

official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

THE BEACON



COMBAT EXCELLENCE-ALWAYS ON MISSION

FROM THE DESK OF THE WING COMMANDER

COL. TIM DONNELLAN



My fellow Warrior Airmen -

A few weeks ago I had the distinct pleasure of doing something I hadn't done in my 23 years of service - process 30mm Ammo! Don't get me wrong, I've sent plenty of 30mm flying out of the front of the A-10, but I've never processed unexpended 30mm rounds at the MSA. It was a great experience and I got a chance to learn something new from AMMO.

Afterwards I thought on the word "process" and the many different meanings of the word we're going to use this month. First, we are going to "process" a sampling of our deployers going to Green Flag for our combat spin up exercise. We are going to run them through the mobility line, ensuring our Airmen have all they need to deploy. We cannot afford to send even one of our own overseas without being completely prepared, and the mobility line is the way to do that. We're using the Green Flag deployment as a litmus test to prove how ready we are.

In addition to a "processing" line, with the help of ACC/IG, we're going to evaluate our own mobility "processes". Over 500 124th Fighter Wing members will deploy this year, supporting both the AEF and the RCP - so we must have a solid set of procedures in place so everyone is ready. These procedures must be detailed enough to ensure compliance with the reporting instructions, but must also be as simple as possible so as to not be more intrusive on our precious training time. Our process is critical - so much so that we've asked ACC/IG to watch us as we inspect ourselves with our own IG/WIT. The lessons we learn this drill will be directly applied to the combat deployment processing line just a few months later.

We must take time to "process" all that we are about to do this year and start maximizing the balance in our lives. Those deploying must take the time to understand the impact of this event on their families, civilian jobs, and themselves. The balance of quality family time, preparation for extended separation, last minute training requirements, and time to mentally spin up is critical. Any time we demand of each other must be treated with great respect because we don't have time to waste. Each mandatory event must be thought out and executed quickly and effectively, or we threaten that precious time our Warriors need to prepare.

The members of the Fighter Wing staying behind must take time to process the needs of the families of our deployed members, the requirements of operating a Wing with one-half the force, and to stand ready for what may be another busy fire season. We cannot afford to be wrong on any of these, especially in supporting the families of our brothers and sisters in combat operations, so we need to take the time to understand that responsibility, then commit the resources and time to do it right.

So, as we hit January drill, please take the time to "process" - whether you're evaluating a process, running a process, or contemplating one. I can guarantee that when we take full responsibility for that process and stay in control of it, nothing can stop us as either individuals or a team.

I'm proud of you all and everything you do. I'm excited for the adventures that lie in front of us this year, supporting our great country and state. Be safe in your work and play, and let's hit our processes with a vengeance.

Attack!

-Donut

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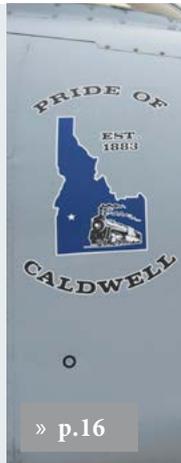
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WING COMMANDER
Col. Tim Donnellan

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
2nd Lt. Cassie Morlock

PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC
Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF
Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney
Tech. Sgt. Joshua Allmaras
Tech. Sgt. John Winn
Airman 1st Class Skylia Child



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This month's cover photo was taken Dec. 5, 2015 by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Allmaras during a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program briefing.

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PRIMARY UTA EVENTS



JAN. DRILL CALENDAR

SATURDAY

0700-1630-CDF Line, Bldg. 1528 and 1530
 0800-Chief Hotaling Enlisted All Call, Bldg. 440 Aud.
 0830-Enlisted Promotion Board, Bldg. 600
 1000-QRA Briefing, Bldg. 600
 1230-Chief Hotaling Enlisted All Call, Base Theater
 1300-CDC Testing, Base Training Bldg. 400
 1300-Fitness Test, Bldg. 1530
 1400-Evaluation Training, Bldg. 400 Basement Class
 1400-SMSGt Joe Stark Retirement, Bldg. 1529
 1400-TSgt Mark Magill Retirement, Base Theater
 1500-Joint Enlisted Council Meeting, Bldg. 400 Conf. Rm.
 1500-Col. Trimble Retirement, Base Theater

SUNDAY

0700-1630-CDF Line, Bldg. 1528 and 1530
 0830-CDC Testing, Base Training Bldg. 400
 0900-1100-PDF Line, Bldg. 1500
 1300-MSGT Budner Retirement, Bldg. 600 Brooks Aud.
 1330-1530- PDF Line, Bldg. 1500
 1530-Lt. Col. Daniel Retirement, Bldg. 400 DFAC

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

SATURDAY (\$5.55)

Main Line:
 Spaghetti w/
 Meat Sauce
 Savory Baked Chikcne
 Steamed White Rice
 Italian Style Beans
 Herbed Green Beans
 Sicily Blend
 Vegetables
 Italian Wedding Soup
 Chicken & Rice Soup
 Garlic Bread

Short Order Line:

Flat Bread Pizza
 Meatball Sandiwhc
 Hamburger
 Cheeseburger
 French Fries

SUNDAY (\$5.55)

Main Line:
 Chicken & Dumplings
 Cajun Fish
 Au Gratin Potatoes
 Hopping John, Black
 Eye Peas w/ Rice
 Carrots
 Succotash
 Fiesta Tortilla Soup
 French Onion Soup

Short Order Line:

Corn Dog
 Chicken Cordon
 Bleu Sandwich
 Hamburger
 Cheeseburger
 Onion Rings

REMEMBER This schedule is subject to change. Check the current Fragmentory Order for updates.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

2015 AIR NATIONAL GUARD

MEDICAL SERVICES ANNUAL AWARDS



SNCO Organizational Management
Excellence award
Master Sgt. Mindi Anderson



Outstanding Aerospace Medicine NCO
of the Year
Staff Sgt. Kelly Goodman
(since promoted to Tech. Sgt.)



