



official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

THE BEACON



COMBAT EXCELLENCE-ALWAYS ON MISSION

FROM THE WING COMMANDER

COL. TIM DONNELLAN

Warriors of the 124 FW -

I hope this edition of the Beacon finds our deployers from the first half of RCP and the AEF reconnecting with family and friends, along with getting some well-deserved rest. We enter November UTA with a solid reconstitution plan for both people and equipment, but also with a clear vector for Fiscal Year 2017. Last month I outlined our four main priorities for next year - Reconstitute our force, conduct a Major Readiness Exercise, showcase our CCIP during the IG Capstone, and host an open house. Mission readiness is always above everything, and these four events will directly contribute to that.

We enjoy phenomenal support from our local community both in the Treasure Valley and the entire State of Idaho. Because of the nature of our business we often execute our mission but don't communicate the impact to our local community. Every now and then when I am downtown in uniform folks ask if I'm from Mountain Home AFB. When I explain the Idaho Air National Guard, they are surprised because they didn't know we were here. The reaction is always positive, but I take it as a personal call to action that we have more work to do when it comes to educating our neighbors and community about what we do. We ask a lot of our families, our traditional force, and our employers. One of the things we can do to help ease the burden of these demands is educate our community on what we do, so they have an understanding of all that is asked of those who serve.

It is said that "a picture is worth a thousand words" - if that is true, then "an experience must be worth a library of words"! So, with that in mind, I'm pleased to announce to you that this FY we will host an open house for the first time in 20 years, "Gowen Thunder". The dates for the event will be 30 Sep - 1 Oct 2017 and we will be hosting it right here at Gowen Field. The open house will include aerial demonstrations, static displays, and booths for both vendors and organizations on base. We will host this with our Idaho Army National Guard brothers and sisters, who will also feature fire power demonstrations and statics. The best part of all this is that the work has already started and is pretty far down the road. The open house director is our vice wing commander, Col. Aebischer, who has already held meetings to ensure we have a deliberate way forward with a solid planning process and not a mad scramble next summer. If you would like to have an active part in the event please make contact with your commander who will forward your name to Col. Aebischer. As we get closer to the event there will be a role for many of us, but for now the best thing for the majority of us to do is to get excited about it and spread the word!

Finally, Veteran's Day is next week. Sometimes we take for this day for granted as many of us are veterans, but I believe this one is unique as it is so close to our combat tour. Please take the time to reflect on what that experience has meant to you, your families and your nation. Because we do our job so well the average American citizen will never know the true cost of securing the great freedoms we enjoy. Please take the time to remember one another and your families this Veteran's Day and keep our Airmen that are still deployed in your thoughts.

From one veteran to another, thank you for your service!

Attack! Donut



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PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC
Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF
Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras
Tech. Sgt. John Winn
Senior Airman Skyla Child



This month's cover photo was taken Oct. 24, 2016 while the 190th Fighter Squadron returned home from a six month deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Photo by Senior Airman Skyla Child.

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PRIMARY UTA EVENTS



NOVEMBER DRILL CALENDAR

SATURDAY

- 0830 - Enlisted Promotion Board, Bldg. 600
- 1000 - R&R Brief, Bldg. 600, CG Conf. Rm.
- 1030 - SMSgt Jeff Barrows Retirement, Briefing Rm, Bldg 146
- 1300 - CDC Testing
- 1300 - Fitness Assessment
- 1300 - Officer Promotion Board
- 1300 - Green Dot Training, Bldg. 400, Classroom
- 1400 - FSS Assumption of Command, Base Theater
- 1400 - Green Dot Training, Bldg. 400, Classroom
- 1500 - Essential Six, Bldg. 400, Wing Conf. Rm.
- 1530 - Rising Two Working Group, DFAC

SUNDAY

- 0830 - CDC Testing
- 1000 - Green Dot Training, Bldg. 400, Classroom
- 1030 - CF Honorary CC Ceremony, Bldg. 1528
- 1300 - CDC Testing
- 1300 - Green Dot Training, Bldg. 400, Classroom.
- 1500 - OAQ Ceremony, Base Theater
- 1500 - Promotion Packages due to FSS

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

SATURDAY (\$5.55)

Main Line:

- Teriyaki Chicken
- Sweet & Sour Pork
- Fried Rice
- Pot Stickers
- Vegetable Capri Blend
- Simmered Broccoli
- Broccoli Cheddar Soup
- White Bread
- Wheat Bread

Short Order Line:

- Egg Rolls
- Grilled Ham & Cheese
- Hamburger
- Cheeseburger
- French Fries

Desserts:

- Yogurt w/strawberries
- Velvet Pound Cake
- Boston Cream Pie
- Macadamia Nut Cookie

SUNDAY (\$5.55)

Main Line:

- Oven Roasted Turkey
- Honey Glazed Ham
- Sweet Potatoes
- Mashed Potatoes
- Turkey Gravy
- Savory Stuffing
- Calico Corn
- Green Bean Casserole
- Clam Chowder Soup
- Wisconsin Cheese Soup
- Cranberry Sauce
- Dinner Rolls

Desserts:

- Pecan Pie
- Pumpkin Pie
- Mixed Nuts
- Holiday Candy

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

REDEPLOYING?

