

The Phoenix Guardian



May—June 2016

SECAF visits 252nd Group

By 1st Lt. Hans Zeiger

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD – Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James visited the Washington Air National Guard’s 252nd Cyber Operations Group here on April 26 during a tour of the joint base. Group personnel briefed James on their cyber operations work and took questions from the civilian leader of the Air Force.

James was particularly interested in the role of Air Guard cyber warriors, said Lt. Col. Robert Siau, commander of the 262nd Network Warfare Squadron, a unit of the 252nd.

“She asked lots of questions about how to get cyber professionals doing military missions,” he said.

“She was very knowledgeable about the cyber threat and some of our capabilities,” said Col. Jeremy Horn, commander of the 194th Wing. “The men and women of the 252nd Group really impressed her with their ability but also with the great interaction of the military and tech industry. She came away with a much greater appreciation of the unique Guard capability of merging military and civilian expertise in cyber,” said Horn.

While James’s visit to the 252nd

was part of a larger itinerary that included other Air Force units at the joint base, she was sure to include the cyber operations squadron on her agenda. “She asked to come and see us,” said Siau. “She wanted to see things she’d heard about from her boss.”

James’s visit to the 252nd followed a stop by Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter on March 4 during which he praised Airmen of the 252nd for their service, skills, and connections to the high-tech industry.

Other high-ranking visitors
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Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James (second from left) arrives at Joint Base Lewis-McChord on April 26. James visited JBLM to learn about the mission of units assigned to McChord Field, as well as learn about the Air Force’s relationship with their Army joint base partners. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Tim Chacon, released)

Commander's Corner

By Col. Jeremy Horn

Welcome to Drill, Team Phoenix!

It's an exciting time in the history of the wing—we have over 40 Airmen mobilized across the globe, with nearly 40 more preparing to answer the Nation's call. Our mobilizers include 20 Cyber Warriors conducting ground-breaking federal Cyber Protection Team missions. We had the opportunity to showcase our cyber capabilities to the Secretary of the Air Force last week, and she expressed her sincere appreciation and admiration of our Citizen-Airmen's contributions.

Next month will be another first—the wing's largest-ever participation in Domestic Operations during Exercise CASCADIA RISING. We'll kick the event off in style with our first-ever Combat Dining-In on 4 June, hosted by the Rising 6. It will be a more relaxed way to celebrate an Air Force tradition and bring the wing together. Wear your ABUs and bring your Nerf guns, unit spirit, and more cowbell! Tickets are limited, so check the flyer for registration information.

Thank you all for your sacrificial service to our State and Nation! I'm humbled each Drill to be a part of Team Phoenix and excited for the opportunity to show the world that the second-newest ANG wing is second to none!

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have traveled to see the 252nd. Top military leaders who have spent time at the 252nd include Air Force Space Command Commander Gen. John E. Hyten and 24th Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Burke E. Wilson. In May, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody will spend time at the Group.

“The word is getting out,” said Siau. “We’re not asking for these folks. It’s testament to our Airmen that they’re recognizing the work we’re doing.”



194th Wing Vice Commander Gent Welsh greets Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James as she arrives at the 262nd Network Warfare Squadron on Joint Base Lewis-McChord on March 26 (Washington National Guard Photo/Capt. Joseph Siemandel, Released)

Building Airmen

Building Units

Building Capability



116th leads multinational desert exercise

By Tech. Sgt. Paul Rider

YUMA, ARIZONA—The Washington Air National Guard's 116th Air Support Operations Squadron led a two week, multinational exercise called Husky Avalanche-Baltic Maple III at the 1,700 square mile Barry M. Goldwater Complex here between February 28 and March 11.

"This exercise is designed to push our joint, multinational Close Air Support team to share tactics, techniques, and procedures and cross-level lessons learned in the constantly evolving art and science of providing effective close air support to the ground commander," said Lt. Col. Raed Gyekis, commander of the 116th ASOS.

