



Kingsley Field takes training on the road, visits Tucson for DACT

Story by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

TUCSON, Ariz. -- Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing and five F-15 Eagles packed up and left the snow and below freezing weather of Klamath Falls, Oregon and spent two weeks in January training in the temperate Arizona desert. The 162nd Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, hosted the Oregon Air National Guard and spent that time flying dissimilar air combat training.

“The 162nd and 173rd have been flying together for years and years,” said Col. Jeff Smith, the 173rd FW Commander. “In many cases, they come up to train with us in the summer when it is really hot here ... and in the winter we tend to try and get away from the snow and ice ... so we come down here and get training for our instructor pilots.”

The F-15 pilots flew as adversary air, freeing up the F-16 student and instructor pilots to accomplish the training needed and allow them to continue graduating F-16 pilots.



A U.S. Air Force F-15 Eagle from the 173rd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, taxis to the runway in preparation for a training flight at Tucson, Ariz., Jan. 12, 2017. The 173rd Fighter Wing spent two weeks training with the 162nd Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, flying dissimilar air combat training with their F-16s. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar)

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Snow removal ops, full throttle

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. -- Klamath Basin residents are acclimated to the high desert, and snowy winter conditions rarely keep them from going about their day-to-day business. It’s a rare occasion when snow grows too deep to ignore, but on the morning of Jan. 4, 2016 the accumulated 15-inches slowed nearly everything, including operations at the 173rd Fighter Wing.

Under the joint use agreement with the airport, the wing is responsible for all snow removal to include parking areas. Lt. Col. Tim Bruner, 173rd

Civil Engineer Squadron Commander, said when it snows this hard the wing commander, in conjunction with higher headquarters in Salem, shuts the base down, allowing his people unencumbered access for snow removal.

“This allows the snow crew access to the base without all the vehicles here; having access to the parking lots is important,” he said.

The first priority for civil engineering is to clear both runway and taxi-



Many 173rd Civil Engineer Squadron members drop their normal jobs and begin plowing operations when snow falls. (Photo courtesy Google.com, for reuse)

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Wing Commander

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2017 at the outset



More Ink Authorized

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New USAF Tattoo Policy



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Airmen aid in severe weather

Commander's Corner

State of the Wing as 2017 gets underway

**Commentary by
Col. Jeff Smith,
173rd Fighter Wing Commander**

I hope everyone's houses are surviving the deluge of snow and rain! My sump pump has been working overtime ... As long as this doesn't transition into flooding, I'm hopeful it helps a bit with our long-term drought issues in southern Oregon and northern California.

RCP5

Almost all of our deployers are in place now. Please continue to reach out to them via text or email (depending on their location). If they or their families need support, make sure your 1st Sergeant, Chief, or Commander is aware so we can properly take care of our folks while they're answering the nation's call.

Well done!

I won't re-tell the entire story in this message, but please shake Maj. Kurt Duffy's hand when you see him next time. He safely recovered a crippled aircraft last week. His aviation skill, calm under pressure, and aircraft general/emergency knowledge saved a \$400-million aircraft for the USAF and Team Kingsley. We have lost at least five aircraft to similar emergencies in the last 20 years, and we're lucky to have had Major Duffy in this F-15 on that day. Thanks, Ripple. And well done...

Preparedness

Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Aubut sent out some good information this week to the group emergency management representatives about how to prepare for a flood and how to maximize your chance for survival and efficient recovery from any issues. We don't think about flooding often in the high desert, but it can happen for

a myriad of reasons. If a Cascadia Subduction Zone event were to occur tomorrow, we would likely experience structural failures of some of the levies and canals in the local area which could lead to flooding, especially in downtown Klamath Falls.

Regardless of the type or timing of a natural disaster, are you prepared? Is your family? Take a moment and review the preparedness documents I sent out to your emails a few weeks ago. The Oregon National Guard Preparedness Guide has some basic checklist items for review with your family; it also has a flow chart that describes what's expected of you as a member of the Oregon Guard if a disaster should ever occur. It's no different than what we've discussed in the past, but it's worth a quick review. If you haven't printed it out and discussed with your family members, now is a good time. (Did you remember to include brothers, sisters, or your parents in that discussion, if they live in the local area?) The prepare your pantry/to hydrate documents contain additional guidance on what to stock, how much to stock, and contains information about filtering and purifying water to drink. Here's a link to the Oregon Emergency Management website also, which includes some various links with discussions on Cascadia and preparedness: <http://www.oregon.gov/oem/hazardsprep/Pages/Cascadia-Subduction-Zone.aspx>

The more we and our families are prepared, and the more we can ensure our neighbors and extended family are prepared, the sooner we will all be available to respond to help others if the time comes. If we are scrambling to ensure our families are fed, if we can't ensure that we

have enough water for our families for a few weeks or longer, we will not be available and ready to respond when we are called upon. Please take some time now to plan, prepare, and communicate with your families so we'll be as effective as possible if anything happens on our watch.

