

# THE BEACON

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 124TH FIGHTER WING

Fall 2024



COMBAT EXCELLENCE - ALWAYS ON MISSION

## FROM THE 124TH FIGHTER WING COMMANDER **COL. CHAD KORNBERG**

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Welcome back to November drill and our last four-day drill for the year. As we move into the holiday season, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we've accomplished together this year and thank each of you for your hard work, dedication, and sacrifices. This time of year is not only about celebrating with friends and family but also about acknowledging the extraordinary commitment you bring to our mission every day.

I know that serving in the Idaho Air National Guard means balancing multiple responsibilities – family, civilian careers, and our call to duty. Each of you plays a vital role in ensuring that our unit is mission ready and resilient. I am proud of how we've supported one another to achieve our goals to be adaptable and agile in this time of Great Power Competition. Our wing's exceptional strength comes from the professionalism and spirit of camaraderie that you all bring to the fight, and I am grateful for each of you.

Throughout the upcoming holidays, let's continue to look out for one another. If you know of a fellow Airman or family member who could use extra support, please reach out. We are stronger together, and this season is a time to show that unity and care in our actions.

If you or a fellow Airman could benefit from assistance over the holidays, please contact the Idaho National Guard Service Member & Family Support team. They are currently accepting requests for Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance for service members of the Idaho National Guard and their direct dependents. Please see the flyer on pg. 11 for more information and application deadlines.

Thank you again for your service and dedication. I look forward to seeing all that we will accomplish together in the coming year. Have a safe and happy holiday season, and please make sure to take time to relax and recharge with loved ones.



*Go Guard, ATTACK!*

**COL. KORNBERG**

# 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!

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# 124TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

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## 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

Airman 1st Class Sarah Welch

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## 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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U.S. Air Force pilot, 1st Lt. Matt Donnellan, assigned to the 190th Fighter Squadron, surrenders to opposing forces, represented by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, during a pilot rescue exercise at Fort Irwin Army Base, San Bernardino County, Oct. 29, 2024. Donnellan was tasked to evade opposing forces and call for evacuation. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Jady Eisenbrandt)

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# HAWGSMOKE

2024

Story and photos by  
Senior Airman Jadyn Eisenbrandt

Pilots from the 124th Fighter Wing's 190th Fighter Squadron competed in Hawgsmoke, a biennial United States Air Force bombing, missile, and tactical gunnery competition for A-10 Thunderbolt II units, September 11-14, 2024, at Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, AZ.

The competition is focused on the A-10 and its unique combat capabilities. Not only is there a competitive component to the event, but there is also the opportunity for current and former pilots to engage, teach and learn from each other.

Hawgsmoke opened with a remembrance ceremony for fallen A-10 pilots, which also included a missing-man formation flyover.

Prior to the flying competition, a weapons loading event was held where crews went head-to-head in a tournament style timed weapons load.

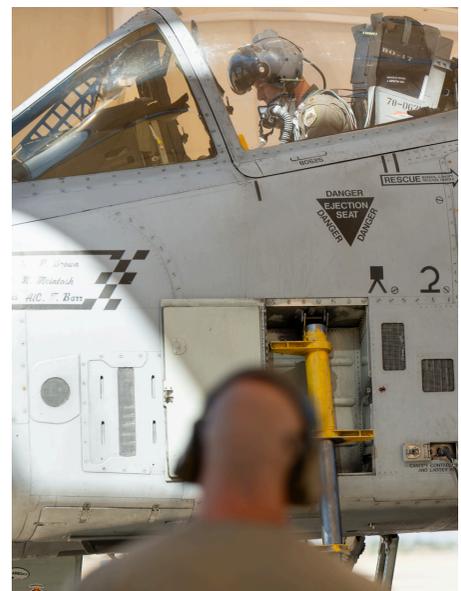


**“It proves just how capable this community is in terms of mission set,” said Maj. Micah Stoddard, a pilot with the 190th FS. “I think it's an excellent representation of the greatest air-to-ground fighter ever built.”**



The flying competition was held on Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, at Barry Goldwater Range, Arizona. This portion of the competition included events such as the 6000' ceasefire long range strafe and low altitude maverick missile attacks. Pilots were evaluated on flight leadership, target acquisition, weapons delivery, and support. They were judged both individually and as a team.

