

THE BEACON

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 124TH FIGHTER WING

March 2020



COMBAT EXCELLENCE-ALWAYS ON MISSION

From the WING COMMANDER

124th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Shannon Smith

To my Skullbanger Brothers and Sister,

It is time for you to write the next chapter of Attack. These opportunities are precious because they serve as validation of every Airman's efforts to get you to this point. Of every Airman's efforts to make ready the mighty warthawg for battle. Of your efforts to always stand the watch and respond when called upon.

This is the next chapter in the book that is our living heritage and enduring legacy - Lethal Dominance in Combat. As such, how you accomplish this matters. We are part of the world's greatest military force. We are not mercenaries. It matters that we get this right. No other country holds its military forces to a higher standard of rules of engagement than ours.

Peace may breakout but whenever there are American boots on the ground, or we've committed to an ally, there will be the need for - or the promise of - close air support.

I've heard it said, that our tactical actions can have strategic implications ... that cuts both ways. For certain, our tactical actions can have heroic implications. You will make a difference.

Our comrades in arms, when they find out you're a Hawg-Driver, will thank you for what you do ... because many of them have experienced the reassurance of a warthawg overhead - they never forget that. Your presence

will make all the difference, independent of employing weapons - remember that. Be that calming voice on the radio.

Build partnerships in the AOR, lead the team that has been assembled in combat. The 190th is known for this.

Build contracts with each other. Commit to the highest level of mutual support. Be ever vigilant. Be patient and of high discretion. Inform the JTAC and ground force commander and trust in their call to positively identify the enemy. If the enemy should demonstrate hostile intent or commit a hostile act, keep calm, build the picture and attack when you are ready.

Respect the act but celebrate dominance. We do not train, nor is it our goal, to have a fair fight, otherwise deterrence is folly. Sound tactics are inherently safe and reliably fatal. Create the conditions for momentary dominance and execute with precise, measured and lethal violence.

Execute within your abilities, we are not asked to be, nor are we, super heroes.

The mountains and weather are worthy foes, do not dismiss their presence.

Debrief and learn - watch film. Never stop getting better. Hold yourselves to the highest standard - never give up.

Pause with the warfighters that made your mission possible, share your stories, show them film, include them in the



accomplishment of protecting Americans on the ground and making the mission happen. Consider writing in a journal; you're making history. Your future grandkids need to know.

Stay committed to your loved ones - communicate often. In all ways, be there for each other - your deployed brothers and sisters. The experiences you will share will be the stories that last a lifetime.

If you struggle with the bigger why, remember that the people in the country you're going to live with the hope of something better. Remember that we have committed American forces on the ground. Where they are is where we will always be - this is our calling ... providing the greatest close air support the world has ever witnessed.

Do your job, be a good wingman, return with honor!

ATTACK!
Col Smith

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ON THE COVER



A special warfare tactical air control party Airman from the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron participates in pack animal training, Feb. 9, 2020 in Emmett, Idaho. Pack animals, including horses, donkeys and mules, are utilized during missions where normal methods of transportation are restricted. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Taylor Walker)

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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.

Schedule

Friday - March 6, 2020

0730 - Maj Colleen Walker MSM Presentation

Bldg. 600, JOC Conference Room

0800 - MSgt Mikel Turner Promotion to SMSgt

Bldg. 145, Classroom

0800-1200 - TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care)

Bldg. 1530

0830 - Enlisted Pre-Promotion Board (deployers only)

Bldg. 600

1000 - TAP (180 day deployer) Briefing

Bldg. 400, Basement Classroom

1100 - Article 137 Briefing

Bldg. 400, Basement Classroom

1230-1630 - TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care)

Bldg. 1530

1300 - Casualty Officer Briefing

Bldg. 400, Conference Room

1500 - Essential Six Council Meeting

Bldg. 400, Conference Room

1500 - MSgt Becky Vanshur MSM Presentation

Bldg. 600, Brooks Auditorium

1600 - FW/CC Officer All Call

GFAC Ballroom

Saturday - March 7, 2020

0730 - MXOF/CC Call

Bldg. 148, AMXS/MXS Conference Room

0800-1200 - TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care)

Bldg. 1530

0830 - Enlisted Promotion Board

Bldg. 600

1000 - R2WG

Bldg. 503, LRS Breakroom

1230-1630 - TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care)

Bldg. 1530

1400 - MSgt Kyle Freutel Promotion to SMSgt

Base Theater

Sunday - March 8, 2020

0800-1200 - TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care)

