

AirScoop

104th FIGHTER WING | WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL



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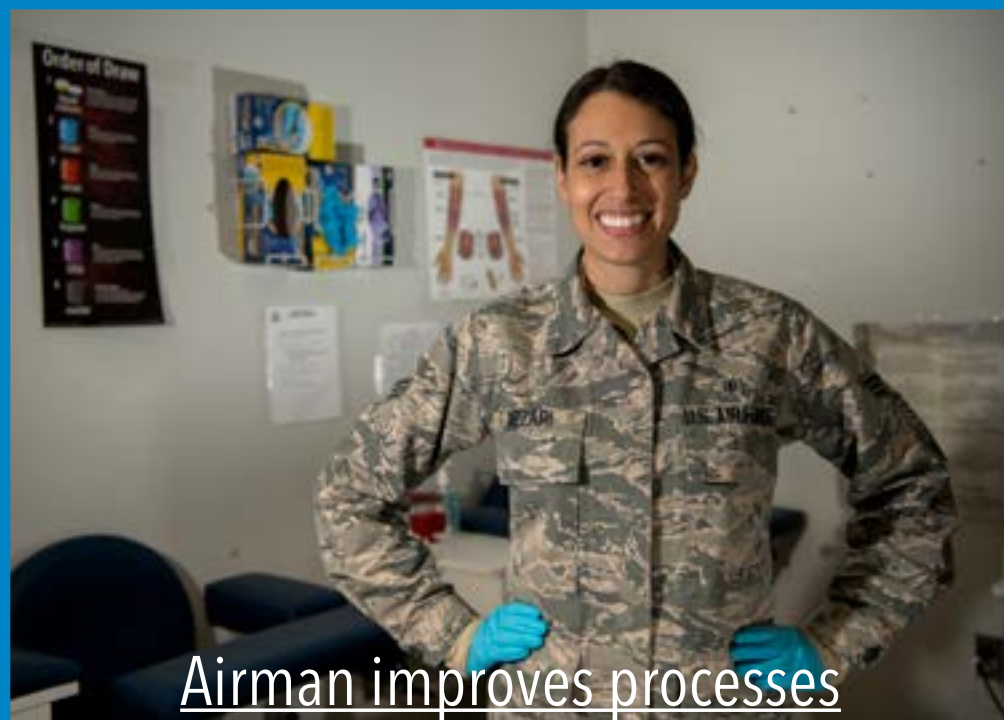
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Out & About



AirScoop

Wing Commander

Col. Peter T. Green III

Vice Commander

Col. David Halasi-Kun

Command Chief

Chief Master Sgt. Maryanne Walts

Chief of Public Affairs

Capt. Tony Mutti

Public Affairs Officer

2nd Lt. Amelia Leonard

Public Affairs Staff

Senior Master Sgt. Julie Avey

Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Sarah Watson-Kirwin

Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame

Airman Sara Kolinski

104 FW Unit Effectiveness Capstone Survey

- The survey is open and ready for your inputs as of today; it takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.
- Please be open, frank and honest in your answers; it will make the results more meaningful for your wing. Closes March 31, 2019

[Click here to take the survey](#)

USAF Survey Control Number: AF17-111IGI

Commander's Column: The Barnes Snowbird

By Lt. Col. Andrew "Bishop" Jakob, 104th Operations Group commander



Ever since I joined the Barnestormers in 2012, the 104th Fighter Wing annually schedules a TDY during the winter months. These TDYs have commonly been referred to as "snowbirds" since Hawaii and Florida are favorite locations. To my surprise, Merriam-Webster dictionary actually defines this word and describes it as "one who travels to warm climates for the winter." A quick history reveals that the word was used over one hundred years ago, mostly to describe men who

enlisted in the armed forces to get food and clothing during the winter months and then deserted as the warm spring weather approached. I hope none of you have plans of desertion, but the unit is certainly looking for warmer climates for one very important reason... readiness.

Many descriptions of readiness exist, but I prefer to break this term up into three areas: manning, training, and resources. Manning is simply making sure you have the appropriate amount of people available to do a task. Resources are the material and money required to accomplish tasks. The third area of readiness is training, and this is the fundamental reason that our snowbird deployments are so vitally important to our air superiority mission and drive where we go and who we go with.