Constitution of the United States

We've all taken an oath to support and defend it. Has everyone read it? It's worth taking a moment to review it or read it the first time. Here's a link you can use: https://www.senate.gov/civics/constitution_item/constitution.htm

Empowerment/Ownership

I had the pleasure of attending a workshop with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) a couple weeks ago. General Goldfein is a phenomenal speaker and his messages ring true. One of his messages mirrors that of our TAG in Oregon: you are empowered to improve the unit—it's yours! Every day, I guarantee you see something around you that could be improved.

Sometimes the change might be simple—picking up a piece of litter makes the base look better and helps us maintain a sense of pride for our work area. No resources required for that one!

Sometimes the change is more complex—a process in your work center is inefficient and frustrates you, *and* you have a couple ideas on how the process might be improved. This will take some thought and communication with others and supervisors to make a process change ... but maybe no resources required other than the time investment. (Supervisors, please keep your ears open and be willing to accept new ideas on processes. It doesn't mean we



have to adopt every idea or change everything every week, but I have never been a fan of the answer "we've always done it that way." Challenging the status quo helps us improve processes, or, when we validate that our status quo is the best we can do, at least we better understand why we do things the way we do.)

Sometimes the change is very complex, but important. It might require coordination across base, with legal support, etc. It might require funding or supplies of some sort. We need these ideas too! I've heard a lot of folks say "that's a great idea but we could never afford it." When I've asked for cost estimates, the numbers were well within reason. There's a cost/benefit and return on investment analysis with any of these ideas, but we can't start that analysis without the idea.

Whether you bring these ideas through your supervisors, through the JENC or SENC, through the "soon-to-be-named" Innovation Team, or through the anonymous suggestion boxes, please continue to "own" the base. Help us make it better.

Thanks for all you do for America's Air Dominance.

173rd FW flies south, trains

(Continued from front page)

“While at home we aren’t really able to train much due to the snow and ice, so this is an opportunity for us to trade that student training and continue to produce as many fighter pilots for America as we can,” said Smith.

This training not only benefits the 162nd, but the 173rd pilots, maintainers, and support personnel as well. For the F-15 pilots, dissimilar air combat training shakes up the routine and challenges their basic piloting and fighting skills. For the maintainers and support personnel, packing up their equipment and performing their skill sets away from home station presents challenges and opportunities for growth.

“It’s something a little different than we do on a daily basis,” said Senior Airman Tyler Stanford, 173rd FW F-15 crew chief. “It helps us train to fight against our adversaries and gives a better mission capability.” Stanford also pointed out that training opportunities such as this facilitate a broader range of learning.

Additionally, observing another unit’s operation and daily processes can encourage Airmen to bring back different processes and ideas to improve productivity and efficiencies within their own unit.

“I think we have great examples of how innovation can be sparked by going TDY or deploying; so many little things are different that you can learn from and figure out how we can adapt them to what we do and improve our processes,” said Smith.

Senior Airman Seena Barleen, 173rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, said she experienced this first-hand. “I met with their transportation office, and it was fantastic to see how they do business every day and how it differs from what we do. I am taking back their continuity book and a few ideas to share with my supervisor.”

After a few weeks of training and expanding innovative thinking in the Arizona sunshine, the 173rd FW packed their equipment and people pack up and headed home to snowy Southern Oregon.



Left: U.S. Air Force Colonel Jeff Smith, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander, preflights an F-15 Eagle in preparation for a training flight at Tucson, Arizona January 10, 2017.

Bottom: U.S. Air Force Captain Patrick Odell, 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 instructor pilot, debriefs Master Sgt. James Whaling, 173rd Maintenance Operations Center, on his exact landing time following a training flight at Tucson, AZ January 7, 2017.



173rd FW avionics helps Fresno unit

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs



The Kingsley Field and the Fresno units have a history of working together; in late 2013 the California unit brought jets and personnel to Klamath Falls for more than six months as a way to increase student production when they transitioned from the F-16 to the F-15 Eagle. The relationships developed continue today as both units collaborate, sharing expertise, lessons learned and even tools to keep the fleet airworthy. (Photo by James Haseltine, used with permission)

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. --

The 173rd Fighter Wing avionics integrated systems shop is lending assistance to their counterparts at the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno, California.

