



AIRSCOOP

104TH FIGHTER WING • MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Pride, Professionalism, Patriotism

Barnes Air National Guard Base

November 2018



Airmen Providing Airpower - Page 4

(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame)

Commander's Column: Understanding Exercises

By Lt. Col. Peter Carr and Lt. Col. Andrew Jacob

This weekend, the 104th Fighter Wing will conduct a Phase II exercise designed to simulate a combat scenario with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats. For those of you who have been around awhile, the terms "Phase II", "Alarm Red", and "Base X" will immediately drive you through the entire spectrum of grief. Most of you will start by denying that the exercise is happening, deleting an email that suggests it is real. The next stages of anger and bargaining are my personal favorite, as you really get to know the people around you based on how they traverse these emotions. Finally, a moment of sadness followed by acceptance. Like it or not, the exercise is happening, and now is the time to accept it as reality.

But there must be a reason exercises like this have endured the test of time. Certainly some sane person would have cancelled these long ago if they resulted in no gain of combat power. The last time the U.S. military even used this type of equipment in a combat scenario was the Persian Gulf War, almost 30 years ago.

Ultimately, the answer to why we continue to train like this comes from a strategy. The National Defense Strategy of the United States, released last year, changed the focus of the U.S. military from low end conflict, like that being fought against ISIS, to high end conflicts against near peer threats. These threats have the ability to use a wide range of tactics and equipment to disrupt, deter or destroy our capability to defend allies or projected military power. We must get used to the fact that

any conflict we train to fight in will include fog and friction, which is jargon for what the military calls Contested Degraded Operations (CDO).

The U.S. military remains the most powerful in the world. We must maintain the ability to use our combat power in CDO environments. This means we must train to do our jobs in any environment, with minimal or inadequate equipment and with limited information. In the case of the November drill, we will simulate a chemical attack threat to create the environment that may include all of these factors. There is absolutely a learning objective that includes knowing how to react to alarm conditions and adopt the appropriate Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) level based on those conditions. The end result is to train inside the fog of war. When our enemies know that we can and will adapt to any CDO environment or condition they can develop, the likelihood of actual war diminishes. As the saying goes, "The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war."

This exercise is the first in a crawl, walk, run plan that the wing will implement over the next few years. This weekend, the intent is to work on the basics. As time goes on we will increase the complexity. The more fog we can create, the better prepared you will be for combat action. It's been said that the reason the U.S. military does so well in wartime is that war is chaos, and the American military practices it on a daily basis. Enjoy this weekend's chaos!

AIRSCOOP

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Alcoholism is treatable!

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Chief's Corner: Out with the Old, in with the New

By Chief Master Sgt. Chester Bennett, 104th Munitions Flight Chief



It is common knowledge that there has been a change to the uniform, which will be fully implemented and mandatory by April 2021. The reason for this change is to have one standard combat utility uniform that can be worn both in-garrison and at deployed locations. The new uniform is referred to as the OCP, Operational Camouflage Pattern, and it is already utilized by the Army and many Air Force personnel. More than 100,000 Air Force members have already been outfitted with the OCP uniform and those numbers will only continue to increase. Many Air National Guard personnel who have recently deployed or are assigned to EOD and Security Forces have already been issued the new uniform. If you have been issued the new uniform, you are now authorized to wear it. Beginning in April 2019, Airman will be able to purchase the OCP uniform and all required accessories at AAFES stores, both in person and online. The approximate cost to outfit yourself with one complete OCP uniform, to include boots, is \$640.00.

Another change is that we will once again be allowed to wear unit patches, something that has not been authorized since 2011.

Many Airmen throughout the Air Force have been very vocal about the desire to resurrect this tradition. Unit patches not only express squadron identity, but they are part of our heritage. Further guidance concerning the design and wear of these patches will be coming out.

There has been a significant amount of positive feedback from Airmen who are currently wearing the OCP uniform. This uniform, which is significantly lighter and less bulky, is much more functional than

previous uniforms due in part to the easily-accessible chest and shoulder pockets. Also, many females have reported that this uniform fits much better than previously designed uniforms.

I feel that the Air Force has taken a step in the right direction in regards to our uniforms. The changes made will not only streamline our uniforms, but they are much more functional. The fit has been improved, and they will help boost morale.

Patrol caps will be worn with nametapes placed on the back using Velcro or sewn on. Officer rank will be sewn on the front of the hat and centered 1/2 inch above the visor.

T-shirt will be Tan.

Name and USAF tape embroidery will be spice brown thread.

Right Sleeve (max. 2 Velcro patches) Subdued U.S. Flags are mandatory and will be centered at the top of Velcro.

The following patches are approved to be worn under the US Flag:

- Higher headquarters (HHQ) subdued cloth patch,
- Directorate subdued cloth patch,
- Inspector General identification subdued cloth patch,
- or subdued cloth patches/badges of awarded campaigns/combat while assigned to the awarding unit.

Left Sleeve (max. 2 Velcro patches) Organizational unit of assignment subdued cloth will be centered at the top of the Velcro area unless one of the following patches are worn:

- Duty Identifier Tabs, or Joint qualification tabs may be worn, (e.g., Army Ranger, Sapper, Airborne, Air Commando, SERE, EOD) above the unit patch.

Right or Left Sleeve The following patches will be worn on either sleeve in place of either the HHQ or organizational unit patch:

- Weapons Instructor Course patch (graduate or instructor), USAF Test Pilot School and School of Advanced Air patch, Space Studies patch, Critical Care Air Transport Team patch, Test Pilot School graduate patches or other completed equivalent schools

Boots will be Coyote Brown.

