



official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

THE BEACON



COMBAT EXCELLENCE-ALWAYS ON MISSION

FROM THE WING COMMANDER

COL. TIM DONNELLAN



What a phenomenal experience the last two weeks have been and a perfect way to end the fiscal year!

Brig Gen Nolan and I, along with Chief Bongiovi and Chief Ladley just returned from the AOR where we visited our deployed Airmen. We were able to visit almost all locations and with the vast majority of our brothers and sisters at their deployed locations. Everywhere we went our deployed Airmen were in great spirits - highly motivated and eager to accomplish the mission. Many were in supervisory positions and absolutely loving the challenges of combat leadership. It was a great trip and I came away with two major points:

First, is that total force works! The experience and subject matter expertise we bring to the fight is phenomenal in both size and scope. Every commander we talked to, from the wing to the squadron, was blown away by each of our guardsmen. We showed up fully trained, highly motivated, and eager to execute the mission. We demonstrate leadership at every level, along with innovation and dedication to the mission. It was truly awesome to see first hand and great to see our Airmen in action.

Our second take away is that of validation. Commanders and chiefs at all levels of 124 FW Command have spent time and resources wisely, training and preparing for our federal mission. We have no alibis, need no waivers, and readily take our place when called upon. My recent experiences in the AOR, in both the conversations I had and the actions I observed, validated our daily training efforts as a fighter wing. Given that, I think we're ready to take that next step of refining how we train and execute, while still focusing on "People First, Mission Always." This refining includes ensuring we conduct our daily operations IAW AFIs and parent regulations, while giving us the opportunity to look at our culture and leadership styles to find areas to improve. We are in the best position we could ever be - highly competent in our capability, highly motivated to find areas for improvement, and with the time to do so.

We have closed out FY16 and what an amazing year it was. We are going to start FY17 with the reconstitution of our deployed Airmen and equipment. We're going to do a Major Readiness Exercise then finish off our 4 year look by ACC IG with a capstone event. Finally, we'll host an Open House/Airshow for the first time in 20 years. During this time we're going to look at how we do our daily operations, whether it's flying/fixing airplanes, protecting the force, extinguishing fires, treating patients, or executing contracts. By the end of the next FY we'll have a clear view of ourselves and a clear vision of how we can continue to improve and be the best fighter wing in today's combat Air Force.

I could not be more proud nor more humbled as your commander than I am now. The accomplishments of both our deployers and those who have continued to do the mission here in Idaho are amazing and have showed without a doubt that our future is completely in our hands. We have the technical expertise, but more importantly the demonstrated leadership it takes to be a lethal, professional force of the future.

Attack! Donut

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This month's cover photo was taken Aug. 2, 2016 while the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron supported interagency firefighting on the Sobranes Fire near Monterey, California and was taken by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Allmaras.

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PRIMARY UTA EVENTS



OCTOBER DRILL CALENDAR

SATURDAY

0830 - Enlisted Promotion Board, Bldg. 600
 0900 - Strategic Planning Brief, Bldg. 600, CG Conf. Rm.
 1000 - 4th Quarter QRA, Bldg. 600, CG Conf. Rm.
 1300 - CDC Testing
 1300 - Fitness Assessment
 1300 - Green Dot Training, Bldg. 400, Classroom
 1315 - Intel Roll-up, Bldg. 146, Main Briefing Rm.
 1400 - Green Dot Training, Bldg. 400, Classroom
 1500 - Essential Six, Bldg. 400, Wing Conf. Rm.
 1500 - Honorary SQ/CC CE, Bldg. 138, Fire Dept.
 1530 - Rising Two Working Group, DFAC

SUNDAY

0800-1430 - Newcomers Brief, Basement, Bldg 400
 0830 - CDC Testing
 1000 - Green Dot Training, Bldg. 148, Main Briefing Rm.
 1300 - CDC Testing
 1300 - Green Dot Training, Bldg. 148, Main Briefing Rm.
 1500 - SMSgt Webb Retirement, Indoor Pavilion
 1500 - Promotion Packages due to FSS

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

SATURDAY (\$5.55)

Main Line:

- Steak Ranchero
- Oven Fried Fish
- Paprika Buttered Potatoes
- Dirty Rice
- Simmered Red Cabbage
- Steamed Spinach
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- White Bread
- Wheat Bread

Short Order Line:

