

AirScoop

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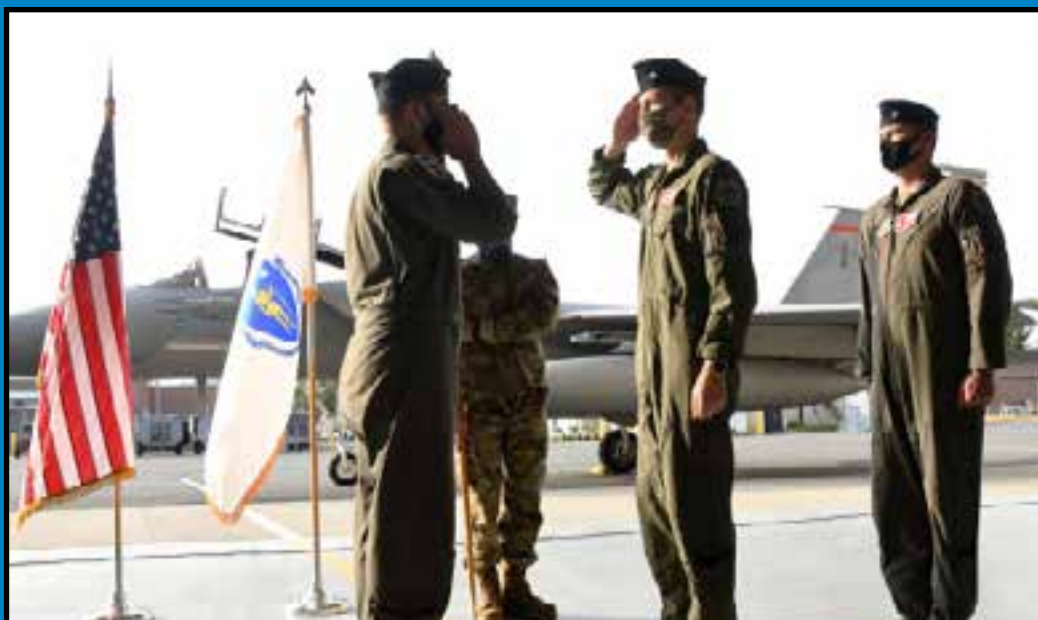
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AirScoop

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Airman 1st Class Camille Lienau

Did you know?

Barnestormers: Do you want the latest happenings at Barnes right at your fingertips?

Email 104FW.FSS.Announcements@us.af.mil your cell phone number and provider (T-Mobile, Sprint, Verizon, etc.) and you will receive no more than eight text messages a month about things such as meetings (Top 3, Rising 6), Food Trucks on base, Community Happenings (Night Lights), Job Opportunities – to include commissioning opportunities!

Barnestormers presented with Massachusetts 2020 Co-Innovator of the Year Awards

By 1st Lt. Amelia Leonard

Master Sgt. Leo Burbee, 104th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group structural maintenance supervisor, and Master Sgt. Bob Oleksak, 104MXG fabrication element supervisor, were presented with the 2020 Massachusetts Air National Guard Co-Innovator of the Year Awards by Brig. Gen. John Driscoll, commander of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, and the Air Force Achievement Medal by Capt. Jason Hickox, 104th Maintenance Squadron commander, Nov. 14, 2020, at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts.

The MANG Innovation Award recognizes Burbee and Oleksak's innovative drive and spirit. From idea to inception and development, they introduced a cost-effective F-15 Eagle panel repair technology to the Air Force. They engineered a solution in a way that will save the Air National Guard approximately \$150,000 and 650 man-hours annually.

Their process repairs damaged and out-of-tolerance fastener holes and not only fixes panels and doors, but also helps strengthen them. It will reduce the time

necessary to fix each jet from six hours to one, using this new method. "Our proposal is a cold work aircraft panel repair technology that significantly saves time, material and labor," said Oleksak.

Between the two of them, they have more than 51 years of experience in the fabrication element, said Chief Master Sgt. Chester Bennett, 104MXG equipment maintenance flight chief. "When they told me they had some sort of tool that's going to make it easier on their fabrication troops to get the job done, I completely trusted them," Bennett said.

They presented their idea to the National Guard Bureau's Innovation competition panel this past June after competing and winning at the local and regional level. They placed second nationally, against more than 200 competitors.

They figured out what needed to be fixed and how to save time and money, do it smarter, cheaper and better, said Driscoll, who sat on the competition panel at the state-level. "They showed leadership through innovation," he said.



