



THE

official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

BEACON



COMBAT EXCELLENCE-ALWAYS ON MISSION

FROM THE WING COMMANDER

COL. TIM DONNELLAN



Power. The word says so much all by itself, but when used with other words it adds significantly more emphasis. Air power, fire power, the power of innovative Airmen, empowerment – these words and phrases are ingrained in us and embedded in words that reflect the leadership culture of the 124th Fighter Wing. While we may be accustomed to the word and all its uses, sometimes it's good to get back to the basics and just be around raw power.

In March I got a chance to do just that with our propulsion folks during an engine run. Just walking into the hush house and seeing the mighty TF-34 on the stand, electrical cords and test lines running to the control booth, made me appreciate the level of expertise and commitment it takes to provide the force needed to get 37,000 pounds of mighty Warthog airborne. That appreciation turned to awe as Master Sgt. Brother and Senior Master Sgt. Aberasturi cranked it up and began their test run. It's hard to describe the feeling of being in the same room with the engine running at 90 percent, but I can tell you it put one heck of a big grin on my face! I can't be sure if it was the vibration in the floor, the wind howling through the baffles in the walls, or a combination of the two, but it was enough to remind me that power is not just a word, it's the manifestation of all our efforts, yet requires the word itself to make it happen.

Combine the words and phrase I mentioned above and it becomes crystal clear – all of us in the 124th FW project air power through the power of airman innovation and empowerment at all levels. This is exactly what we are about to do, and it's what we bring together every day of the year to make things happen at a moment's notice. Sometimes it takes a visit to the hush house or to the end of the runway in order to tie it all together, but when we do it's an easy reminder that it takes every single one of us to make it happen.

Power is not just a word, it's a state of mind. Be careful in all you do and continue to take the fight to the enemy!

Attack!

Donut

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This month's cover photo was taken Mar. 6, 2016 during the expeditionary skills rodeo at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. The rodeo is a training event designed to help Airmen accomplish their three year deployment training requirements.

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PRIMARY UTA EVENTS



APR. DRILL CALENDAR

SATURDAY

- 0630-1100 - PDF Line
- 0830 - Enlisted Promotion Board, Bldg. 600
- 0900 - Fitness Assessment, Bldg. 1530
- 1000-1230 - PDF Line
- 1300 - CDC Testing
- 1330-1730 - PDF Line
- 1500 - Joint Enlisted Council, Bldg. 400 Conference Room
- 1500 - MSgt Travis Jones Retire, CE Basement Training Rm
- 1600 - Rising Two Council, Location TBA
- 1600 - Cyber Operations Open House, ASOS Auditorium

SUNDAY

- 0630-1100 - PDF Line
- 0800-1430 - Newcomers Briefing, Bldg. 400 Basement Class
- 0830 - CDC Testing
- 1000 - MSgt David Pfeil Retire, Brooks Auditorium
- 1000-1230 - PDF Line
- 1500 - SMSgt Kirk Jones Retire, Indoor Pavilion
- 1500 - Promotion Packages due to FSS

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

SATURDAY (\$5.55)

Main Line:

- Surf and Turf
- Pasta Fagiolo
- Islanders Rice
- Au Gratin Potatoes
- Key Largo Veggies
- Glazed Carrots
- Vegetable Soup
- Beef Steak and Noodle Soup

Short Order Line:

- Egg Rolls
- Grilled Chicken
- Hamburger
- Cheeseburger
- French Fries

Desserts:

- In season Fruit
- Bannana Cake
- Oatmeal Rasin Cookie
- Peach Pie
- Assorted Cheesecake

SUNDAY (\$5.55)

Main Line:

- Turkey Cutlet
- Baked Ham w/macaroni and tomatoes
- Mashed Potatoes
- Wild Rice
- Green Beans
- Capri Vegetables
- Turkey Noodle Soup
- Wisconsin Cheese Soup

Short Order Line:

- Tacos
- French Dip Sandwich
- Cheeseburger
- Hamburger
- Onion Rings

Desserts:

- In season Fruit
- Lemon Cookies
- Coconut Cream Pie
- Velvet Pound Cake
- Blueberry Cheesecake

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

The 124th Fighter Wing PHA festival not your typical party, but close



By Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur
124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

GOWEN FIELD, Idaho – As I approached building 1500 with my paparazzi equipment, I had a different picture in mind than the one I found when I entered through the door. I thought of a crowded room full of Airmen and organized chaos. After all, this was the Periodic Health Assessment festival and more than 700 Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing needed a PHA at the same time during the Feb. 2016 drill.

