



THE

official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

BEACON



December 2011

• Idaho Air Guard • Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho • "First Class or Not at All" • [www.idaho.ang.af.mil](http://www.idaho.ang.af.mil)

# USAF Weapons School chooses 190th Fighter Squadron as A-10C advanced tactics test-bed

**Lt. Col. Gary A. Daniel**  
**124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

BOISE, ID. The universally recognized masters of A-10 combat flying visited Gowen Field in November and integrated with numerous 124th Fighter Wing units throughout their two-week stay. After dozens of combat training sorties, mutual respect and common dedication to excellence in the A-10 community abounded as the most noted post-deployment sentiment from 190th Fighter Squadron and 66th Weapons School (Nellis AFB) leaders.

Nine instructor pilots and four upgrade students from the prestigious USAF Fighter Weapons School at Nellis AFB journeyed to Boise for two weeks of flying in Southern Idaho military flying ranges. The 66th Weapons School Squadron also brought over 60 maintenance specialists to ready six of the squadron's A-10C aircraft that joined the Warthogs of the 190th for low to medium threat flying while operating with Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) of the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron.

"They are the Top-Gun program of the Air Force," said Lt. Col. Ryan Odneal, commander of the 190th.



**A student enrolled in the United States Air Force Weapons School prepares to take off on a night mission in his A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho on November 10. Instructors from the 66th Weapons Squadron, stationed at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, are conducting USAF Weapons School training from Gowen Field, in conjunction with A-10s from the 190FS, and other agencies and units, providing realistic training opportunities in nearby ranges. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Barney)**

"It's good doing business with the Weapons School, because we know we're doing business the right way, it's nice to validate our tactics and procedures, good to have another set of eyeballs (on squadron training sorties)," Odneal said.

According to 66th Weapons Squadron (A-10) Director of Operations, Major Colin Donnelly, the com-

bination of a fully combat capable 190FS and the airspace in Southern Idaho dedicated to military flying, the combat flying assets at nearby Mountain Home AFB, and the Army Aviation just across Gowen Field allowed for "Interaction with multiple combat platforms and assets to achieve timely ordnance in

**Continued on page 4**

**THE BEACON** is the official newsletter 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.

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#### Contribute!

We welcome articles and captioned photos relevant to members of the 124th Fighter Wing. Submissions must be accurate in fact, and will be edited for clarity and length. Articles will be published as space permits. They are due on Sunday of the UTA prior to the month the article will be published. Submit articles as e-mail attachments on Microsoft Word. Photographs must be non-copyrighted prints of 300 dpi or higher TIF or JPG images. Articles and images can be sent to:

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*Photography this issue*

Master Sgt. Tom Gloeckle,  
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Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

COMMANDER'S



CALL



## Take some time to renew...

Adversaries and opportunities; have you noticed how opposition promotes growth? As kids, if mom said "no, you can't have that", we wanted it more. Tell someone not to look in the closet, they do; it's more like a challenge--not a warning. Adversarial aggression defined the formation of our country. The U.S. Constitution has forged through years of adversaries, the opportunity, the risk; freedom. You continue to support our freedom through countless hours of dedication and training to remain constantly ready to support our nation and state. This past year has been a hallmark of adversaries, providing numerous opportunities of growth. I thank you for your determination and for being superior wingmen.

There are numerous adversaries on our horizon; I'm asking you not to be distracted by noise and rhetoric but remain focused on contributing your skill sets and knowledge as required to gain the advantage and seize the opportunity to place the Idaho Air Guard on the success podium. "One Team, All In"; we have accepted the IG challenge, the contest is afoot, be prepared, we will be tested.

Your community is hurting, it needs your support. If you are able to contribute to Combined Federal Campaign, please don't delay. Informational packages are in every squadron. You can contribute through online connection at [www.intermountaincfc.org](http://www.intermountaincfc.org) If you are hurting, call a wingman, send up a signal, call me 208-863-3022, you are unique, special and a critical part of our team. Call me, anytime.

"On earth peace, goodwill toward men", (Luke 2:14). These are wonderful words spoken by God's angel at Christ's birth as an offer of praise and prayer. These simple words are packed with incredible meaning and unimaginable potential, take a quiet moment and consider; "peace on earth". For some of us just finding peace at home, peace at work or even some peace and quiet would be acceptable. Peace takes work and goodwill toward men (and women) is a great start towards creating that peaceful place. The cornerstone of "goodwill" begins with each one of us; our internal core thoughts and intentions. How we outwardly respond speaks loudly of our "goodwill" toward men. You are our core strength, I depend upon you, your Air Guard depends upon you, your family depends upon you - the internal you - to show externally your goodwill. Similar to our core value of integrity, goodwill begins inside. Take time this Christmas to renew yourself, relax, laugh, unite with family and friends. Spread goodwill to all, and who knows? With some heavenly help we may all find Peace on Earth.

