

# SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing  
Luke Air Force Base, Arizona  
December 2019 Newsletter



Col. James Greenwald, 944th Fighter Wing commander, removes a stencil of the 944th FW patch during an unveiling of the first F-35 Lightning II flagship for the 944th FW, Nov. 3, 2019, Luke Air Force Base Ariz. This will be the first F-35 flagship for the 944th Fighter Wing. (Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder)

**Civic leaders tour Barry M. Goldwater Range**  
**Recruiters recognized at annual conference**  
**414th Fighter Group trains at the liberty wing**  
**944th FW unveils first F-35 Flagship**



## 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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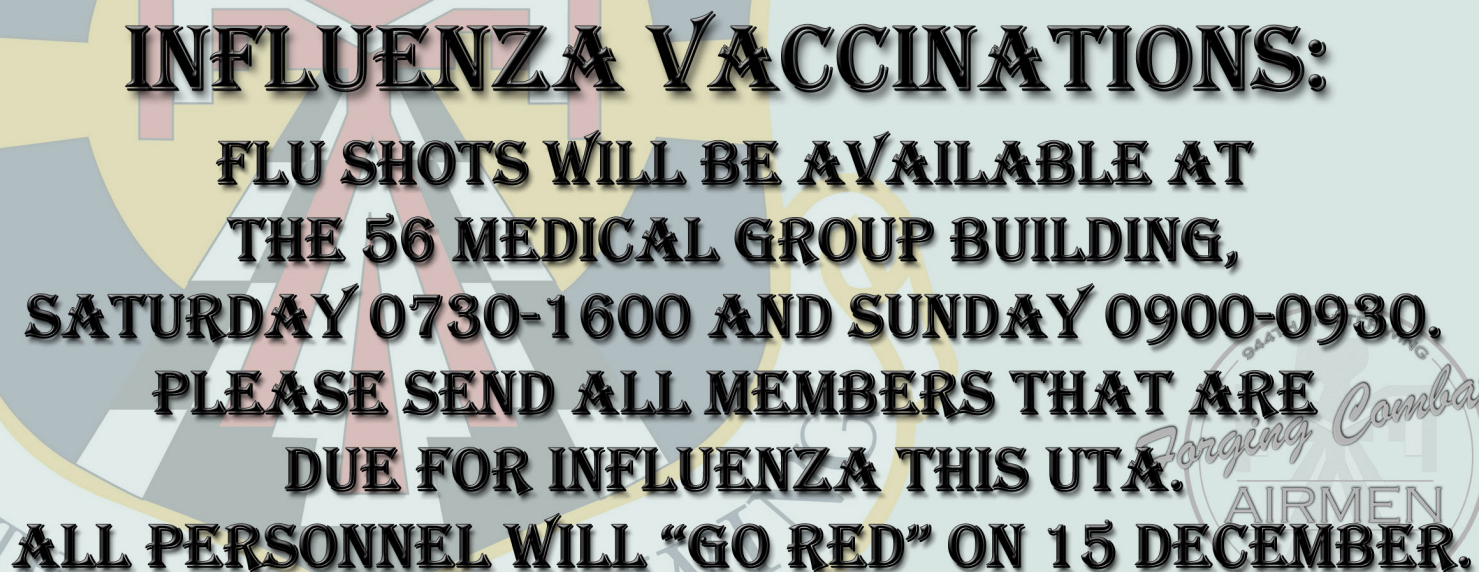
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Bringing the Heat

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**INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS:**  
**FLU SHOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT**  
**THE 56 MEDICAL GROUP BUILDING,**  
**SATURDAY 0730-1600 AND SUNDAY 0900-0930.**  
**PLEASE SEND ALL MEMBERS THAT ARE**  
**DUE FOR INFLUENZA THIS UTA.**  
**ALL PERSONNEL WILL "GO RED" ON 15 DECEMBER.**



# It's important to give yourself credit

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



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... Well, outside of Southern Arizona anyway. This is the time of year to be thankful we aren't buried under snow!

