



THE official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

BEACON

TheBeaconLive.com

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

COMBAT READY

MXG, Munitions shine in successful retake

By Lt. Col. Gary Daniel
Public Affairs Officer

The 124th Fighter Wing's combat readiness is official once more with positive reports in all areas that participated in the Operational Readiness Inspection retake April 13-17.

"We're fully combat ready and looking forward to our next challenges," said Col. James R. Compton, commander.

The entire 124th Maintenance Group participated in the Operational Readiness Inspection retake and exceeded the standards required for aircraft generation and ordinance preparation. The wing completed many of the preparations to deploy as it did in October and the Installation Control Center team carried out pre-deployment plans.

The wing has validated its overall readiness to employ for combat anywhere at anytime. The Air Combat Command Inspector General rated the maintenance group's ability to generate aircraft for combat as excellent. They accepted twelve aircraft-- nine of the twelve had zero defects; the best 124th Fighter Wing ORE/ORI performance to date,

according to Maj. Eric Newman, 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander.

The IG team also rated the work of munitions (Ammo) flight personnel as excellent.

"The Ammo troops and their immediate supervisors put in countless hours and weekends in the six months between the two ORIs," said Lt. Col. Andrew Logan, 124th Maintenance Squadron Commander.

"Incredible Teamwork was the strength to our success," said Col. Brad Richy, wing vice commander. "Our senior-NCOs, NCOs, and Airmen executed the plan with dedication, pride, and professionalism."

ACC/IG team superintendent Command Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Schwenk observed the wing along with the team.

"There was a positive attitude demonstrated by the whole organization — despite the pressure of a re-inspection," Chief Schwenk said. "Especially noteworthy were the maintainers on the flight line. The dedication of

ALL SMILES

Master Sgt. Martin Schliep, avionics systems technician for the 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and everyone in maintenance group displayed positive, can-do attitudes, according to inspectors, which played a role in the successful outcome of the wing's Operational Readiness Inspection retake April 13-17.



Photo: Tech. Sgt. Becky Vanshure

the team to make things happen is very impressive," he said.

The 124th Fighter Wing now begins preparations for the Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program, known as ESOHCAMP, which validates our unit's compliance of Air Force, state and federal regulations and is scheduled for the fall.

See Also:
Commanders' Reaction
page 2

YOU ARE READING THE *e-Beacon*

Due to the short interval between April and May UTAs, we are releasing this 8-page online-only version in advance of May UTA. We will mail out a **12-page May/June Beacon** with even more content that will arrive well in advance of June UTA.

Thanks for reading and don't forget to join the conversation online at

TheBeaconLive.com

THE BEACON is published by the 124th Fighter 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.

WING COMMANDER

Col. James R. Compton

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

Lt. Col. Gary Daniel

Capt. Tony Vincelli (Editor)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC

Master Sgt. Tom Gloeckle

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney

Tech. Sgt. Becky Vanshur

Tech. Sgt. Heather Walsh

Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

This newsletter is designed to be viewed online. As a result, some references to related content and additional information may contain active hyperlinks that cannot be accessed when read in traditional printed format.

We highly recommend becoming a member of The Beacon Live, the official online newsletter of the Idaho Air Guard, by going to

www.thebeaconlive.com.

We are continually striving to provide more interactive, timely and relevant content to you, our reader. Send feedback and submit content to us at: 124idaho@gmail.com

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:

www.thebeaconlive.com

OUR WEBPAGE:

www.idaho.ang.af.mil

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/idahonationalguard

Commanders react to uplifting ORI results

COL JAMES R. COMPTON

WING COMMANDER

"This was a team effort with a short time to fix previous deficiencies. The entire wing pulled together 'One Team – All In'. We received many positive comments from Col Lujan and every member of the IG Team. We have a great unit with positive, 'First Class' attitudes. An excellent grade in munitions is incredible. An excellent grade in aircraft generation tasking/timing is huge and reflects the dedication of our maintenance group."



COL BRAD RICHY

WING VICE COMMANDER

"Incredible teamwork was the strength to our success. It was about laying a foundation of teamwork that included everyone with the desire that, when the IG returned, everyone was accustomed to working together, sharing problems, and helping each other to fix those problems. The goal was to establish a plan that revolved around teamwork, which would identify and understand the cultural and process deficiencies, develop the proper countermeasures and implementation plan, and then validate/assess the plan with three OREs. It was also about breaking down barriers between all maintenance units and having Senior NCOs from all maintenance group organizations 'owning' portions of an overall process that were not tied to a duty position or an office symbol. Instead, they were tied to the ORI-related end-state. The incredible teamwork mentality among our Senior NCOs, flowed down to the NCOs, and Airmen, who also helped develop a winning 'game plan' with and through each other. Ultimately, these Senior NCOs, NCOs, and Airmen executed the plan with dedication, pride, and professionalism."



LT COL CRAIG LOGAN

MAINTENANCE SQUADRON COMMANDER

"The buy-in from Airman at all ranks was readily apparent in the excellent grade they received from the IG. Their dedication and willingness to continuously find a way to do more and to do it better paid off. They have proven their 'can-do' attitude not only through their actions but through the grade they received as validation for a year and a half of hard work. I am humbled by their constant dedication to prove what we already know about them — they are First Class. IYAAAYAS! Thank you for your hard work, blood, sweat, and tears. The grades received on the ORI are a direct result of following a published, well-conceived plan and sticking to it with minimal changes after it was proven through the ORE process. The Senior NCO support and buy-in was instrumental in the orchestration of the entire process and directly reflect the grade. Credit to a united team atmosphere within the entire MXG should also be noted as a contributing factor. With all of this in mind, ultimately it fell to the way each individual executed their specific role and job in the inspection. It should also be noted that the IG could not tell the difference between individuals from MOF, MXG, AMXS, or MXS due to the cohesive nature of the entire MXG and the single focus they held."



MAJ ERIC NEWMAN

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON COMMANDER

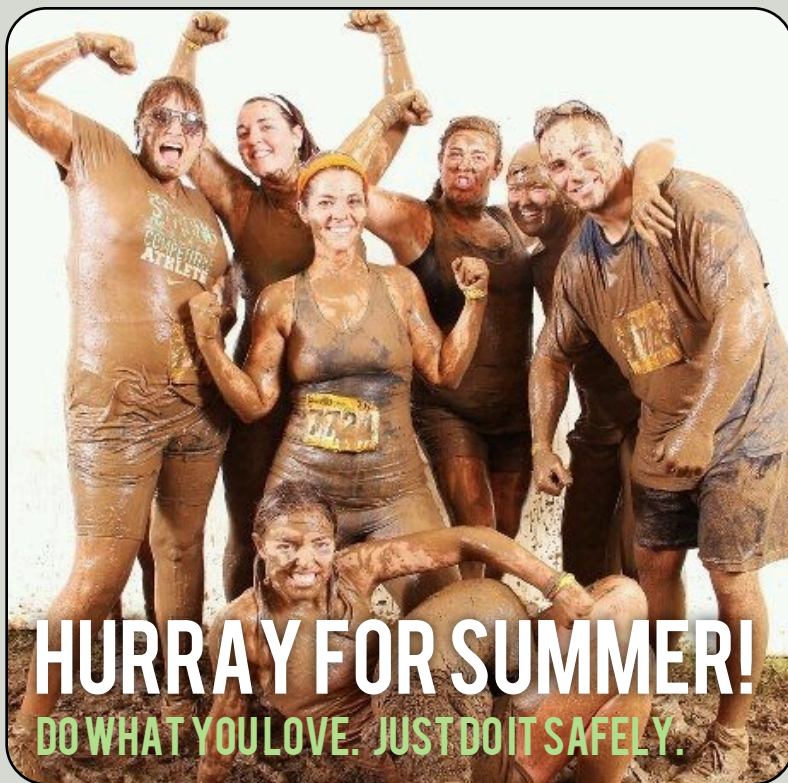
"There were no direct safety violations or technical data violations reported during the inspection; a great accomplishment for the whole Maintenance Group. It was time to execute our plan and each individual accomplished his/her role in an excellent and professional manner."



SAFETY 101

CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER

MAY 26 - SEPT. 4, 2012



HURRAY FOR SUMMER!
DO WHAT YOU LOVE. JUST DO IT SAFELY.

Thanks to Tech. Sgt. Kerry Lavelle, 124 SFS, for this great photo taken after the Dirty Dash, a military boot camp-style mud run obstacle course held last August in Boise. Also pictured are recruiter Tech. Sgt. Morgan Craig-Mundy, Staff Sgt. Adam Mundy, 266 RANS and others from Lavelle's team. A huge thank you to everyone who submitted photos to us -- many more than we could find room for in this insert. Check out more 'Summertime Fun' photos on The Beacon Live - www.thebeaconlive.com

10 SUMMERTIME ACTIVITIES WE LOVE

1. Camping
2. Whitewater Rafting
3. Mountain/Road Biking
4. Golfing
5. Motorcycling / Motocross
6. Fishing
7. Hiking / Rock Climbing
8. Waterskiing / Wakeboarding
9. Boating
10. Horseback Riding

SOURCE: visitidaho.org

Summer Safety - It's Personal

By Senior Master Sgt. Becky Hawk
124 FW Ground Safety Manager

When we join the Air Force, we become part of a unique culture. The foundation of our culture is our core values: Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do. This culture and these core values compel Airmen to take care of Airmen. We accomplish our mission as a dedicated team of Airmen committed to our core values and to each other. The commitment to take care of each other comes from within. We all have families, friends and co-workers who are important in our lives. When you commit to take care of them, it is personal - these are the people that mean the most to you.

The 124th Fighter Wing kicks off its 2012 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign Memorial Day weekend in an effort to keep Airmen vigilant about taking safety

precautions in everything they do. Why the need for a summer campaign? Since fiscal year 2002, the Air Force has suffered 218 fatalities during the 101 Critical Days of Summer. An incredible 92 percent of those deaths occurred off duty.

This year's campaign, which runs through the Tuesday following Labor Day on Sept. 4, emphasizes safety in all that people do, from grilling on weekend afternoons, to water sports, to cleaning out the rain gutters on the house. The campaign usually tackles safety issues related to sunburn prevention, summer playtime for children and weather safety, like lightning and hail storms that sneak up on Idahoans.

But, this year, safety has taken an even more pressing tone than in recent years. A sudden increase in non-combat deaths of Airmen in 2010 has raised concerns and put a heightened emphasis on safety.

Since Jan. 1, 19 Airmen across the Air Force and 10 ANG members have died in safety-related incidents. The safety related deaths are the highest non-combat losses ever remembered in such a short time, officials said.

Thankfully, the 124 FW has not suffered a safety-related fatality. We have, however, experienced a couple of off-duty mishaps that have resulted in lost work days. Mishaps of this nature affect all personnel working in the shop that experienced the injured worker.

Personnel take part in water sports, home improvement projects, mountain hiking, motocross and many other high-risk activities during the summer months where they tend to let down their guard and, as a result, get hurt. Summer is especially a time when Airmen and their buddies or families get active. It shouldn't be a time to get careless.

Continued on next page

When you head out, have a plan and stick to it. Let others know where you are headed and when you expect to return. The season has just begun and Idaho has already experienced a couple of river mishaps. It is important that you don't exceed your skill level. The rush of adrenaline is seldom worth the outcome.

In 2011, during the 101 Critical Days of Summer, there were 16 reported mishaps within the 124 FW. People injured everything from their heads to their toes. Fortunately only one person suffered an injury severe enough to result in days away from work. Eleven of the mishaps were among Airmen playing sports or involved in recreational activities. The personnel injured ranged in age from 18 to 38. If you are the superstitious type, be extra wary of Thursdays. Strangely, 27 percent of the mishaps occurred on Thursday. Friday was a close second with 20 percent. Sunday appears to be the safest day of the week.

All the safety briefings in the world won't keep Airmen safe..

There are always mistakes that could be prevented. Although you can warn people over and over again, it doesn't always prevent bad decisions.

Airmen must take individual responsibility by assessing the risk of any activity and taking time to employ proper safety procedures.

Preventing the preventable mishaps during this year's 101 Critical Days campaign will depend largely on the support given by each commander, supervisor and worker. Make every possible effort to communicate the need to increase awareness of the hazards involved during this time of year.

Encourage people to make responsible decisions in their activities and to have a safe and enjoyable summer.

WATER SAFETY



Courtesy: CMSgt Jim McMonigal, 124 ASOS



10 WHITEWATER RAFTING SAFETY TIPS

Pictured: MSgt Dean Schlomer, 124 FSS

#1 - Wear a Life Vest

It doesn't matter how hot it gets outside or how uncomfortable you might feel, a vest can save your life.

