

SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing
Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

October 2019 Newsletter



Citizen Airmen: A closer look - SMSgt Michael Kuehler

Day spa owner serves as EO advisor

Total Force Enterprise in QA

Be proud of your heritage

Lt. Gen Richard Scobee, Air Force Reserve Command commander, talks with Airmen from the 944th Maintenance Group Sept. 26 during a tour of the 944th Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Moore)

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

Contents of the 944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, DoD or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 85309. All photographs and graphics are property of the Air Force unless otherwise indicated. Articles can be submitted via 944fw.pa@luke.af.mil.

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

Tech. Sgt. Lausanne Kinder

Staff Sgt. Tyler Bolken

Staff Sgt. Christopher Moore



www.944fw.afrc.af.mil

Bringing the Heat

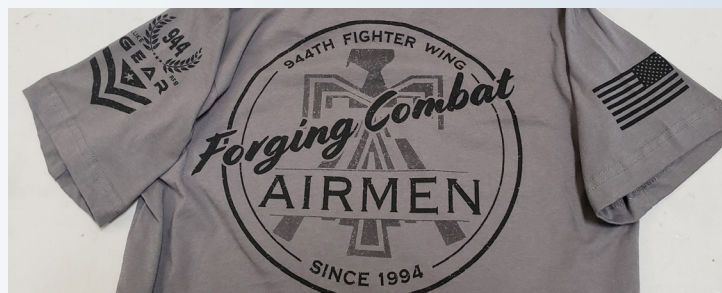
October 2019

Being prepared for near-peer fight	3
Day spa owner serves as EO advisor	4
Citizen Airman: A closer look - SMSgt Michael Kuehler	5
Total Force Enterprise in QA.	6
Luke medics place third in worldwide competition	7
Be proud of your heritage	8
Honorary Commander Spotlight	9
Forging history; the birth of the 944th Fighter Wing	10
Molding and Shaping Over Time	11



Forging Combat Airmen T-shirts are available for purchase in the 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office for \$15.

Colors are navy blue, steel blue, dark gray, silver, and cardinal red.



Being prepared for near-peer fight

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

This month we are proud to host the AFRC IG team as they wrap up our Unit Effectiveness Inspection with the Capstone visit. For most of you, this UTA will seem like “business as usual.” That’s perfect. But if you do have the opportunity to meet with the IG team, I expect you to make that your #1 priority. This is your opportunity to speak directly to the IG about any concerns. Let them know what’s on your mind – the bad and the good! I can’t wait to show them the incredible Airmen of this wing!

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to meet directly with CSAF General Goldfein and AFRC/CC Lt Gen Scobee. They elaborated on the future direction of the Air Force, and their priorities based on the National Defense Strategy. You might remember that last month your group commanders, Chief Malcom and I sat down to refine this wing’s strategic goals. I’m happy to report that our goals align perfectly with those of our senior leaders.

Next month, I will lay out the details of that wing strategy, but here’s a preview: The Air Force has gotten really good at aggregating a team from multiple units and deploying to prepared bases on a predictable schedule to fight Violent Extremist Organizations. However, the National Defense Strategy requires us to be prepared for a near-peer fight. That means we need to be able to deploy

as squadrons to unprepared locations, establish a base, establish communications, defend the base, and conduct operations while under attack for a short period before moving to a new location. Our training plan will include increasingly robust exercises geared toward those expeditionary skills, and will use a “super UTA” concept to maximize mass training for common requirements.

You may have heard a lot about fitness in the news lately. There has been discussion of various possible changes to the fitness testing process. Please stand by – no changes are official. We’ll provide specific information when/if any changes take effect.

You might also have heard CSAF Goldfein’s statement about commander fitness. I share his view that commanders must exemplify Air Force standards and be physically ready at all times to accomplish their mission in demanding environments. As your commander, I will never ask you to do something I’m not willing to do. Nor will I hold you to a higher standard than I hold myself. This is the example I expect every commander in the 944 FW to follow. You can look forward to seeing me and Chief Malcom at some of your unit PT. I’ll also be inviting some of you to join me in my own workouts and fitness activities.

Let me close by saying how many great things Lt Gen Scobee had to say about this wing during



his visit! He was incredibly impressed by you and your great work. As he said, we can never pay you what your service and sacrifice deserves. But we can provide you with a mission that means something and offer you the chance to be part of something noble. Thank you for continuing to stand and serve. I’m proud to be a member of your team! Forge & Fight - Bring the Heat!