It's also the time of year when many of us try to take a "tactical pause" from the holiday craziness to reflect on the past year; to remember the things we experienced and the people we experienced them with. This time of reflection pairs well with this UTA's focus on resilience. I encourage all of you to take a moment to reflect. If you're like me, when we look back, we often focus on our failures, or unaccomplished goals, or challenges we haven't overcome – yet.

While it's important to pull relevant lessons from failure, we shouldn't dwell on it. Failures should be starting points for the next effort. As we reflect, it's important to give yourself credit for all the battles that you won, all the obstacles you overcame, no matter how small or large -- and the relationships that helped you through it. Cultivating those connections with the people who we "do life" with increases the number and fre-

quency of those small wins. Reflecting on those small victories reminds us of two important things: First, that we are equipped to overcome adversity; and second, that we are capable of achieving more than we sometimes give ourselves credit for.

This year-end reflection also lends itself to the homework I assigned during our November commander's call. As you reflect back on the past year, I'd like you to think about what made you join the Air Force, and what it means to YOU to be on your team... a Hellion, Werewolf, Ammo, Medic, Termite, MSGer... or simply a Reserve Citizen Airman. Send me ONE (1) picture that shows what that means to you. It's not a contest. It doesn't have to be the perfect photo. It just needs to illustrate what your service means to you. Yes, they can be funny – fun is an important part of our culture. Yes, they should be tasteful. Send photos to this address: 944fwpa@gmail.com. I'd like to have them by January 15th.

During the November all-call, I talked about our wing vision, mission, and priorities. I asked our amazing PA shop to summarize those ideas, and they compressed it into an awesome new 944 FW mission video. Here's a link if you haven't seen it: <https://youtu.be/9S7lcGygmfE> - Amazing work! And a special shout out to SrA Caroline Burnett from 56 FW/PA for her assistance!

As we close out 2019, I'd like to thank you all for serving this wing and your nation. Every single one of you makes a difference, and I'm extremely proud of you all. I hope you all enjoy some time with friends and family over the coming weeks. Have a blessed, restful, and safe holiday season, and let's make something amazing happen in 2020! Forge and Fight!

# FORGE & FIGHT

## 944TH FIGHTER WING



# The 944th FW Warrior of the Month: Senior Airman Zachery Foulk



(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson)

The November 944th Fighter Wing Warrior of the Month is Senior Airman Zachery Foulk, explosive ordnance disposal apprentice for the 944th Civil Engineer 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:** Three years.

**Time with the 944th Fighter Wing:** Three years.

**Hometown:** Phoenix, Arizona.

**Hobbies:** My hobbies include accordion playing, Polka dancing, motorcycle racing, croquet, and sailing.

**Home-life:** I am a father and husband.

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

I joined the Reserve to wack tangoes. #RunninAndGunnin. To serve my country.

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

I am blessed with such great mentors and having the opportunity to ride shotgun with our active duty, 56th EOD brothers has provided astounding chances to utilize the MQT program to successfully gain proficiency in our diverse field allowing readiness for upcoming conflicts.

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

First, I'd grow my back hair out. Then I'd rope me a couple of sea turtles and lash them together to make a raft with the hair off my back.

