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THE

official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

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Col. Sherrie L. McCandless assumed command of the 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard, from Col. Christopher D. Rood at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho March 3. (Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Allmaras)

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1st Place:

**Best Online Publication:
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1st Place:

**Outstanding Initiative in New
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USAF 2013

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Staff Sgt. Mike Sheehan
AIC Skyla Childs
AIC Cassie Morlock



Commander's View

Glad to be on this team

Colonel Sherrie McCandless

Commander, 124th Fighter Wing

I look forward to experiencing my first full drill weekend as your commander. Thanks again for all your outstanding support for last month's change of command ceremony. Job well done!

On Saturday morning please attend your group commander's call at its designated time and place. We know you are hearing about proposed changes to our force structure and mission through official, media, and social channels. I want to share with you what I know and what I've learned from our recent visit by Air National Guard Director, Lt. Gen. Stanley Clarke, from our recent TAG Leadership Training Day, and from our meetings with NGB, ACC and leadership at Mountain Home Air Force Base. I will use frequent commander's calls at each level of the organization to communicate where we are in our mission transition and to answer your questions.

Our visit from Gen. Clarke was highly productive, and I saw firsthand how carefully and precisely you prepared and told our Idaho Air National Guard story. I appreciated your professionalism, as well as the clarity in how you described both our mission and our ideal local training environment here in Idaho. I think he was very impressed.

I look forward to taking the lessons learned from those of you who just returned from Green Flag East and applying them to the maximum extent possible to our upcoming OCONUS training in Germany. Every airman can strengthen our wing and increase our mission effectiveness from each of these training opportunities! We will maintain 100% mission focus and combat readiness in the A-10 until relieved of that responsibility by our higher headquarters.

Lastly, I ask that you take the opportunity to not only read the command information that the Command Chief and I provide for you in "The Beacon," "The Trailing Edge," and our social media platforms, but that you make this a two-way conversation and ask questions that likely will inform you, as well as your fellow airmen in the 124th Fighter Wing, as we move through our mission transition.

Have an enjoyable and productive drill weekend!

Col. Sherrie McCandless installed as 15th commander of the 124th Fighter Wing

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

BOISE, Idaho--Col. Sherrie McCandless, the first woman selected to command the 124th Fighter Wing and first female wing commander in Idaho Air National Guard history, assumed command in a ceremony on March 2, at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho.

"We have a no-fail mission. It is absolutely imperative that we respond diligently—as you have throughout the years," said Col. McCandless.

"We are going to remain trained, focused, and responsive on our current mission here and now. It is difficult to see clearly into the future, but what I see extremely clearly is our airmen. The equipment can be replaced, but our airmen remain. It's the lifetime patriots that we are; we get up in the morning and head on to work."

Col. McCandless just completed service as the Director, Plans and Requirements, at the National Guard Bureau. She is a former airlift squadron commander, a command pilot with flying experience in the T-38, F-16, C-40 and C-38 aircraft, an air liaison officer, and a combat veteran. She has served as the Executive Officer to the Chief of the Air National Guard, as Aide-de-camp to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and as a congressional liaison officer.

McCandless became the fifteenth wing commander of the 124th Fighter Wing. "Any time you are moving into a position of leadership like this, you are always standing on the shoulders of those commanders that stood before you," she said.

"I would like to extend a personal thank you to Col. Chris Rood (outgoing wing commander) for all his support during this transition. Thank you, General Nolan, (a previous wing commander). I know it takes everything that you've got to lead an organization at this level," she said.

Brig. Gen. Michael Nolan, Assistant Adjutant General, Air, Commander Idaho Air National Guard, presided over the ceremony. As he began to address the historic wing change of command he remarked upon the static A-10 Thunderbolt II just to the right of the ceremony stage. "She is a workhorse, and the hundreds of combat hours she has flown is a fine representation" (of the 124th Fighter Wing). (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



McCandless (Continued)

He thanked Col. Chris Rood for his service as 124th Fighter Wing Commander, as Vice Commander, and for his leadership through the process of a successful outcome to the 2013 Consolidated Unit Inspection. "The success of those inspections was in large part due to your efforts and the efforts of those you led," he said.

He proceeded to address the future of the Idaho Air National Guard. "Today we find ourselves navigating a bit of rough air facing a potential divesture of the A-10 mission. Despite our confidence that has come with years of success, we find ourselves anxious about an uncertain future. But we are navigating, we are not adrift, we are flying a charted course. Our mission is clear: it is to fly, fight, and win."

"We are not in uncharted waters; the uncertainty we face is mission change. We have successfully navigated mission change on several occasions. As always we will succeed. Let's not focus on uncertainty, but on opportunities that come with certain change. They are numerous," he said.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



Col. Sherrie L. McCandless, who previously directed plans and requirements for air at the National Guard Bureau, assumed command of the 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard from Col. Christopher D. Rood and given by Brig. Gen. Michael Nolan Assistant Adjutant General, Air, Commander Idaho Air National Guard, at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho March 2. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur)



Above: Col. Sherrie L. McCandless and her husband Lt. Col. Chris Sheppard, of the District of Columbia Air National Guard, speak with Col. (Dr.) Brandon Isaac, 124th Medical Group Commander after the change of command of the 124th Fighter Wing at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho March 3. (Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney). Left: Brig. Gen. Michael Nolan officiates at the ceremony.



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McCandless (Continued)

As he summarized the resume of incoming fighter wing commander Col. McCandless, Nolan said, "We will capitalize on your unique experience and qualifications. I anticipate that you'll be a collaborative, articulate, well informed, and experienced leader capable of moving the wing forward."

Taking the podium for the first time as wing commander McCandless said, "We've accomplished nine aircraft conversions here, our airman have retrained and quickly regained their combat mission readiness as rapidly as possible each time and they have continued to serve with distinction."

Col. McCandless thanked her husband, Lt. Col. Chris Sheppard, of the District of Columbia Air National Guard. Lt. Col. Sheppard, a traditional guardsman, is commander of the 121st Operations Support Squadron. "I'm extremely proud of his deployment record to Iraq twice and to Afghanistan. I'm not only a deployer myself, but I'm also a spouse. I wait and worry just as other spouses do for their spouse to come home from combat."

"I pledge my personal best to you all. I intend to uphold the promise of 'first class or not at all,'" she said.

See the entire photo album "124th Fighter Wing Change of Command." now on flickr:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsjTGT8st>

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



124th Maintenance Group wins the 2013 Governor's Outstanding Unit

By Major Eric Newman, Commander

124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

The 124th Maintenance Group had far from a perfect year in 2013. However, it was their resilient nature and positive response to the many setbacks that garnered them the coveted Idaho Governor's Outstanding Unit Award for the year.

As with other areas, they were subjected to the effects of sequestration and the subsequent loss of over 19,000 hours of manpower in both February and October. The quest for savings also added a number of budgetary constraints to the MX Group as it did others. These affects were compounded by the increased modernization efforts of a highly capable yet aging aircraft. During some periods, the unit possessed eleven aircraft on station, much lower than their assigned number of twenty-one used to execute nearly four thousand flying hours.

While the hurdles for the year were quite formidable, the number of successes the MX Group accomplished speaks loudly to the culture and character of our aircraft maintainers and those that support them. The Group continued to supply the much needed aircraft for aircrew training, but they also successfully passed and in some cases took the lead role in the Consolidated Unit Inspection; achieving a number of "best seen to date" comments from the Inspectors General. Furthermore, the Group hosted the A-10

System Programs Office in six engineering upgrades to the A-10C.

This forward thinking has been a result of a culture change spurred by Col. David Trimble and his vision. In receiving the award he wanted all to know, "It was my humble honor to accept the 2013 Governor's Outstanding Unit Award for the 124th Maintenance Group. The incredible work the men and women of the 124 MXG do on a daily basis continues to inspire me and validate that we are One Team Focused on Discipline, Compliance and Integrity...The Foundation of Preeminent Combat Airpower."



124th Maintenance Group wins the 2013 Governor's Outstanding Unit Award--intended to annually recognize the most outstanding Idaho National Guard unit. **On stage with 124 Maintenance Group Commander Col. David Trimble from left to right:** Lt. Col. Chad Kornberg, Capt. Scott Walker, Capt. Brett Browning, Chief Master Sgt. Sid Brown, Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Handley, Chief Master Sgt. Hal Bongiovi. The award is for exceptionally meritorious and superior performance of the duty beyond that normally required.

NCO Enrichment course: Stronger leaders in just four days

Stronger leaders built on spaghetti bridges

Editorial by Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney, 124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

On a cool mid-February morning I hesitantly, but expectantly, entered a classroom at Gowen Field for the first of a four-day NCO Enrichment Course as one of 30 noncommissioned officers (NCOs) with the Idaho Air National Guard.

Some airmen recognized friends and coworkers, I recognized many I had photographed and interviewed during my time working in public affairs. For the most part, I saw unfamiliar faces with one thing in common—we were all nominated by our commanders and chiefs, as leaders and prime candidates for professional development in this NCO Enrichment Course—the first offered since 2007.

We all entered with a basic understanding that the course would help us build confidence and leadership skills to better prepare us for future leadership responsibilities. Little did we know just how much four days could change our perspectives, attitudes, and motivations to be better leaders today and senior leaders tomorrow.

“I have a better understanding and vision of what I should be doing as an NCO after attending this course, than I have had since I first became an NCO,” Tech. Sgt. Clay Thurston, Information Formal Training Unit from the 124th Operations Support Squadron.

The course offered many opportunities for self-assessment, reflection, and team building as well as meaningful insights on the mission changes, big-picture planning, Total Force structure and joint operations with spaghetti exercises.

But wait... what does this have to do with spaghetti? The teambuilding and communication exercises included building spaghetti and marshmallow bridges and unweaving a tangled rope. Not to mention, creating a square without letting go of the rope—while blindfolded! These were entertaining and sometimes frustrating experiments, but reinforced just how critical clear communication is to leadership.

The course incorporated many guest speakers to include Brig. Gen. Richard Turner (retired) to speak about the future mission of the wing and the importance of core values, respect of others, and professionalism. Patricia DeBor, Director of Psychological Health, also brought awareness, signs for which to watch for, and resources to address the real, and unfortunately, common issues of depression, drug/alcohol abuse and even suicide.

“You NCOs set the morale for the entire unit, by the way you act, integrity you show, and how serious you take your job,” said Turner. “You may not know it, but all the people under you are watching you—show them integrity and excellence because it’s important.”

The class was led by Chief Master Sgt. Rob Lyons, Joint Forces Headquarters Professional Development and Chief Master Sgt. James McMonigal, 124th Air Support Operations Squadron, with the support of Master Sgt. Sarah Pippit, 124th Operations Support Squadron, and Master Sgt. Katharine McCloud, First Sgt. from the 212th Command and Control Squadron.

The course also covered a self-assessment of strengths and motivations, 124th Fighter Wing history, performance counseling, effective leadership, effective bullet writing (along with writing awards and enlisted performance reports), effective communication, situational leadership, the disciplinary process, mentoring, and other important subjects.

(See Editorial—Next Page)

Editorial (Continued)

Feedback from the Wing junior enlisted members suggested that upcoming leaders may be lacking in certain supervisory skills. To help fill that gap, the Chief's Group has revised and modified the NCO Enrichment Course that was originally taught to Master Sergeants from 2005 to 2007, to include Staff Sergeants and Technical Sergeants.



Col. Jeff Aebischer, Director of Staff, Air, echoing that point while talking about professional development, "We volunteer to wear the uniform and that's what makes us special. We need to remember that some days, especially when we are fighting some of the hard battles. Be proud of who you are, don't forget who you are and why you are out here."



CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICER OPENING

FOUR-YEAR DEGREE IN ANY ENGINEERING DISCIPLINE REQUIRED. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LT. COL. JAMES HEURING, 124TH CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON COMMANDER, 208-422-5500

Comptroller and FSS customer service areas merge

Beginning March 1, 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 ID card renewal, CAC pin reset, and DEERS/RAPIDS updates please make an appointment at

<https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/>

Hours of Operation: Tue - Fri: 0900 – 1530hrs

Call MSgt Michael Heninger, 124FM

(422-5895) or MSgt Marsha Abela 124FSS

(422-5372) if you have further questions or concerns.

KC-135s refuel Idaho's A-10s in mid-flight

Report and Photos by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur—124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

GOWEN FIELD, Idaho – Light rain trickled on March 9 as more than 120 airmen from Idaho paced one-by-one onto the Gowen Field flight line to board two eagerly-waiting KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft, and a C-17 Globemaster III bound for the Green Flag East combat air exercise.

Many of the Idaho Air National Guardsmen have not yet had the opportunity to fly in the Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker refueling and transport aircraft.

They were able to watch nine of Idaho's A-10 Thunderbolt II Warthogs refuel in the air, flying over several states toward Barksdale AFB, their temporary home for more than two weeks.

Other airmen had the same opportunity on the return flight, March 26, after the successful finish to the Green Flag exercise when the same KC-135s escorted the A-10s home.

A cargo deck above the refueling system holds a mixed load of passengers and cargo. Depending on fuel storage configuration, the KC-135 can carry up to 83,000 pounds of cargo and 12,000 pounds of fuel per each A-10 it refuels, allowing for a total weight capability of 322,500 pounds. The primary fuel transfer method is through a pump, known as the "flying boom," at the lower-rear end of the KC-135 fuselage. The nozzle, attached to the flying boom, connects to an air-refueling receptacle above the nose of the A-10.

Tech. Sgt. Santiago Avila, the boom operator from the Utah 191st Airlift Squadron Air Guard, is stationed in the rear of the plane and controls the boom during in-flight air refueling.

"We move people, cargo and refuel the A-10s moving a detachment of a fighter squadron across country in only a few hours. Having a guard on guard fighter-tanker relationship is unique and rewarding. Without in-flight refueling the fighter would have to land and refuel, extending the duration of the

move to multiple hours, if not an entire day," Avila said.