JR



## Psychological Health Services available to all Guardsman

**Shawn Wood**  
Idaho Air National Guard,  
Director of Psychological Health (WDPH)

The National Guard Bureau's Psychological Health Services (PHS) is a comprehensive service designed to provide free confidential support for Air Guard members and their families.

As the ANG DPH I will provide consultation and support on organizational level and individual behavior health care issues which have an impact on NG member's and their families.

These services will be provided through critical incident evaluation and intervention to identify issues, provide short term solution focused treatment, make recommendations and provide each service member access to referral resources.

Over the past two years I have enjoyed working in this capacity with the men and woman that make up the Idaho Air National Guard. Having served in the military, I truly appreciate the sacrifice that is required to serve our country and protect the freedoms we enjoy. It is my mission to continue serving you and your families.

### Services Available:

**Behavioral, Mental health and drug and alcohol assessments**

**Identifying signs of combat stress**

**Issues relating to drug and alcohol abuse**

**Referrals to Psychological Health Services**

**Referrals to specialized services**

**Managing threats of violence**

**Managing stressful or uncertain times in the workplace**

**Critical Incident Response**

**Leadership consultations**

The National Guard Bureau's Psychological Health Services (PHS) is a comprehensive service designed to provide confidential support for Guard members and their families that is Idaho Air Guard specific.

Office is located in Bldg. 400

Flexible Meeting Locations

Hours of Operation 0800-1600 M-F

& All Scheduled Primary UTA's

Phone: (208) 863-3015

Work: (208) 422-5377

Email: [shawn.wood.ctr@ang.af.mil](mailto:shawn.wood.ctr@ang.af.mil)



## Go to the GFAC for lunch!

Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday  
from 1100-1300.

Enjoy a delicious meal, in a warm atmosphere at a great price!

## Daily Drink Specials!

**Monday**—\$1.50 drink specials!

**Tuesday**—Pretzels and drink specials

**Wednesday**—Hot wings begin at 4:30  
until they last!

**Thursday**—\$2.00 brats and sauerkraut  
and beer specials!!

**Friday**—club card draw at 5:30!! Win up  
to \$500.00! Come have pizza on the club

## Purchase your club membership now!

Support the institution that has been  
around since 1941!

Your dues keep our doors open, keep  
prices low and supports several children's activities

throughout the year. Additionally, your  
membership gives you a chance to win  
up to \$500.00 weekly and discounted  
rental rates of the facility.

## Elections for the Board

**14 December 2011 at 1700.**

This date will also be the State of the  
Club address at 1730.

Please be there for a comprehensive  
briefing on the past years activities and  
upcoming plans.



supporting the ground commander.”

The Purpose of 66th WPS traveling to A-10 units and mixing their training with that of operational squadrons like the 190th is directly from lessons learned by operational combatant commanders in the current CENTCOM fight. They have clarified the A-10C mission as Close Air Support, Combat Search and Rescue, and Forward Air Control—Airborne.

“We’ve realigned our syllabus and this is the first time executing this new draft syllabus (of combat mission flying),” said Major Donnelly. “This is our first forward air control deployment. We chose Boise. We like the challenges of going to a new location. The ranges here provide us new challenges with unfamiliar targets, new combat scenarios; it is awesome for our instructor pilots and student upgrade pilots,” he said.

As part of that upgrade process the Weapons School students proved their leadership mettle in realistic training sorties alongside 190th aviators of all experience levels.

“Our WPS students are learning the skill of taking on-scene command of the “stack” of combat aircraft to meet the ground commander’s objectives,” Donnelly said.

The 190th Fighter Squadron has been flying the A-10 “Charlie” variant for the past 30 months. In October the Air Combat Command Inspector General recognized them as the best A-10 unit seen to date and awarded them the of highest possible overall grade of outstanding. Major Donnelly assessed the 190th participation as “a class act.”

“It’s nice to be validated by who you consider to be the best of the best in the A-10 business,” said Lt. Col. Odneal.

124th Intel Flight shouldered a considerable additional workload providing weapons, threat response, and tactics research and training according to Major Steve McHargue, 124 IFTU Chief of Intelligence.

