

# ON FIVE

JULY - DECEMBER 2024





# COMMANDER'S COLUMN

COL. JOHN ZUPANCIC, MEDICAL GROUP

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” —Winston Churchill

As we enter the Holiday Season and the New Year, it is a time of reflection for the year past, but also a time of anticipation of what the New Year will bring. It is a time for hope of what may be, a time for change, and a time for resolutions for personal improvement. An area of improvement we should all focus on is our health.

It is our duty as military members to ensure that we are fit for duty and ready to answer our nation's call at any time. We must also be prepared to deploy for extended periods with limited healthcare resources.



Number one is to develop good home care habits. Floss, Brush, and use a mouth rinse in that order (and yes, someone took the time to study that!) and take your time, brush for at least 2 minutes!

Poor home care can lead to inflammation and infections of the oral tissues which can contribute to other health issues such as heart disease and other systemic problems.

Another area is to improve is your diet. Eat more fruits and vegetables and eliminate, or at least reduce, the amount of sugary drinks you consume. Stop tobacco use! Tobacco, smokeless or not, has a detrimental effect on your teeth and gums but also on your entire system. Stress management is also important. I have seen far too many fractured teeth due to clenching and grinding. If you are waking up with sore jaws and teeth, your body is trying to relieve stress through clenching. If this is occurring, talk to your dentist about your symptoms or stop watching the news!

This leads us to a final important point. See your friendly dentist (or even a crabby one) for regular checkups and mention any concerns you may have.

Remember, Dental care isn't expensive, dental neglect is.

Oral Health is essential to ensure the healthy deployment of our forces.

One area of health we often overlook is our Oral Health. Dental disease is one of the most common non-battlefield injuries, accounting for one out of every five injuries. Despite requiring dental exams annually, we still encounter dental neglect in our forces. I will go through a few simple areas of improvement for the new year that we can all accomplish to improve our oral health.

## HOW TO CONTACT THE AIRMAN CARE TEAM

The Airman Care Team promotes and empowers Airmen and their families by supporting the social, spiritual, mental, and physical well-being of the Bulldog family.

The Airman Care Team is available both on drill weekends and during the regular work week, and consists of the: Airman and Family Readiness Center, Director of Psychological Health, Chaplains Office, Equal Opportunity Office, Human Resource Advisor, Wing Preventionist, and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program.

- \*Airman and Family Readiness.....218-788-7833
- \*Director of Psychological Health.....218-788-7022
- Chaplains Office.....218-788-7447
- Equal Opportunity Office.....218-788-7812
- Human Resource Advisor.....218-788-7547
- \*Wing Preventionist.....218-788-7670
- \*Sexual Assault Prevention and Response..218-788-7584

\* - Indicates full-time staffing

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BY CHAPLAIN BEN BUCHANAN

My wife and I have been working hard to establish holiday traditions for our kids in light of change due to loss in our family over the last few years. If you ask my son, he may not know where we will be on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, but he will tell you that he knows that there will be peanuts in his stocking on Christmas morning. This was a tradition in my family growing up for some reason, to use peanuts as filler among some treats and small gifts in the stockings, so I decided to continue it with my children... despite my wife shaking her head every year as I fill them up.



Because of the recent changes in our family, one of the things that I have grown to appreciate more and more is the simple act of gathering loved ones together. The setting or tradition itself has become less important to me, as there is a gift in the gathering itself. And when this happens, it is amazing to me how there can be a sense of wholeness or completeness when we gather together and celebrate each other, but also take time to remember family members that have been lost, celebrating them as well through the telling of stories or the sharing of memories and traditions. When a family loses a loved one, it is often the case that this type of recognition and celebration begins to happen after there is a sense of closure through a gathering such as a funeral, which also tends to be far more impactful after the reunification of the family with the deceased.

It is with this emphasis on reunification that I want to thank the members of the 148th as I look back over the last year and specifically on the efforts of the Fatality Search and Recovery Team back in October. It was honor to be a part of the 13 member team that responded to both Hurricane Milton in Florida and Helene in North Carolina. To participate in search and recovery efforts, especially around the Asheville area that was so heavily devastated, was an incredibly powerful experience. Our team did a phenomenal job helping to ensure that areas were cleared and that loved ones whose bodies had been recovered were on their way to being reunited with their families.