An awards ceremony was held on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024, where the 944th Fighter Wing's 47th Fighter Squadron from Luke Air Force Base was crowned the winner of Hawgsmoke 2024. This win gives the 47th FS their fourth win, tying the 190th FS for most wins. The 190th FS first won the competition in 2008 and took the winning title in 2010, 2021, and 2022.





# GERMAN ARMED FORCES PROFICIENCY BADGE TESTING

Photos by Staff Sgt. Joseph Morgan & Senior Airman Jadyn Eisenbrandt

Members of the 124th Fighter Wing participated in the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge Test Aug. 22-23, 2024, at Mountain Home Air Force Base and Gowen Field. The 124th FW's participation in the GAFPB test is aimed at strengthening the NATO partnership between the United States and Germany. The two-day event included four German Armed Forces annual training requirements, including physical fitness, water survival, rifle and pistol shooting and a 12K ruck.





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

IDNG J9 - Service Member & Family Support  
Announces

Statewide  
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Assistance

Now  
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Applications Available  
**1 October 2024**

**Thanksgiving Meal Assistance**

**Deadline 15 November**

**Christmas Holiday Support**

**Deadline 24 November**

Open to current members of all military components serving in Idaho



For More Information:  
Army - [cassandra.k.rzepa.nfg@army.mil](mailto:cassandra.k.rzepa.nfg@army.mil)  
Air - [heather.echols@us.af.mil](mailto:heather.echols@us.af.mil)

Apply Here:





## TACMED AIRMEN, LOCAL AGENCIES PARTNER FOR

# MASS CASUALTY TRAINING

Story by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

Tactical Medical Airmen from the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing medical group teamed up with local agencies and first responders from across Idaho for an intense mass casualty joint training exercise, Oct. 3-4, at the Idaho State Police training complex.

The exercise focused on the Tactical Combat Casualty Care Tier 2 Combat Lifesaver course led by wing medics and consisted of scenarios that had active shooters and mass casualties, forcing TacMed personnel to fight back with paintball weapons while defending themselves and providing care and protection for their casualties.

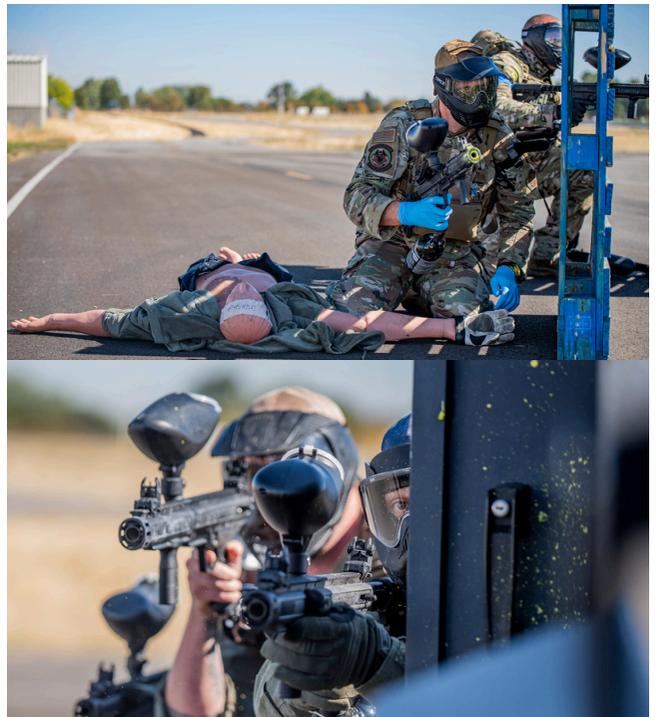
“The goal of this training was to immerse community medics from varying agencies and backgrounds with a stress inoculation to dynamic threat environments. Local agency paramedics, whether embedded within law enforcement special response teams or SWAT teams, respond to an array of calls, some of which can have active shooters, mass casualty, etc.,” said Maj. Mark Urban, Idaho Air National Guard critical care air transport team officer.

