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



944th Fighter Wing Reserve Citizen Airmen pose for a photo 8 Feb after winning Load Crew of the Year. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.)

Upcoming Events

March

7-8 Mar. Unit Training Assembly

7 Mar. 944 Civil Engineer Squadron
Assumption of Command

8 Mar. Bosses Day nominations due

11 Mar. Graydon Williams Award
presentation

21-22 Mar. Luke Air Force Base
Air Show

26 Mar. Tuskegee Airmen
Commemoration Ceremony

27 Mar. 944 OG Det 2
Change of Command

April

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

4 Apr. 924 AMXS
Assumption of Command

May

1 May 307 Fighter Squadron
Change of Command

2-3 May Unit Training Assembly

2 May Employer Day

May 13 Key Spouse Gila Bend Tour

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Forge and Fight

March 2020

Be resilient and ready

By Col. James Greenwald, 944th Fighter Wing commander

Welcome back teammates. February flew by! Last month I really enjoyed recognizing our outstanding Airmen of the Year. The Annual Awards Banquet was fantastic. The team from the Operations Group knocked it out of the park under Maj. Sharon Hester's leadership, and U.S. Navy Captain Charlie Plumb shared an incredibly inspiring message of success through adversity.

As we head into this UTA, a couple words are on my mind: RESILIENCE and READINESS. We use these words a lot. One of our strategic priorities focuses on RESILIENT Airmen and families. Another is dedicated to advance READINESS. I would like to give a couple examples of what these words mean to me and why they are so important.

Over the last month, you have likely noticed the hype surrounding the latest example of unexpected adversity: "COVID-19 coronavirus." A person who lacks resilience may get caught up in that panic, becoming extremely anxious after reading a bunch of memes. They may make drastic lifestyle changes to avoid contact with people and pay hundreds of dollars for anti-Corona facemasks. They sell all of their investments and cancel the June family vacation to Disneyland, losing thousands in airfare and prepaid lodging. This person suffers greatly as a result, even if they never come near the actual virus!

A resilient person does not panic. They do not need to because they are already prepared. They read a variety of news reports and consider the larger perspective. They continue their basic hygiene and fitness habits that mitigate the risk of most other virus-borne diseases. They trust the investment decisions they made six months ago. They use critical thinking to see through gimmicks and unrealistic cures. They do not make hasty decisions about their Disneyland vacation, knowing they bought travel insurance that will protect them in the event of last minute changes.

In other words, a resilient person is prepared ahead of time with skills that allow them to weather the unexpected with minimal damage. Now please don't get me wrong – I am not attempting to downplay the Coronavirus outbreak and I do highly encourage you all to continue careful hygiene practices to stay healthy, this was simply my way to illustrate the differences between a person who is prepared for the unexpected and one who is not.

Readiness is closely related to resilience. But here's the difference: Resilience means you are prepared for the unexpected and adversity. Readiness means you are prepared to do a specific mission when needed. All of your required training is designed to make you READY. Our squadron commanders report your readiness status every month, and this information is used by decision makers at the highest levels of the Department of Defense.

Based on Air Force and Wing strategic priorities, I've asked your commanders to make some significant changes to our training plan. One of the most noticeable will be the 4-day "super UTA" coming up in April. These changes are designed to get you READY as efficiently as possible, in order to preserve time for other training events. These will familiarize you with basic skill sets needed to operate in unpredictable, austere environments. These "Multi-Function Airmen" skills will make you more flexible, more versatile, and more prepared for the unexpected.

I'm confident you're going to enjoy these changes. You should feel a closer connection to the mission as we work through this training plan. The end result will be Airmen and teams that are not only more READY, but more RESILIENT as well.

