

# AirScoop

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



104th Awarded 10th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award



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## MDG Awards



# 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**

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: The Barnestormer Brand and Legacy

By Col. Peter T. Green III, 104th Fighter Wing Commander



I am proud to serve alongside you in the best combat unit in the Air Force, the 104th Fighter Wing! As Barnestormers, we serve as ambassadors and are critical to its brand and legacy.

When I think of our brand, I think of “Pride, Patriotism and Excellence” in all we do as our brand values. These values are how we operate every day and it is how our predecessors operated. We have a long, and proud legacy as the 104th Fighter Wing Barnestormers. With over 72 years in fighters, numerous

outstanding inspections, multiple training and combat deployments, and we continue to operate at the top of our game as proven with the award of our 10th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

As Air National Guardsman in Massachusetts, we are part of the very birth of the National Guard. The Nation’s very first militia was formed in Salem, Massachusetts on December 13, 1636. The Massachusetts National Guard brand is effectively communicated by the words, “The Nation’s First,” and we continue to perform each day to contribute our important part of our states history.

Along with our state mission, we are part of over 107,700 proud Air National Guardsman contributing to our nation’s defense. We work side-by-side with our Active duty counterparts, seamlessly merging into the mission. In essence, our local communities and the nation also view us as part of the United States Air Force. You truly are part of a much greater organization with a proud legacy.

At any time now we expect the results of the Air Force Enterprise and Scoring Data initiative to be released and we believe it will be favorable to the F-15C. This decision will be the first step in determining where the next (2-3) F-35 flying wings will be based. Due to our past and current Barnestormer success and reputation, we are well positioned, as a Wing for the next aircraft conversion (whether it is the F-35 or the F-15EX) and I believe the 104th Fighter Wing will be on that list. If that occurs, we will have an Air Force Site Inspection Team visit as early as late spring or early summer to assess our Wing. They will look at all of you, how we are currently conducting our mission, our infrastructure, and our facilities.

We have outstanding support in our State and National political and military leadership. They know what we bring to the Commonwealth and the Nation. They are in our corner and will be critical to successfully communicating our value to the Air Force in this process.

During the next few months, our local communities may take a closer look at us as well. Westfield and our surrounding communities have always been supportive and view our Wing as a critical and vital part of the community. You represent “who we are and what we stand for” in everything you do both on and off base. You are the 104th Fighter Wing brand and all that it stands for in our communities. Be mindful that we are all ambassadors as our actions often do speak louder than words. Let us continue to uphold our brand and legacy; insure our actions fully support our Air Force and brand values. Continue as Barnestormers with “Pride, Patriotism and Excellence in all we do,” and be proud to communicate our value every day with our families, businesses, social and community groups.

Add to that legacy in all that you do - Go Barnestormers!



# 104th Fighter Wing Maintenance Team wins 2019 ANG Safety Award

*Airman Camille Lienau, 104th Public Affairs*

Ten members of the 104th Fighter Wing utilized their expertise and attention to detail to make an Air Force wide-impact.

The 104th Fighter Wing Maintenance Squadron team identified a major issue in the F-15, affecting upwards of 200 fighter aircraft and \$5.1 billion in Air Force assets. This issue directly impacted the pilot and could potentially cause pilot hypoxia if rapid depressurization were to occur.

Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Pavelchak, 104 FW Quality Assurance, facilitated measures to identify and solve the issue.

“Our Repair/Reclamation and Electric/Environmental maintenance technicians along with our Quality Assurance team identified a trending issue affecting the cabin pressurization system,” said Pavelchak.

The technicians did not stop at simply identifying the issue, further measures were taken to ensure that this structural error never occurs again. A thorough risk assessment utilizing global data from 41 F-15 specific Class E physiological incidents was drafted.

“Quality Assurance personnel collaborated with Structural Maintenance members

and the F-15 System Program Office at Warner Robbins Air Force Base to develop a relatively easy, cost effective repair to an ongoing issue plaguing our fleet. This solution was later communicated and implemented throughout the F-15 community to prevent future mishaps relating to cabin pressure loss,” said Pavelchak.

An Air Force Technical Order change request was up-channelled, and prestigiously endorsed by functional management. To ensure fleet wide dissemination, an Engineering Technical Assistance Request for aircraft modification was approved and networked through all applicable Air Force Wings hosting the F-15C/D airframe.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Carr, 104 FW’s maintenance group commander, thanked the team for their commitment and dedication to nationwide safety.

“You discovered a fleet-wide deficiency that could have resulted in a pilot experiencing hypoxia or hypoxic symptoms. By running this issue to the ground and communicating with our counterparts, you prevented countless pilot reported discrepancies as well as a potential mishap. You have made our unit proud and have illustrated what it is to be a Barnestormer and you have earned

our most profound thank you,” said Carr.

Due to the rapid reaction of the 104th Maintenance team the hazard was removed completely, in less than three months’ time. The team’s remarkable actions and dedication to the safety of Air Force personnel has eliminated an imminent fatality to the 104th Fighter Wing and F-15 community.

The 2019 ANG Safety Award winners are: Senior Master Sgt. Thomas E. Pavelchak, Master Sgt. Abdias Garcia, Master Sgt. Michael D. Hilton, Master Sgt. Matthew L. Leonard, Tech. Sgt. Bryan W. McFarland, Tech. Sgt. Timothy F. Wachta, Staff Sgt. Juan R. Rodriguez, Senior Airman Jacob R. Pelletier, Senior Airman Brett M. Bamford, Senior Airman Edward M. Pintor.