Fifty-three joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs) from Australia, Latvia, Belgium, New Zealand, the Netherlands, and Canada joined 61 of their American counterparts in honing their skills in the vast, remote reaches of the Sonoran desert between Yuma and Tucson.

"It [was] awesome," said Gyekis. "We had seven different nations worth of JTACs there, working together to improve the way we work together to deliver warheads on foreheads more effectively."

Among others participating with the JTACs in the exercise were members of the 194th Wing Security Force Combat Arms Training and Maintenance team, Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) personnel from Fairchild Air Force Base, the Army's 19th Special Forces Group, and the Marine Corps 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO). Two F-35 squadrons, two A-10 squadrons, four F-16 squadrons, the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment using an MV-22/Osprey, the Air Force 55th & 305th Rescue Squadrons, an MH-60 Seahawk, a C-130 transport plane, and a C-17 Globemaster transport plane provided fixed, rotary, and special operations aircraft for the close air support & tactical air control party training.

"It really took a huge amount of effort to plan and execute an exercise of this magnitude by a small squadron staff from the 116th ASOS," said Gyekis. Gyekis



Staff Sgt. Michael McCaffrey and Lt. Col. Raed Gyekis in the Arizona desert during Exercise Husky Avalanche-Baltic Maple III (Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Raed Gyekis, released)

gave "huge kudos" to Maj. Travis Hartzell and Master Sgt. Jason Roland for "tying together seven nations worth of admin and tactical operations planning to include close air support, firearms qualifications, and SERE instruction in the desert environment."

Gyekis also pointed out that Tech. Sgt. Matt Peterson "masterfully planned and adjusted a hugely complex military airlift operation to move all of the vehicles, equipment and people to and from the Arizona desert flawlessly." The Wing's CATM team, led by Tech. Sgt. Travis Justis, with support from Master Sgt. Ron Miller, was critical to the success of the exercise, said Gyekis.

During the extensive training, nearly 300 close air support controls were completed, 16 JTACs were made current in their training, two JTAC evaluations were completed, 37 members were SERE/desert survival trained, 41 CATM members received combat arms qualifications, 16 familiarization flights were completed in an F-16, five combat mission ready coins were issued, and 34 first-timers ruck marched into the Grand Canyon.

"It was a massive team effort," said Gyekis.

Horn discusses climate assessment at town halls

By 1st Lt. Hans Zeiger

CAMP MURRAY—Col. Jeremy Horn, commander of the 194th Wing, announced the results of a Wing-wide unit climate assessment during a series of town hall meetings here in March. Four hundred forty-four Airmen responded to the climate survey, resulting in a 212-page report with Group-level information. The feedback was “overwhelmingly positive,” said Horn, but there is room for improvement, he added.

Survey topics included discrimination, sexual harassment and assault, organizational climate, and a series of written response questions. More than 80 percent of survey respondents gave favorable ratings for trust in leadership, organizational performance, job satisfaction, and diversity management. Around 90 percent of respondents gave a favorable rating for organizational cohesion. When asked about career intentions, 54 percent said that they plan to “definitely stay,” and 22 percent said that they will “probably stay,” while 10 percent will “probably leave after current obligation” another 8 percent will “definitely leave.”

When open-ended questions were asked, a team of Wing leaders was able to identify certain themes among answers. “We brought a team together from across the wing to analyze the open-ended question comments,” said Horn. “They were able to highlight the trends and underlying themes and developed the areas for further study.”

Of 180 responses to a question about communication, 22 noted their desire for improved communication between full-time and Drill Status Guard members. Of 164 responses to a question about preparations for deployment, 43 Airmen noted concerns about their family and their civilian careers, while 20 were concerned about mission skills and proficiency and time available for training. When asked about the kind of feedback Airmen receive from their chain of command, 181 Airmen responded with mixed results—91 Airmen made positive comments, but 52 Airmen said that feedback is too infrequent or that they never receive feedback.