“Our TacMed Airmen need to continue to reinforce our skills of TCCC Combat Lifesaver to be trained and ready for future deployments,” Urban said.

Medic instructors, Senior Master Sgt. Davis Nguyen, Staff Sgt. Cody Eisenbrandt, Tech. Sgt. Hannah Andreoli joined forces with TacMed personnel from Ada County Paramedics, Meridian Fire Department, Payette County Paramedics and Canyon County Paramedics to learn from each other and for some of them to become qualified with the Tier 2 Combat Lifesaver course. Other Airmen outside of the medical group, like 1st Sgt. Scott Vermeer from the 124th Cyber Operations Squadron, completed the course along with his TacMed counterparts.

“When we put on these group courses and exercises, we invite Airmen from other squadrons who already have their Tier 1 to become certified as Tier 2 in the Combat Lifesaver course, with that they can become instructors on base as well,” said Eisenbrandt. “Today, Vermeer took the course to be DoD certified as Tier 2.”

TCCC Tier 1 is a course for all service members. TCCC Combat Lifesaver Tier 2 is for personnel deploying in support



of combat operations or for this exercise, TacMed agencies from the local first responder community. TCCC Combat Medic/Corpsman Tier 3 is for specific military medical personnel including medics, corpsmen and pararescue personnel deploying in support of combat operations.

ISP’s Idaho Peace Officers Standards and Training provided the classroom space and support with materials and live actors as part of the simulation. Scenarios included SWAT vehicles, EMS vehicles and dummy bodies as well as the live actors.

“The Idaho National Guard works to involve, facilitate and integrate local agencies in training to foster strong community relationships and partnerships any chance we get,” said Urban. “Our medics and instructors facilitated this amazing cooperative training event which was well received by the participants and we look forward to future collaboration and training.”





*supporting joint partnerships at*

# **GREEN FLAG**

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Joseph Morgan

The 124th Fighter Wing arrived at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada in preparation for exercise Green Flag West, sometimes referred to as Green Flag Nellis, October 24, 2024.

GFW ensures the 124FW is operationally ready to provide joint ground support to its NATO partners globally. During this exercise the wing will directly support the U.S. Army's National Training Center efforts in Fort Irwin, California.

"The 124FW is participating in GFW as a major part of our combat training," said Lt. Col. Daniel Benfield, the 124th Maintenance Squadron commander and the wing's officer in charge of maintenance for the exercise. "We will be integrating with an Army Brigade Combat Team conducting large-scale, force-on-force ground operations to provide joint fire, close-air-support, and combat search and rescue operations."