## November promotions:

### From Airman Basic:

Airman Makaila Donnell, 924th AMXS

Airman Jy Martinez, 414th MXS

Airman America Medina, 944th MXG

Airman Bryan Hernandez, 944th LRS

### From Airman:

Airman First Class Alexander Sullivan, 414th MXS

Airman First Class Diane Valenzuela, 944th SFS

### From Airmen First Class:

Senior Airman Jonathon Balkow, 924th AMXS

Senior Airman Wesley Henry Carter, 944th AMXS

Senior Airman Derique Decoux, 944th AMXS

Senior Airman Jarrett French, 944th AMXS

Senior Airman Daonapa Phimmason, 944th FSS

Senior Airman Ostyn Shipp, 944th AMXS

Senior Airman Micah Sutton, 944th ASTS

Senior Airman Tre Tate, 944th MXS

### From Senior Airman:

Staff Sergeant Andrew Chase, 944th MXS

Staff Sergeant Alexander Cummings, 944th MXG

Staff Sergeant Davon Draughton, 944th AMXS

Staff Sergeant Dalilah Jimenez, 944th AMXS

Staff Sergeant Chance Majarian, 924th AMXS

Staff Sergeant Michael Miller, 944th CES

Staff Sergeant Libby Wilson, 944th ASTS

### From Staff Sergeant:

Technical Sergeant Sami Abbas, 924th AMXS

Technical Sergeant Ashley Featherston, 944th MSG

Technical Sergeant Angel Frimel, 944th AMXS

Technical Sergeant Jeremy Glenn, 944th AMXS

Technical Sergeant Jeremy Johnson, 944th SFS

Technical Sergeant Angel Mariscal, 944th LRS

Technical Sergeant Ryan McElhaney, 944th LRS

Technical Sergeant Wesley Medlin, 944th SFS

Technical Sergeant Sergio Natividad, 944th SFS

Technical Sergeant Nicholas Nelson, 944th SFS

Technical Sergeant Jeffrey Seastrand, 944th SFS

Technical Sergeant James Vilchis, 924th MXS

Technical Sergeant Elisabeth Yates, 944th MDS

### From Technical Sergeant:

Master Sergeant Kevin Anderson, 944th FSS

Master Sergeant Candice Bullardnorwood, 944th ASTS

Master Sergeant Alexander Goreski, 944th SFS

Master Sergeant Francis Proctor, 414th MXS

Master Sergeant Shannon Wright, 924th MXS

### From Master Sergeant:

Senior Master Sergeant Kristie Bluemer, 944th FSS

### From Senior Master Sergeant:

Chief Master Sergeant Kenneth Bohannon, 944th CES

# Recruiters recognized at annual conference



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

Luke Air Force Base recruiters were recognized with multiple awards during this year's Air Force Reserve Command recruiting conference in Orlando, Florida in October.

Tech. Sgt. Chasity Hercher and Master Sgt. Marsi Smith, 944th Fighter Wing Recruiting Services, both earned the Century Club award while Master Sgt. Chandra Callahan earned the Superior Achievement award.

"Both awards are based on assigned recruiting numbers," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ossman, 944 FW/RS flight chief. "The Century Club award is given to recruiters who meet 150 percent of their goal, while Superior Achievement recognizes recruiters who meet 130 percent of their goal."

The RS office was also recognized with the All Wheel Drive (Silver Level), Top Large Flight (Silver Level) and Top ART Flight awards for AFRC.

"Meeting our goals takes dedication and hard work," said Hercher. "We couldn't have done this without the support of the wing, and everybody in our office working as a team and maintaining the same work pace throughout the fiscal year."

Ossman said he's proud of his team's achievements, but says earning awards is not the goal in the RS office.

"It's not all production, it's also about finding the right fit for the career field," he said.

# 944th FW unveils first F-35 Flagship



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

The first F-35 Lightning II flagship for the 944th Fighter Wing was unveiled Nov. 3, 2019 here.

Since the 944th FW was established, the flagships have always been F-16 Fighting Falcons with the last F-16 flagship departing in 2007 due to a change in mission.

For 12 years, the 944th has not had a flagship until now. The flagship aircraft is determined by the current wing commander's assigned airframe.

"This aircraft represents the great partnership we have with the 56th Fighter Wing," said Col. James Greenwald, 944th FW commander, the first 944th FW commander to pilot an F-35.

The aircraft, which is attached to the 62nd Fighter Squadron, will still be owned by the 56th FW, but now has the 944th FW patch on the right side with, 944th FW commander's name. The tail number for the aircraft is 5044.



# Civic leaders tour Barry M. Goldwater Range

*Story and photos by 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

More than 50 civic leaders and military members toured the Gila Bend Auxiliary Airfield and the Barry M. Goldwater Range East in Gila Bend, Arizona, to see firsthand Luke's training mission Nov. 21 and 22.