The northeast is a very difficult region to conduct flying operations. The freeze/thaw cycle that produces our world-class potholes also contributes to difficult working environments for both operators and maintainers. In 2018, our operations/maintenance team

suffered over 30% attrition during the winter months, meaning that 3 out of every 10 sorties were not accomplished or non-effective. This rate is almost triple the typical attrition during warm weather months when we operate from home station. The combination of being on the road and in a warm weather location typically produces outstanding flying rates. It's not uncommon for our operations/maintenance team to have over 95% scheduling effectiveness during these TDYs, which is critical for pilot training and proficiency. One of the driving factors for pilot training is flying quantity. The ability to generate sorties at a high rate due to good weather and low attrition means a lot of flying for pilots and, therefore, readiness.

In addition to quantity, our training must include quality opportunities to fly with, and against, other platforms. This year, we will integrate with the men and women of the 180th Fighter Wing from Toledo, Ohio and their F-16s. Being co-located at Patrick AFB allows pilots to brief and debrief with each other, increasing learning opportunities. In addition to Toledo,

we will have opportunities to conduct larger operations with fighter units from Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Florida and several Navy and Marine Corps units from Key West. Inter-service training is invaluable for our mission, as wars are not fought by individual services; they are joint endeavors that require training to hone skills required for combat operations.

The quantity and quality of training we will get during this year's snowbird are a result of a total-team Barnestormer effort. While the TDY execution focuses on the operations/maintenance team and flying operations, none of this happens without the efforts from the logistics team, finance experts, and the wide variety of supporting agencies that get the team there and back. To those of you on the trip, enjoy the warm weather and sunshine, but don't lose focus on the task.

Our Air Force and country demand that we train to conduct high-end warfare. The Barnes Snowbird takes us one more step in that direction.

Airmen & Airpower: 104th Munitions Flight showcases versatility

By Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame



104th Munitions Flight Airmen inspect a Captive Air Training Missile 9X-2 and load 20mm ammunition into a Universal Ammunition Loading System. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame)



[Full Photo Gallery](#)

Master Sergeant Ken McElroy, Senior Airman Alec Leavitt and Airman 1st Class Nick Burns, 104th Munitions Flight ordnance mechanics, are members of a munitions team that takes pride in their versatility.

Instead of specializing in just one part of the munitions operation, such as delivering munitions to the flight line, the ordnance mechanics train on all aspects of the mission.

This approach to training has created a team of Airmen capable of supporting their multi-faceted mission at the 104th Fighter Wing.

“We have a lot of people here that are

knowledgeable in all aspects of the shop,” said Leavitt. “We’re well rounded. Normally we’re equipment maintenance, but we can go down and test missiles and assist in other operations.”

Leavitt said there are nine sections in munitions, including Precision Guided Munitions, inspection, and munitions handling equipment.

“I would feel comfortable sending either one of these guys to any shop to do anything,” said McElroy.

The three Airmen recently worked in PGM and conducted a 60-day inspection on a Captive Air Training Missile 9X-2.

They said the CATM 9X-2 is used almost daily by F-15 Eagles at the 104th FW, and is the primary munition they use in air-to-air combat. It recently replaced the standard CATM 9X, and provides upgraded capabilities for the F-15s.

Leavitt said that being able to step out of their normal role in equipment maintenance has a direct impact on mission readiness. They are able to validate the serviceability of the missile and pass it for inspection. “If they don’t pass, we can’t support that

side of the mission,” said Leavitt. “They have to pass.”

Burns said he likes being directly involved in the wing’s mission.

“I like going to the flight line and contributing to the mission,” said Burns. “Going out there and supplying the aircraft with what they need to fly every day.”

Being exposed to so many different sections in munitions has also instilled confidence in the Airmen, preparing them for any potential changes to their career field or the mission at the 104th FW, said Leavitt. Any change to the mission will provide an opportunity to learn and do something new. They are ready to work with whatever aircraft eventually replaces the F-15 Eagle, he said.

