



THE BEACON

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 124TH FIGHTER WING

February 2020

COMBAT EXCELLENCE-ALWAYS ON MISSION

From the WING COMMANDER

124th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Shannon Smith



Just Go!

Tick tock ... time is getting short if you are scheduled to deploy. How's it going? Let's rewind.

As a fighter wing, we stand ready to respond to our nation's call. As Citizen-Airmen we're tied to our state, ready to respond in time of need. As an operational reserve and state militia, we acknowledge that the time to respond may be very short. Naturally as Airmen, we tend to follow the course of world events especially crises and conflict with a different perspective. As Airmen, we acknowledge that the possibility of being called up to deploy is very real. Since Operation Desert Storm, and even more so since 9/11, we as Airmen have acknowledged our nation's commitment to the global war on terror. For many of us, the expeditionary nature of deploying is an accepted norm. For Citizen-Airmen, we deploy, we dwell and we deploy again. So here we are, ending dwell and beginning a planned deployment. For the vast majority of our deploying Airmen, this is a planned deployment whether it be with the aviation/maintenance package or within our assigned reserve component period. Because this is a planned event, it should be easier right? Easier to accept, easier to organize, equip and train because we know 'the what' and 'the when'... right? Well, it depends.

If we're talking about the professional side ... We're approaching the end of our dwell. We've received an alert order. Leadership announces that we're deploying, that it will be an involuntary mobilization, that there's a roster being built, that all will be notified of going,

that preparations to deploy are beginning. And so begins the professional pre-deployment phase. Maybe there's this internal monologue: "Am I going?" "Of course I'm going." "Okay, I'm going." "I want to go!" "Do I have to go?"

If we're talking about the personal side ... We're approaching the end of our dwell. To your loved ones you share that a deployment is coming. Maybe there's this dialogue: "We have a deployment scheduled." - "Are you going?" - "Yes" - "Do you want to go?" - "This is what I do." - "Did you volunteer?" - "Not really. It's not a voluntary deployment, we're being mobilized." - "But do you have to go?" - "Yes, but I want to go." ... or maybe you volunteered. You didn't have to go. This sparks a completely different dialogue.

On the professional side ... it's time to prepare. It's time to acknowledge the specific tasking and focus. It's a correlation of the time available and building a plan to organize, equip and train to be the most ready we can be. Often, it's a time of managing a good stress, mitigated by building a plan to get the team assembled and oriented. It's a time to assign roles and responsibilities. As the departure date approaches, the team gets closer, stronger. Acceptance transforms into anticipation.

On the personal side ... it's time to prepare. It's time to acknowledge the specific tasking and focus. It's a correlation of the time available and building a plan to manage the separation to be the most ready that we can be. Often, it's a time of managing a more difficult stress, made more difficult by acknowledging that the

team will be separated and disoriented. It's time to

assign new roles and responsibilities. As the departure date approaches, time becomes more precious. The expectation of making the best of the time remaining can become overwhelming and the team can get more distant. Acceptance can transform into apprehension.

I've been there. I've grown weary of the talk, the anxiety and the preparations. On the professional side, I'm as ready as I can be. On the personal side, it is what it is - something we've got to get through, the best that we can.

Just Go! I've said it. Laurie's said it. In a distant way it feels like all the hoopla leading up to the Super Bowl. Just get the game started.

As your deployment departure nears, acknowledge that you are part of a team. You are not alone in this endeavor. Give yourself permission to have the full spectrum of emotions that come with serving in a profession of arms. Give your loved ones the same permission. Communicate. Find solace in this family that is your faith, the guard, your loved ones, and your community.

When people thank you for your service, this pre-deployment phase is part of the sacrifice that they're thanking you for.

Our nation is blessed to have warriors and patriots of your caliber. There is no higher calling.

Just GO!
Col Smith

Letter from the Adjutant General

Idaho National Guard
Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak

Thank you, Col. Smith, for inviting me to share some thoughts with the warriors of the 124th Fighter Wing:

As I approach my 33rd year as an officer in the armed forces of the United States of America, and pause to reflect on these last three decades, the first thought that jumps out is "How the hell did I get here?!" How did 2nd Lt. Garshak become a general officer and have the honor of commanding the tremendous men and women of the Idaho National Guard?

Many answers come to mind; timing, opportunity, luck. All would be correct, but if I break it down, one of the most significant factors that influenced me as a leader was deploying to combat during my first duty assignment as a platoon leader during Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990.

That experience set the conditions, expectations and priorities for me and for my family. It provided focus and purpose to what we do. It answered the "why". Why we wake up while

others sleep. Why we train while others rest. Why we commemorate patriotic holidays while others might simply enjoy a day off.