Instead, I was surprised to find myself in a calm, quiet room with party decorations and four lively medical technicians. The cheery Airmen from the 124th Medical Group greeted me, ready to help. I thought to myself, “Where are all the people? Did I miss my opportunity to photograph Airmen processing through the PHA line?”

The eager medical technicians explained the situation. No, I was not late. Instead, the medical group had prepared a highly organized and proficient individual medical readiness “party” of sorts for the wing’s annual health readiness, and for the upcoming deployments this spring. Airmen here, were being guided throughout the building in such an effective fashion, I was impressed.

I asked Col. Tim Donnellan, 124th Fighter Wing commander, his thoughts about this year’s PHA festival. He said, “I had the opportunity to visit the PHA festival multiple times over the weekend. What an incredible array of planning, talent, attitude, and execution.”

I expected to see the PHA-processing Airmen with the usual hazed look in their eyes after a

long day of “hurry up and wait” in never-ending lines. Instead I saw smiles and laughter. Airmen seemed in high spirits due to the efficiency of this “party”.

The processing lines were split into two different sides of the building, the fast track and the long track, to meet different medical needs. The fast track averaged 15 minutes per Airman and the long track averaged an astounding completion time of only two hours per Airman, which is very impressive for the amount of medical attention each Airman needed to complete their deployment readiness. I was amazed that 73 percent of the wing was successfully seen over the two-day period and from what I saw, everyone remained happy and positive.

Although everything appeared to move smoothly, there

is always room for improvement. Master Sgt. Kristin Labrum, from the 124th MDG, was one of the medical technicians helping at this event. “I think we learn something new each year. We received some constructive criticism on the check-out process on Saturday and we improved it immediately, so that it would function better on Sunday,” said Labrum.

As I made my way around the building, I weaved in and out of a maze of decorated rooms, each room with a specific objective. Some rooms had dental exams and X-rays, while other rooms were designated for drawing blood out of Airmen sitting with their arm extended out, fist in a ball. There was one room for eye exams and another for hearing tests. I saw smiling wing members having their blood pressure

taken and vitals recorded in one room. I saw several rooms for vaccinations and felt queasy watching a needle puncture the deltoid muscle of an Airman.

During the PHA festival, the medical group processed comprehensive PHAs, flight physicals, occupational health exams and dental work. To meet the ambitious two-day festival deadline, the medical group welcomed additional aid from members of the 173rd Oregon Air National Guard, 366th MDG of Mountain Home and even several companies contracted through the Guard Bureau, including Logistics Health, Inc.

The medical group welcomed other units from within the wing to participate in the PHA festival so Airmen could take advantage of a “one stop shop.” Airmen not only were able to complete

their medical processing needs, but were able to meet with the 124th Comptroller Flight about important financial readiness for the potential deployments and the office of the Judge Advocate General for legal assistance with wills, powers of attorney, and other various legal documents.

The festival was just that, a celebrated Periodic Health Assessment with a successful outcome, a big successful two-day “party”.

“We were able to accomplish in a weekend what normally takes 12 drills, highlighting the 124th Medical Group’s innovative thinking and creativity,” said Donnellan. “This phenomenal effort exemplifies our ‘First Class or Not At All’ motto and represents the cornerstone of the 124th Fighter Wing’s excellence.”



ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

OSS PASSES THE GUIDON - FEB. 21, 2016



Maj. J.R. Williams assumed command of the 124th Operations Support Squadron Feb. 21, 2016 during an assumption of command ceremony at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho.