#2 - Water Shoes are your friend

Water shoes insulate your feet against the pointy parts of rocks and will make it easier for you on the slippery parts of rocks, too.

#3 - Consider a Helmet

If you're headed to a class 3 or above river that helmet, like the life vest, can save your life.

#4 - Keep your Paddles Down

You won't hit yourself with your own paddle, but you will easily hit someone else in the boat.

#5 - Grab a Wingman

To be really safe, you need to have more than one person in more than one raft.

#6 - Plan & Share

Plan your trip and tell someone else that's not going where you will be and when you plan on returning.

#7 - Check Your Gear

A few minutes of checking the air levels of the raft and the paddles for cracks can save you a lot of trouble and a lot of time once you've started down the river.

#8 - Take Breaks

More difficult rapids take a large amount of concentration to make it through them and being tired will not help you.

#9 - Drink Water

One of the biggest dangers people face outdoors, away from civilization is dehydration.

#10 - Have Fun

If you're not having fun, you will likely start doing things that are more dangerous than they need to be.

BOATING VS. FISHING

Many people like to fish, and many people like to boat. But not all boaters are fishermen and vice versa.

The fishing enthusiast is usually well aware that the same safety equipment rules and regulations apply to them as to the family with the ski-boat, and most will make sure that they meet the minimum requirements. But the angler's primary interest in equipment seems to be in finding space in the boat for their tackle boxes and places for all the rods, so they don't get tangled and underfoot.

When Saturday comes, their heads are filled with thoughts of fishing and even though it's a boat that gets them to where the action is, and it's a boat that provides a fishing platform when they get there, not many would ever admit to taking part in any boating during their time on the water.

The difference in how boaters and fishermen perceive themselves becomes evident in their attitude when it regards boating safety. Generally speaking, people who don't see themselves as boaters don't put boating safety very high on their priority list.

Statistics show most boating fatalities are not from high-powered cigarette boats meeting each other in a thunderous collision. Most fatalities result from the operation of smaller boats, at slow speeds or motionless, on clear weekend days, and because somebody tipped the boat upside down or fell overboard without a life jacket wrapped around their body.

Those who teach boating classes can tell people who use their boats primarily for recreational fishing because they are conspicuous by their absence in boating safety classes. It is also interesting to find that the majority of boaters involved in boating accidents have not taken a boating safety course.



Pictured: TSgt Jason Swensen, 124 CF

SAFETY ON (& OFF) THE ROAD

Defensive Driving is Safe Driving:

Every time we get into a vehicle, we're at risk. Even though you may be a safe driver, the people you share the road with may not be. It's up to you to be a defensive driver to be a safe driver.

Defensive driving is asking yourself "what if?" when driving. "what if someone runs a red light?" "What if the car in the lane beside me suddenly pulls into mine?" Be ready to react to the unexpected.

Scan the road ahead for hazards and check mirrors frequently to become aware of your surroundings. Always have an escape route in case you have to avoid a hazard. Give yourself space to maneuver in the event that someone tries to occupy your driving space. Use the two second rule.

Traffic congestion can lead to frustration and poor driving habits. Consider altering your schedule or try an alternate route to avoid traffic. Also give other drivers leeway, we all make mistakes occasionally. Never let your emotions dictate how you drive.

Share the Road:

Every year in this country around 17,000 cyclists are killed or injured in reported road accidents. Vehicle operators can take a few responsible actions to avoid these tragic encounters.

- Give cyclists plenty of room
- Bicycles are considered vehicles and are entitled to the road
- Wait for oncoming traffic to pass before passing cyclists
- Before taking a right turn, look right for approaching cyclists
- Treat a cyclist in a turn lane just as you would a motorist
- Not all cyclists are responsible, be patient and give them room
- Be vigilant especially in times of darkness or low visibility

Bicyclists and motorists share the road and are entitled to enough space to operate safely. Even though both have responsibilities to avoid tragedy, bicyclists don't have 2,000 pounds of steel around them. Drive defensively and share the road.



Pictured: SrA Christopher Christman, 124 LRS

Off-road Vehicle Safety:

Recreational use of off-road vehicles has gained widespread popularity., an estimated 3.2 million off-road vehicles are in use today. The Consumer Products Safety Commission report nearly 90,000 ATV-related injuries occur each year and 120 deaths.