The idea of leaving no one behind has been a pillar of military mindset, going back as far as Ancient Greek mythology. "Leave no man behind" is certainly a motto

in our US military. In the Christian tradition, we can find the phrase itself in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, but the idea is certainly prevalent throughout, especially in the shepherding imagery of passages like Luke 15:4-6, describing God as a shepherd who will leave the flock of ninety-nine to go and search for the one who is lost.

To search for the lost is an ideal that has been celebrated throughout human history, it is a sobering and humbling act, and I am proud of our team for their willingness to take time and travel to support a greater effort in a community where members weren't always necessarily supportive of having outsiders help out. Great job team and again, thanks for your efforts!

I will say that this experience had impacts for our local community as well, beyond the FRST members. Around mid-November, I was asked to assist the Fredenberg Volunteer Fire Department alongside the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office and Rescue Squad in their search and recovery efforts for a missing man. His body was found and he was able to be reunited with his family.

While this is a bit sobering and may not seem like the most uplifting topic, I will lift it up as something that I am extremely grateful to have been a part of over this last year. It has certainly helped me to appreciate the gift of life and the gift of family and friends gathering together.

*If you have lost a loved one and are struggling over this holiday season, please know that you are not alone.*

I hope that you find some support and comfort in your gatherings and traditions, and that you would reach out for help if you are really struggling in your grief.

No matter your traditions, whether you gather around a tree to open presents, sit around a table to enjoy a meal, or crack peanuts out of a stocking, I hope that you are able to take a moment to appreciate those who are gathered together and that no matter what home looks like for you, that you find blessing and a sense of wholeness in being home for the holidays.

## THE OKINAWA WAVE – MASTER SGT. ADAM HIEB

### STORY BY SENIOR AIRMAN ADDIE PETERSON

KADENA AB, Japan. – Most airmen consider driving to be second nature at home, but this can get complicated in a deployed environment. The ordinary routine of motoring “A to B” isn’t thought about at a guard unit until airmen are sent across the world and can’t bring their privately owned vehicles.

Kadena Air Base, Japan is quite vast when you compare it to the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minn. Transportation is a key aspect of mission readiness to get people on base and around the sprawling airfield.

Now getting a few rental cars might not seem like a big deal, but the wing is deployed to a nation where cars drive on the opposite side of the road. Operating a vehicle takes a lot more thought and coordination when everything is backwards, so airmen need to operate with a higher awareness level. The signs are different, the driver’s seat is on the opposite side and the rules of the road differ.

The classic mistake of turning on the window wipers instead of the turn signal is so common that they nickname it the “Okinawa Wave.” It takes coordination to make sure everyone feels safe and comfortable with driving in a foreign country, and then also making sure people have the licenses they need. It’s not as simple as just handing over the keys.

To take care of this, every deployment designates a Vehicle Control Officer. This is a thankless, but necessary position. Most people want a car, but nobody wants to deal with car problems. Thankfully, Master Sgt. Adam Hieb agreed to take on the role.

Hieb oversees the distribution of 75 vehicles amongst over 300 airmen. Personnel are spread out between five different lodging locations, on and off base. It took important pre-trip planning to figure out how to evenly distribute these vehicles between the shops to ensure everyone can get to work. He also created lines of accounting to estimate the amount of gas that would be spent.



“Almost every day that I’ve been here there has been some issue with cars. Whether it be flat tires, accidents, or complications with getting licenses, I’ve dealt with it all. Normally during our deployments, we don’t get this many cars. 75 vehicles are a lot,” said Hieb.

Before deploying, Hieb volunteered and was chosen to be the Cobra Super for the trip. This gave him the responsibility of supervising and dispatching the maintenance squadron back-shop personnel, taking time away from his normal duty of being a Non-Destructive Inspection Shop Supervisor. After adding that to his workload, he was asked to be the Vehicle Control Officer as well.

