

# THE JET GAZETTE

READY TO SERVE...NATION & NEIGHBOR

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 141ST AIR REFUELING WING

APRIL 2025

## WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

MDG TRAINS FOR CASUALTY  
CARE IN REALISTIC ENVIRONMENT

## HADES BOUNTY

116TH SUPPORTS 60TH AIR  
MOBILITY WING DURING  
CRW EXERCISE

# THE JET GAZETTE

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APR 2025

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THE MISSION OF THE JET GAZETTE  
IS TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE EVENTS  
AND INFORMATION OF THE 141ST AIR REFUELING WING  
TO UNIT MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND RETIREES  
AND TO RECOGNIZE PERSONAL AND UNIT  
ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN THE WING.

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# NOTES FROM THE TOP



## COLONEL MARK SCOTT COMMANDER, 141ST MXG

**A**s the 141st ARW moves into another busy year, we are reminded that now more than ever, we are an operational force that is always ready to serve Nation and Neighbor. The privilege of welcoming over 80 of our Airmen back home after a six-month deployment—and then sending more than 120 out the door for three months—emphasizes this reality.

We face many other distractions, most of which are out of our control, but the mission remains our focus. With many in Operations and Maintenance on the road this summer, it is imperative that we keep in-garrison preparations and training moving forward. All this uncertainty on multiple fronts will not deter us.

I want to encourage every one of you to take stock of where we are as a Wing and

all the great things we have accomplished together. The strength of our organization is rooted in our Guard family and in the high expectations we hold each other to.

We are always focused on building our team and honing our skills to be the best in the business. Stay focused on the job at hand, and take the time to look at your brothers and sisters on your right and left—they are in this together with you.

Be sure to recharge your batteries this summer and enjoy the outdoors with your family and friends. The 141st ARW overcomes all challenges by sticking together and supporting our fine Airmen and their families.

It is a pleasure and honor to serve with all of you!

Mark

# CHIEF'S CORNER

SENIOR MASTER SGT. LANCE GADDIS  
141ST AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



**G**reetings and welcome to April RSD. I know this drill will be busy—just like they all seem to be these days. I was recently selected as the Equipment Maintenance Superintendent, which got me thinking about what I've witnessed throughout my career.

I joined the 141 MXG back in 1994. Many things have changed over the years, but the Guard Family has stood the test of time. Several years ago, when we were going through some really tough times as a Wing, many people talked about the Guard Family and how we had lost it. Interestingly, many of those upset about losing the Guard Family couldn't even define what it meant—they just wanted to complain.

The truth is, the Guard Family means different things to different people. But at its core, it's about treating everyone like they are part of your immediate family. Like any family, we'll have our squabbles from time to time, but you always know your family will have your back—and you can count on them. Going out of our way to get to know and support each other is what makes us strong.

We have many members of our unit currently deployed for the RCP, and we're about to send a large group out this spring and summer. For those members

deploying, the peace of mind that comes from knowing their loved ones and responsibilities back home will be supported is priceless. There are countless examples of our people helping each other—it could be fixing a car, a water heater, or just being a shoulder to cry on when needed.

No one person or job is more important than any other. We are all part of the mission and the greater good. We are all here to support Nation and Neighbor. With the challenges our Wing and nation face these days, we need our Guard Family now more than ever. Every military member feels the call to serve, but in the Guard, our careers tend to be longer, and we often stay in the same place.

Because of that, we develop deeper bonds—and what I like to call extreme ownership. You are the next person to use that piece of equipment, and that will be your work area for many years. Everything belongs to all of us, and we need to take care of it.

I have been extremely fortunate in my career as a Crew Chief. I've traveled all over the world and interacted with other Guard units, where the extended Guard Family was always there too.

In closing, I'd like to encourage everyone to take the time to get to know others in our Wing and help grow our Guard Family.