Bldg. 1530

0900 - TAP (180 day deployer) Briefing

Bldg. 400, Basement Classroom

1230-1630 - TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care)

Bldg. 1530

1400 - Article 137 Briefing


Bldg. 400, Basement Classroom

1430 - Lt Col Ken Williams and MSgt Kyle Williams Retirement

Base Theater

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Box Lunch	Main Line	Main Line
Sandwich-Roast Beef, Turkey, Ham, cheese Cookies Assorted Chips Assorted Soda Assorted Pudding Assorted Bananas, Oranges, Apples Carrots and Celery	Spaghetti W Meat sauce Cajun Baked Fish Dirty Rice Chicken Gravy Squash Herbed Green Beans Garlic Bread Italian Wedding Soup Bean and Ham Soup	Corn Beef BBQ Pork Chops Stuffing Baked Potato W Fixings Brown Gravy Fried Cabbage Cauliflower Wisconsin Cheese Soup Chicken Poblano Soup
Short Order Line	Short Order Line	Short Order Line
None	Veal Cutlet Submarine Mozzarella Sticks Burgers/Cheeseburgers French Fries	Grilled Cheese Grilled Polish Sausage Burgers/Cheeseburgers Onion Rings
Desserts	Desserts	Desserts
None	Chocolate Cream Pie Lemon Cake Chocolate Chip Cookies	Devil's Food Cake White Frosting Apple Pie Cinnamon Rolls


Patriot Award



Senior Airman Brittany Grier nominated Sheriff Stephen Barlett from the Ada County Sheriff's Office for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award. The Idaho ESGR and the Idaho National Guard awarded him on Feb 19 for the excellent support he has given to his employees that serve in the National Guard.

Photo by 1st Lt. Ian Thorpe

Diversity Inclusion



Senior enlisted leaders of the Idaho National Guard met with junior enlisted Airmen and NCOs to discuss diversity and inclusion, Feb. 9. The all-call was used to address the concerns of the junior enlisted force in an effort to promote professional development and diversity throughout the wing.

Photo by Senior Airman Joseph Morgan

Horsing around

TACP Airmen train with pack animals in rural Idaho

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Taylor Walker

Special warfare tactical air control party Airmen from the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron in the 124th Fighter Wing participated in pack animal training, Feb. 9, in Emmett, Idaho.

TACP Airmen drove from Gowen Field to Youren Outfitters in Emmett where hunting guides Harry and Matt Youren, and J.D. Brock trained the Airmen to wrangle, saddle, pack, ride and care for horses.

“We’re learning how to properly pack people and equipment onto horses so that if we’re ever in a situation where we can’t use normal methods of transportation, we can use the animals to assist,” said Staff Sgt. Neil Mooney, a special warfare TACP Airman and the NCO in charge of weapons and tactics from the 124th ASOS.

Special warfare units may use horses, mules and donkeys as substitutes for motorized vehicles in high mountain terrain, dense jungles, deserts, the backcountry or other environments that require units to move exclusively on foot. The animals are capable of carrying significant cargo loads that include items necessary to sustain the unit for an extended period of time, such as food, water, first aid, radios and batteries.

“TACP units are joint providers of precision strike capabilities, and as the premier precision strike provider we have to be able to get



in and get out of anywhere in the world at any time,” said Mooney. “We never know where we’re going to be until we’re there, and we never know how we need to move until we’re in that situation.”

Mooney said the skills learned are important not only to the unit’s selection for a mission, but to their success in a joint environment. Those skills can be put to use during in-state missions as well.

“There’s a federal mission we need to be prepared for, but there’s also a stateside potential that we could be called up with immediate response authority to go into the backcountry, and our members need to know how to get around with available livestock in that situation,” Mooney said.

Although this was the first local training of its kind for Airmen from the 124th ASOS, Tech. Sgt. Justin Clark, a TACP and delta flight training NCOIC, said the unit accomplished its goal of becoming more comfortable with the animals and learning the different systems available to gather, pack and manage horses.



“The training was also important for our community outreach goals,” said Clark. “Not too many people know that Gowen Field exists, so we use opportunities like this to build real partnerships with organizations on and off base to help our career field evolve and further the collective mission.”



A Day in the life of an A-10 fighter pilot



Story and photos by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

Spend a day flying with Capt. Mike Shufeldt, one of the Idaho National Guard's A-10 Thunderbolt II pilots, and feel firsthand what it is like to be an A-10 fighter pilot.

He can smell the strong scent of coffee brewing from the kitchen, as he brushes his teeth. It's early in the morning, but his dog, Poppy, sits at his heels patiently waiting with a ball in her mouth and tail wagging. Shufeldt grabs his thermos of coffee, throws the ball a couple of times for Poppy, pats her furry head and walks out the door.

The commute across the Treasure Valley isn't too bad as he heads down the interstate, even with the sun shining in his eyes as it rises above the beautiful Idaho foothills.

Shufeldt approaches the main gate of Gowen Field, Boise's Air Terminal and National Guard Base, with a smile on his face. Today is a good day to fly the mighty A-10 over the nearby Orchard Combat Training Center.

Shufeldt enters the building of the 190th Fighter Squadron and prepares for his day. He gets dressed in his flight G-suit, then his harness for his seat and parachute, and he grabs his high-tech flight helmet. Preparing for his flight and the training mission can take up to two hours. At the operations desk, he listens to his step brief. Today, he is called Bang 11.

The step brief is for him and his wingman, the additional pilot flying the second aircraft on this morning's training mission. They are briefed on the weather, coordinates,



weapons and the close air support mission they are about to fly.

"Bang 11, you are clear to step. Attack," are the last words said before he heads out to the flight line where his A-10, commonly referred to as a Warthog, is patiently waiting. It is nearing 9 a.m. as he begins the 45-minute preflight check. He walks around his A-10, scanning for any visible issues.

"I do a full preflight inspection on the outside of the jet, to make sure there isn't anything I see wrong," said Shufeldt. "Usually there isn't because our crew chiefs and our maintainers are really good. They are the best, actually."

He climbs up the ladder and straps into his seat. He and his crew chief turn on the auxiliary power unit and fire up the twin turbine engines. "Clear on one," said Shufeldt. "Good start on one," is the response. "Clear on two." "Two is clear," is echoed back to him and the two engines are now fired up.

"We check everything, from the brakes to the rudders to the digital systems inside the jet," said Shufeldt.

Both Warthogs are now ready for

flight. "Pull the chocks, see you soon," said Shufeldt. He disconnects with his crew chief, they salute and he taxis to the runway, stopping near the end to have his A-10's weapons armed.

The powerful Warthogs line up. Shufeldt is out front. Once cleared for takeoff, he steps firmly on the brakes and runs up the engines. As he eases the throttles forward, the 12-and-a-half-ton beast starts to shake as it reaches nearly 20,000 pounds of thrust.

After checking his gauges and instruments, he pushes the throttles to maximum and releases the brakes. The mighty Warthog gains speed quickly, reaching approximately 150 miles per hour before he pulls back on the stick and the tires leave the runway.

He is up in the air. He takes a deep breath. A moment of calm, but it is short-lived as he begins his in-flight checks and focuses on the mission. He flies toward the target area.

The sun is just above and to the left, the heat from its rays beating down on his neck, the only portion of skin that is exposed.

He can see several dirt roads

below in the vast desert and sagebrush-filled land of the OCTC as he approaches the target area near the ground troops below. They are providing ground support while shooting training targets.

"Bang 11 in from the south, guns," said Shufeldt. "Bang 11, cleared hot," said the ground troop on the radio below, providing Shufeldt clearance to shoot the 30 mm Gatling gun. "Bang 11, good hits," is heard after the rounds are fired.

After expending all weapons, he has completed the training mission. Before flying back to Boise, the pilots check each other's aircraft for any issues. This is called a battle damage check. The A-10s fly wingtip to wingtip, then Shufeldt dips below his wingman's aircraft and looks up, checking the belly of the A-10. They switch positions and fly back in formation to Gowen Field.

Shufeldt lands, taxis the satisfied Warthog back to the flight line and parks in the same spot in which he started. He reverses the order of the preflight for the shutdown procedures with the crew chief. Once inside, he debriefs the mission with his wingman. It is nearing 1:30 in the afternoon and he is hungry. He warms his lunch, a stir-fry he cooked the night before.

Pilots, like any Airman, have additional military training and duties. He completes these, spends an hour at the gym and heads home.

He walks through the front door with barely enough time to close the door behind him as Poppy jumps up as high as she can, almost knocking him over. Shufeldt is home now after a day in his life as an A-10 fighter pilot.



TAG Leadership Day:
Leadership is the most
important component in
any organization



Story and photos by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

The Idaho National Guard held its annual adjutant general's leadership conference focusing on what makes a successful leader. The joint conference, held Feb. 22 at the downtown Boise Centre, brought together leaders from the Idaho Army National Guard and the Idaho Air National Guard with several keynote speakers and informative breakouts for the daytime event,

followed with the Family Programs Awards Ceremony and Banquet the same evening.