Assuring the off-road vehicles are in sound mechanical condition and all controls and parts are functioning properly is only part of providing a safe and enjoyable riding experience. Personal protective gear is mandatory for off-road vehicle operation. Having proper riding gear not only provides comfort and control, but also provides protection in the event of an accident.

Helmets -Can be open faced but full-face is highly recommended

Eye Protection - Face shield or goggles protect from dust and debris

Gloves - Provide comfort, control and protection

Boots - Strong over the ankle with a low heel

Other Clothing - Minimum a long-sleeved shirt and sturdy pants

Motorcycle Safety is Everyone's Responsibility:

Over half of all fatal motorcycle crashes involve another vehicle and most of the time, the other motorist is at fault.

- Because of it's size, a motorcycle can easily be hidden in a car's blind spots or masked by outside objects.
- Assume motorcycles are closer than they look because it is difficult to tell how far away it is or judge the speed.
- Allow more following distance. Motorcyclists often slow by downshifting or rolling off the throttle which doesn't activate brake lights.
- Turn signals on motorcycles don't automatically turn off so many new riders often forget so make sure the signal is for real.
- Even at slow speeds, motorcycles are maneuverable, but don't expect riders to react faster.
- When a motorcycle is in motion see it as a person who could be your friend, neighbor or relative.



*Pictured: Lt Cols Ryan Odneal, 190 FS
and Tony Brown, 124 FW*

TAKE IT OUTSIDE

Staying out of trouble in the great outdoors

Are you tired of dealing with indoor plumbing, air conditioning and having to sleep in a comfortable bed? If so, camping is probably your arena. Every year thousands of Americans head into the great outdoors in order to get back to nature. Well, before you head for the hills, you need to do some planning.

When selecting a place to camp, try to find somewhere close enough that you can arrive and not have to set up camp by the glow of your headlights. After choosing your destination, it's a good idea to watch the weather forecast for that vicinity. It may tell you that rain ponchos, galoshes or maybe a parka should be part of your wardrobe. Here are a few items that should be standard in every camper's kit include:

- 1) First-aid kit
- 2) Flashlight with extra batteries
- 3) A Swiss Army type knife
- 4) Insect repellent
- 5) Snake bite kit
- 6) Lighter
- 7) Sunscreen
- 8) Hydrocortisone cream (for possible encounters with poison ivy)

Barbecue cookouts – An integral part of summer

While we are anxious to fire up the grill for the first cookout of spring, it's important to remember a few safety tips.

- Always cook in a well-ventilated area with good lighting.
- Keep grills or fire pits well away from tents, bushes and dry leaves.
- Keep the grill off wooden decks and away from children's play areas and low-hanging tree branches.



Pictured: SSgt Andrew Morlock, 124 CES

These are only a few of the items you will need. Your inventory should include anything you may need to make your outing safe and enjoyable.

No matter how well you have planned your getaway, unforeseen problems can always arise. Your tent may catch fire, possibly from the embers of a too closely-placed campfire or a camping stove. Also, remember that using a heater or gas lantern inside of a tent is not only dangerous due to the obvious fire hazard, but even more deadly is carbon monoxide due to its undetectable nature. The safe alternative is a warmer sleeping bag and a battery powered fluorescent lantern.

Other hazards you may encounter are the full-time residents of your chosen campsite: the insects and wildlife. The best way to keep uninvited guest out of your campsite is to keep it clean. Bears and other furry creatures will take unsecured food and garbage as an open invitation to join your party.

Snakes are another problem, normally if you avoid snakes, they will try to avoid you. Nevertheless, you may unwittingly corner or even step on one that is poisonous. To minimize this possibility try not to step or place your hands on a surface you can't see. You should also wear hiking boots and long pants when hiking and stick to established paths and trails.

Remember to keep safety in mind and as the old Boy Scout adage goes, "Be prepared."