944TH FIGHTER WING



Day spa owner serves as EO advisor



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder)

By Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz., 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Airmen in the U.S. Air Force Reserve lead a double life: as a Reservist one weekend a month, and working in the civilian sector during the rest of the month.

A Reserve Citizen Airman with the 944th Fighter Wing Equal Opportunity office is the proud small business owner of Skin GLO Studio, a day spa in North Mesa.

Master Sgt. Michelle Schoenfeld, NCO-in-charge of 944th FW/EO, parlayed her GI Bill benefit to launch her career as a licensed aesthetician and day spa owner.

“With the assistance of the GI Bill, I was able to

go back to school not once but twice,” Schoenfeld said. “First as a licensed cosmetologist and second as an aesthetician.”

Schoenfeld attended aesthetics school in 2008 then opened her studio in 2013.

“I started with a small one-room studio and, after two moves, grew the business to a 1,200 square foot, six treatment room day spa,” she said. “We currently have nine employees and have expanded the business greatly.”

Schoenfeld’s day spa has been ranked among the top three day spas in Mesa three years in a row. The small business owner attributes her military background for the success of her day spa.

“It’s with that education (attained through the GI Bill) I’ve been able to hone my craft and get back to my creative roots,” Schoenfeld said. “My military career has helped me with my ability to lead and, when necessary, to follow.”

Schoenfeld first joined the 944th FW in 2000, serving as an information management specialist with the 944th Operations Group until 2005. She rejoined the wing in late 2009 where she continues to serve as an EO advisor.

Fellow Airmen are impressed with Schoenfeld’s success and thankful for her contributions to the wing.

“Master Sgt. Schoenfeld has always been a very important presence in EO and the wing,” said Maj. Sarah Cummings, 944 FW/EO director. “I’ve always been proud of the strong and intelligent woman she is. Creating your own business takes a lot of sacrifice and determination, and she makes it look easy.”

The EO NCOIC said there’s plenty of room in the USAFR for new Airmen and reminds them to make the most of their military career.

Take advantage of every opportunity the Air Force has to offer through training, travel and education,” Schoenfeld advised. “Take the time to build professional relationships with your fellow Airmen.”

September 2019 promotions:

Congratulations to the following 944th Fighter Wing promotees

From Airman Basic:

Airman Craig Dennis, 944th CES
Airman Devion Stigars, 944th FSS

From Airman:

Airman First Class Jazmine Lopez, 414th MXS
Airman First Class Austin Resmerita, 944th CES
Airman First Class Bonny Udo, 944th CES

From Airmen First Class:

Senior Airman Cody Blevins, 944th AMXS
Senior Airman Havannah Burnes, 944th AMXS
Senior Airman Brian Felix, 944th AMXS
Senior Airman Vincent Grimaldi, 944th AMXS
Senior Airman Emma Hawkins, 414th MXS
Senior Airman Patrick Johnson, 944th MDS
Senior Airman Christian McGadney, 414th MXS
Senior Airman Joshua Oconner, 944th AMXS
Senior Airman Julian Provoid, 944th FSS
Senior Airman Andrew Rydwell, 944th AMXS
Senior Airman James Song, 414th MXS
Senior Airman Cooper Stubblefield, 944th MDS
Senior Airman Bryan Valenzuela, 944th AMXS
Senior Airman Elijah Williams, 414th MXS

From Senior Airman:

Staff Sergeant Alexis Angarica, 944th CES
Staff Sergeant Adan Barnard, 414th MXS
Staff Sergeant Gabriel Coronado, 944th MXS
Staff Sergeant Jesus Felix De Los Reyes, 944th LRS
Staff Sergeant Christopher Fielder, 944th CES
Staff Sergeant Hannah Goerl, 924th MXS
Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Huneycutt, 924th AMXS
Staff Sergeant Emmanuel Pate, 944th MXS
Staff Sergeant Stephan Powell, 414th MXS
Staff Sergeant Katrina Reading, 944th ASTS
Staff Sergeant Savanna Riley, 944th FSS
Staff Sergeant Kendra Roberts, 944th MDS
Staff Sergeant Demarco Young, 924th AMXS

From Staff Sergeant:

Technical Sergeant Aaron Atkins, 924th AMXS
Technical Sergeant Dylan Logsdon, 944th AMXS
Technical Sergeant Jonathan Martin, 944th CES
Technical Sergeant Manuel Matias, 924th MXS
Technical Sergeant William Nall, 944th CES
Technical Sergeant Zachary Parrish, 944th ASTS

From Technical Sergeant:

Master Sergeant Benjamin McIlvain, 414th MXS

Citizen Airmen: A closer look – SMSgt Michael Kuehler



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

Senior Master Sgt. Michael L. Kuehler, 944th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, knew early in life he was destined to serve in the U.S. Air Force. He grew up in a small town in West Texas and his family established deep roots serving in the Air Force.