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER USERRA:

USERRA was enacted to ensure that members of the uniformed services are entitled to return to their civilian employment upon completion of their military service. Members should be reinstated with the seniority, status, and rate of pay they would have obtained had they remained continuously employed by their civilian employer. The law also protects members from discrimination in hiring, promotion, and retention on the basis of present or future service in the armed services.

Health Insurance:

Additionally, you have the right to elect to continue your existing employer-based health coverage for you and your dependents for up to 24 months while in military service. Even if you choose not to continue that health insurance coverage, you have the right to be reinstated in your employer's health plan when you are reemployed, generally without any waiting periods or exclusions (i.e., pre-existing condition exclusions) except for service-connected illnesses or injuries.

THE UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT ACT

REEMPLOYMENT:

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE REEMPLOYED IN YOUR CIVILIAN JOB IF YOU LEAVE THAT JOB TO PERFORM SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICE AND:

- * YOU ENSURE THAT YOUR EMPLOYER RECEIVES ADVANCE WRITTEN OR VERBAL NOTICE OF YOUR SERVICE
- * YOU HAVE FIVE YEARS OR LESS OF CUMULATIVE SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES WHILE WITH THAT PARTICULAR EMPLOYER
- * YOU RETURN TO WORK OR APPLY FOR REEMPLOYMENT IN A TIMELY MANNER AFTER CONCLUSION OF SERVICE
- * YOU HAVE NOT BEEN SEPARATED FROM SERVICE WITH A DISQUALIFYING DISCHARGE OR UNDER OTHER THAN HONORABLE CONDITIONS

The 124th FW Legal Office is available to assist you with USERRA issues and any other legal assistance concerns you may have.



Please contact our office

Monday-Friday 0700-1630 to
schedule an appointment at

422-5466

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Civilians - Formal/Semi-Formal

DEPLOYED OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS

MAJ. MATT GABICA
124th Logistics Readiness Squadron

**FIELD GRADE OFFICER OF THE
QUARTER**

Maj. Gabica, currently deployed to Southwest Asia, was recognized by his deployed wing and selected as the field grade officer of the quarter for the third quarter of fiscal year 2016.



MASTER SGT. MATHEW JOHNSTON
124th Logistics Readiness Squadron

PERFORMER OF THE MONTH

Master Sgt. Johnston was selected as the senior NCO of the month for Sept. 2016. Johnston went above and beyond both on and off duty in his Southwest Asia deployed location.



Staff Sgt. Kenneth Wise
124th Comptroller Flight

PERFORMER OF THE MONTH

SSgt. Wise has been deployed in Bagram Afghanistan and he was recognized as the number one financial management customer service technician in AFCENT AOR for six months.

He has also received an air expeditionary wing staff level NCO award and was coined by the AEW/CCC, and his comptroller shop was named the number one financial management team in the AOR for the past six months.

His supervisor downrange stated "I've had the honor of working with SSgt Wise over the last six months. I couldn't have asked for a harder working Airman.

His hard work allowed our team to accomplish more than we ever expected."

AMXS HONORARY COMMANDER



Dr. Bart Hill, vice president and chief quality officer of St. Lukes Health System, was sworn in as the 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's honorary commander Oct. 5, 2016 at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. Honorary commanders are a critical component of the Air National Guard's community relations program.





BEFORE THEY EVEN START

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



The month of October was designated as National Fire Prevention Month, a time when public service departments across America join forces to spread the word about fire safety. Whether it is preventing forest fires, fire safety in the workplace, or planning an escape route within your home, Airmen were asked to be aware of all aspects of fire safety.

Locally, Idaho Air National Guard firefighters practiced some of their firefighting skills during October drill using a simulated fire within one of the abandoned buildings on the Gowen Field installation. While the IDANG firefighters are generally reactive to structure fires, aircraft emergencies, and medical responses, they want to keep Airmen safe with the knowledge of prevention. Airmen were asked to be aware of three common fire safety issues found within their work places.

“Our goal is always to prevent fires before they occur.

Understanding the rules and the reasons behind them is the first step to achieving this,” said Chief Master Sgt. Chris Brearley, IDANG Fire Emergency Services Chief, Gowen Field Fire Department.

The first safety issue is the use of space heaters in your offices. According to the 124th Fighter Wing Instruction 32-2001, section 1.15, “Space heaters, regardless of type, are not authorized for use within any facility unless approved in writing by the installation commander.”

“Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for two of every five, or 40 percent of home heating fires. This type of heater accounted for four out of five, which is 84 percent of home heating fire deaths. You can see why we take this so seriously,” said Brearley.

The second fire safety issue is smoking. Smoking should only be outdoors and in a designated location throughout Gowen. According to 124 FWI 32-2001,

section 2.6.3, “outside smoking areas will be designated by the fire chief. Requests for approval of such areas will be submitted in writing with attached diagrams or drawings. The requested area should be separated from hazardous areas.”

Lastly, Airmen were asked to be aware of the use of extension cords. According to 124 FWI 32-2001, section 2.12.5.1, “Personnel shall place extension cords in such a manner to avoid excessive wear, bending, stretching, kinking, or any mechanical damage. Extension cords will not be used for permanent wiring.”

According to Brearley, these three fire safety precautions are easy to fix, and can prevent serious issues before they occur. Airmen are encouraged to contact the 124th Civil Engineering Squadron helpdesk for any electrical or wiring questions.

“Fire prevention is extremely important to us, because in most cases it allows us to stop fires from occurring in the first place.

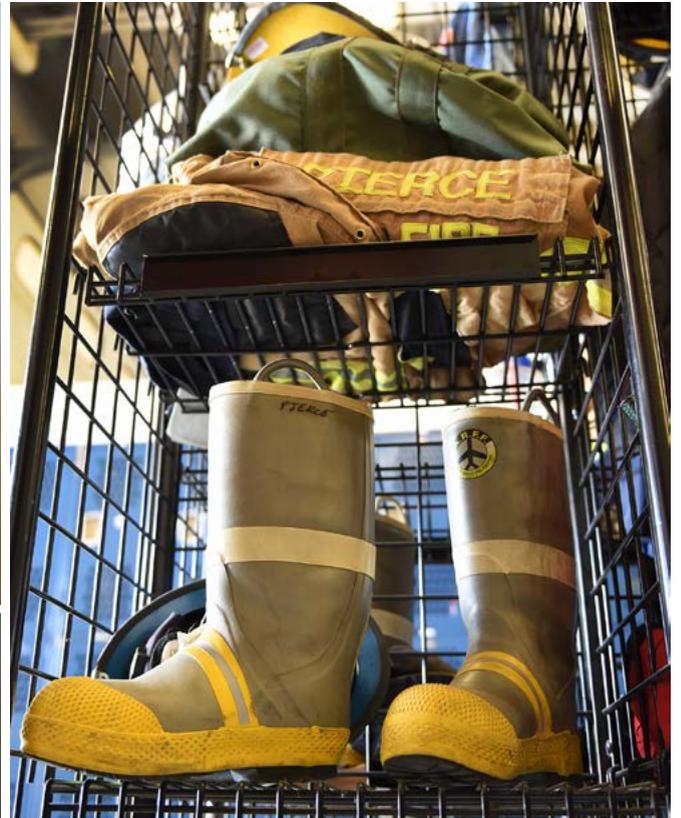
Prevention also ensures small fires don't spread rapidly," said Brearley. "This helps to keep our firefighters safe and guarantees resources are available when they are truly needed."

The first National Fire Prevention Day was declared by former President Woodrow Wilson in 1922 and is the longest running public safety and health campaign on record. The National Fire Protection Association often chooses themes for the fire-prevention month to emphasis a fire safety as-

pect. Some of the more catchy themes were Home cooking fires: Watch what you heat and Use candles with care: When you go out, blow out. This year's theme was Don't wait: Check the date! Replace smoke alarms every ten years. Airmen are encouraged by the IDANG firefighters to not only be aware of some of these home fire safety precautions, but to use these safety prevention reminders at work, as well.

"Most Airmen on base are unaware of the fires that we

either catch in their initial stages, or prevent from happening in the first place. We have had several incidents, right here on Gowen Field, where the fire alarm system alerted us in the middle of the night that a piece of equipment malfunctioned or overheated. It was on the brink of catching on fire," said Brearley. "Without a good prevention program this equipment may have burned all night, spreading fire throughout the facility. We would have never known, until it was too late."





THE RETURN

Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing have begun to return home from their various deployments locations around the world. In the next several issues pictures of our returning Airmen are slated to be published. Welcome home.