"Leadership is the most important component in any organization," said Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, adjutant general of Idaho. "We have tremendous leaders throughout the Idaho National Guard. This is not about fixing what may be

broken, but continuing to grow and develop as leaders to make our organization even better. Our Soldiers and Airmen deserve the best leadership we can provide."

Mr. Tom Greco was the daytime event's primary speaker. He is Idaho's civilian aide to the secretary of the Army and a retired combat veteran.

"Everything rises and falls on leadership," said Greco. "If you don't have the right location, you move. If you don't have the right people in your organization, you go out and hire them. If you have the right people, but they don't have the right skills, you train them. But if you don't have the leadership in your unit, you are sunk. Everything rises and falls upon leadership."

His advice on successful leadership can be summed into a list: leaders have a vision, leaders lead with integrity, leaders are credible, leaders are decisive,





leaders are communicators, leaders are risk-takers, leaders are mentors, leaders are generous, leaders have balance, leaders are listeners and leaders are learners.

The night banquet event was about recognizing the accomplishments of the Idaho National Guard, and taking the time to recognize outstanding contributions by individual members, volunteers and family members within the organization.

The ceremony recognized the recipient of the 2019 Governor's Outstanding Unit Award, given to Detachment 2, Charlie Company, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion. The annual award is given to a high performing unit whose contributions exemplify the highest levels of excellence.

Family Programs also recognized Amanda Signorio, 25th Army Band, Lt. Col. Christina Taylor, Cassandra Rzepa, Colter McBride, Sgt. 1st Class Dustin

Dyer, and Newby-Ginnings, a supportive business located in Northern Idaho founded by Theresa Hart, for outstanding achievement and selflessly devoting hundreds of hours of volunteer service.

The annual Clinton R. Taylor Integrity in Leadership award was presented to Lt. Col. John Williams from the 124th Operations Support Squadron, Capt. William Miller from the

2nd of the 116th Cavalry Armor Battalion, Senior Master Sgt. Shallen Prickett from the 124th Logistics Readiness Squadron and 1st Sgt. Sheldon Stace from Charlie Company 145th Brigade Support Battalion. The Integrity and Leadership award is given to individuals with exemplary traits in trust, mentorship, attitude, empowerment, resiliency, courage, professionalism and community service.



Brother and sister serve together



Story and photos by Mr. Ryan White

Staff Sgt. Mason Allen and his sister, Staff Sgt. Camas Villafana, were both responsible for each other's decisions to become Idaho National Guardsmen. Allen, who was the first to join the military, chose to enlist in the active duty Air Force in 2014. He then influenced his sister's decision to join the Idaho Air National Guard in 2015. Now the siblings have come full circle. This year, Villafana

influenced her brother's recent decision to join the IDANG after leaving active duty.

One would think Allen, a former fighter aircraft integrated avionics specialist for the A-10 Thunderbolt II, would be joining the IDANG to continue working on the A-10s. However, he is following in his sister's footsteps and the two are serving side-by-side at the 124th Medical Group.

"I was considering joining the National Guard," said Allen. "After talking to my sister, it allowed me to see what was available to me at this unit."

While Villafana was looking into options for Allen, she learned about a recent vacancy her brother would be interested in. Allen did some research and decided she was right. Now, he's enlisted as the MDG's newest biomedical equipment specialist.

"The job title alone tells me that it's going to be more mechanically inclined," said Allen. "I feel like that is something I became exceptional at in the job I had on the active duty side. I am excited to learn how to put those skills to use at a different job and also learn a whole new set of skills that I can apply later in a civilian job."

Allen will have to attend a technical training school, for about a year and a half, sometime after September. Until then, he will be working at the MDG starting this month. For the first time, Allen and Villafana will be working together.

Villafana first started working at the MDG in 2015, when she became a part of the IDANG family. She is currently working full-time until April, just in time to begin planting and irrigating on the farm she and her husband operate in Wilder, Idaho. They grow sugar beet row crops. She says she appreciates the flexible schedule that comes along with the IDANG, allowing her to farm. This was one of the benefits that originally appealed to her about joining IDANG.

"I wanted to join the military since high school," said Villafana. "It kind of fell off my radar until



after I graduated [college], when Mason joined the active duty Air Force. I started thinking about it more and talking to Mason. He was the one who helped me understand the different ins and outs of the different branches. I knew I wanted to join the Air Force, but I didn't want to leave Boise."