The deployment experience made me a better Soldier, leader, husband, father, and citizen. It put all things in perspective and made clear that the freedom we enjoy as Americans is worth defending.

We are war fighters. Every drill weekend, every training event, every physical fitness test, every TDY – is aimed towards building and maintaining warfighting readiness.

Many of you will be deploying this year. Some for the first time. I encourage you to embrace this as an opportunity. An opportunity to do what you have trained and prepared to do. An opportunity to be better than you are today, growing and developing



intellectually, or artistically, physically, or spiritually. So many opportunities are available when unburdened from the distractions of everyday life here at home.

But always keep your focus on our purpose. To fight and win our nation's wars. Carry that purpose throughout your deployment and for the remainder of your military career.

I am beyond honored to serve with all of you and I sincerely thank each of you and your families for all you do for Idaho and the United States of America.

MG Garshak

Schedule

Saturday - Feb. 8, 2020

Sunday - Feb. 9, 2020

0730 - MXOF/CC Call

Base Theater

0745 - Enlisted Promotion Board

Bldg. 600

0900 - CCM E-1 through E-6 All Call

GFAC

0900-1500 - Medical Deployment Processing

Bldg. 1530, West Side

1245 - CDC Testing

1400 - Chief Kober Retirement

Base Theater

1400 - Article 137 Brief

Bldg. 400, Basement Classroom

1500 - Essential Six Council Meeting

Bldg. 400, Conference Room

1500 - R2WG 5 Minute Mentoring

DFAC

1530 - Promotion: SMSgt Pruitt to CMSgt

Base Theater

0700 - MXS/CC Call

Base Theater

0745 - PERSCO Training

Bldg. 400, Conference Room

0800 - TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care)

Bldg. 1530

0800 - SFS AoC

Base Theater

0815 - CDC Testing

0900-1400 - Medical Deployment Processing

Bldg. 1530, West Side

1000 - Officer Promotion Board

Bldg. 600

1230 - TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care)

Bldg. 1530

1200 - COS Award Ceremony

Bldg. 600, MG Brooks Auditorium

1330 - AEF Deployer-Only Briefing

Base Theater (No phones or smart watches!)

1430 - 3FOX1 In-House Training

Bldg. 400, Basement Classroom

1500 - CCM E-1 through E-6 All Call

GFAC

| Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|
| Main Line | Main Line |
| Shepard's Pie Baked Yogurt Chicken Rice Lyonnaise Au gratin Potatoes Brown Gravy Chuck wagon Blend Vegetables Capri Blend Vegetables Bean and Ham Soup Tomato Bisque Soup | Baked Ham Macaroni and Tomatoes Pork Chop W Mushroom Gravy Rice Pilaf Parsley Buttered Potatoes Chicken Gravy Key Largo Blend Vegetables Carrots Clam Chowder Soup Chicken Gumbo Soup |
| Short Order Line | Short Order Line |
| Grilled Ham and Cheese Chili Dog Burgers/Cheeseburgers French Fries | BBQ Pork Sandwich Corn Dog Burgers/Cheeseburgers Onion Rings |
| Desserts | Desserts |
| Yellow Cake White Frosting Brownies Sugar Cookies | Vanilla Cream Pie White Cake Chocolate Frosting Variety Cookies |

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WING COMMANDER

Col. Shannon Smith

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Capt. Rebecca Solosabal

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPERINTENDENT

Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Senior Airman Joseph Morgan

Senior Airman Mercedee Wilds

Airman 1st Class Taylor Walker

Mr. Ryan White* *February Beacon editor

ON THE COVER



Technical Sgt. Chad A. Brown, Master Sgt. Jacob A. Odom and Master Sgt. Charles H. Howard, aircraft armament systems specialists with the 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, reload a GBU-7 Avenger on an A-10 Thunderbolt II with a GBU-7 "dragon" ammunition loader, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, Feb. 3, 2020. Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing practiced an integrated combat turn at Gowen Field, February 3, 2020, something that hasn't been done in more than 20 years. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Ryan White)

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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.