- Grilled Chicken Sandwich
- Grilled Polish Sausage
- Hamburger
- Cheeseburger
- French Fries

Desserts:

- Chocolate Cream Pie
- Cookies
- Brownies
- White Cake

SUNDAY (\$5.55)

Main Line:

- Chicken A La King
- Stuffed Green Peppers
- Southwestern Rice
- Buttered Egg Noodles
- Green Beans
- Stewed Tomatoes
- Chicken and Poblano Soup
- Vegetable Soup
- White Bread
- Wheat Bread

Short Order Line:

- BLT
- Corn Dog
- Hamburger
- Cheeseburger
- Onion Rings

Desserts:

- Blueberry Cheesecake
- Spice Cake
- Peanut Butter Cookies
- Coconut Cream Pie

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



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.

COMMANDER'S HOTLINE
208-422-5000



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

When one thinks of the word dirty, mud might come to mind or even a little kid who has just finished eating spaghetti. On a few large fires this summer the words Distributed Real-time Infrared, better known as DRTI and pronounced dirty, meant something completely different to the firefighters on the ground. This Air National Guard platform allowed interagency firefighters and commanders the ability to have real time infrared imagery at their fingertips.

The packaged capability is comprised of two sections, an aerial and ground team. The aerial section flies in an RC-26 which provides the overhead imagery products while the ground section breaks up into smaller teams and works directly with various customers on the ground.

“We are serving two distinct sets of customers,” said Lt Col. Shawn Scott, the DRTI program manager. “At the tactical level we are providing real time video

directly down to the supported commander, be those division commanders or branch commanders. These equate to squadron or group commanders in the Air Force. We come in and provide them with initial products such as the perimeter of the fire. It gives them the eyes they don’t necessarily have due to the tremendous amount of smoke in the atmosphere, or because of the terrain, or even the vegetation.”

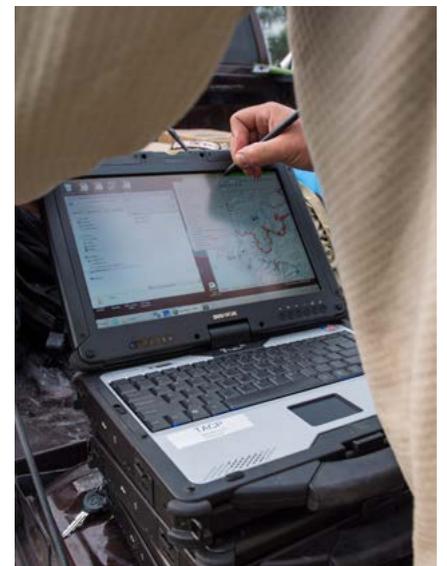
This information is critical to the firefighters on the ground.

“There is a lot of value in having your folks on the ground. Being able to have eyes in areas you don’t have really good eyes on due to smoke and visibility, and knowing exactly where the fire has progressed,” said Billy Gardunio, a forest fire management specialist who flew in the back of the RC-6 aircraft as a subject matter expert.

The frontline firefighter on the ground is not the only customer for this mission.

“Our second customer is on the strategic side,” said Scott. “We take all those fire perimeters we have been collecting and we transmit them in near real time via email back to the planners at the command post, the ICP [incident command post], so they have the most current map available for their planning cycle.”

One of the unique capabilities of the National Guard is the ability to take their wartime mission skillsets and adapt them to



benefit the homeland.

“One of the big things about the aircrew was their experience and expertise,” said Gardunio. “Having worked FLIR [forward looking infrared] for less than 25 hours and to be able to see someone who had over 10,000 hours of sensor time, and the ability for their eye to pick up on stuff rather quickly was very cool.”

There is a great value being able to support the firefighters.

“You guys are another source of info,” said Jeff Ohs, branch two director from Long Beach Fire. “You can’t put a value on this type of intel, especially from the safety aspect.”

There have been many successes during this activation.

“One of the most incredible successes we had with people in the state was supporting law enforcement,” said Scott. “When they initiated large areas of



evacuations there were hundreds of miles of really gnarly, rocky, dirt roads in which deputies in Boise County were going to be responsible for evacuating campers. The evacuation orders came out on a Saturday, which is a bad time in the summer.

We found that we could use the sensor to sweep those areas and make sure there were no campers back there. We accomplished their mission in three hours, which we were told would have taken 24 man hours to com-

pletely evacuate those backcountry roads, if they could.”

