

# THE BEACON

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 124TH FIGHTER WING

FALL 2024 / WINTER 2025



COMBAT EXCELLENCE - ALWAYS ON MISSION

## FROM THE 124TH FIGHTER WING COMMANDER **COL. RYAN RICHARDSON**

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Welcome back to a busy drill! A lot has happened since we last published the Beacon, but I hope you and your families had a refreshing and relaxing holiday season and your new year is off to a great start.

First, I want to say thank you to Col. Kornberg for his leadership over the last few years. It is an honor to follow him as wing commander, and I look forward to building upon all the great things he did for this wing. To each of our Airmen and your families, thank you for your service. I am grateful for each and every one of you.

It is a challenging and amazing time to be serving our nation and state. We are recovering from a heavy deployment cycle, spinning up for another, trying to keep up with rapid change across the Air Force and military enterprise, and anticipating a future mission change. The pace of operations and fear of the unknown can certainly create a feeling of anxiety for the organization as a whole and for each of us as individuals. Here is what I know: this wing is an incredible team, and we will get through all of this together. We have exceptional leaders, technical experts, experience levels that are unmatched, and the pride of being in the Idaho Air National Guard. That is an unstoppable combination.

That said, we can't be effective teammates if we're not taking care of ourselves and our families. During this drill, please take a moment to reflect on your balance — physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Are you fueling your body with proper nutrition, staying active, and getting enough rest? When you're with your family, are you fully present and engaged? Are you taking time to really connect with coworkers and friends? If you find any of these areas lacking, commit to making small, positive changes. Remember, there are fantastic resources available in our Wing and the J9, so don't hesitate to reach out and make use of the support offered.

Regardless of your AFSC, experience level, rank or title, every one of you plays a critical role in our wing's mission of combat excellence. Please continue to take care of each other, stay focused on the mission we have today, practice good OPSEC, and take full advantage of every opportunity to train to the highest level. I am proud to serve with you all.

**Go Guard, ATTACK!**

*Col. Richardson*



# COMMANDER'S PRIORITIES



MISSION



PEOPLE



FUTURE

## **124FW TRAINING EFFORT** 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. Ryan Richardson

## 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  
Staff Sgt. Jady Eisenbrandt  
Airman 1st Class Sarah Welch

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## WHERE TO FIND US



[124THFIGHTERWING.ANG.AF.MIL](https://124THFIGHTERWING.ANG.AF.MIL)



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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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Col. Ryan Richardson took lead of the 124th Fighter Wing from Col. Chad Kornberg at a change of command ceremony Jan. 26, 2025, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. Richardson joined the Idaho Air National Guard in 2019 and most recently served as the 124th Fighter Wing deputy commander. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Staff Sgt. Jadyne Eisenbrandt)

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124TH  
**FIGHTER WING**  
SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

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DO YOU HAVE A STORY  
YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

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# RICHARDSON

## TAKES COMMAND OF WING

Story by Airman 1st Class Sarah Welch  
Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mercedee Wilds and  
Staff Sgt. Jady Eisenbrandt

Col. Ryan Richardson became the new commander for the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing during a change of command ceremony Jan. 26, 2025, on Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho.

Richardson took lead of the wing from Col. Chad Kornberg, surrounded by Guardsmen, community leaders, family and friends.

"I'm honored and humbled and inspired to sit here before you guys," said Richardson. "There's something special about the Idaho Guard that doesn't exist anywhere else, and I promise it's real. This team is incredible."

Richardson began his career in the U.S. Air Force in 1999 after graduating from Montana State University as an Air Force ROTC distinguished graduate. He served on active duty and in the Air Force Reserve before joining the Idaho Air National Guard in 2019. During his career, he has flown the A-10 Thunderbolt II and C-130 Hercules. While in the IDANG, he has held command positions in various groups within the wing. He most recently served as the 124FW deputy commander.



Col. Kornberg had led the wing since November 2021. Under his command, Airmen from the wing have completed multiple deployments, hosted the Gowen Thunder Airshow, implemented mission-ready Airman training in preparation for a near-peer conflict, participated in multiple combat readiness exercises and supported civil authorities throughout multiple state activations.