“Personnel frequently take on additional responsibilities outside their primary roles, and they handle these tasks superbly because they impact their fellow airmen. Master Sgt. Hieb has excelled in managing our vehicle fleet, ensuring that everyone has reliable transportation,” said Chief Master Sgt. Glen Flanagan.

He’s dealt with problems nobody wants deal with and has gone above and beyond to make sure people are taken care of. The position of a VCO can easily go unnoticed, but it is crucial for a deployment.



*Master Sgt. Adam Knight drives a flightline vehicle while deployed to Kadena Air Base.*

## DEPLOYMENT TO KADENA AIR BASE

Members and F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard deployed to the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan from July to October 2024.

“The 148th Fighter Wing provided a dynamic force employment package to the 18th Wing to provide combat air power adding an additional deterrence factor to the area of operations,” said 179th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Matt Zimmewicz.





## NEW CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

Gen. Steven S. Nordhaus serves as the 30th Chief of the National Guard Bureau and as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this capacity, he serves as a military adviser to the President, Secretary of Defense, National Security Council and is the Department of Defense’s official channel of communication to the Governors and State Adjutants General on all matters pertaining to the National Guard. He is responsible for ensuring the more than 430,000 Army and Air National Guard personnel are accessible, capable and ready to protect the homeland and provide combat ready resources to the Army and Air Force.

Gen. Nordhaus graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. He has flown combat missions in operations Southern Watch, Vigilant Warrior, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

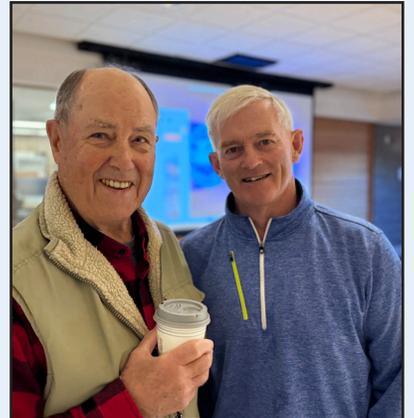
Prior to becoming the Chief, National Guard Bureau on Oct. 2, 2024, Gen. Nordhaus was the Commander, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region; Commander, 1st Air Force (U.S. Air Forces Northern and U.S. Air Forces Space), Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

Nordhaus flew the F-16 and previously served with the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard from 1998 to 2013.



*The 148th hosted a Retirees Breakfast in the Great Lakes Inn on October 4, 2024.*

*Retired Bulldogs enjoyed a moment of nostalgia as they walked through the ‘chow line’ to get breakfast. Col. Curt Grayson provided a mission brief. Retired members also received a tour of the newly completed Memorial Wall.*



## BULLDOG DAY - SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

The 148th Fighter Wing celebrates families every year with our annual Bulldog Day, an afternoon that provides activities, food, and resources for service members, and friends.

This year our Bulldog family enjoyed music from the USAF Band of Mid-America's Roots in Blue, a delicious BBQ, activities, and a resource fair.

Our friends from American Red Cross in Minnesota, United Heroes League, USO, STARBASE Minnesota-Duluth, UMD Marshall W. Alworth Planetarium, Bulldog Enlisted Council, and many others rallied to celebrate our military families.

Thank you 148th Family Programs and Key Volunteers for putting it all together.



## WING MEMORIAL WALL DEDICATION - OCTOBER 5, 2024

### STORY BY 2ND LT. LOGAN GRAYSON

On October 5, 2024, the 148th Fighter Wing hosted an impactful event dedicating their newly finished Memorial Wall, honoring 21 of its members who lost their lives in service to their state and nation. A private ceremony was held for the families of the fallen, providing a space for reflection and remembrance.

As stated by U.S. Air Force retired Brig. Gen. Ray Klosowski, this wall, positioned near the base's flightline operations building, serves as a "granite testament to the heart and soul of the 148th Fighter Wing."

Through this memorial, the Wing aims to preserve the memory of those lost and recognize the enduring strength and sacrifice of their service. The wall itself is a testament to the lives cut short, but the deeper meaning lies in what it stands for.

