



official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

# THE BEACON



COMBAT EXCELLENCE-ALWAYS ON MISSION

# FROM THE WING COMMANDER

COL. TIM DONNELLAN



*Warriors of the 124th Fighter Wing -*

*I'd like to take a moment and share a couple*

*of thoughts with you. First and foremost I want to tell you I am extremely proud of each and every one of you and everything you have done and continue to do! We are about one-third of the way through our AEF and our first wave of RCP deployers, and just about to begin to deploy the largest number of our RCP folks. Along with our combat rotations we are continuing to deploy members of the FW on training exercises all over the globe, such as the ASOS and engineers. The high degree of professionalism you have displayed during this high ops tempo is nothing short of amazing. The amount of effort you have committed both personally and professionally over the last year and into next year is staggering. You, your families, and your fellow Airmen are doing amazing things and we'll be talking about it for years after everyone is back and settled in.*

*Like everything in life however, there is a cost. Sometimes we forget to look at the price tag, sometimes we look at it and don't process it, but I will tell you we cannot afford to do either. In our business the price tag is always high, and it's up to us to make sure we don't drive it to unaffordable levels. There has been a rash of incidents lately in the AF and ANG that remind us to pay attention to the cost of our ops tempo, and we cannot ignore it at our own risk.*

*Since May 1 the Air Force has had two suicides (1AF/1ANG) and 11 (1 ANG) Class A mishaps. Five were aviation (2-F16C, UH-60M, MQ-9A, B-52) and six were personnel mishaps of which all six were fatalities.*

*There were also 12 (2 ANG) Class B mishaps (less than \$2 million or permanent partial disability). Eight were aviation (KC-10A, F-15C, F-15E, MQ-9A[x2], CV-22B [x2], C-17A) and four personnel mishaps resulting in permanent partial disabilities. In addition there were 303 (29 ANG) Class C mishaps (less than \$200,000 or lost work day). Two were aviation related with the remaining 301 personnel or equipment related. This means that in 45 days the Air Force, as a whole, lost a minimum of an entire man year of work due to a mishap. The work that the injured individuals were responsible for continued, planes flew and the mission was accomplished, but at what cost?*

*On June 2 the military lost two jets from the elite air show performers – the best of the best, the face of us all here in the Operation World. The AF lost a Thunderbird F-16 (their first since 2003) and the Navy lost both the Blue Angel pilot and his F/A-18 (their first since 2007) both of which occurred on the same day. During the same period the Navy also had*

*an MH-60S crash into the water on June 14 while simulating a swimmer deployment, along with two F/A-18Fs that crashed following a mid-air collision on 26 May. While neither one of these involved fatalities, it clearly shows it's not just an AF/ANG concern, it is DOD wide. The demonstration team losses on the same day are unprecedented, and when added with the other Class A and B mishaps, we are in dangerous territory. The numbers at a glance below show what the end of the year will look like if this rate continues:*

*During this high Ops Tempo, which is continuing overseas, we haven't had anyone seriously injured nor have we damaged a plane or any equipment beyond repair in the last 45 days. I am convinced our ability to perform at such a high level of execution with a low mishap rate is due to our experience and professionalism, but we cannot continue to rely on that alone. We will continue to do our mission, but what can we do to mitigate risk?*

*Commanders, Chiefs, and front line supervisors are the key. I am asking each of you, but especially those in leadership and supervision, to take a moment and take in the "big picture" - especially when it comes to work/rest cycles, number of consecutive duty days, and the length of the duty day. This look can and should occur in both combat and non-combat operations - is there an opportunity to take a knee, even if for just a day? If you get that chance, take a moment to talk about safety, champion the "good" practices and get rid of the "bad" ones. We have an amazing "can-do" attitude in the IDANG and we accomplish all we are asked to do and more but sometimes even a short amount of time to catch a breath is enough to stop a mishap that could incur a cost more than we are willing to pay.*