One of the biggest fire detection successes was in California.

“On the Sobaranes Fire we identified a large spot fire,” said Scott. “This was a big deal because the fire significantly accelerated when the firefighters were going to take tactical actions on the ground. They had a strategy to back burn, but they thought they had more time. When we called to do the debrief, it sounded very busy in the background. The operations chief said, ‘it’s a madhouse here because we are accelerating our timeframe for beginning burn operations based on the information you provided, that we had no idea about.’ The fire was a lot closer than they had anticipated.”

Timely information is critical in firefighting.

“With the Forest Service we



have a NIROPS [National Infrared Operations] infrared ship that flies at night that gives us an update on fire size and intensity, but you have to wait until the next night for an update,” said Gardunio. “This asset [DRTI] provided a more timely update of what the fire was doing during the peak burning hours.”

The DRTI asset has been in a proof of concept phase until this year, when the Forest Service provided money to support the mission. This is the first fire season it has been officially used to support interagency firefighters.

As with most missions there are specific objectives.

“The objective isn’t for the Air National Guard to show that we can come out and be the provider of something nobody else can do,” said Scott. “The overall objective of this program is to showcase capabilities that we have been using in the close air support community for over a decade now that potentially have applications in the wildland firefighting mission. We stand by and are ready to help if called, but that’s not the overall objective.”

The IDANG has received a lot

of support through this whole process.

“I really appreciate the support we have received from the interagency community at NIFC (National Interagency Fire Center) and the Forest Service,” said Scott. “We have taken this from the good idea fairy stage to the point that I have guys on the mountain helping firefighters and that has taken a lot of key people.”

The DRTI platform has been used in support of fires in both Idaho and California this past summer. The mission ended August 30.



Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Joshua C. Allmaras



FORGING SUCCESS



Air National Guard photos by Senior Airman Skyla Child

Receiving the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for 2015 was a very big surprise for all of us. We know we have been working extremely hard and this type of recognition is a very humbling reward. People ask us for our recipe for success. As Col. Isaacs put it, "In the guard, we are a family. We take care of each other". We take pride in taking care of the Airmen who execute the mission.

Drive and motivation in the 124th Medical Group stems from this team and family concept. We know that each individual Airman will be there in the time of need and can support any one of us at anytime. No matter if you are a stand in team member, if there is an emergency, or if there is a mission critical task that needs to be completed. Our positive attitude and dedication to our profession is always noticed everywhere we go. With these traits we forge success.

We are driven to be experts in all of our Air National Guard Mission sets established by the Surgeon General's office; Domestic Operations and Disaster Response, Humanitarian Medical Support, Critical Care Air transport, Deployable Surgical teams, Medical Readiness and Occupational Health and Aerospace Medicine. Military medicine is a very complicated mission set in the Air National Guard and our drive and solutions used in our current ops tempo and environment continue to be noticed by many. Col Donnellan stated it best at the AFOU ceremony, "Leading from the front is hard. Everyone sees you, and you don't get an opportunity to mess up. You guys led not just the wing in tracking and improving the organization, but you're leading in your career fields. You guys were recognized by the Defense Health Agency as best in the entire Pacific region". We have awesome Airmen and they do great things.

We are very proud to receive this award. With it brings a great amount of humility. Thank you for the support of all members of the 124th Fighter Wing. Without your support this award would not be possible.

Never say impossible....Go!!!!

Maj. Tim Mitchell

Want a change?

The 124th Fighter Wing Staff wants YOU

The 124 Fighter Wing is looking for an enlisted unit member with high moral standards, and exceptional military bearing and conduct to cross train into the Equal Opportunity (EO) Office. EO enhances the Air Force (AF) mission by promoting an environment of equity, dignity and respect through positive human relations and teamwork. An Equal Opportunity Practitioner identifies existing and potential equal opportunity and other human relations issues. They provide advice, consultation, education, and referral services to commanders, supervisors, directors and personnel in order to help enhance mission effectiveness.

