Electrical Power Production Specialist Keeps Pilots Safe
What’s Inside

Cover Story

Headlines & Highlights

Welcomes, Farewells, Promotions, Recruiters, Wellness Center

AirScoop

Wing Commander
Col. Tom ‘Sling’ Bladen

Vice Commander
Col. David ‘Moon’ Halasi-Kun

Command Chief
Chief Master Sgt. Paul Barbee

Chief of Public Affairs
1st Lt. Amelia Leonard

Public Affairs Staff
Master Sgt. Lindsey Watson
Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith
Senior Airman Sara Kolinski
Airman 1st Class Camille Lienau

Did you know?

Barnestormers: Did you hear AFI 36-2903 will be updated mid-February?

Some of the biggest changes will be found in the female hair regulations section. Once the update is published, females will be authorized to wear their hair in up to two braids or a single ponytail. Specifics, in regards to length and bulk, will be made available in the update. In addition, women’s bangs will now be authorized to touch their eyebrows.

2020 Year in Review

View all Command Media, news, Air Scoops and more on the Air Force Connect Mobile App. Add the 104th Fighter Wing to your favorites. Available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store

AFI-36-2903 Update

104FW recognizes Ret. Lt. Gen. Rice
A typical day on the job encompasses a variety of tasks such as troubleshooting, equipment repairs, preventative maintenance, and good record-keeping,” said Reniewicz. “Our mornings start with daily inspections on our arresting systems. We will go out on the runway and raise and lower the cables to verify the control tower’s functions are working.”

“Electrical Power Production Specialist Keeps Pilots Safe

By Airman 1st Class Camille Lienau

“A typical day on the job encompasses a variety of tasks such as troubleshooting, equipment repairs, preventative maintenance, and good record-keeping,” said Reniewicz. “Our mornings start with daily inspections on our arresting systems. We will go out on the runway and raise and lower the cables to verify the control tower’s functions are working.”

These mission-critical specialists ensure our F-15 Eagle’s arresting systems are operating properly. Arresting systems are cables that span the width of the runway to safely catch aircraft in the event of an engine malfunction or rejected takeoff. With Barnes having an alert-fighter mission, these systems need to be thoroughly capable for both the F-15s and any other tailhook equipped aircraft that may need to land.

“Our system is responsible for ensuring the pilot’s safety and minimizing damage to the airframe during an emergency stop,” said Reniewicz. “The brakes we use have an energy-absorbing capacity of 65 million foot-pounds and can stop an aircraft traveling in either direction in 1,200 feet or less.”

After Reniewicz confirms that the arresting systems are in-service for the aircraft, he handles any preventative maintenance that is due and completes any equipment repairs as needed. Additionally, he performs monthly power system testing on the base generators to ensure reliability in the event of a commercial loss of power.

There are several generators that can power the entire base during a full power loss and an automated transfer switch to constantly monitor commercial power, he said. “When any imperfections are detected in the commercial supply, a remote signal starts the generator and supplies the building with emergency power.”

Senior Master Sgt. Matt Chapman, 104th Fighter Wing civil engineering chief enlisted manager, oversees the work in the electrical power production shop. Chapman explained that Airmen like Reniewicz who maintain arresting systems are critical to ensuring pilot safety in the event of an accident.

“TSgt Reniewicz came to us as a qualified Active-Duty transfer who not only had tons of knowledge and troubleshooting skills but also adhered to the Air Force core values we strive for every day,” said Chapman. “He truly is a young leader that pushes his career field to the limits and works with leadership at all levels to ensure that the mission never fails. He continuously works on upgrading the arresting system and maintaining it so it remains in service 100% of the time,” he said.

During a recent deployment, he worked alongside other specialists to build a 6 MW power plant for the base. This type of power plant typically powers all operations and facilitates fighter jets returning from missions.
“On my most recent deployment, we had over 70 generators, six aircraft arresting systems, and dozens of light carts all operating nonstop,” said Reniewicz. “In these situations, there is no doubt that the mission doesn’t succeed without the power production career field. If the power goes out, the rest of the base can’t function,” he said.

He has always had great pride in his military service, so after completing his bachelor’s degree while on Active-Duty, he returned to his hometown of Chicopee and transitioned into the Massachusetts National Guard to serve his local community.
104th Fighter Wing 2020 Annual Award Winners

- **Airman of the Year**: SrA Sara Kolinski
  - FW HQ/PA

- **NCO of the Year**: TSgt Jaymie White
  - FW HQ/JA

- **SNCO of the Year**: MSgt Chris Torres
  - SFS

- **First Sergeant of the Year**: MSgt Michael Hoar
  - MSG

- **CGO of the Year**: Capt. Colin MacEachern
  - SFS

- **FGO of the Year**: Maj. Christopher Ruscio
  - FW HQ/JA

- **Civilian of the Year**: Mr. Patrick LaFond
  - MDG
Headlines and Highlights

104th Public Affairs Office

104FW members participate in TCCC

104FW fulfills Angel Tree wishes

104FW trains with CAP

104FW hosts Gift Bag shopping event

104FW holds Night Lights Event
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.