There are three areas for additional study, said Horn. First, new supervisors should be equipped “with the philosophy and tools necessary to have a positive impact on the careers and lives of their Airmen and culture of their units.” Second, the Wing should work to enhance communication with DSG members. Finally, the Wing should “improve and inform members of the pre-deployment process, increase pre-deployment training ability, and ensure family support” to promote readiness, said Horn.

In each town hall, Horn took questions and comments from the audience. Horn also identified other ways that Airmen can give input. They can work through their chain of command and participate in Lean training and events, he said. Soon, the Wing will institute a virtual suggestion box, he added. As a further protection for Airmen, the Inspector General office is available to take concerns and formal complaints.

Horn emphasized his commitment to openness and improvement. “Our entire culture is built on innovating,” said Horn. He said that he is attentive to ideas about improvements. “Feedback ought to be a constant process, both positive and negative,” he said.

“Our entire culture is built on innovating. Feedback ought to be a constant process, both positive and negative.”

— Col. Jeremy Horn, 194th Wing commander, March 5, 2016

Operation Deep Freeze: 262nd travels to Antarctica

By Maj. Chyteira Dues

CAMP MURRAY, Wash. – Four members of the 262nd Network Warfare Squadron traveled to Antarctica in support of Operation Deep Freeze during the first two weeks of January. The objective of the mission was to complete a cyber study for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in order to validate the security of the computer systems for NSF as well as to provide recommendations on how to increase the effectiveness of the security that NSF already has in place.

The four-person team in Antarctica consisted of 1 mission commander and 3 cyber operators. Maj. Scott Howard served as the mission



PHOTOS: Four members of the 262nd Network Warfare Squadron participated in Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica to complete a cyber study for the National Science Foundation (Photos courtesy of the 252nd Cyber Operations Squadron)



commander and Capt. Matthew Bearup, 1st Lt. Travis Lee and Technical Sgt. Kristopher Thomas all served as cyber operators. Two other members of the 262nd NWS, Captains Andrew Miller and Derek Knox, also served as cyber operators in support of the Operation Deep Freeze mission from a second location in Denver.

One of the reasons that the 262nd NWS was selected for this mission was due to the unit's specialized knowledge and training in industrial control systems. The 262nd NWS served as the pilot unit for the Air Force in developing cyber training for these industrial control systems which are essentially systems that manage key components of our critical infrastructure, to include power, water, fuel and communication systems.

According to Howard, the relationship building be-

tween National Guard Bureau and customers such as NSF is an important element in missions such as these where the 262 NWS was able to produce a product to NSF with a low risk and with very little threat to NSF and to their installation.

“One of the biggest values is the relationship we’re building with them [NSF],” stated Howard, “we’re already talking about a follow on for next year with them.”



Guard members will get some kinds of hunting licenses for free



Governor Jay Inslee signs Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1351, March 31, 2016. The new law, sponsored by Rep. Brian Blake of Aberdeen, gives several kinds of recreational hunting licenses free of charge to Washington National Guard members who are Washington residents. The bill follows legislative support in 2015 for a Guard scholarship program. (Legislative Support Services Photo, released)

By Capt. Joseph Siemandel

OLYMPIA—On March 31, Gov. Jay Inslee signed House Bill 1351, giving several types of recreational hunting licenses at no cost to members of the Washington National Guard, who are residents, as a benefit for being part of the Guard.

The legislation, introduced in January 2015 by the National Guard Association of Washington and spearheaded by Rep. Brian Blake of Aberdeen, grants the following: a small game hunting license, a supplemental migratory bird permit and a big game hunting license to local Guardsmen.

House Bill 1351 passed unanimously on March 8 after the House agreed to the amendments made in the Senate, “Upon written application and department verification, the recreational hunting licenses must be issued at no cost to a resident member of the State Guard or National Guard, as defined in RCW 38.04.010, as long as the State Guard or National Guard member is: An active full-time State Guard or National Guard em-

ployee; or a State Guard or National Guard member whose status requires the State Guard or National Guard member to participate in drill training on a part-time basis”

The new law gives nearly 8,200 soldiers and airmen, most of whom do the job part-time, an additional benefit to being a member of the Washington National Guard.