Outstanding Airman of the Year



Chief Master Sgt. Steven A. Durrance, commandant of the Chief Master Sergeant Paul H. Lankford Enlisted Professional Military Education Center at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, spoke at the Outstanding Airman of the Year Banquet, Jan. 17, Nampa Civic Center, Nampa Idaho. Winners included: Company Grade Officer of the Year Capt. Cassidy E. Morlock, Joint Force Headquarters Idaho; First Sergeant of the Year Senior Master Sgt. Kristen K. Williams, 124th Mission Support Group; Senior Non Commissioned Officer of the Year Master Sgt. Douglas K. Brock, 124th Air Support Operations Squadron; Non Commissioned Officer of the Year Tech. Sgt. Alicia J. Inbody, 124th Logistics Readiness Squadron; and Airman of the Year Senior Airman Hannah P. Thornton, 124th Medical Group.

Photos by Senior Airman Joseph Morgan and Senior Airman Mercedee Wilds







Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Taylor Walker



The 124th Force Support Squadron hosted a simulated pre-deployment function line for 30 Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing, January 11.

The PDF line ensures personnel are properly equipped with government travel cards, valid identification, dog tags, records of emergency data and other necessary deployment documentation.

"There are things personnelists will require overseas to make sure our Airmen are qualified to enter the country," said Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Lasher, a member of the 124th FSS and the NCO in charge of the PDF line exercise. "To streamline the deployment process, we check those same things here before they leave

the country. It's the last check completed before the personnel get on the plane."

In the past, Airmen were required to visit multiple offices to complete extensive paperwork when outprocessing for a deployment. Today, the PDF line is mostly electronic.

"The electronic process reduces the need to go to all of those places because we can do much of the work via a computer," said Lasher. "Once they begin to rotate through the stations here, the process only takes about 10 minutes."

Since the electronic process is fairly new, the simulated PDF line gives force support personnel an opportunity to review the work completed by unit deployment



managers, become familiar with the new software flow and identify gaps. If individuals and UDMs have properly completed their work ahead of time, the exercise will be successful.

"Our main focus is ensuring our Airmen's records are correct and complete," said Senior Master Sgt. Bonnie Davis, a member of the 124th FSS and wing inspection team for the PDF line. "The better we can streamline and improve the process, the more time Airmen will have with their families before they head out the door."

Maintaining correct and complete records requires a proactive attitude, said Davis. Airmen are encouraged to monitor the AEF Online Portal for errors and make changes when needed, but in the end the 124th FSS is there to assist.

"We're here for our Airmen first and foremost," said Lasher. "We're here to make the process as pain-free and stress-free as possible and we believe this new system will help."



OCPs Arrive for the 124th Fighter Wing

Airman from the 124th Fighter Wing packed bags with new operational camouflage pattern uniforms at the 124th Logistics Readiness Squadron warehouse, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, Jan. 22. The 124th FW is transitioning from wearing the airman battle uniform to OCP over the next year.

Photos by Mr. Ryan White



The 124th Medical Group hosted a pre-deployment medical processing line



Story and photos by
Senior Airman Mercedee Wilds

The 124th Medical Group hosted a pre-deployment medical processing line, January 10-12, for Airmen of the 124th Fighter Wing who are scheduled to deploy in an upcoming rotation.

The 124th MDG expects to see over 400 Airmen through the course of the weekend. Each Airman will receive a cognitive brain function test, which helps to find the member's baseline for potential traumatic brain injuries, an HIV blood draw, and multiple immunizations including polio, typhoid and the MMR vaccine to

protect against measles, mumps and rubella.

"Members then go through a deployment health assessment for final screening to make sure they don't have anything that would prohibit them from deploying," said Tech. Sgt. Ashton Atkins of the 124th MDG, the public health NCO in charge.

The deploying Airmen will have a second screening while they are deployed and a third screening when they inprocess back into the 124th FW.

The medical processing line took over five months of planning and involves over half of the 124th MDG personnel to execute a deployment of this size, said Atkins.

"We are doing our best to take care of everyone," said Senior Airman Rebecca Bryant, a foreign medical technician with the 124th MDG. "The man-hours that go into sending members out shows we care about our people."

Tapping into the A-10 DNA

Story by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras
Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras and Mr. Ryan White

The 124th Fighter Wing is a combat-force provider, specifically tasked with supporting multiple U.S. and NATO operations in various regions around the world. Improving the wing's combat capability and flexibility is key to supporting these operations. Airmen from the 124th FW practiced an integrated combat turn at Gowen Field, February 3,

something that hasn't been done in more than 20 years.

"An ICT is a process by which an aircraft is recovered and relaunched in a minimum amount of time, by loading and refueling simultaneously," said Senior Master Sgt. Chad Lowe, a 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron element supervisor. "All of this

happens while the engines are still running and the pilot is in the seat."

The A-10 was built for this.