Over a week in February two Fresno Airmen made the seven-hour drive to Klamath Falls and brought several pieces of equipment with them.

Staff Sgt. Amandeep Singh, 144th AIS technician, said, “I brought radar transmitter parts here because our test station back home is broken and waiting on parts so there is a backlog.”

Without the option to bring the parts here his shop would be forced to send the parts out for depot maintenance, which would most likely take weeks to turn them around.

“It is very helpful,” he said. “It saves a lot of money and we are able to produce three good LRUs in three days,” he adds.

Essentially, the Kingsley Airmen provide a test station during both day and swing shift and Singh and his coworker use it to produce parts that help eliminate a bottle neck in their wings’ flying operation. He went on to say that the use of the station is a big help, but that having the 173rd FW’s experienced troops around is possibly more beneficial.

“Their expertise is a bigger support than just being able to use the test station,” he said. “This

F-15 airframe is new to us; we are still learning and when we come here we gain a lot of information that is very helpful.”

Master Sgt. Jesus Rodriguez, the avionics backshop supervisor, says they are primarily loaning a test station to the visitors, but when the need arises they can explain the how’s and why’s of tests and procedures, provide guidance, and essentially do some spot training for the Fresno unit as they make the transition to the F-15 airframe. He’s also quick to point out that this working relationship goes both ways.

“We’ve had to borrow equipment from them before,” said Rodriguez, detailing how the strenuous calibration requirements have sidelined components required to satisfy demands of the flying schedule in the past. “It’s a nice give-and-take because parts are getting harder to get a hold of and some of the test equipment is getting kind of sparse.”

All the avionics members within earshot nod their agreement to this sentiment.

These members paint a landscape that increasingly relies on collaboration between all of the F-15 flying units to keep operations running smoothly. The Kingsley Airmen mention that they regularly communicate with 142nd Wing in Portland, Oregon, who fly and maintain Eagles as well.

Snow removal: part of life for 173rd Civil Engineers



Snow drifts across the airfield measured up to four feet. Removing the snow was an around-the-clock operation for two weeks, but the flying mission resumed within days. (Photo courtesy Col. Jeff Smith, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander)

(Continued from front page)

way surfaces.

“We had 4-foot drifts out there on the airfield and that’s a lot of snow to remove; we had to pile the snow off the runway and taxi ways and we are hauling it away in dump trucks to remove the bulk of it from the air-

field,” said Bruner.

The people operating the heavy equipment are familiar to most people at Kingsley Field.

“When we go out and plow it’s all of our plumbers, electricians, carpenters, HVAC and roads and grounds guys, pretty much all of our CE shops have to be out

there to get the snow removed,” said Bruner. “The folks that do the snow removal are pretty dedicated; they put their heart and souls into this, it’s a 24-hour operations once we start this until the job is done.”

He went on to say that because of the all-hands-on-deck nature of snow removal, some routine maintenance requests are put on hold; he asks for patience on the part of the base over the next several days.

Jennifer Hall is usually a custodian at the base, but when the snow flies she jumps into a snow plow for the standard 12-hour shift.

“We actually started plowing on [January] 1st and kept it up for two weeks,” she said of the accumulation.

She is also licensed to drive a dump truck and that kept her busy as well, hauling load after load of snow from the airfield so the FAA could reopen it for flying.

The round-the-clock effort helped ensure that the flying mission returned to normal within days, even as civil engineers worked to finish the snow removal.

Kingsley Airmen help neighbors but really don’t want to talk about it



**Commentary by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- With Kingsley Field closed for snow removal, what do Airmen do while at home? If you’re from this neck of the woods, you know the first

priority after a big snow is to shovel one’s own driveway--something that may take several hours for those that don’t own a snow blower.

What’s interesting is how hard

it is to find out what those same Airmen did immediately after.

They really, really don’t want to talk about it.

I heard through the grape vine that one maintenance chief loaded his family into the truck and went around town pulling drivers from ditches or snowbanks so they could be on their way.

I wanted to ask him about it, so I sent him an email... and never heard a peep. I ran into him a few days later in the command building and asked him if he’d seen my email. He said, “I did, I was ignoring it,” with an apologetic smile on his face.

He just really wasn’t interested in seeing a story about how he helps out folks after snowstorms, and has for years, and he knew that’s what I wanted to do.

He finally did talk to me

about it but on the condition that I not use his name. In that conversation he said he’s always done it and has helped too many people out to remember--suffice to say it’s a lot.

He also mentioned that he helps his neighbors who are elderly and when he’s done shoveling his own driveway he shovels theirs.

I also spoke to said maintenance chief’s commander to see if he could convince him to talk to me, and that commander confessed to plowing his neighbors drives which are very long, but he wasn’t willing to put his name in this story either.

I called our public affairs officer to see if she could talk to said chief and convince him to

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Guard and Reserve members receive 'Veteran' status

Story by

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy,
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. -- A recently signed law gives official veteran status to National Guard members who served 20 years or more. Previously, Guard members were considered veterans only if they served 180 days or more in a federal status outside of training.

"As long as you were deployed on active duty for at least 180 days and you didn't get a dishonorable discharge or a bad conduct discharge coming off those orders, then you could be considered a veteran," said Army Sgt. Maj. Matthew Krenz, a legislative liaison at the National Guard Bureau who provided background information to Congressional members working on the bill.

Prior to the new law's passage, even if Guard members served for 20 years or longer they were not deemed

veterans unless they served on active duty. That included those serving in an Active Guard and Reserve status.

"They could have served 20 years as [AGR] but that wasn't considered qualifying time," said Krenz, adding that veteran status was specifically linked to serving on federal orders, rather than on state orders.

"[If] they were never activated on [federal] orders they weren't, from the government's perspective, considered veterans," he said.

Now, under the new law, anyone eligible for reserve component retirement benefits is considered a veteran, said Krenz.

"Anyone who has reached 20 years of service, even if they were never activated on a [federal] order for more than 180 days outside of training, will now be considered a veteran," he said.

The change in law, said Krenz, simply recognizes those who serve. For those in the Guard, that can mean

responding to large-scale emergencies, natural disasters and other events at home in addition to training for combat and deploying overseas.

"There are many Soldiers [and Airmen] who can serve 20 years in the National Guard and never see an overseas deployment," said Krenz, adding he feels "that shouldn't diminish their service to this country and what they've done for this organization."

The change in status, however, does not entitle Guard members to any additional retirement benefits.

"Basically, it gives them the ability to be officially honored as a veteran," said Krenz. "They are already going to be getting their retirement incentives based on their 20 years of military service."

Krenz said he feels the change in law is a positive one.

"I think this is a good step in the right direction," he said.

173 FW helps local community when winter drops historic snow



(Continued from previous page)

visit with me, and she confessed that her husband, also an Airman at Kingsley Field, always plows their elderly neighbor's driveways and some of the roads in their rural area. Was he willing to talk to me about it? Nope—still waiting to hear from him too.

Another Airman heard some folks living in Bly, Ore., about an hour's drive from the base, were nearly out of firewood in below freezing weather.

He promptly loaded up his truck with wood and drove it out to them over frozen, treacherous roads. I also asked him about this, thinking it was a great thing to do for needy folks in the larger community—he wasn't nearly as responsive to my email...in fact, he still hasn't responded.

In fact, you really don't meet someone who works at Kingsley that doesn't have a story about helping their neighbors, but boy, they sure don't want to talk about it.

I guess it's just a part of the culture in the basin; helping get the community back on its feet is just a part of life here and to talk about it might strike these Airmen as self-aggrandizing when everyone is doing it—so much for a great story?!

Outgoing SECAF says "farewell" to Airmen

Letter from
Outgoing SECAF
Deborah Lee James

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force:

As I depart office, I want to thank you for your incredible dedication and unwavering devotion to service in the defense of our great nation. It has been the honor of my lifetime serving with the over 660,000 Active Duty, Reserve, Guard, and Civilian Airmen of the United States Air Force. You are absolute professionals ... delivering unmatched air, space, and cyberspace dominance for America around the world every day.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to your families and loved ones for their support. Their steadfast resolve at home ensured you could focus on delivering airpower to the world.

Your invaluable efforts pro-



vide the edge on today's battlefield and set the stage for our ability to overcome tomorrow's challenges. I know that you will continue to protect American citi-

zens and the nation we all serve into the future. Thank you for a job well done and for your selfless sacrifice.

Aim High!