Surgeon General Award for Best Clinic of the Year
124th Medical Group

IDAHO GUARDSMEN ATTEND YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

YELLOW RIBBON • FAMILY READINESS



By Tech. Sgt. John Winn
124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing held three Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) briefings here December 4-6, 2015.

"The yellow ribbon program is for military members and family members and it's meant to shine highlights on benefits earned or benefits that will be earned as a result of deployments," said John Spurny, the airman and family readiness program manager.

YRRP is intended to assist service members and their family at any stage: pre-deployment,

deployment, demobilization, reintegration, and beyond. The guard mandates its members to attend, and family members are strongly encouraged to attend as well.

Even children can participate in events where childcare and Child & Youth programs are provided.

Many of the benefits are those that are earned due to the specific nature of a deployment

"It's a thumbnail for a lot of the earned benefits for wearing the uniform," said Spurny, "A lot of times affiliated with 180-day title 10 deployments in particular, it tends to trip a lot of additional benefits because that gives you

veteran status with that 180-day time."

The primary focus of the event was to let guardsmen know more about these earned benefits.

"Faces, places, and spaces, because it introduces our local providers who are the same people that will service the individuals or the family members in their absence," said Spurny. "So it puts a face, with a place, hopefully with a space, so they know where they're located. I always say, it's not important until it's important to you."

Tech. Sgt. Heather Speidel, the 124th Fighter Wing readiness

“*Faces, places, and spaces, because it introduces our local providers who are the same people that will service the individuals or the family members in their absence.*”

NCO, foot stomped the importance of ensuring you have all your finances in a row prior to leaving.

“You know, you’re life is still going on even though you’re not physically here,” said Speidel “You still have your mortgage, your rent, your car payment, child support, whatever it may be, those



bills are still coming due”.

She noted that while finances are important, there are other things that members may forget to take care of too.

“Its not just the bills, its, you know, you’re a single guy but you’ve got a dog and someone’s watching the dog, does the person that’s watching your dog know

where you take them to the vet?” asked Speidel.

Spurny, Speidel, and Joseph Hall, a contractor who also works with the readiness office, organized the YRRP at Gowen Field.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) is a Department of Defense (DoD) effort helping National Guard and Reserve service members and their families connect with local resources before, during, and after deployments. Service members and their families attend Yellow Ribbon events, where they access information on health care, education and training opportunities, financial services, and legal benefits.

For additional information regarding the Yellow Ribbon Program or any Family Readiness questions you may have, contact Tech. Sgt. Heather Speidel at 422-5369 or Mr. John Spurny at 422-5374.



IDAHO MEDICAL STAFF AIRMEN BLEED BLUE, CAPTURE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

124TH MEDICAL GROUP

By Tech. Sgt. Joshua C. Allmaras
124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

GOWEN FIELD, ID (Dec. 10, 2015) -- The 124th Medical Group and two Airmen from the medical group were presented with national level awards during a surprise ceremony at the base clinic here Dec. 5, 2015.

The medical group received the Surgeon General Award for Best Clinic of the Year, Master Sgt. Mindi Anderson was the recipient of the SNCO Organizational Management Excellence Award, and Staff Sgt. Kelly Goodman, now a technical sergeant, was selected as the Outstanding Aerospace Medicine NCO of the Year. All of these are Air National Guard awards.

“Being recognized as the best for this year is huge,” said Col. Brandon Isaacs, the commander of the 124th Medical Group. “Everyone has been working their tail ends off and we are getting recognized for it.”

“The medical group does an outstanding job,” said Brig. Gen. Michael Nolan, assistant adjutant general Air National Guard. “They are very professional and they have a service focused attitude, which is a huge part of why they are so successful. They take care of the wing very well and that’s what they are being recognized for.”

The group was selected for many reasons, one of them was for implementing innovative ways of helping Airmen accomplish their annual requirements efficiently.

“The 124th Medical Group developed a physical health assessment festival that allowed them to accomplish more than 900 PHAs and 200 occupational exams in just two days,” said Col. Tim Donnellan, the commander of the 124th Fighter Wing. “One of the biggest impacts of this festival was the time savings for the fighter wing. Every hour at drill is critical to maintaining our readiness and

the medical group returned more than 975 of these precious training hours back to us with this innovative event.”

Increasing efficiency allowed the medical group to maintain the Airmen of the wing’s readiness at a high level, which is another reason why they were selected.

“Not only did our medical professionals implement a time saving annual event, but they maintained our individual mobilization rate for the entire 124th Fighter Wing at 91 percent,” said Donnellan. “Out of 89 Air National Guard wings, our IMR rate was only topped by one other wing.”

Taking care of Airmen and their medical requirements is one of the core responsibilities of the medical community. However, they still have to maintain their own readiness.

“The 124 Medical Group participated in both Patriot and Operation Pathfinder Minuteman



“ They are leading the pack in the medical community and these awards validate this.”

exercises. During Patriot more than 30 members completed their expeditionary medical support systems training and during Pathfinder Minuteman more than 25 medics trained on joint civilian disaster responses processes, supporting our State Mission,” said Donnellan.

Anderson, an education and training manager, was the recipient of the SNCO Organizational Management Excellence award. She was nominated and selected for her many accomplishments, but one in particular saved the government a significant amount of money.

“Master Sgt. Anderson exemplifies Excellence in All We Do,” said Donnellan. “She eliminated more than \$42,000 in outsourcing costs associated with training guardsmen in basic life support, which was a direct savings to our Air National Guard and Air Force. Every effort to stretch our

resources during our current budgetary constraints allows us to maintain our war fighting capability.”