Gen. John Driscoll, commander of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, stands alongside Master Sgt. Bob Oleksak, 104th Maintenance Group fabrication element supervisor, and his family following a small ceremony where he received the 2020 Massachusetts Air National Guard Co-Innovator of the Year Award and Air Force Achievement Medal Nov. 14, 2020, at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1Lt. Amelia Leonard)

"Leadership is not by rank or position. It is by an action. Good ideas know no ranks."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they had to present their idea to the NGB remotely via video teleconference. "They were part comedy, part serious, all discipline and all Barnestormer," said Col. Tom Bladen, commander of

the 104th Fighter Wing. "They rocked it. I couldn't be prouder. They are what makes Barnes great," he said.

One of the Department of Defense's priorities is innovative spirit and mindset, so although their idea placed

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Barnestormer Innovators, continued

By 1st Sgt. Amelia Leonard



Capt. Jason Hickox, 104th Maintenance Squadron commander, Master Sgt. Leo Burbee, 104th Maintenance Group structural maintenance supervisor, and Master Sgt. Bob Oleksak, 104MXG fabrication element supervisor, stand at attention while their Air Force Achievement Medal citations are read during a small ceremony held Nov. 14, 2020, at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1Lt. Amelia Leonard)

second in the competition, the Air National Guard will be funding and implementing their process across the entire F-15 fleet.

“Not only does this process save the government money, more importantly, it reduces repair time, which increases aircraft availability and combat readiness,” said Lt. Col. Pete Carr,

104MXG commander. “Additionally, this process can be used on other airframes as well, so this process will impact all service branches in the Department of Defense,” he said.

Their collective innovation mindset extends beyond this one F-15 repair solution. They are heavily involved in the maintenance of static aircraft

displays at Barnes, said Bennett. “They are being innovative and grabbing other unit’s scrap metal and turning it into something that can be enjoyed by the 104th Fighter Wing members for years to come.”

The Massachusetts National Guard wants to foster the same kind of creative drive in all of its members. The innovator competition begins at the state-level by submitting ideas to the Patriot Pitch program. From there, four finalists are selected to compete for a slot at the regional level, and ultimately in front of a panel at the National Guard Bureau. Although the deadline for 2020 submissions has passed, members from the Massachusetts National Guard are encouraged to begin brainstorming ideas for the 2021 submission season.

“It was an exciting ride throughout the escalating levels of competition, and we never thought we would get as far as we did,” said Oleksak. “We would not hesitate to bring any other innovative ideas to this competition,” he said.

For more information on how to submit your idea to Patriot Pitch, go to www.innovatedefense.net/mang-patriot-pitch

