric James, 944th FW D&TF recruit, is no stranger to how the military works and seems to have versatile interests and capabilities to bring to the table. His parents both served and retired from the U.S. Air Force. James, age 28, has recently committed to join the 944th FW and Air Force Reserve Command and humbly looks at his decision as an opportunity to better himself.

“I was looking for something good, something better,” said James. “I did some soul searching and I realized I wanted to serve, I want to do something great and give back.”

James is originally from Maryland and made a decision to leave behind a drumline scholarship opportunity at Bowie State University to move and be near his mother here in Arizona.

“My mothers’ health was deteriorating,” said James. “She was fighting cancer and I wanted to take care of her. I made the decision to come out here and I don’t regret it.”

He also has a passion for writing poetry and in 2011, he participated in an amateur boxing smoker competition on Luke Air Force Base which sparked another avenue of interest.

“I won that first one,” said James. “After that, I entered another event and I got knocked out. It was very humbling.”

After being knocked out, James wanted to get better and learn from the best. He has trained with Floyd Mayweather Sr., father of professional boxing champion Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Nate Jones, former U.S. Olympic and professional

boxer.

James has made it clear that though his focus now is concentrating on his Reserve Citizen Airman responsibilities, he plans to pursue his boxing career in the future. James is currently at BMT in San Antonio, Texas and says he is excited to become a crew chief with the 944th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

In his civilian job, James works at the Luke Air Force Base commissary as a butcher.

“The reason why I’m here is to serve,” said James. “I believe in service before self.”



# Flores takes command of the 944th MXS

*Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

A change of command ceremony for the 944th Maintenance Squadron was held here Aug. 4, 2019.

After serving as commander for almost two years, Maj. Erica Lowe relinquished command to Maj. Salvadore Flores.

“Maj. Erica Lowe was one of the original pioneers and was the ideal leader to take on the role of standing up the 944th MXS,” said Col. Scott Briese, 944th Maintenance Group commander.

The 944th MXG along with the 944th MXS and 944th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was reactivated in 2018, after almost 12 years of being inactive.

“At that snapshot in time, [the 944th MXS] had 76 full time members and 130 traditional reservists,” said Briese. “In under two years, the 944th MXG has grown to 150 full time members and 274 traditional reservists.”

Briese praised Lowe and Flores for their

leadership and efforts along with the Airmen from both the 56th and 944th Fighter Wing’s who contributed to making the 1K Maintenance Group the 2018 General Mark A. Welsh III One Air Force Winner for Air Education and Training Command.

“While the search for a capable replacement to progress the Total Force Integration and evolve programs to the next level was a challenge, Maj. Salvadore Flores stood out,” said Briese. “I look forward to Maj. Flores taking the squadron covering eight different career fields to the next level of high performance.”

Flores was previously the 944th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Operations Officer.

“I want to continue the legacy that has been established,” said Flores. “I want to also create our own legacy with the new aircraft, the F-35, and keep building our 1K maintenance. Give them hell.”



## 944TH FIGHTER WING

### BRINGING THE HEAT



# New faces, same mission: 'Sustain the excellence'

*By Staff Sgt. Tyler Bolken, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

A civilian's journey to service officially begins with that first meeting with a recruiter.

Many members of the 944th Fighter Wing began their journey with the 944th FW recruiting service, which recently welcomed its new flight chief, Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ossman.

Ossman is new to Phoenix and the 944th FW, but comes in with over 14 years of U.S. Air Force recruiting experience.

"This is a great opportunity and Phoenix is a great area for me and my family," said Ossman. "I am excited to be here."

The 944th FW recruiting mission focuses only on reserve recruiting and they look at non-prior service (civilian), prior service, and active duty members looking to transition, explained Ossman.

"I have noticed early on that people in the Phoenix area have a strong desire to serve," said Ossman.

The 944th FW RS spans beyond Luke Air Force Base and has recruiters in the Glendale, Tempe, and New Mexico.

To stay engaged with members of the 944th and the surrounding community, the RS attends several events throughout the year, said Master Sgt. Rickeita Conley, lead recruiter. These events range from job fairs on and off base, the air show, and the 944th holiday party, to name a few.

"My goal is to sustain the excellence at this office that has been estab-



*(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)*

lished," said Ossman. "If any members of the 944th have any recruiting related questions, do not hesitate to reach out to us."

Members of the 944th who would like to refer someone to the Air Force Reserve, are encouraged to use the "Share Your Adventure" program by visiting [www.shareyouradventure.us/](http://www.shareyouradventure.us/).



Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service is going all in with a new peer referral campaign called Share Your Adventure.

The Share Your Adventure peer referral program is the lead source generator for Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service with one of four people referred by current Reservists joining the Air Force Reserve and is replacing the command's Get1Now campaign. As manning levels continue to increase for AFRC and other branches of service and the nation's economy continues to be strong, Share Your Adventure is a vital program to help recruiters gather quality leads and assure AFRC has the manning it needs to excel in its mission to fly, fight and win.

Contact the 944th Fighter Wing Reserve Recruiting team at 623-856-5338 for more information.

# Col. Boehle talks resiliency

*By Master Sgt. Eric Amidon, Headquarters Readiness and Integration Organization*

Air Force Individual Reservists are the absolute best our nation has to offer. They have unlimited opportunities to serve in an extremely flexible status that provides valuable skills to their organization while building and sustaining their warfighting skills.