"This is dedicated to the families," said 148th Fighter Wing commander Col. Nate Aysta, "the living legacy of those service members."

The Memorial Wall not only honors the lost but also acknowledges the families left behind, whose sacrifices continue long after the uniforms have been folded and the final salutes given. Behind each name engraved on the granite wall are stories of loss and resilience. The 148th Fighter Wing has suffered numerous losses over its 76-year history, and each tragedy leaves a ripple that extends far beyond the immediate circle of colleagues.

Many families have carried the weight of losing a father, son, or brother at a young age. For some, this Memorial Wall represents long-awaited recognition of their loved one's service and sacrifice, and a collective acknowledgment of the grief that has shaped their lives.

Two names etched into the Memorial Wall belong to service members who were never found after their aircraft

disappeared during missions. U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jeffrey Dennis and Staff Sgt. Christopher Ford did not return from an F-16 training mission in Panama in 1991. Their families, including Dennis' children, Jeff Jr. and Jae; and Ford's wife, retired Col. Deon Ford, were among the families in attendance who saw their family member's legacy is now permanently part of the 148th Fighter Wing's story.



Generations of service run deep in the 148th Fighter Wing, and many of those attending the dedication carry not only the loss of a loved one but also a tradition of continued military service. Sons, daughters, and grandchildren of the fallen have followed in their footsteps, serving in the very unit their fathers once belonged to.

Chief Master Sgts. Kurt Verville and Doug Ion, both prominent leaders at the 148th, lost their loved ones in the line of service. Their efforts played a pivotal role in completing the Memorial Wall that now bears their father's and grandfather's names, continuing the families' legacy of service.

The dedication ceremony brought together nearly 90 family members from across the country, all Gold Star families, a title given to those who have lost a loved one in service to our nation. A sacred missing man formation swept over the memorial, after the playing of TAPS, closing the ceremony with a profound tribute. This event represents a permanent homage not just to the service members who gave their lives, but also to the families who continue to carry their memory forward.

This wall will forever reflect the unbreakable bond between the 148th Fighter Wing, its families, and the generations who continue to serve, carrying forward the legacy of those who once gave everything.



The completion of the 148th Fighter Wing's Memorial Wall was a result of the work of Chief Master Sgt. Doug Ion, Audra Flanagan, and Chief Master Sgt. Kurt Verville. The small team pitched the idea to former Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. Christopher Blomquist and were able to complete the project in 2024.



148th Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Nathan Aysta address 95 gold star family members and unit personnel at the 148th Fighter Wing Memorial Wall dedication ceremony.



Services Specialist, Tech. Sgt. Ben Churchill sings 'Lord Guard and Guide the Men on High' at 148th Fighter Wing Memorial Wall dedication ceremony.



Munitions Systems Specialist, Tech. Sgt. Jared Hinks sings the National Anthem at the 148th Fighter Wing Memorial Wall dedication ceremony.



Munitions Systems Specialist, Tech. Sgt. Nathan Windus, played TAPS at the 148th Fighter Wing Memorial Wall dedication ceremony.



The family of 1st Lt. Wayne Tahtinen, who died as a result of an F-51 crash in 1954, pose for a photo at the 148th Fighter Wing Memorial Wall dedication ceremony. Tahtinen's grandson, retired Senior Master Sgt. Richard Tahtinen (left) served with the 148th while his great grandson, Senior Airman Nash Tahtinen (right) currently serves in the 148th Communications Squadron.

# INCENTIVE FLIGHTS





## BULLDOGS IN ACTION



*Electrical power production specialists along with fire protection specialists from the 148th Fighter Wing perform duties after a barrier engagement during an aircraft arresting certification at the 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn., Sept. 15, 2024. Certification ensures the arresting barrier can safely function during an emergency landing.*



*The 2024 Minnesota Air National Guard Flight of Honor Ceremony was held at the 148th Fighter Wing, Oct. 10, 2024. The ceremony recognized past and present Airmen from the 148th Fighter Wing, 133rd Airlift Wing, and Joint Force Headquarters, who have distinguished themselves with notable professional achievement and service or heroism.*