# MILITARY FAMILY LEAVE ACT

## 141ST LEGAL OFFICE



**A** cornerstone to ensuring mission readiness and national security is providing adequate support to not only the member, but spouses and state registered domestic partners who are undoubtedly imperative to the mission through their means of support to the member. The Military Family Leave Act (FMLA) was enacted to ensure the families are able to spend time together after being notified of an impending call or order to active duty, before deployment, and during the deployment period. Under FMLA, the spouse of a member who is subject to Washington State law (RCW 49.77.010) in their employment status is entitled to the following:

- ★ *A total of fifteen (15) days of unpaid leave per deployment after the military spouse has been notified.*
- ★ *To be restored to the same position and pay in which they were prior to the notification of deployment.*
- ★ *A continuation of benefits they were entitled to before entitled leave was used.*
- ★ *The ability to use employer-accrued paid time off (PTO) during the 15 days leave entitlement set forth by this Act.*

To qualify, a military spouse who is a Washington resident must meet the following requirements at their place of employment:

- ★ *Employees must work an average of 20 or more hours per week.*
- ★ *Leave must be taken prior to or during deployment.*
- ★ *Employees can use any combination of accrued paid time off, or unpaid leave.*
- ★ *Employees must notify their employer within five (5) business days of receiving notice of deployment.*

When learning these rights afforded to spouses and registered domestic partners of military members, it is equally important to be aware of the exemptions provided to employers. These exemptions uniquely apply to any salaried employee who is among the highest paid top 10% of the employees employed by the employer within 75 miles of the facility at which the employee is employed. To learn more about these exemptions in detail, you can view the law (RCW 49.77.040) online on the Washington State Legislature website by visiting:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=49.77.030>

For more information on FMLA, you can visit:

<http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Personnel/Federal-and-State-Laws/Military-Leave.aspx>



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# OPERATIONS SECURITY

STORY BY TECH. SGT. MICHAEL BROWN

**OPSEC** is something we hear about often, yet it is overlooked daily. That's not to say it's done on purpose or with malicious intent, but small leaks of information happen without a second thought. When multiple small pieces of information are put together, they can paint a larger picture that gives adversaries an unfair advantage.

A good example of this was given by the Wing's OPSEC Manager, Major Matt Fisk, during the Wing Standup at April Drill. The U.S. had sent six B-2 bombers to the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia in a show of force within the region. The problem? Some savvy computer users picked up that the aircraft had launched and utilized open-source information to determine how many aircraft were deployed, where they were going, and even gathered photographs posted by several crew chiefs and aircrew.

Using the compiled information, they broke the story to the public media. Those breadcrumbs of information,

thankfully, did not result in any catastrophic loss of equipment or life—but it was a great example of how simple social media posts from the BX at a deployed location can be tied together with other bits of information to reveal a sensitive operation within the Department of Defense.

Another growing concern is wearable tech. A large number of troops now use smartwatches, fitness trackers, and rings that send GPS data to phones and sync with apps that track movement globally. Unfortunately, some of these apps have weak data security or can be easily hacked.

That information, often linked to an email address, can be traced back to a name. From there, someone could identify who you are, where you've been, where you are now, and even attempt to predict where you're going. Technology is a great tool, but it presents unique challenges for military members—both while deployed and stateside. Some of you may have gone through Survival, Evasion, Resistance,



## PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION!!

and Escape (SERE) training. If so, you understand how easily an adversary can gather intelligence from your social media footprint. Social media is a fantastic way to stay connected to friends and family, but it is also a powerful tool for gathering intelligence.

Generationally, many of our newer Airmen have grown up with social media and understand the power and reach of a strong online presence. As we move forward, more and more military influencers are emerging across the Department of Defense. While these accounts often showcase the military in a positive light—and can help with recruiting—they are also an intelligence gold mine for our adversaries. If social media makes it easy to post photos, status updates, or daily work center activities, it makes it just as easy for someone else to collect that information.

During a recent Temporary Duty (TDY), I personally witnessed repeated OPSEC failures involving a woman and servicemen who were far too eager to share that they were fighter pilots, maintainers, or weapons specialists. Every day, that woman showed up at the same locations our service members were. Even if she didn't speak

to anyone, she could easily listen to conversations happening in open areas, observe when service members left for work, when they returned, and what types of aircraft were in the area of responsibility (AOR). If we came back at a different time, that might indicate something went wrong—clues she could use to gather even more intelligence.

Word got around quickly to watch what we said and where we said it. If it wasn't already obvious she was gathering information, the day we checked out, she checked out too. When our aircraft had a problem and we had to stay longer, guess who was in the hotel lobby on the phone? Later that evening, she showed up at the same place the service members were gathering—coincidence?

The woman was photographed and reported for further action. But we were in a public place in a foreign country, and ultimately, it came down to us being responsible and preventing her from collecting information within our control.