New AF Tattoo policy allows more ink

NEW
TATTOO POLICY
CREATED BY SAF/PAI

25% COVERAGE RULE
ELIMINATED

UNAUTHORIZED AREAS
NECK/FACE
HEAD/TONGUE
LIPS/SCALP

RESTRICTED AREAS
HANDS
* AIRMEN WITH SMALL HAND TATTOOS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE OLD POLICY WILL BE GRANDFATHERED

ONE SINGLE-BAND RING
ON ONE FINGER
ON ONE HAND

UNAUTHORIZED CONTENT
RELATED TO GANGS/EXTREMIST & SUPREMACISTS ORGANIZATIONS
ADVOCATING SEXUAL/RACIAL/ETHNIC/RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

**Story by
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON -- The Air Force announced new policies on dress and appearance with regard to tattoos, as well as changes to service medical accession policy Jan. 9, 2017.

These changes result from a review of Air Force accessions policies directed by Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James in 2016.

“As part of our effort to attract and retain as many qualified Airmen as possible we periodically review our accessions policies,” she said. “In this instance, we identified specific changes we can make to allow more members of our nation to serve without compromising quality. As a next step in this evolution, we are opening the aperture on certain medical accession criteria and tattoos while taking into account our needs for worldwide deployability and our commitment to the profession of arms.”

Authorized tattoos on the chest, back, arms and legs will no longer be restricted by the “25 percent” rule,

while tattoos, brands or body markings on the head, neck, face, tongue, lips and/or scalp remain prohibited. Hand tattoos will be limited to one single-band ring tattoo, on one finger, on one hand. The hand tattoo change ensures the ability to present a more formal military image when required at certain events and/or with dress uniforms. Current Airmen with existing hand tattoos that were authorized under the previous policy will be grandfathered in under the old policy standards.

A recent review of Air Force field recruiters revealed almost half of contacts, applicants and recruits had tattoos. Of these, one of every five were found to have tattoos requiring review or that may be considered disqualifying; the top disqualifier was the 25 percent rule on “excessive” tattoos. The new policy lifts the 25 percent restriction on authorized tattoos to the chest, back, arms and legs, opening up this population for recruitment into the Air Force.

Tattoos, brands and body markings anywhere on the body that are obscene, commonly associated with gangs, extremist and/or supremacist

organizations, or that advocate sexual, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination remain prohibited in and out of uniform. To maintain uniformity and good order and consistent with Air Force Instruction 36-2903, “Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel,” commanders will retain the authority to be more restrictive for tattoos, body ornaments and/or personal grooming based on legal, moral, safety, sanitary, and/or foreign country cultural reasons.

The new tattoo policy is effective Feb. 1, 2017. Further implementation guidance will be released in an addendum to the policy guidance.

The Air Force’s periodic review of medical accession standards and advancement of medical capabilities prompted policy changes with respect to waivers concerning common conditions that have routinely disqualified prospective Airmen from service: eczema, asthma and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Waivers for eczema, asthma and ADHD currently constitute the highest volume of requests from Air Force recruiters. Additionally, current Air Force acces-

sion policy with respect to pre-service marijuana use is not reflective of the continuing legalization of marijuana in numerous states throughout the nation.

“We are always looking at our policies and, when appropriate, adjusting them to ensure a broad scope of individuals are eligible to serve. These changes allow the Air Force to aggressively recruit talented and capable Americans who until now might not have been able to serve our country in uniform,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody.

While medical accession standards are standardized across the Services, the Air Force has modified some of its more restrictive service policy, or established specific criteria to streamline and standardize waiver processes to increase the number of qualified candidates entering service. These changes include:

- Eczema: Select candidates medically classified as having mild forms of eczema will be processed for a waiver. Certain occupational restrictions may

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LRS supports humanitarian mission

Story by

**Master Sgt. Michelle Kelly,
173rd Logistics Readiness Squadron**

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Over the last year, the 173rd Logistics Readiness Squadron Distribution Flight has been busy working to get multiple people out the door for various TDYs, in addition to the numerous people they have assisted in deploying in support of Reserve Component 05. However, there is another side-project the Airmen from this section have been actively involved with. The Denton Humanitarian Mission has been working with Kingsley Field for approximately six years to get much needed equipment to deprived countries around the world.

The Denton Humanitarian Program allows U.S. based, non-governmental sources to transport donated humanitarian aid on U.S. military transport if additional space is available. This has multiple benefits as it is little or no cost to the donor, while simultaneously putting the extra space on U.S. military transport assets to good use. This program

is jointly administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of State, and the Department of Defense. Transportation is generally available to close destinations such as Latin and South America; however, the availability of transportation to particular countries can be affected by current military and political situations. Transportation can neither be scheduled nor guaranteed; and therefore, cannot be used to meet urgent needs or deadlines.