An individual reservist's unit has operational control for their members and is the most connected to their reservists. The purpose of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force's Resilience Tactical Pause is to "increase Airmen connectedness and sense of purpose among our Airmen in order to increase unit cohesion, trust and confidence in command teams while soliciting feedback to decrease suicides." The best place for this is with the IR's operational unit where the command team can look in their members' eyes and assess their well-being.

Headquarters Readiness and Integration Organization (HQ RIO) and our Detachments are ready to support the individual reservists and owning organizations if needed. Our individual reservists have multiple helping agencies they can reach out to at their owning organization, but HQ RIO can always work with individual reservists to find the support they need and promote help-seeking. We can help locate Religious Support Teams, Mental Health Professionals, Community Support Coordinators, Violence Prevention Integrators, Sexual Assault Response Coordinators, Volunteer Victim Advocates, Military and Family Life Counselors, Family Advocacy Program personnel, Community Cohesion Coordinators, Physical Health Professionals, Master Resilience Trainers and Legal Assistance attorneys.

If individual reservists are unable to attend their organization's Resilience Tactical Pause, we strongly recommend supervisors call their Airmen and engage in sincere conversations about connectedness, resilience, outlets for seeking help and their value as individuals to the team.



**It is our responsibility**

**#BeThere**

**To build and grow**

**#ReserveResilient**

## September is Suicide Awareness Month

Suicide prevention is the responsibility of everyone. We are committed to the ultimate goal of never losing another Airman to suicide.

Suicide is about more than numbers; it's about the individuals and those who love and care for them. Every suicide attempt and death affects countless others who are impacted by the long-lasting consequences of suicidal behaviors.

We can all make a difference by helping Airmen understand they are not alone and positive support is available. One act of kindness or concern makes a difference and could save a life.

Remember: Ask, care and escort...you may just be saving a life.

The Air Force remains committed to building a strong community. As leaders, it's our responsibility to create a command climate that encourages our Total Force to seek help when they need it.



# Gary Spadafore

944th Fighter Wing Honorary Commander



**Full Name:** Gary Spadafore

**Commander assigned to:** Chief Master Sgt. Jeremy Malcom, 944th Fighter Wing Command Chief

**Place of business:** Spada4Solutions LLC

**Duty title:** Owner/Educator

**City where you reside:** Phoenix, Arizona

**Where you were born/grew up:** Detroit, Michigan

**Family members:** Dr. Angela Shreves (wife) and Dr. Sophia Spadafore (daughter)

**A little about Gary in his own words:**

I have lived in Arizona for 46 plus years. I moved to Arizona to be a school teacher having just graduated from Northern Michigan University with a teaching certificate. Hard to believe, but back then there were no permanent teaching positions available so I was a substitute teacher in the Scottsdale school system. They paid me \$20 a day when they called me, so I had to get a night job to make ends meet. I took a job as a floorman (fancy word for bouncer) in a nightclub near ASU. That got dangerous so I went behind the bar where an Airman from Luke AFB taught me how to be a professional bartender. From there I went to the fanciest restaurant in Arizona and learned a little bit about wine. I became beverage director at the largest hotel in Arizona at the time, then took a job with a large wine and spirits wholesaler and eventually became director of education. I have attained many wine and spirits credentials and have very much enjoyed teaching sales people, servers, bartenders, managers and consumers. I have recently retired from Breakthru Beverage and am now the Owner/Educator for my own company called Spada4Solutions where I continue to educate the hospitality industry on wines and spirits. I have a passion for fast motorcycles, both on the street and in the desert. And finally, I am very blessed to have two special women in my life, my wife Dr. Angela Shreves and our daughter Dr. Sophia Spadafore.

## 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 have had so many great experiences so far. An overnight at the Barry Goldwater range, overnight at Nellis, a re-fueling mission in a C-130, many great memories from Luke AFB, and of course the unbelievably thrilling ride in an F-16. But what I will remember most will be the amazing, professional and dedicated people of the 944th I've had the pleasure to meet and interact with. I'd like to thank everyone that has made this possible.*

# Self-assessment

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



As a military member, assessments are a pivotal part of the job. Ensuring that you, your equipment and environment, and team are up to par and meet all expectations is essential to the safety and functionality of the mission. Without assessments, we would not become knowledgeable of areas of growth, new strategies and techniques, and efficient changes.

## *The same is true of self-assessments.*

Self-assessments require a high sense of self-compassion and self-responsibility. It requires us to look in the mirror and identify areas that are slipping ever so slightly, or that are completely deteriorating. Our responsibility to ourselves, our teams and our Military family is dependent on our follow through in these areas and seeking to improve INTERNAL strategies and practices. This all begins with our thinking, and understanding that our practices are a direct result of our thoughts. Positive shifts in our thinking impacts our practices. Take a pulse check and determine your level of efficacy and if some level of support or maintenance would assist you in running at full capacity. The 944th has supports and services abound that just need to be tapped into. Reach out to your teammates, supervisors, and 1st Sgts for recommendations and let's do this together! Happy September!



(Courtesy photo)

## Protect our wing's critical information



THINK OPSEC



Contains  
PII



Contains  
FOUO

DoD Marking Category

### 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/





Col. James Greenwald visits bomb storage facility August 4 at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson)