



THE official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

BEACON

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★ 124TH FIGHTER WING ★ IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD ★ "FIRST CLASS OR NOT AT ALL" ★ GOWEN FIELD, BOISE, IDAHO ★ NOV/DEC 2012

Idaho A-10s support JTAC training in New Mexico

By Tech. Sgt. Becky Vanshur
Public Affairs

Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, N.M. -- The skies over New Mexico got a little busier Nov. 5 as 13 Idaho Air National Guard A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft began flying in Operation Jaded Thunder--a weeklong training exercise here.

The New Mexico Air National Guard's 150th Fighter Wing hosted more than 150 Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing, providing numerous parking spaces and runway access for A-10 aircraft, as well as a maintenance hangar and ample office space.

Prior to arrival, the 150th Fighter Wing worked to support the incoming unit by performing ramp surveys, moving barriers, and arranged vehicles for the 124th Fighter Wing members. In addition, the 150th Fighter Wing Security Forces provided reinforcement for the Idaho Guardsmen throughout the week.

Idaho airmen were greeted by 150th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Joe Martinez II Nov. 4 and began preparation for their training mission.

"Our relationship with our host has been outstanding. They have given up their facilities and ramp and shared their local expertise to get us started out right," said Lt. Col. Shannon Smith, deployment commander of the 124th Fighter

Wing and Commander of the 190th Fighter Squadron.

Idaho Air Guardsmen will use this training to learn new job skills and gain valuable experience working away from the familiar surroundings of Boise's Gowen Field.

"One reason it is great for the Idaho Air National Guard to be on this deployment exercise is to allow our traditional Guardsmen the opportunity to succeed in roles they haven't previously done at home," said Col. Smith.

Maj. Matthew McGarry, a traditional A-10 pilot who lives and works in Memphis, Tenn., is proving himself as a great project officer in planning and coordinating this exercise, he added.

Another traditional member, Lt. Col. Scott Salois, normally the 124th Maintenance Operations Flight Commander, has the opportunity to serve as the deployed maintenance squadron commander.

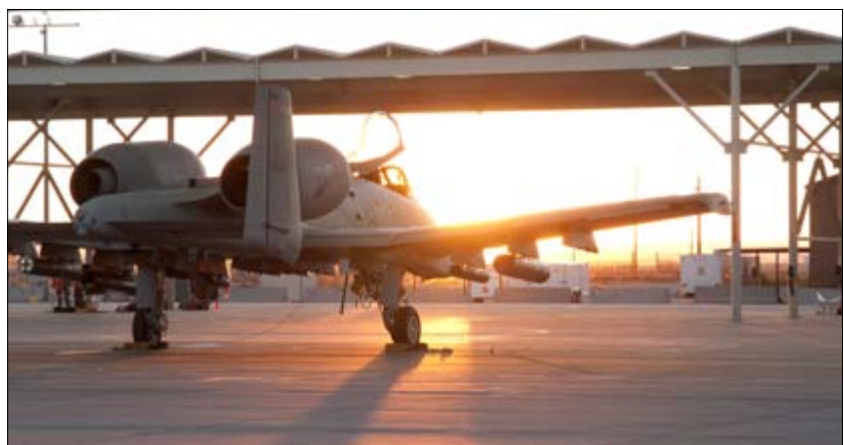
Senior Master Sgt. Tony Zabel is a flight line supervisor, attending to crew chiefs on the flightline back in Boise. Here, he takes the role as the maintenance non-commissioned officer in charge, planning and supervising all of maintenance personnel and cargo as it arrives until it leaves New Mexico.

Most of the maintenance and support personnel left Boise Nov. 2 to catch the 13 aircraft, which made the 800-mile flight from Boise to Albuquerque a day later.

"Maintenance did a great job of getting us ready to succeed. They generated 15 aircraft to launch 13. They have done a great job of bedding us down here. Within the 124th Fighter Wing, all of the deployed personnel are helping to make sure everything goes well and runs smoothly," said Col. Smith.

