

THE BEACON

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 124TH FIGHTER WING

September 2019



COMBAT EXCELLENCE-ALWAYS ON MISSION

From the WING COMMANDER

124th Fighter Wing Commander
Col. Shannon Smith



Chief of Staff of the Air Force General David L. Goldfein most recently directed our Air Force to take a Resiliency Tactical Pause. In framing this event, Gen. Goldfein, along with Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, posted a paper titled "Expectations of a Successful Command Team." It is the beginning of an effort on their part to publish a series of papers – Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs). I intend to see these republished in our monthly *Beacon* for your consumption.

Relevant to our Resiliency Tactical Pause, I want to share a few excerpts from their introductory paper.

"We have very few areas as your CSAF/CMSAF team where we have absolute clarity. This we can state with certainty: We have from the moment you read this until the next war begins to prepare ourselves and our organizations to fight and win. We should treat every week as a blessing and the last week of peace. Improving the lethality and readiness of our Airmen and families is command team business."

To Command Teams – "... you must fully understand the intricate details required to achieve operational success and how your unit fits into the broader organization (USAF) both up and down the chain."

To All – "... what does it mean to be a part of your squadron? ... do you connect with the mission? ... do Airmen and families feel

embraced and included? ... are we all, a part of something truly special?"

So why the Resiliency Tactical Pause? There were 78 suicides in our force at the time of the CSAF's directive. Between that time and our September UTA, mere months, we lost another Airman. It was a rightful pause to reflect on our team that is the 124th Fighter Wing – to address our culture.

Is our culture one of inclusion and transparency? Do our actions encourage connectedness? When an Airman demonstrates the courage to speak up, are we an organization who listens? In our day-to-day mission execution, in ordinary matters, do we demonstrate behaviors that model mutual respect and professionalism, behaviors that value candor? Do we, through our actions as leaders, and as brothers and sisters in this profession of arms, create an environment where help-seeking behavior is not only encouraged but seen as a strength?

There are so many questions we should desperately want to know the answers to. So how do we get there?

September UTA is a beginning of sorts when we demonstrate that we truly care about each other and are willing to commit to knowing each other better... we of the "less than 1%" who serve.

I believe in the integrity and goodness of the 124th Fighter Wing more than words can express. I also believe with

absolute certainty in the positive impact our Airmen

have on this nation and this state, in the noble effort to "support and defend" the constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic.

There is no more noble mission than this. Every Airman who is drawn to this mission, who joins our organization, who takes the oath of service, deserves every ounce of our attention. We must do everything we can to preserve this most rare and precious resource – our Airmen.

There are so many questions. If the answers are "yes," from every Airman, then we must be vigilant that the answers continue to be "yes." If the answers are less than "yes," then we must endeavor to achieve better.

Join me in this endeavor, striving to take TEAM 124 to greater heights. We can't afford the loss of a single Airman.

Enjoy this edition of the *Beacon*. You'll find AMAZING in this edition, as with every edition of the *Beacon*, because you all do AMAZING every day.

I ask that you always remember our Airmen currently deployed. Thank you for your service!

Attack!
Col. Smith

CONTENTS



124TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

WING COMMANDER

Col. Shannon Smith

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Capt. Rebecca Solosabal

PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC

Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

Senior Airman Joseph Morgan

Senior Airman Mercedee Wilds

Airman 1st Class Taylor Walker

Mr. Ryan White* *September Beacon editor

ON THE COVER



Airman 1st Class Armin Hinderlider, a structural technician with the 124th Civil Engineer Squadron, stages an ambush for a traveling convoy as a part of pre-deployment training, Aug. 2, 2019, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. This training prepares the CE Airmen to deploy behind enemy lines and establish forward operating bases. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Joseph

6 **Hawks in the OCTC**

Idaho National Guard demonstrates joint capabilities to governor

10 **Educators' Day**

Educators learn about the unique career and training opportunities IDNG offers

14 **Building Roads**

124th CES completes IRT project for Shoshone-Paiute Tribe

17 **Global Dragon 2019**

Emergency management Airmen participate in joint training exercise

18 **Global Peace Operations**

124th MDG trains international soldiers who are deploying for UN Global Peace Operations

20 **Survived**

Children of National Guardsmen "survived" summer camp


WHERE TO FIND US

 usaf.id.124-fw.mbx.pa-public-affairs@mail.mil

 124thFighterWing.ang.af.mil

 facebook.com/124FW

 flickr.com/124FW

 twitter.com/124FighterWing

 instagram.com/124FighterWing

THE BEACON is the official magazine 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.

