



**NEW WING  
COMMANDER**



**CHANGE OF  
COMMANDS PAGE 5**



**NCO ENRICHMENT  
COURSE**



# THE BEACON

official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

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

Pilots, like Maj. Johnny Reyes from the 190th Fighter Squadron, train in preparation for an upcoming deployment exercise. In the event of an ejection the pilot could get stuck in a tree, if this happens he can use his personnel lowering devices to descend to the ground safely. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur)

**TAG Leadership  
day schedule on  
page 15**



**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.

## National Guard Bureau 2013 Media Awards:

**1st Place:**

**Best Online Publication:  
The Beacon—Idaho ANG**

**1st Place:**

**Outstanding Initiative in New  
Media—124th Fighter Wing**

[idaho.ang.mil@gmail.com](mailto:idaho.ang.mil@gmail.com)

[www.idaho.ang.af.mil](http://www.idaho.ang.af.mil)

<http://bit.ly/124Beacon>

<http://fb.me/124FWofficial>

<http://Flic.kr/ps/2tB3kf>

[Twitter@124FighterWing](https://twitter.com/124FighterWing)

WING COMMANDER  
Col. Christopher Rood  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
Lt. Col. Gary A. Daniel  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC  
Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF  
Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney  
Tech. Sgt. Joshua Almaras  
Staff Sgt. David Anderson  
Staff Sgt. Mike Sheehan  
AIC Skyla Childs



## Commander's View

# Put Your Name on It

**Colonel Christopher Rood**

Commander

*March drill is upon us and with it brings a historic event: a new Wing Commander will be sworn in who is not from among our Idaho contingent. This is a chance to show our stuff, make a great first impression, and perhaps begin a long and more personal relationship with the leadership at the National Guard Bureau. Col. Sherrie McCandless brings a wealth of active duty and Guard Bureau knowledge that may well stretch far into the future of Idaho Air National Guard. Let's take this first impression opportunity to show her what a great unit we are and how proud we are of our mission. Explaining why he worked so hard to keep up a perfect yard, Chief Gaylor told our gathered airmen last month "because my name is on the mailbox."*



*Let's take ownership and responsibility for our functions and allow our people to have buy-in and personal pride in our specialty. Our future looks bright for a future flying mission, not just any flying mission but in one of the premier defense systems in the Air Force. If we get the F-15E it will secure a solid future for Idaho and be a bridge to an even greater opportunity in the F-35. Keep a great attitude, stay focused on the present mission, and welcome our new Wing Commander with a great first impression that says we're proud and "we'll put our name on it".*

- Col. Rood

# NCO Enrichment Course - A great opportunity

Idaho Air National Guard airmen attended the NCO Enrichment Course consisting of self-assessment, leadership, mentoring, and a personal development plan at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho Feb 11-14.

During the weeklong course, airmen participated in team building exercises that focused on communication, team building, time management, and senior mentors illustrated various management and organizational principles.

Right and below: Idaho airmen listen to leaders' guidance on what makes a successful NCO. (Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney)



<http://bit.ly/124Beacon>



## NCO Enrichment Course (Continued)



**Top:** Assistant Adjutant General, Air, Commander Idaho Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Richard Turner speaks to airmen about success in their military careers and how to achieve that success, at the week long NCO Enrichment Course Feb 11-14. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur)



**Right:** Staff Sgt. Melissa Loepp, from the Human Resources office, front, works with Tech. Sgt. Bobbie Larsen from the 124th Communications flight and other airmen in a group setting to construct a bridge using spaghetti and marshmallows. This exercise builds team work, communication and team structure. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur)

**See more photos and the class group photo - now on flickr:**

<http://flic.kr/s/aHsjSzVAhr>

<http://bit.ly/124Beacon>

# Three squadrons welcome new leadership

Three squadrons, operating under the command of the 124<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing recognized changes in leadership with formal change of command ceremonies. The 190<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, the 124<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, and the 124<sup>th</sup> Logistic Readiness Squadron are all now led by new commanders.

One commander, Lt. Col. Stephanie Sheppard, relinquished command of the 124<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron on Saturday of February Unit Training Assembly (UTA) and then assumed command of the 124<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron on Sunday morning.

With 124<sup>th</sup> Group Commander, Col. Alan Clarke, officiating, Major Jonathon Scaggs took command of SFS. He most recently served in the 124<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron. Lt. Col. Linda Schneider handed over command of the LRS. She is now the 124FW Inspector General (over the office of inspections).