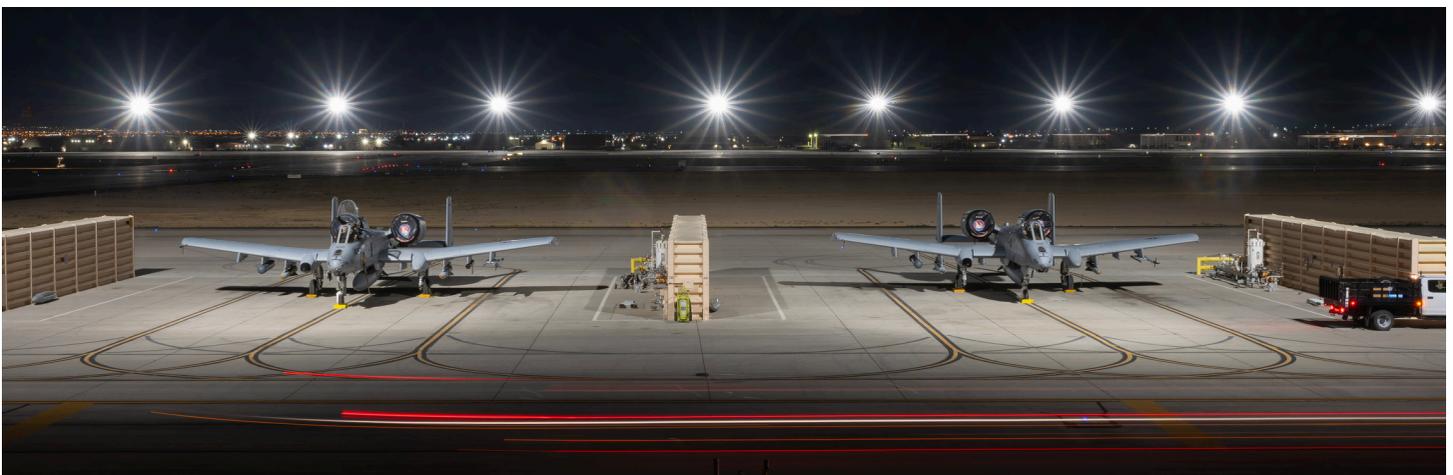
Preparing for combat during a time of a great power competition requires training with not only NATO partners, but also with other services.

GFW is facilitated by Air Combat Command through the 549th Combat Training Squadron and promotes a total force approach to pre-deployment certification training. In addition to its support of the NTC, the 124FW will be working closely with the U.S. Navy off the coast of California.

In addition to working hand-in-hand with ground forces, the wing will be supporting airborne operations in maritime surface warfare training, said Benfield.

Benfield went on to say, “The men and women of 124MXG will be hard at work throughout the exercise to generate aircraft and load munitions to support our deployment spin-up training objectives.”

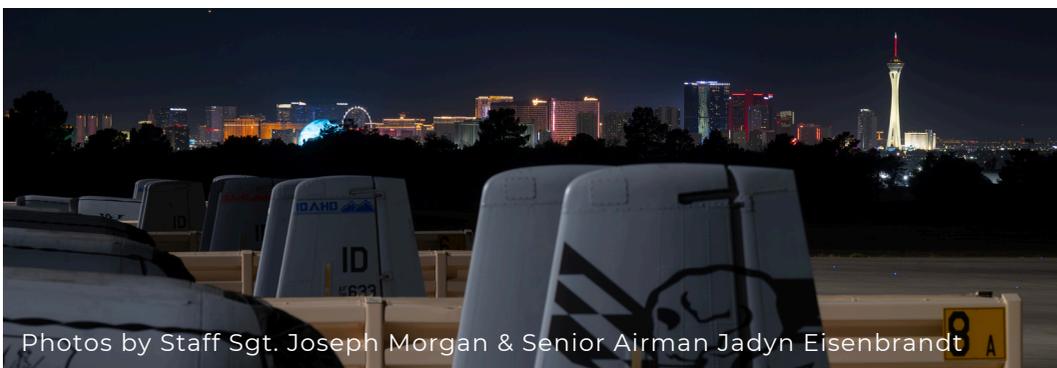
Not only will maintenance be preparing for the near-peer fight during GFW, but so will pilots from the 190th Fighter Squadron. Together they are always ready, always there.





**AIR-SURFACE INTEGRATION EXCELLENCE**  
provided by your 124th Fighter Wing

**GREEN FLAG**  
NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE



Photos by Staff Sgt. Joseph Morgan & Senior Airman Jady Eisenbrandt



# 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

**TED BURGESS, CIV, LCSW**  
 Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
 Call or Text:  
 Cell: (208)972-1116

**BRIAN E. LEWIS, CIV, LCSW**  
 Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
 DSN:422-5313, COMM: (208)422-5313  
 Cell: (986)888-9360

### 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 you 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





## TRAINING WITH GERMAN ALLIES

Story by Maj. Bonnie Blakely

German armed forces Joint Terminal Attack Controllers made a second visit to Idaho this year to train with their counterparts from the 124th Fighter Wing, Air Support Operations Squadron, Idaho Air National Guard, across southern Idaho, Aug. 24-29, 2024.