**GOWEN FIELD IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AS AN
ALTERNATIVE SITE TO RECEIVE THE F-35A LIGHTNING II**



**Your input matters and
there is still time to submit
written comments**

Visit <http://www.angf35eis.com/Comments.aspx>

**PLEASE SUBMIT COMMENTS BY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2019**

Congratulations Lt. Col. McGarry

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Matthew McGarry on his new role as the commander of the 124th Operations Group. During a change of command ceremony Col. Shannon Smith, commander of the 124th Fighter Wing, passed the guidon to McGarry.



Photos by Senior Airman Mercedes Wilds



Hawgs in the OCTC

**Idaho National Guard demonstrates
joint capabilities to governor**

Story by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

Photos by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur, Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras,
Senior Airman Mercedee Wilds and Mr. Ryan White

Idaho Gov. Brad Little met with several key military leaders, Aug. 19, at the Orchard Combat Training Center to receive an update on current Idaho National Guard programs and major upcoming events and exercises.

"It is critical that the governor, in

his role as the commander in chief of the Idaho National Guard, takes the time to see the capabilities of our Soldiers and Airmen," said Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho. "It allows him to fully understand, firsthand, the issues that are relevant to our readiness."

Senior leaders briefed the governor on unit training missions and deployment rotations, the F-35A Lighting II Environmental Impact Statement, Idaho's State Partnership Program with Cambodia, the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy dormitory project, A-10 Thunderbolt II modernization efforts and current and future issues facing the Orchard Combat Training Center.

The OCTC plays a large role in the readiness and training of Idaho Army National Guard Soldiers and Idaho Air National Guard Airmen. During the governor's visit, the Idaho National Guard highlighted the ways it ensures good environmental stewardship to protect and preserve the National Conservation Area of the OCTC, which includes the OCTC Fire Department's quick response times.

"Our fire department has an extremely quick response time - less than two minutes," said Lt.



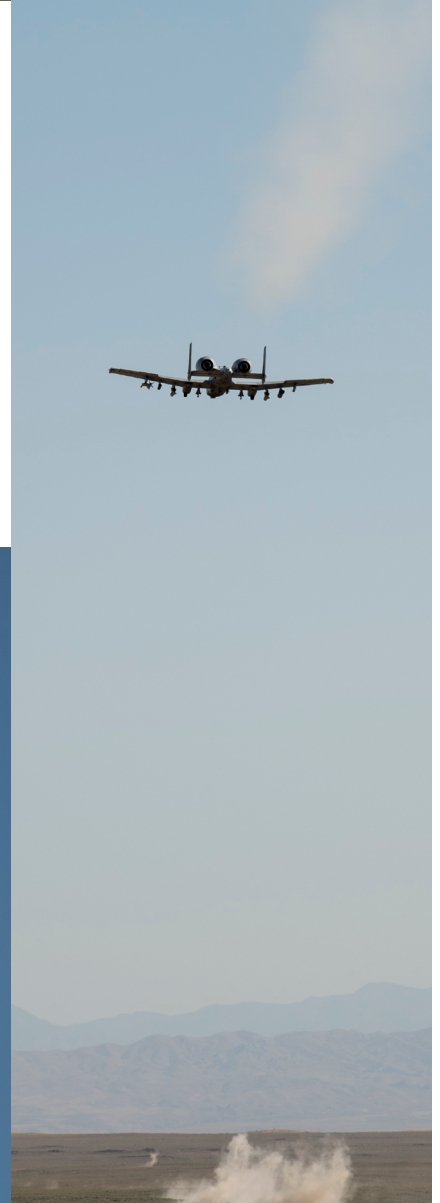


Col. Chris Borders, Idaho National Guard public affairs officer. "In return, we also have the smallest average number of acres burned in the NCA and a high concentrated area of native vegetation and monitored wildlife, due to our fire department and the Idaho National Guard biologists working to preserve this area."

During a tour of the OCTC, Tactical Air Control Party Master Sgt. Douglas Brock from the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron called in air strike locations to A-10

Thunderbolt II pilots above to emphasize the capabilities of close air support with ground forces, similar to a deployed environment. This also highlighted to key leaders the joint relationship between the Army and the Air National Guard working together in a combat situation.