Goodman, a flight and operational medical technician, received the 2015 Outstanding Aerospace Medicine NCO of the Year Award. Like Anderson, her nomination package was full of many accomplishments, but one in particular stood out from the rest.

“Tech. Sgt. Goodman is an outstanding Airman,” said Donnellan. “She volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan and while there, cared for more than 38 patients during a mass casualty response. Her efforts were attributed to saving lives.”

All of these accomplishments for the medical group, Anderson, and Goodman are just the tip of the iceberg of why they received national recognition. Their selection brings great pride to those in the

wing leadership.

“I am extremely proud of the 124th Medical Group, along with Master Sgt. Anderson and Tech. Sgt. Goodman for their recognition,” said Donnellan. “They are leading the pack in the medical community and these awards validate this.”

“I’m just privileged to serve as the commander,” said Isaacs. “They make my life a lot easier because of the devotion and the desire for success that they have imprinted in their brains and it goes to the very core of their being. To put it plainly, some people say my unit bleeds blue and they love what they do and I am proud to be part of it.”

The Air National Guard uses their medical award program to identify and recognize outstanding performers in 36 different categories. Those nominated and selected at the ANG level have the potential of being submitted to compete at the Air Force level.

WARRIOR OF THE MONTH

TECH. SGT. CHASE NEWMAN (NOV)



124th Operations
Support Squadron

Deputy Airfield
Manager

10 years of service

5 years total AGR

WHY WAS HE SELECTED?

On July 8, 2015, Tech. Sgt. Chase Newman met with personnel from the Boise Airport and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to discuss the swallow problem on the Gowen/ Orchard road bridges. Barn and Cliff swallows pose a serious seasonal threat to all air traffic safety at the Boise Airport and Gowen Field.

The swallows are nesting beneath two canal bridges adjacent to the airfield and the swallow's flight paths and feeding activities create a flight safety hazard to all incoming and outgoing aircraft. These birds have

caused numerous bird strikes to both general aviation, commercial, and military aircraft. Just over this past summer, two swallow strikes to military aircraft caused \$141,800 in damages.

Newman, Boise Airport, and USDA personnel discussed multiple options to mitigate this threat to the airfield which led to requesting a financial grant from the National Guard Bureau. Newman and USDA personnel formulated an exclusion plan for the bridges, generated a cost analysis plan, and submitted the grant application to NGB. On

FAVORITE FOOD

"I like sushi"

HOBBIES

"I have my own business, it's not really a hobby but consumes my life outside of here. I really like the outdoors; I like hunting, fishing, and reloading. Deer and elk are my favorite to hunt and wolf, bear, and mountain lion if I run into one."

WHY WERE YOU RECOGNIZED?

"I was the only one submitted—no, seriously—I did something that was outside of my daily job duties to improve the workplace for military side and civilians side."

November 5, 2015, NGB selected Gowen Field for the grant to mitigate the Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) problem and approved \$43,000 to Gowen Field and the USDA to apply toward the project. These exclusion systems will provide a longterm solution to move the nesting swallow colonies offsite, drastically reducing the threat for bird strike, saving thousands of dollars in damages, and most importantly saving lives.



Work hard
in silence.

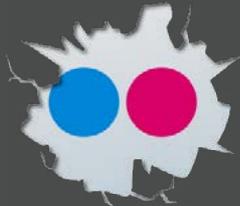
Let success make
the noise.

-Frank Ocean



Upon enlistment in the service and assignment to a specific career field, enlisted members are enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force. The college then begins to award academic credit for the education and training that a member receives during their career. This begins with basic military training and continues on with the various technical schools the member will attend as well as the professional military education the member must complete as they advance in their career. The member must then complete general education course work in five categories through regionally accredited civilian institutions of higher education. Upon successful completion of their specific degree program the member is awarded an Associate in Applied Science degree.

Want to see more pictures? Visit our Flickr Album by clicking the logo:



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS THAT RECEIVED THEIR CCAF DEGREE
6 DECEMBER 2015

2Lt Gregory Miller
SMSgt Bruce Jahnke
SMSgt Christopher Jones
SMSgt Jeffrey Guzi
SMSgt Robert McGarvie
SMSgt Mark Klaudt
MSgt Janie Ramos
MSgt Kristine Witte
MSgt Jennifer Blanchard
MSgt Russell Haddix
MSgt Jason Thomas
MSgt Donald Taylor
TSgt Leamon Keeling
TSgt Joshua Moen
TSgt Nicholas Lasher
TSgt Sarah Pokorney
TSgt John Winn
TSgt Andrew Siler
TSgt Nichole Johnson
TSgt Larry Behrens
TSgt Blake Torosian
TSgt Jason Wethern
TSgt Ricky Lords
TSgt Corey Hendrickson
TSgt Jon Jenkins
TSgt Michael Reece
TSgt Jacob Sams
TSgt Douglas Wheeler
SSgt Thomas Serafin
SSgt Angela Jackson
SSgt Lonnie Kemp
SSgt Kelly Goodman
SSgt Michael Kroon
SSgt Matthew Wernsing
SSgt Aaron Harmer
SSgt Justin Page
SSgt Jerret Pierce
SSgt Jodi Thomas

124 OSS WELCOMES HONORARY COMMANDER

MARK PETERSON



The 124th Operations Support Squadron welcomed civilian pilot Mark Peterson, the honorary commander of the 124th OSS to tour the facilities, equipment and capabilities of the 124th Fighter Wing in Boise, Idaho on December 5, 2015. Peterson is the second honorary commander within the 124th Fighter Wing.



