

THE BEACON

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 124TH FIGHTER WING

SUMMER 2024



COMBAT EXCELLENCE - ALWAYS ON MISSION

FROM THE 124TH FIGHTER WING COMMANDER

COL. CHAD KORNBERG

I'd like to give a quick shout-out to our deployed Airmen. Continue dominating downrange! You all are doing amazing things and representing the 124FW, State of Idaho and Guard Nation well. I am proud of what you are doing, and we stand ready to aid you or your families as needed.



As I sit to write this letter, I realize it was almost 24 years to the day that I was able to put Laughlin AFB and Del Rio, TX in my rear view mirror for the final time. Not that I didn't enjoy my time in pilot training, but I was definitely ready to move forward. I am having similar feelings as summer closes out this year. I always enjoy the summer season but with Lucky Peak water levels at an all-time low and fires raging all around us, I am ready for cooler temperatures and blue skies. Bring on the Fall and a new Fiscal Year. I want to touch on two main topics, our 2025 UTA plan and the upcoming election cycle.

Many of you have heard or read that we are changing our UTA schedule for FY25 to a 0-3-3 schedule. My number one priority for UTA periods is to ensure our Airmen are trained and ready to deploy when called to do so.

As the Air Force struggles to define Agile Combat Employment and Multi-Capable/Mission-Ready Airmen, or how we will face Great Power Competition, I felt then, and continue to believe, that the standard two-day drill periods are not sufficient to accomplish the training requirements levied upon us. The 0-2-4 schedule we initiated in FY23 was first and foremost an effort to ensure we were trained in the many new facets asked of us. While effective, it was difficult for many of our DSG Airmen to schedule Guard requirements into their daily civilian lives.

Thus, we are moving to a 0-3-3 schedule. Drill dates were carefully selected to first meet mission requirements and second to fit in with life outside of the Guard. It will never be a perfect fit for everyone, but great care was taken to balance mission need, consistency, and civilian life. I have made it clear to Commanders at all levels that they have the authority to work with individuals to work requests where conflict between Guard and civilian life occur. If you don't ask, we can't help--don't be afraid to speak up!

The advantage of a three-day drill period is that it allows for two days of focused AFSC training events and a day to accomplish administrative requirements. My commitment to you is that Wing-led events will be concentrated on those administrative days. I will also do my best to fight to ensure State-levied events fall on the administrative day of drill. We worked hard to get the CY25 dates out to you all as early as possible to ensure you have the notice necessary for your civilian employers and your personal calendar events.

As the November presidential election is quickly approaching, I also wanted to take a moment to ensure our Wing stays informed about what is and what is not appropriate as military members when it comes to political activities.

I highly encourage you to be involved in our democratic process. It's important to register and exercise your right to vote and encourage others to do the same. Your voice matters, and your vote is essential to shaping the future of our community and country.

You also have the right to express your personal opinions on political candidates and issues, but it's important to do so respectfully. Making derogatory statements about elected officials or Department of Defense and Department of the Air Force leadership is not appropriate and should be avoided.

You may attend political events as a spectator, both partisan and non-partisan, during non-duty hours and out of uniform. Attending a political event in uniform, whether partisan or non-partisan, is not permitted, as it could be seen as military endorsement of a particular candidate or cause.

You may donate money to a political party, candidate, organization, or committee. However, organizing, leading, sponsoring, or speaking at partisan political events, is prohibited for uniformed members, as is engaging in partisan political fundraising activities, except as a private donor.

As we strive for maintaining a professional and objective work environment, displaying partisan political signs, banners, or posters in your office or work area is not allowed. Military members are free to display a non-offensive bumper sticker on their personal vehicle.

Please be mindful of the rules surrounding political participation. We must exercise our rights responsibly while respecting the boundaries that protect our roles and maintain the neutrality and nonpartisan stance of the military.

Thank you for all you do and a huge thanks to your families who support you. We couldn't do it without them. Take care of you and yours!

Go Guard, ATTACK!



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras



WANT TO GET POLITICAL?

All Airmen are encouraged to be part of the political process. As a guardsman and federal employee you have extra rules to follow.



Attend a political event in uniform whether it's partisan or nonpartisan

Make derogatory statements about elected officials and/or DOD/DAF leadership

Organize, lead, sponsor or speak at partisan political events

Engage in partisan political fundraising activities - except as a donor

Display any type of partisan political signage, banners, posters or the like in your office or work area.



