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OCTOBER 2018

FROM THE COMMANDER



WELCOME TO THE ONLINE ON FIVE

It is with great pleasure that I write this column in the first issue of the On Five in a long time. This publication is being resurrected as part of a focus on improved communication. In concert with other forms of communication, I am hopeful that this publication will play a role in keeping you informed of our Wing's happenings and in tune with its vector.

This past year has been one of the busiest I have experienced in my 26 years as a Bulldog! After a broad change in leadership in the MN ANG and the 148FW last winter, you have continued to demonstrate excellence through runway closures and sustained operations from other bases, countless DV visits, and deploying an unprecedented number to successfully accomplish AEF and RCP taskings. Through this very busy time, you have performed with impressive enthusiasm and a passion for excellence that was evident during the activities of September's RSD. The TAG and other leaders that were present for the September Deployer Parade complimented you, your achievements, and the exemplary reputation you have sustained for the Bulldogs. The Legacy of Excellence continues!

With these activities behind us, the wing will be looking forward and embracing the vector of DoD, USAF, and ANG leaders to focus on Full Spectrum Readiness (FSR). This focus is essential across the total force in order to ensure our nation's safety and continued security. As a low density high demand Wing uniquely equipped to execute the critical SEAD mission, the 148FW must improve our FSR capabilities. This focus will be evident in the coming year as elements of readiness training will be added to each drill. The exercise and inspections plan within the Commander's Inspection Program (CCIP) will seek to highlight areas in which we need resources, equipment, or further training to be fully ready. In addition to the Inspector General (IG) office and the Wing Inspection Team (WIT)

facilitating these assessments, commanders at all levels are charged with ensuring unit and flight readiness, highlighting and correcting deficiencies, while communicating needs up the chain of command.

Every Bulldog is essential to the FSR in our mission! I implore you to embrace your role as an essential member of the team, and instead of asking, "what do I have to do?" ask, "what CAN I do to make the team more effective?" We must be able to execute our complex mission as a wing at a potentially austere location, while potentially in a contested environment, using equipment that will likely be degraded in some way due to aging technology, parts availability, or other factors. To succeed in such a challenging scenario, it is essential that every Bulldog airman be engaged while laser focused on job proficiency. Always be aware of our need for innovative ideas to do things more effectively, efficiently, or in a way that allows us to overcome the impact of contested and degraded operations. Please be quick to advise your supervisor of your innovative ideas. Supervisors and commanders will carry those ideas forward and take action as able in our integrated operation.

It has been a great October drill. It was good to have the whole team back to work and engaged after deployments and the busiest year on record for the Bulldogs! Congratulations on your accomplishments and for carrying on the Bulldog Legacy of Excellence! I look forward to addressing the Wing during December drill, and recognizing airmen at the awards ceremony! Until then, innovate, communicate, and most of all, be ready! Thank you for all that you continue to do for our Great Nation!!

Colonel Christopher M. Blomquist
148th Fighter Wing
Commander

THE ONLINE ON FIVE

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WELCOME BACK!

PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. LYNETTE HOKE, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the 148th Fighter Wing reunite with their families after an AEF deployment on July 21, 2018. All of the approximately 500 Bulldogs who deployed to support AEF and RCP missions overseas earlier this year have now returned from Southwest Asia locations in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

"I would like to personally thank the community, families, friends and employers of our Airman for supporting them during this time. There were countless times that people volunteered to help families of a deployed 148th member in need," said Col. Christopher Blomquist, 148th Fighter Wing Commander.

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POTUS & VP VISIT

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JUNE 2018 // 148TH FIGHTER WING, DULUTH, MN

President Donald Trump made his landing aboard Air Force One at the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth on June 20, and Vice President Pence made a stop on August 8, 2018.



FAMILY DAY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 // A1C OLIVIA SALINAS, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 148th Fighter Wing held its annual Family Day celebration on Sept. 14, 2018. Family Day has been a long kept tradition for decades at the Wing. For some 148th Fighter Wing Airmen this event has even taken on a multi-generational meaning said Maj. Jodi Grayson, 148th Fighter Wing. "I remember coming out to this event since I was a little girl with my father and now I am bringing my own children. It has always been about family, sharing our lives with our loved ones and making connections within the 148th community."