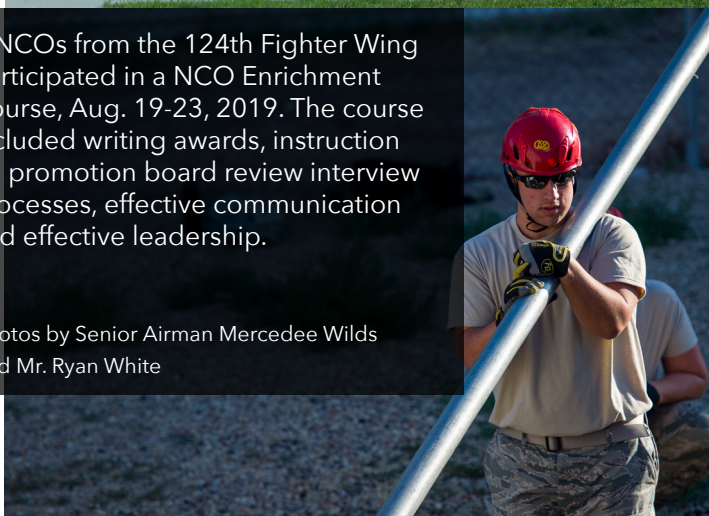
"We are extremely fortunate here in Idaho to have Gov. Little embrace his duties as commander in chief and fully support the men and women of the Idaho National Guard," said Garshak.





NCOs from the 124th Fighter Wing participated in a NCO Enrichment Course, Aug. 19-23, 2019. The course included writing awards, instruction on promotion board review interview processes, effective communication and effective leadership.

Photos by Senior Airman Mercedee Wilds and Mr. Ryan White





(Current as of: April 18, 2019)

TIMELINE

2019

1 APR

Expansion of in-store AAFES sales locations continues

2020

1 JUN

Coyote brown boots mandatory

Coyote brown T-Shirt mandatory

U.S. Flag spice brown color criteria mandatory

Spice brown officer rank mandatory

DLA green socks/coyote brown socks mandatory

2021

1 APR

OCP Utility Uniform mandatory

All AF patches must be converted to the spice brown color criteria

BENEFITS

- The OCP works in all climates and across the spectrum of missions we perform
- Over 100,000 Airmen have been issued and/or are already wearing OCPs. This includes AFCENT, AFSOC and our AFGSC Defenders
- The OCP will bring back Air Force heraldry with unit patches
- The OCP celebrates our joint warfighting excellence and close ties with the Army

AIR FORCE OCP UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Further official wear guidance will be available soon in AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance

Idaho Military Division hosts Educator Day

Story by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur
Photos by Senior Airman Mercedes Wilds

The Idaho Military Division collaborated with the Idaho State Department of Education to host Educator Day at Gowen Field, Aug. 9.

Idaho educators spent the day learning how several Idaho Military Division programs help prepare students to achieve and shape their futures.

The one-day event gave more than 30 Idaho teachers and

administrators the chance to learn about the unique career and training opportunities, benefits, incentives, family support programs and intangible skills the Idaho National Guard offers.

"I was interested in this program because I see the potential in many of my students," said Wendy Venable, an eighth grade language arts teacher at Kuna Middle School. "Some students need to see all career options

that may be more feasible than college, while others can take advantage of the tremendous benefits the guard has to offer for college-bound students. Some of my students come from non-educated, low-income households that do not see college as a realistic possibility. What I have learned today is that the Idaho National Guard has something for all types of students."

Sherri Ybarra, superintendent of public instruction, joined Maj. Gen. Michael J. Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho, for the program's opening ceremony.

"I have tremendous respect for teachers and educators," Garshak said. "I hope that they gained an increased awareness today for the opportunities the Idaho National Guard provides young men and women beyond high school."

Throughout the day, educators toured Idaho Army National Guard and Idaho Air National





located in Pierce, Idaho, provides 16-18-year-old students, who have dropped out or are at risk of doing so, with a second chance to complete high school with their peers or earn a GED. More than 1,300 students have participated in the program over the past five years.

"A great teacher can change a student's life," said Senior Master Sgt. Milo Davis, Idaho Air National Guard recruiting and retention superintendent. "An informed teacher can affect virtually every aspect of their students' lives by teaching them the important life lessons that will help them succeed beyond term papers and standardized tests."