They arrived back in Boise Nov. 10.

Check out our special "Jaded Thunder" center spread beginning on page 4.



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WING COMMANDER

Col. Michael Nolan

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

Lt. Col. Gary Daniel (Editor)

Capt. Tony Vincelli

PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC

Master Sgt. Tom Gloeckle (Deployed)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney

Tech. Sgt. Becky Vanshur

Tech. Sgt. Heather Walsh

Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

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124FW/PA

4474 S. DeHaviland St.

Boise, ID 83705-8103

Voice (208) 422-5398

Fax (208) 422-5298

NEWS, FEATURES, EASY MAILING ADDRESS UPDATES & MORE:

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ENJOY THE HOLIDAY BREAK

A few ideas for making this time of year less stressful

First off, it is great to be back in Idaho. I just spent the last month down in Tucson getting recurred in the mighty A-10 Warthawg. It was a good experience but I missed the awesome Airmen of the Idaho ANG. I'm truly grateful to be home again with family and friends, and just in time for the holiday season.

I had an enlightening conversation about the holidays with Col. Chris Rood this week. We were discussing our Christmas plans with much excitement but also noted the increased level of stress we're both feeling. This can be a challenging period for many of us. Financial obligations, social commitments, excessive crowds and tight travel plans can all conspire to ruin a much



By Col. Michael Nolan
124th Fighter Wing Commander

deserved holiday break. Here are a few humble suggestions for making the most of your holidays: First, spend time with family and friends but don't feel obligated to attend every single social event you're invited to.

Second, try not to overspend. The last thing you want is a financial hangover that requires months of recovery.

Third, take care of yourself by maintaining your workout routine, getting adequate sleep and exercising a bit of alcohol control. Finally, try to maintain your sense of humor; a good laugh is a great stress reliever. I know...it is all easier said than done. My sincere hope is that you truly enjoy the precious time you have with your family. I wish all of you the best holiday season ever!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY IS MARCH 8

Please mark your calendars now

for Friday, March 8,

2013, when the Idaho Air National Guard will be hosting a Retiree Appreciation Day for ANG retirees, surviving spouses, and those who are close to retirement.

We will host a full day at Gowen Field, providing retirees with the most up-to-date information about benefits such as medical, dental, pay, and insurance. There will be vendors who support our military, and a few services provided as well. Senior leaders will catch retirees up

on the latest news about the Idaho Air National Guard, and retirees will have an opportunity to catch up with each other and visit offices and shops on base where they previously worked. More details, including vendors and services, will be announced in the next issue of The Beacon, along with an early registration opportunity.

If you know a retiree or surviving spouse who would like to be on our mailing list, and isn't already, their name and contact information (especially email address) should be sent to Maj. Candis Olmstead at candis.olmstead@ang.af.mil.

New fitness center opens



Soldiers, Airmen and civilians working on Gowen Field now have the benefit of more cardio and weightlifting equipment in a much larger fitness facility complete with bathrooms, lockers and flat screen TVs (with satellite). Photo by Capt. Tony Vincelli

By Staff. Sgt. Robert Barney
Public Affairs

A simple act like recycling can lead to a brand new gymnasium for the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines stationed and training at Gowen Field.

The 6,000 square-foot facility located on Ellsworth Street just south of the running track is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Idaho's Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Gary Sayler, Col. (Ret) Bernie Kelly and Idaho Army National Guard Capt. Christen Titus cut the ceremonial ribbon that officially opened the fitness center Oct. 12th. The center received approximately \$130,000 from a base recycling program.

"So recycle, recycle, recycle at the installation because it turns into MWR money and this is what it can produce," said Capt. Titus.

Capt. Titus also helped coordinate the reuse of exercise equipment that was first used by the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team during their tour to Iraq in 2011.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The commanding general has filed a statement with the National Guard Bureau giving assurance that the Air and Army National Guard programs and activities of the state of Idaho are being, and will continue to be, conducted in such a manner that no person will be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination under any program or activity of the Idaho Military Division on the grounds of race, sex, religion, color or national origin.

