

AirScoop



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Massachusetts Air National Guard

104th Fighter Wing

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From the Command Team

Barnestormers,

As we close out 2025, it's important that we pause to appreciate the challenges we've faced, the progress we've made, and the work ahead. Successful divestment of the F-15, ongoing preparation for F-35 bed down, and enduring the longest government shutdown to date have not been easy. Your hard work coupled with support from our Wellness Team, Chaplain Corps, First Sergeants, and community partners have enabled us to emerge stronger and more prepared for the future fight than ever.

This drill we bid farewell to our commander, Col. David Halasi-kun. Moon's leadership and dedication to the men and women of this wing as Pilot, Squadron Commander, Group Commander, Vice Wing Commander, and finally as our Wing Commander have helped shape the wing we are today. His leadership was instrumental in our selection as the future home of the F-35 and ultimately secured our future for years to come. We welcome Col. Michael "Shot" Glass as the new boss. He's got big shoes to fill, but I'm confident that he's up to the challenge and look forward to 2026 and beyond with him at the helm. We look forward to seeing everyone at the change of command.

Enjoy this last drill of 2025 together. Over the holidays, I encourage you all to truly rest, step away from the tempo, connect with your loved ones, and give yourself the time and space to recharge. Rest isn't a luxury; it's a critical part of resilience. Taking care of yourself and your family ensures we return stronger, healthier, and ready for what lies ahead.

On behalf of Moon and I, thanks for all you do. Take care of yourselves, look out for one another, and enjoy this well-deserved time with family and friends. We'll see you in the new year!

Happy Holidays,

Colonel "Moon" Halasi-Kun & CM Sgt Gardner



A chapter closed, 104th Fighter Wing Commander takes final flight

STORY BY Melanie J. Casineau, 104FW/ PA

A mission was completed at the 104th Fighter Wing in Westfield, Massachusetts, on September 30, 2025. A chapter in a book closed for Col. David "Moon" Halasi-Kun, 104th Fighter Wing commander. Eighteen years of F-15C Eagles flying over western Massachusetts came to an end with the last training mission, accompanied by the 104th Wing Commander.

Hundreds gathered to witness the historic flight. Cheers, laughter, the click of camera shutters, and a few quiet tears filled the air as Col. Halasi-Kun approached the flight line for his last ride in the jet he's flown since 1999.

Joined by three other F-15Cs, including one piloted by Lt. Col. Ashley "Wreck" Rolfe, commander of the 131st Operations, Halasi-Kun soared over Western Massachusetts, the Atlantic, and into New York airspace. They flew approximately 2 hours of basic fighter maneuver's (BFM) also called "dog fighting" over Whiskey 105 supported by a tanker holding 60,000 pounds of fuel. Short breaks for refueling and then back at it again.

"The day is going to be beautiful, it's a good end to the Eagle," said Rolfe

Local officials, including members of the Airport Commission, State Rep. Kelley W. Pease, R-Westfield, and Westfield Mayor Michael McCabe, joined service members, families and special guests to watch Col. Halasi-Kun step into the jet for the last time.

"The Eagles have been a part of this base for a long time, part of who I am since 1999. Today we are going to send her off in style. Then we are going to come home and put her to bed," Halasi-Kun said. "Thank you Barnestormers!"

While the formation flew, those on the ground reminisced about Col. Halasi-Kun and the F-15C. Some recalled the transition from the A-10 Thunderbolt to the Eagle back in 2007.

SMSgt. Adam Casineau, 104th Fighter Wing Air Ground Equipment Supervisor, was a crew chief on the A-10 before transitioning as a crew chief with the F-15C.

"The excitement today is just like it was in 2007," he said. "But there's sadness too, friends leaving, though new jets are coming."

"This is a bittersweet day. I am going to miss Colonel Moon the most. Him, his wife and children," said Westfield City Mayor. "I wouldn't miss this day."

While patiently waiting for the team to land, the crowd was brought out to the flightline. First sight was the formation of four F-15C aircraft flying overhead. They flew together until one pulled away, signaling the "last mission".

Ken Middleton, a local photographer, was present. He spent many years documenting the history of the Eagles with the 104th Fighter Wing. Middleton started covering flights in 2007 as the A-10 operations were settling down. He has covered over 45 Final "Fini" Flights for the pilots assigned to the wing including Halasi-Kun's.

"Thank you for your service, support and friendship over the years. Thank you for allowing me to capture the Barnestormer history and welcoming my family and I," said Middleton.