1ST QUARTER - OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE QUARTER



AIRMAN

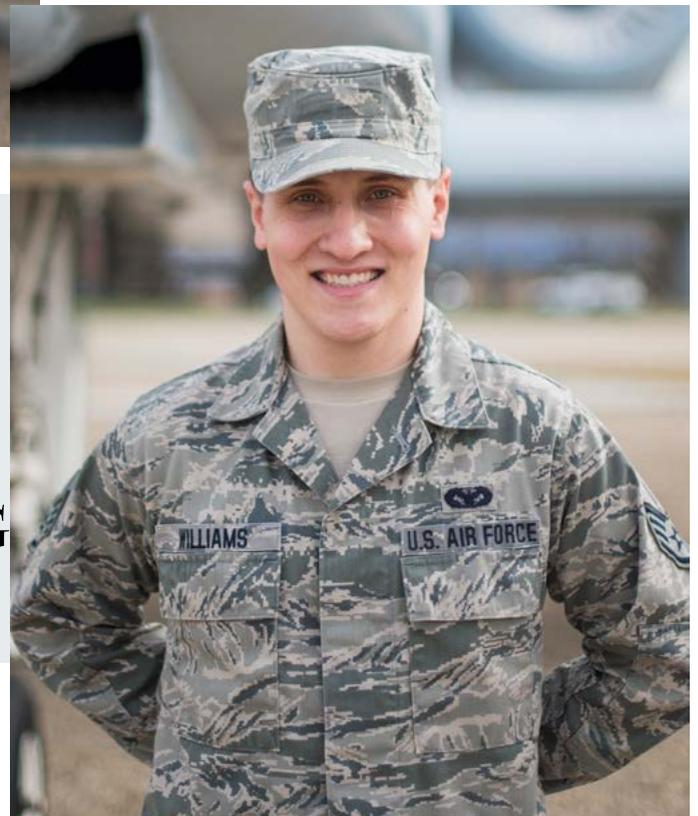
A1C
BEAU BACKMAN

266TH RANGE
SQUADRON

NCO

SSGT
AARON WILLIAMS

124TH FIGHTER WING
COMMAND POST





SNCO

MSGT
MICHAEL JENKINS

124TH SECURITY
FORCES SQUADRON



HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Tail number 653 landed at Gowen Field
Mar. 27, 1996 bringing the Idaho Air
National Guard into the era of the A-10.

Through the eyes of a leader, welcome to the engine shop

The most rewarding part of my career has been empowering others to lead and mentoring them to succeed.

When I became the supervisor of the engine shop, I was overwhelmed by the amount of time and energy the job entailed. It quickly became clear to me 'the way it has always been done' wasn't going to work with the changes the unit was experiencing at the time.

Several Senior Noncommissioned Officers mentored me, helping me to begin taking incremental steps within the shop, to implement change. Over time, a culture of empowerment has developed in the shop. Personnel are trusted to take whatever tasking they are given and own it, take pride in it, and follow through with it.

I give inputs when asked, but remain relatively hands free. Their ownership gives them freedom to make decisions, fosters free thinking, and inspires innovation. I am amazed at the amount of great ideas people have when given the latitude to grow.

Trust also inspires initiative. It is humbling to witness personnel seeing a need for development and take steps to meet it, with their own ideas and energy.

-SMSgt Richard Aberasturi





COMBAT SHIELD 2016

By Lt. Col. Chad Kornberg
Special to The Beacon

Ready – Relevant – Revered, these are not just words on a patch. For the men and women of the 124th Maintenance Group they are words that help define their drive, and motivation. These three words apply not only to their personal preparation, but also to the aircraft they produce for both training and combat sorties. They help guide the Group's tireless desire to achieve mission success, every sortie of every day.

Earlier in the month of March, a team from Air Combat Command's 53rd Electronic Warfare Group came to Gowen Field to ensure our aircraft were ready to meet the electronic warfare baseline for combat. This test, known as Combat Shield, is a very thorough exercise of each aircraft's ability to

effectively detect and defeat electronic systems and is designed to decrease the A-10's lethality. Every aircraft, electronic warfare pod, and local gear used to perform maintenance on the system were tested and analyzed over different spectrums by the team.