Any person who believes himself or herself or any specific class of individuals to be subjected to discrimination in violation of the above statement may file a complaint by himself or herself or by an authorized representative. The complaint shall state all the facts and circumstances, in writing, and shall be filed with the state equal employment manager, unit/organization commander or activity supervisor, or the commanding general.

For additional information, see the NGR 600-23/ANGR 30-12 (nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs), NGR (AR) 600-22/ANGI 36-3 (Title 32 employees), NGR (AR) 690-600/NGR (AF) 40-1614, Volume II (FOR FEDERAL SERVICE TECHNICIANS), or contact the state equal employment manager at (208) 422-4210.

TACTICAL AIR CONTROL PARTY

Are you a wingman, leader, and warrior who is ready to push your limits?

If you are, then you may be ready to become a TACP.

The 124th ASOS' I-Level Program is four days of training for current Idaho Air National Guard members that gives you a taste of what awaits at TACP Tech School.

If you accept the challenge, you will be pushed to your limits both physically and mentally and, if you make it through, you will earn a sense of accomplishment that very few experience.

**DON'T LIMIT YOURSELF.
CHALLENGE YOURSELF.**

TACP I-LEVEL TRAINING

DEC. 11 - 14

Minimum Physical Requirements:
1.5-mile run in 10:47
6 pull-ups in 2 min.
48 sit-ups in 2 min.
40 push-ups in 2 min.

CALL MSGT KRIS WITTE AT 422-5383
TO REGISTER OR SEE IF YOU QUALIFY

THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT®

Idaho Airmen support **Operation Jaded Thunder** in New Mexico

OPERATION JADED THUNDER

MISSION DESCRIPTION: A-10s assist in the validation and exercise of Air Command and Control, Joint Terminal Attack Controllers and fire support architecture and tactics, techniques and procedures.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 13 A-10s
- 150+ Airmen
- 82 sorties - no maintenance cancels
- 18 laser-guided bombs employed

SUPPORTED BY:

- USAF JTAC
- USA JTAC
- USN JTAC
- UK JTAC (SAS)
- AC-130
- MC-130
- A-10 (190 FS, Idaho)
- AH-64
- CV-22
- U-28
- F-16
- Manned ISR

... A little help from our friends

By Tech. Sgt. Becky Vanshur

Guard and Reserve A-10 pilots from all over the U.S. joined pilots from the 190th Fighter Squadron to support the A-10s role in Operation Jaded Thunder.

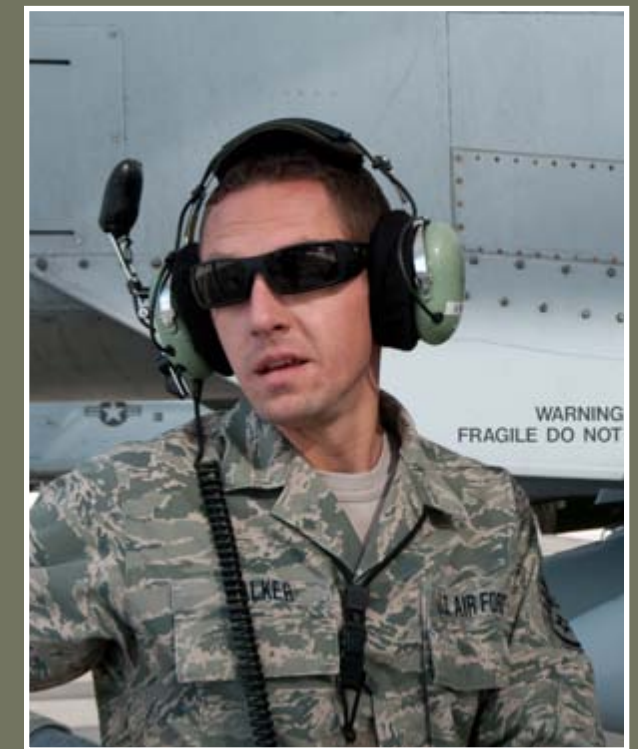
With 13 aircraft on station to support around-the-clock flying operations, more than the 15 available pilots from Idaho would be needed to successfully perform the mission, said Maj. Matthew McGarry, Jaded Thunder detachment commander.