At the end of February drill the 190FS Lt. Col. Chad Crocker took command from Lt. Col. Shannon Smith. Lt. Col. Smith is now the deputy operations group commander. Lt. Col. Crocker is a "traditional" drill-status guardsman. Presiding 124<sup>th</sup> Operations Group Commander Col. Paul Kingsley thanked both for their dedication to mission and their past accomplishments.

**Top: Lt. Col. Stephanie Shepard, center, takes command of the Logistics Readiness Squadron. (Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman David Anderson)**

**Center: Maj. Jonathon Scaggs, center, takes command of the 124th Security Squadron. (Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman David Anderson)**

**Bottom: Lt. Col. Shannon Smith, right, receives the Meritorious Service Medal while relinquishing the position of 190th Fighter Squadron commander to Lt. Col. Chad Crocker. (Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney)**





## Brig. Gen. Mike Nolan promoted at Capitol

Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter hosted the promotion of Michael Nolan to the rank of Brig. Gen. inside the Governor's office at the state Capitol, Boise, Idaho on Feb. 26. Gov. Otter and Brig. Gen. Nolan's wife Laurie pinned on his new rank. Gov. Otter presided over the ceremony and administered the oath of office to Brig. Gen. Nolan with the presence of his family and friends. He assumes the role of Assistant Adjutant General, Air, Commander Idaho Air National Guard from Brig. Gen. Richard Turner. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur)



## Airmen Leadership School - Distinguished Graduate



Top: The 124th Fighter Wing won the Spirit Award! With this support, you can see why. Courtesy photo by Mountain Home Air Force Base Public Affairs.

Left: Senior Airman Jason Hering from the 124th Maintenance Squadron was recognized as a Distinguished Graduate award. Courtesy photo by Master Sgt. Bonnie Davis.

# Chili cook-off competition



The annual chili cook-off competition is a growing event, allowing for all military branches to now compete and attend. This year's chosen first place went to 2nd Lt. Eugene Luze, from the 101 Civil Support Team, Army National Guard. Second place was Staff Sgt. Frank Boguslawski from the Army National Guard and third was a tie between Col. Thomas Rasmussen from the Army National Guard and Staff Sgt. Tiffany Ryan from the 124th Medical Group. A traveling trophy is being produced and will be awarded to the first place recipient each year.

Top: Senior Master Sgt. Steve White and Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Ryan from the 124th Medical Group clean the kitchen of the dining facility after the chili feed at Gowen Field, Idaho, Jan. 8. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur)



Right: Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Ryan from the 124th Medical Group cleans the dining facility after the chili feed at Gowen Field, Idaho, Jan. 8. (Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur)





MARCH 1, 2014

IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN

IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD

# 24 HOUR CHALLENGE



**WHAT:** THE 24-HOUR RUN CHALLENGE IS AN EVENT TO HONOR AND REMEMBER OUR FALLEN BROTHERS AND A FUNDRAISER TO HELP THE TACP ASSOCIATION CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE TACP COMMUNITY.

**WHEN:** THE EVENT WILL START AT 1200L ON 27 MARCH CONCLUDING AT 1159L ON 28 MARCH.

**RULES:** AT LEAST ONE RUNNER PER UNIT/ORGANIZATION WILL BEGIN RUNNING AND SUBSEQUENT RUNNERS WILL BE ALTERNATED FOR THE ENTIRE 24-HOUR PERIOD. ONE MAJOR CHANGE FROM THE PREVIOUS 2 YEARS IS THAT THE MILEAGE FOR ALL RUNNERS FOR EACH TIME PERIOD WILL COUNT.

**CATEGORIES:** WE HAVE TWO CATEGORIES THIS YEAR, TEAM AND ULTRA. THE TEAM CATEGORY IS DEFINED AS ALL MEMBERS OF A UNIT, FAMILIES, RETIREES, CIVILIANS, KIDS, ETC... THE ULTRA CATEGORY WILL CONSIST OF ANY 2 RUNNERS. A UNIT MAY HAVE AS MANY ULTRA TEAMS AS THEY WANT, HOWEVER, PERSONNEL COMPETING IN THE ULTRA CATEGORY ARE NOT COUNTED IN THE MILEAGE FOR THE TEAM CATEGORY.

**AWARDS:** 1ST & 2ND PLACE TEAM DISTANCE AWARD; 1ST & 2ND PLACE ULTRA DISTANCE AWARD; 1ST & 2ND PLACE FUNDRAISING AWARD.