Register to vote, vote, and encourage others to vote

Express personal opinions on political candidates and issues

Attend partisan and non-partisan political events as a spectator during off-duty hours, out of uniform

Donate money to a political party, candidate, organization or committee

Display one, non-offensive bumper sticker on your personally owned vehicle

To learn more visit www.fvap.gov/info/laws/political-activities

These are just some of the regulations pertaining to political activities of armed forces members.
Additional guidance is available from the Legal Office at 422-5399

COMMANDER'S PRIORITIES

124FW TRAINING EFFORT FOR 2024: RELEVANT NOW AND READY FOR TOMORROW; WITH THE TOOLS WE HAVE TODAY.

We will train in earnest, pushing our comfort levels as we develop and execute agile combat employment concepts in order to produce Airmen who will be ready and relevant to support our federal mission and our enduring state responsibilities.

We will develop our Airmen to be the leaders we need today and into the future by keeping them relevant in their AFSC skills and training them to be agile in execution. We will continue to look for opportunities to push decision making to the lowest level that makes sense while providing training and command intent to best equip our Airmen with the necessary information to make those operational decisions. Our families are the reason many of us serve, and we will look to offer them opportunities to grow and be involved and aware of our mission. We will continue to maintain a strong relationship with our civilian employers, civic leaders, and our community partners.

The best way we protect our future is by being ready and relevant today with the missions we currently have. Our training plan should provide the necessary training and development of our Airmen that will allow for mission success during the next available window or state activation. If we continue to put our best operational foot forward today and train our Airmen to be agile, resilient leaders, we are preparing for tomorrow. We will strive to sustain and modernize our installation so that we have relevant facilities today and for years to come. We will look for opportunities to integrate with our joint partners, whether that be our community, state, other states, active duty, other services, or other nations.

ATTACK!



MISSION



PEOPLE



FUTURE

124TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

WING COMMANDER

Col. Chad Kornberg

CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Rebecca Solosabal

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Maj. Bonnie Blakely

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPERINTENDENT

Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Tech. Sgt. Mercedee Wilds

Staff Sgt. Joseph Morgan

Senior Airman Jady Eisenbrandt

WHERE TO FIND US



124THFIGHTERWING.ANG.AF.MIL



FACEBOOK.COM/124FW



INSTAGRAM.COM/124FIGHTERWING



FLICKR.COM/124FW



TWITTER.COM/124FIGHTERWING



THE BEACON is the official magazine of the 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard. It is published quarterly 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.

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ON THE COVER

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DONNELLAN BECOMES IDAHO'S ADJUTANT GENERAL

The Idaho National Guard held a change of command ceremony June 25, 2024, signifying the transfer of authority between outgoing commander Maj. Gen. Michael J. Garshak and the incoming commander, Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Donnellan. Idaho Gov. Brad Little presided over the ceremony, which included the passing of the colors and other customary military traditions. Donnellan had served as the assistant adjutant general- Air and commander of the Idaho Air National Guard since 2019.



Photos by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur





DIRECTORS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

IMPORTANT NUMBERS & CRISIS LINES

- Idaho National Guard Crisis Lifeline (Call):
208-272-TALK (8255)
- Joint Operations Center (Complete Directory of IDNG Resources):
208-272-5755
- Free and Confidential Counseling Services: Case Manager:
208-918-0346
- Chaplain Corps: 208-272-4311
Army: 208-272-6468
Air: 208-608-4825

124FW DPH CONTACTS

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Assists soldiers and families in developing knowledge and skills to improve physical, behavioral and emotional health through wellness promotion and preventative measures. Provides brief solution-focused interventions utilizing evidence based educational materials. Offers support and monitoring of desired behavioral health change plans.

ANG DPH PROGRAM

All ANG DPHs are familiar with the active components of a Mental Health Provider's role. DPHs are "Trilingual" - they speak the language of AD/ANG/CIV. They are fully integrated adjuncts to the Guard Medical Unit (GMU) Team and are subject to routine peer review and care of oversight. Information shared during Visits/Consults is kept confidential with a few exceptions. Ask your DPH for details.

ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS

- Suicide Prevention Program Manager
- Disaster Mental Health
- Deployment Mental Health Support
- Master Resiliency Training Facilitator
- Yellow Ribbon Program Support
- CAB/CAT member
- Community Capacity Building & Outreach



SECURITY FORCES

TRAINS FOR DOMESTIC OPERATIONS

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Joe Morgan



From zeroing in on targets at 400 meters to deterring threats with pepper-filled projectiles, Airmen assigned to the 124th Security Forces Squadron, Idaho Air National Guard, explored the use of force continuum June 7-9 between the Gowen Field and Double Tapp Ranges.

In addition to long-distance target practice, the SFS is adopting new tactics as it fulfills new and evolving requirements set forth by the National Guard Bureau in the form of domestic operations. When called upon by state governors, guard units need to be able to respond in a similar fashion to that of local law enforcement with non-lethal means for homeland security.



“Our career field is extremely broad,” said Staff Sgt. Weston Hawks, a security forces specialist assigned to the 124th SFS. “We train everything from basic infantry tactics, to long-range shooting, to law enforcement-level riot control. That’s all within our scope of practice.”

A first for the 124th Fighter Wing, SFS members received training with PepperBall projectile launchers, a non-lethal means of conflict management. This is part of a National Guard Bureau-led effort to integrate seamlessly with state law enforcement agencies.



“When we are proficient in these areas, we can be a better resource to our state,” said Hawks.

Sustaining a mission-ready force, more and more, requires members to train outside of their usual scope of tactical application. And while long-range training isn’t outside of that scope, having the range accommodations to facilitate 400 actual meters versus 400 simulated meters is. This brings the IDANG to Double Tapp Range.

“Prior to accessing this range, we had to simulate long-distance shooting,” said Staff Sgt. Patrick Pratchett, a security forces specialist assigned to the 124th SFS. “Having this range in our backyard will allow us to conduct this kind of training more frequently. Simulated ranges lack real-world implications for bullets in flight. You miss out on things like bullet drop off, wind speed, etc.”

While the training might be somewhat unconventional, the community resources and support that make it possible are not. The National Guard regularly utilizes local assets and works alongside state organizations to execute training objectives.

“The interactions we have with other community members showcases our

commitment to realistic training and allows civilians to see their National Guard in action,” said SFS Commander Maj. Joey Morlock. “Opportunities to showcase ourselves within our community, answer questions, and interact with the general public strengthens our bonds within the community we serve.”

Broad mission requirements and training paired with community engagement and partnerships ensure the Idaho Air National Guard will remain ready for operations both foreign and domestic.





LOWE PROMOTES



Photos by Senior Airman Jadyn Eisenbrandt



Senior Master Sgt. Keely Lowe, the 124th Equipment Maintenance Flight Superintendent, promotes to Chief Master Sergeant. during a ceremony at Gowen Field, Idaho, July 26, 2024. The ceremony included a promotion order, tacking of her stripes and presentation of the chiefs creed from the wing chiefs.





IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD RETENTION MANAGER

MSGT EDWIN L. FISHER JR.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING:

- Cross Training
- Education Benefits
- Incentives & Bonuses
- Retirement or Separation



REACH OUT TO YOUR IDANG RETENTION MANAGER!

It is my privilege to serve the Airmen
of the Idaho Air National Guard.
Reach out anytime to set-up a
meeting to discuss any of your
retention questions.

I look forward to working
and meeting all of you!

E-Mail: edwin.fisher.1@us.af.mil

Office: 208-422-5383

DSN: 422-5383

Cell (Call or Text): 208-631-9042

124TH MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT:

KEEPING THE 124FW MISSION READY

Story and photos by Maj. Bonnie Blakely

From jets in the sky to boots on the ground, taking an oath or retiring from military service – none of these things would be possible in the Idaho Air National Guard without a lot of work behind the scenes. Enter the 124th Force Support Squadron.

Within FSS, the 124th Military Personnel Flight provides essential administrative support to Airmen and their dependents.

Expecting Airmen to be mission ready not only means that they are competent in their career fields, but that they also have their personal records up-to-date, which determines if they are qualified to deploy when called upon.

“The behind the scenes process is intensive,” said Tech. Sgt. Madison Wiberg, who works on manpower and quality assurance within the 124th MPF, “If it does take a long time, that’s because we’re ensuring that every section of your paperwork and all of the updating processes are done correctly.”

The MPF offers a wide range of services from in-processing to retirement. Some of the core functions include:

- Customer Service: General inquiries, Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), ID cards, and Common Access Card issuance
- Career Development: Reenlistments, promotions, awards/decorations, and evaluations
- Force Management: Accessions, retirement, separations, and records management
- Personnel Systems Management (PSM): manages all personnel programs and quality assurance
- Installations Personnel Management (IPR): Manages all deployments



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras



Throughout an Airman's military career, the MPF is a one-stop-shop for admin needs.

"Everyone in the office works so hard," said Wiberg. "They are there day in and day out. They are putting in so much time to make sure that these things are getting done for the members."

Wiberg helps with manpower, data integrity and quality assurance. She will receive a list of data errors to fix, which often includes discrepancies in marital status or misspelled names. While those may seem like minor details, they can delay the process of multiple admin systems.

"Ensuring that our databases are accurate helps ensure that the rest of the base can come out and do their job," said Wiberg.

Without FSS, and without the correct information, people can't get paid or even get out the door to deploy, Wiberg said.

"From start to finish, we call everything 'cradle to the grave' in personnel," said Ms. Heather Bell, Installation Personnel Readiness for the 124th Fighter Wing.

In the context of a deployment cycle, IPR helps from the "cradle" of the official deployment tasking from higher headquarters, then ensures that unit members are being tasked in the right positions to get them orders and

deployed properly. Then when members return home and complete a DD214, that represents the "grave" as their deployment comes to an end, Bell said.

"My big picture is deploying people for the fight," said Bell. "I get to see my efforts in that I get people down range. I feel like that's rewarding for me; if I do my job correctly, then the mission is successful."

Members are encouraged to take control of their career and regularly check their individual Personal Records Display Application and point credit summary.

"We're all very much willing and wanting to help out," said Bell. "If something doesn't feel right, just ask us. If members have questions or just want some general knowledge, any one of us will sit down and help you."

Without FSS and the MPF, Airmen wouldn't receive pay and benefits or even have ID cards to get on base or gain computer access. The work of personnelists may often be taken for granted, but they truly are the force that keeps Airmen mission ready by ensuring that paperwork and records are accurate and current.

"We have to support the rest of the base so that they can go out and support our bigger military and the bigger mission," said Wiberg.





IDAHO MAINTAINERS

Supplying iron to the fight

Story and photos by Senior Master Sgt. Josh Allmaras

The 124th Maintenance Group prepared more than 12 A-10 Thunderbolt II's assigned to the 124th Fighter Wing, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, from May 31-June 5, 2024.

The aircraft, pilots, maintainers and support Airmen are headed to a weapons system evaluation program event at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

"The 124th Maintenance Group has been exercising aircraft generation," said Lt. Col. Scott Walker, the 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander. "If we ever get the call – our mission requires us to generate aircraft within an allotted time frame."



Aircraft generation is critical to supporting a combatant commander's mission requirements, especially in a near-peer conflict.

"We perform the same process when we deploy," said MSgt. Kyle Walker, the 124th AMXS production superintendent. "Recognizing deficiencies and building muscle memory will enhance our capability at home and abroad."

Lt. Col. Walker went on to say, "You've heard the adage 'practice how you play; train how you fight' – aircraft generation is exactly what we would do if tasked to participate in a near-peer conflict. Exercising this process continues to prepare us by making us more proficient and effective."

Having a focused training event to support, like WSEP, allows the wing to prepare for combat and build a cohesive team.

"This is a great opportunity for all of us to work as a team and get our hands dirty," said MSgt. Walker.

Not only does this build cohesion, but it also brings pride to the maintenance Airmen.

"This is the pinnacle of what a maintainer does," said Lt. Col. Walker. "To provide combat coded aircraft to the 190th Fighter Squadron for them to 'do what they do best' – bring lethality to our adversaries."

Generating lethal aircraft to pilots takes teamwork, and each Airman has a critical role.

"Every maintainer and pilot engaged at all levels, and they were the cornerstone of our overall success," said Lt. Col. Walker. "We've laid a solid foundation for our future taskings, exercises, and inspections and will continue to fine tune our processes, which will only make us better."





WSEP 2024: HILL AFB, UTAH

Story and photos by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras

Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, participated in a weapons system evaluation program exercise at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, June 6-14, 2024.

The program is designed to test the employment of various live munitions and requires the efforts from various Air Force specialty codes, but focuses on the building, loading and employment of these munitions.