Kuehler enlisted with active duty out of high school and was stationed at four major bases before arriving at Luke Air Force Base, where his life took a different path after eight years of service.

“I left active duty and joined the Air Force Reserve,” said Kuehler. “I was also hired by the Phoenix Police Department and worked nights as a patrol officer for much of my career. Then I got married and had two wonderful boys.

As a brand new patrol officer, Kuehler had less than ideal days off and found it difficult to participate during unit training assemblies, which caused him to leave the Reserve temporarily.

After a significant break in service, Kuehler decided to rejoin the 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels section and continue his service to country.

“It felt like I was able to pick up right where I left off,” Kuehler said. “Some of the same friends and co-workers were still in the Reserve and made me feel right at home where I belonged the entire time.”

As a reservist, Kuehler was afforded an opportunity to pursue a dream he had since he first joined the Air Force.

“I always wanted to be a first sergeant,” Kuehler said. “I have been a first sergeant for three years to various squadrons and I was also afforded the opportunity to deploy as a first sergeant.”

As a first sergeant, Kuehler has many accomplishments. Kuehler, was recently asked to speak to approximately 50 Civil Air Patrol cadets about leadership and first sergeant duties at their Arizona Wing Encampment week. He also won First Sergeant of The Year for the 944th Fighter Wing and 10th Air Force.

Kuehler expressed how the best part in both careers is being able to help people.

“My civilian career is mostly about helping those in need,” Kuehler said. “I see people at the worst times in their lives and I am called to help them during that time. As a first sergeant, my job is people and everyone is my business, helping our Airmen in any way I can.”

During a deployment to Southwest Asia, Kuehler was able to help a distraught Airman during a very bad time in his life.

“He made comments about harming himself and several coworkers,” said Kuehler. “Along with the help of all involved, we were able to get him home and seek further treatment without anyone being injured.”

Kuehler wants Airmen to remember nobody is perfect and we must all learn and strive to be better every day.

“Develop your own leadership style,” Kuehler continued. “Ensure you learn something from every leader you have in your career, good or bad. Take a piece of that leadership style and develop your own style of leadership. Be flexible as one style does not fit all situations.”

Kuehler attributes his success to dedication and hard work.

“I have had many great mentors in my military and civilian career who have pointed me in the right direction but I have had to do the work to get where I am today.”

Total Force Enterprise in QA

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

Among those who maintain aircraft, equipment, munitions and weapons, the most technically proficient are given the chance to excel even further by becoming quality assurance inspectors. QA inspectors work directly for the 56th Maintenance Group commander to ensure safe and reliable aircraft and weapons systems.

The 56th Maintenance Group QA houses 65 personnel, including four air reserve technicians, one Active Guard/Reserve, and four traditional reservists from the 944th Fighter Wing making it a model for Total Force Integration and Total Force Enterprise.

Airmen from the 944th receive the same training and perform the same duties as their active duty counterparts.

Master Sgt. Jon Gonzales, an ART with the 944th Maintenance Group, and Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Miller, 56th MXG, are both F-35 avionics inspectors, who work side-by-side on a daily basis.

“The [944th Fighter Wing] does not own the aircraft [at Luke] so we have to be 100 percent TFI,” said Gonzales. “Since we all work on the same equipment it makes sense for us to work out of the same shop. Our TFI/TFE program enables congruity and continuity in all aspects of aircraft maintenance.”

Gonzales was one of the original Airmen to start working for the 944th Fighter Wing before the 944th MXG was reactivated in 2018, after almost 12 years of being inactive.

When asked about the differences working with both active duty and Reserve, Gonzales and Miller agreed that there’s

not much of a difference.

“We are all here to perform the same mission,” said Gonzales.

QA performs more than 1,500 inspections per month between the F-35 Lightning II and F-16 Fighting Falcon housed at Luke. When not conducting inspections, they are researching regulations to ensure the most accurate information is being passed down.

Since the reactivation of the 944th MXG, there are now 430 Reserve Citizen Airmen working directly with their active duty counterparts in their respective career fields.

“Most days I can’t even tell the difference between who’s reservist or who’s active duty,” added Miller.