**POCS:**

CHARLIE KEEBAUGH: [ASSOCIATION@USAFTACP.ORG](mailto:ASSOCIATION@USAFTACP.ORG)

SMSGT ERIC RANKIN: [IVANTACP@YAHOO.COM](mailto:IVANTACP@YAHOO.COM)

850-797-8619

907-687-9335

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTP://USAFTACP.ORG/TACP-ASSOCIATION](http://USAFTACP.ORG/TACP-ASSOCIATION)**



## Comptroller and FSS customer service areas merge

Beginning 1 March 2014, the Finance and Force Support Squadron teams will centrally locate their customer service in the FSS lobby in Bldg. 400.

Hours of operation are 0900-1530hrs Tuesday through Friday and all Primary UTAs, closed on Mondays.

The Finance customer service contact number is 422-6147 and the FSS contact number will remain 422-6719.

Customers will now have a single place to submit all military travel and military pay documents and receive assistance.

For all ID card renewal, CAC pin reset, and DEERS/RAPIDS updates please make an appointment at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/>

Call MSgt Michael Heninger (422-5895) or MSgt Marsha Abela (422-5372) if you have further questions or concerns.

## Preparing For Springtime

I grew up in the nether regions of North Dakota and I understand how brutally cold it is and has been across the United States this winter. I also know how quickly people will respond when the weather warms up in a few short weeks. Having been cooped up all winter, they will be looking forward to getting outdoors and enjoying activities the colder weather made impossible.

In the springtime the potential for injury is great because their muscles aren't accustomed to the renewed activities. I know from my personal experience of riding a bike for fitness, it takes me longer to warm up before I can go full speed when I haven't been riding much.

People are cleaning up their property from fallen branches and the other debris of winter. Also, they will work on that new patio deck or other anticipated project. For someone in construction who knows how to do these tasks it is simple but for a desk jockey unschooled in hearing protection, safety glasses, gloves, hard hats and other PPE, it is much different.

How many of you will use or work with yard and garden chemicals this spring? It is so easy to be in a hurry and not use protective eyewear and gloves to protect yourself. For the occasional gardener, there is the dangerous thought, "I only do this once a year, a little chemical contact won't make a difference." Ensure you protect yourself, loved ones and pets!

-Senior Master Sgt. Becky Hawk, 124th Fighter Wing Safety





Idaho  
Military Faith  
Alliance

# “Return But No Escape” A Veterans Story of Survival

The Idaho Military Faith Alliance and Idaho National Guard Chaplain Corps are pleased to bring US Navy Veteran Jeff Heiser to share his personal and touching story of overcoming battles with PTSD, Suicide and Substance Abuse following his Military career. Jeff will also share and talk about his award winning short film “Return But No Escape”.

**Date: Tuesday March 11th, 2014**

**Time: 1300 - 1500**

**Location: Bldg 440 Auditorium  
Gowen Field Air Force Base**

**Registration:**

**<http://idmfa.eventbrite.com>**

***Open to Idaho Army & Air  
Leadership, Contractors,  
Soldiers, Sailors, Marines,  
Airman and Spouses  
interested in hearing Jeff's story.***

*For more information or questions please  
contact Sheila Warner at (208) 660-5607 or  
[Sheila.warner@serco-na.com](mailto:Sheila.warner@serco-na.com)*



Jeff Heiser is a Navy veteran, spouse of a Navy veteran and father of a Navy veteran. He is a successful businessman and entrepreneur who is currently the President and owner of Media Fish Productions LLC; a video and photography services company located in Merritt Island, Florida. Jeff has a Bachelors Degree in Social Sciences from Ashford University, Iowa. He is a writer, blogger, speaker, photographer and short filmmaker. A recently released Media Fish Productions short film **Return But No Escape** hits home for him as producer, writer and cinematographer who has suffered with PTSD. He has also helped his son deal with the consequences of PTSD. The short film won Best Dramatic Short Film in a local Florida independent film festival. Jeff has made it his mission to raise awareness regarding PTSD and service personnel suicide.

**<http://bit.ly/124Beacon>**





## Spring Break 2014



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

### Jedi Camp

Is your young knight ready to be a Jedi Warrior? Your child will learn the Jedi Code, make their own light saber and train in the honorable way of the force.

March 25—27

Tuesday—Thursday 9:00 am—11:00 am

Ages: 6—12 years old

Members: \$50; Non-members: \$75

### Camp Rock Your Socks Off

Learn to rock climb, jump and play in our swimming pool, enjoy a camp wide scavenger hunt, and participate in both indoor and outdoor leadership games and activities.

