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104FW conducts midpoint inspection, readiness exercise

By Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith, 104th Fighter Wing public affairs



104th Communications Flight Airmen respond to an exercise scenario while on a Post-Attack Reconnaissance team sweep during a midpoint inspection readiness exercise November 6, 2021 at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts. Midpoint inspections are conducted to evaluate the wing's capabilities to respond to threats in a contested, degraded, and operationally limited environment. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith)

Barnestormers across the 104th Fighter Wing conducted a readiness exercise as part of the wing's midpoint inspection November 4-6, 2021 at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts.

Midpoint inspections are conducted to evaluate the wing's Commander's Inspection Program and to evaluate the wing's capabilities to respond to threats in a contested, degraded and operationally limited environment.

For Airman 1st Class Sadie Lienau, an environmental and electrical technician

with the 104th Maintenance Group, this midpoint inspection and readiness exercise was a brand new experience.

"As my first wing-level inspection exercise, this experience has been challenging in a lot of ways," said Lienau. "Mainly, we are responsible for ensuring the environment within the jets is safe for our pilots while also being evaluated on our responses to simulated attacks and scenarios throughout the duration of the exercise," she said. "We never know when the next simulated attack will be, but we have to be prepared for anything."

For other Airmen involved in the inspection exercise, it was a chance to put what they have practiced to the test.

"During this inspection exercise I was a member of the decontamination team for medical patients," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Reynolds, an aerospace medical technician with the 104th Medical Group. "This exercise allowed us to apply our training to treat patients in a real-time simulated contested and degraded environment where we had to coordinate our actions and responses to the Mission

Oriented Protective Posture and Force Protection Condition levels like we would in a real-world scenario."

As part of the midpoint inspection, members from Air Combat Command came to assess the unit in conjunction with Wing Inspection Team members. ACC inspectors function to ensure that units across the command are ready to meet the challenges of wartime defense.

"Exercises like these give Airmen a chance to practice their skills on a larger scale," said Chief Master Sergeant Jeffrey Samuelson, 104th Communications Flight senior enlisted leader. "There isn't a very significant difference between the systems we maintain here and the systems we'll maintain in Central Command or the Pacific Air Force Command," he said. "The difference is really the scope and the stakes. In an exercise we can simulate larger, more complex challenges similar to a deployed location, encouraging Airmen to think outside the box before they deploy," he said.

Exercises like these also help our wing

ensure Barnestormers are equipped to face real-world operations and challenges wherever they are.

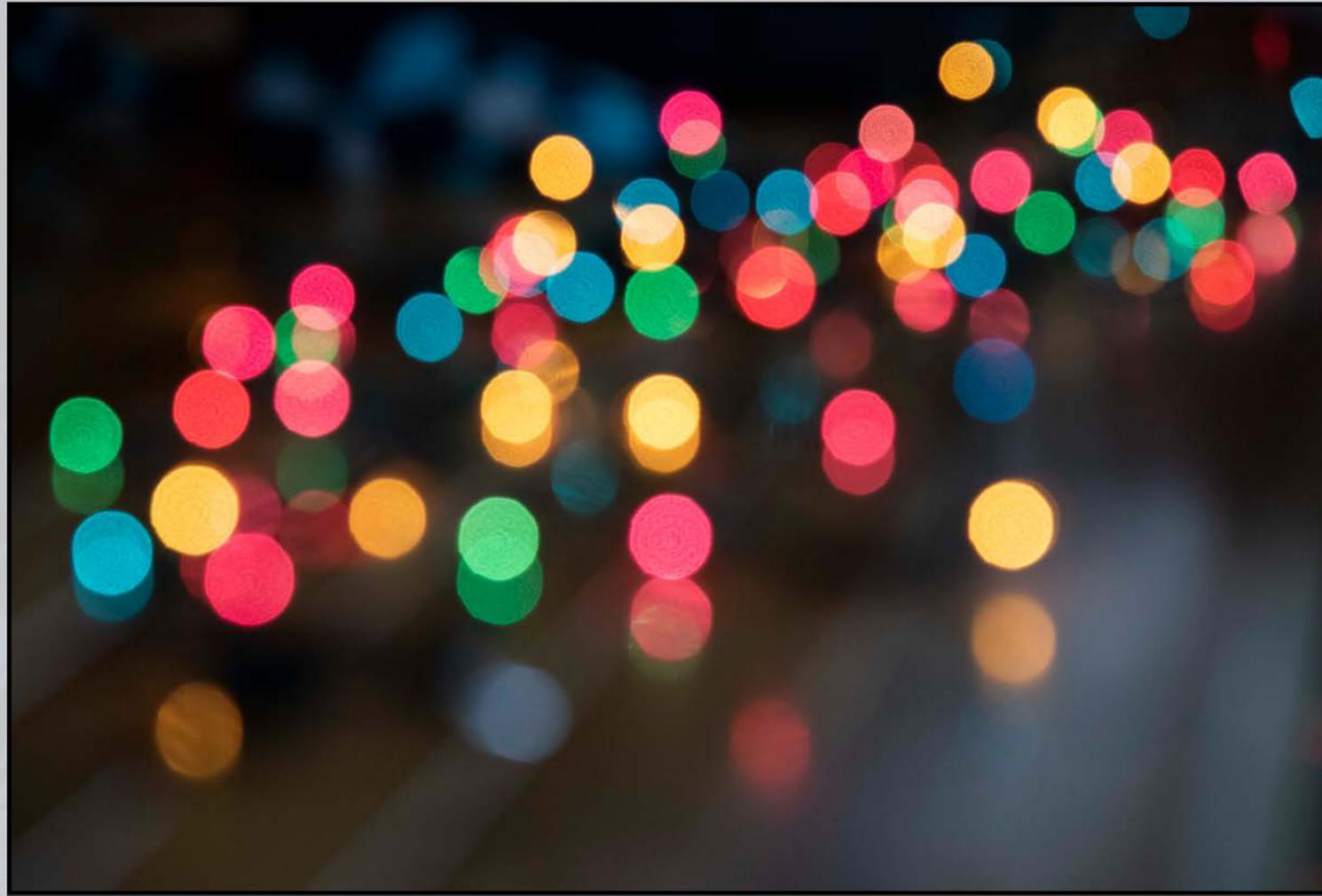
"What sets Barnes apart from other units is that everyone has a great, can-do attitude and an eagerness to learn," said Master Sgt. Andrew Nickerson, ACC Inspector Joint Base Langley-Eustis. "It isn't easy, but this exercise will prepare them for what they might face down-range."