The use of lethal force is a serious burden and responsibility, requiring proficiency from everyone involved.

“This is a weapons training exercise,” said Staff Sgt. Alyssa Johnson, an aircraft armament systems technician with the 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. “The focus is on how ammo builds munitions, how weapons loads them, and how the pilots drop them. The inspectors are making sure we are proficient at what we do.”

This is a unique and critical training event for Idaho Air Guardsmen.

"We don't get a lot of opportunities like this in the Idaho Guard, because of where we're stationed," said Johnson. "Working with live munitions is critical for us." WSEP provides Airmen with challenges and opportunities.

"This has been a mini deployment," said Tech. Sgt. Charles Updegraff, the senior munitions inspector for the 124th Munitions Flight. "We've worked long days and in a location with limited access to the equipment we normally have at home, challenging how we normally work."

Updegraff went on to say that working through challenges prepares Airmen for real-world deployed scenarios, especially when looking at a near-peer fight. Allowing younger Airmen the opportunity to demonstrate their job proficiency and thinking on their feet, in a new and fast-paced environment.

Ammo Airmen weren't the only ones to experience unique training opportunities.

"We had to drive all the way to the Dugway Proving Ground due to an issue with a stuck munition," said Johnson.

"You always hope that things go well, but sometimes things don't. I was able to train on what we might experience when deployed, making sure that my crews and pilots are safe."

Beyond the individual shop aspect of WSEP, ammo and weapons Airmen must work together to provide warheads for pilots.

"Here things are back-to-back and go, go, go," said Johnson. "When we go downrange, ammo builds munitions; we load them, and the pilots drop them. This training prepares all of us to be successful."

Johnson had one piece of advice when working to prepare to deploy, "There's going to be days where things are good, and everything goes off as planned. Then there will be days where it's more difficult. Maybe you don't want to get out of bed, maybe it's 100 degrees out, and you add another 30 degrees being on the tarmac. But being able to embrace the good and bad, and focus on the mission with your peers is amazing. We all get to build off each other's energy and be able to build each other up. We're exhausted, yes. We're tired, but we help each other out, so that way, we're all good in the end."



BUONGIOVANNI RETIREES

Chief Master Sgt. James Buongiovanni, 124th Maintenance Squadron chief, retires from the Idaho Air National Guard during a ceremony at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, June 7, 2024. Buongiovanni's retirement included family, friends and Airmen from his multi-decade career.



Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION & RESPONSE



**All airman and dependents
ages 18+ are eligible
to make a report of sexual
assault through the 124th FW
Sexual Assault Prevention
and Response office.**

**For more information, please contact
a member of the SAPR team.**

AVAILABLE SERVICES

- Access to restricted and unrestricted reporting
- Connection to non-clinical support services
- Support in notifying law enforcement, if desired
- Access to victim advocate support services
- Connection to medical and mental health resources as needed

DOD SAFE HELPLINE 24/7

1.877.995.5247

ONLINE.SAFEHELPLINE.ORG



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DOWNRANGE

AIRMEN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TECH. SGT. MONICA DEGARD

She is the Resource Advisor for the Civil Engineering Squadron for her deployed unit. In her time on the job she's managed the unit's Government Purchase Card program, acted as NCOIC for the Unit Control Center and the Command Support Staff. She's managed the wing's largest budget at \$11.6M while simultaneously executing 188 purchases valued at \$1.3M and allocated 1.6K repairs on a \$4.4B infrastructure. Critical items she worked include an emergency water pump effort, and a two-mile asphalt repair of a critical road. She was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for her role in emergency generator support!



TECH. SGT. IAN MCLEOD

He has been serving as the sole electrician for Cargo City! He's responded to numerous calls effectively maintaining reliable power to 83 facilities. As a member of a small Civil Engineering team, he epitomizes Multi-Capable Airmen as he was part of completing 139 jobs across several other competencies. He also assisted in the critical Vehicle Search Area project clearing debris and preparing the ground for the new footprint while bolstering host nation partnerships. He has been awarded the Cargo City NCO of the Month, was part of the two-time crowned Team of the Month and was also lauded for his role in responding to a critical emergency hazardous material incident!

TECH. SGT. MERCEDEE WILDS

She has been absolutely crucial to the success of PA operations in the theater. She has taken the initiative to lead her team in a restrictive environment with many challenges. Leaders have lauded her for PA's contributions to the mission and have been impressed with all the extra work she has been putting in behind the scenes to develop Airmen and support partners overseas. She was awarded NCO of the quarter and recently coined by the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force!