Here are some good OPSEC tips to remember:

- ★ Turn off GPS tagging on photos.
- ★ Wait until after an operation or TDY is complete before posting photos to social media.
- ★ Do not photograph weapon systems—aircraft and equipment often have sensitive components you may not be aware of.
- ★ Avoid discussing military movements in public; you never know who is listening.
- ★ Be cautious about identifying yourself as a military member—unit stickers on vehicles or an Air Force license plate holder can make you a target.

These seemingly harmless, day-to-day actions can create a treasure trove of intelligence. If you think no one's paying attention—you're wrong.

In the words of George Washington: "Even minutiae should have a place in our collection, for things of a seemingly trifling nature, when enjoined with others of a more serious cast, may lead to valuable conclusion."

**TOP SECRET**

# A-STAFF

NORTHERN COMMAND FACILITATES  
5-DAY EXERCISE FOR 141ST AIR STAFF

STORY BY 1ST LT. HOLLY HANSEN

**141st Air Refueling Wing** Air Staff participated in a five-day Joint Force Headquarters/Joint Task Force (JFHQ/JTF) Staff training and exercise, led by Northern Command personnel during drill on February 2, 2025, at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington. This training enhanced personnel capabilities and increased readiness for generating real-world joint missions.

The 141st ARW is the first wing to receive the training and is one of eight selected Air National Guard wings to establish a pioneering “beta” A-Staff configuration. The training enables the Wing to facilitate seamless transitions for Airmen deploying to joint operational environments.

The A-Staff is modeled after the Department of Defense’s J-Staff structure, which serves as the uniformed advisory group to the Chief of Staff. The J-Staff supports the Chief’s role as a military advisor to the Secretary of the Air Force and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“Joint is spelled capital ‘A’-rmy,” said JFHQ/JTF Staff Training instructor, retired New York Air National Guard Col. Dr. Steven Fukino, emphasizing the importance of understanding Army terminology and organizational structure.

This required A-Staff Airmen to shift their way of thinking, as most have limited experience in joint operations. On the third day of training, the group transitioned to an exercise in which the A/J-Staff applied their newly acquired knowledge to generate tangible, real-world products.

“The goal is to integrate seamlessly into the ‘Unity of Effort’ by utilizing resources, thinking, planning, and becoming aware of your limitations,” said Fukino, discussing the joint mission landscape.

“Realizing what you know—and more importantly, what you don’t know.”

The training and exercise concluded with a commander’s brief, presented by the A/J-Staff

on Sunday afternoon. The brief showcased learned competencies and demonstrated the team’s ability to apply trained thinking in a J-Staff context.

“Our mission and the purpose of preparing this brief is to get us all thinking about the plan,” said 141st ARW A-Staff Deputy Chief of Staff, Lt. Col. Zac Wagner. “The process of planning and thinking is what will lead us to mission success.”

The successful completion of this training marked a significant milestone in the 141st ARW’s efforts to enhance its joint operational capabilities. This inaugural training event is expected to be the first in a series of ongoing professional development initiatives designed to further build the A-Staff’s capacity to operate effectively in a joint environment.



# WHEN CLICK FOR VIDEO DISASTER STRIKES

STORY BY  
TECH. SGT.  
KAYLEIGH  
PHILLIPS  
-----  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
MASTER SGT.  
MICHAEL  
STEWART

“ WE DELIBERATELY CREATED  
A HIGH-STRESS, HOSTILE  
ENVIRONMENT TO PUSH  
OUR MEDICS BEYOND THE  
COMFORT OF CLINIC WALLS





### THE 141ST MEDICAL GROUP HOSTED A

two-day Collective Training Event simulating a hostile environment in an austere location following a large, destructive earthquake. The exercise, designed to train personnel using Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) principles, took place at Fairchild Air Force Base on April 3–4, 2025.

During the exercise, three medical teams, accompanied by Airmen from the 141st Security Forces Squadron, utilized the three phases of TCCC to locate, triage, package, and transport ten individuals from a collapsed compound.

“We deliberately created a high-stress, hostile environment to push our medics beyond the comfort of clinic walls,” said Maj. Carl Reyes, 141st Medical Group, Detachment 1 medical plans officer. “In this setting, they’re expected to treat casualties while under fire, carrying weapons, and responding to simulated attacks—just like they would if deployed downrange.”

Search and extraction medics applied the first phase of TCCC—Care Under Fire—which focused on the immediate treatment of

casualties while under active enemy fire.