## BULLDOGS IN ACTION - FSRT

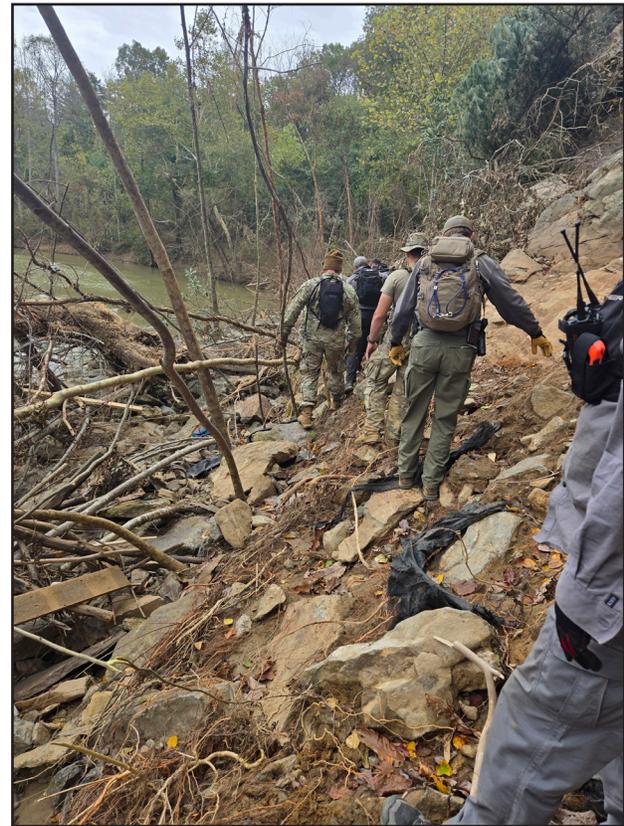
The 148th Fighter Wing's Fatality Search and Recovery Team (FSRT), a specialized unit within the Minnesota National Guard 55th CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package, were mobilized to state active duty in support of Hurricanes Milton and Helene.

Initially deployed to Florida, the FSRT Team was redirected to Asheville, North Carolina, where they conducted 15 search and recovery missions in a 5-kilometer area alongside heavy equipment operators from the 30th Army Brigade, North Carolina Search and Recover Task Force 6 and 9, local law enforcement agencies, and a Medical Examiner from the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team.

This was the inaugural emergency response mission for the 11-person team, augmented by a chaplain and a radio frequency transmissions expert, which encompassed traveling 3,400 miles through 10 states and partnering with 18 diverse teams and agencies.

As a highly trained unit, FSRT Teams specialize in the recovery and cleanup following disasters, offering families closure during times of unimaginable loss. Equipped with Level C personal protective equipment and advanced chemical and hazard detection equipment, these airmen bring unique capabilities to each mission, enabling them to work safely in hazardous environments.

Their rigorous training extends to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Yield Explosives (CBRNE) response, preparing them to handle a range of emergencies, from natural disasters to chemical incidents.



**Group Photo L to R:** Staff Sgt. Noah Cozzi, Tech. Sgt. Richard Schiff, Staff Sgt. Todd Baker (Communications Squadron), Airman 1st Class Mitchell Wilkinson, Senior Airman Donald Pooler, Airman 1st Class Jenna Horvat, Senior Airman Joshua Hemming, Staff Sgt. Armando Barrios, Senior Airman Mya Kunst, Chaplain (Maj.) Ben Buchanan, Airman Saily Dickenson, Master Sgt. Whitney Olson, Capt. Brooke Majchrzak

## CHRISTMAS CITY OF THE NORTH PARADE

Bulldogs marched in the Christmas City of the North Parade on Nov. 22, 2024. In addition to the formation, personnel and vehicles from the Fire Department, Joint Communications Platform, Security Forces, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal represented the 148th Fighter Wing. Everyone's favorite mascot, Tiny the Bulldog, was also in attendance, showing his "Bulldog Pride".



148th Fighter Wing members and their families served the Twin Ports at the annual Thanksgiving Buffet.

Led by Master Sgt. Kyle Risdall, Bulldogs and their families loaded and delivered meals, prepared 'to go' meals, and conducted a variety of logistical tasks.