RECOGNITION

W H I L E D E P L O Y E D O V E R S E A S

MASTER SGT. JACOB DAVIS

He is a one-of-a-kind talent that has been invaluable across the Area of Responsibility. He's serving as the Emergency Management NCOIC, which is A LOT, but his impact is even larger. His role as the principal advisor to senior leaders on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats is clutch! Additionally, he's responsible for a 120-member disaster response force covering a 33K/sq-mi footprint!



MASTER SGT. SAMUEL SIBERT

He has been LEADING THE WAY as CES Section Chief for Cargo City. He's guided the team to complete 139 tasks spanning 8 career fields to enable a \$2.75B flying mission responsible for delivering 35K troops to the Area of Responsibility annually. His oversight at Cargo City safeguarded \$460K in contracts while he also drove the replacement of 2 critical 5K gallon water tanks. He piloted the team that was recognized as the Operating Location Team of the month twice while he also supervised NCOs winning 3 monthly awards and a Wing Quarterly Award.

**Do you know an Airman
who is doing great things
while deployed and
want to recognize them?
Contact 124th FW
Public Affairs!**

MEDICAL AIRMEN TRAIN IN FIELD ENVIRONMENT for future deployments, combat readiness

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

Airmen from the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Medical Group traveled outside of familiar ground, to train in a field environment near Little Camas Reservoir in Elmore County, June 5-8, in preparation of future deployments.

"The intent for this field training was to get the entire medical group exposed to the field environment for deployment readiness, as well as pushing comfort zones and team building," said Maj. Mark Urban, critical care air transport team physician.



Approximately 65 medical personnel practiced treating and stabilizing casualties using tactical combat casualty care in a simulated deployed location while defending medical structures and personnel and becoming familiar with survival skills.

The Airmen were trained on Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape skills from Master Sgt. Raymond Perez, 124th Fighter Wing SERE specialist. His goal is to prepare the U.S. military personnel to be able to survive in intense situations in unfamiliar surroundings.

"The medical teams will be geographically separated from the hospitals while deployed, functioning from a forward operating base," said Perez. "I am training them on personal protection, clothing, building shelters, building fires, mental and physical health, environmental safety and protection, water purification and food sustenance. We are going to find food in the area, anywhere from vegetation on the ground, to hunting animals that we will cook and eat."

Medical personnel focused on TCCC, point of injury, patient packaging, calling in a 9-Line medevac, patient movement, ground treatment and prolonged field care while Perez trained them on map and compass skills, signaling and recovery and making ground-to-air signals with flares for air rescue.



NEW COMMANDS



124TH MAINTENANCE GROUP
Lt. Col. Kenneth McCormick
January 7, 2024



124TH COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT
Maj. Michael Gillis
June 7, 2024



124TH AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON
Lt. Col. Scott Walker
June 9, 2024



124TH MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS FLIGHT
Capt. Andrew Freund
July 11, 2024

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras



Idaho Air National Guard

Airman & Family READINESS PROGRAM

The Airmen & Family Readiness Program (AFRP) serves as a one-stop information and referral center for single, married, active-duty, Guard, Reserves, civilians who work on base, and retired members as well as their families. One of its major functions is to ensure personnel and their families are connected with the appropriate service on and off site.

SERVICES & ACTIVITIES PROVIDED

- ✓ Deployment Preparation & Reintegration
- ✓ Personal and Family Readiness
- ✓ Child & Youth Services
- ✓ Air Force Aid Society
- ✓ Financial Readiness & Emergency Assistance
- ✓ Volunteer Opportunities
- ✓ Career Development
- ✓ Transition to Civilian Life
- ✓ Casualty Assistance
- ✓ Exceptional Family Member Support

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT MRS. HEATHER ECHOLS
Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager



Phone: 208-422-5470
Cell: 208-513-3430





IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD OPENS CHILD CARE CENTER

Story by Crystal Farris and photos by Staff Sgt. Joe Morgan

Members of the Idaho National Guard held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 8, 2024, to celebrate the grand opening of the first child care center at Gowen Field.

The Child and Youth Center is part of a program offering Idaho National Guardsmen with children ages 6 months to 12 years free child care assistance during drill weekends through the IDNG Drill Weekend Child Care program.