This year's event activities included static aircraft displays, tours of maintenance and operations buildings, F-16 cockpit photos, opportunities to meet sports celebrities, food trucks, face painting and games for all to enjoy. This Family Day was unique from others as the festivities were kicked off with an inaugural Welcome Home Our Deployers Parade. "It was nice to experience the warm welcome for our deployers and being able to extend the same support and appreciation to our dedicated families," said Master Sgt. Nick Weiss, 148th Fighter Wing Security Forces.

Fiscal year 2018 was very busy for the Wing as nearly half of its' Airmen deployed during that time period. "Family Day is a great opportunity to show our families our mission and what we do when we are here," stated Airman 1st Class Darin Anderson, 148th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group. The day concluded with the 40th Annual Oktoberfest celebration.

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BULLDOG

DEPLOYS IN SUPPORT OF RCP MISSION

OCTOBER 11, 2018 // MASTER SGT. RALPH KAPUSTKA



In Jan. 2018, Capt. Brent Micken deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. His mission was to advise, assist, and help train the Iraqi Air Force along with overseeing Aerial Port Operations in five locations throughout Iraq. Micken primarily worked with Iraqi aerial porters to support their operations of downloading and uploading C-130's. His duties allowed him the opportunity to work with an Iraqi Air Force Colonel in charge of Material Management, assisting with supply functions such as in-transit visibility, customs, warehouse set-up, and supply inventory.

Working closely with multiple coalition partners provided Micken the opportunity to better understand his Iraqi counterpart's culture, helping to build trust in their relationships. When not advising, Micken worked as the Port Officer in Charge at Camp Taji, Iraq where he was responsible for all customs and immigrations for both incoming and outgoing cargo and personnel. His port was one of only two ports of entry for cargo and personnel in the country.

By working together daily with nine coalition partners his knowledge, willingness to ascertain the cultures of other countries, and professional demeanor fostered an environment of mutual respect and aided immeasurably in the learning process. Micken's efforts had a direct impact on the mission moving forward for all involved.

"Not only did Capt. Micken experience the unique opportunity to work closely with our coalition partners during his deployment, he also selflessly used his time in country to contribute to the overall well-being of the community in which he served," said Lt. Col. Connie Armstrong, 148th Fighter Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander. "He volunteered with the Baghdad Red Cross, taught logistics and English courses to Iraqis, and volunteered for morale events at Camp Taji. His outreach efforts significantly solidified and strengthened relationships within the 442nd Air Expeditionary Wing."

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FAMILY REUNION AT TARGET FIELD



Air Force Tech Sgt. Andrea Carrothers with the Minnesota Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing reunites with her son, William, on field during the 2018 Minnesota Twins Armed Forces Appreciation Day game. The Minnesota Twins recognized service members and veterans during their annual Armed Forces Appreciation Day game, July 8, 2018, at Target Field. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Blair Heusdens).

BOSS LIFT

SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 // TECH SGT. LYNETTE HOKE



On Thursday, September 13 the 148th Fighter Wing partnered with the 185th Air Refueling Wing and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to host a 2018 Boss Lift and Spouse Lift. The event provides traditional guard members in the unit an opportunity to invite their significant others and employers they feel have supported them through deployments for a chance to understand 'what they do.'

"We really appreciate all of the employers that support our guardsmen. Especially in a year where we have served our country with so many of our guardsmen being deployed and away from their work place," said Col. Troy Havener, 148th Fighter Wing Vice Commander. The day involved a base tour, informational briefs, and the highlight of the day was a flight on a KC-135R Stratotanker from the Iowa Air National Guard, 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City, Iowa.

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407TH AEG WELCOMES VIPERS

APRIL 21, 2018// STAFF SGT. DANA J. CABLE, 407TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 179th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron began arriving to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group April 13, 2018. The 179th EFS consists of hundreds of Air National Guard members whose primary mission is to fly F-16 Fighting Falcons in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. "The 179th EFS Bulldogs are excited to put all of our training to work and to meet the commander's objectives in our fight against ISIS," said Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Beatrez, 179th EFS operations NCO in charge.

The F-16, also known as a Viper, is a combat, multi-role fighter aircraft. It is highly maneuverable and has proven itself in air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attacks. Making it a perfect asset to assist in the 407th AEG's mission of generating, executing and sustaining combat airpower. "We train for a multitude of missions," said Lt. Col. Nathan Aysta, 179th EFS commander. "We can give options to our commander and leadership with whatever missions they task us to do."