"Recently 8 of the 190th Fighter Squadron pilots deployed in combat operations so they could not participate in the Jaded Thunder exercise. However, this opened up the opportunity for our friends in the Air Force Reserve A-10 community to join us," said Major McGarry.

Reserve pilots from the 47th Fighter Squadron out of Barksdale Air Force Base, La., 45th Fighter Squadron from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., and 76th Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., joined other Guard pilots from the Maryland Air National Guard's 104th Fighter Squadron.



Air Force Reserve 1st Lt. Simon Long, an A-10 pilot assigned to the 47th Fighter Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., was one of 11 pilots from outside the 190th Fighter Squadron who stepped in to support Jaded Thunder. The 190th was short-handed due to real-world deployments. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Becky Vanshur)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Col. Joe Martinez II (left), 150th Fighter Wing Commander, greets Lt. Col. Ronald Hedges (middle) and Maj. Jim Hawkes, A-10 Thunderbolt II pilots Nov. 3 at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. More than 150 pilots, maintainers and support personnel traveled to Albuquerque for a weeklong training exercise.; Staff Sgt. Kyle Walker, 124th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, prepares an Idaho Air National Guard A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft for flight Nov. 4.; Senior Airman David Peckham, a crew chief assigned to the 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, performs routine maintenance between flying sorties. **PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. BECKY VANSHUR**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



2nd Annual TAG LEADERSHIP DAY

HOSTED BY MAJ GEN GARY SAYLER

MARCH 9, 2013

Outstanding Airmen of the Quarter



SNCO of the Quarter
MSgt Sara Pippitt
Intel Formal Training Unit



NCO of the Quarter
SSgt Justin Summers
266th Range Squadron



Airman of the Quarter
A1C Jarad Torres
Security Forces Squadron

Congratulations Nominees

MSgt James Lambrecht - 124 SFS
MSgt Shallan Mills - 212 CACS
MSgt James Webb - 124 LRS
TSgt Jason Fontaine - 124 LRS
TSgt Justin Hall - 212 CACS

SSgt Jesus Guevara, Jr. - 124 SFS
SSgt George Hobbs - 124 FSS
SSgt Mark Paske - 124 MOF
SSgt Aaron Willey - 124 MXS
A1C Shadrach McHargue - 124 MXS

THEY'RE BUYING CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY PROMOTED AIRMEN!

- CMSgt Harold Bongiovi** 124 MXG
- MSgt James Ovanek, Jr.** 124 AMXS
- TSgt Jaclyn Anderson** 190 FS
- TSgt Wesley Krenning** 124 SFS
- TSgt Andrew Sinsel** 124 CES
- TSgt David Steiner** 124 SFS
- TSgt Joshua Williams** 124 FW
- SSgt Robert Mora** 124 CF
- SSgt Sabrina O'Brien** 124 AMXS
- SSgt Richard Robinson** 124 MXS
- SSgt Cora Shambaugh** 212 CACS
- SrA Dylan Curl** 212 CACS
- SrA Troy Cluff** 212 CACS

Combined Federal Campaign

IDANG CFC Coordinator
SMSgt Kelly Bongiovi 422-5577

- JFHQ - TSgt Yvonne Hopper 272-3343
- 124 FW - MSgt Kyle Freutel 422-5870
- 124 MDG - SSgt Charlton Medina 422-6177
- 124 MSG - MSgt Tim Gibson 422-5974
- 124 MXG - TSgt Keely Lowe 422-5851/5427
- 124 OG - SSgt Chase Newman 422-5229

Through Dec 15



Click **CFC NEXUS** to donate!

www.IntermountainCFC.org

CDC testing hours extended

The base training office is offering extended hours for CDC testing two days in December to accommodate schedules of our Traditional Guardsmen.