Headlines and Highlights

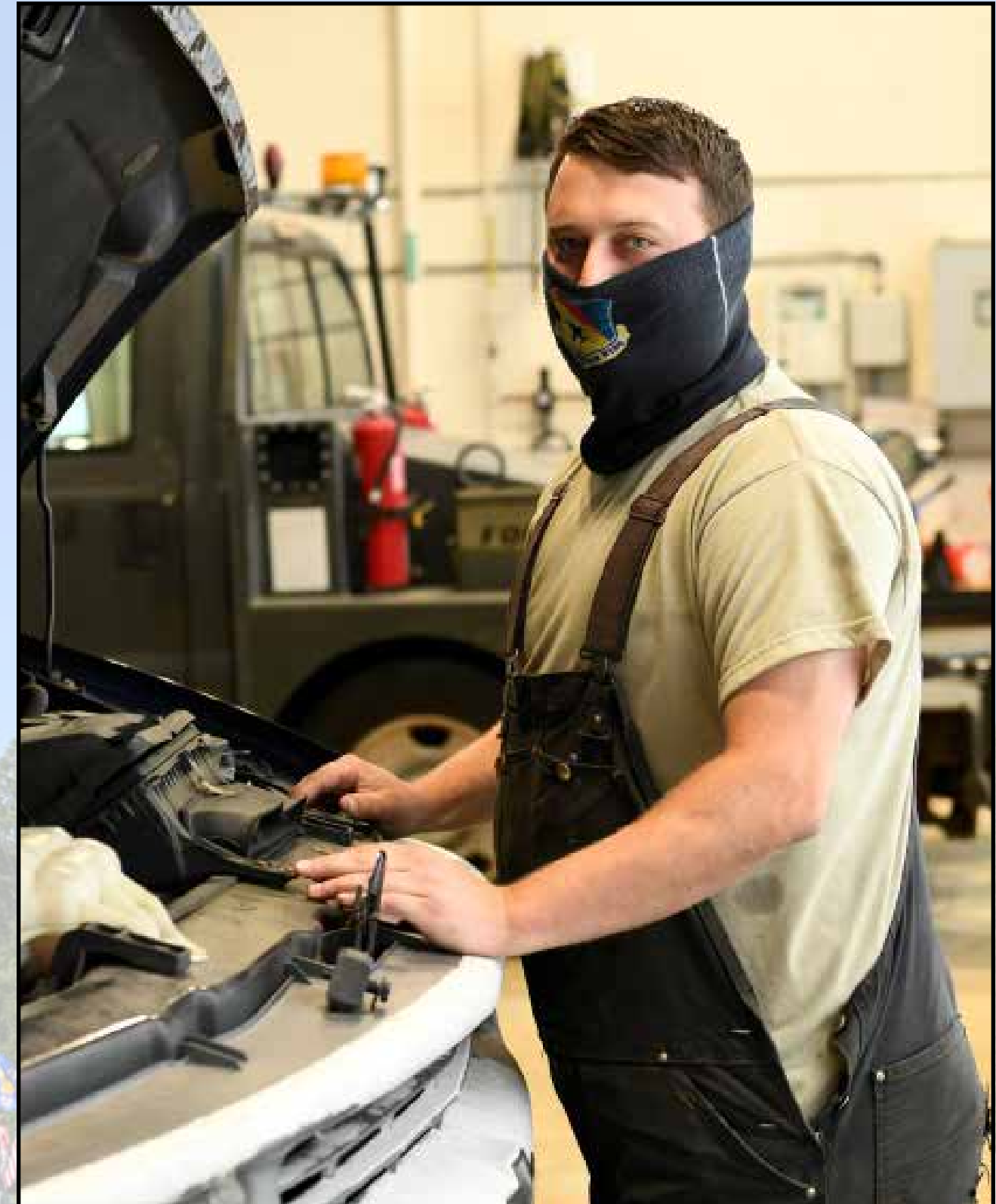
104th Public Affairs Office



[Maintenance Group retirement ceremony](#)



[Life as a Hydraulic System's Specialist](#)



[Get to know a Vehicle Management Specialist](#)

Welcomes, Farewells, Promotions and Points of Contact

104th Public Affairs Office

Welcomes

Airman Basic Joseph Godbout, CES
Airman Basic Andrew Clough, CF
Senior Airman Travis Beudoin, MXS
Senior Airman Simon Njuguna, LRS
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Charles, AMXS

Tech. Sgt. Michael McCruin, AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Fawn Strandness, CPTF
2nd Lt. Olivia Briggs, MDG
Lt. Col. Annasue Barrows, MDG

Promotions

Airman Shaun Gezotis, FSS
Airman Farah Pagnoni, FSS
Airman 1st Class Joshua Towse, CES
Airman 1st Class Diamond Rodriguez,
131FS

Senior Airman David Masse, AMXS
Staff Sgt. Moriah Coleman, CES
Tech. Sgt. Luke Laplume, FW

Recruiters

If you want to learn about a career with the 104th Fighter Wing call one of our recruiters to learn more about serving in the Air National Guard, and the benefits you can receive, including 100% tuition and fee waiver.

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

Wellness Center Points of Contact

Did you know that we have a wellness center full of professionals who can help you with a wide array of items?

Capt. Tra'Vorus Weaver, Chaplain, tra_vorus.weaver@us.af.mil
Lisa Potito, Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager, lisa.potito@us.af.mil
Amanda Winslow, Airman & Family Readiness Specialist, amanda.winslow@us.af.mil
Michelle Pennington, Director of Psychological Health, michelle.pennington.1@us.af.mil
Mary Keeler, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, mary.keeler.2@us.af.mil

Are you looking for a new drill status guardsman opportunity at the 104th Fighter Wing? Take a look at our 104FW DSG career opportunities page on our SharePoint Page.

[**DSG Careers on SharePoint**](#)

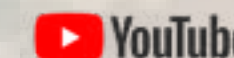
Yes, your CAC is required to access SharePoint.

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

www.104fw.ang.af.mil

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

Email: usaf.ma.104-fw.list.pa@mail.mil



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