Event planners say 6,000 residents of Duluth, Superior and the surrounding area were fed this year.

This is the 19th year the 148th Fighter Wing supported this event.



# PROMOTIONS

JULY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

## CHIEF MASTER SGT.

RICK CORNELISON

## SENIOR MASTER SGT.

ALICE NEPHEW  
AMANDA ROBBINS

## MASTER SGT.

JESSE DUKOWITZ  
MATTHEW HOLLAND  
SCOTT NELSON  
AMY CUNNINGHAM  
TIMOTHY SHERMAN  
ERIC PETCOFF  
JEREMY LOPEZ

## TECH. SGT.

JON JOHNSON  
TAYLOR PILLE  
BROOK HUUSKO  
DUSTIN FRANKOVICH  
MADISON MORITZ  
MATTHEW FLORESTANO  
KEITH NEWMAN  
LOUANNA STEICHEN  
KOLE HIEMENZ  
PHILLIP ANDERSON  
BROCK BERGMANN  
ASHLEY TALARICO  
LUCAS NORDQUIST

## STAFF SGT.

HAYLIE ANDERSON  
ETHAN NEVEAU  
SAMUEL HESKIN  
ARIEL CARLSON  
BRETT SEVERSON  
DANIEL UMRU  
MASON CONLIN  
PARKER THOMAS  
COLTON DRIEMAN  
CAMERON LOBERG  
SELIN FEDORA  
GRACE PETERSCHICK  
DYLAN ION  
BLAKE KOSKI  
TYLIN RUST  
SYDNEY GRAYSON  
JACOB DESCHENES  
MARCELLA SCHUBBE  
NASH TAHTINEN  
NOAH LUKAN  
RYAN KRAUSE  
JESUS PALCHIZACA DOTSETH  
ERIN WESTER  
MICHAEL GRAVES  
KENZIE SKOGLUND

## SENIOR AIRMAN

JUSTIN MATSON  
BENNETT HILLE  
ANDREW TORREL  
SOPHIA PRZYBYL  
KILLEEN PRATER  
RYAN WICK  
ISAAC HONKOLA

## SENIOR AIRMAN (CONT.)

JOSHUA HEMMING  
MAISY ROHWEDER  
GRACE KOSKI  
MEGAN WARNYGORA  
KADE GONSOROWSKI  
ALLI RAUKAR  
RYAN KNAACK  
TREY JACKMAN  
CHARLI GIELEN  
EMMA JO VANNESTE  
MYA KUNST  
LEANA RUGGLES  
ADDIE PETERSON  
ABIGAIL BROWN

## AIRMAN 1ST CLASS

MADISON LANG  
NICHOLAS TURCHI  
ALEC PETERSON  
KAELEY SPIERING  
HUNTER COOKE  
RAEGEN OLSON  
JENNA HORVAT  
QUINTANA WALKER  
ALAYNA PETERSON  
THOMAS JERSETT  
NOAH KOSBAB  
ALLANA CARLSON

## AIRMAN

ROCKWELL SEYMOUR  
AIDEN VOLTZKE  
SAIDY DICKENSON  
SYDNEY ADAMSKI



*Col. Scott Prom was promoted in a ceremony held November 2, 2024.*



*Chief Master Sgt. Rick Cornelison was promoted in a ceremony held December 6, 2024.*

## 148TH FIGHTER WING RECRUITING: REWRITING THE PLAYBOOK

STORY BY 2ND LT. LOGAN GRAYSON

The 148th Fighter Wing is rewriting the playbook on recruiting success, finishing the 2024 year with a historic 101 enlistments, the highest number recorded for the wing in the past 20 years. With a small but mighty team led by the Tech. Sgt. Paige Feete, the recruiters have strengthened their connection with the community, energized their mission, and contributed to the future of the 148th Fighter Wing.

*This year, the team didn't just meet expectations, they shattered them.*

Feete transferred to the 148th from active duty earlier this year, bringing a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and a passion for service. From Security Forces to Air Force Office of Special Investigations, to her role as a recruiter, Feete has proven she's up for any challenge.