“Whether we get F-35s or the F-15X, it’s going to create an air-to-ground mission for us,” said Leavitt. “That would pretty much create a whole new part of our shop that deals with just bombs. That whole aspect is something to look forward to. It’s what you sign up for.”

From the Chaplain: Seeing the light in the darkness

By 1st Lt. Tra'Vorus Weaver, 104th Fighter Wing chaplain

January and February is a challenging time of the year for many people. After the holidays, proceeds the advent for the coldest time of the year when we hunker down prepared to endure the snow, ice, wind, and frigid temperatures. Perhaps, a daydream of relaxing on a warm sandy beach with palm trees is our only solace from the reality of winter's grip.

It is not uncommon for people to battle not only the harsh winter weather, but the complexity of emotions that flood their souls. The emotions of loneliness, discouragement, and depression that accompanies the complexities of life. The shorter days, long cold and dark nights may only stimulate and aggravate the pain.

Doctors and scientists have suggested that those who experience a worsening mood when the weather gets colder as having "winter depression." The clinical term for this condition is called Seasonal Affective Disorder. There are others who call this condition as having the "winter blues."

Whatever the case, even in the midst of the cold grip of literal winter, or a spiritual winter in your life as a result of circumstantial difficulty, you can still thrive in the darkness.

The practical ways to beat the blues are already incorporated in our mission to be physically, spiritually, and emotionally fit as airmen. If you are struggling with winter blues, try some of these ideas! Here is a small quick list. (Ideas adapted from everydayhealth.com):

1. Go Work Out: Hit the gym and/or run
2. Have a healthy regular sleep rhythm.
3. Watch your favorite comedies.
4. Grab a cup of Hot Cocoa!
5. Throw a party!
6. Go on vacation or plan a staycation!
7. Consider Light Therapy
8. Grow in your faith- Call the Chaplains, we are hear for you.

I am reminded of a scripture which reads, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

I hope this encourages you as it does me! You can thrive and walk in light even in the darkness.

Please be encouraged to reach out to me if you would like to connect! I am here for you.

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(Bottom) Staff Sergeant Arthur Mitchell, 104th Fighter Wing chaplain assistant, lights a candle during a non-denominational candle lighting ceremony Dec. 2, 2018.

(Top) First Lieutenant Tra'Vorus Weaver, 104th FW chaplain, organized the event and said candle lighting can symbolize hope and remembrance. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame)



First Lieutenant T.J. Weaver, 104th Fighter Wing chaplain, speaks to Airmen from the 104th Fighter Wing during a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, Post 1 Deployment Event Jan. 12, 2018, in Springfield, Massachusetts. The event provides resources to Airmen who have recently deployed as well as to their family members. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame)

Highlights & Headlines

104th Public Affairs Office

Headlines



Awards Banquet



Prevent Human Trafficking



Inspired By History

Master Sgt. Erin Barr, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant, writes about finding inspiration while serving overseas. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Clayton Cupit)

Airmen Depart for Patrick AFB



104th Fighter Wing Airmen recently departed to Patrick Air Force Base where they will train and prepare for various situations. [Click here to read more.](#) (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Airman Sara Kolinski)

Highlights, Welcomes, Farewells and Promotions

104th Public Affairs Office



Law Enforcement Appreciation



19 Years of Security



Welcomes

Airman Basic Joshua Towse
Airman Basic Bailey Canedy
Airman 1st Class Victor Zanardi
Airman 1st Class Frankie Rodriguez
Airman 1st Class Emmalee Perez
Airman 1st Class Kyle Condino

Farewells

Lt. Col. Jeffrey "Monty" Beckel
Senior Master Sgt. Scott Hepburn

Promotions

Airman Sara Kolinski
Senior Airman Christopher Fahey
Senior Airman Nathan Frappier
Staff Sgt. Whitney Greaney
Staff Sgt. Taran Savoie

Staff Sgt. Kyle Bienia
Tech. Sgt. Victoria Williamson
Tech. Sgt. Cindi Muszynski
Tech. Sgt. Joan Germain
Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Chapman

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