Before working in QA, Miller and Gonzales also worked together at the 61st Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

“A lot of Reservist have more time-in-service so they bring in more experience across different airframes and [Air Force Specialty Codes],” said Miller. “Luke is the first base where I’ve been a part of a unit with TFI/TFE. The extra manning the Reservists provide helps us complete the mission.”

Gonzales also credits his early success to Reserve Citizen Airmen.

“At my first active duty assignment, it was the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and the ma-



jority of active duty maintainers were deployed when I arrived on station,” he said. “It was the ARTs and TRs on orders who trained me. In less than a year they had me ready to deploy.”

Gonzales was not always an ART. Like many Reservists with the 944th, he served on active duty and has more than 17 years in the Air Force. He plans to continue serving, bringing both active duty and Reserve experience to the mission.

Luke medics place third in worldwide competition

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

Nineteen U.S. Air Force medical teams were selected from around the world to compete in the 12th annual Medic Rodeo, September 17 – 20 at Cannon Air Force Base and Melrose Air Force Range, New Mexico.

The 944th Fighter Wing's team was honored to represent all of Air Force Reserve Command and took third place in the competition. The five-man team comprised of Citizen Airmen from the 944th Medical and Aeromedical Staging Squadrons were first-time participants and brought unique skill sets and experience to the competition.

"We are taking our [civilian] experience and bringing it to the front line," said Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Heng, 944th Medical Squadron deputy chief enlisted manager, City of Goodyear emergency medical technician firefighter, and coach for the team. "With the skills we've obtained outside the military we showed what we are capable of and what we bring to the fight."

Judges graded the rodeo on multiple medical scenarios as the teams displayed their skills and knowledge in simulated tactical and home installation environments on trauma combat casualty care.

"A lot of it comes down to being thrown into a situation and you either sink or swim," said Staff Sgt. Sergio Tosi, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical technician and firefighter paramedic with Arizona Fire Medical Authority.

Tosi was a last minute add-on to the 944th FW team and said he was confident with TCCC training, however he admits he was surprised at the intensity level and how things ran during the competition.

"Even if we hadn't placed in the top three, this was probably one of the better experiences I've had in my military or medical careers," said Tosi. "I received a lot of raw knowledge on how I need to run things and how we need to progress."

Team Luke brought over 20 years of military and civilian medical experience to the competition. However, to enhance the deployed environment experience, the requirement to incorporate a non-4N0 [medic] Air Force Specialty Code, was added to the team composition this year to expose other medical career fields.

"I learned so much from this event that I truly feel ready to take on anything," said Senior Airman Jovante White, 944th MDS diet technician and



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Moore)

Allstate insurance agent. "Being a non-EMT, I learned a few things from the rodeo that can literally save a life.

According to White, the teams' cohesion and willingness to accept constructive criticism could not have been better.

"We took the feedback from our cadre very well and put our emotions to the side," said White. "Being open to feedback and using our weaknesses as our strengths is what contributed to our success."

The EMT Rodeo began in 2007 as a competition among medical group teams, and over the past eleven years, it has grown from a regional competition to an Air Force recognized event.

Team participants:

Senior Airman Christopher Straticoglu, 944th MDS medical technician; Senior Airman Jovante White, 944th MDS diet technician; Staff Sgt. William Gerrish, 944th MDS medical technician; Staff Sgt. Sergio Tosi, 944th ASTS medical technician and Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Heng, 944th MDS deputy chief enlisted manager (coach).

Be proud of your heritage

By Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Flores, 944th Operations Group superintendent

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage month, let's commemorate the contributions that unify our legacy to our great country's rich history and our beloved Air Force's mission success! Hispanic culture champions diversity and inclusion, as we are a multi-ethnic and multi-racial group. We have become stronger and more resilient as we faced adversity, and we will evoke all the hard work and sacrifice our ancestors overcame to give their children a better future.

For example, my parents left everything they knew behind; family, friends, tradition, and comfort. I am grateful that they endured much sacrifice and conquered many trials to give my siblings and me better opportunities. One of their challenges included my decision to enlist soon after high school. As a first generation American who didn't know much about the military, I now realize that leaving home at 17 years of age took courage, especially for my parents. My family is very close-knit and over-protective, so it took quite a bit of coaxing for my parents to agree to sign me over for the active duty Army life. It was scarier for them than it was for me, but as I have learned through more than 20 years of military service, I had to get out of my comfort zone to grow and flourish.