The event was the first time the Idaho Military Division invited educators to spend the day on Gowen Field.

"I am always looking for opportunities to build partnerships," Garshak said. "The Idaho Military Division supports Gov. Brad Little's priority of providing great education for our youth so that they can live, work and raise families here in Idaho."

Guard training simulators, facilities, vehicles, aircraft and other military equipment, including the A-10 Thunderbolt II, the UH-60 Black Hawk and the M1 Abrams Tank.

In addition, educators received short briefs covering the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and Family Programs, which support members of the military, veterans and their families. Participants also learned about scholarships and education benefits the Idaho National Guard offers Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen.

"The Guard and some of these programs are a great opportunity for these kids," said 1st Lt. Warren Hull, 124th aircraft maintenance officer and a pre-engineer, computer science teacher at East Junior High in Boise. "Often times the really, really book-smart kids will struggle a little bit in a nontraditional classroom and the kids that don't fit the academic mold, do really well in my

hands-on classroom setting."

This seminar highlighted the Idaho Military Division's educational programs. During the school year, hundreds of fifth-grade students from Treasure Valley Title I schools participate in the division's STARBASE program, which provides students with hands-on STEM training. The Idaho Youth Challenge Academy,



CE Prime BEEF

Airmen from the 124th Civil Engineer Squadron participated in Prime Base Engineer Emergency Forces home station training, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, Aug. 2, 2019. Home station training provides civil engineers the opportunity to practice defensive fighting positions, navigation, tool use and convoy operations paramount to their safety during deployments.

Photos by Senior Airman Joseph Morgan and Airman 1st Class Taylor Walker



CE Prime BEEF

Airmen from the 124th Civil Engineer Squadron qualified on the M4 rifle, Gowen Field Range, Boise, Idaho, Aug. 3, 2019. The training was provided as pre-deployment training.

Photos by Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras



Building Roads

**124th CES completes
IRT project for
Shoshone-Paiute Tribe**



Story by Mr. Ryan White

Photos by Senior Airman Mercedes Wilds and Mr. Ryan White

The Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Civil Engineer Squadron and the Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team and Installation Support Unit completed construction of BIA-211 Damon Trail during an Innovative Readiness Training project, Aug. 19-26, 2019, Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Idaho.

"We faced similar tasks out here that we'd face in the field, so it was good training for us," said 1st Lt. Matthew Mills, deputy base civil engineer, 124th CES. "I am very impressed with everyone who worked on the project. We had fairly seasoned heavy equipment operators teaching beginning operators. That's what this was all about—getting our training

up and getting our readiness up, so when these Airmen and Soldiers go overseas they know what to do."

The team of 18 Airmen and Soldiers from the IDANG and IDARNG completed a new road to replace the existing Damon Trail, an eight-mile fire-access trail, providing access to grazing grounds on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation northeast of the town of Owyhee, Nevada. The trail had badly eroded and was inaccessible when there was a forest fire in 2014. Since then, improving the access road has been a high priority for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe. The Idaho National Guard began work on improving the access trail for the tribe three years ago for readiness training and to give back to the tribe.



"We serve the citizens of Idaho while building our combat readiness. It is especially rewarding having our Soldiers and Airmen work together in support of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe," said Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho. "This IRT project is a tremendous opportunity to highlight what makes being a guardsman special."

According to ISU Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Dennis Stitt, The first year of the project was a stock trail improvement of Damon Trail. Erosion had made a steep incline of the trail in-traversable, so no wheeled vehicles could get to the eroded area to be repaired. Instead, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 1-183rd Assault Helicopter Battalion hoisted

gravel up to the top of the mountain to fill in the erosion.