The program is the first of its kind in the Idaho National Guard and aims to help retention efforts by easing the burden on Guardsmen to find and pay for child care while attending drill.

Army Guardsmen in 20 states can now access drill weekend child care after Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, signed an agreement with public partners to expand a pilot program at a Pentagon ceremony on May 13.

“Providing child care for our Guardsmen on drill weekends has been a goal of mine for many years,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak, commander and adjutant general of Idaho. “Thanks to the efforts of our amazing team in the J9 Service Member & Family Support Directorate, it has become a reality. Hopefully, over time, we can expand these services to accommodate the entire Military Division workforce.”



Garshak, along with other members of the organization, including Lt. Col. Christian O'Leary, director of the J9, led efforts to develop the centralized on-base program.

Idaho Army National Guardsman 1st Lt. Kelly Minium said she is thankful for the program and the organization's support.

"Finding child care on the weekends is both difficult and expensive," said Minium. "As a single mother with no family in the area, having access to free child care on a drill weekend gives me the ability to continue serving in the Idaho National Guard, which further enables me to take care of my family."

First Lt. Joshua Seward, State Family Program director, said the lack of

affordable child care during drill weekends has made it more difficult to retain service members for years.

In January, the organization began offering child care assistance from a temporary facility on base while it worked to open its Child and Youth Center. Since then, it has assisted hundreds of service members during drill weekends, saving them hundreds to thousands of dollars.

Idaho Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Cindy Ceja has taken advantage of the program since it opened.

"This program has truly been a lifeline for my family and me," said Ceja. "Weekends used to be a constant struggle to find affordable and trustworthy care for my young daughters, causing immense stress. I even

contemplated leaving the Guard as my contract came to an end. This program arrived just in time, alleviating those worries."

With future funding initiatives, the organization is hopeful to expand the program to serve members who drill in different regions across Idaho.

For more information about the childcare for drill weekends and the Airman and Family Readiness Program, please see pages 27 and 30.



IDNG J9 - SERVICE MEMBER & FAMILY SUPPORT



FREE child care open
for Idaho National
Guardsmen in a
drilling status.
Children must be ages
6 months - 12 years.

IDNG Drill Weekend Child Care

CHILD & YOUTH CENTER

Gowen Field



Scan to complete a general
interest form and to receive
monthly registration links

Registration links are open the
month prior and can be found on:

- the J9 website
- J9 Facebook
- IDNG mobile app



Available during the following Drill Dates:

6-8 Sep 2024

13-15 Sept 2024

21-22 Sep 2024

2-3 Nov 2024

8-9 Nov 2024

7-8 Dec 2024

25-26 Jan 2025

1-2 Feb 2025

22-23 Feb 2025

8-9 Mar 2025

5-6 Apr 2025

3-4 May 2025

7-8 Jun 2025

12-13 Jul 2025

2-3 Aug 2025

16-17 Aug 2025

13-14 Sep 2025

*Dates may change
based on drill
schedules and
availability of funding

For More Information:

