

## Fresno jets and maintainers set to join Team Kingsley

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.** -- The 173rd Fighter Wing is set to open a new chapter in its history when four F-15s and around 35-40 personnel from the 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, Calif., arrive Nov. 7, 2013. The aircraft and personnel plan to integrate seamlessly into Kingsley operations to help stave off a looming pilot shortage at the 144th.

According to Lt. Col. Jeff Smith, 173rd Maintenance Group Deputy Commander, as the 144th converts from the F-16 to the F-15 they have the aircraft and the maintenance personnel for the mission, but lack trained F-15 pilots to fill the cockpits.

“This was a major problem,” said Smith.

*(Continued on next page)*



A 144th Fighter Wing F-15 aircraft sports a new tail flash after moving from the State of Montana to the Fresno, Calif. wing. Prior to the conversion the 144th flew the F-16 Fighting Falcon. (U.S. Air National Guard photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Senior Master Sgt. Steve Bell attends Speech 121 a course specially designed to meet Community College of the Air Force degree requirements, Oct. 22, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

## KCC classes kick off at Kingsley Field

Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Danny Ross,  
173rd Fighter Wing Command Chief

**KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore.** -- If you want to finish your Community College of the Air Force Associate’s degree there is no better time than now.

We just started our first on-base courses designed to meet the requirements for full CCAF credit. Klamath Community College (KCC) is teaching two of these courses,

Speech 121 and Writing 111.

The classes are designed to specifically meet the general education course requirements needed by most Airmen to complete their Community College of the Air Force’s (CCAF) degree.

The instructor, Jo Cochran, is teaching these classes in a “learning

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## Fresno sends jets, pilots, maintainers to 173rd FW



114th Fighter Squadron pilots fly over the 173rd Fighter Wing's extensive range space located over Eastern Oregon. (Photo courtesy James Hazeltine, High-G Productions)

*(Continued from front page)*

“They came to us and said, ‘what can we do to help you guys increase the number of pilots you are training?’”

Leadership from both wings sat down and hammered out a plan that would allow the 173rd to train additional 144th track-one students, pilots who have flight experience in a different fighter aircraft, and meet the production needs of the 144th. The 144th will send four F-15s and a group of maintenance and support personnel to Kingsley Field, allowing the 173rd to increase their flying by four additional aircraft flights in a day. In turn, this facilitates the 173rd the opportunity to train four additional Fresno F-15 pilots.

“This is the 173rd looking at the challenges and finding solutions,” said Col. Jeremy Baenen, the 173rd Fighter Wing Com-

mander. “We are willing and able to expand and meet the challenges that are presented to the National Guard Bureau. We are flexible and adaptable.”

Smith added, “We are showing we can step up. It is part of our culture—we have a challenge, Kingsley is the solution. Give us the resources and we can expand.”

There were multiple reasons for the limited number of trained pilots at the 144th including the delay in transferring the aircraft from the Montana Guard, sequestration, and the resulting furloughs. Fresno personnel will rotate through Kingsley Field on a 60-day cycle, and will comprise various job specialties, primarily in the maintenance group. These personnel will integrate seamlessly into the 173rd shops, working side by side with Kingsley Airmen.

“This is a great opportunity for their maintainers to get the hands-

on experience fixing jets that they need,” added Smith. “As they stand up their mission they will be prepared to meet the day-to-day challenges having spent that time with us.”

The 173rd benefits by providing pilots and students a chance to fly an aircraft with V-1 radar, a more modern and upgraded version of the V-0 radar found in the Kingsley aircraft. “The V-1 radar is one of the primary ‘go to war’ radar types in the F-15 with newer hardware and upgraded software,” noted Smith. “This is

an excellent opportunity for our instructors and students.”

Smith expects the increase in flights to have minimal noise impact on the community. “We currently typically fly a 10 turn 8 schedule; this will increase to a 12 turn 10,” he said. “The community should not hear much of a difference in the noise level.”

Smith also points to the benefit to the community, namely the visiting Airmen shopping, eating, and staying in the Basin for the next eight months. Fresno people and aircraft are scheduled to leave Kingsley in the mid-June time frame. The 144th Fighter Wing is responsible for providing air defense on the west coast as well as air superiority in support of worldwide joint operations. The 173rd Fighter Wing is the home to the sole F-15 Eagle pilot training unit for the United States Air Force.

# New USAF fitness test standards arrive

By Staff Sgt. David Salanitri,  
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON -- The Air Force has released further guidance on the implementation of several changes to the physical assessment test, which will take place Oct. 21.

The new guidance includes additions to the body composition component of the fitness assessment, delegation of appeal authority for fitness assessments and changes to the walk test.