The primary objectives were to stop life-threatening bleeding and move both medics and patients to safety. Prolonged field care was also used in scenarios where evacuation to a higher level of care was delayed or impossible due to limited resources and continuous enemy threats.

Upon successfully rescuing patients from the compound, treatment transitioned to phase two of TCCC—Tactical Field Care. No longer under fire, medics conducted thorough assessments and treated injuries, addressing airway, breathing, circulation, and other trauma. Care was performed in ambulatory and non-ambulatory tents set up to replicate a modular field hospital system, developed for rapid deployment of medical services.

Airmen can populate four tents in just 45 minutes and begin treating patients immediately. Each tent is equipped with the necessary medical tools to assess, stabilize, and provide further treatment. Medics also trained for scenarios involving hostile patients and sudden enemy fire. Following treatment, medics entered the third phase of TCCC—



Tactical Evacuation Care. After assessment and stabilization, casualties were prepared for transport. Their condition and critical details were then communicated to the evacuation team and the receiving higher level of care.

“I’m incredibly proud of my Detachment 1 team for planning and executing this multi-faceted exercise,” said Lt. Col. Kandace Kannberg, 141st MDG Detachment 1 commander. “My intent to create a stressful environment for medical operations while implementing TCCC standards was 100% met! Providing these opportunities to be uncomfortable is what builds our Multi-Capable Airmen and strengthens the ACE concept. The 141st MDG will be ready for the future fight!”

The 141st Medical Group, Detachment 1 is composed of Airmen who also fall under the 10th Homeland Response Force, FEMA Region X. Its units are located across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. Washington elements are stationed in Seattle, Tacoma, Anacortes, Port Orchard, Vancouver, Yakima, Grandview, and Spokane. Response times vary, with typical deployment occurring within 6–12 hours of notification.

According to the Homeland Response Force website, National Guard mobilization methods are improving as they evolve and expand in relation to Homeland Defense. The entire response enterprise is critical to the nation's readiness as we enter the second decade of the 21st century and prepare for unknown—but certainly challenging—horizons.

Multiple groups participated in launching the training, including Airmen from the 92nd Medical Group, who facilitated training with a high-fidelity mannequin; the 92nd Maintenance Squadron and 141st Force Support Squadron, who acted as patients in rescue scenarios; Fatality Search and Recovery; 141st and 92nd Security Forces Squadrons, who provided tactical expertise; and the 242nd Combat Communications Squadron, who assisted with radio communication.



# EXERCISE HADES BOUNTY

141ST PROVIDES REFUELING TO 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING C-17  
IN SUPPORT OF THE 621ST CRW EXERCISE HADES BOUNTY

WRITE UP BY TECH. SGT. MICHAEL BROWN  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE 621ST CRW

Cirmen from the 116th Air Refueling Squadron, 621st Contingency Response Wing, and 60th Air Mobility Wing participated in Exercise Hades Bounty on Feb. 28, 2025. The 116th ARS provided aerial refueling for C-17s based out of Travis Air Force Base, California, which in turn provided airlift support for the 621st CRW, based at both Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, and Travis AFB, California.

The 621st CRW is a highly-specialized team of Airmen capable of rapidly deploying to open air bases, coordinate air mobility operations, enable joint interoperability, and advise partner nations. From wartime missions to disaster relief, the 621st CRW extends Air Mobility Command's global reach by deploying personnel and equipment anywhere they're needed.

Exercise Hades Bounty served as a demonstration of interoperability between wings, showcasing the ability to project Airmen anywhere in the world—at any time.



AIRMEN WITH THE 621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING AND 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING AWAIT TAKEOFF DURING EXERCISE HADES BOUNTY AT TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA, FEB. 28, 2025. EXERCISE HADES BOUNTY WAS A JOINT EXERCISE BETWEEN THE 621ST CRW, 60TH AMW AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S 141ST AIR REFUELING WING TO INCREASE JOINT INTEROPERABILITY AND LETHALITY. (U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY 1ST LT. CASSIDY FISHER)

AIRMAN WITH 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING OBSERVE ANOTHER REFUELING AIRCRAFT DURING EXERCISE HADES BOUNTY AT TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA, FEB. 28, 2025. EXERCISE HADES BOUNTY WAS A JOINT EXERCISE BETWEEN THE 621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING, 60TH AMW AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S 141ST AIR REFUELING WING TO INCREASE JOINT INTEROPERABILITY AND LETHALITY. (U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY 1ST LT. CASSIDY FISHER)