“ I have a tremendous amount of appreciation, respect and gratitude for the people who come out here everyday and put a uniform on.
 -Mark Peterson

Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt Joshua Allmaras

COMMAND DEVELOPMENT COURSE



GOWEN FIELD, ID (Dec 1, 2015) - - The 124th Fighter Wing hosted a Command Development Course December 1, 2015 at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. The two-day course was designed to give leaders, senior master sergeants, chiefs, and commanding officers, the chance to receive professional development from the wing leadership on various ways to lead their respective areas. Leaders were taught motivational techniques and communication methods. The immersive training taught these new and innovative methods, with the hope that senior leaders could use them in their respective organizations. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. John Winn)



CHAPLAIN CORPS HOSTS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FEAST

By Airman 1st Class Skyla Child
124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 124th Fighter Wing's annual Strong Bonds Christmas event was held Dec. 8 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho.

This event had a theme of holiday resiliency, and taught skills to build family readiness. This event was planned and hosted by the Chaplain Corps.

Families were provided a steak dinner along with sides and dessert, and a separate food line for children. This is the first year that the dinner was catered by the Riverside Hotel.

"Last year we had it at the indoor pavillion," said Chaplain Ian Howarth of the 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard. "We were planning on having between 50 and 75 people, and we had about 150 people show up. It was too big for the indoor pavilion, so this year we needed to go somewhere else."

"Strong Bonds is a Chaplain led program, and we focus on individual

Airmen, couples and families," said Howarth. "In that, we try to give them skills like resiliency skills, communication, conflict resolution, and avoiding stressors in their life."

At the event, the Chaplain Corps talked about how to relieve holiday stress, and also spoke about how to communicate with love using the five love languages.

More than 200 people attended this year's event including service members, their families and children.

"I think it's really nice and inviting," said Senior Airman Karleigh Gempler, a military pay technician with the 124th Fighter Wing. "I'm happy we were able to do this and spend time with our families and friends."

After dinner, Santa Claus made an appearance for the children to visit with him and sit on his lap. Each child also received a gift from Santa Claus at the event.

"We had people throughout the year donate to the Chaplain Corps for helping needy families," said Howarth. "They were wrapped by the Military Faith Alliance."

Children also got to make crafts at at various craft tables throughout the event.

Linda Gerber with the 4-H Military Partnerships Program helped with the craft table again, said Howarth.

The Military Faith Alliance and the 4-H Military Partnerships Program also helped with the 124th Fighter Wing's Thanksgiving dinner this year.

Service members are encouraged to submit new ideas for Strong Bonds events year-round to the Chaplain Corps.

"We enjoy families coming out," said Howarth. "Anytime there's a fresh idea, especially for Airmen events, give us ideas. We are willing to work with you and we want to have fun."



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

AVIATION PROFESSIONALS FROM ACROSS THE U.S. VISIT THE 124TH

A group of 16 aviation professionals from across the country visit Gowen Field and learn about the 124th Fighter Wing facilities, equipment, and capabilities during a tour on Dec. 8, 2015.

The group included military leaders, federal officials, industry colleagues and other aviation professionals from New Hampshire, Texas, Oklahoma, Washington, Idaho and more. They assembled in Boise to attend the Industrial Aviation Military/Civilian Joint Use Issues Training Workshop lead by the American Association of Airport Executives.

This workshop was created to discuss the latest regulations, technologies and issues concerning military/civilian airfield operations and the growing area of industrial aviation.

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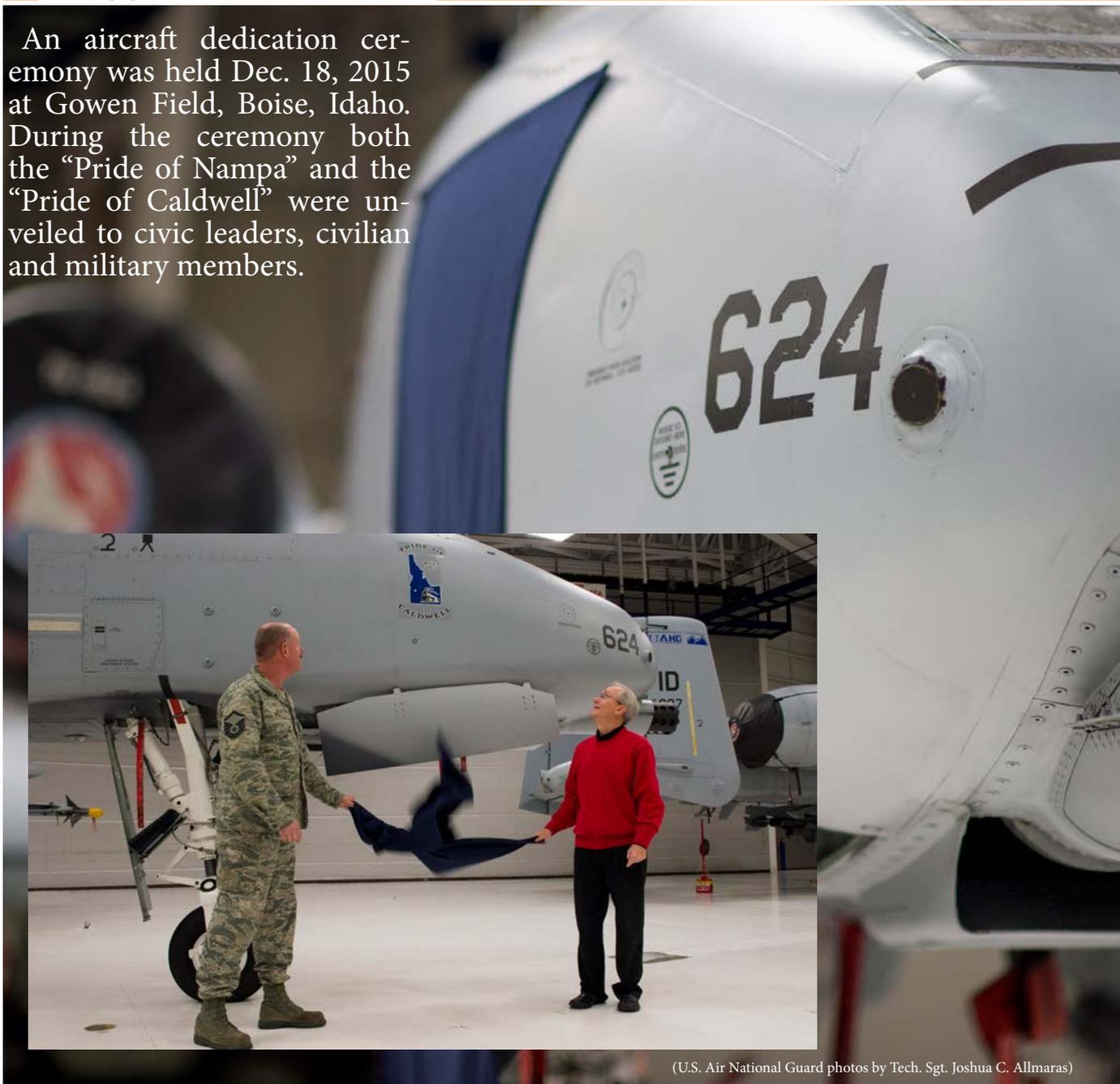