According to the new policy, those taking only the abdominal circumference component of the fitness assessment will pass with the component minimum score as opposed to the composite 75 score as was previously required. Males must now achieve an abdominal circumference of 39 inches, which is also the component minimum. Females must now achieve an abdominal circumference of 35.5 inches, which is also their component minimum.

Airmen who fail the abdominal circumference, or AC, measurement but score 75 points out of the remaining 80 points on the other components will take the body mass index, or BMI, screen, the policy states. If the Airman does not pass the BMI screen, the Airman will take a body fat assessment, or BFA.

If the Airman passes either the BMI screen or BFA, the Airman passes the body composition component of the fitness assessment. This addition to the body composition component upholds our confidence in the AC measurement while allowing those rare Airmen who fail the AC measurement, but do very well on the other three components, to meet the



Oregon Air National Guard members of the 173rd Fighter Wing take a physical training test during a unit training assembly Sept. 8, 2013. In recent years the U.S. Air Force has increased the standards for an Airman's fitness to their highest levels. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

DOD body fat standards.

Additionally, the policy states that to pass the BMI screen, regardless of age or gender, the Airman must achieve a BMI equal to or less than 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. This figure is obtained using the height and weight measurements taken at the beginning of the fitness assessment. To pass the BFA, males must achieve a body fat percentage equal to or less than 18 percent. Females must achieve a body fat percentage equal to or less than 26 percent. These percentages are obtained using the two or three site taping procedures.

The wing commander or equivalent will be the first appeal authority for fitness assessments. This change will expedite the appeals process and put the chain of command back in the appeals process. The second appeal authority will be the Fitness Assess-

ment Advisory Board at Air Force Personnel Center. The final appeal authority is the Air Force Board of Correction of Military Records.

The last clarification that has been made is to the walk test.

In an effort to simplify administration of the walk test, the heart rate measurement will no longer be required. An Airman must now walk two kilometers in a certain amount of time dependent on age and gender. The walk test will be pass or fail.

"These adjustments to the Air Force fitness program will strengthen the program and continue to promote a 'Fit to Fight' mentality," said Col. Dawn Keasley, the chief of the military force policy division.

For more information, contact your unit fitness program monitor, your fitness assessment cell, or visit <http://www.afpc.af.mil/affitnessprogram/>



## P4 Trophy Presentation



Lt. Col. Lance McCuiston, 173rd Mission Support Group Commander, welcomes members of the community and retired Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Asher, a National Guard Bureau representative, to an award presentation ceremony for the Public-Public, Public-Private Partnership team at Kingsley Field, Sept. 26, 2013. Asher presented the award saying it is the highest award the Chief of Staff bestows on a National Guard unit. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.** – The National Guard Bureau presented the 173rd Fighter Wing the Air Force Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award for the Air National Guard for its Klamath Basin Public-Public, Public-Private (P4) team.

Brenda Asher, of the Air National Guard Bureau, presented the Air National Guard Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award trophy to Col. Jeremy Baenen, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander.

Members of the Public-Public, Public-Private Partnership team at Kingsley Field, including Klamath Falls City Mayor Tom Kellstrom, Klamath Community College President Roberto Gutierrez, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Jeremy Baenen and many others participated in the ceremony.

P4 is an initiative designed to find new and innovative ways to partner with the local community.

Among its successes base officials point to a new agreement with Klamath Community College which provides higher education for base personnel while increasing the schools enrollment, as a signature accomplishment. Additionally they say P4 made the total renovation of the runway and surrounding areas possible while saving funds.

## Air Force returns to normal, tuition assistance back on

**Story by Staff Sgt. David Salanitri,  
Air Force Public Affairs Agency**

**WASHINGTON** -- As a result of the passed continuing resolution legislation, the Air Force is in the process of returning operations to normal pre-shutdown status, to include the reinstatement of military tuition assistance.

The continuing resolution will fund the Air Force under the fiscal year 2013 sequester funding levels, which will enable the reinstatement of MilTA for Airmen.

“Effective immediately all Military Tuition Assistance applications for courses starting on or after Oct. 17 may be submitted,” said Col. Jeff White, Air Force learning division chief. “All previously approved MilTA requests for courses which began on or after Oct. 17 are reinstated.”

Looking to the future, the Air Force policy for courses that started Oct. 1-16 will be distributed as soon as it is available, White said. Air Force officials urge members to continue monitoring [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) and the Air Force Virtual Education Center (AFVEC), which can be found on the Air Force portal, for the most up to date information.