I am not the only one who has left a cozy home and close-knit family to fight for our country's freedom; most of you reading this have answered our nation's call to serve as you overcome fears and learn to grow in every aspect of life. As dedicated service members, you make sacrifices and work hard to provide a better future for upcoming generations, and this strong legacy of love, honor, and service will continue to thrive amongst our ranks and our families. This proud legacy is

what I hope to impart upon my children, my family, my community, and my Airmen.

I have come to realize how important it is to represent where we come from because it shows others that they can succeed, too. Still, achieving our goals takes dedication and discipline; we must realize that circumstances don't have to be perfect for us to achieve our aspirations. You may have different challenges than others, but that doesn't take away from your inherent power; it's actually what makes your story special. I have been inspired by other strong Hispanic women who serve, such as previous Air Force Reserve Command Chief, Ericka Kelly and our Wing's newest diamond First Sergeant, Master Sgt. Perla Tapia. These resilient women have overcome glaring obstacles, yet have risen above life's challenges to empower others. They have adopted a growth mindset, which tells them that even though something is difficult or at times seems impossible to overcome, they must continue to push through; and they succeed. If they can do it, so can you!

Interestingly, I believe success is not always about winning or getting your way; sometimes it's about who you become through the process.



(Courtesy photo)

We can learn through good and bad leadership, because we can grow from every experience and challenge the status quo. I have been blessed with transformational leaders who have empowered me, but I have also been challenged with other types of leaders, whom I learned from nevertheless. I served five regular active duty years in the Army, which was not my favorite experience... but I still gleaned from it. Now, I'm even more grateful for the privilege to serve with the Air Force for the past 15 years. I have learned that if I see someone else doing something I want to do, I can seek the training and experience, and be willing to meet challenges head on. For instance, I have improved at certain skills because I seek to expose myself to things that I once thought I could not do. It's astonishing that though I have a dread of public speaking, ... *story continued on page 11*

Terrie Frankel

944th Fighter Wing Honorary Commander



Full Name: Terrie Frankel

Commander assigned to: : Col. Alfred Rossum, commander 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and Col. Miguel Pirela Cruz, commander 944th Medical Squadron

Duty title: Retired Author/Producer/Composer

City where you reside: Sedona, Arizona

Where you were born/grew up: Chicago

Family members or significant other: Fred Shinn

Please tell us a little about Terri in your own words:

I was born in Chicago and was an early Doublemint Twin in the late Sixties. I had the opportunity to tour Vietnam with the USO in 1968. I am a New York Times Best Selling Author, playwright, performer, producer, composer and screenwriter. I have served on the Board of Directors of the Producers Guild of America and am a member of the Recording Academy (Grammy's). As part of my passion to help veterans I created the Arizona Community Foundation "Terrie Frankel Endowment for Habitat for Humanity Critical Home Repair for Veterans." I have been honored to receive the Vietnam Veterans of America Presidents Award for Excellence in the Arts and most recently was recognized with the 944th Fighter Wing Lifetime Honorary Commander Achievement Award.

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...

My experiences with the USO in Vietnam gave me a heartfelt appreciation and respect for our military. I had the good fortune of being recommended as Honorary Commander by a friend who served as commander of the 944th ASTS and MDS. I would like to get to know the military members at Luke AFB on a personal level and understand their role in the military; to bring awareness of their outstanding achievements.

Forging history; the birth of the 944th Fighter Wing

By Jessica Johnson, 944th Fighter Wing Historian

October 1st marks the 25th anniversary of the 944th transitioning from a Fighter Group to a Fighter Wing, but the unit has a deeper history that is rooted in the pioneering and resilient spirit of America.

After World War II, the Air Force had a reserve flying force, but the units were not centrally located and squadrons were spread out across the United States. This made it difficult to mobilize Reserve units during a crisis.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy ordered 148,000 Reservists and National Guardsmen to active duty in support of the Berlin Crisis. East Germany was beginning of the construction of the Berlin Wall and the tensions between the East and West were escalating quicker than anyone imagined.

Due to the geographic separation of squadrons across the United States, the response time to mobilize an entire wing for deployment to Germany was much too long. As a solution, Air Force Reserve Command began reorganizing the wings under Continental Air Command and the 944th was born.

Initially, the 944th Troop Carrier Group, was attached to the 63rd Military Airlift Wing. It was designed to deliver cargo and passengers while participating in training in airlift operations and exercises. However, it quickly became something much more than an ordinary Reserve group.