CONTINUED ON
NEXT PAGE



'Warthawks' refuel enroute to Green Flag (continued)

First Lt. Bud Munns, a new "Warthog" pilot to the 190th Fighter Squadron, experienced his first aerial refueling from the KC-135 to the A-10 aircraft he was flying.



"This was my first non-training refueling experience with the 190th. It was a bit different knowing that we have to maintain and complete the refuel mission in air," he said.

"In training if I didn't complete my (aerial) refuel, I could land, refuel and continue on with training. With this refueling, we have to get the equipment and people to where they need to be (Barksdale AFB) to support the mission, so it is more important to do the in-air refueling. We don't have the option of landing to refuel," he said.

More photos on Flickr at:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsjUAhcWB>

The KC-135 aircraft has been refueling for the Air Force for more than 50 years, helping to succeed in its primary mission of global reach, with the capability to aerial refuel multiple types of aircraft flown by the U.S. military and its allies. The nozzle at the end of the fuel boom fits into most Air Force aircraft like the A-10s and a variety of other aircraft such as the F-16 Fighting Falcon, the F-22 Raptor, the B-2 Spirit Bomber, the C-17 Globemaster III and the F-15E Strike Eagle.

"Refueling missions in the combat zone involve pre-strike and post-strike air refueling. We refuel fighters and bombers. We refuel Navy, Marines, Air Force, NATO and allied aircraft," Avila said.

Military aircraft use the KC-135 refueling aircraft for combat missions as well as for logistical support. Refueling in the air in a war

zone situation is critical for mission success. It saves valuable time, financial and manpower resources by allowing continuous air support for the protection of the troops fighting below.



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

Revised Process for Reporting Lost or Stolen CACs

by Master Sgt. Marsha Abela
124th Force Support Squadron

In an effort to validate missing Common Access Cards (CACs) and deter customers from requesting a new CAC for convenience purposes, the upcoming DEERS/RAPIDS software release will implement a revised process for reporting lost/stolen CACs. Your Force Support Squadron CAC issuing facility will be required to scan a report or letter documenting the loss of a Sponsor's CAC if it is terminated for the reasons of *Lost*, *Stolen*, and *Confiscated for misuse*, or *Destroyed*.

According to the DoDM 1000.13, Volume 1, "DoD Identification (ID) Cards: ID Card Life-Cycle," documentation must be presented to confirm that a lost or stolen CAC was reported to the local security office or CAC-sponsoring agency. Therefore, prior to being issued a new CAC, the Sponsor will need to provide the FSS CAC issuing facility with the following documents (available at FSS Customer Service):

1. AF IMT 1168
2. ID Card Replacement Request

Thank you for your cooperation during the implementation of this revised process for reporting lost or stolen CACs. The Force Support Squadron ID Card Issuing Office is open for business Tuesday – Friday from 0900-1530.

Please make an appointment at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>. For additional information or questions please call 208-422-6719.

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

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:keith.g.millar.mil@mail.mil>>



124fighterwing Lt. Gen. Clarke speaks with the 212th Command and Control Squadron at 124FW #airnationalguard #boise #idaho #thisisbois #nationalguard

Papa John's Pizza is offering a 30% discount off all online orders. Offer good at any of 6 Treasure Valley locations. Go to web site <http://www.papajohns.com/index.html> and enter the online code GOWEN30.

Gowen Field Personnel 30% OFF

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2014 HIRING EVENTS

Thursday, April 24, 2014 * * 12 noon to 4:00 pm

American Legion Hall Post 143, 1138 E. Poleline Ave., Post Falls

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 * * 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Shoshone Bannock Hotel & Event Center, 7777 Bannock Trail, Fort Hall

Thursday, May 1, 2014 * * 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Elks Lodge, BPOE 2276, 325 S. 3rd West, Mountain Home

Tuesday, May 6, 2014 * * 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Idaho Army National Guard Armory, 1069 Frontier Road, Twin Falls

Thursday, May 22, 2014 * * 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Idaho Army National Guard Armory, 2707 16th Ave., Lewiston

For more information, call Teri Sackman: 208-272-4339





5K Fun Run/Walk!

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Live Our Values:
Step Up  to  Sexual Assault!

When: April 25, 2014 at 2:45 pm

Where: Starts at the Gowen Field Outdoor Pavilion. The course will take you through the lovely streets of Gowen Field.

Who: Idaho Military Division members and families!

**FREE T-Shirt
(adult sizes only)!**

NO CHARGE TO PARTICIPATE

For questions, please contact:

1LT Stoker: (208)-272-8400 / christopher.c.stoker.mil@mail.mil

CW2 Egbert: (208) -272-4306 / sean.t.egbert.mil@mail.mil