“It has truly been an honor to lead the men and women of this fighter wing,” said Kornberg. “They truly embody the wing motto of ‘First class, or not at all.’ I have no doubt that the wing will continue to meet future challenges head-on, taking the fight to any enemy threatening the freedom of this country.”

Both Kornberg and Richardson emphasized the continued achievements of the wing, the changes and adaptable execution, but most importantly the people, the Airmen of the 124FW.

“Our strength lies in people, our culture, pride and commitment to service,” said Richardson. “My focus going forward for the wing is going to continue to try to build on those strengths at the tactical level. We'll hold ourselves accountable to high speeds, and we'll exercise extreme ownership.”

Richardson said the future of the 124FW is to support the mission with always ready and always capable Airmen.

“We'll take care of our Airmen; trust and communication will continue to be the bedrock of our foundation. Combat excellence is our mission. Failure is not an option. We have the right people. It's you guys, going to make it happen. I'm proud to be a part of it and do it with you guys.”



# GOWEN FIRE

# MARE

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mercedes Wilds



124th Fighter Wing fire protection members participated in a major accident response exercise at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, Nov. 8, 2024. The scenario for this MARE included two victims trapped in a vehicle that was crushed by an inert bomb in the munitions staging area of Gowen.



# 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 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



# TOWER climbing TRAINING

Story and photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Mercedes Wilds

Radar, airfield and weather systems specialists with the 266th Range Squadron, a geographically separated unit of the 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard, completed tower climbing training on Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, Dec. 10, 2024.

Tower climbing is a vital component in maintaining communication systems at the Saylor Creek Bombing Range, Mountain Home AFB, and other military operating areas in Southern Idaho.

Senior Airman Leneca Shockley, a RAWs specialist, shared her experience undergoing the training, emphasizing its hands-on nature. "It's very educational when it comes to figuring out the new mechanics of setting up radios and radar systems on towers."

The towers, ranging from 50 to 100 feet, play a crucial role in transmitting data back to base communication hubs.

"It's not simple to just climb up the tower; it takes a lot of safety measures and mechanical knowledge," Shockley said.

The training blends technical knowledge with physical skill. Participants learn proper climbing techniques, equipment management, and self-rescue procedures to handle emergencies.

"It's about knowing where everything is and ensuring safety equipment is in place while staying connected to all surfaces," Shockley explained.

Despite the physical demands, Shockley found comfort in the structured safety protocols, like positioning plans that reduce reliance on physical strength alone.

"The climb training program is essential for our operations. Without it, the mission at Mountain Home AFB couldn't happen," said Master Sgt. Clinton Colson, NCOIC and shop supervisor for range communications.

Colson elaborated on the program's broader impact: the towers support ground-to-air radios for jets, as well as network links for threat emitters, emergency and communication systems. The training is meticulous, combining classroom instruction with hands-on tower rescue scenarios.

"Classroom training covers regulations and equipment requirements, while the tower portion focuses on timed rescue exercises," said Colson. "The goal is to ensure

personnel are equipped to respond to emergencies, though thankfully, incidents have been rare."

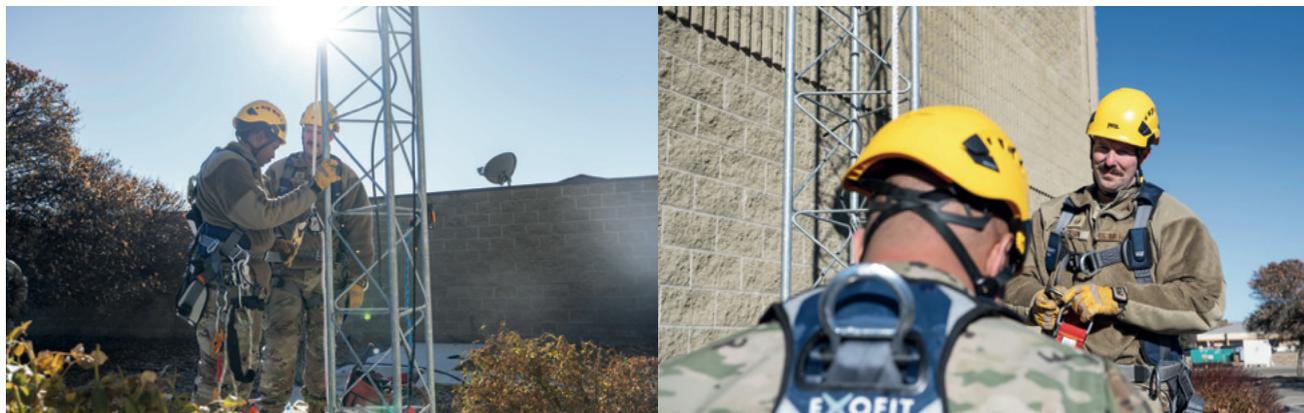
The communication systems the RANS maintain extend beyond the base to various military training ranges in Southern Idaho, where the RANS provides realistic electronic threats to both U.S. forces and NATO partners.