- Be careful when using lighter fluid; don't add fluid to an already lit fire.
 - Be sure to supervise children around outdoor grills.
 - Before using a gas grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line.
 - Barbecue only in open spaces, never inside a tent, garage, trailer or home. Deadly carbon monoxide can build up.
 - Never leave a fire unattended. Be extra careful on windy days.
 - Use proper methods to start the fire. Refer to the grill manufacturer's instructions located on the starter-fluid labels.
 - Dispose of charcoals and embers properly. Drench embers with water and smother with dirt. Place coals in a proper can.
 - Don't wear loose clothing that could easily catch fire. Roll up your sleeves, tuck in shirttails and make sure apron strings won't hang over the grill.
 - Keep food to be cooked in the refrigerator until you're ready to start cooking.
 - An instant-read thermometer is the best way to check meat doneness. Length of cooking time varies with the starting temperature of the meat, and wind and weather conditions.
 - Never place cooked food on the same platter that held the raw food.
- Follow these guidelines and make your summer even more enjoyable.



Pictured: Lt Col Neal Murphy, 114 MSG, with sons Neal (left) and Riley



Pictured: SMSgt Bryan Little, 190 FS



Pictured: SSgt Erin Waller, 124 MXG



Courtesy: Laurie Smith



Courtesy: Lt. Col. Rick Harper

BOSTON TWO PARTY

The 124th Fighter Wing was well represented in the world's oldest (and arguably most famous) annual road race, The Boston Marathon, held April 16. Lt. Col. Shannon Smith (left), commander of the 190th Fighter Squadron, and Lt. Col. Rick Harper, 124th Fighter Wing Inspector General, were two of more than 22,000 runners who endured the grueling heat on race day (the high temperature was an unseasonably hot 90 degrees). The race was only the third marathon for Colonel Smith, who qualified for The Boston Marathon by running his first marathon last year in Coeur d'Alene in 3 hours 7 minutes (that's averaging a little over 7 minutes per mile, folks). Colonel Harper, a longtime marathoner, has completed 11 marathons, including The Boston two other times ('09, '11). Both runners will join fellow Idaho Air Guard member Master Sgt. Jeff Guzi, JFHQ-ID, in Lincoln, Neb., May 6 to compete in the National Guard Marathon in the hopes of earning a spot on the National Guard team.

A 2ND OFFICER OPENING

IF YOU ARE HOPING TO GET COMMISSIONED, YOUR CHANCES JUST GOT TWICE AS GOOD

In an amendment to the previous announcement, the 124th Force Support Squadron is now hiring two new lieutenant force support officers (AFSC: 38F3), instead of one as advertised.

The force support squadron is looking for two quality candidates who are eligible for commission through the Academy of Military Science at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. Candidates must meet the eligibility requirements for commissioning including completion or near completion of their bachelor's degree, completion and qualifying scores in the Air Force Officer Qualification Test, and other requirements as laid out by recruiting.

Please contact Master Sgt. Kris Witte at 422-5383 in the IDANG Recruiting Office to fill out an application. Interviews will be conducted with all eligible candidates. The selections for the two positions will come from the initial interview pool and will be made at the same time.

The application deadline has been extended to May 11.

THEY'RE BUYING CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY PROMOTED AIRMEN!

CMSGT MARY MCKENNA FSS

MSGT JEFFREY BUDNER CES

MSGT GRANT SETTLE ASOS

MSGT JAY STILLWELL LRS

TSGT TRAVIS ANDERSON 212 CACS

TSGT ROBIN BOWEN 212 CACS

TSGT SAUL GRASTEIT MXS

TSGT PHILLIP HORTON 266 RANS

TSGT BRYAN KINDELBERGER MXS

TSGT JESSICA MATTSON 266 RANS

SSGT TREVER BOHLING CES

SSGT BRETT BRANDON CES

SSGT ANDREW MORLOCK CES



Photo: Master Sgt. Tom Gloeckle

MEN DON HIGH HEELS FOR A CAUSE

Senior Master Sgt. Steve White of the 124th Medical Group prepares to "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" April 20 at Gowen Field. The event was held in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and is part of the International Men's March to stop rape, sexual assault and gender violence.

NOT READY TO GO?

FILE THE PAPERWORK EARLY TO REQUEST AN EXTENSION

Officers with a mandatory separation date coming within the next year need to take action now if you want to stay in.

If you qualify for an MSD extension, draft a memorandum and have it endorsed through your chain of command starting with your unit commander and ending with the adjutant general. The process should be started early enough to allow your request to be submitted to NGB no earlier than six months prior to your MSD. Expect a 90-day turnaround from NGB once you have submitted your request for extension.