104FW leadership was proud of how Barnestormers handled the inspection and exercise.

"This is an excellent exercise in which the entire wing is being strengthened from the highest levels of leadership down to the lowest," said Mr. Christopher Riga, 104th Fighter Wing Chief of Staff. "I personally am very proud of what I have seen these past few days."

Santa Clause and Colonel Sanders - Christmas in Japan

Tech. Sgt. Robert Cyr, 104th Fighter Wing equal opportunity specialist



Christmas lights glow before being hung during a Hirosaki Ai-Sei-En orphanage visit at Hirosaki, Japan, Dec. 8, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sadie Colbert)

The Cowboy's game is over, the Turkey leftovers are put away, and the Black Friday shopping has been accomplished through one exhausted bloodshot eye.

Here at Barnes Air National Guard Base, the lights from our Bright Nights are still up, shops are decorated, and all of our drill status guardsmen are looking forward to a weekend filled with

super-training and (hopefully) free pizza and baked goods.

The Yule Tide season has arrived, and around the world, various cultures are celebrating some sort of solstice festival. In Japan, one figure possibly looms as large as Santa Clause himself – KFC's Colonel Sanders.

Christmas in Japan looks very similar to what you'd see here in the United States. Lights are strung up all over town, sales are advertised in stores, holiday music is playing, and people are out and about buying gifts for their loved ones. It would be difficult to tell apart a picture of New York from a picture of Tokyo in December.

While Christmas is seen largely as a commercial holiday, families gather together on December 24th and 25th and it's estimated that over 3.6 million households eat KFC for Christmas dinner. It's so popular that in order to get a holiday dinner it needs to be pre-ordered over a month in advance to have a chance at getting one without waiting in line for hours.

This is attributed largely to a KFC manager named Takeshi Okawara. In 1974 Okawara framed chicken as an alternative to Turkey, which was not widely available in Japan at the time. It is rumored that he came up with the now famous slogan "Kentucky is Christmas" (or, "Kentucky for Christmas" depending on the translation). The typical meal is an 8pc bucket with a triple layer cream

cake and a family sized shrimp pasta - and can run anywhere from \$40-\$60 USD depending on whether you get a roast chicken with it.

In Japan, while the Christmas season starts roughly a month earlier than what we might be used to- on Nov. 1. The decorations are taken down promptly on the Dec. 26, compared to after New Year's here in the United States, (or in my case, March).

Leading into the New Year, the country starts to shut down as many families gather to visit local temples and shrines for Hatsumoude, (literally "The First Shrine Visit") to pray for good luck for the upcoming year. The time away serves as an opportunity to catch up with loved ones, engage in self-reflection, and approach the new year with a sense of hope and determination.

From all of us here in the EO office, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to seeing you again in January.

Headlines and Highlights

104th Public Affairs Office



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[Gallagher Real Estate base tour](#)



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[New F-15 Eagle tail static display](#)

Welcomes, Farewells, Promotions and Points of Contact

104th Public Affairs Office

Recruiters

If you want to learn about a career with the 104th Fighter Wing call one of our recruiters to learn more about serving in the Air National Guard, and the benefits you can receive, including 100% tuition and fee waiver.

Recruiting Flight Chief, Master Sgt. Glendaennis Schuster (413) 237-0427

Retention Office Manager, Master Sgt. Bento Fernandes, (413) 636-2291

Worcester & Western MA Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Brian Whitman, (413) 237-4525

Western Mass Recruiter, Tech Sgt. Kayla Gallagher, (413) 207-5186

Are you looking for a new drill status guardsman opportunity at the 104th Fighter Wing? Take a look at our 104FW DSG career opportunities page on our SharePoint Page.

[DSG Careers on SharePoint](#)

CAC is required to access SharePoint.

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Promotions

Airman 1st Class Ryan Bungay, SFS
Senior Airman Abena Koranteng, LRS
Senior Airman Joshua Cox, CF
Senior Airman Emmalee Perez, MOF
Senior Airman Caroline Nicolao, MDG
Senior Airman David Buell, MXS
Senior Airman Collin Flematti, MXS
Senior Airman Matthew Robidoux, MXS
Senior Airman David Oksi, AMXS
Staff Sgt. Ana Decarvalho, MDG
Staff Sgt. Daniel Marcoux, AMXS

Staff Sgt. Jacob Greenberg, AMXS
Staff Sgt. Daniel Caboneau, AMXS
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Ethier, LRS
Staff Sgt. Anothony Reed, MXS
Staff Sgt. James Newsome, AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Thinh Tran, CES
Tech. Sgt. Wilmer Puellomota, SFS
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Kochaneck, AMXS
Tech Sgt. Maricely Fuenteslasanta, OSF
Master Sgt. Jared Collins, AMXS

Welcomes

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Caldas, SFS

Farewells

Chief Master Sgt. Edward Veneto, OG

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