"We support contractors, special forces, and external entities, ensuring reliable communication networks for all operations on the range," Colson added.

The IDANG remains a hub of innovation, where military personnel, rather than contractors, maintain and install communication infrastructure, said Colson.

Looking ahead, the program aims to maintain high standards. Colson, currently the sole trainer in the squadron, ensures consistency in instruction and certification. The training curriculum follows guidelines set by Gravitec Systems, which also supplies training across the Air Force, ensuring a standardized approach.

Through their efforts, 266 RANS continues to exemplify the importance of safety, skill, and innovation in maintaining mission readiness. As Colson puts it, "It all starts with the tower climbing."





# HARTNOLL RETIRES

Chief Master Sgt. Mark Hartnoll, with 124th Maintenance quality assurance, retired from the Idaho Air National Guard during a ceremony on Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, Dec. 7, 2024. Hartnoll joined the IDANG in 1986 and began his career in the 124th Fighter Wing's Maintenance Group.



Photos by Senior Airman Jady Eisenbrandt



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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

# 124th Fighter Wing INSPECTOR GENERAL COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION



## CONTACT DETAILS

208-422-5917 or  
208-401-5066  
[Jackson.goss.2@us.af.mil](mailto: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**



# SMITH BECOMES ATAG

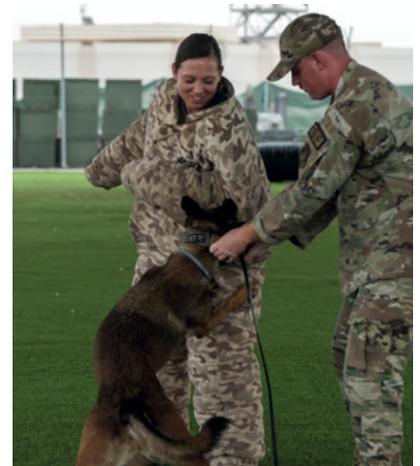
In June 2024, Maj. Gen. Timothy Donnellan announced the selection of Brig. Gen. Shannon “Sinjin” Smith as the new commander of the Idaho Air National Guard and assistant adjutant general - Air.



Smith previously served as the chief of staff of the Idaho Air National Guard, commander of the 113th Wing in Washington D.C., and commander of the Idaho Air National Guard’s 124th Fighter Wing. Smith has served in the Air National Guard since April 2002, following a decade in the active duty Air Force. As a pilot, he has logged more than 4,200 flight hours in his career and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

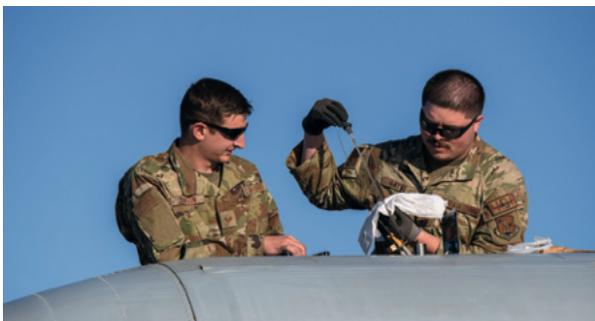
# YEAR IN

AS WE LOOK BACK ON 2024, HERE ARE SOME OF



# REVIEW

OUR FAVORITE PICS OF OUR AIRMEN IN ACTION





# NDI LEADING THE WAY

Story by Staff Sgt. Joe Morgan  
and photos by Staff Sgt. Jacy Eisenbrandt



The 124th Fighter Wing's Nondestructive Inspection (NDI) team became the first in the Air Force NDI sphere to roll out a new means of data capture and analysis, employing the Ametek Field Lab 58 (FL-58), during Green Flag West, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Oct. 27 to Nov. 8, 2024.



