

SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing
Luke Air Force Base, Arizona
January 2020 Newsletter



Col. Paul Theisen, 944th Fighter Wing director of staff, takes center stage during his retirement ceremony Dec. 20 at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. Theisen served over 30 years of distinguished service. (Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

Upcoming Events

January

Jan. 11-12 Unit Training Assembly

Jan. 12 SNCO & NCO induction ceremony

Jan. 31 Deadline for “What it means to me,” photos submitted to 944fwpa@gmail.com

February

Feb. 8-9 Unit Training Assembly

Feb. 8 Annual Awards Banquet

Feb. 9 Graydon Williams Award nominee suspense

March

Mar. 7-8 Unit Training Assembly

Mar. 8 Bosses Day nominations due

Mar. 11 Red, White, and Blue Awards ceremony/presentation of Tempe Military Affairs Committee Graydon Williams Award

April

Apr. 3-6 Unit Training Assembly (Super UTA)

Apr. 5 Bosses Day meeting



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Forge and Fight

January 2020

A matter of perspective

By Col. Sean Rassas, 944th Fighter Wing vice commander

I was personally reminded prior to the December UTA how quickly one's perspective on life and its circumstances change. I started a few of the meetings I chair with a personal story about how my life was interrupted by the unexpected: water damage and mold in my kitchen, requiring a remediation down to the studs, right before Thanksgiving and the December UTA. We've been living with no kitchen and construction dust for 7 weeks! I don't normally share personal circumstances with people, but felt it was my opportunity to share just how quickly unexpected life events can create stress in our lives. Having no kitchen during the holidays really upended our household and significantly distracted me from my normal pace of life. Given what I perceive as a shift in focus by our Air Force on how we look out for each other, it was time to share my story and what I typically shrug off as my "first world problem."

Over two-thirds of our Wing sees each other only 16 hours a month. In many ways each month is akin to a family reunion where our ARTs, civilians, and AGRs catch everyone back up to speed with the happenings on base and our TRs spend 16 work hours with their "other family." This reunion, in my opinion is one of the great things about being a Reservist. First and foremost, it should serve to remind each of us about why we choose to sacrifice our time to serve when we could be doing any number of other things; something I am grateful you do. I personally came into the last UTA with other things on my mind and it took our 944th family to put a smile on my face and remind me how great an organization we have, because it truly is a family.

So what's the point? We each have an opportunity to choose to share with our co-workers how our lives going outside of the UTA or choose to keep it to ourselves. We also have the opportunity to ask someone how their lives are outside of the UTA. You should know when someone you work with is distracted or disengaged from their norm. When you recognize something isn't quite right with another reservist you should ask yourself if you really meant it when you asked someone "how they've been?" It could have been your chance to lift someone up who's dealing with a "first world problem" or help you see someone differently, who really needs help!

This organization is full of amazing people. I can't say thank you enough for what you do for the Reserve Command, please take a minute this UTA and mean it when you ask your friends how their holiday was and how things have been going for them. Don't miss an opportunity to lift someone up and put a smile on their face when they otherwise had reason to be distracted or disengaged, just like you did for me last UTA!