The most recent collaboration was with the City of Bend, Ore., who adopted Condega, Nicaragua as their sister city about 15 years ago. The Condega Bomberos Project was formed by the Bend Fire Fighters Association to assist Condega in building a fire department from the ground up. Condega, a city of about 8,000 people, had no fire protection at all prior to the sister city agreement. Since then, the Denton program has assisted shipping two fire engines and several tons of firefighting equipment to Condega. Condega receives the equipment



it needs and the rest is distributed to other fire departments throughout Nicaragua. This latest shipment included turnouts, boots, helmets, SCBAs (air bottles) and extrication equipment, aka “the jaws of life.”

Kingsley Field is the liaison between the civilian world and the Air Force airlift system. The Bend Fire Fighters association transports the equipment to the base, and the distribution flight down loads it from

their trucks and prepares it for military airlift. The distribution flight works closely with the Bend Fire Fighters, ensuring all hazards that may be present are accounted for and liaisons with Denton to schedule airlift. Currently there five pallets built up waiting for opportune airlift to come through so it can be loaded it up and sent to where it is needed most.

Air Force Ok's more tattoos and waives other conditions

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be applied to secure personal and mission safety.

- **ADHD:** Candidates who do not meet the standard of never having taken more than a single daily dosage of medication or not having been prescribed medication for their condition for more than 24 cumulative months after the age of 14 will be processed for a waiver if they have demonstrated at least 15 months of performance stability (academic or vocational) off medication immediately preceding enlistment or enrollment and they continue to meet remaining criteria as outlined in DoD Instruction 6130.03.

- **Asthma:** The Air Force will use the Methacholine Challenge Test to provide an objective measure of candidates with an ambiguous or uncertain history of asthma. Candidates who successfully pass this test will be processed for a waiver.

- **Pre-accession marijuana usage:** The

revised policy will remove the service prescribed numerical limitations on prior use of marijuana when determining accession qualifications. In accordance with DOD standards, a medical diagnosis of substance-related disorders or addiction remains medically disqualifying for service. Additionally, any legal proceedings associated with pre-service use will continue to be reviewed and adjudicated separately and may be disqualifying depending on the nature of the offense(s). The Air Force will maintain a strict “no use” policy. An applicant or enlistee will be disqualified for service if they use drugs after the initial entrance interview.

The waiver process changes are effective immediately. The Air Force continues to work with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the other services to review existing medical accession standards to allow the highest number of qualified individuals possible to serve.

“Among the fundamental qualities required of our Airmen is being ready to fight

and win our nation’s wars. These accession standards ensure we maintain our high standards while bringing more consistency to our policies,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein. “As medical capabilities have improved and laws have changed, the Air Force is evolving so we are able to access more worldwide deployable Airmen to conduct the business of our nation.”

Authorized tattoos on the chest, back, arms and legs will no longer be restricted by the “25 percent” rule, while tattoos, brands or body markings on the head, neck, face, tongue, lips and/or scalp remain prohibited.

--Update to USAF rule on tattoos

Combatives help 173 SFS survive close-quarters attacks

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. -- Regardless of age or gender, when an individual joins the ranks of Air Force Security Forces, they will spend some time on a mat learning how to protect themselves from an assailant with just their hands—using leverage to mitigate the advantage a larger and stronger attacker may have.

It's called combatives, and all security forces members receive this training. Tech. Sgt. Brandan Stroh, the lead instructor for the recent training, points out that it's not designed to help someone mount an attack on an assailant, and so there is not striking or counter-striking. Its purpose is to quickly subdue an attacker without harming them—but with the possibility of pain compliance.

“For those of us in law enforcement, it allows us to survive a fight,” said Stroh. “It's not about starting one or ending one; it's important for us to be able to defend ourselves in the fastest way possible.”

Judging from the red faces and the fact that each drill starts with everyone putting in a mouth guard, one can guess that the training is strenuous. There are a lot of choke holds both to cut off the wind and the blood flow to the brain and there is a lot of tapping—the accepted method of communicating, “Yeah, you got that just right, and it's really starting

to smart...”

“Combatives can possibly be a life or death situation, so we strive to be the best we can, work as hard as we can, even if it means we are a little tired at the end,” said Airman 1st Class Dallas Schoggins, a recent graduate of security force technical training.

One member of the day's session is very new to security forces, but he's not new to this type of training.