Over the course of two years, the USAF, through the Joint Oil Analysis Program, has been developing training materials and testing the FL-58 with the goal of replacing the heavier, more maintenance-intensive spectrometer.

"I have the great pleasure of being the first person in the Air Force to use this machine in the field," said Staff Sgt. Nathan Layne, a NDI specialist with the 124th Maintenance Squadron. "We can assess its capabilities and compare its pros and cons with a traditional spectrometer."



According to Master Sgt. Dezeray Brockett, NDI NCO in charge and NDI Liaison for the Air National Guard, this new technology is lighter, cheaper, requires less maintenance and therefore provides a new opportunity to move this capability out of a lab and into the field, something that is critical in a near-peer fight.

“In the past, we’d have to find the cleanest and warmest room and control that environment as much as possible,” said Brockett. “We’d set up the spectrometer and wait for the machine to self-regulate or adjust to that environment. Once approved, the FL-58 will put an end to the need for all that.”

The wing flew Airmen, to include members of the NDI team, to Naval Air Station North Island in California to test the mobility of the wing. NDI used this opportunity to gather data from the FL-58, in a remote, uncontrolled environment.

Proving the capability of new equipment is critical to its overall deployment to the field.

“The point of utilizing the FL-58 at NASNI is to gather field data,” said Layne. “The unit has only ever been used in a controlled environment. The forward deployment to NASNI with the unit demonstrated its capabilities in an uncontrolled environment. The overarching idea is to replace

conventional spectrometers with the FL-58, Air Force-wide.”

NDI uses non-destructive ways to ensure aircraft can operate safely.

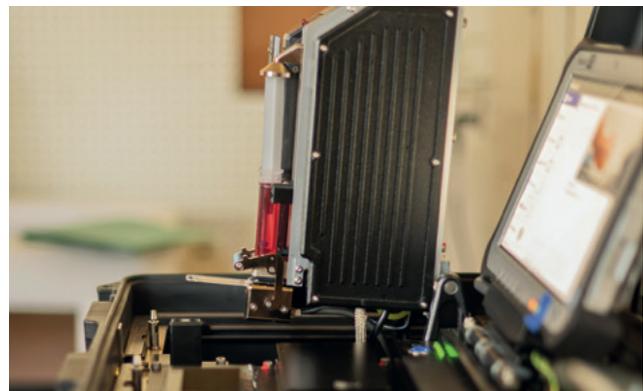
“Our primary goal in NDI is to check for damage or flaws in aircraft materials, parts, or structures without causing any harm to them,” said Layne. “In simplest terms, we use sound waves, X-Rays, magnets, and dyes to spot cracks, weaknesses, or any other issues.”

Being able to assess things while being minimally invasive ensures assets, in this case the A-10 Thunderbolt II, can spend less time in maintenance and more time in the fight.

The FL-58 enhances NDIs ability to do their job, especially with the A-10’s engines.