In 1967, severe blizzards stuck the Hopi and Navajo Native American reservations in northern Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. Roads were blocked, hundreds of people were stranded and thousands of livestock were threatened with imminent starvation. The 944th Troop Carrier Group jumped into action with its parent wing and began supporting this humanitarian effort. The unit assisted in dropping 858 tons of hay and delivering fuel to the helicopters at the local staging areas that were delivering food, blankets, clothing, and medical supplies

to those in the affected areas. After the operation was complete, the 944th had assisted in saving hundreds of lives and limiting livestock losses in the reservations to five percent.

Along with life-saving missions like Operation Haylift, the 944th has transported other precious cargo. In November 1969, Apollo 12 landed in the Pacific Ocean. They returned with vital samples and moon rocks from their time on the lunar surface. C-141s from the 944th were used to transport these extraterrestrial findings back to the continental United States. These samples assisted scientists at NASA in gathering more data to further understand the formation, age, and composition of our moon.

In January 1973, the 944th was honored to transport even more precious cargo. America and North Vietnam agreed to the mass release of prisoners of war. The operation was correctly dubbed Operation Homecoming. Between February and March 1973, 566 American military personnel were released into US custody at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. They were given medical treatment, clothing, and phone calls home for the first time since they were taken prisoner. The 944th Trooper Carrier Group critical to the transport of these brave souls home to their loved ones; a gesture that was the embodiment of freedom to those

(Graphic by Capt. Monique Roux)

who had given so much.

While the 944th might be young as a Fighter Wing, our legacy and heritage spans the decades of Air Force history. From the legendary feats and firsts of the Tuskegee Airmen to some of the first pilots of today's F-35 Lightning II, the 944th continues to forge its way into history while shaping the elite Reserve Citizen Airman that will create the future of the United States Air Force Reserve.



944th FW celebrates 25 year anniversary October 1

From humble beginnings as the 944th Troup Carrier Group at March AFB, Ca., the 944th has answered this nation's call for nearly six decades. Though our mission has changed, our commitment to excellence has never wavered. Today we celebrate our 25th year as the 944th Fighter Wing, and we are proud of our many years of faithful service to this country. Our mission is to forge combat Airmen to fly, fight and win. We are a unit of elite Reserve Citizen Airmen – engaged, ready, and resilient. The 944th Fighter Wing boasts more than 2,200 members in five groups, 14 squadrons, two detachments, two flights and five locations spanning the country.

Molding and Shaping Over Time

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



Just as cliffs are shaped over time by the strong, repetitive current of the ocean, we are also molded and shaped by the current of life's pressures. The raw, natural beauty of a waterfall would not be possible without the continued pressure of water and current beating down and shaping the cliffs. Life's stressors and challenges will continue to mold and shape us, and though the process is lengthy and the path painful, we will eventually grow and develop into the beautiful being we were meant to be.

The most impressive variables of the waterfall are power, endurance, strength and resilience! The stone and cliffs resist to the pressure of the water and current, thus allowing the change to its shape to occur over time and with refinement. As we consider the strain of life's molding and shaping, we must fight to resist the pressure, while also allowing change to seep in and create greatness and beauty within us. Current does not move in puddles; it only moves in a body of

water that has depth and strength. Each of us comes with a certain level of depth based on life's molding and shaping. Let's embrace our variables and fight the pressures, so we too can become a stunning masterpiece. Welcome to the October UTA and cooler temperatures!



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Moore)

...Be proud of your heritage continued...

I am now the 944th Fighter Wing Top 3 President running monthly meetings; leading weekly meetings for Luke Toastmasters as the Vice President of Public Relations; and traveling to facilitate SNCO Leadership Courses AFRC-wide. While this did not happen overnight, my willingness to get out of my comfort zone is what has made this growth possible.

Thus, I encourage you to remember that regardless of the situation you find yourself in right now, there is always the potential for greatness in your future. All you have to do is get after it! Fear not the challenges, but learn from them, and constantly seek ways to take care of Airmen, families, and community. Don't let any type of adversity allow you to question your self-worth or demean your legacy. Instead, honor your heritage, and celebrate it. Continue your personal and professional development no matter what; and enjoy every success.

Indeed, be PROUD of your heritage as you seek new opportunities; become a lifelong learner; empower everyone around you to overcome their fears and challenges; and become inspirational to them. I truly believe you have this power in you, because if anyone else can do it, so can you!



Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Kenneth Fay, receives his retirement certificate from Maj. Patricia Hartman, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, Sept. 7 during a retirement ceremony at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)