“66WPS is a Class Act,” he said, “Their crews participated in some world-class training of our 124 IFTU (Intelligence Formal Training Unit) students.”

The 66WPS may be bringing students back



Maj. Colin Donnelly, an instructor and director of operations with the 66th Weapons Squadron, speaks about his role in the United States Air Force Weapons School, and his experience in training students to be subject matter experts with the A-10 Thunderbolt II, during training operations from Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho on November 10. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Barney)



Instructors from the 66th Weapons Squadron (WS), along with students enrolled in the United States Air Force Weapons School, and pilots with the 190th Fighter Squadron (FS) prepare to take off on a night mission in their A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, on November 10. The 66th WS, stationed at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, is conducting USAF Weapons School training from Gowen Field, in conjunction with A-10s from the 190 FS, and other agencies and units, providing realistic training opportunities in nearby ranges. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Barney)



**Pilots are ready to roll at their pre-step brief--for demanding USAF Weapons School training at Gowen Field, in conjunction with A-10s from the 190th FS .(U.S. Air Force Photo by Lt. Col. Gary A. Daniel)**

through Idaho to train with the 124th Fighter Wing every six months according to 190FS Director of Operations Lt. Col. Shannon Smith.

"This was a win-win. We accomplished the kind of training that we usually need to travel for right here at our 'home drome.' It doesn't get better than that," Lt. Col. Smith said.

"We've got a history of sending successful students to graduate from the Weapons School program."

"What's key is: to stay relevant in your (aircraft) community, you need to engage the other squadrons—everyone recognizes the weapons school in being the leaders in weapons and tactics. They also have a goal to maintain in constant contact with the CAF (Combat Air Forces) to make sure their graduates are what the flying squadrons want."

"Another huge benefit was our participating in weapons school style preparation briefs and debriefs that we don't get to see all the time. Short of getting a new weapons officer out of the experience—we experienced a class act" Smith said.

And the 66WPS experienced some combat flying training that even an elite Weapons School instructor like Major Donnelly found worth noting as "the 266th Range Squadron and the flying ranges in Southern Idaho offer us 'smoky SAMS,' good target sets realistic targets and interaction with the Rotary Wing aircraft that operate here."

The U.S. Air Force Weapons School provides the world's most advanced training in weapons and tactics employment, and every six months, produces a new class of graduates who are expert instructors on weapons, weapons systems and air and space integration. Upon completing the course, graduates return to their home stations, taking the latest tactics, techniques and procedures for air-to-air and air-to-ground combat to their respective units. The Weapons School traces its roots to the Aircraft Gunnery School established in 1949 at Las Vegas Air Force Base, which became Nellis Air Force Base in 1950. This organization brought together a cadre of World War II combat veterans dedicated to teaching the next generation of pilots. The Gunnery School converted to combat crew training to meet the needs of the Korean War. Today's Weapons School encompasses 17 squadrons, teaching 22 combat specialties at eight locations.







**Veterans Day Honors**—Brig. Gen. William Shawver addresses the Gowen Field Memorial Park Veterans Day Ceremony. During the ceremony the 124<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron dedicated a new bench to former squadron First Sergeant Dennis Wallace. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Lt. Col. Gary A. Daniel)



**Out with a splash**—124<sup>th</sup> Operations Group Commander, Colonel Mike Nolan accepts a traditional dousing from fellow fighter pilots at his finis-flight reception last month on the aircraft parking ramp at Gowen Field. Colonel Nolan moves on to become director of staff—Idaho National Guard. (US Air Force Photo by MSgt Tom Gloeckle)

### Retroactive Traumatic Injury Benefits No Longer Just For OEF/OIF Injuries



#### Department of Veterans Affairs

Former Reservists and National Guard members who were injured during the retroactive period and suffered a qualifying loss are eligible for a TSGLI payment even if the cause was not related to service, such as a "civilian" automobile accident or severe injury which occurred while working around their home. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric K. Shinseki stated, "We at VA appreciate the President's and Congress' efforts to improve benefits to our troops."

Now all of our nation's Servicemembers who suffered severe traumatic injuries while serving their country can receive the same traumatic injury benefits, regardless of where their injury occurred. For more information or to apply for a TSGLI payment, Servicemembers and Veterans should go to <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/TSGLI/TSGLI.htm>. They can also contact their branch of service TSGLI Office (contact information available at above link).