Testing will be available the Tuesday following primary and alternate UTA (Dec. 4 and Dec. 18) from 5 to 8 p.m.

Normal testing hours on Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. are still available.

For more information, please call Senior Master Sgt. Matt Massengale at 422-5370.

'CUI prep' task of the month: Swap out your Gas Mask

Staff Sgt. Pollie Williams and Master Sgt. Tim Gibson, 124th Logistics Readiness Squadron, are just two of several supply Airmen who are working hard to get the wing's old supply of MCU-2P gas masks swapped out in favor of the new M-50 mask. According to Sergeant Gibson, there are still about 500 people who need to come in to get their new mask. Swap outs only take about 10 minutes and are done in the mobility warehouse (Bldg 502). Swap out times are posted in the Frag Order. Not only is this a requirement for the upcoming Consolidated Unit



Inspection, said Sergeant Gibson, but personnel will need their mask for Emergency Management training scheduled for Super Drill in February (Jan. 31 - Feb. 3). Bring your canteen cap, mask, carrier when you come in. Once you are issued your new mask, contact bio-environmental to schedule a fit test. Call 422-6273 or 422-5974 for more information. *(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Heather Walsh)*



Airmen volunteer for Veterans Day Parade

Master Sgt. Kirk Jones, 124th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Fuels Management Flight, drives an empty 6,000 gallon R-11 Refueler during the Veterans Day Parade Nov. 10. Airmen from the Fire Department and Security Forces Squadron also joined in the parade procession that wound through the streets of downtown Boise. *(Photo provided by Lt. Col. Neal Murphy, 124 MSG)*

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124 Fighter Wing, Idaho (Official)

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Maintainer family trains together to New Mexico

By Tech Sgt. Becky Vanshur
Public Affairs

Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, N.M. – A family of three were among the more than 150 Airmen from the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing who traveled here Nov. 3 for a week-long deployment exercise.

Chief Master Sgt. Kris Kotter and his daughters Airman 1st Class Jessica and Airman 1st Class Kendra Kotter serve together in the 124th Maintenance Group, a close-knit group of aircraft repair specialists who maintain everything from ejection seats to engines on the A-10 Thunderbolt II. Chief Kotter is the component maintenance flight chief in the 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, while his daughters work as crew chief apprentices in the 124th Maintenance Squadron.

The New Mexico Air National Guard's 150th Fighter Wing based here is hosting the Idaho unit during the weeklong exercise, allowing them to utilize their air space and ramp space to gain some valuable deployment exercise training.

Pilots are able to execute the A-10's mission of close air support and combat search and rescue in

the air, while maintainers ensure the aircraft are mission ready prior to each sortie. The support from the host unit has been valuable, said Chief Kotter.



Idaho Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Kendra Kotter, A-10 crew chief assigned to the 124th Maintenance Squadron, reviews a technical order to prepare the launch of an A-10 Thunderbolt II during a training sortie at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., Nov. 4. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Becky Vanshur)

"We were concerned about the facilities and support coming here, but when we arrived we saw the work that the 150th had done for us. The facilities are great, and the support has been very good," he

said.

The chief's daughters are two of dozens of aircraft maintainers who made the 800-mile trip to work on 13 aircraft from the 190th Fighter Squadron.

The highlight of Chief Kotter's Operation Jaded Thunder trip was to see his daughters' execute.

"To be able to see them work together on the flight line doing the job they were trained to do is really exciting," he said.

Out on the flight line, the two are gaining valuable training while working together closely, which is something they do not always get to do at home.

"It's been really fun. We have a sibling rivalry but it's a work area and we keep it professional," said Kendra, 19, who said she is excited about gaining more experience as a result of this training.

Jessica, 21, has been in the Idaho Air National Guard for three years.

Although she has more time in the unit than her sister, she said that she, too, values time spent on the flight line with her sister.

"Working back in Boise, there is more ancillary training and maintenance work, and less opportunity to get on the flight line," said Jessica.