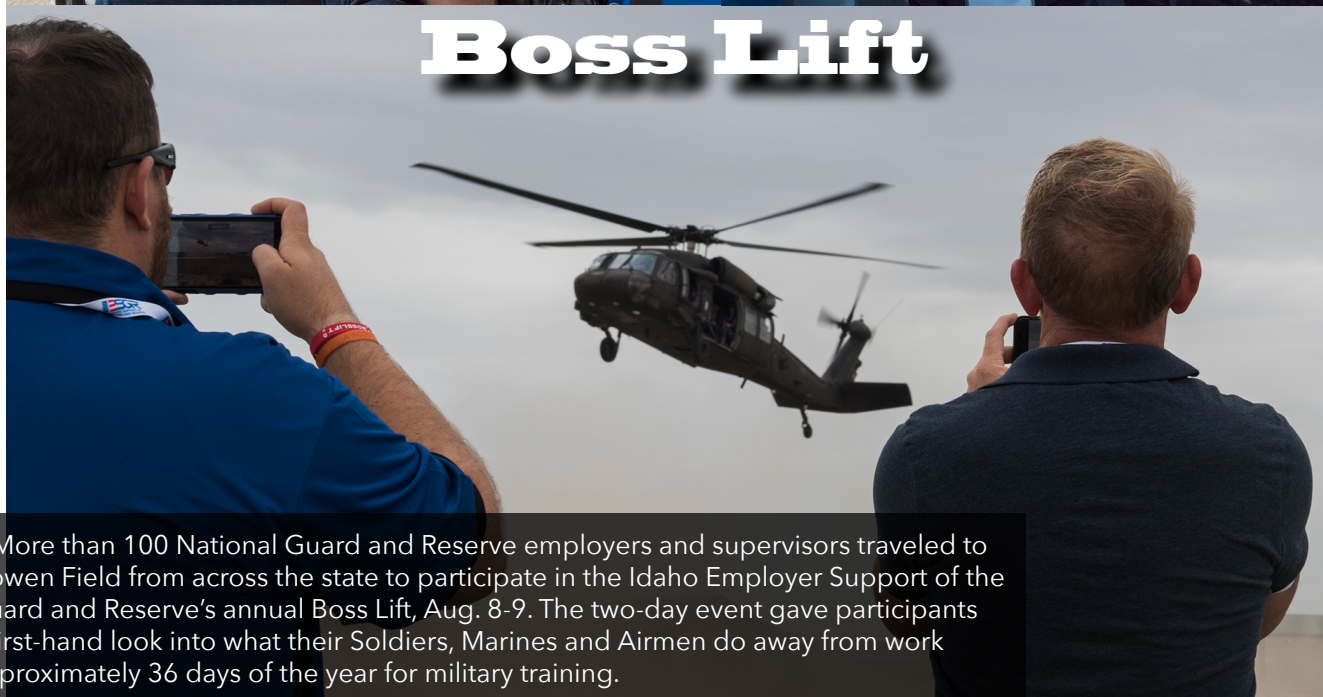
The original plan for this year's portion of the project was to rebuild another part of the existing road. However, after surveying the area, engineers decided it would be better to build a new road to replace the existing road. The team of Airmen and Soldier heavy equipment operators used IDARNG equipment to excavate the new road, remove large rocks and truck-in material from a quarry six miles away to put on top of the road. This year's work completed the three-year project.

"We added in a little over a mile of new road," said Mills. "We cut out the part of the road that was non-accessible. It was unrepairable and for most of the year it had snow drifts that made it inaccessible. The new road won't have that issue."





Boss Lift



More than 100 National Guard and Reserve employers and supervisors traveled to Gowen Field from across the state to participate in the Idaho Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's annual Boss Lift, Aug. 8-9. The two-day event gave participants a first-hand look into what their Soldiers, Marines and Airmen do away from work approximately 36 days of the year for military training.

Photos by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur and Mr. Ryan White





GLOBAL DRAGON 2019

Story by Staff Sgt. Jacob Davis
Photos by Staff Sgt. Matthew Matlock

Emergency management Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing traveled to Perry, Georgia, in early June to participate in Global Dragon 2019. The event is a biannual joint training exercise led by the Air National Guard which focuses on career fields across the Mission Support enterprise.

Emergency managers from the 124th FW were able to test their response and detection equipment for both wartime and peacetime responses in a myriad of training environments, including hazardous atmosphere chambers, realistic weapons of mass destruction scenarios, clandestine labs and underground confined space environments (such as a subway tunnel). The fast-paced and intensive level of training allowed them to gain valuable experience in the execution of the incident command system and all phases of response and radiological and chemical weapon response tactics.

Global Dragon was held at the Guardian Centers campus, which sits

on an 830-acre training complex comprised of cityscape, metro and highway tunnels, weapons ranges, high-rise and confined space structures. The campus is capable of providing emergency managers an unparalleled level of ultra-realistic chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense training. The training center uses live or simulant chemicals, biological toxins, radiological sources and other destructive devices, in order to create real world or near-real world threats.