During the Legislative session last year, Col. Dan Dent and other Guard members testified to the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, stating that the passing of this legislation “would be a powerful statement” and “would offer a meaningful impact to recruiting and retention efforts” of the Washington National Guard.

Last year, the Guard instituted a scholarship program, thanks to financial assistance provided by the state Legislature.

Airman Spotlight: Tech. Sgt. Jermaine Lindsay

By Tech. Sgt. Paul Rider

CAMP MURRAY—Tech. Sgt. Jermaine Lindsay works as a Chaplain's Assistant in the 194th Wing Chapel office. Originally from Philadelphia, Lindsay has been with the Wing since 2014 after serving nine years on active duty in the Air Force.

Chaplain's Assistants do not preach sermons or serve as personal secretaries to the Chaplain. "I am here to provide spiritual care and to advise leadership," said Lindsay. "I go out and do unit engagement to the shops so that everyone knows that we are here for them." Chaplain's Assistants also provide crisis intervention counseling and are able to refer people to other agencies, if necessary, he said.

What Lindsay enjoys most about his position within the Wing is that it allows him to be himself. "At heart I genuinely care about people's well-being and just want to be as supportive as I can, in any way that I can." He believes that his role within the Chaplain's office allows his true personality to come out. "I love the fact that people can come to me and trust in the fact that whatever is shared remains 100% confidential. That's a unique capability and I am very passionate about maintaining that."

In the meantime, Lindsay says his military career is all about stretching himself. "With everything I am involved with I look for opportunities to grow in some capacity." But he didn't always feel that way, pointing out that his experiences in the military have helped him see things differently. "In all honesty, when I was younger I thought the military was dumb and didn't see the meaning in it, but ten years later, I have learned a lot about myself and how my abilities can impact others."

Outside of his role with the 194th Wing, Lindsay works full-time as a realtor and is also an aspir-

ing actor, model, and singer. He is currently scheduled to appear in a play later this year at Tacoma Little Theatre. He completed another play this past winter in Seattle, and he has been busy filming commercials. He is also flying down to Oklahoma in three weeks to record a Christian R&B album. "I don't do it for fame but I know my gifting will take me to places I can't imagine," he said.



ABOVE: Tech. Sgt. Jermaine Lindsay (ANG Photo/Tech. Sgt. Paul Rider, Released) **BELOW:** Lindsay talks with Staff Sgt. Taylor Dorn of the 242nd Combat Communications Squadron in Satsop, Wash. during Exercise Evergreen Tremor in June 2015. (ANG Photo/1st Lt. Hans Zeiger, Released)





194th Wing Combat Dining In

June 4th, Bldg 33, Camp Murray

Social hour begins at 1630

Wear your ABUs (including your unit T-shirts) and bring your noisemakers and Nerf guns! The wing's first-ever Combat Dining In will celebrate Team Phoenix and kick off Cascadia Rising in style! Seating is limited to the first 310 tickets purchased, so register early at <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=286216&k=0069440B7A51>

Please remember, this event is only open to 194 Wing Members!



* Bring your own Nerf gun!
Please DO NOT bring ammo.
3 rounds of standard ammo will be provided with your ticket purchase. Additional rounds will be available for a nominal fee.



Tickets include a delicious BBQ meal. Menu includes:

- Slow smoke pulled pork / chicken sandwiches
- Chips
- Country style potato salad
- Beans
- Water and soda
- Cash bar (beer and wine, STRICT 2 drink limit)

There will also be a grog bowl (with alcohol-free option) to punish infractions of mess etiquette.



Brought to you by the Wing Rising 6



LEFT: An MH-60 Seahawk hovers over the the Arizona desert during multinational Exercise Husky Avalanche-Baltic Maple III; RIGHT: Members of the 116th ASOS in the Arizona desert (Photos courtesy of Lt. Col. Raed Gyekis, released)