"An integrated combat turn lives in the DNA of an A-10," said Maj. Tom Silkowski, a pilot with the 190th Fighter Squadron. "You can land an A-10 out of fuel and in





20-30 minutes that jet can be fully rearmed and have a full tank of gas again, so it can take off and fly another mission."

It takes a team to make an ICT successful. According to Lowe, this ground team included the weapons shop, crew chiefs, fuel drivers and munitions.

This training is critical to supporting dynamic combat operations.

"Simply put, ICTs are a big multiplier of combat capability for our wing," said Lowe. "With this training our maintainers can potentially cut hours off of an aircraft turn, if needed, allowing our jets to get back in the air

"An integrated combat turn lives in the DNA of an A-10"





fully loaded, refueled, and ready for whatever mission they need to support.”

Not only does it support current combat operations, it’s built to support total force full-spectrum readiness operations, to include complex threats from potential adversaries.

“For me as a pilot there’s some continuity to an ICT,” said Silkowski. “Depending on the kind of war you’re in, I can leave a battlefield and in 45-60 minutes later I can be back on that battlefield again, in the same jet with a full load of weapons.”

Silkowski also said that because this capability is built into the DNA of the A-10 they can land anywhere, refuel and rearm to support full-spectrum operations against great power adversaries.

For not having any current standard practices and not having performed an ICT in more than 20 years, Lowe said that the training went well and the main objective was to get their load standardization crew certified so they can start training the rest of the load crews for an upcoming deployment.

“We’re really excited to be able to resurrect this program and add capability anywhere we can,” said Lowe. “It’s fun to see our younger Airmen getting so excited about being able to contribute more than they already have been. It’s also pretty cool to see the creative thinking that comes from standing up a capability like this.”

Silkowski was also impressed with the event, “This is a huge credit to maintenance, this is what the A-10 was built to do and we’re doing it again. We’ve come full circle.”



Leading The Dedicated

Story and photos by Mr. Ryan White

Chief Master Sgt. Steven A. Durrance, commandant of the Chief Master Sergeant Paul H. Lankford Enlisted Professional Military Education Center at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, was this year's Airman of the Year Banquet guest speaker. On the morning of Jan. 17, Durrance spoke to the enlisted members of the Idaho Air National Guard at an enlisted all-call at Gowen Field.

His speech focused on answering a question he often

hears the most: **What is the toughest thing about being in military leadership?**

"You're always going to have a challenge and that's people," said Durrance.

Throughout his career, Durrance has noticed four different types of Airmen. He bases these types off of ones identified by Robin Olds in the book "Fighter Pilot" and Durrance's own experiences. Durrance shared he has been in

trouble a few times as a young Airman but bounced back by being persistent and dedicated. He believes knowing the four types of Airmen will enable leaders to better help their people navigate a military career.

The Me Too-ers -

"These are the 'yes people' that never really challenge the status quo and don't add a value to the organization where they are innovative or agile," said Durrance. "They will always say yes and always agree with leadership."

The Me First-ers -

"These are the ones that have the information, know the AFI inside and out and are very informational power-driven," said Durrance. "They control the narrative because they know the data. As a leader, you want to identify these people because they bring a lot of value to the organization. Typically, they are



driven by the positional power of information, so they will only give you a little bit at a time to feed you and to keep you satisfied but will not give you all of the information because they feel threatened or insecure."

The Deadwoods -

"In the guard, these are the people who always want to stay in the same position forever," said Durrance. "They are typically a 15-year senior master sergeant and they were a master sergeant for 10 years. You have to question, as a leader, how many people have left the organization because that person has been in that position for so long. What kind of leader will you be if you aren't courageous enough to challenge those people? In AFI 36-2918, I'll take the paragraph about a senior master sergeant and read it to a senior master sergeant and explain to that person, 'I'm sorry but I don't see you in this paragraph.' And then I'll read them the master sergeant paragraph in the brown book and they aren't really in that paragraph either. Courageous leadership means you have to be willing to say 'thank you for your service and thank you for your time but it is time for you to move on.' I always had a saying that 'I could help you out or I could help you out.' You're either outstanding or you're out-processing."

The Dedicated -

"Everyone that raises their hand and puts their life in harm's way is dedicated to an extent, but sometimes in organizations there is nowhere for them to go and no one takes an interest in them," said Durrance. "Nobody helps guide them through this journey

called their military career for a myriad of excuses. If you are part of The Dedicated, you are always looking for ways to reinvent yourself and always looking for opportunities to grow yourself. It's about how you, as a leader, can identify those that are The Dedicated. For example, in my med group I had two A1Cs who had their MDs and were doctors downtown. I asked them, 'what is it about you that makes you want to just stay a medic?' For them, they were dedicated to being a medic because they got to work on patients without the responsibility of being a doctor. As a leader, I value their dedication to their craft of being a medic."