944th Fighter Wing Reserve Citizen Airmen and 162nd Wing Arizona Air National Guardsmen partnered to offer civic leaders from Phoenix and Tucson a unique view of pilot training during the overnight trip.

"This trip is a great opportunity for our civic leaders to witness the capabilities of our aircraft," said Col. James Greenwald, 944th FW commander. "This range is a perfect place to showcase all the hard work and training our members complete to accomplish the mission."

During the tour, attendees observed day and night bombing, rocket attacks, and strafing runs to demonstrate capabilities of the jets and the range. Civic leaders also viewed an equipment demonstration by Airmen from the 944th Civil Engineer Squadron's explosive ordnance disposal team.

"What a treat to be able to view the bombing runs and interact with fellow civic leaders," said Judith Wolf, 944th Fighter Wing honorary commander. "It was truly an amazing and memorable experience."

Overall, the tour was considered a success by both military members and civic leaders alike.

The Barry M. Goldwater Range complex is a vast training range for U.S. and allied pilots. The range consists of 1.7 million acres of relatively undisturbed Sonoran Desert southwest of Luke Air Force Base between Yuma and Tucson, south of Interstate 8. Overhead are 57,000 cubic miles of airspace where pilots practice air-to-air maneuvers and engage simulated battlefield targets on the ground. Roughly the size of Connecticut, the immense size of the complex allows for simultaneous training activities on nine air-to-ground and three air-to-air ranges.

"As one of the most robust and flexible ranges for



supporting realistic and integrated air-ground combat training, the BMGR is truly an invaluable asset in the defense of our nation," said Susan Gladstein, 56th Range Management Office public affairs specialist. "Tours like these are an excellent opportunity for us to showcase not only our highly trained and talented Airmen but also provide an up-close view of the Range's integral role in maintaining the preparedness of the Armed Forces that dates all the way back to 1941."



# 414th Fighter Group trains at the liberty wing

*Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Jessi Monte, 48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

U.S. Air Force Reserve Airmen assigned to the 414th Fighter Group at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., participated in their annual training Nov. 9 – 23, 2019 here.

Immersion training between Active and Reserve Airmen serves an important role in backfilling positions and providing a helping hand while units are on deployment. This temporary duty to RAF Lakenheath provided an opportunity for 414th FG members to gain more hands-on experience, share knowledge and improve workflow with Liberty Wing Airmen.

“It’s all about efficiency,” said Staff Sgt. Robert McMillian, 48th Component Maintenance Squadron aircraft hydraulic systems craftsman. “Each base has their own best practices and we can trade information and exchange ideas.”

The 414th FG members found themselves with a comfortable advantage working with familiar aircraft, equipment and processes similar to their home station, making the integration between the two units seamless.

“We hit the ground running on the first day,” said Tech. Sgt. Michael Sumner, 414th Maintenance Squadron crew chief. “We integrated quickly and were ready to get to work.”

Tech. Sgt. Luke Scheffler, a 48th Maintenance Squadron flight line expediter, said the 48th MXS Airmen enjoyed working alongside the reservists as they

provided valuable insight into not only the maintenance field, but an understanding of Reserve unit capabilities.

“The level of knowledge they possess and their willingness to help was instrumental in completing some complicated and aggressive maintenance,” said Scheffler. “They all had a great attitude when it came to accepting assignments and acclimating to working on a different flight line.”

414th FG Airmen operated together with numerous Liberty Wing Airmen in various work centers including 48th Aerospace Propulsion flight, 48th Aerospace Ground Equipment flight, and 48th Armament Support flight. They also took on crew chief duties for take-offs and recoveries on the flight line.

“We really like going out and adding value to other units in the Air Force,” said Capt. Blake Conley, 414th Maintenance Operations officer. “This was one of the best receptions I have seen yet.”

This is the first time the unit has come to the Liberty Wing, but Conley said they hope to make it a more regular occurrence.

“I believe that it was very beneficial to both units,” said Scheffler. “We would be more than willing to host them again in the future.”

The Air Force Reserve focuses on readiness through training sessions like this to ensure Airmen are combat-ready and able to integrate with active duty components to accomplish the Air Force mission.