(U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney)

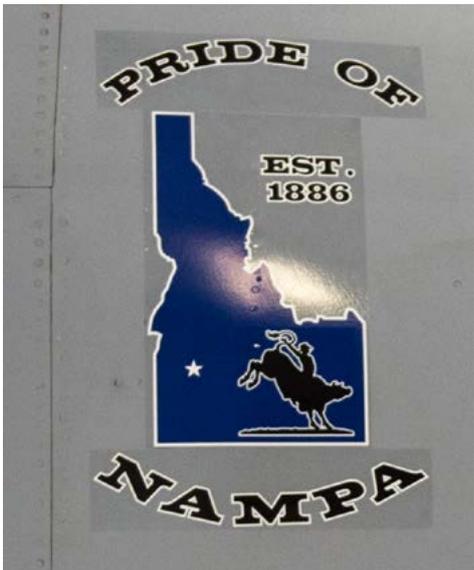
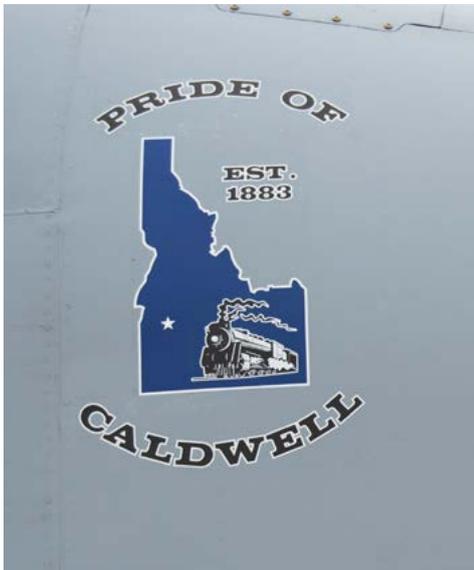
DEDICATION TO NAMPA, CALDWELL

NOSE ART REVEALED

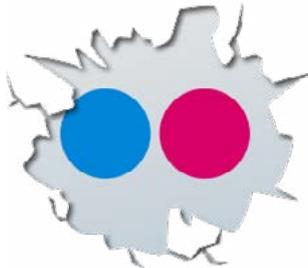
An aircraft dedication ceremony was held Dec. 18, 2015 at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. During the ceremony both the “Pride of Nampa” and the “Pride of Caldwell” were unveiled to civic leaders, civilian and military members.



(U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Joshua C. Allmaras)



Want to see more pictures? Visit our *Flickr Album* by clicking the logo:



IDANG PROTECTS ENVIRONMENT WITH MEMBER-SUPPORTED WASTE MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL

By Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney
124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Idaho Air National Guard Environmental Office provides two ways to dispose of hazardous waste on base and depends on you, the members, to identify and do your part to dispose of hazardous waste and protect our environment. And, it's the law.

"Improperly managing hazardous waste is a violation of the law, and the EPA can levy fines up to \$37,500 per day for each violation," said Capt. Heidi Cay, IDANG environmental manager.

The environmental office's Hazardous Waste Management Plan makes it easy for you to identify and dispose of hazardous waste and over the last six years, has helped the base cut the amount of yearly waste produced nearly in

half. In 2009 the base produced 9,439 pounds and in 2014 it was down to 5,500 pounds.

"This is likely due to changes in our waste shipping process, the aerosol can crushing machine, and reducing the amount of material expiring on the shelf in the shops," said Caye.

The first way that we can do our part is to properly

identify hazardous waste. Each shop has a list of waste they generate and how to manage it properly. This list is part of the HWMP, which can be found on the Virtual Environmental Management Office (VEMO) website on SharePoint. Individuals can also speak with

their shop environmental contact to find out about what types of wastes are generated in your work-place. If you don't



have a shop environmental contact, or don't know who they are, you can contact the environmental office at 208-422-5849.

"The biggest hazardous waste streams on base are cadmium contaminated rags, contaminated process and cleaning water, paint related waste (both liquid and solid) and aerosol cans," said Caye. "If you have concerns about waste being generated in your work area, call environmental and we can evaluate."

The next step is proper disposal, which the environmental office has made especially easy. Caye explained that most shops have their own hazardous waste collection points designed to comply with hazardous waste regulations and Staff Sgt. Lonnie Kemp,

an environmental protection specialist, visits the shops regularly to retrieve it. Waste can also be dropped off at the base central accumulation point at building 503 on Waste Drop Off Wednesdays from 12-2 p.m. The waste is stored onsite and shipped to the disposal facility typically every 2-3 months.