"Sometimes in your career, you'll dip in and out of all those traits," said Durrance. "There will

be times in your life when there is stuff going on in your family and you will feel like you are at a dead end with your military job. There will be times when you need the information and you will be an information hog to learn it so you can preserve yourself. And there will be times when you are a Me Too-er where you just say 'yea, I agree with what you're saying' because you don't have the ability to comprehend all the things that are going on from a strategic perspective or you just don't care. You may just have other things going on in your life. As you grow and evolve as a leader, you're going to eb and flow through all these traits, but your whole thrush should be how do you maintain being dedicated and that means being dedicated to your Airmen."





MXS

Change of Command

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Ryan Cooper on his new role as the commander of the 124th Maintenance Squadron. During the change of command ceremony on Gowen Field, Jan. 12, Col. Chad Kornberg, commander of the 124th Maintenance Group, passed the guidon to Cooper.

Photos by Senior Airman Mercedes Wilds





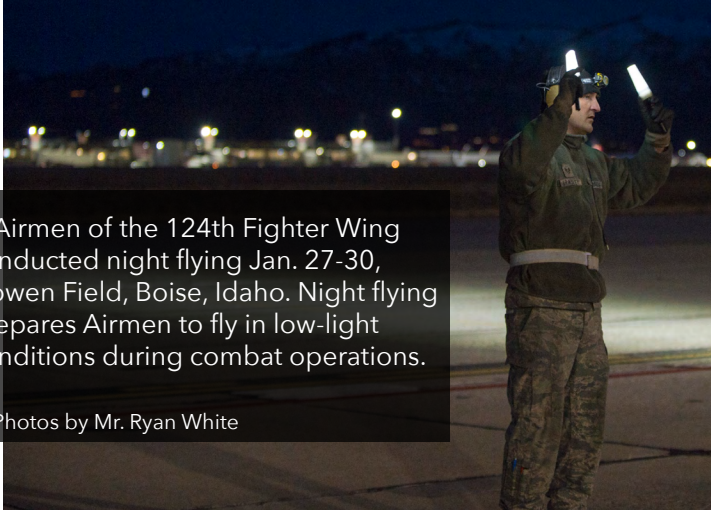


Night Flying



Airmen of the 124th Fighter Wing conducted night flying Jan. 27-30, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. Night flying prepares Airmen to fly in low-light conditions during combat operations.

Photos by Mr. Ryan White



FEB
24



GRAND OPENING MARKET CAFE

Sutler Market Building 309
11am-1pm

We are moving the Cafe from building 710 to Sutler Market building 309. Come check out our delicious Wraps, Sandwiches, Burgers, Finger steaks, Chicken Fingers, Fries and Tots.

WANTED

FIRST

SERGEANT

REQUIREMENTS

- MSGT OR ELIGIBLE TO PROMOTE TO MSGT WITHIN 6 MONTHS-
- THREE YEARS RETAINABILITY-
- PRIOR TO APPLICATION COMPLETED NCOA-
- ABILITY TO ATTEND 1ST SGT ACADEMY WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF ASSIGNMENT-
- MUST COMPLETE CCAF & SNCOA WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF FSA GRADUATION-
- POSSESS 7-SKILL LEVEL-
- MIN PULHES OF 333231-
- NOT ON A MEDICAL PROFILE-
- MEET MIN WEIGHT AND BODY-FAT STANDARDS-
- MOST RECENT FITNESS ASSESSMENT 90+ OR 80+ ON LAST TWO-
- EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP, WRITING, AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS-
- ABILITY TO SPEAK DISTINCTLY-
- ASVAB OF EITHER ADMIN 41 OR GENERAL 62-

SUBMIT A PACKAGE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- BIOGRAPHY (MILITARY)
- LETTER OF INTENT (ONE PAGE ONLY)
- RIP
- LAST FITNESS ASSESSMENT
- AF FORM 422

**SUBMIT PACKAGE TO
CMSGT KELLY BONGIOVI
NLT 1630 FEB 28, 2020**

FEBRUARY

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



BOISE, IDAHO, UNITED STATES 01.12.2020

Photo by Senior Airman Mercedee Wilds 124th Fighter Wing

Members of the 124th Fighter Wing work on an A-10 Thunderbolt II during a snowstorm Jan. 12, 2020, at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. The snowstorm gave the Airmen an opportunity to work in inclement weather during their January Unit Training Assembly. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Mercedee Wilds)