She's not alone. The team, Tech. Sgt. Madison Moritz, Tech. Sgt. Erik Hjelden, Tech. Sgt. Jessica Smart, Tech. Sgt. Teagan Emberson, and Staff. Sgt. Emma Alvarez, have risen to the occasion, leaning into a strategy that's as innovative as it is impactful.

"We're so proud of the success of the shop, they've been able to thrive in an incredibly high pressure and demanding environment," states Col Ryan Kaspari, Mission Support Group Commander, 148th Fighter Wing.

This year, recruiting wasn't just about filling slots, it was about forging relationships. The team doubled down on high school and community events, meeting potential recruits where they are.

"We've leaned heavily into schools and social media, but the real success has been through word-of-mouth referrals," Feete said. "Thank you to all the Bulldogs who've brought their friends and family to us!"

The strategy paid off in dividends, not just in numbers but in reach. The 148th has a positive presence in the community, with Bulldog pride becoming a recruitment tool in its own right.



The numbers speak for themselves. The 148th achieved 101.09% end strength and retained 93.27% of its members. In fact, demand is so high that most positions have a "wait list," with only one AFSC currently accepting applicants, one of the first times ever for the 148th Fighter Wing.

A cornerstone of the recruiting team's success this year has been the overwhelming support from current members. Unit referrals, where Bulldogs recommend their friends, family, and colleagues, have become a major driver for the unprecedented enlistment numbers. These personal connections not only bring in recruits who are already familiar with the wing's culture but also help build an unshakable sense of community.

The success of the 148th Fighter Wing's recruiting team reflects a broader truth about the wing itself: its strength lies in its people. From active outreach in schools and communities to the personal endorsements of proud members, every effort has built a stronger, more connected Bulldog family.

With demand at an all-time high and new incentives for referrals rolling out soon, the wing is poised to continue its legacy of excellence.



# 148FW

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## MN AIR NATIONAL GUARD

### ENLISTMENT SPOTLIGHT

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148th Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Erik Hjelden; new 148th Weather Specialist, Staff Sgt. Connor McDonald; and 148th Operations Support Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. James Grandaw, pose for a photo after Staff Sgt. McDonald formalized his membership in the Minnesota Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing on Dec. 10, 2024.

McDonald is a prior service Weather Specialist who enlisted in the Air Force in 2016. The Minnetonka-native was stationed at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. He deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in 2018, Al Udiad Air Base, Qatar in 2021, and Anderson Air Force Base, Guam in 2024. McDonald and his family now reside in the Twin Cities where he is an engineering student at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

### RECRUITING

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#### CONTACT THE RECRUITING TEAM

218-788-7818 OR

1-800-831-7027

[148.FW.Recruiting.Org@us.af.mil](mailto:148.FW.Recruiting.Org@us.af.mil)

INSTAGRAM: [@148fw\\_recruiting](https://www.instagram.com/148fw_recruiting)



*Ten Bulldogs from the 148th Fighter Wing were selected to participate in the Minnesota Vikings ‘Salute to Service’ game at U.S. Bank Stadium on December 1, 2024.*

*A Bulldog who deployed in 2024 plus a family member participated in the patriotic pregame ceremony by helping roll out the giant American Flag during the National Anthem.*

*The Minnesota Vikings defeated the Arizona Cardinals 23-22. SKOL!*

**Contents of the On Five are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth International Airport, Minnesota 55811.**

Col. Nathan Aysta .....	Wing Commander	Senior Master Sgt. Jason Rolfe .....	Public Affairs Superintendent
Col. Babette Van Hees .....	Deputy Commander	Master Sgt. Megan Shaner .....	Chief of Community Engagement
Audra Flanagan .....	Chief of Public Affairs	Staff Sgt. Tylin Rust .....	Public Affairs Specialist
Capt. Natasha Hilsgen .....	Public Affairs Officer	Senior Airman Addie Peterson .....	Public Affairs Specialist
2nd. Lt. Logan Grayson .....	Public Affairs Officer	Airman Liberty Clifford .....	Public Affairs Helper