Qualified applicants will meet/submit the following:

- Must complete an observation period with the EO office (2 UTA's/ANG interview for the position), and have a memorandum/recommendation summarizing observance activities IAW AFI 36-2706, Equal Opportunity Program, Military and Civilian.
- Written recommendation from the unit commander.
- Minimum grade E-5 and must be qualified in primary Air Force Specialty Code and possess the appropriate skill level commensurate with grade/rank.
- Ability to speak distinctly and communicate, both written and verbal, with others.
- No record of Equal Opportunity issues or violations, substandard performance, emotional instability, personality disorder, or other unresolved mental health problems.
- No record of disciplinary action (Letter of Reprimand [LOR] or Article 15) for committing acts of misconduct or engaging in an unprofessional or inappropriate relationship as defined in AFI 36-2909, Professional and Unprofessional Relationships or documented failures (LOR or Article 15) to exercise sound leadership principles with respect to morale or welfare of subordinates and peers, leadership or customers.
- Never been convicted by a civilian court of an offense other than minor traffic violations.
- No record of substance abuse, financial irresponsibility, domestic violence, or child abuse.
- Never been convicted by a general, special, or summary courts-martial.
- Never received non-judicial punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) which resulted in either reduction or suspended reduction in grade, or correctional custody.

**Please forward all documentation and questions to
MSgt Ramos, 422-5847 or 272-7113, no later than
Nov. 6, 2016.**

WARRIOR OF THE MONTH

SRA MICHELLE JANAE NELSON (MAY)

FAVORITE FOOD

Pizza, cheese, cheese and more cheese

HOBBIES

Music (listening), fishing, shooting, photography

WHY SHE WAS SELECTED?

During one of the largest deployment spin ups in the history of the Idaho Air National Guard, Nelson was a one person shop. She handled her receiving duties while also fulfilling her role in the cargo deployment function. She worked directly with the joint inspectors and managed the cargo movement and operations system. She ensured that all the cargo was accurately accounted for and loaded. This critical job directly had an impact on the successful CDF line.



*"Be humble and show gratitude. Even the smallest person makes a big ripple."
SRA Nelson*

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS GET A SPECIAL DAY

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

Last month, the Idaho Air National Guard was asked to support an event with an organization, “Courageous Kids Climbing.” This group is comprised of rock climbers who are based in central Idaho, who volunteer to take children with special needs and teach them how to rock climb in area climbing gyms.

Maj. Marthens from the 124th Operations Group volunteered his morning to show kids how wearing a harness can not only be a life saver for rock climbers, but for fighter pilots as well.

“The kids with vision impairments had the opportunity to come up and feel my harness,” Marthens said. I was able to share with them how it protects me if I have to eject out of the airplane just like their climbing harness would protect them should they fall while they are climbing on the rock wall.”

Children were able to visit with Marthens, Boise City firefighters and police officers while they awaited their turn on the rock wall.

“While they were waiting for their turn to climb the wall, I

was able to simply have conversation with them and encourage them, talking to them about what I do, about what an A-10 pilot does,” said Marthens.

“This event was awesome to be a part of. It was a very good experience for me, and I think they enjoyed it as much as I did.”

Courageous Kids Climbing has been organizing events such as this since March of 2014. There is never a charge for the individual to participate in the events, just the opportunity to enjoy something very new to them.



Courtesy photos



NCO ENRICHMENT 2016



Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Joshua C. Allmaras



THE TIER 2 APPROACH FOR BATTLEFIELD AIRMEN

By Senior Airman Skyla Child
124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Just a few more reps.

This could make all the difference for battlefield Airmen who are taking the newly implemented physical fitness assessment for their career field.

Battlefield Airmen from the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron here took the Air Force Tier 2 Physical Fitness Assessment for the first time August 7.

Only six Air Force Specialty Codes fall into the category of BA: Special Tactics Officer, Combat Control, Special Operations Weather, Combat Rescue Officer, Pararescue, and Tactical Air Control Party.

Dr. Neal Baumgartner, with the USAF Fitness Testing and Standards Unit, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, developed the Tier 2 PFA with different standards than the Air Force PFA all Airmen are required to take. The new test is performance-based, whereas the standard Air Force PFA is health-based. Tech. Sgt. Josh R. Knarr, a Joint Terminal

Attack Controller assigned to the 124th ASOS here, said this test focuses on muscle groups and exercises that BA would see in their career field.

The standard Air Force PFA is considered a Tier 1 fitness assessment. This means that the test is gender-specific, but isn't AFSC specific. It tests Airmen's health and general fitness, while the Tier 2 PFA will test Airmen on specific job demands for their AFSC as BA. The Tier 2 assessment and requirements are not age or gender-based, and are occupationally-specific and relevant.