Villafana ultimately decided that joining the IDANG was the right choice for her and she's glad she did. She says she enjoys the tight-knit

"I am excited to learn how to put those skills to use at a different job and also learn a whole new set of skills that I can apply later in a civilian job"

relationships she has, which she may not have been able to develop, had she joined active duty instead.

Those close relationships and the flexibility with the IDANG, along with a new job opportunity, were ultimately what sold her brother on joining. Allen is looking forward to living closer to his family and continuing his Air Force career as an Idaho Guardsman alongside his sister.



The dog and pony show

IDANG DPH's have alternative means to help Airmen

Story by Senior Airman Mercedes Wilds
Photos by Senior Airman Joseph Morgan, Senior Airman Mercedes Wilds and Dr. Judy Hafner

Dr. Judy Hafner, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, and Kelly Souder, a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, are the directors of psychological health for the 124th Fighter Wing. Together, they are offering an alternative means to therapy and psychological health by breaking down barriers and negative stigma of mental health treatment

with the introduction of therapy and service animals to their program.

You might see Hafner touring your halls and lighting up faces with a service dog named Ben, the apricot standard poodle, or you might walk outside and hear a cheerful neigh from Souder's miniature therapy horse, Calea.

These are things that you don't typically see at Gowen Field, but they are here for a good reason and a positive purpose.

Service dogs are known for being naturally calming and good sensors for humans when there is an issue, whether someone is feeling overwhelmed, anxious or depressed. Ben can help calm





their breathing and help people to stay relaxed, said Hafner.

Souder's miniature therapy horse also provides a number of benefits during her visits to base. Horses are proven to produce oxytocin in humans when they put their bare hands on the animal. This is why you can't help but smile and feel relaxed when petting and

visiting with Calea.

"The best thing Calea does as a miniature therapy horse is help people be able to become grounded and congruent with their inside emotions," said Shouder. "She is a non-judgmental, sentient being."

Hafner and Souder are hoping to make the attendance of Ben and Calea a regular occurrence,

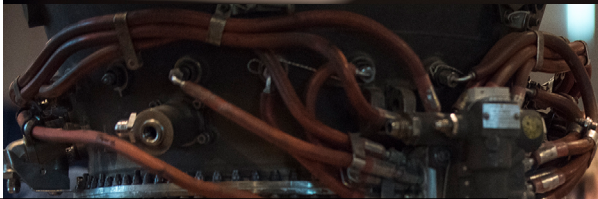
with appearances both during drill weekends and occasionally during the workweek. Airmen are welcomed and encouraged to call and schedule a time to visit with the service dog and therapy horse, or just pop in to say hello.

To learn more about the services the DPH offers please call (208) 422-6747.





Aerospace Day



Students from several Treasure Valley middle and high schools participated in Aerospace Day at Boise State University, Feb. 27. The 124th Fighter Wing was invited to be a part of the educational day that focused on engaging youth with STEM, aerospace, aviation and aeronautics.

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras



Moonlighting

Airmen of the 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron perform pre-flight maintenance on an A-10 Thunderbolt II, Feb. 9. The aircraft was being prepared to fly for the day. Photos by Senior Airman Joseph Morgan



DON'T BE LATE



REMEMBER TO SPRING FORWARD

*Set your clocks forward one hour
Sunday, March 8, at 2 a.m.*



The Air National Guard Region Six Enlisted Field Advisory Council met in downtown Boise, Idaho, Feb. 26-27, to discuss solutions, changes and other policy actions impacting enlisted Airmen in their region. The meeting took place off-base to ensure all in attendance weren't bogged down by their day-to-day office work. The EFAC is established and guided by ANGI 36-2903. It's used as a tool to provide enlisted ANG Airmen a vehicle to express their concerns on matters that impact the enlisted force. Typically, the meetings occur amongst senior enlisted members, but all ranks are welcome to attend the event. If an Airman has an issue they feel needs resolution or changed, they can submit an NGB Form 802 to their respective wing or state command chief master sergeant. Many times these issues can be resolved at the local level, but this process affords them the opportunity to make changes at the national level, too.

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras



MARCH

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



BOISE, IDAHO, UNITED STATES 02.09.2020

Photo by Senior Airman Joseph Morgan 124th Fighter Wing

Airmen of the 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron perform pre-flight maintenance on an A-10 Thunderbolt II, Feb. 9, 2020, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. The aircraft was being prepared to fly for the day. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Joseph R. Morgan)