## Combined Federal Campaign

IDANG CFC Coordinator  
SMSgt Mary McKenna 272-4228

JFHQ -	TSgt Yvonne Hopper	272-4221
124 FW -	Lt Col Beverly Bracewell	422-6162
124 MDG -	CMSgt Michael Garrett	422-6116
124 MSG -	SMSgt Kelly Bongiovi	422-5577
124 MXG -	Lt Col Jay Woody	422-5841
124 OG -	MSgt Brian Cleland	422-5335

Through Dec 15

[www.IntermountainCFC.org](http://www.IntermountainCFC.org)

Click on the  icon to donate!

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# *Domestic Violence Awareness helps the next generation*

Some estimates say almost 1 million incidents of domestic violence occur against a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend each year. Domestic Violence (DV) and Domestic Abuse (DA) are two of the most prevalent crimes that occur within our community and yet are crimes that are under reported and under prosecuted. Domestic violence/abuse not only hurts the parties involved but also has an adverse effect on our children creating a vicious cycle or pattern of behavior for generations to come. Children are a product of their environment and when their role models engage in such activities they are doomed to repeat the behaviors they have witnessed during the formative years of their lives.

Domestic Violence is a criminal offense under United States Code, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and/or State law. Domestic violence involves the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force or violence against a person, or a violation of a lawful order issued for the protection of a person. Additionally, domestic abuse is classified as a form of domestic violence and is defined as a pattern of behavior resulting in emotional/psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty. Both crimes involve a person's significant other who is either 1) a current or former spouse 2) a person with whom the abuser shares a child in common or 3) a current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.

Victims of domestic violence or abuse must take a stand by first reporting it. If the danger is imminent dial 911 and get help from local law enforcement. Secondly, initiate the process for getting follow-on help and as a minimum contact your Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ) or Wing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Coordinator (SARC). Even though sexual assault may not have played a role in your situation one of their roles is to help you find resources to help you become a survivor. And yes, there are RESTRICTED and UNRESTRICTED reporting options.

Unrestricted reporting is a process allowing a victim of domestic abuse to report an incident using the chain of command, law enforcement or AFOSI Detachment, and Family Advocacy for clinical intervention. Victims of domestic abuse who choose to pursue an official command or criminal investigation of an incident should use these reporting channels.

Restricted reporting is a process allowing an adult victim of domestic abuse, who is eligible to receive military medical treatment the option of reporting an incident of domestic abuse to specified individuals for the purpose of receiving medical care, supportive services, and/or advocacy and information without initiating the investigative process or notification to the victim's or alleged offender's Chain of Command. Personnel authorized to confidentially receive DV/DA reports are Chaplains, Medical Personnel, Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates.

All domestic violence involving personnel under the age of 18 must be reported to law enforcement immediately.

**JFHQ SARC – Capt Colleen Walker 208-272-8400**

**JFHQ Assistant SARC- Mr. Terry Williams 208-949-7583**

**Wing SARC- Lt Col Beverly Bracewell 208-954-3369 or**

**Alternate Wing SARC- Capt Teresa Busmann 208-954-3399**

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## *Guardsmen of the Year banquet January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Grove Hotel.*

The Guardsmen of the Year banquet will be held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Grove Hotel. This a time when we can come together as a wing to recognize the outstanding people we have in our wing and the great work they do. The cost is \$40 per person payable with credit card through Paypal. Look for your E-invite by Dec drill. The Boise Chordsmen will be singing again as they did a fabulous job last year and we appreciate their enthusiasm. If you would like to attend but are financially unable to, please talk to your First Sergeant or Chief to see about being sponsored. If you are able to sponsor please contact Chief McMonigal. Hope to see you all there.



### **Saturday-Main Line**

**Chili Macaroni-Teriyaki Chicken  
Steamed Rice-Mashed Potatoes  
Glazed Carrots-Corn  
Corn Bread  
Gumbo Soup-Minestrone Soup**

### **Snackline**

**Open Face Turkey Sandwich w/Gravy  
French Fries-Chili Cheese Fries  
Cheese Sticks w/marinara  
Chili**

### **Sunday-Main Line**

**Prime Rib-Baked Halibut  
Wild Rice-Baked Potato W Fixings  
Asian Blend Vegetables  
California Blend Vegetables  
Dinner Rolls  
Holiday Nuts and Candy  
Potato Bacon Soup  
Broccoli Cheese Soup**

## *Congratulations to our newly promoted Airmen!*

*TO MASTER SERGEANT AMETHYST R. KEATEN*

*TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT SEAN C. BERMENSOLO*

*TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT GIANINA D. EDWARDS*