# Stuffing Preparation: Do's and Don'ts

By Senior Airman Jovante White, 944th Medical Squadron diet technician



Once your meal is planned and your ingredients and food thermometer are at the ready, deliciousness awaits. Follow these tips to help ensure you and your loved ones safely enjoy the succulence of stuffing.

- As soon as you've prepped the stuffing, cook it immediately. If you prefer to prepare stuffing in advance, freeze rather than refrigerate uncooked stuffing.
- When stuffing the large cavity of fresh or thawed whole poultry, use a moist stuffing mixture rather than a dry one. Spoon it loosely,

not compactly, into the cavity to allow for proper cooking. Don't cool freshly prepared stuffing before spooning it into the poultry.

- For stuffing recipes that include poultry, shellfish or meat, cook these raw ingredients before adding them into the stuffing.
- After the inner part of the stuffed poultry thigh and the center of the stuffing have reached 165°F, let it stand for 20 minutes to complete the cooking process; then remove the stuffing and carve the poultry.
- If you have leftover stuffing cooked within the poultry cavity, store the stuffing in a separate, sealed container. It may be refrigerated for up to four days, or frozen for longer storage. This same timing applies to stuffing that is cooked separately.
- When reheating leftover stuffing use a food thermometer to make sure the center of the stuffing once again reaches 165°F.

For more information visit <https://www.eatright.org/homefoodsafety/safety-tips/holidays/top-tips-for-safe-stuffing>.

*Pictures & Gifts from Santa!*

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

*From the 944 Fighter Wing*

**Sunday December 8th 9:44am-Noon**

**Location: Hanger 999**

*Bring your families to enjoy:*

- Corn Hole
- Craft Stations
- Cookie Decorating
- Fingerpainting
- Cars / Motorcycle Display
- Itty Bitty Pony Rides
- Christmas Tree Decorating Contest
- Clowns
- Sumo Wrestling
- Face Painting
- Bounce House
- Cross Fit Fun
- Trackless Train Rides
- Yard Jenga
- Petting Zoo

(Courtesy photo)



# Let's remember Pearl Harbor and go on to victory

By Jessica Johnson, 944th Fighter Wing historian

December 7, 1941. This day has gone down in history, as President Franklin D. Roosevelt coined it, a day that will live in infamy. The surprise attack on the Hawaiian naval air station sent a shock through the nation and was the catalyst that catapulted the United States into World War II. Over 2,400 Americans were killed, more than 1,000 were wounded and the attack left the U.S. Pacific Fleet with severe losses. Four battleships were sunk, the USS Arizona, USS Oklahoma, USS West Virginia, and the USS California.

American outrage at the attack fueled congress to declare war on the Empire of Japan within a day of the initial attack. Pearl Harbor was the force that drove Americans to the recruiting offices. But this great tragedy is not without its heroes and tales of glory.

On that sunny Sunday morning, no one could have ever anticipated a direct attack on U.S. soil. Chaos ensued when the Japanese bombardment began. However, there were a number of determined and incredibly brave pilots that decided they wouldn't let this aggression go without a response.

Two members of the 47th Pursuit Squadron, now the 47th Fighter Squadron, which was attached to Wheeler Field came to this very conclusion. 2nd Lieutenants George Welch and Kenneth Taylor, Army Air Corps pilots, had just arrived to their first duty station on Hawaii less than a year prior.

The two men had just finished an all-night poker game when they heard the sound of air fire just before eight in the morning. The planes of the 47th were located at Haleiwa Field for training and the two pilots drove 11 miles in mere minutes to reach their aircraft. Without orders, they leapt into action and took to the air to return the fight to the waves of Japanese fighter planes.

Taylor and Welch were able to down at least six enemy aircraft during the violence. They were two of only five Army Air Corps pilots that were able to make it into the air that day. They were both awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, having been the first two to receive that honor in World War II. Taylor received a Purple Heart for injuries he sustained that day after a bullet penetrated the canopy of his aircraft, sending shrapnel into his leg and hitting him in the arm.