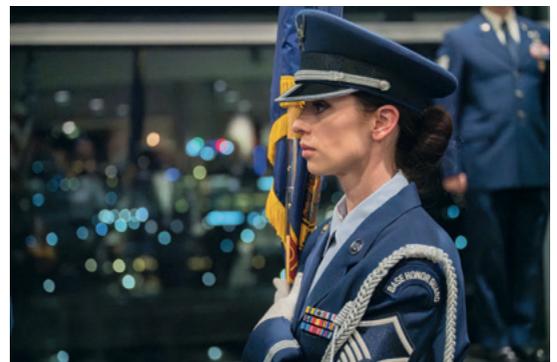
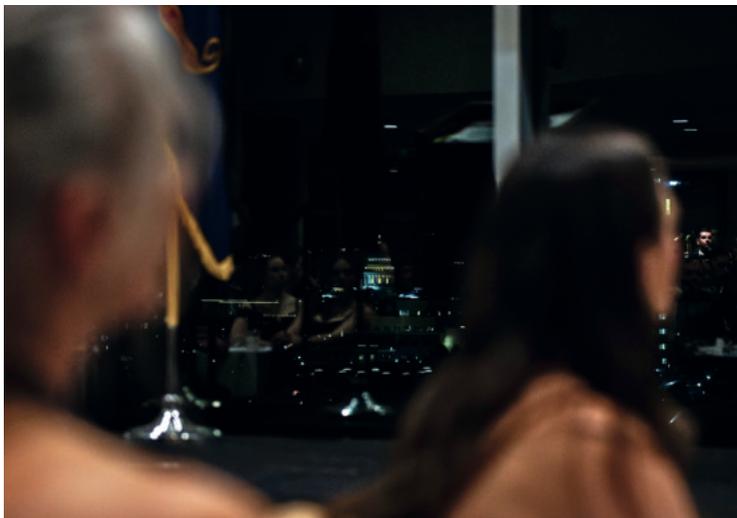
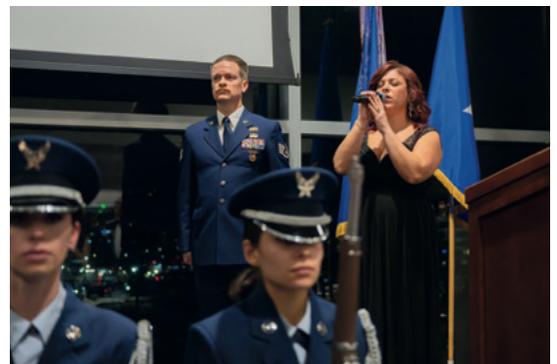
When an aircraft lands, engine oil samples are collected and then delivered to NDI. This is where the FL-58 comes in. Using advanced X-Ray technology, the machine analyzes these oil samples to determine defects within the engines.

“This is so important because this is preventative maintenance for the engines,” said Brockett. “Each engine is worth \$1.5 million. With the spectrometer, we’re able to diagnose problems down to a specific quadrant or a specific part within each engine.”



# OUTSTANDING

On Feb. 7, 2025, the 124th Fighter Wing hosted the Outstanding Airman of the Year ceremony at the Stueckle Sky Center at Boise State University to celebrate the wing, build esprit de corps, and recognize the wing's outstanding Airmen from 2024.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jady Eisenbrandt

# AIRMEN of the YEAR

## 2024 WING WINNERS



### **Airman of the Year -**

SrA Andrew Anderson,  
124th Mission Support Group

### **NCO of the Year -**

TSgt Mercedee Wilds,  
124th Fighter Wing Staff

### **SNCO of the Year -**

MSgt Dezeray Brockett,  
124th Maintenance Group

### **First Sergeant of the Year -**

MSgt Scott Vermeer,  
124th Operations Group



**Spirit Award Winner:**  
Medical Group



# COMACC Visits IDANG

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mercedee Wilds

U.S. Air Force Gen. Ken Wilsbach, commander of Air Combat Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Dave Wolfe, command chief of Air Combat Command, visited the 124th Fighter Wing, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, Jan. 8, 2025. Idaho National Guard leaders showcased the wing's mission and its impact on Air Combat Command.

Leaders from across the wing listened and asked questions during a roundtable discussion with Gen. Wilsbach and Chief Wolfe. The roundtable allowed wing leaders to directly engage with ACC leadership on concerns and topics affecting Airmen in the wing.



# 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

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# GREEN FLAG: WING TESTS READINESS IN NEVADA DESERT

Story and photos by  
Staff. Sgt. Jady  
Eisenbrandt

The 124th Fighter Wing returned to Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, from Green Flag West, Nov. 9, 2024, after spending more than 15 days training in the Nevada desert.

The exercise is designed to prepare units to support combat operations around the world.

“Green Flag offers a joint-training environment that focuses on multi-service integration during combat operations,” said Col. Chad Kornberg, the 124th Fighter Wing commander. “A near-peer fight will necessitate proficiency and familiarity with joint operations doctrine to be combat effective and support the national defense strategy.”



The exercise also provided unique training opportunities, like landing on unimproved fields, which our Airmen are unable to get when training back home at Gowen Field. Training the way we plan to fight better prepares the wing for whatever the future fight asks of us, Kornberg said.

Realistic training is critical to combat readiness.

“The training that the 124th Maintenance Group got at Green Flag replicated real-world scenarios as closely as possible by introducing contested environments, rapid turnaround times, and interoperability with other units,” said Lt. Col. Daniel Benfield, the exercise officer in charge of the 124th Maintenance Group. “The complex training environment tested our Airmen’s ability to react quickly to changing scenarios.”

