

# AirScoop

104th FIGHTER WING [WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL](http://WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL)



# What's Inside

Commander's Column

Native American Article

Benefits of AFROTC & ANG

Headlines & Highlights

Farewells, Promotions, Recruiters



[Brig. Gen. LeFavor Visits the 104th](#)



## Command Minute

View all Command Media, news, full-time vacancies and more on the 104th Fighter Wing Mobile App, available on the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#)

## Winter Ready



# AirScoop

### Wing Commander

Col. Peter T. Green III

### Vice Commander

Col. Tom 'Sling' Bladen

### Command Chief

Chief Master Sgt. Maryanne Walts

### Chief of Public Affairs

Capt. Anthony Mutti

### Public Affairs Officer

2nd Lt. Amelia Leonard

### Public Affairs Staff

Senior Master Sgt. Julie Avey

Master Sgt. Lindsey Sarah Watson-Kirwin

Airman 1st Class Sara Kolinski

Airman Camille Lienau



# Commander's Column: November Readiness Exercise

By Lt. Col. Peter Carr, Maintenance Group Commander



Welcome to the annual November Readiness Exercise! This has historically been the drill where Operations and Maintenance (to include LRS' WSC & POL personnel) generate and fly simulated combat sorties while being evaluated by the Wing Inspector General and the Wing Inspection Team. Last year, the exercise grew to look like more of Wing event and Unit Commanders were able to do their own thing based on what each organization is required to do for their wartime taskings. Each Squadron and Numbered Flight were

able to build their own set of Desired Learning Objectives and train to them without having to plug in to a single Wing training event. We are doing that again with this exercise.

Our Wing Commander's Intent for this exercise is that we improve Airman readiness by; training to your unit's Desired Operational Capability Statement, including its core Mission Essential Tasks and Unit Type Code; we are respectful of Airmen's time; and decentralized execution is authorized at the Squadron level (i.e. single Wing level exercise is not required). That means this is a 'part-task' training event and not a full scale Wing level warfare simulation exercise. Please understand the difference.

The Operations and Maintenance Groups will be conducting a 48 hour flying operation where we will launch and recover six aircraft, three times per day, while being in simulated contested, degraded, and operationally limited chemical environment. We will be supported by the Logistics Readiness Squadron and the Communications Squadron for the entire exercise. Flight

line personnel will respond to simulated attacks announced over Land Mobile Radio (Ch.1) calls. If you hear anything over the Giant Voice, it's a real world event. If you are not assigned to work the flight line, the signals you respond to come from your unit leadership! This is a departure from other exercises we have conducted, so ensure you and anyone you are leading are aware of your unit's method of attack and Mission Oriented Protective Posture change signals.

The Alert operation, to include the Command Post, some of the Security

Forces Squadron, and some Fire support will not be playing in the exercise and any announcements you hear regarding Alert Scrambles are Real World and will immediately drive a pause to the exercise. As always, if there are any safety concerns, please identify it and call a 'Knock It Off!'

There will be a Wing level Command & Control table-top exercise on Thursday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. where the Crisis Action Team (senior Wing leadership) and the Emergency Operations Center will meet and discuss how our Wing



# Commander's Column Continued



Airmen practice decontaminating equipment during last years exercise. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Senior Airman Randall Burligame)

would respond to a variety of airborne and ground threats in a combat environment.

Fighter Wing Headquarters will have Wing Safety and Wing IG supporting

all Wing agencies with a focus on the high risk areas (e.g. flying operations) and sections being evaluated; Public Affairs will be conducting general Chemical Warfare Defense Exercises and crisis communication response

events; the Judge Advocate General, Military Equal Opportunity, and Chaplain's offices will also be conducting CWDE. Civil Engineering will have Emergency Management augmenting the WIT Team as well as conducting EM training; Explosive Ordnance Disposal will be conducting an 'airfield denied by ordnance' exercise; the Fire Department will be doing some cross-training with EOD, executing a pilot extraction exercise, and responding to a simulated vertical structure fire; and the CE leadership will be involved in EOC command and control exercises. The Logistics Readiness Squadron will be conducting CWDE while managing their command and control through their Unit Control Center. The Force Support Squadron will be conducting search and rescue operations in a simulated chemical environment while conducting general CWDE Ability To Survive and Operate drills. The SFS will be executing a base defense posture exercise with small unit tactics in defensive fighting positions while escalating their Mission Oriented Protective Posture. The Medical Group will be floating around the base and conducting Self-Aid & Buddy Care evaluations and education, while also

conducting general CWDE.

If you are a leader in the organization, please know what's going on, keep your people informed, trained and engaged. Please try to get the most out of this training event. Take good notes and participate in any and all hotwash events and pass any inputs and concerns up the chain.

If you are a junior member of the Wing and this is all foreign to you, please ask questions and do your best to learn your job and what is expected of you, both in garrison and when deployed in a threat environment. Always remember, that while these training events are designed to prepare you for combat, they are not even close to the real thing, but are designed to be part-task training events so that you can learn and build critical AFSC and ATSO skills.

I thank you all in advance for what I am sure will be a great exercise! Thanks for what you do!

# 104th Firefighters emphasize the importance of fire safety

By Airman Camille Lienau

The National Fire Protection Association puts out a message each year to promote fire safety education with the message this year being, “Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice your Escape.” Everyone should create a fire escape plan and practice those plans at home.

“The 104th Fighter Wing Fire Department encourages all members of the wing to embrace this year’s message,” said Lt. Travis Witbeck, a 104FW firefighter. “The success of our mission here at the Barnes Air National Guard Base revolves around our people and their ability to do their jobs. A fire at home takes a drastic toll on anyone who is involved with a home fire, whether it leads to injuries or not. This inevitably results negatively on their ability to conduct their business here at the wing. Thus, we embrace the challenge of providing any possible ways members can avoid these tragic events at home.”

As important as it is to plan ahead for emergencies at home, 104 FW members should also take time to familiarize themselves with the fire escape plans of the buildings they are working in.

“We embrace fire prevention throughout the year by conducting routine inspections of all facilities to ensure they are compliant with current fire safety standards and address any hazards we find,” said Witbeck. “One of the things that we are always checking for is that base personnel are familiar with the fire escape plans of the buildings they are working in and that they are practiced annually. These plans are required to be posted on message boards of each building on base.”

Fire safety is something that we should promote each day. Small things such as testing your smoke detectors once a month and replacing its batteries annually or ensuring that you have up to date fire extinguishers can prevent against tragedies.



# Native American Heritage Month: Telling Stories through Art

By Staff Sgt. Felicia Morales, Equal Opportunity Office

Guardsmen come from diverse backgrounds. As a Taíno descendant, I became interested in Native art after visiting Puerto Rico and learning about the ways in which the Natives would tell their stories via cave paintings and sculptures carved from stone. Whether it was through petroglyphs on cave walls, stone sculptures, totem poles or basket weaving, Native experiences and cultural identities have been preserved through their art and continue to tell their stories for future generations.

For centuries, Native Americans have expressed themselves through different forms of art; music, sculptures, paintings, and masks were all products of their sacred beliefs and symbolic storytelling that transcended language barriers between tribes. One of the most widely recognized forms of Native American art are totem poles. Sometimes referred to as monumental poles, totem poles are unique, wooden monuments hand-carved to depict family lineage, mythological beings, spiritual stories and culturally important symbols.

Natives carved these grand pieces from the red cedar trees of the American Northwest Coast and painted them with vivid colors before being carried away to the ceremony site.

While totem poles were common of the indigenous people of the American Northwest, basket-weaving was an art form of the indigenous Southwest for nearly 8,000 years. Tribes would use different materials and techniques to create baskets of various shapes and patterns special to their tribes. Some tribes, like the Cherokees, used bundled pine needles to create their baskets while tribes like the Dene crafted their baskets from birch bark. Apart from being beautiful pieces of art, these baskets served as a means for food gathering, cooking, hide processing, and storing goods.



# The Benefits of AFROTC and Massachusetts ANG

By Airman Camille Lienau



The 104th FW hosted Air Force ROTC students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Boston University, Umass Lowell, and Umass Amherst on October 11, 2019. The students received a tour of the 104 FW's facilities and flightline and got to witness the F-15's take off. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman Camille Lienau)

The Massachusetts Air National Guard provides 100% tuition assistance to members attending college as either undergraduate or graduate students. For those who want to commission as

an officer in the Air Force but did not get the AFROTC scholarship straight out of high school, they can enlist in the Air National Guard and start using the tuition waiver immediately. This

enables you to go to a state college in Massachusetts for free and participate in AFROTC as well. The advantage of taking part in the ANG and AFROTC is that you receive both benefits simultaneously.

There are parameters to this process; those interested would join the guard before they contract with ROTC and be considered an enlisted cadet who would have to be conditionally released from their ANG position thirty days from commissioning. Therefore, enlisted cadets would get the experience of being an enlisted member of the Air Force for four years before they are released. Additionally, enlisted cadets would qualify to collect the Montgomery GI Bill, which pays a monthly stipend of up to \$362 per month toward college tuition and expenses. The Montgomery GI Bill also has a kicker that goes along with it for certain career fields in the Air National Guard that provides additional money for college.

Based on the career field that enlisted cadets have chosen in the Air National Guard, they can qualify for bonuses that

come along with the position. Certain positions offer up to \$20k in bonuses, of which you can collect 50% after your third year mark of time in service in the guard. Enlisted cadets, on top of the money received from the scholarship, GI Bill, and monthly drill pay will be able to receive the bonus as well.

Besides the benefits that come along with utilizing both guard and AFROTC, cadets enjoy the experience of it.

“It’s definitely broadened my horizons and showed me a lot of different careers that I never thought were possible for me,” said Umass Amherst cadet Samantha Currie. “It’s brought me a lot of my closest friends at college and it’s showed me that I’m a lot stronger than I thought I could be. Overall it’s definitely a great opportunity and I’d recommend it to anyone.”

# Highlights, Welcomes, Farewells and Promotions

104th Public Affairs Office

## Around the Wing



## Farewells

Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Callahan, 104MXS  
Tech. Sgt. Patrick Sullivan, 104AMXS  
Master Sgt. Neftali Rivera, 104CES  
Master Sgt. Jason Parent, 104FW  
Master Sgt. Wade Rivest, 104AMXS  
Master Sgt. Barbara Plotniak, 104FSS

Master Sgt. James Dunn, 104AMXS  
Master Sgt. Scott Sanderson, 104LRS  
Senior Master Sgt. Todd Canedy, 104SFS  
Senior Master Sgt. Dustin Buck,  
104AMXS  
Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Puccio, 104SFS

## Promotions

Airman Joshua Towse, 104CES  
Airman Camille Lienau, 104FW  
Staff Sgt. David Montanez, 104SFS

Tech. Sgt. Chadd Hammond, 104FSS  
Tech. Sgt. Carlos Vazquez, 104FSS

## Recruiters

Recruiting Office Supervisor, Tech. Sgt. Glendaennis Schuster (413) 237-0427  
Retention Office Manager, Tech. Sgt. Bento Fernandes, (413) 636-2291  
Worcester Area Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Matthew Bahosh, (413) 237-4525  
Western Mass Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Ernest Smith (413) 237-0982  
Western Mass Recruiter, Staff Sgt. Kayla Gallagher (413) 207-5186

Massachusetts Air National Guard  
104th Fighter Wing - 175 Falcon Drive  
Westfield, MA 01085

[www.104fw.ang.af.mil](http://www.104fw.ang.af.mil)

Phone: 413-568-9151 Ext: 698-1299

Email: [usaf.ma.104-fw.list.pa@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.ma.104-fw.list.pa@mail.mil)



Copyright (c) 2019, 104th Fighter Wing Air National Guard. All rights reserved. This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Military services. Contents of the AIRSCOOP are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the Air National Guard