TIMELINE

2018

1 OCT Serviceable OCP's may be worn.

Airmen can purchase OCP's at the following AAFES locations: Aviano AB, Charleston AFB, Shaw AFB and MacDill AFB

2019

1 APR Expansion of in-store AAFES sales locations continues

Tan T-shirt must be worn (Desert Sand is authorized until this date)

OCT Online sales projected to be available

2020

1 JUN Coyote Brown boots must be worn (Tan is authorized until this date)

DLA issued green socks must be worn (Desert Tan, Tan authorized until this date)

2021

1 APR OCP Mandatory Wear Date

BENEFITS

- The OCP works in all climates and across the spectrum of missions we perform
- Over 100,000 Airmen have been issued and/or are already wearing OCPs. This includes Air Force Central Command, Air Force Special Operations Command and our Air Force Global Strike Command Defenders
- The OCP will bring back Air Force heraldry with unit patches
- The OCP celebrates our joint warfighting excellence and close ties with the Army

AIR FORCE OCP UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Further official wear guidance will be available soon in AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance

Airmen Providing Airpower: 104th Airman Selected to Become Pilot

By Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame

Senior Airman Calvin Cooper, 104th Operations Group airfield management shift leader, was recently selected to become a pilot at the 104th Fighter Wing.

Cooper has known he wanted to be a pilot ever since he started to seriously think about what he wanted to do with his life, he said. He believes working around the pilots at the 104th Fighter Wing over the last four years has helped him build relationships and become comfortable with the culture.

“Being in operations, and being a pilot candidate, especially, it’s a different schematic,” said Cooper. “It’s the highest visibility for an Airman. They’re going to get to know you as you, which is probably the best thing at the end of the day.”

Chief Master Sgt. Brian Mapel, 104th OG airfield manager, said airfield management Airmen get to interact with the pilots every day. They are able to see their mannerisms and work ethic. Cooper displays many of the same traits, he said.

“His work ethic is very strong,” said Mapel. “He definitely has those qualities. He’s very detailed.”

Cooper said the thing that initially sparked his interest to become a pilot goes back to his freshman year of college at the University of Delaware. He lived on a dormitory floor with Reserve Officer’s Training Corps students and had a friend who was a pilot, he said. “That kind of got the ball rolling,” said Cooper. “I really liked the idea of being in the military, too. Especially with the mission that we have and the standards that are upheld for us as military members.”

Self-discipline, physical fitness, good career progression and the opportunity to see the world were all additional reasons for Cooper to join the military, he said.



Senior Airman Calvin Cooper, 104th Operations Group airfield management shift leader, poses for a photo on the flight line Oct. 17, 2018, at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts. (U.S. Air National Guard Photos by Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame)

Cooper worked toward obtaining his private pilot license after enlisting into the Massachusetts Air National Guard to ensure he would be comfortable flying.

“I took a different path,” said Cooper.

“I wanted to be in the guard. You have the opportunity to deploy and see the world, but you also can come back to home base in Western Mass.”

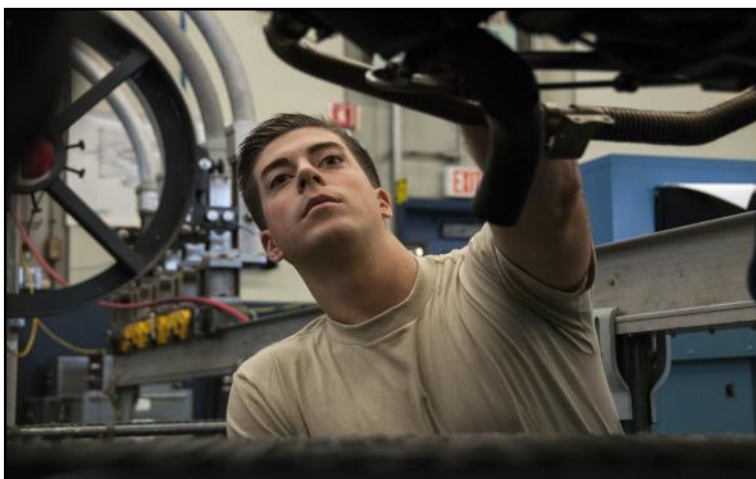
Cooper said he was deployed as part of a Theater Security Package in Romania when he found out he was selected to become a pilot.

“As soon as it happened, I was ecstatic,” said Cooper. “I’m very excited for the next step of my life.”

Photos & Stories

Click on the headlines to read the full story and view additional photos.

[Engine Mechanic, UMASS Student, Returns Home from Deployment with Valuable Experience](#)



[104th FW's Newest Crew Chief's Long Road to Enlistment](#)



[Annual Halloween Party](#)



Promotions

Airman

Kyanda Wilson, FSS
Natalie Agront, FSS



Senior Airman

Edward M Pintor, MXS
Imalay Vargas-Ortiz, LRS



Staff Sergeant

Angela Franco, FSS
Logyn Shea, LRS
Patrick Elmore, CF



Technical Sergeant

Joshua Moynahan, MXS
Cecilio Orta, 131FS



For information on upcoming events, full-time vacancies and more, be sure to check us out on the 104th Fighter Wing [website](#), 104th Fighter Wing Facebook [page](#) and the 104th Fighter Wing Mobile App in the [Apple App store](#) or the [Google Play store](#) by clicking on the hyperlinks provided.



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