“The big majority of it, most of the controlling positions, weapons defense, and apprehension is Jiu Jitsu,” said Senior Airman Anthony Morehead, a blue belt in Jiu Jitsu and a recent security forces augmentee. “The thing that I think is the most valuable is it teaches controlling an individual, not going out of your way to cause damage, but to control and apprehend them.”

He went on to say that its application goes beyond law enforcement and he encourages people outside of security forces to practice it whether for “self-defense, humility, or just good exercise.”

In any case, if any of these members find themselves in a situation where they need to defend themselves, there's little doubt that training like this will help do so, as quickly and with as little harm done to themselves or their attacker.



Top: Tech. Sgt. Brandan Stroh, a combatives training instructor with the 173rd Fighter Wing, instructs Staff Sgt. Nathan Gifford on how to protect himself and subdue an assailant during a hand-to-hand altercation, Jan. 13, 2017. Staff Sgt. Cody Broussard (bottom) an experienced combatives practitioner plays the role of the aggressor. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

Left: Staff Sgt. Cody Broussard works against assailant Master Sgt. Ross Hawkins in a demonstration of Air Force Security Forces Combatives where an officer works to extract themselves from a choke hold, Jan. 13, 2017. Combatives training helps security forces members protect themselves in a hand-to-hand situations by using leverage to extract themselves or to quickly subdue an attacker without causing harm. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)



Henley High School honors military, Veterans during sporting event



Col. Jeff Smith, the 173rd Fighter Wing Commander, thanks the audience from Henley HS and Klamath Union HS for honoring the military and Veterans, Jan. 13, 2017. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Darren Bennett)

of Kingsley folks deployed overseas and some who are preparing to leave very soon and I thank you on their behalf.”

ketball game against another local high school, Klamath Union High School.

Henley High School conducts a military appreciation night annually and the school works with recruiters at Kingsley Field to coordinate the event.

Col. Jeff Smith, the 173rd FW Commander, spoke to the audience during half-time thanking them for their strong support of the base and its mission as the sole provider of F-15C formal training to aspiring Eagle drivers.

“The Military Appreciation night at Henley was a representation of their Air Force ROTC Program and their relationship with the base,” said Tech. Sgt. Darren Bennett, a 173rd FW recruiter who worked with the high school principal to plan the event. “The principal there, Jack Lee, says this is his favorite event of the year and he takes great pride in mak-

ing it special.”

This year the security forces squadron, the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron, and the maintenance group brought displays for the students and audience members to view before and during the game. The school always provides free admission to military members and veterans for this event.

Story by

Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Henley High School hosted a military appreciation night, Jan. 13, 2017, and the 173rd Fighter Wing supported the event with displays from security forces, weapons and the engine shop.

The event coincided with a bas-

“Events like this remind our Airmen of your support,” he said. “Right now we have a large number



173rd Fighter Wing Vice Commander Col. Jeff Edwards also attended the event views the 173rd Security Forces Squadron display with his family. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Darren Bennett)



The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron brought a booth and visited with ROTC cadets explaining their mission at Kingsley Field as well as in a deployed environment. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Darren Bennett)

Kingsley Firefighter diagnosed with blood cancer

Story by
Emily Muirhead, LLS Campaign
Assistant, Seattle Stair Climb

SEATTLE, Wash. -- While mountain biking in Utah back in September 2016, Tim VanLeeuwen ended up crashing his bike and having to make a trip to the hospital for 10 stitches. After he was sent back to work at the Kingsley Field Fire Department in Oregon, he was soon experiencing double vision that he thought was related to the crash.

Upon returning to the ER to determine the cause, doctors told Tim he had a brain tumor and would need surgery to remove it. It wasn't until after he endured this procedure and more tests were ran in October that it was shockingly revealed he actually had blood cancer. Multiple myeloma to be exact, and was started on radiation this past December.

He admits it took a couple months for him to digest what was happening. At first, he didn't even believe the doctor when he found out his diagnosis. But this disbelief eventually turned into a sense of determination to always have a set plan in place for a worst case scenario.

As a father of two 17-year-old twin boys and a 22-year-old daughter, Tim is a family man who has now truly learned the importance of preparing for the worst, but also hoping for the best.

Suddenly minute details like making sure his wife had the code to the safe in their home in case he wouldn't be around any longer became paramount. His biggest piece of advice? If you're healthy now, make sure to have your affairs in order so you don't leave your family hanging.

His department has even taken initiative to put together an informational packet to make sure these types of details are



compiled in one place in case there is a death in the line of duty. For Tim and his fellow firefighters, first and foremost it's about ensuring that everyone is taken care of.