EXERCISE HADES BOUNTY OVER TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA, FEB. 28, 2025.  
EXERCISE HADES BOUNTY WAS A JOINT EXERCISE BETWEEN THE 621ST CONTINGENCY  
RESPONSE WING, 60TH AMW AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S 141ST AIR REFUELING WING  
TO INCREASE JOINT INTEROPERABILITY AND LETHALITY.  
(U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY 1ST LT. CASSIDY FISHER)



# HISTORY

## 1920'S

**L**ieutenant Tom Symons was a founding officer of the 116th Observation Squadron (pictured with race partner Sgt. Al Coppula, also a founding member). A World War I flyer, Symons had been out of practice for five years; yet, "it was reported today he flew and handled an old 'Jenny' biplane at the field like he had his 'hands in' an airplane the whole time." Symons was credited with being the very first resident commercial aviator, having flown two passengers from Spokane, Wash. to Walla Walla, Wash. on April 28, 1920.



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112.

Tom Symons

Alphonse Coppula

Symons also earned renown when he piloted a DH-4 De Havilland biplane in the 1927 National Air Races in Spokane, Wash. on Sept. 22. Capt. Symons raced against fellow 116th Guardsmen Capt. Harold Neely, Capt. James McKenzie, and Capt. Edward Axberg, who were also flying De Havillands. Neely's plane was forced down by the sixth lap, likely due to mechanical failure, opening up first place in the six-lap, 60-mile-long race for Symons.

McKenzie finished second, and Axberg third. Aero Digest Magazine sponsored the speed race for National Guard planes and presented Symons with their handsome trophy for his winning time of 25 minutes, 59.09 seconds, with an average speed of 110.831 miles per hour.

Symons is perhaps best known locally for his adventurous pursuits in a different kind of airwave—the field of radio broadcasting.

Together with fellow founding member Sgt. Ed Carney, the 116th's resident radio expert, Symons began broadcasting with a modest five-watt transmitter. They were licensed to broadcast in the fall of 1922 under the call letters KFDC—just one year after the first broadcasting license was issued in the country. The first radio station in Spokane was born.

In 1924, Symons upgraded to a new 1,000-watt transmitter, received a permanent dial location at 920 AM (still the home of KXLY-AM radio), and changed the call letters to KFPY. The station moved to a downtown building that is still known today as the Symons Building on Symons Block.

## VETERAN AVIATOR FLIES NEW PLANE

Tom Symons, in New Guard Ship, Takes to Air After Long Rest.

Lieutenant Tom Symons, Spokane's first resident commercial aviator, took to the air yesterday in one of the new national guard air unit planes. It was the first time he had



# LADDER SAFETY

**B**ase safety officials here encourage personnel to prioritize safety when starting spring-cleaning projects.

March is National Ladder Safety Month, as it is commonly a time for home and workplace projects that require using ladders.

“We are focused on making sure ladders are appropriately marked and people are trained on the proper use of those ladders,” said Shaun Bassett, 66th Air Base Group Safety acting director.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration offers the following tips to help workers prevent ladder-related injuries:

- ★ Maintain a three-point contact, two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand, when climbing or descending.
- ★ Face the ladder when climbing or descending. Keep the body inside the side rails.
- ★ Use extra care when getting on or off the ladder at the top or bottom.
- ★ Avoid tipping the ladder sideways or causing the base to slide.
- ★ Carry tools in a tool belt or raise them using a hand line. Never hand-carry tools while climbing or descending a ladder.

- ★ Extend the top of the ladder three feet above the landing. Keep ladders free of any and all slippery materials.

Safety officials stress that all base personnel, not just those in the safety career field, play a vital role in identifying and reporting concerns.

“If you see something around the base that needs to be reported, please give the office a call,” said Bassett.

“Everyone can be a ‘safety sensor.’ That is the only way our office can help address any issues.”

The safety office is actively engaging with personnel this month, offering training and ensuring each unit has a safety representative to assist with incident reporting and other safety requirements.

“People may not realize there is safety guidance and trainings they should attend before they get a ladder, or before using them,” said Senior Airman Cordell Reed, 66 ABG safety specialist. “If they have an old ladder, they need to make sure they have up to date safety stickers, and it is in good working order.”

For more information on ladder safety, or for any other safety related questions, contact the 141st Safety Office at 509-247-7028.