"It's an all-around workout," said Knarr. "You're getting cardio, anaerobic, aerobic, and it's not so much focused on the repetitions that you complete, but maintaining a certain level of fitness."

BA will soon be required to take the Tier 2 PFA along with the standard Air Force PFA each year. This time the assessment was for practice, but in March

2017, BA from the 124th ASOS will be taking it again for an official score.

This new fitness assessment is still in the trial phase, and the point scale is currently being adjusted before it becomes an official, required assessment. There are a total of ten components that make up the Tier 2 PFA, and include exercises like pull-ups, weighted lunges, 100-yard farmers' carry and a grip strength test. Some exercises, like cross-knee crunches, have added challenges. During this component crunches need to be performed to the beat of a metronome, which makes doing more repetitions more challenging.

Senior Airman Jared B. Kohntopp, a Joint Terminal Attack Controller assigned to the 124th ASOS here, said another tough part of the test is some of the components are set up to work the same muscle groups back to back.

"You can look at their faces and

see how it was,” said Knarr. “It’s a difficult test, and to begin with, everyone receives the numbers that we have to have to pass, and until you actually do the exercise you’re not as confident.”

Even though the Tier 2 PFA is difficult, Knarr said it can be completed in two hours depending on how many people are testing and how many Physical Training Leaders are

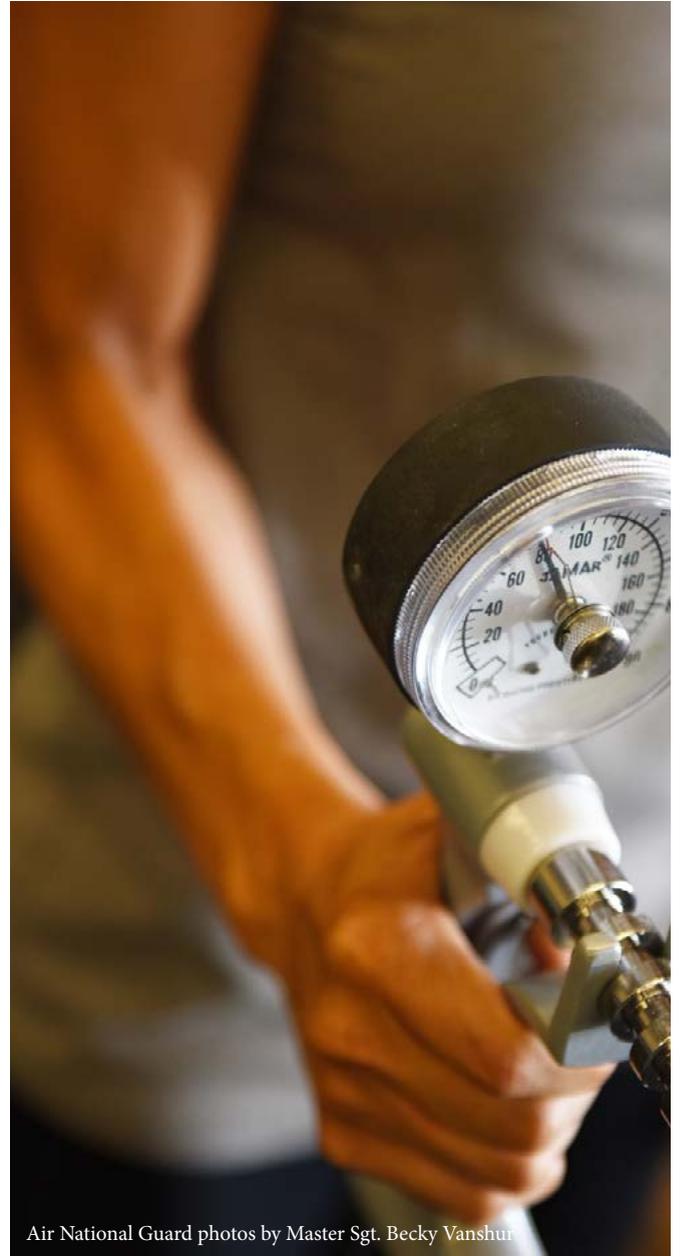
present.

Knarr, along with two others, attended a BA PTL instruction course at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. This course taught them not only how to administer the assessment, but also how to correct form.