*The 124th FW, the Great State of Idaho, and the United States of America are forever grateful for the service and sacrifice each of you and your families make every day. You are invaluable and can never be replaced. I am extremely proud to serve with you all, especially during these challenging times. I look forward to seeing all of you back at Gowen, deployed or not, safe and sound as soon as possible.*

*Attack! Donut*

## 45 DAYS AT A GLANCE

6 LIVES LOST IN AIR FORCE MISHAPS, 1 DEATH EVERY 7.5 DAYS

5 CLASS A FLIGHT MISHAPS, 1 EVERY 9 DAYS

5 AIRCRAFT DESTROYED, 1 EVERY 9 DAYS

AT THIS RATE THE USAF WILL

LOSE 40 AIRCRAFT

AND

49 PERSONNEL

WILL LOSE THEIR LIVES

IN 2016

# CONTENTS

## THE BEACON

COMMANDER'S HOTLINE  
208-422-5000



» p.7

07.09.16

### MOTORCYCLE SKILLS RODEO

4:30 PM



» p.6

**WING COMMANDER**  
Col. Tim Donnellan

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**  
2nd Lt. Cassie Morlock

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC**  
Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

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



This month's cover photo was taken June 10, 2016 during the aircraft dedication ceremony for the Tribes of Idaho, photo by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur.

## 8 CASCADIA RISING

FIRST RESPONDERS CONDUCT MULTI-STATE EXERCISE

## 11 THE PATCH

THANKING THOSE WHO THANK

## 12 WARRIORS OF THE MONTH

BOTH JANUARY AND APRIL'S WARRIOR OF THE MONTH

## 15 OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE QUARTER

QUARTER TWO

## 16 DEDICATION TO THE COMMUNITY

THE WARRIOR SPIRIT DEDICATED TO THE TRIBES OF IDAHO

## 18 TRIEX 2016

MAJOR ACCIDENT RESPONSE EXERCISE

## 20 BOSSLIFT

ANNUAL BOSSLIFT FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE GUARD



[USAF.ID.124-FW.MBX.PA-PUBLIC-AFFAIRS@MAIL.MIL](mailto:USAF.ID.124-FW.MBX.PA-PUBLIC-AFFAIRS@MAIL.MIL)



[IDAHO.ANG.AF.MIL](http://IDAHO.ANG.AF.MIL)



[FACEBOOK.COM/124FWOFFICIAL](https://FACEBOOK.COM/124FWOFFICIAL)



[FLICKR.COM/124FW](https://FLICKR.COM/124FW)



[TWITTER.COM/124FIGHTERWING](https://TWITTER.COM/124FIGHTERWING)



[INSTAGRAM.COM/124FIGHTERWING](https://INSTAGRAM.COM/124FIGHTERWING)



[IDAHOANGBEACON.NING.COM](http://IDAHOANGBEACON.NING.COM)

THE BEACON is the official newsletter/magazine of the 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard. It is published monthly by the wing public affairs office. Views expressed may not be those of the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard, Department of Defense or U.S. Government.

# PRIMARY UTA EVENTS



## JULY DRILL CALENDAR

### SATURDAY

0830 - Enlisted Promotion Board, Bldg. 600  
 0900 - Fitness Assessment, Bldg. 1530  
 1000 - PDF line, Bldg. 145  
 1130 - Student flight BBQ, Indoor Pavillion  
 1300 - CDC Testing  
 1300 - PDF line, Bldg. 145  
 1500 - Joint Enlisted Council, Conf. Room, Bldg. 400  
 1600 - Rising Two Council, Location TBA  
 1630 - Motorcycle Skills Rodeo, C130 Ramp

### SUNDAY

0745 - PERSCO/CSS Training, Conf. Room, Bldg. 400  
 0800-1430 - Newcomers Brief, Basement, Bldg 400  
 0830 - CDC Testing  
 0900-1100 - Mediation Course, Conf. Room, Bldg. 400  
 1000 - Officer Promotion Board, Bldg. 600  
 1400 - SMSgt Bill Ferrell Retirement, Brooks, Bldg. 600  
 1500 - Promotion Packages due to FSS

### WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

#### SATURDAY (\$5.55)

##### Main Line:

BBQ Chicken  
 Chicken Fried  
 Steak w/ Gravy  
 Brown Rice  
 Macaroni & Cheese  
 Corn on the  
 Cob  
 Key Largo  
 Vegetables  
 Chicken Rice Soup  
 Chili Soup  
 Corn Bread w/ Honey  
 Wheat Bread

##### Short Order Line:

Cheddar Brats  
 Tacos  
 Hamburger  
 Cheeseburger  
 French Fries

##### Desserts:

Oatmeal Raisin Cookies  
 Peach Pie  
 Blueberry Cheesecake  
 Yellow Cake

#### SUNDAY (\$5.55)

##### Main Line:

Spaghetti  
 Baked Stuffed Fish  
 Rice Pilaf  
 Stuffing  
 Peas, Mushrooms  
 & Onions  
 Green Beans  
 Italian Wedding Soup  
 Potato Bacon Soup  
 Wheat Bread  
 White Bread

##### Short Order Line:

Jalapeno Poppers  
 El Pollo Pesto Sandwich  
 Hamburger  
 Cheeseburger  
 Onion Rings

##### Desserts:

Chocolate Cream Pie  
 Chocolate Cake  
 Peanut Butter Cookies  
 Red, White & Blue Cake

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

07.09.16

**MOTORCYCLE  
SKILLS  
RODEO**

4:30 PM



**LOCATION**

**FLIGHT LINE 2 NORTH OF BUILDING 1530**

**SPONSORED BY**

**GREEN KNIGHTS CH. 119**

**TREASURE VALLEY BLUE KNIGHTS**

**124TH FIGHTER WING SAFETY**

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT**

**GENE ROSIN, GKMMC CH. 119 PRESIDENT**

**422-5897 OR 208-989-0676**



This hotline is available for members of the 124th Fighter Wing and their dependents that would like to address any concerns during the deployment to include any media concerns or issues that may arise.

COMMANDERS HOTLINE  
208-422-5000

# CASCADIA RISING



By 2nd Lt. Cassie Morlock  
124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

GOWEN FIELD, Idaho--Agencies throughout Idaho, Oregon and Washington participated in an exercise, “Cascadia Rising” where a simulated 9.0 magnitude earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone occurred, followed by a tsunami off the coast of Oregon.

The CSZ spans from northern California to southern British Columbia. Scientific evidence indicates that a magnitude 8.0-9.0 earthquake occurs along the 800-mile long fault on average once every 200 to 500 years. The last major earthquake occurred over 300 years ago.

This natural disaster would result in the most complex scenario that emergency management and public safety officials could face in the Pacific Northwest.

Governor Otter called for a simulated State of Emergency, and the process of how we handle the complex disaster operations, providing resource and assistance was evaluated. The exercise was conducted in a no-fault learning environment

where plans, policies and procedures were assessed.

“What’s happened in Washington? What’s going on in Oregon? What’s the latest updates over there?” asked Gen. Brad Richy, Chief of Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security and Director of the Joint Staff. “Make sure you’re thinking about what’s happening over there because what’s happening over there is going to have an impact on what’s happening here.”

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security and Idaho Military Division stood-up their Emergency Operations Center as well as Joint Operations Center in order to provide a “support-role” to our neighboring states. Due to the earthquake and tsunami it was estimated that one million homes would have been damaged, more than 10,000 deaths and 30,000 injuries. Idaho was prepared to receive, shelter and feed more than 140,000 displaced individuals.

Through the course of the four day exercise, areas found what they excelled in, as well as where improvements or adjust-

ments need to be implemented.

