

THE BEACON



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 124TH FIGHTER WING

FALL 2025/WINTER 2026

COMBAT EXCELLENCE - ALWAYS ON MISSION

FROM THE 124TH FIGHTER WING DEPUTY COMMANDER

COL. ANTHONY SKEESICK

Airmen and families,

After nearly a year in the role of the Wing's Deputy Commander, I'm inspired by the dedication, hard work, and resiliency of our Airmen. The Wing continues to prove why we are trusted and prepared to defend our nation and serve our communities.



In this edition, we celebrate some of our very best. In January, we held our annual awards banquet to honor the 2025 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. These individuals represent the highest standards of professionalism, leadership, and selfless service. Although the OAY winners are recognized individually, their success also reflects the teams, mentors, and families who support them every day. Please join me in congratulating each of our award recipients!

Our operations tempo throughout 2025 was demanding. From an unprecedented deployment with sustained flying operations and maintenance efforts to innovative training exercises and domestic response readiness, the Wing remained fully engaged. Even though the government shutdown in the fall temporarily put portions of our mission on hold, we remained committed to readiness. We adapted, supported each other, and stayed focused on our mission of combat excellence. That commitment ensured we were postured to resume full operations quickly and effectively when funding was restored.

As Guardsmen, we stand ready to answer the call at home and abroad. This requires discipline, teamwork, and pride in service. Whether executing our combat mission, supporting homeland defense, or responding to state emergencies here in Idaho, our Wing continues to demonstrate excellence across every unit and skill set.

I'd like to also recognize our family members. Your support does not go unnoticed. Long hours, unpredictable schedules, and the demands of military service affect more than just the Airmen in uniform. Your encouragement, flexibility, and sacrifice make our mission possible, and we are deeply grateful for all you do.

As we launch into 2026, I am confident in our future as a Wing. The challenges will continue, but so will our commitment to one another, to the mission, and to the communities we serve. Thank you for your dedication, your professionalism, and your perseverance.

Go Guard, ATTACK! *Col. Skeesick*

2026 PRIORITIES

124TH FIGHTER WING



MISSION READINESS

- Fully engage in the technical, mental, physical, and medical readiness of each organization
- Provide the opportunity for our Airmen to train to a challenging and realistic threat environment that is applicable to their mission sets

RETAIN, RECRUIT & DEVELOP OUR AIRMEN

- Foster pride and unit identity with clear expectations, career engagement, and family/employer support
- Partner with recruiters to fill mission-critical vacancies to maximize strength
- Empower Airmen with leadership opportunities and decision-making to grow technical experts and future leaders.



POSTURE FOR THE FUTURE

- Sustain and modernize facilities that support our current missions, while also aggressively designing and planning for the upgrades required for our future fighter
- Pursue partnerships and training opportunities to best prepare our Airmen for future missions.

124TH **FIGHTER WING** PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

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

Master Sgt. Mercedee Wilds

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Morgan

Staff Sgt. Jadyn Eisenbrandt

Airman 1st Class Sarah Welch

WHERE TO FIND US



124THFIGHTERWING.ANG.AF.MIL



FACEBOOK.COM/124FW



INSTAGRAM.COM/124FIGHTERWING



X.COM/124FIGHTERWING



THE BEACON is the official magazine of the 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard. It is published quarterly by the wing public affairs office. Views expressed may not be those of the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard, Department of Defense or U.S. Government.

FALL 25/WINTER 26

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ON THE COVER

Staff Sgt. Joshua Lapooh, a tactical air control party Airman assigned to the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron, documents targeting information under red light during a night close air support training mission at Saylor Creek Range, Idaho, Jan. 9, 2026. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mercedee Wilds)

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124TH
FIGHTER WING
SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

LIKE AND FOLLOW US!

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

Contact PA: x422-6157





IDAHO A-10 FINDS NEW PERMANENT HOME

Story by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras
Photos by Staff Sgt. Jadyn Eisenbrandt

The 124th Fighter Wing was presented with an award from the Warhawk Air Museum during a soft opening ceremony in Nampa, Idaho, on Sept. 12, 2025.

The museum is opening a new area dedicated to the military operations that took place during the Global War on Terror, which lasted nearly 20 years.

"We are just so happy that we found a home for a piece of our history," said Lt. Col. Jason Attinger, 124FW A5, Plans and Integration Division. "We get to share a piece of our history with our community."

One of the main exhibits is an A-10 Thunderbolt II that was stationed in Idaho at the 124FW.

"The mission of the A-10 is to support our fellow brothers and sisters on the ground," said Col. Anthony Skeesick, the deputy commander of the 124FW. "It is an honor to be able to have our own aircraft stay here in Idaho. We are Idahoans, we are Guardsmen and we have stories to tell."

The aircraft represents who we are as Idaho National Guard Airmen and their accomplishments during GWOT and beyond.

“This aircraft is a conversation piece to educate the community on what we’ve done over the last 20 years, what the Idaho Air National Guard has done, and what the 124th Fighter Wing has done,” said Attinger. “We have nearly 1,300 Airmen out here. We are citizens. We work among you in our daily lives.”

The wing has supported operations throughout the world during the GWOT era, which included not only aircraft and pilots, but wing Airmen from all career fields.

“The next generation gets to see a piece of our history,” Attinger said. “We look forward to coming here to tell our stories, talking about the aircraft, the mission, and what we do as Guardsmen. We enjoy serving the community, this state, and this great nation.”

The 124FW continues to fly a full fleet of the mighty A-10 Thunderbolt II, despite this aircraft being donated to the museum.



Holiday meal!

Leadership from the 124th Fighter Wing served a holiday meal made by the 124th Force Support Squadron's services flight at the Gowen Field Dining Facility, Boise, Idaho, Dec. 6, 2025. The annual holiday meal is a long-standing tradition that fosters camaraderie and strengthens esprit de corps across the Wing.

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras and Master Sgt. Mercedee Wilds





Airmen assigned to the 124th Security Forces Squadron, Idaho Air National Guard, participated in the Shine the Light event at St. Luke's Children's Hospital in downtown Boise, Idaho, Dec. 18, 2025. The annual event brings together first responders, military members and community partners to line the streets with lights and sirens, showing support for pediatric patients and their families.

Photos by Master Sgt. Mercedee Wilds





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



TRAINING

LOGISTICS READINESS

Airmen from the 124th Logistics Readiness Squadron performed standard maintenance procedures over a multi-day drill weekend at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, Aug 15, 2025. Drill weekends prepare Airmen to stay current on training, keeping their units mission-ready.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Sarah Welch



CHIEF PROMOS

The following Senior Master Sergeants were promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant, the Air Force's highest enlisted rank, in recognition of their leadership and dedication to the mission.



CMSgt Shallan Prickett
Logistics Readiness Squadron
Dec. 6, 2025



CMSgt Mikel Turner
Security Forces Squadron
Sep. 13, 2025



CMSgt Troy Cluff
Communications Flight
Dec. 7, 2025



CMSgt Benjamin O'Neal
Security Forces Squadron
Dec. 7, 2025



CMSgt Denton Golden
Air Support Operations Squadron
Dec. 18, 2025

Idaho Air National Guard

Retention Office Manager for the 124th Fighter Wing

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.

MSgt Daniel Rowe

E-Mail: daniel.rowe.2@us.af.mil

Office: 208-422-5900

Cell (Call or Text): 208-484-8707



124th Fighter Wing **INSPECTOR GENERAL COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION**



CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

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



Additional Resources

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

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

NEW COMMANDERS



124th Force Support Squadron
Maj. Cassidy Morlock



124th Medical Group
Lt. Col. Zach Powell



124th Maintenance Squadron
Maj. Michael Gillis



124th Maintenance Operations Flight
Maj. Brian Thompson

YEAR IN

AS WE LOOK BACK ON 2025, HERE ARE SOME OF



REVIEW

OUR FAVORITE PICS OF OUR AIRMEN IN ACTION





ASOS WINTER WARMER WITH WICHITA

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Joe Morgan



Special Warfare Tactical Air Control Party Airmen assigned to the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron partnered with the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, 184th Wing, out of Salina, Kansas for close air support training at Saylor Creek Bombing Range, Idaho, December 16-19, 2025. Through deliberate and precise radio communications, the units were able to simulate and utilize a variety of supporting aircraft in the area of operation to accomplish CAS.



OUTSTANDING

On Jan. 16, 2026, the 124th Fighter Wing hosted it's annual Outstanding Airman of the Year banquet at the Idaho Outdoor Field House to celebrate the wing, build esprit de corps, and recognize the wing's outstanding Airmen from 2025.



AIRMEN of the YEAR

2025 WING WINNERS



Airman of the Year -

SrA Tyler Day
124th Medical Group

NCO of the Year -

SSgt Brendon Remezas
124th Maintenance Group

SNCO of the Year -

SMSgt Michael Reece
124th Operations Group

First Sergeant of the Year -

MSgt Daniel Bajema
124th Operations Group



Spirit Award Winner:
Maintenance Group



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Joseph Morgan
and Airman 1st Class Sarah Welch

ACC Leaders Visit IDANG

Story and photos by
Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras

U.S. Air Force Gen. Adrian Spain, commander of Air Combat Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Jeremy Unterseher, ACC command chief, visited the Idaho Air National Guard on Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, Dec. 14, 2025.

Hosting the ACC team allowed the IDANG to showcase the special relationships, superb facilities, and capabilities that are unique to Idaho and the Air National Guard.

“The Idaho Air National Guard truly lives by its motto, ‘first class or not at all,’” said Spain. “Their ability to deliver decisive airpower anytime, anywhere, and under any conditions makes them an indispensable asset to ACC.”

During the visit, both Spain and Unterseher were able to see firsthand the facilities of the IDANG and future home of the next fighter aircraft in their storied history.

“This was an amazing opportunity to showcase our installation,” said Col. Ryan Richardson, the commander of the 124th Fighter Wing. “We have been in Idaho providing combat airpower since 1946, and we’ll continue to do so well into the future.”

As a guard unit, the IDANG plays a critical role in ACC priorities.

“Our guard brothers and sisters are an integral part of the total force team,” Unterseher said. “They directly impact ACC by being ready, organized, and equipped to support the national defense strategy. Unique to the guard is that they directly support their state while always being prepared for their federal mission.”

Part of the visit allowed local senior leaders to directly engage with ACC leadership.

“It is an amazing opportunity to spend time face-to-face with command leadership, and have the chance to discuss challenges, intent, and priorities,” said Richardson. “These discussions help shape how we can best support both our federal and state missions.” The visit allowed both teams to connect directly and understand the distinctive capabilities that the 124th Fighter Wing bring to the fight.



SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION & RESPONSE



**All airman and dependents
ages 18+ are eligible
to make a report of sexual
assault through the 124th FW
Sexual Assault Prevention
and Response office.**

**For more information, please contact
a member of the SAPR team.**

AVAILABLE SERVICES

- Access to restricted and unrestricted reporting
- Connection to non-clinical support services
- Support in notifying law enforcement, if desired
- Access to victim advocate support services
- Connection to medical and mental health resources as needed

DOD SAFE HELPLINE 24/7

1.877.995.5247

[ONLINE.SAFEHELPLINE.ORG](https://online.safehelpline.org)



AMANDA NOWAK

SARC / SAPRM

☎ 208-954-3369

✉ amanda.stone.2@us.af.mil

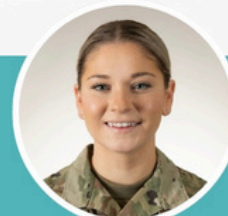


MAJ. BONNIE BLAKELY

ALT SARC / 124FW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

☎ 208-422-5357

✉ bonnie.blakely@us.af.mil



SSGT. JOSSE MCKERNAN

VICTIM ADVOCATE / MAINTENANCE

☎ 208-422-6106

✉ josephine.mckernan@us.af.mil

FIRE TRAINING



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the Gowen Field Fire Department conducted training using the Idaho State live fire burn simulator at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, Sept. 13, 2025. The objective of the day's training was to rehearse deploying a hose line from the engine to the entry point, donning protective gear, executing a proper entry, and conducting a live fire layout.