The difficult aspect of performing this exercise in such close proximity to a major movement is that if any one aspect of the aircraft, system, or pod fails any one part of the Combat Shield test, the entire test on that aircraft is considered a fail. Often the fix is a very time and labor extensive process, putting our maintainers into a predicament where little time for correction exists.

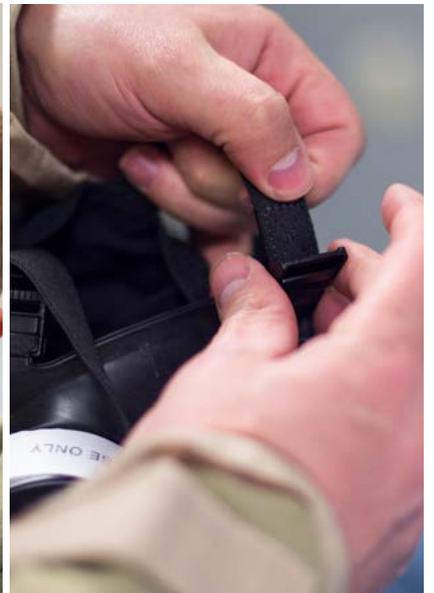
What was the outcome? 100 percent of our aircraft passed the test, 15 of 17 pods passed,

and our local test equipment passed with high marks. These results gave the wing an overall electronic warfare readiness of 89 percent, up 20 percent from a year ago. The Combat Shield team was very impressed with what they saw from our maintainers, noting several best practices, and identifying several outstanding performers. This successful test is another measure of confidence to our pilots that our jets will perform when called upon.

Whether or not you were physically present over that 48-hour span of Combat Shield, each Airman played a role in the success and validation that our aircraft are ready! Proving that Ready – Relevant – Revered, are more than words on a patch.

EXPEDITIONARY SKILLS RODEO

Airmen with the 124th Fighter Wing participated in an Expeditionary Skills Rodeo, Mar. 5-6, 2016 at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. The skills rodeo is designed to enable Airmen to efficiently complete expeditionary training requirements such as self aid buddy care and chemical, biological, nuclear and explosives training. The rodeo saves countless hours of training that typically would be conducted with a computer based training course.





ATTENTION

WANT TO CHANGE YOUR CAREER?

CLICK THE A-10 OR JOB NAME
BELOW FOR THE LATEST TRADITIONAL
JOB VACANCIES



CURRENT VACANCIES

PLANS OFFICER

NURSE

MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS

BIOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

COUNCIL CORNER

SAVING LIVES



By Tech. Sgt. Christina Rohrenbach
Special to The Beacon



Did you know that the biggest disaster threat in the United States isn't floods, hurricanes, or tornadoes; it's fire. That is why the American Red Cross of Greater Idaho is taking part in a nationwide Home Fire Preparedness Campaign.

The goal of this campaign is to reduce deaths and injuries caused from home fires by 25 percent in five years. How are they going to do this? They are doing this by partnering with United Way, Boise Fire Department, and the 124th Fighter Wing. This is the first year of the smoke installation campaign and it was a definite success. We hope to partner with the Red Cross again for future campaigns.

On March 12, 2016, more than 45 Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing, hit the ground running and installed smoke detectors in the Vista neighbor-



hoods. Of the 380 volunteers, Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing acted as the team leads.