“I just can’t say enough good things about it. There is still the other side that there is some efforts and things we still need to go back and work through, but the dedication and efforts that went into this were amazing.” Richy said. “The collaboration and teamwork and everything woven into this is amazing.”

While members were manning the EOC and JOC here in Idaho, members from the Idaho Air and Army National Guard traveled to Oregon to participate in the exercise offering medical triage and treatment of patients injured in the earthquake and tsunami in partnership with the Oregon National Guard. Individuals from medical, base fire department and TACP offered medical aid and assistance. This exercise offered the opportunity for first responders to practice tactical, operational and clinical skills with patient care.

This disaster planning is crucial to Idaho being as ready and prepared as possible for a natural disaster of this size.





# THE PATCH

By Capt. Brittany C. Sailors  
Special to The Beacon

I can't recall the last time I was out in public in uniform where I wasn't thanked for my service. Whether it's a child, a fellow veteran, or an appreciative community member, a kind word and a handshake is something I have become familiar with while serving here in Boise. My response has always been to thank them for their support and tell them I'm happy to do it. It wasn't until I witnessed TSgt Clay Thurston of the 124th Operations Support Squadron being thanked by a community member that I was truly inspired to do more.

While picking up lunch at the local Costco a man went out of his way to thank TSgt Thurston for his service and shake his hand. I watched his response from the cash register while paying for my lunch. TSgt Thurston quickly replied with a thank you and a smile as I fully expected. What he did next was what surprised me. He then pulled a patch

from his pocket and handed it to the man while detailing the meaning behind the patch and expressing his gratitude for the support. Again, on our way out the door, TSgt Thurston handed a second patch to a disabled teen donning a military cap.

Maybe it's due to my short six years in the military but this was something I'd never seen done before. I was instantly curious about the story behind TSgt Thurston's actions. I wanted to know more about how often he hands out patches or what he says when he does. I've always felt at a loss for words strong enough to express my appreciation for our community support and I'm always looking for a way to educate locals about the Idaho Air National Guard. It seems so few are aware of the fact that we live and serve right here in the Treasure Valley. After learning that TSgt Thurston always keeps a few patches on him and hands them out

whenever he runs into a supportive community member, I was inspired to share his story and begin a similar ritual myself.

I encourage each member of the Idaho Air National Guard to begin doing the same. If this is something you've long since done, whether it be a patch, a coin, or a sticker, please share this custom with your new Airmen. Inspire them to reach back into the community they serve and embolden them to share the pride in their commitment to the Idaho Air National Guard.



# WARRIOR OF THE MONTH

## SRA JUSTIN CLARK (JAN)

### FAVORITE FOOD

Home cooked meals

### HOBBIES

Hunting, especially duck

### WHY HE FEELS HE WAS SELECTED?

Planned a training event locally that involved everyone in the unit to include our officers and the commander. Everyone had a role. The training helped prepare two of our current JTAC students to go to the JTAC qualification course. It allowed them to do so in a comfortable environment, but also an environment with a lot of people watching them, there's a lot of vehicle and foot traffic on base that we don't get at the range. We did something we'd never done before and the guys seemed to like it.



124th Air Support  
Operations Squadron

Joint Terminal  
Air Controller

10 years of service  
3 years Guard

Full time ASOS  
Airman



### WHY WAS HE SELECTED?

Clark planned a Full-Mission Profile Exercise for January Drill that replicated Real-World combat conditions for Close Air Support (CAS). Justin conducted those duties in an exemplary manner while simultaneously completing seven Mission Qualification Training events in the JTAC upgrade training program. His efforts provided the most realistic, combat replicated training exercise on Gowen Field the 124th ASOS has seen to date. By selecting Gowen Field as the training environment, he eliminated 120 hours of vehicle travel, 40 man-hours of logistical support, fuel costs, not to mention vehicle wear and tear. Additionally, this training helped prepare two JTAC Qualification Course students to meet the demanding academic requirements at the 6th Combat Training Squadron, Nellis AFB, NV. This exercise proved the strength of the facilities and environment on Gowen Field at the same time mitigated risk to ensure the safety of our most valuable resource.