While deployed the 179th EFS will deliver decisive air capabilities for United States Central Command, ally nations, and America. "This is what we train to do day-in and day-out, so when we are asked to come and support our nation in CENTCOM we are excited to accomplish the mission," Aysta said. Deploying together as a whole squadron has its benefits to the mission, Beatrez said. "We are a close knit family that look out for one another and operate as a well-oiled machine," Beatrez said. "Deploying with this group of folks makes it a little easier leaving home and our loved ones behind."

Just hours after arriving the 179th EFS was in place to support the 407th AEG and deliver full-spectrum air component capabilities such as close air support, suppression of enemy air defenses, and defensive counter air capabilities. The 179th EFS brings hundreds of years in experience to the fight with a team of well-trained Airmen, said Beatrez. "From the youngest to the oldest, our Airmen are some of the best trained and experienced in the Air Force with a strong can-do attitude and always ready to take on any challenge," Beatrez said. Their goal is to execute every mission efficiently and effectively and bring everyone home safe, he added.

"We are excited to be here and we've trained hard for it," Aysta said. "Our organization has a proud legacy and we hope to build on the Red Tails dynasty while we incorporate into this group."

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Johanson, 179th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron crew chief, inspects an F-16 Fighting Falcon after landing at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, April 13, 2018. The 179th EFS recently deployed to contribute to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group's mission of delivering airpower and defending the region. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff. Sgt. Dana J. Cable)



Tech. Sgt. Bradlee Flannigan, 179th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron crew chief, inspects the intake of an F-16 Fighting Falcon, and Tech. Sgt. Jacob Amborn, 179th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron crew chief, places a tire chalk behind an F-16 Fighting Falcon after landing at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, April 13, 2018. The 179th EFS recently deployed to contribute to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group's mission of delivering airpower and defending the region. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff. Sgt. Dana J. Cable)

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LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

JUNE 17, 2018// STAFF SGT. DANA J. CABLE, 407TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For most people, going on a deployment means leaving your family behind, however that is not the case for everyone.

Tech Sgt. Scott Kleive, 179th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron crew chief, and his daughter, Airman 1st Class Kalei Kleive, 179th EFS plans and scheduling manager, get the unique experience of sharing their first deployment together.

Kleive and his daughter are both deployed from the Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minnesota. Scott enlisted into the ANG in 1992 but left the service in 1998 when Kalei was born. In 2012, after a 14-year break in service, Scott decided to reenlist and rejoin the 148th FW. "I wanted to go back in and have the adventure I had in the 90's and to experience some new challenges," Scott said. "I also thought maybe if my kids saw dad join, they would explore the military as an option."

A little over two years ago, Kalei enlisted into the ANG and into the same squadron as her father. "I always thought it was cool that my dad did the whole military thing," Kalei said. "He's definitely a role model for me." Kalei said she took full advantage of being able to pick her father's brain and receive real insight about enlisting into the Air Force. "I gave her some open education and information on what it's like to be a part of the 148th FW and the military in general," Scott said.

Scott said he is proud of Kalei and it has been really special to watch her grow as an Airmen, especially in this deployed environment. Being deployed sometimes means missing holidays with family, but Kalei was able to do something special for her father's birthday while here. "His birthday was on June 2nd, so I got him a present and a card and I made sure everyone knew it was his birthday," said Kalei. "For Father's Day, I will come up with something and get him a present and tell him how much I love him and that it's good to be here with him."

Scott and Kalei both stated they are glad to have each other here while deployed. "If I wasn't able to be here with her I would be much more stressed than being here together," Scott said. "We get to share this experience together while also comforting family and friends at home that we are okay." According to Scott, sometimes deployments are more difficult for the loved one at home. "I don't think that there is any question that it is more stressful for family and friends back home, because we are here to accomplish a mission and take it day by day and work through the challenges that we have here together, whether its maintenance or the weather we can lean on each other," Scott said.

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Airman 1st Class Kalei Kleive (left), and her father, Tech. Sgt. Scott Kleive, pose for a photograph at an undisclosed location, June 9, 2018. Both are assigned to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group and deployed from the Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minnesota. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dana J. Cable)

Lt. Col. Nathan Aysta, 179th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander, waves goodbye prior to takeoff, July 19, 2018, at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. The 179th EFS is returning to the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minnesota after a nearly four-month deployment to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Since April, the 179th EFS F-16s flew more than 600 combat sorties and nearly 3,500 hours. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dana J. Cable)



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