Photos by Staff. Sgt. Jadyn Eisenbrandt





Idaho Guardsman WINS EMMY

by capturing state's history

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Jady Eisenbrandt

Snow fell silently on the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness as Senior Airman Dan Noakes pressed forward, his feet blistered and numb, a GoPro his only companion. What began as a winter traverse across Idaho's most remote and rugged landscape turned into Outdoor Idaho: Ghosts of the Frank, a documentary that won him a Northwest Regional Emmy in June of this year and gave forgotten stories new life.

Noakes, a financial management Airman assigned to the 124th Fighter Wing Comptroller Flight, also owns and operates an animation studio. His work in animation has shaped his creative eye and strengthened his ability to tell stories through visuals. That foundation prepared him to create the 28-minute PBS feature that explored not only his own journey across the wilderness but also the forgotten stories of miners and homesteaders who once carved out lives there.

Noakes first heard of rumors that the U.S. Forest Service was burning down historic cabins in the Frank-Curch River of No Return wilderness, but with little information available online, he set out to explore the area himself. Instead of answers, he found remnants of a once-bustling community of miners and homesteaders. This led him to a story he never expected to tell.

"When I went through the wilderness area, I kept finding remnants of people who once lived there," said Noakes. "Then I came home and was able to connect with people who could tell me the stories behind them."

The documentary stitched together his physical journey with the wilderness's history and with his own past. On a personal level, the project became a form of therapy. Skiing and the outdoors were tied to his relationship with his father, especially after his parents' divorce.

Making the film helped him work through that loss and find closure.

As he crafted the film Noakes said he began to recognize how deeply his decision had been influenced by his relationship with his dad. Many adventures, including the winter traverse itself, were motivated by a desire to keep that connection alive. As he edited the film and faced those long held emotions, Noakes gained a clearer understanding of himself.

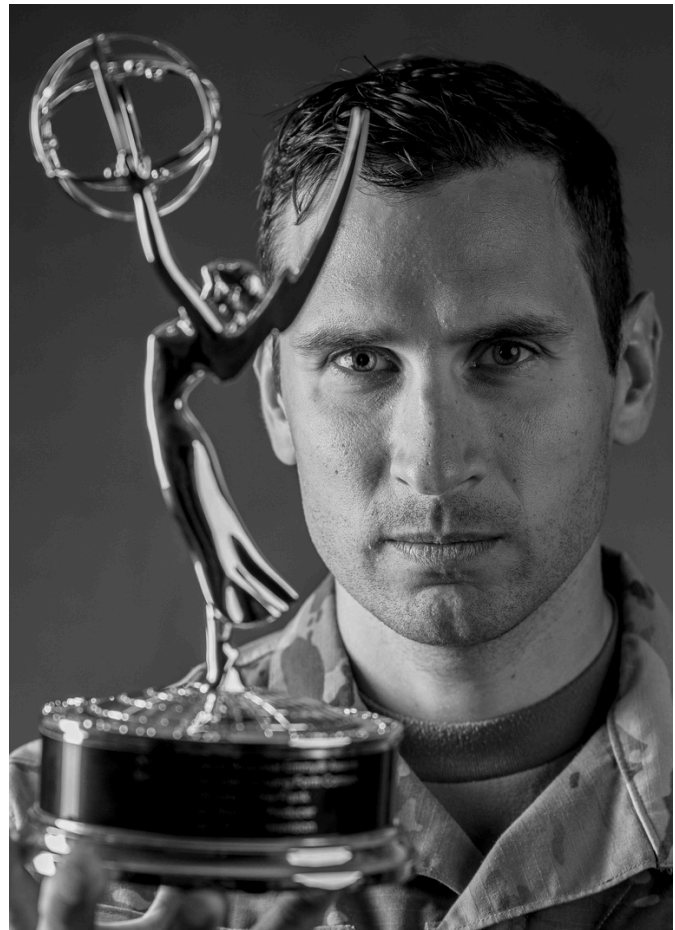
"I spent basically 20 years almost chasing after him, doing things in his honor," said Noakes. "The film was therapy for me. It closed a chapter in my life so I can be more true to myself."