*"Some of the things I was told that I couldn't do didn't make sense to me so we figured it out."*

*SrA Justin Clark*

# WARRIOR OF THE MONTH

## TECH. SGT. JOSHUA ALLMARAS (APR)

### FAVORITE FOOD

Cookie dough and steak, I enjoy them separately

### HOBBIES

Outside with my family

### WHY HE FEELS HE WAS SELECTED?

During April the wing was in the middle of one of the largest deployments in its history. I worked long hours, came in early, stayed late, worked some really odd shifts to try and capture all the different aspects of the deployment movement including the people, aircraft, and cargo. I still managed to maintain the shop and not burn it to the ground.



124th Fighter  
Wing Staff

Photojournalist

13+ years of service  
9 years Guard

Full time Public  
Affairs Audiovisual  
Production Specialist



### WHY WAS HE SELECTED?

Allmaras served as the sole public affairs Airman during the month of April while his counterpart is deployed and the PAO was off to school. During this month the 124th Fighter Wing was also in the middle of one of the largest deployments in its history. He was tasked with being the Fighter Wing Unit Deployment Manager where he ensured deployment readiness of personnel, equipment and supplies. He provided critical UDM support for the wings AEF deployment.

Allmaras would come to work early, and stay late to ensure all of the required tasks were effectively achieved. In addition to documenting the massive movement of Airmen, equipment and aircraft he continued to fulfill his day-to-day public affairs responsibilities and perfect his photography skills-proving to be one of the wings top photographers.

Allmaras is one of the main contributors to the wings social media accounts, which have received an astonishing 75% increase in new social media online viewers, and have created a record high reach of 171,944 people in the last four months. The wing has also seen an increase of 66% in followers to Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and Flickr.

*"Always work hard. Your hard work does not go unnoticed; it may seem like it is, but it's not."*

*Tech. Sgt. Joshua Allmaras*

# Want to Lead?

The 124th Mission Support Group Wants YOU

The 124th Mission Support Group is looking for an exceptional, motivated and ambitious leader to become the Commander (38PX) of the 124th Force Support Squadron. This is a traditional officer position.

## **Qualified applicants will meet the following criteria:**

- Current Field Grade Officer in the Idaho Air National Guard
- Able to attend the first available Force Support Commander Course
- Passing Fitness Assessment
- Willing/able to deploy

## **Outstanding Commander Candidates will submit the following:**

- Detailed resume
- Last 3 OPRs
- Fitness Assessment
- Minimum of 3 references (include name, title, phone number and email)
- Records Review (vMPF RIP)

**Packages will be submitted hard copy to Col Stephanie Sheppard, 422-5555, not later than 1500 on Aug. 7, 2016.  
Incomplete packages will not be accepted.**

# 2ND QUARTER - OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE QUARTER

## AIRMAN

A1C MARANDA FITZWATER  
124TH LOGISTICS READINESS SQUADRON



## NCO

TSGT  
JOSHUA ALLMARAS  
124TH FIGHTER WING  
STAFF



## SNCO

MSGT  
BONNIE DAVIS  
124TH FORCE SUPPORT  
SQUADRON

# THE WARRIOR SPIRIT



By 2nd Lt. Cassie Morlock  
124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

GOWEN FIELD, Idaho--On May 10th, aircraft 276 was dedicated to the Tribes of Idaho and the surrounding area. This ceremony was unlike any other dedication thus far. The ceremony began with prayer, playing of the Flag song and Victory song while members performed Native American dance.

Tribal members completed a smudging ceremony where they blessed the aircraft, as well as attendees in the audience. Smudging is the sacred smoke blessing, a ceremony for cleansing and purification for the physical and spiritual bodies. Smudging calls on the spirits of sacred herbs and plant to drive away negative energies and restore balance.