The jets returned with thunderous passes and steep climbs. Halasi-Kun, pulling up to 8 Gs, gave one last show before touching down. He was welcomed by a traditional water cannon salute, two fire engines spraying arcs of water over the jet, a sight not seen since the A-10's farewell.

Tradition on the last flight is to soak the pilot with champagne and water. But before climbing down from the cockpit, Halasi-Kun stood tall, scanning the crowd.



"I'm not crying, you're crying!" he shouted with a smile.

Col. David "Moon" Halasi-Kun isn't just a commander or a pilot—he's a friend and mentor to many. After 15 years at Barnes and over 3,200 flight hours in the F-15C Eagle, his legacy runs deep through the 104th Fighter Wing. It was clear from the crowd that he would be missed.

With tears in his eyes and a completely champagne soaked uniform, Halasi-Kun spoke to his friends and family.

"I am going to miss being a part of this team. I'm going to miss coming here every day and working with the most dedicated people I have ever met in my entire life. I couldn't ask for better people," said Halasi-Kun

[VIEW THE GALLERY HERE](#)



HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS



BARNESTORMER COMMUNITY



Chief Promotion



BarnesGiving



Barnes Gives Back

CADRE'S CORNER

Happy December Drill!

We missed seeing you in October and November! We are continuing to send off recruits!

Best Wishes to our Barnestormers who are headed to BMT in October, November and December:

Gideon Atemnkeng
Mary Oluokun
Prince Afram
Jhon Chochotte
Carolina Dykes
Sawyer Goodnow
Nana Nikansah
Jose Villasenor

Charles Hartin
Mason Nichols
Robenier Rivera
Santo Mota Finamore
Daniel Antonellis
Kadjatu Sow
Gabrielle Petlock
David Owuor

Aim High!
SSgt Ryan Carvalho
SSgt Mykel Potter



PROMOTIONS

SSgt.	TSgt. Gavin Bogalhas	OSF
SrA	SSgt. Mariah Baca	MXS
A1C	SrA Abigail Hartley	MXS
A1C	SrA Chase Blase	OSF

Congratulations!

RETIREMENTS AND DEPARTURES

MSgt. Steven LaRocco
LRS | 27 Years

MSgt. Robert Ollquist
MXS | 25 Years

MSgt. Christopher Luke
MXS | 22 Years

SSGT. Wellsley Baalman
Transfer to MI ANG | 7 Years

SSGT. Jordan Sabonis
12 Years

Best Wishes!

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

A REGULAR COLUMN BY KINDA-HISTORIAN MELANIE J. CASINEAU

As we know from history, there is much we can learn from it. Articles from the past can still teach us valuable lessons today. The below article was written in February 2019. Chaplain Weaver is still our Chaplain today.

Rather than waiting until February to repost this, I felt it was a good read to share before the holidays.

Seeing the light in the darkness

By 1st Lt. Tra'Vorus Weaver, 104th Fighter Wing Chaplain, 2019

January and February is a challenging time of the year for many people. After the holidays, proceeds the advent for the coldest time of the year when we hunker down prepared to endure the snow, ice, wind, and frigid temperatures. Perhaps, a daydream of relaxing on a warm sandy beach with palm trees is our only solace from the reality of winter's grip.

It is not uncommon for people to battle not only the harsh winter weather, but the complexity of emotions that flood their souls. The emotions of loneliness, discouragement, and depression that accompanies the complexities of life. The shorter days, long cold and dark nights may only stimulate and aggravate the pain.

Doctors and scientists have suggested that those who experience a worsening mood when the weather gets colder as having "winter depression." The clinical term for this condition is called Seasonal Affective Disorder. There are others who call this condition as having the "winter blues."

Whatever the case, even in the midst of the cold grip of literal winter, or a spiritual winter in your life as a result of circumstantial difficulty, you can still thrive in the darkness.

The practical ways to beat the blues are already incorporated in our mission to be physically, spiritually, and emotionally fit as airmen. If you are struggling with winter blues, try some of these ideas!



Here is a small quick list. (Ideas adapted from everydayhealth.com):