To see an example of a properly formatted MSD extension memorandum, qualification criteria and routing, please go to AFPDL/JFHQ-ID/MSD guide on the ANG network. For more information, please contact Master Sgt. Amee Henke at 422-5362.



124th Fighter Wing
Idaho Air National Guard
4474 S. DeHaviland Street
Boise, Idaho 83705-8006

Presorted Std
U.S. Postage Paid
Boise, Idaho
Permit 764



Courtesy: Stacy Attinger, Max Velocity Photography

RANS saves DoD \$870K

By Senior Airman Benjamin Sutton
366th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 266th Range Squadron saved the Defense Department approximately \$872,000 by assisting Sailors from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., during a two-week joint service exercise.

Airmen assigned to the 266 RANS, the Idaho Air National Guard's geographically-separated unit assigned to Mountain Home Air Force Base have the unique and challenging mission of operating and maintaining the Joint Threat Emitter, an advanced electronic warfare training system of surface-to-air missile simulators. The system tests the aircrew's ability to recognize the threat then identify and react correctly.

"Typically, the pilots fly the aircraft all the way to Mountain Home Air

Force Base, Idaho, from NAS Whidbey Island," said Master Sgt. Warren Davis, 266th RANS joint threat emitter work center assistant. "This time leadership decided to see if it would be more cost-effective and save some taxpayer money by having us drive out there."

According to Tech. Sgt. Steven Jones, a radar technician, it would have cost the DOD approximately \$400,000 a week to fly back and forth from western Washington to Southwestern Idaho.

"Otherwise the pilots are flying from NAS Whidbey Island to Mountain Home (AFB), participating in the training, then flying all the way back, and are doing this every day for two weeks," Jones said.

RANS members were excited about the

TEAM IDAHO SOFTBALL IN FULL SWING TO DEFEND '11 CLEAN SWEEP

Staff Sgt. David Fox, 124 MXS, drives a ball over the fence at Willow Lane Athletic Complex in Boise April 22. The Men's Open team, better known locally as "The Bangers", will play in league games, local and regional tournaments leading up to the 47th Annual Air National Guard Softball Tournament held in St. Joseph, Mo. in August. Last year, Idaho was the first state in recent history to win first place in all four major tournament divisions: Men's Open, Over-35, Co-Ed and Women's. Team Idaho expects to send all four teams back to the ANG tournament to defend their titles.

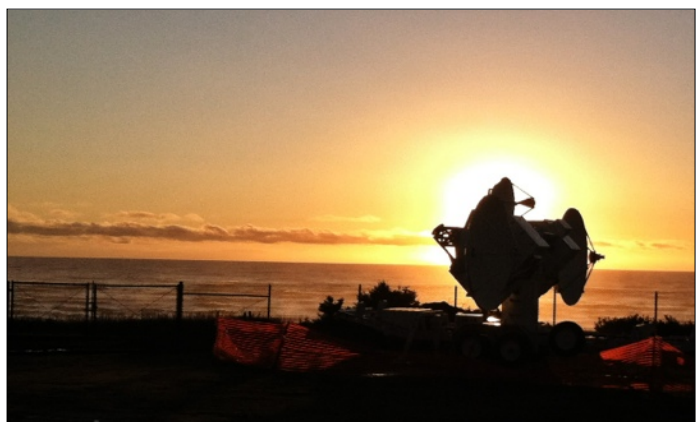
opportunity to assist a sister-service as well as get out and do some field training.

"We are taking our equipment to a foreign area and dealing with any adversity as it comes," Davis said.

"Our threat system worked great by tracking the aircraft from the ground then giving off electronic signatures which, inside the aircraft, are viewed as hostile enemy targets they can then react to."

This training exercise was praised by 266th RANS radar experts.

"This exercise went exceptionally well," Jones said. "When you head into this type of an exercise, we really have no idea what to expect. We had the right team in place and things went extremely well."



Pictured here is a 266th Range Control Squadron Threat Emitter Unit during a joint-service training exercise Feb. 6, 2012, at Pacific Beach, Wash. By assisting Sailors with the two-week training, the 266th RANS Airmen from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, helped save the Department of Defense approximately \$870,000. (Courtesy photo)