The 124th ASOS invited the German JTACs to come back for their quarterly unit training assembly, continuing to build upon a relationship that has been growing the past eight years.

"Inviting the German armed forces to Idaho allows us to continue to develop strong NATO relationships," said Col. Chad Kornberg, 124th Fighter Wing Commander. "Being able to have our Airmen working directly with them here in Idaho provides an opportunity to introduce them to how we conduct training."

The purpose of this quarterly training is for the 124th ASOS Tactical Air Control Party

members to validate their standard operating procedures, which encompass five warfighter pillars: communications, mobility, tactical combat casualty care, shooting, and fitness.

Idaho's TACP members are uniquely qualified to operate in joint training and combat environments while maximizing safety, efficiency, and lethality with partner forces around the globe. Sharing the training with the German JTACs allows them to work together in a similar way as if they were deployed and enhances readiness.

"In the great power competition, we are going to be working with our NATO allies in future events and environments," said Capt. Luke Nelson, assistant operations officer for the 124th ASOS. "We work with them downrange. Them coming and participating in our training is really an opportunity for us to do joint training in a non-combat environment."

Early in the week, the TACPs and JTACs practiced water confidence training at Lucky Peak State Park. During this training, participants utilized energy-efficient swimming techniques while learning to trust their equipment in an open-water environment.

During the field training portion, JTACs were fully integrated into the two flights within the 124th ASOS and executed a variety of missions, acting as joint forces when deployed. With the similarities between these career fields in Germany and the U.S., training together allows them to implement NATO tactics, techniques and procedures as joint partners on the same team.

"I think this just helps build that relationship and understanding of the different ways that we do business and the different ways that they do business," said Nelson. "If we learn things from them, if they learn things from us, I think it's a really great opportunity to integrate with these other partner nations and make ourselves better, and learn from them, when we all come to the table."

The shooting and marksmanship component took place at Saylor Creek Range, where they also demonstrated effectively operating in challenging terrain while maintaining long-haul communications.

Additional training took place at the Orchard Combat Training Center, where they also practiced medevac procedures. TACPs and JTACs responded to a simulated medical event, stabilized the patients, and called for transport, provided by Idaho Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk pilots and crew from the 1-183rd Aviation Battalion.

"I'm really impressed by how professional everyone is," said a German training in Idaho. "Everyone seems to be on good footing with each other. Everybody seems really to enjoy working out here in the field."

The German unit has come to Idaho annually since 2016 for close air support training with the 124th ASOS and 190th Fighter Squadron. Last year, more than 100 Airmen from Idaho participated in Air Defender 2023 in Germany, the largest NATO air exercise ever held.

From large multinational exercises to local unit events, training with our German allies is one way the 124th FW continues to be mission-ready for future threats.

"Our Airmen are proven warfighters," said Kornberg, "and supporting our German NATO allies allows us to hone our tactics and our ability to mutually support a near-peer conflict."



Photos by Senior Airman Jady Eisenbrandt

# NEW COMMANDS



## 124TH OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON

Lt. Col. Geoffrey Bauchman  
Aug. 24 , 2024



## 190TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Lt. Col. John Meyers  
Aug. 24, 2024

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras

# 124th Fighter Wing INSPECTOR GENERAL COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION



## CONTACT DETAILS

208-422-5917 or  
208-401-5066  
Jackson.goss.2@us.af.mil  
4474 S. Dehaviland St  
Boise, Idaho 83705

You can get a prompt, fair response through the IG complaint system.

You have the right to file an inspector general complaint at any level without fear of reprisal. First, verify the facts and give your chain of command the opportunity to resolve the issue. If this doesn't work or you don't feel comfortable with a lower-level resolution, complete an Air Force Form 102. This form should be sent via email or regular mail.