The 104th Fighter Wing Maintenance Squadron won the 2019 Air National Guard Safety Award. The 2019 ANG Safety Award winners are: Senior Master Sgt. Thomas E. Pavelchak, Master Sgt. Abdias Garcia, Master Sgt. Michael D. Hilton, Master Sgt. Matthew L. Leonard, Tech. Sgt. Bryan W. McFarland, Tech. Sgt. Timothy F. Wachta, Staff Sgt. Juan R. Rodriguez, Senior Airman Jacob R. Pelletier, Senior Airman Brett M. Bamford, Senior Airman Edward M. Pintor. Due to their combined efforts they recieved recognition on a national level for the 104th Fighter Wing. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Airman Camille Lienau)



# 104th Fighter Wing Airmen attend State of the Wing

*By Airman 1st Class Sara Kolinski, 104th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

During the drill, Airmen from shops across the base heard the wing commander, vice commander, command chief, and group commanders discuss expectations for the present and future of the wing.

“We’re going to tell you where we are, where we are going, and what that means for you,” said Col. Peter T. Green III, 104th FW commander.

Green emphasized the importance of the people to the existence of the 104 FW and to achieving the goals discussed.

“Without you we cannot be successful. We need each one of you every day working on the mission,” said Green.

Leadership went over the value of each group, recognized achievements of the members, and thanked the Airmen for their hard work in helping to achieve the wing’s vision, and mission.

“I would like to thank each and every one of you for what you do. I know every time you put on the uniform it is a sacrifice,” said Chief Master Sgt. Maryanne Walts, 104FW command chief.

Colonel Andrew ‘Bishop’ Jacob, 104th Operations Group commander, expressed how important it is to get the F-15 Eagles flying and how much effort it takes.

“We need to keep doing exercises and we need to keep doing the training and we need to keep doing it the Barnes way the right way,” said Jacob.

Throughout the State of the Wing, the commanders emphasized the importance of the Airmen to the existence of the wing and achievement of the mission.

“We are ready for the future and we will succeed as a team together,” said Col. Tom ‘Sling’ Bladen, 104 FW vice commander.

After an open forum for questions and answers, Green asked Senior Airman Stephanie Walker, 2018 Airman of the Year, to come forward and unveil the unit’s most recent achievement.

The Wing was awarded its 10th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its distinguished and exceptionally meritorious service from Nov. 1, 2016 to Oct. 31, 2018. During this period

the highly motivated and professional members of the 104th Fighter Wing, continued their fine tradition of excellence and exemplary mission accomplishments by deploying over 250 personnel and aircraft to the European theater in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve for three months as part of a theater security package to Campia Turzii, Romania.

“I am extremely proud of all of our dedicated and hardworking Airmen who work every day to make the 104th

Fighter Wing the most respected fighter wing in the Combat Air Force,” said Col Peter T. Green III, Wing Commander, 104th Fighter Wing. “This is their award and it is a fitting tribute to their accomplishments while deployed and while accomplishing the missions at home. Go Barnestormers!”



The 104th Fighter Wing leadership spoke to the unit’s Airmen at a State of the Wing assembly Dec. 8, 2019, at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts. The State of the Wing provided leadership and Airmen with a two-way forum to have open discussions. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Sara Kolinski)



# Highlights, Welcomes, Farewells and Promotions

104th Public Affairs Office

## Headline for Pictures



Candlelight Service



Bright Nights

## Children's Holiday Party



## Welcomes

Airman Basic Dylan Sliech, 104CES  
Airman 1st Class Prashant Christian, 104SFS  
Airman 1st Class Tenzin Dakar, 104MDG

## Farewells

Maj. Keith Tatlock, MXS

## Promotions

Airman Jack Proulx, 104CPT	Staff Sgt. Sean Pearce, 104FSS
Airman Stephen Jeffers, 104SFS	Staff Sgt. Joseph Veale, 104LRS
Airman 1st Class Erica Pickard, 104CF	Staff Sgt. Matthew Buchanan, 104MOF
Airman 1st Class William Borcy, 104CES	Staff Sgt. Roman Correa, 104FSS
Senior Airman Keven Colon Rivera, 104FSS	Tech. Sgt. Elijah Lee, 104OSF
Senior Airman Shawn Burgmyer, 104CES	Tech. Sgt. Jason Edginger, 104AMXS
Staff Sgt. Gary Hunt, 104MXS	Tech. Sgt. Dominic Vasquez, 104 AMXS
Staff Sgt. Victor Agyenim Boateng, 104FSS	Tech. Sgt. Aric Lunde, 104AMXS
Staff Sgt. Neil Donnelly, 104AMXS	Senior Master Sgt. David Diem, 104CF
Staff Sgt. Michael Papoutsakis, 104AMXS	Chief Master Sgt. Robert Patenaude, 104MOF

## Recruiters

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Retention Office Manager, Tech. Sgt. Bento Fernandes, (413) 636-2291  
Western Mass Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Ernest Smith (413) 237-0982  
Western Mass Recruiter, Staff Sgt. Kayla Gallagher (413) 207-5186

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