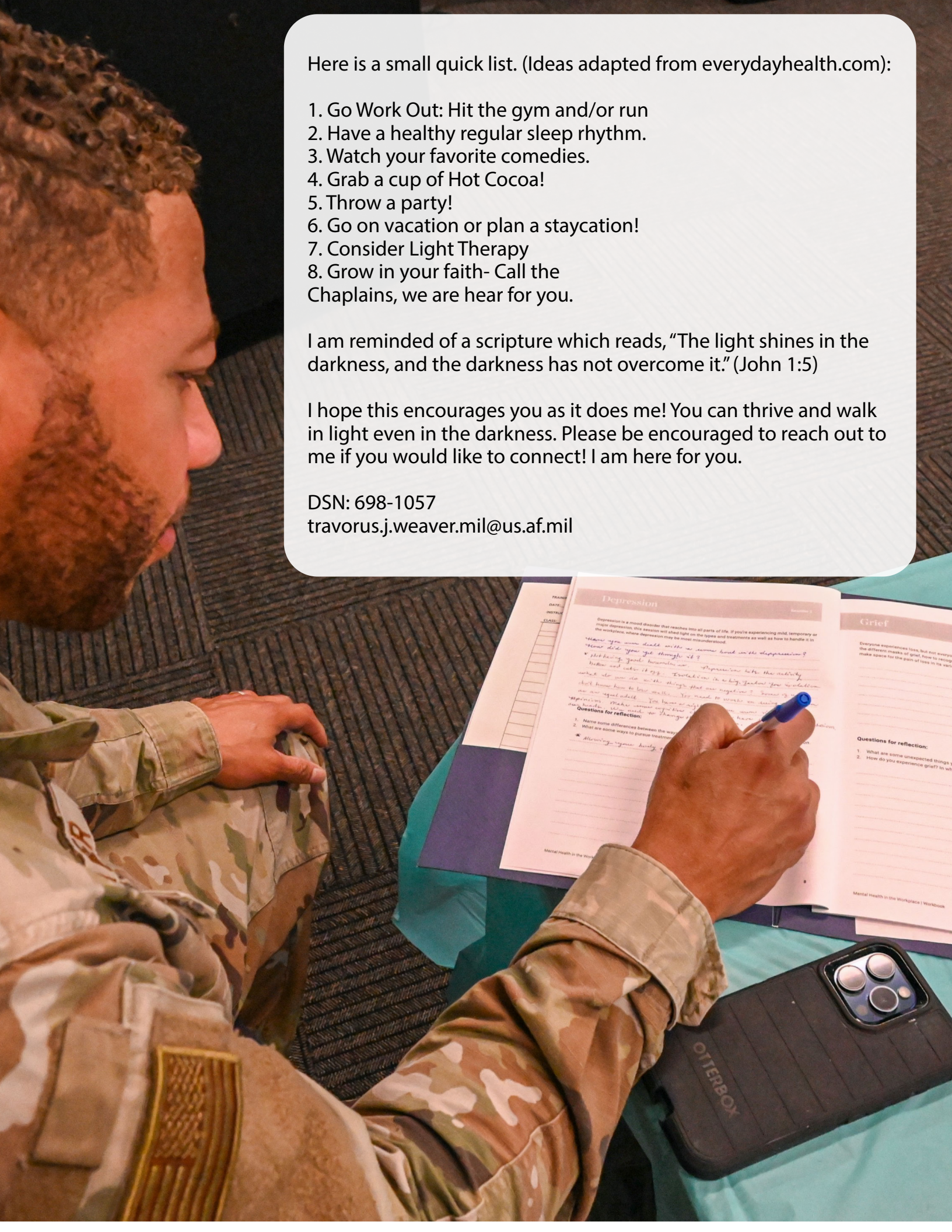
1. Go Work Out: Hit the gym and/or run
2. Have a healthy regular sleep rhythm.
3. Watch your favorite comedies.
4. Grab a cup of Hot Cocoa!
5. Throw a party!
6. Go on vacation or plan a staycation!
7. Consider Light Therapy
8. Grow in your faith- Call the Chaplains, we are hear for you.

I am reminded of a scripture which reads, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

I hope this encourages you as it does me! You can thrive and walk in light even in the darkness. Please be encouraged to reach out to me if you would like to connect! I am here for you.

DSN: 698-1057

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F-35 CONVERSION CORNER

The conversion journey began in Spring of 2023 when the secretary of the Air Force approved Barnes ANGB as the preferred location for a new fleet of F-35s. This selection drove the requirement for favorable completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which was achieved in November 2024. Upon favorable completion of the EIS, the Secretary of the Air Force signed and reported to Congress the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD was approved in December 2024, which means that the decision to station the F-35 at Barnes is official! We have already begun divesting F-15s and will continue divesting through September of this year in preparation for the arrival of our first F-35s in June 2026.

- Maj. Mark 'Mr. Chow' Silvers



36

**Personnel currently
off-base training
(2 LRS | 34 Maintainers)**

3

**Fully Qualified Pilots
5 currently in training
1 leaving for training- Feb**

15

**New construction projects
scheduled throughout the
conversion - starting with OPS**

20

**The number of F-35s
scheduled to be delivered
by Summer 2026**