Lastly, the Defense Logistics Agency at Hill Air Force Base will typically coordinate the disposal. They have a contractor pickup the waste and transport it to an authorized disposal facility in Chicago. There is a local contractor that, if needed, can transport waste; they take the waste to disposal facilities in Idaho, Utah or Arizona.

"Although the local contractor is more convenient, we save significant amounts of money shipping

waste through the DLA," said Caye.

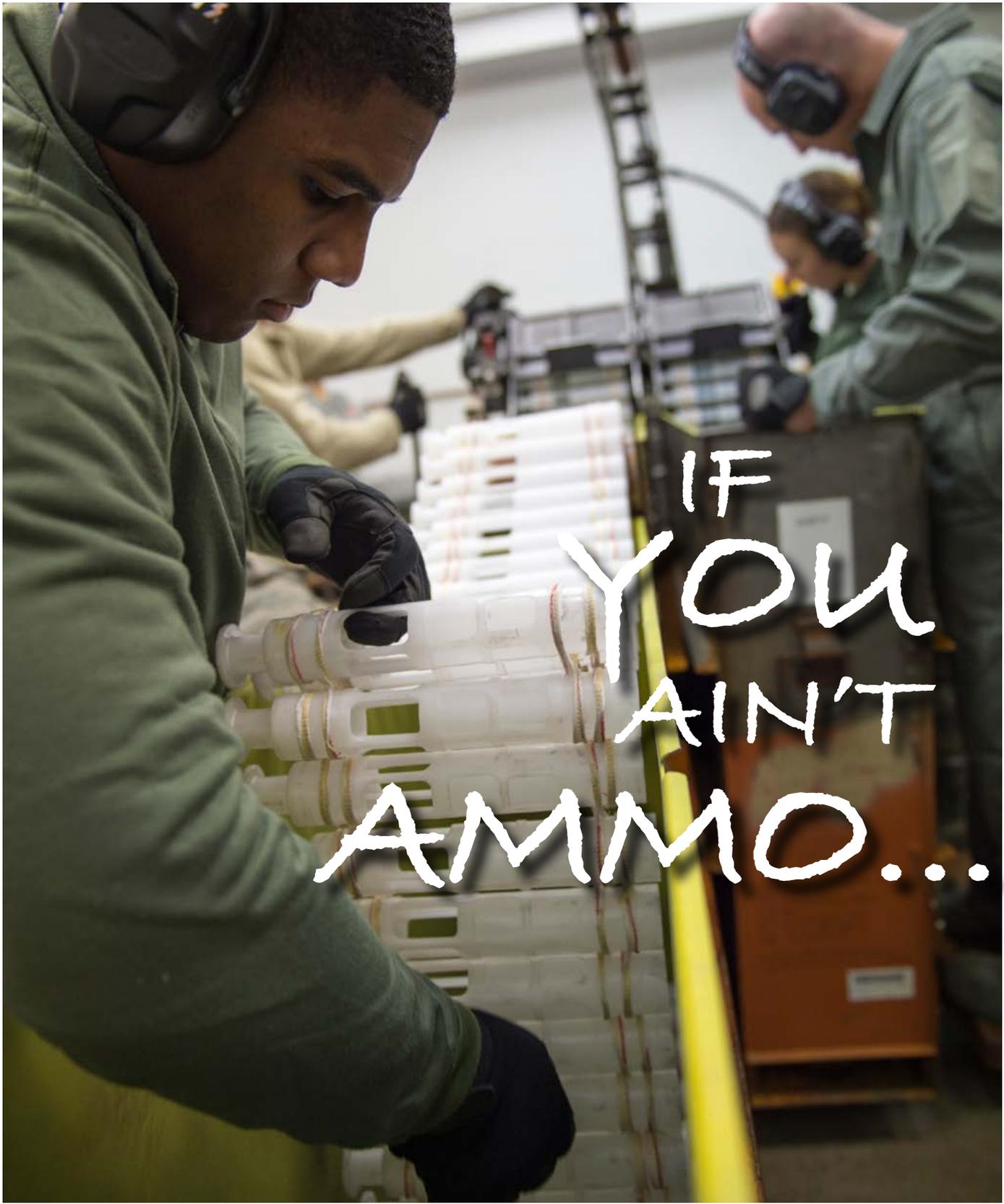
"Proper hazardous waste management matters - not only to keep the base from being fined by regulators, but also because you can ensure toxic materials are kept from polluting the environment," Caye said. "You really are making a difference. I've worked in the environmental industry for 15 years. When I came here almost seven years ago and started managing hazardous waste, it was the first time in my career I felt I was making a difference and protecting the environment."



**DON'T
FORGET
TO FEED
THE BIN!**



**BASE
RECYCLING:
PITCH IN,
IT GIVES
BACK**



By Tech. Sgt. John Winn
124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

GOWEN FIELD, ID (Dec 21, 2015) - - "...you aint..." well, maybe we'll finish the rest of that quote another time.

The end of Ellsworth Street is not just a turn around point for your PT test. It's where the men and women of the 124th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight build, store, inspect and deliver munitions ranging from 5.56 caliber ammunition for security forces to 2,000lb MK-84s for the A-10 and everything in between. The Airmen of the munitions flight are more commonly known throughout the Air Force as ammo troops. They spend their days in the wide-open space on the east side of Gowen Field, void of contact from the outside world that is part of the main base. While one might not stop and