GLOBAL PEACE OPERATIONS

Story and Photos courtesy of 124th MDG

The 124th Fighter Wing and the Idaho Army National Guard recently sent 16 personnel to provide medical training to approximately 150 soldiers of Bangladesh, Malaysia, Nepal and the Philippines who will be deploying to United Nations Global Peace Operations around the world.

They taught a medical first responders course consisting of basic life support skills, bandaging, splinting and proper patient movement. The class was specially geared towards non-medical personnel so they would be able to save lives when confronted in the field during UN peace keeping missions across the globe, in places such as Congo, Central African Republic, Syria, South Sudan and Mali.

While speaking through interpreters and motivating students was a challenge during the lessons, guardsmen found hands-on training with the international soldiers was very effective for teaching the material. The international soldiers were very welcoming and went out of their way to share their cultural pride and heritage.



Idaho state representatives tour Idaho Military Division

Idaho state representatives from the Idaho Transportation and Defense Committee toured Gowen Field, the Orchard Combat Training Center and Mountain Home Air Force Base, Aug. 1, for a brief on proposed state legislation, economic impact, pending deployments and military construction projects.

Photos by Mr. Ryan White



Children of National Guardsmen “survived” summer camp



Story and photos by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

After a week away from their parents, 115 children of Idaho Army and Air National Guardsmen not only survived the “Survivor”-themed summer camp, they thrived. The event-filled camp was held Aug 12-16 and was designed to build resiliency and strength in youth of military families.

“This camp is a small token of our appreciation for these children,” said Brig. Gen. Farin Schwartz, assistant adjutant general-Army, Idaho Army National Guard. “We realize that we impact the lives of the youth and appreciate the sacrifice of each and every one of these children and what they do to support their mom or dad when they are away.”

Idaho National Guard Child

and Youth Programs invite children from families in the Idaho National Guard to a winter camp and a summer camp each year. This year’s summer camp theme was “Survivor - Camp vs. The Camper,” held at Quaker Hill Camp in McCall, Idaho.

Activities included archery games, art classes, creative STEM challenges, inner reflection classes, lakeside water activities, a peer pressure and stress management class, a ropes team-building course, team-building races and a zip line confidence-building course.

“All activities here are fun, but they are based on strength and resiliency training,” said Lt. Col. Douglas Uphoff, IDNG family program director. “The parents of these children could be at risk for a deployment at any time. We are enabling the children to hopefully



cope with the stress of their loved ones leaving."

Older children had the opportunity to volunteer as teen leaders. The child and youth programs are designed with opportunities for youth to gain leadership skills, feel valued and interact with their peers.

"I love this camp, I have made a lot of friends," said Gabbie Barton, a participating child at the camp. "I have learned that I am strong."

Many of these military children shared common experiences with each other during the activities and know each other from past events.

"This camp has been so fun and I learned a lot," said Lillyan Lowery, whose mother serves in the Idaho Army National Guard. "I have made all of these new friends that I can hang out with after, like her, both of our moms are in the Army together."

It doesn't matter how long the deployment is, the goal is

for campers to build networks including other children with a similar background. Children at the camp know that their newly bonded friends are also going through the same situation and might have similar issues.

"It's not easy for children and spouses to have us be in the military," said Schwartz. "But it is very necessary for us to go out and do what is needed in the defense of our nation."



Back to School

Idaho National Guard family programs hosted military families, Aug. 3, to help sort an estimated 10,000 school supplies donated through Operation Homefront.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Taylor Walker



Heroes Vs Heroes Softball Game



Gowen Field hosted Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, Aug. 23, to play in the Heroes Vs. Heroes softball game against the Idaho State Police Association.

Photos by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur



Congratulations to Chief Master Sgt. Michael Deasy on his retirement from the Idaho Air National Guard after 25 years of service!

Photos by Senior Airman Mercedee Wilds
and Airman 1st Class Taylor Walker

Chief Master Sgt. Deasy Retires



SEPTEMBER

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



BOISE, IDAHO, UNITED STATES 08.19.2019

Photo by Mr. Ryan White 124th Fighter Wing

An A-10 Thunderbolt II from the 190th Fighter Squadron trains with targets, Orchard Combat Training Center, Boise, Idaho, Aug. 19, 2019. Idaho Gov. Brad Little and other distinguished visitors came to the training center to watch A-10 Thunderbolt IIs target practice. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Ryan White)