Ghosts of the Frank wasn't Noakes' first time telling stories through the outdoors. He has documented a nearly 1,000 mile trek along the Idaho Centennial Trail and skied down each of Idaho's twelve highest peaks. All while sharing those adventures on a YouTube channel that has drawn nearly three million views.

But the Emmy project was different. It brought together his skills as an animator, filmmaker, and storyteller into something both personal and historic.

"I don't have aspirations to be a huge national storyteller," Noakes said. "But I love expressing myself. Documentaries are a good medium to do it."

For Noakes, the Emmy isn't just a trophy on the shelf. It's a reminder that meaningful stories can come from simple tools, long miles, and a willingness to be vulnerable. Whether behind a camera or in uniform he said both roles have taught him the same lesson: dedication pays off.



"With any endeavor, you have to go through the pain of learning that skill and the time and attention it takes," Noakes said. "That's true for filmmaking. It's true for the Guard. And in the end, it's worth it."



HAWG 611 HEADS TO THE BONEYARD

the first in a broader aircraft transition

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Mercedes Wilds

An A-10 Thunderbolt II, aircraft 78-611, with the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing, departed Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, May 27, 2025 heading to the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, commonly known as the boneyard, at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

This first A-10 departure marks the beginning of a broader transition for both the wing and the U.S. Air Force as it begins to retire some of the aging fleet, but it will not impact the overall end strength of the wing's A-10s. With each departure a newer aircraft will replace the departing hawg.

The wing plays a critical role in this transition.

"This aircraft has shaped not only how we fight, but who we are as a wing," said Col. Ryan Richardson, 124th FW commander and an A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot. "It's helped forge a culture of toughness, precision and purpose."

Even with this departure, the mission of the wing and its Airmen remains the same.

"Our focus and our mission will remain the same," said Richardson. "Our Airmen will continue to maintain these aircraft so that our pilots can deliver and project airpower, anytime and anywhere in the world. We will continue to add to our wing's storied fighter history."

For nearly 30 years, maintainers from the 124th Maintenance Group, including Airmen from the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, play a pivotal role in keeping the hawg mission-ready.

"AMXS has four priority roles in A-10C sustainment: crewing the aircraft, maintaining the avionics, loading munitions for training and combat, and producing airworthy aircraft for the 190th Fighter Squadron," said Lt. Col. Scott Walker, the 124th AMXS commander. "It's a team effort across the Maintenance Group—every shop is integral to mission success."

While 611's departure had been anticipated, the moment still hit hard. The aircraft holds deep personal meaning for the Airmen who have worked on it, Walker said.

"We are saddened that the day finally arrived but are still excited for our present and future mission," he said.

As for what's next, the focus remains on the mission at hand.

"We are ready for whatever comes," Walker said. "But our day-to-day nucleus is continuing to fly the aircraft we have and prepare for whatever is asked by our Nation and State."



FAMILY DAY

Sep. 14, 2025

Family Day is an event at Gowen Field put on by the Airman and Family Readiness Program allowing Airmen to spend time with their families while enjoying food, activities, and entertainment.



Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras



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 | ✓ Volunteer Opportunities |
| ✓ Personal and Family Readiness | ✓ Career Development |
| ✓ Child & Youth Services | ✓ Transition to Civilian Life |
| ✓ Air Force Aid Society | ✓ Casualty Assistance |
| ✓ Financial Readiness & Emergency 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.
Boise, Idaho 83705-8103

KIDS' ACTIVITY

124TH FIGHTER WING



Help the A-10 find its way
back to the hangar!



COMBAT EXCELLENCE. ALWAYS ON MISSION.