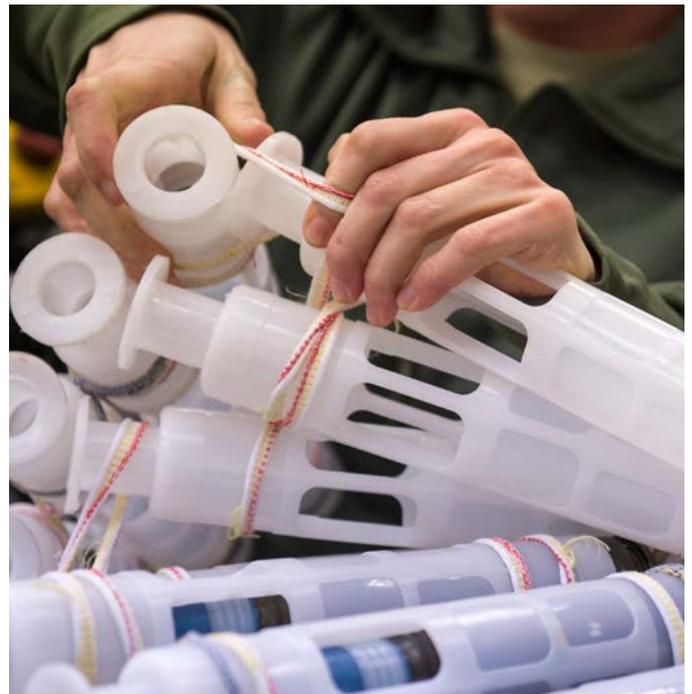
think about where the ordinance for the warthog comes from, it's a bit daunting to see the amount of space, people and time it takes to get lead on target.

When you arrive at the Munitions Storage Area, or MSA, you start to realize how much space is involved in processing munitions. The roads are long and winding throughout the eastern fields of Gowen Field with the occasional building every one hundred yards or so. In the western portion of the MSA there are the bunkers, better known as igloos, about 12 of them, all lined up in a neat row. To the east are large warehouse like structures, big enough to drive a semi truck into.

Ammo is made up of more than just one shop, it consists of line delivery, storage, inspection, trailer maintenance, precision guided munitions, conventional muni-

tions maintenance, accountability, munitions control, and of course there is supervision. Each of these shops has it's own specific mission and personnel. There are a total of nine technicians and more than 55 traditional guardsmen that work within these shops.

Due to the vast differences in career paths one can take in the MSA, the majority of training is done on the job. This means that the Airmen of the munitions flight are constantly training. Training on how to build one of the many bombs that fit into the A-10's configurations, or how to process 30mm ammunition, a task that doesn't come easy to many. Whether its loading countermeasures or inspecting the life cycle of a bomb fuze, the men and women of the Ammo flight are trained, eager and ready to go at a moments notice.



Want to lead?

The 124th Maintenance Group Wants YOU

The 124th Maintenance Group is looking for an exceptional, innovative, ambitious and energetic leader to become an Aircraft Maintenance Officer (21AX). An Aircraft Maintenance Officer leads, trains, and equips personnel supporting aerospace equipment sustainment, administers aircraft maintenance programs, directs aircraft maintenance production, staff activity, assesses unit capability and advises senior leadership on flying and maintenance schedules.

Qualified applicants will meet/submit the following:

- Current Enlisted member or Company Grade Officer in the Idaho Air National Guard or be eligible to become a member of the Idaho Air National Guard
- Able to attend the next available Aircraft Maintenance Officer course.
- Willing/able to deploy
- Current passing PT Test
- Last 3 OPRs/EPRs and resume
- Records Review (VMPPF RIP)
- AF Form 24, Application for Appointment as Reserves of AF or USAF without component
- AF Form 2030, USAF Drug and Alcohol Abuse Certificate

Additional Enlisted Package Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree NLT end of Spring Semester 2016 and unofficial copy of college transcripts
- Passing AFOQT scores by FEB. 15, 2016

Packages will be submitted hard copy to MSgt Milo Davis, milo.t.davis.mil@mail.mil, 422-5383 no later than Feb. 15, 2016. Incomplete packages will not be accepted.