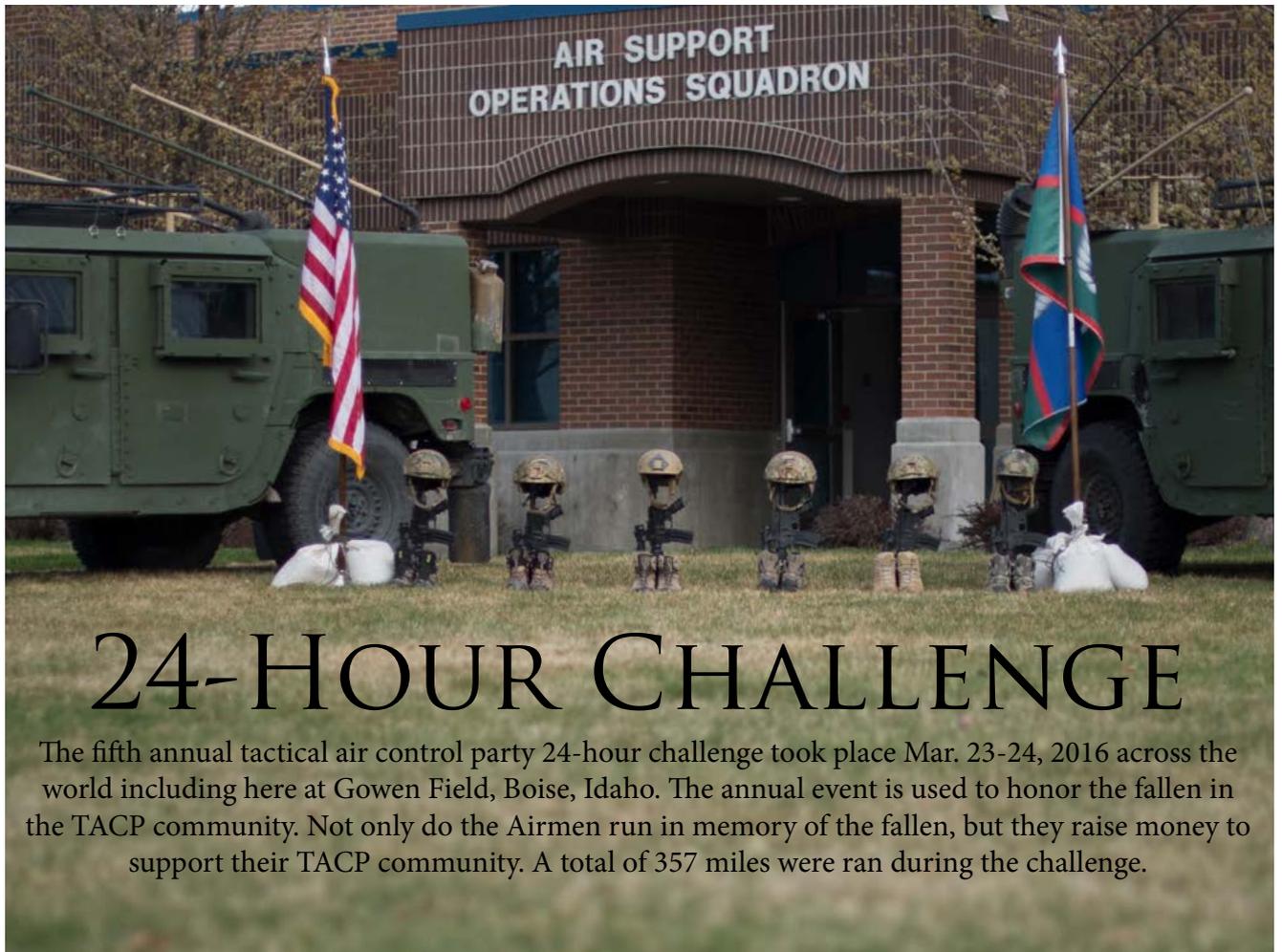
Teams installed more than 260 smoke alarms, replaced batteries and ensured smoke alarms were functioning properly. One smoke detector installation equates to one life saved. Overall there were 130 prepared plans successfully executed. These numbers are lives saved.

If you are interested in volunteering, please give your name to the Enlisted Council. The coun-



cil will keep you updated on future volunteer opportunities and when they will be installing smoke alarms next year.

The council would like to personally thank all of you who were able to attend. It meant a lot to those families and to our community partners. Check out these hastags and see the difference the 124th Fighter Wing is making in our local community. #savelivesboise #redcross @redcrossidaho @unitedwaytv @Unitedway



24-HOUR CHALLENGE

The fifth annual tactical air control party 24-hour challenge took place Mar. 23-24, 2016 across the world including here at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. The annual event is used to honor the fallen in the TACP community. Not only do the Airmen run in memory of the fallen, but they raise money to support their TACP community. A total of 357 miles were ran during the challenge.



IN MEMORY OF MAJ. GREGORY STONE

KIA - OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

CAMP PENNSYLVANIA, KUWAIT

FEB. 6, 1963-MAR. 25, 2003

