

SnapShot

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



Col. James Greenwald, 944th Fighter Wing commander, poses with Chief Master Sgt. Jeremy Malcom, 944th FW command chief, Jan. 9 after a familiarization flight at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. Malcom was flown by Col. Sean Rassas and has transitioned to his new position as the 10th Air Force command chief. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

Upcoming Events

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

Mar. 21-22 Luke Air Force Base Air Show

Mar. 26 Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Ceremony

Mar. 27 944 OG Det 2 Change of Command

April

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

May

May 2-3 Unit Training Assembly

Bosses Day (TBD)



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www.944fw.afrc.af.mil

Forge and Fight

February 2020

That's what we call resilience

By Col. James Greenwald, 944th Fighter Wing commander

Teammates, welcome to the February UTA! I hope you've been looking forward to this month as much as I have. February is special for a couple of reasons. And I'm not talking about the Super Bowl, Mardi Gras, or even Valentine's Day!

First, February is the month when we honor our Outstanding Airmen of the Year. Our annual awards banquet is truly one of the highlights of the year, and this month we will also be celebrating our Maintenance Professionals of the Year. These two events allow us to highlight the contributions of just a few of our elite Reserve Citizen Airmen. I often say that bragging about your accomplishments is one of my favorite things to do, and events like these give me plenty of opportunities!

The second reason February is special is that these celebrations bring members from all of our GSUs to Luke. That gives us a chance to reconnect with our teammates from all parts of the wing. We've been emphasizing the importance of staying connected with our team, and this UTA gives us a prime opportunity to do just that. Be sure to spend some time chatting with our folks from Seymour, Holloman, Eglin, and Davis-Monthan who will be in town this weekend! There will also be a few alumni members from throughout the wing who come out to reconnect and to help us honor the 944th's finest. Make sure to spend some time with them also!

Another important group who will be out in force for these events is our incredible team of community partners. These great folks take time out of their busy lives to learn about you and your mission. Their support makes events like our awards banquet possible. Please take time to meet them and thank them for their service. They truly make a difference to the 944th and our mission partners.

So this month, please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of our finest Airmen, and reconnecting with our teammates – Airmen, alumni, and community supporters. These relationships are a part of the Reserve Citizen Airmen culture that I talk about so often. These connections make us stronger than we are on our own. They make us better able to handle the unpredictable obstacles and challenges that life puts before us. That's what we call resilience. Just last weekend we saw two great examples of it. First, Webb Simpson came from behind to win the Waste Management Phoenix Open in a playoff, and then we saw the Kansas City Chiefs come from behind in the final minutes to win the Super Bowl. I'm pretty sure I'm not going to be faced with a 17 foot birdie putt on the final hole of a PGA tournament to force a playoff. But I do know that I'll be faced with something that will demand resilience. You will too. Let's build it up before we need it.

Thanks to every one of you for continuing to put on this uniform and sacrifice your weekends to be a part of this great team. We need every one of you! Congratulations to all of our 2019 Outstanding Airmen of the Year and Maintenance Professionals of the Year! I can't wait to see what incredible accomplishments you come up with in 2020! Forge & Fight!



Erin Sandmann

944th Fighter Wing Honorary Commander



Full Name: Erin Sandmann

Commander assigned to: Col. James Greenwald, 944th FW commander

Place of business: Sandcastle Resources, LLC

Duty title: President

City where you reside: Peoria, Ariz.

Where you were born/grew up: Clifton Park, N.Y.

Family members: Douglas Sandmann, DDS, (husband); Eric and Devin, (sons)

A little about Erin in her own words:

I am the founding president of Sandcastle Resources, LLC. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science and a minor in secondary math education from SUNY Buffalo, New York; I was the business manager of a top producing dental practice; and have consulted in computer software, personnel management, human resource law compliance, and business management.

Sandcastle Resources, LLC is the packager and distributor for High Desert Bioscience products, and recently contracted as the exclusive North American distributor for Ostosolutions ostomy pouch disposal seals.

My hobbies include sharing free time with friends and family; painting glassware; paper crafting; hiking; traveling; and flipping houses with my husband. My sons are both graduates of Arizona State University.

As an Honorary Commander I am looking to better understand how the Air Force functions, and the demands which are placed on the men and women in service.

Words from our Honorary Commander...

I am consistently impressed with the commitment, dedication, and appreciation I observe at every event I have the privilege to attend. While I seek to assist in any what that I can, I am humbled to know that it will never compare to these men, women, and their families. Thank you for all that you do.

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.