According to Benfield, another key area of focus for training during GFW was testing the concept of mission-ready Airmen. These skills were tested in various scenarios including close-air-support, combat search and rescue, joint-fire integration, and loading and building munitions.

Being a mission-ready Airman requires overcoming challenges and working as a team.

“Every TDY brings with it unique challenges, and GFW is no exception,” said Senior Master Sgt. Taylor McBride, the exercise maintenance non-commissioned officer in charge. “These challenges breed resilience and confidence with each and every hurdle successfully overcome. Our team of maintainers came together, one team, one fight, with the same goal.”

The teambuilding developed during an exercise directly impacts deployed operations.

**“I have never seen a group of people come together to form a solid team the way I do when we deploy together,” McBride said.**

“I have never seen a group of people come together to form a solid team the way I do when we deploy together,” McBride said. “There’s something special that happens when we go TDY and deploy. The relationships get stronger, and we unite our skill sets to accomplish the mission.”

The value of teamwork and the ability to adapt to changing scenarios was truly highlighted during a routine gunload conducted by members of the 124th FW’s weapons squadron.

“In weapons, you’re on a crew of three. You have your one-man, two-man and three-man positions. That’s who is working on the jet with you at the same time and making sure everyone is safe,” explained Staff Sgt. Alyssa Johnson, an aircraft armament systems technician assigned to the 124th FW. “Because of the circumstances here at Nellis, we don’t have munitions systems pulling our trailers for our 30mm rounds, so we have to push them by hand. Other crews were coming out pushing those trailers alongside us. We were jumping in and rotating with them. Being able to work with these other groups proves that we are stronger together.”





Being stronger together means understanding each other's job and willingly lending a helping hand during all phases of operations.

“We challenged our Airmen to stay away from the phrase ‘that’s not my job’ and instead find ways that they can be involved across different AFSC lines and help the mission move forward as one team,” said Benfield. “The bonds of trust and relationships that are formed during these exercises are pivotal for laying the foundation of how effectively the team will work together in a true combat environment.”



The wing depends on more than equipment to be successful at home and abroad.

“Our wing relies on our Airmen to get the job done, and supporting both exercises and deployments requires sacrifices by not only them, but their families and employers,” said Kornberg. “To our Airmen, thank you for your dedicated service to the great state of Idaho and this nation; your sacrifices in this service do not go unnoticed and each and every one of you is critical to the success of this wing. To the families of our Airmen, thank you for supporting your loved ones as they support the needs of the wing, this state and country. Without you, we lose an essential piece to our Airmen’s overall combat effectiveness. Go Guard... Attack.”



**SMSGT ABBEY GATLIN**

# HUMAN RESOURCE ADVISOR

As your HRA, I promote professional development, collaboration, and effective communication across all ranks. Through comprehensive training and supportive initiatives, I empower Airmen to excel and lead, fostering a cohesive and high-performing team dedicated to our mission success and growth.



## HRA PROGRAM OFFERINGS



### FOUR LENSES

The Four Lenses is a proven personality temperament model that acts as a universal companion to any training or initiative. This foundational training helps individuals and organizations establish a common language and value system for diverse perspectives and unique talent in the workplace, in the classroom, or simply in life.



### EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Emotional intelligence (EI) is the ability to understand and manage your own emotions, as well as recognize and influence the emotions of others. It's also known as emotional quotient (EQ). It involves self-awareness, self-regulation, and social awareness.



### COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Effective communication is the process of exchanging ideas and information so that the message is clear and understood. It's important to understand the differences in generational communication styles.



### COACHING SKILLS

Coaching skills are the qualities and actions that focus on helping individuals improve performance. They aim to pose probing questions in order to guide others toward improvement and learning through teamwork, positive leadership and strengths.

**“FIRST CLASS,  
OR NOT AT ALL.”**

Additionally, I can create and conduct miscellaneous classes based on the needs of the Wing / Groups / Squadrons.

For questions, or to schedule a class with me, please email me at my .mil and civilian emails so I can assist you outside of scheduled UTAs.