Tribal Council Members spoke on the significance of the Return of the Boise Valley People and the aircraft dedication.

"We come here today to bless this aircraft. It is a warrior. Much the same as our Indian people. The warriors of our people," said Lionel Boyer, an elder for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe. "I ask the Creator to bless each and

every one of us in our thoughts, minds and spirits. To bless this aircraft. Wherever it goes, it will carry the spirit of the warrior."

Maj. Gen. Gary Saylor, Adjutant General, Idaho National Guard, welcomed Boise Valley Tribes, and spoke on the strong relationship the Idaho Air National Guard has with the Tribes of the Boise Valley.

"It is important for us to have you here, and to host you." Saylor said. "The more we get together and the more we discuss the concerns that all of you have and that we have in the Idaho Air National Guard, our relationship continues to grow and get better."

Glancing back at the aircraft, he spoke of what an honor it was to be able to dedicate this aircraft.

"This plane is a true warrior. It has been in combat and will likely be in combat again." Saylor said. "It really is a great honor to dedicate this airplane, 'Warrior Spirit.' A really great honor."

After a few brief words, and a salute to all Idaho Air National Guard members from the Tribal Council leader, it was time to

dedicate the aircraft.

"This aircraft in front of you today is not merely a collection of metal and wires, but is instead that which carries her pilot into the center of the most vicious battles fought in modern warfare." said Col. Tim Donnellan, commander, Idaho Air National Guard. "Just as a war horse may rise on its back legs to protect her warrior from arrows, the A-10 cockpit is surrounded by titanium, protecting her pilot from enemy bullets. It is with great honor that we, warriors in this time of history, dedicate aircraft 276 to honor the warrior spirit that has always filled this Boise valley."

Once the artwork was unveiled, the ceremony was concluded with the singing of Honor song and 49 songs.

The 124th Fighter Wing began dedicating their "mighty warthogs" in May of last year as part of a community recognition program. Since then, 14 aircraft have been dedicated to cities throughout Idaho and eventually all A-10s will be dedicated.





# TRIEX 2016

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

BOISE, Idaho--A cloud of dark smoke filled the air as dozens of emergency response vehicles swarmed the simulated aircraft wreckage used for a full-scale airport exercise May 25, 2016.

Airport Triennial Exercise or “TriEx2016” involved multiple response and support agencies at the local, regional, state, and federal level to include the Idaho Air National Guard firefighters, Boise Fire Department, Ada County Paramedics, Boise Airport and local law enforcement. The scenario involved a commercial Boeing 737 aircraft that crashed at a designated training location, simulating the Boise airport’s third runway.

The IDANG firefighters responded within minutes to the crash site and performed firefighting, rescue, medical

treatment, and triage.

“As we approached the scene, dispatch had already painted a picture for us. Sure enough, there was a large frame aircraft that had crashed into some construction equipment,” said Tech. Sgt. Miguel Sandoval, one of the responding IDANG firefighters. “There was fire from inside the aircraft engines and mangled metal scattered around.”

Approximately 80 actors played out roles of injured passengers, while emergency responders reacted as if it were a “real-world” crisis. Among the actors were four Idaho Air National Guardsmen with blood painted onto their skin and clothing by make-up artists.

“The actors all did a great job. It was a more realistic approach compared to other exercises

with a bunch of mannequins tagged with a list of injuries and symptoms,” said Sandoval. “The sense of an actual emergency was definitely present.”

This exercise had participation from a large realm of emergency responders that arrived on-scene, extinguished all fire hazards, evacuated the aircraft and performed first aid to anyone injured. The scenario continued beyond the crash site to include transporting the injured by ambulance and life-flight, admitting them into the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center, St. Luke’s, and Saint Alphonsus hospitals.

“I was excited to work with everyone involved in rescue operations,” said Sandoval. “It was great to see us all come together and work to achieve one common goal of helping people.”