March 24–28 Monday—Friday

1st Session: 8:30 am—12:30 pm

2nd Session: 1:00 pm—5:00 pm

Ages: 5–12 years old

Members: \$100; Non-members: \$150

### Pirate Camp

Ahoy matey! Join us for pirate themed games and activities, explore and discovered the treasure at our end of the camp treasure hunt and get your sea legs while splashing in the pool.

March 24—27 Monday—Thursday 2:00 pm—4:00 pm

Ages: 6—12 years old

Members: \$50; Non-members: \$75

Contact: Steve Galka

344-5502 EXT. 263

Steve.Galka@ymcatvidaho.org

Caldwell Family YMCA  
3720 S Indiana Ave  
Caldwell ID 83605  
P 208 454 9622  
F 208 459 2535

www.ymcatvidaho.org



### SPRING FLING CAMP

Come inspire your creativity and innovation in our wonderful Spring Fling art camp. Youth will complete a project everyday while having good fun and meeting new friends.

**AGE:** 7-14

**FEE:** Members \$32, Non-Members \$45

**SCHEDULE:** March 24-27 M-TH 10AM-12:00PM

**LOCATION:** West Y-City

Multipurpose Room

For further information please contact 377-9622 ext 441

### ROCK YOUR SOCKS OFF CAMP

Come learn to rock climb, have fun swimming, enjoy an adventure with scavenger hunts, and participating in team building activities!

\*Required: Participants are required to bring their own lunch and water bottle.

**AGE:** 6-14

**FEE:** Members \$80, Non-Member \$120

**SCHEDULE:** March 24-27 M-TH 11AM-3PM

**LOCATION:** West Y-City

Climbing Wall

For further information please contact 377-9622 ext 413

### SPRING SPLASH

Splash through spring break! Swimmers will participate in 45 minute swimming sessions that include water safety, swim instruction, and fun in the water!

**AGE:** 5-12

**FEE:** Member and Non-Member \$15

**SCHEDULE:** March 24-28<sup>th</sup> M-TH, 9AM-12PM or  
5:30PM to 7:00PM

**LOCATION:** West Y-City

Instructional pool

For further information please contact 377-9622 ext 454



Treasure Valley Family YMCA  
1177 West State  
Boise, ID 83702

In a preview to our summertime fun; youth will have an opportunity to stay engaged with peers throughout the week and focus on cooperation, skill development, and of course fun while being fit. We will deliver on these promises through small and large group games, crafts, swimming and so much more!

### March 24- 28th

#### Camps Before Spring Break

Jump Rope Clinic (Mar 8)

Kid's Night Out (March 14-15)

#### Sport Camps:

AAU Premier Basketball Camp

Rookies Soccer Prep Clinic (Ages 4-5)

Soccer Prep Clinic (Ages 6-10)

Volleyball Camp (Ages 7-13)

Full & Half Day Sports Camp (Ages 7-12)

Cheerleading

Track Camp (Ages 7-18)

#### Engineering Camps:

Up, Up & Away (BE)

Robotics (BE)

Journey into Space (LE)

Battlebots (LE & BE)

CityScape (BE)

Structures (LE)

LEGOMania (LE)

BE: Big Engineers - Ages 7-12

LE: Little Engineers - Ages 4-6

For more information about these programs please visit our website: [www.ymcatvidaho.org](http://www.ymcatvidaho.org)



## ASK THE CHIEF:

Check out the main page of 'The Beacon Online' at <http://bit.ly/124Beacon> for "Ask the Chief." Command Chief Tammy Ladley has consented to take your questions about anything, this may include wing or Idaho Air National Guard policy, regulations, training, careers and many issues that you wish you could ask, but just didn't have the forum to do so. The chief will share as many answers as she can with Beacon readers. Ask your questions and be sure to click the "Submit" button at the bottom our Beacon's newest feature.



Exciting times are ahead for the Fighter Wing. We are preparing for a Change of Command bringing on Col. McCandless. This is history making--not only is she the first Commander hired outside of the unit, but she is the first female wing commander for the 124th Fighter Wing.

I am personally excited and thrilled to be a part of history. I am confident as she gets settled you will see us out and about getting her familiar with our unit. I am eager to work with her and energized by the wealth of knowledge and experience she brings to Idaho.

I consider us very fortunate to have her with us during these challenging times for our unit. As you see her walking about, please welcome her as you remain "First Class or Not At All." Continue to be positive. Stay focused as I am confident you will.