[Abbey.Gatlin.1@us.af.mil](mailto:Abbey.Gatlin.1@us.af.mil)



[AbbeyLF.Gatlin@gmail.com](mailto:AbbeyLF.Gatlin@gmail.com)



## IDNG SUPPORTS 60TH PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jady Eisenbrandt

Task Force Snake, made up of approximately 350 service members from the Idaho National Guard, supported civil authorities during the 60th Presidential Inauguration (PI60) in Washington D.C., Jan. 15-21, 2025.

Task Force Snake was assigned to Joint Task Force District of Columbia, which supports presidential inaugurations every four years and is led by the commanding general of the D.C. National Guard.

“We were a reserve unit to support Task Force District and Task Force Federal, two other task forces that had primary missions within the National Mall, specifically the area right in the center of town,” said Lt. Col. Barret Bishop, commander of Task Force Snake. “Soldiers and Airmen directed foot traffic, performed crowd management and conducted vehicle traffic and checkpoints. They also acted as sensors, reporting anything they saw to civil authorities.”

JTF-DC supported civilian authorities such as the U.S. Capitol Police, U.S. Secret Service and the D.C. Metropolitan Police by providing services like crowd management, traffic control points, CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapon) response, civil disturbance response and sustainment operations.

In the days leading up to the inauguration, Task Force Snake was assigned as a quick reaction force for JTF-DC. As a QRF, Guardsmen were on call to deploy from their staging area should civil authorities need their support.

The Idaho National Guard's involvement in PI60 provided unique training opportunities with local community partners, such as the Boise City Police Department. From Jan. 15-16, before the task force departed for Washington D.C., BPD provided civil disturbance training; this included protest, demonstration and riot deescalation techniques and proper use of equipment. The training ensured that the task force was prepared as a QRF during the peaceful transfer of power from one presidential administration to the next.

"We trained with the Boise City Police Department on crowd management," said Bishop. "The Boise police had officers with crowd-control experience that taught us a lot about their experiences and things that we could implement if we needed to."

On Jan. 20, Task Force Snake was called upon to support United States Capitol Police in crowd management operations around the Capitol Building.

"We were assigned to the civil disturbance, traffic control and patrol perimeter mission," said Staff Sgt. Kelsey Alder, a bioenvironmental engineer assigned to the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing. "On Inauguration Day, we worked several entry points to direct traffic and entry-point access. We worked alongside the U.S. Capitol Police, who deputized us a few days prior to the inauguration in order to perform these specific duties."

Task Force Snake worked directly with USCP on inauguration day.

"We are the citizen-Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard," said Bishop. "This entire task force was made up of people who have civilian jobs, who live and work in the community. They left those jobs and their homes to perform this duty. We are always there in the community, but when called upon, we are ready to go."





# SHINE THE LIGHT

Airmen from the 124th Security Forces Squadron participated in the annual Shine the Light event at St. Luke's Children's Hospital, Boise, Idaho, Dec. 19, 2024. Each year local first responders join forces to bring holiday cheer to children spending the holiday season in the hospital.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Jady Eisenbrandt





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



124th Fighter Wing  
IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
4474 S. De Haviland St.  
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# KIDS' ACTIVITY

D	U	K	Y	P	M	K	R	Y	V	H	J	P	H	N
A	B	S	N	L	C	I	L	W	E	A	P	O	N	S
I	N	A	M	O	T	H	S	E	I	P	V	A	L	Y
R	N	Z	H	I	B	F	N	S	Z	O	S	T	Y	W
M	O	U	T	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G	V	G	U
E	G	C	W	E	V	M	I	D	G	O	Z	K	H	E
N	T	T	G	N	C	I	G	S	S	I	N	L	Z	C
D	D	P	A	W	W	L	D	O	S	X	J	J	B	G
E	V	V	P	U	W	Y	Z	W	A	R	T	H	O	G
P	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	E	R	F	H	U	A	P
L	L	G	R	E	E	N	F	L	A	G	Q	S	L	A
O	P	U	J	Y	D	M	L	I	V	A	U	F	E	P
Y	M	Y	R	L	O	G	U	Y	Z	R	S	U	A	B
Y	W	R	E	A	D	I	N	E	S	S	M	W	D	X
Z	U	T	R	A	I	N	I	N	G	L	K	C	V	P

## WORD SEARCH

Outstanding  
Readiness  
Airmen  
Warthog  
Green Flag  
Training  
Deploy  
Lead  
Weapons  
Mission  
Family  
Commander