But this goes both ways, and he admits that as someone who is accustomed to being the one to provide assistance to others, it can be strange and uncomfortable to now be the one getting help from other people. In order to keep on top of his treatment sessions includ-

has undoubtedly been a tough transition.

"It's been pretty awful not being able to fully do my job as a firefighter," Tim said.

While growing up, he used to play firefighter with his cousin, started volunteering for real in 1996, got hired full-time eight years ago, and has now spent the past 20 in the fire service fully dedicated to his work. For him, being a firefighter means finding a balance between the undeniable adrenaline of being a first responder, but also the giving nature of this line of work.

His generous and empathetic spirit doesn't stop at fighting fires and saving lives. Tim and his wife have jointly coached a Special Olympics softball team for the past six years. He works as a coach on a few nights a week for 10 weeks at time, and then takes his team to compete at regional and state levels. After years of watching his softball stars grow, what he loves most is the unspoiled camaraderie the players exude. He says there's never any animosity between players. Instead, it's all about helping each other up

Left: Tim VanLeeuwen, left, stands with fellow Kingsley Firefighters during the 2016 Firefighter Stairclimb in Seattle, Wash. This year Kingsley Firefighters will climb for his benefit as he was recently diagnosed with a blood cancer.

Right: Tim VanLeeuwen, 173rd Civil Engineering Squadron Firefighter

when they fall down, and lots and lots of high-fiving.

While he appreciates the lack of competition from his softball team participants, he can't deny that competition is what he loves about the Scott Firefighter Stair climb. He first joined the event in 2016, because after seeing other men in his department participate, he figured he needed to get in on the climbing before he got too old. He's excited to return in 2017 to join in on the atmosphere of brotherhood and bonding, which he calls a phenomenal experience. In fact, he's proud to say that last year he beat out a 21-year-old firefighter in his probationary period from his department by nine seconds. Looks like Tim isn't so old after all.

While his future isn't entirely certain, and there may be a possibility of a stem cell transplant to come, for now Tim is ready to fund raise, to climb, and to be the firefighter that he's always been meant to be.

ing procedures like a bone marrow transplant, Tim often has to commute to the Oregon Health and Science University, meaning he's had to cut his work schedule down to only one rotation at the firehouse. For a man who has wanted to be a firefighter since he was a little boy, this

TDY Airmen volunteer time to visit disabled Vets

**Commentary & Photos by
Captain Joe Young
173rd Civil Engineering Squadron**

family. Not only did Team Kingsley become more efficient and lethal from the DACT, but we also left a

positive impact on the local Tucson community in the process. Thanks again for all that you do

every day, and raising the bar for the next TUCSON DACT

I wanted to take a moment to thank the 13 members of Team Kingsley who volunteered to spend their Saturday afternoon while TDY to Tucson, Arizona socializing and serving lunch to over 48 Veterans of the varying branches of the United States Military at the Veterans Administration hospital located in Tucson, Arizona. Team Kingsley banded together with the American Legion Freedom Riders of Post 36 to spread goodwill to our fellow brothers and sisters of arms, of whom served in times of war ranging from World War II through the Persian Gulf. The Veterans were delighted to share stories and express gratitude to share a meal with members of the 173rd Fighter Wing. The afternoon spurred new camaraderie between Team Kingsley members and the American Legion, but also further tightened the loops of our close knit Kingsley



Kingsley Airmen head south for warmer training



Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing walk out in the -13 degree weather to board a Texas Air National Guard C-130 in preparation for the wing's deployment to Tucson, Arizona January 6, 2017 at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The 173rd Fighter Wing spent two weeks training with the Arizona ANG flying dissimilar air combat training with their F-16s. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar)

March Drill weekend lunch menu

Meal cost for all Officers, AGRs, and Civilians \$5.55, Holiday Meal \$9.05

Saturday

- Corned Beef**
- Herb Baked-Chicken**
- Mashed Potatoes**
- Gravy**
- Penne Alfredo-Pasta**
- Brussel Sprouts**
- Corn on the Cob**
- Desserts**

Sunday

- Spaghetti & Meat Sauce**
- Chicken Alfredo**
- Broccoli with Cheese & Rice**
- Baked Potato**
- Green Beans**
- Mixed-Vegetables**
- Desserts**

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Dawn greets 173rd Fighter Wing maintainers as they prepare F-15 Eagles for training at Tucson, Ariz., January 10, 2017. The 173rd FW spent two weeks training with the Arizona ANG flying dissimilar air combat training with their F-16s. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar)



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