Today, the actions of these two men live on in the legacy of the 47th Fighter Squadron. According to retired Maj. Gen. James W. Graves, former 47th Fighter Squadron commander, "The

U.S. was able to find a bright light in what was otherwise known as the darkest days of U.S. military history because of [their] decisiveness, tenacity, and courage..." Today the 47th Fighter Squadron lives up to the legacy of bravery, honor, and valor shown by two pilots during a time of overwhelming danger.



(Courtesy photo)

## Safety tips for traveling during the holidays

By Richard Teets, 944th Fighter Wing occupational safety manager

Many people choose to travel by car during the holidays, which has the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation based on fatalities per passenger mile. In 2017, 329 people died on New Year's Day, 463 on Thanksgiving Day and 299 on Christmas Day, according to Injury Facts. Alcohol impairment was involved in about a third of the fatalities.

Stay safe on the roads over the holidays and every day:

- Prepare your car for winter and keep an emergency preparedness kit with you
- Get a good night's sleep before departing and avoid drowsy

driving.

- Leave early, planning ahead for heavy traffic
- Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance traveled
- Put that cell phone away; many distractions occur while driving, but cell phones are the main culprit
- Practice defensive driving
- Designate a sober driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party; alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription and illegal drugs can cause impairment



# Family Connections

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



As we approach the upcoming holidays, it is important to recognize that for most of us, the holidays are a time filled with joy, laughter, love, and giving; however, the holidays can also be filled with stress and anxiety as financial strain, and family logistics and planning can be overwhelming. Good stress is still stress! Most importantly.... Have FUN!

Remember, holidays are about

family connections. Family is defined as those who are most important in your life, i.e., biological, non-biological, Military, friends, etc. Take the time to reach out to those near and far as these connections have a significant impact on our feelings of value and connectedness. Let go of past conflicts and let's embrace forgiveness and new beginnings. Remember to check-in with your fellow Airmen and their families to ensure everyone is connected during the holidays.



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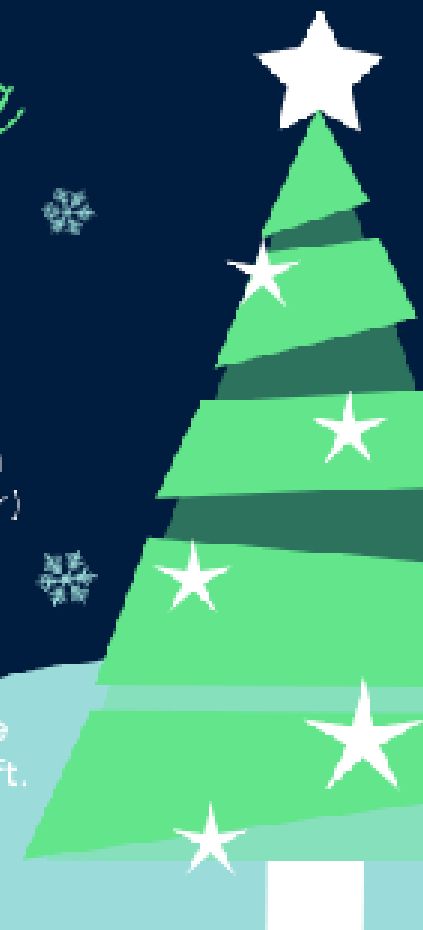
## 944TH FIGHTER WING TREE DECORATING CONTEST!

GEAR UP FOR THIS YEAR'S

# Table-Top Tree Decorating Contest

All squadrons are welcome to join the table top Christmas tree decorating contest. On 8 December, please bring 1 tree from each squadron to building 999 (Hanger) by 0900. The judging will be held between 0944-1100. The winner will be announced at 1130.

The winning squadron will receive bragging rights and a surprise gift.







Civic leaders and Airmen from the 944th Fighter Wing and 162nd Wing observe an equipment demonstration by Airmen from the 944th Civil Engineer Squadron's explosive ordnance disposal team Nov. 21 at Barry M. Goldwater Range, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)