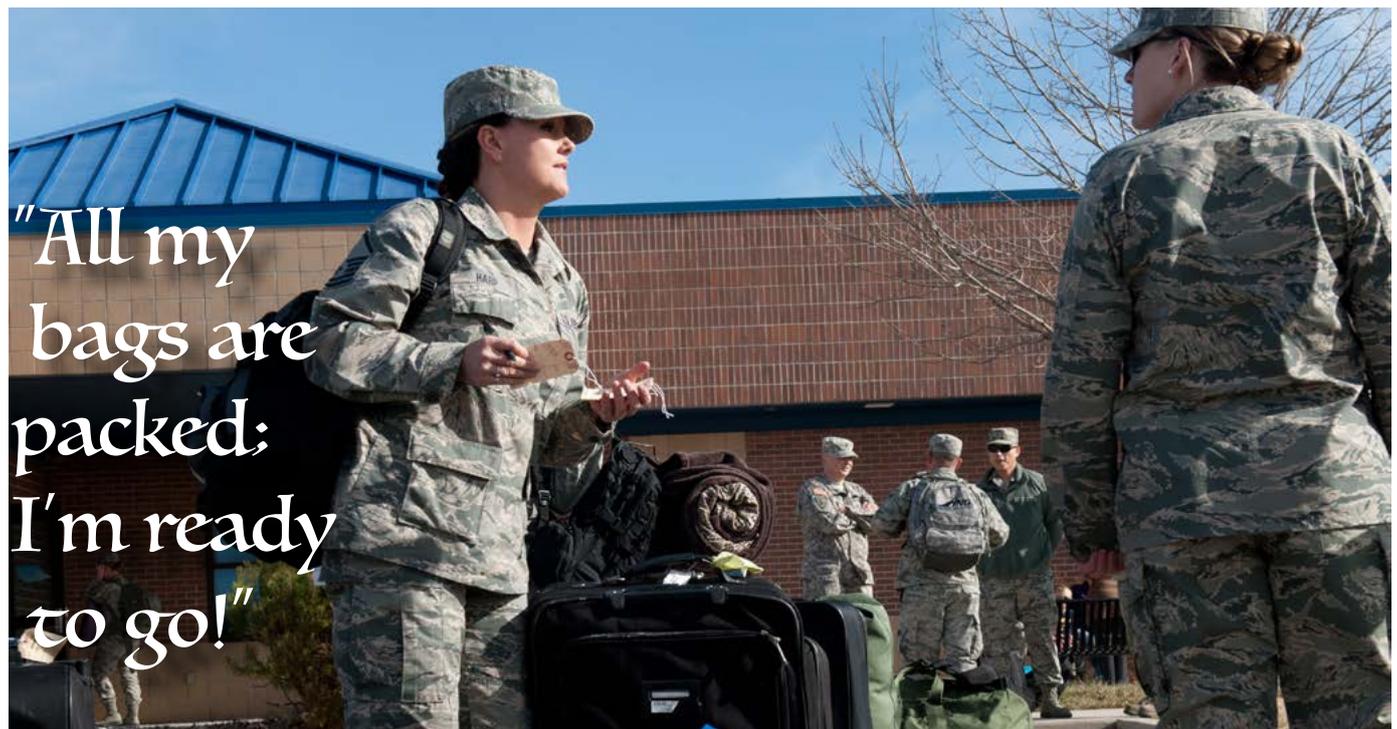
CHIEF MASTER SGT. FENICOTTERO RETIRES



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State Senior Enlisted Advisor Command Chief Carlo J. Fenicottero retired at a ceremony at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho on Nov. 8, 2015 (Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney)



By John Spurney
Special Contributor to The Beacon

Some of you may recognize this verse from a song sung by the trio; Peter, Paul and Mary in the late 1960's. The writer of the song escapes me; however the message of this particular verse in the song is extremely prevalent in today's Air National Guard. Extended deployments, increases in operations tempo and mission definitions present challenges ahead. Readiness is in the forefront, because without a solid approach to the realities of readiness the mission can fail.

Readiness is an inherent personal responsibility. Did you know there are actually three distinct facets of readiness? They are professional, personal and family. The triad approach to readiness, much like a three-legged stool, when one of the legs is missing the stool is not functional.

The first leg of readiness is your

professional readiness. This aspect of the triad is achieved by working your way to the top of your game (or in Air Force lingo your Air Force Specialty Code). You have the controls and opportunities to increase your professional competence. Career development, including professional military education, combined with on-the-job training will take care of your respective trade excellence. When you go to work, do so knowing you're the resident expert for your respective field.

The second part of readiness is the personal side. This has to do with maintaining standards, completing ancillary training, fitness, and getting regular medical and dental check-ups. I'm not sure who coined the phrase "It's doing the right things when no one else is watching," but the words sum up personal readiness expectations. Is your will and power of attorney up to date? Have you reviewed your VRED for next of kin

notification in the event of a tragedy? How's your financial fitness? Have you reviewed your budget now and made a budget based upon your activation and anticipated tour of duty? As you can see, the personal side of readiness takes some time, effort, and thought. Those were just a few questions to get the juices flowing.

Last, but hardly least, is the family side of readiness. It really applies to all of us, as we are a family wearing the same uniform and sharing in the profession of arms. It truly amazes me how most folks nail the first two legs of the readiness triangle and come up short when it comes to preparing their families with readiness issues. Many times our families take a back seat as we answer our nation or state's call. Family preparation for the eventuality of a deployment (either scheduled or unscheduled) only makes sense. There is no wrong in open and honest discussion with your spouse, children or signifi-

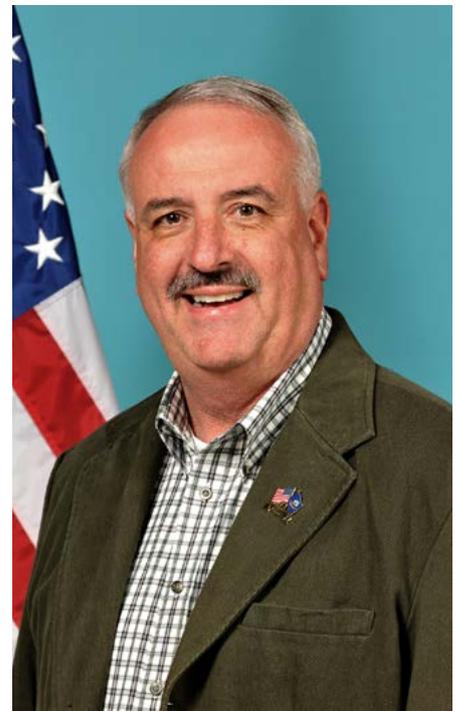


cant other when it comes to actions to take, paperwork to review and checklists to follow. It may be best to roll deployment preparation planning into tax review time to ensure these two critical aspects of a family care plan are discussed and reviewed annually.

Most often, we typically see the uniformed member who is aware of the various assistance programs available to them. Trouble is, the message or information never gets passed to the folks that are at home when the deployment occurs. This is a bad thing! Before you have to deploy please share all pertinent information with your family and loved ones. Remember that they don't know, what they don't know. Have you prepared a list of helping agencies? Does your family know what they're entitled to during your deployment? Who will

take care of your routine chores and responsibilities while you are gone? If the plumbing, electrical or water becomes a problem while you are deployed who should get called? This goes for car repairs too. Your pay and allowances will change; does your family know or realize to what extent? Are they prepared? Families are an integral part of your readiness plan. How informed are they?

Keeping on top of your readiness triad is good for you, good for your family and good for our nation's defense. If you need help developing a family readiness plan or have questions about readiness issues in general please contact the ANG Family Program Manager for assistance. John Spurny is reachable at 422-5374 or by e-mail john.a.spurny.nfg@mail.mil Remember; at any one time, on any given mission the key to success in your hands, are you really ready?



Mr. John Spurny
124th Fighter Wing
Family Programs Manager

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