-Chief L

## Strong Bonds Couples Relationship Enrichment Weekend

Designed to strengthen relationships, inspire hope, and rekindle marriages Location: McCall, Idaho

**Dates: 16-18 May 2014**

Chaplain Contact Information and to Register for this event: Office: (208) 272-6468 <tel:272-6468>

Email: [robert.w.morris1.mil@mail.mil](mailto:robert.w.morris1.mil@mail.mil) <<mailto:keith.g.millar.mil@mail.mil>>

## IG Inspection Alert

During March Drill and Wing Mandatory AT day there will be an emergency management exercise (Coronet Birch) on the east campus of Gowen Field.

<http://bit.ly/124Beacon>

# Air Force High Flyin' BBQ Challenge

Tell us why your BBQ is the BEST in the Air Force! If you can make our taste buds anxious just reading about it, you could be selected to be a Contender in your region! (CONUS bases will be divided into three (3) regions as outlined below)

## Rules:

- \*Submit an original essay in 500 words or less describing why you believe your barbecue skills are the best in the Air Force.
- \*Essays must be in Arial, 12 point font, double-spaced. Send your essay via email to [AFHighFlyinBBQ@MyAirForceLife.com](mailto:AFHighFlyinBBQ@MyAirForceLife.com)
- \*Include a photo of your product which captures the style and presentation of your BBQ skills. (Please do not submit photo of yourself or your BBQ equipment; the intent is to showcase your BBQ product only).
- \*Include your name, base and email address on the submission.
- \*Contest begins at 12:01 A.M. CST on 20 Jan 2014 and all entries must be submitted NLT 11:50 P.M. CST on 18 April 2014.
- \*All submissions become the property of AFPC/SVI. By submitting your entry, you agree to the use of images for the purpose of promoting the AF High Flyin' BBQ Challenge. (Entries will not be returned)
- \*Winners (Contenders) will be announced NLT: 25 April 2014.
- \*All members who submit an essay will receive a special Air Force High Flyin' BBQ Challenge prize.

For more  
information:

**Amethyst R. Keaten**

SMSgt, FSS/FSV, IDANG  
124th Base Services Superintendent

422-5786



## Anheuser-Busch Announces - "Here's to the Heroes"

\*Each service member receives a single free admission to any one SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park or Sesame Place for himself/herself and one each for as many as three direct dependents. The offer is valid for one park and one visit only from JANUARY 1- DECEMBER 31, 2014.

\*Active duty and reserve soldiers, airmen, Marines, sailors and Coast Guardsmen, as well as foreign military personnel serving with U.S. units, qualify.

\*Military personnel can register online at [www.herosalute.com](http://www.herosalute.com) or fill out a registration form at the park.

\*Dependents can visit the parks without their sponsor. Registration procedure and gate requirements are the same as above. Only the spouse of a service member is permitted to register. Minor dependents must redeem their ticket with an adult.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL  
Leisure Travel Services 255-2997



**MARCH  
15**



## **TAG LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY**

# The Riverside Hotel in Boise

All 0-5s and above, all 0-4 and 0-3 in Key Staff or Command Positions, all CW4/CW5s, all E-9s and E8/1SG in leadership positions

More information about the entire weekend at [ngaid.org](http://ngaid.org)

Register here: [http://nationalguard.idaho.gov/FamilyPrograms/\\_forms/regForm.aspx](http://nationalguard.idaho.gov/FamilyPrograms/_forms/regForm.aspx)

**Lt Col Ralph Myers at 208-272-3777 and  
Lt Col Britt Vanshur at 208-422-3269**

### Schedule:

FRIDAY 14 MARCH 14 Idaho Officer's Association - social at the Riverside Hotel

The Riverside Hotel, SATURDAY 15 MARCH 14 -  
The Riverside Hotel, 2900 W. Chinden

0700 - Registration/Check-in  
0800 - General Session  
0805 - TAG Training Topic  
0850 - Break  
0910 - Guest Speaker - yet to be determined  
0945 - Break  
1000 - Air Break Out Topic TBD  
1130 - Working Lunch Topic TBD  
1230 - Air Break Out Topic TBD  
1330 - Break  
1345 - Air Break Out Topic TBD

1445 - Break  
1500 - General Session/TAG Closing Remarks  
1530 - TAG day session complete

### TAG LEADERSHIP EVENING SOCIAL (ARMY/AIR)

1730 No Host Cocktails  
1800 25th Army Band Performs (until 2200)  
1830 Entrance TBD by guest speaker  
1840 Administrative/Opening Remarks  
1855 Dinner Served  
1920 Guest Speaker  
1955 Recognize/Thank Sponsors  
2000 Awards Presentation  
2030 Dinner Concludes

Class B's - will be the uniform of the day