Overall, the 124th ASOS felt the assessment better reflects the physical stress of what they

do every day.

“I’m excited to see where it goes,” said Kohntopp. “At first I didn’t like it at all – based on seeing the scores and what the exercises were – but after actually doing it, I’m pretty excited to do this, especially because most of these exercises are something I could see myself actually working out on my own time to improve.”



Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshul

FITONE VOLUNTEERS



Sept. 24, 2016 the Idaho Air National Guard was asked to be the Official Medal Team for the annual FitOne 5k, 10k and half marathon race. Fifteen Airmen volunteered to arrive near downtown Boise at Ann Morrison Park on a frigid Saturday morning to unpack more than 3,200 individually wrapped medals that would be distributed to the finishers of the 10k and half marathon runners as well as any participant over 70.



Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Allmaras



Special thanks to our
volunteers:
Col. Aebischer
Maj. Miller
Maj. Mitchell
Capt. Kiska
Capt. Bruner
Lt. Morlock
Chief Taylor
TSgt. Allmaras
SSgt. Olds
SSgt. Gempler
SrA Child
SrA Widick
SrA Son
Amn. Murphy
Amn. Rigenhagen



GOWEN FIELD GETS A NEW LOOK



By Senior Airman Skyla Child
124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Allmaras

Gowen Field's main gate is currently under construction, and is projected to be finished by the end of January 2017.

The new main gate is slated to be a 120 day project, and will be closed until it's finished.

This project was originally scheduled for FY17, but was voted by the Facilities Board to move up to FY16, said Lt. Col. Sumner, commander of the 124th Civil Engineer Squadron.

"Last August is when the contract was awarded for design," said Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Stephens, a base contracting officer with the 124th Mission Support Group.

Once finished, the new main gate will provide extra security and protection for our defenders, as well as protection from weather elements. It will feature ballistic glass windows in the

front, along with a new look.

A second guard house will be added between the two lanes of the gate, with a canopy connecting the lanes and guard houses.

"Installing a canopy over both lanes is going to connect the entire system, and then we're putting in radiant heating in the ground, which is pretty exciting," said Sumner. "It should melt the snow and ice, and the heat will come up providing warmth."

There are a lot of different players involved in this project to ensure its success, said Stephens.

The 124th CES, 124th MSG and also Pacific Source Construction, a civilian architect and engineering firm, are all playing a crucial role in this project. While the 124th CES helps with most of the project

management, the 124th MSG has negotiated the funding for the project along with the contract.

Airmen from the 124th CES will also be visiting the project site, answering questions and validating the work that is being done by the off-site firm.

Planning and preparation work was also crucial to ensure a smooth transition for the defenders from the main gate to the gate being used throughout the project.

"We're having to transfer all the activity and operations that happen at the main gate, to the contractor gate," said Sumner.

This includes moving existing structures from gate to gate, installing subfloor, carpet and wiring to make sure the outlets and lighting works. The 124th Communications Flight also had

to provide support in moving the pass and identification functions to the new facility.

The trailer being used at the contractor gate didn't have a strong enough air conditioner, so 124th CES also took the one from the existing gate house and installed it in the trailer, said Sumner.

Four main color schemes were provided by Pacific Source Construction to be chosen from. The final look was selected, featuring

brown brick and a blue roof.

"I think it's going to give our entrance to the base a facelift," said Sumner. "It's going to be such a step up for us, and it's going to give us an increased presence."

While the gate is under construction, it's going to require everyone to make alterations to their schedules and timing when traveling to and from base.

"This project has been a huge collaborative effort between CE,

contracting, and finance," said Stephens.

Many individuals have already helped with this project, including Airmen, Soldiers, state employees and contractors.

"My biggest concern is patience with everyone," said Sumner. "It's going to be really frustrating for people with the change in what gates are open when and traffic, but just trying to have a larger perspective of providing security is important."



3RD QUARTER - OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE QUARTER



AIRMAN

SRA JONATHAN
HOFFMAN

124TH MEDICAL
GROUP

NCO

TSGT LORA
BOOZIER

124TH MEDICAL
GROUP





SNCO

MSGT RICKIE
WOLKAMP

266TH RANGE
SQUADRON



AROUND THE WORLD

THE 124TH FIGHTER WING
FIRST CLASS OR NOT AT ALL