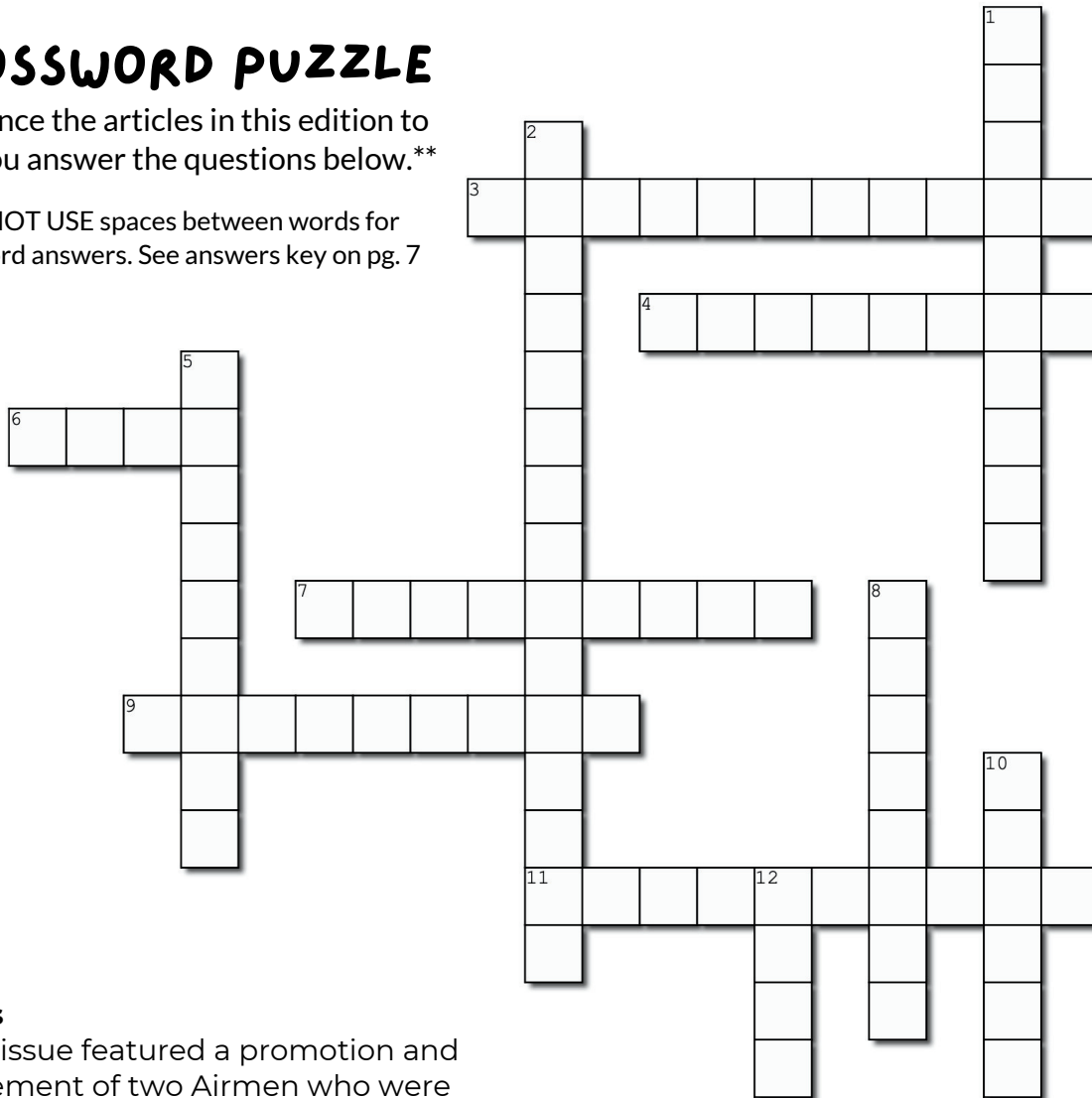
Contact the Child Care Coordinator at 208-272-8306 or
the State Family Programs Director at 208-272-8394

KIDS' ACTIVITY

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Reference the articles in this edition to help you answer the questions below.**

** DO NOT USE spaces between words for two-word answers. See answers key on pg. 7



Across

3. This issue featured a promotion and a retirement of two Airmen who were both the rank of _____ sergeant.
4. Four Airmen were recognized for their accomplishments while deployed _____.
6. How much does on base child care cost for drill weekends?
7. General _____ is the new Adjutant General for the state of Idaho.
9. The 124th Military _____ Flight provides essential administrative support to Airmen and their dependents.
11. WSEP stands for weapons system _____ program.

Down

1. Aircraft _____ is critical to supporting a combatant commander's mission requirements.
2. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of a _____.
5. Members of the medical group trained in a field environment for deployment _____.
8. The Security Forces Squadron trained on _____ operations in June.
10. The 124th Fighter Wing Commander's priorities are Mission, _____, Future.
12. The 124th Maintenance Group prepared more than 12 aircraft to head to WSEP in _____.



124th Fighter Wing
IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD
4474 S. De Haviland St.
Boise, Idaho 83705-8103



 **J9 - Idaho National Guard
Service Member & Family Support**

Gowen Field **Food Box Giveaway**

Available to all current
Service Members & Retirees
while supplies last.
**Please Note: MDay and DSG
Service Members & families
receive priority**

**2ND THURSDAY
OF EVERY
MONTH**

ONE box feeds a
family of FOUR

Pick Up Time
11am - 12pm

Pick Up Location
DFAC Area in BLDG 400

For Questions
208.422.5374 | Rebecca.bryant.5@us.af.mil

SIGN UP