## Additional Resources

Fraud, Waste, & Abuse Hotline 208-272-4166  
DOD FWA Hotline 1-800-424-9098

**Lt. Col. Jackson Goss - 124FW IG Director of Complaints Resolution**

# WATER SURVIVAL TRAINING

Photos by Senior Airman Jadyn Eisenbrandt



Pilots from the 124th Fighter Wing's 190th Fighter Squadron participated in water survival training at the Idaho Outdoor Fieldhouse, Boise, Idaho, August 25, 2024.

Pilots must undergo water survival training every three years to maintain their readiness for emergency situations.





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# 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](mailto:edwin.fisher.1@us.af.mil)

Office: 208-422-5383

DSN: 422-5383

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

# DOWNED BUT NOT OUT

## PILOT RESCUE EXERCISE

Story and photos by  
Senior Airman Jady Eisenbrandt

**C**oncealed in a dried creek bed, deep in the U.S. Army's National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, 1st Lt. Matt Donnellan, a pilot assigned to the 190th Fighter Squadron, is nearly invisible to the training scenario's opposing forces.

The scenario on Oct. 29 entailed Donnellan evading the enemy, in this case the participating Army units, long enough to signal for support and be evacuated.

"Combat search and rescue is a vital mission that speaks to the heart of the warrior ethos," said Donnellan. "We will leave no Airman, Soldier, Sailor, or Marine behind and ensure that any American who is shot down or finds themselves stuck behind enemy lines for any reason will have the effort of the entire U.S. Air Force to rescue them. We are most proud of this mission and we take care of our own."





The development of the U.S. Air Force's sophisticated CSAR program was a product of the Sandy mission in the late '60s.

"Combat Search and Rescue is a mission near and dear to the A-10 Thunderbolt II," said Donnellan. "It goes back to Vietnam. The A-1 Sandies would help find and fix the survivor that's on the ground."

During the Vietnam War, a search and rescue task force determined that lone helicopters were too vulnerable to conduct SAR missions. In 1965, the USAF SAR task force came to the conclusion that helicopters would work in pairs and USAF Douglas A-1 Skyraider aircraft would provide rescue escort. This additional combat element effectively transitioned the SAR mission into the CSAR mission we train for today. The A-1s operated under the call sign Sandy for all of their rescue missions. The Department of Defense has since designated the Air Force as the lead service for CSAR.

Because this was his first time being involved in an exercise of this scale, Donnellan teamed up with Senior Airman Josh Manshke, a survival, evasion, resistance and escape specialist assigned to the 414th Combat Training Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

As an expert in navigating situations in which one might be isolated, injured, and alone, Manshke was tasked with observing Donnellan's decision making throughout the process.

"We teach people how to survive should they be isolated somewhere risky," Manshke said. "Staying calm and being able to think clearly is a critical element of success in a real downed-pilot situation."

Donnellan began the exercise at an unknown location on the NTC. From there, he had to find a suitable place to hide from opposing forces and call for evacuation. After hiking a half-mile through the rugged terrain of the NTC, Donnellan found a location he felt was secure enough to stop and make contact with rescue assets.

In a dried creek bed on the slope of a ravine, opposing forces zeroed in on Donnellan's location. But the Army's use of thermal imaging cameras were of little help when trying to locate the downed pilot.

When Donnellan felt the area was secure enough to seek evacuation, he maneuvered to the top of the ravine to establish a line-of-sight with the support helicopter. Unfortunately, that move allowed opposing forces to locate and detain him.

"I've never been able to actually train real world like that and hide out," said Donnellan, when reflecting on his experience during the exercise. "I'm taking away a lot of lessons learned. Trust. Trust the team and trust the process. Hunker down and you'll get rescued. That's why we train."



# 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



**AMANDA NOWAK**  
SARC / SAPRM

📞 208-954-3369

✉ amanda.stone.2@us.af.mil



**MAJ. BONNIE BLAKELY**  
ALT SARC / 124FW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

📞 208-422-5357

✉ bonnie.blakely@us.af.mil



**SSGT. JOSEE MCKERNAN**  
VICTIM ADVOCATE / RECRUITING

📞 208-422-5393

✉ josephine.mckernan@us.af.mil