Also, an email will be sent through the Air Force Automated Education Management System, notifying members of the reinstatement of their approved MilTA request for courses starting on Oct. 17 and later.

Currently, policy is being developed for courses that started Oct. 1-16, and information will be distributed as soon as it is available.

According to Air Force officials, the service will resume close to normal pre-shutdown operations, operating under the same constrained budget of FY13, according to the Air Force budget management and execution office. For more information on the government reopening, visit [www.af.mil/AboutUs/GovernmentShutdown.aspx](http://www.af.mil/AboutUs/GovernmentShutdown.aspx)

# Kingsley rallied around furloughed workers during shutdown

Story by

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

**KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore.** -- In the aftermath of the budget fights in Washington D.C. and the ensuing shutdown, Kingsley Field saw 29 of its members furloughed while congress and the president worked out an extension to the continuing resolution.

Although fortunate as a base to have federal technicians excepted from the furlough, allowing the base to continue its mission, State of Oregon workers who are federally reimbursed, were not included. These Oregon Military Department workers are civilians and the base felt the pinch of their absence.

These members of Kingsley Field all work in the civil engineering squadron and keep base infrastructure running smoothly. They plow the runway and ramp surfaces, manage the myriad ongoing construction projects, fix plumbing leaks, operate heavy equipment, and the list goes on.

“Out here we are all working toward the same goal, and speaking as a state worker and a veteran, I feel like part of the Kingsley family,” said Bob Ritter, 173rd Civil Engineer Squadron State Purchaser, on the temporary interruption of work affecting he and his family.

Additionally, critical members of Kingsley’s contractors were furloughed—those who run the flight simulator, an important part of training new F-15C pilots. In their stead instructor pilots ran the simulator, which took them from their normal duties.

Not only did the base feel the pinch, but certainly those not work-



Lt. Col. Lance McCuiston ladles red sauce during a fundraiser for Kingsley’s furloughed members onto Chief Master Sgt. Dominic Ingle’s plate, Oct. 4, 2013. McCuiston and Airman and Family readiness program director Tami Narramore planned the event merely two days previously in support of furloughed State of Oregon workers. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

ing felt the crunch on their budgets as well. In what people call “true Kingsley fashion” the base and the community immediately rallied around those furloughed workers and their families.

Lt. Col. Lance McCuiston, 173rd Mission Support Group Commander, immediately met with Airmen and Family Readiness Center Director Tami Narramore to discuss options to support the families. Three days later the 173rd Fighter Wing hosted a spaghetti feed fundraiser, which garnered nearly \$3,000 in an hour and a half.

“The support was overwhelming!” said Narramore. “Our dining facility was overflowing with people there to show their support for these members of our Kingsley family.”

“It feels good to have people looking out for you,” said Ritter. “I

love my job and I’m looking forward to getting back to it right away.”

At the same time Kelsey Bitzer, a spouse of a base member, heard about the furloughed workers and wanted to help out. She organized a can drive and used social media to find volunteers to collect and sort cans and bottles.

“Before I knew it local businesses were contacting me asking how they could help,” said Bitzer. Between Wubba’s BBQ Shack, Shilo Inns, Biagio’s Bar and Grille, Starv’n Marv’n Family Restaurant and others, the effort raised \$400 and counting in two days.

“The community response was amazing,” said Bitzer. “This is why I love living in Klamath Falls. We take care of our people.”



## Child survives brain cancer becomes “Pilot for a Day”



**Top:** Members of the 173rd Maintenance Group applaud Brice Reese as he steps across the threshold of the main hangar door; each of them shaking his hand and welcoming him to the base, Oct. 4, 2013.

**Left:** Brice Reese wears a smile and his ear protection after watching jets take off from a taxi way just a number of yards from the runway. At that distance the noise of the dual engines running in afterburner is felt as much as heard through double ear protection. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



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

**K**LAMATH FALLS, Ore.-- The 114th Fighter Squadron hosts the Fighter Pilot for a Day program and brings children to the base to experience “a-day-in-the-life” of a Kingsley pilot.

Brice Reese made the journey from Salem, Ore., to the 173rd Fighter Wing and Maj. Adam “Axe” Gaudinski met him and his family for a fun day.

Brice’s simple presence here hung in the balance two years ago when he was diagnosed with a large cancerous brain tumor.

Over those two years he survived brain surgery and was forced to learn to walk, talk, and function again.

His mother said he is doing well, but that at times his equilibrium is still affected.

For the outside observer he smiled throughout the day, never seemed tired, and other than a visible scar on his neck, was as normal as any other child his age.

They began the day with donuts and coffee, well ... orange juice for the honorary fighter pilot. Then it was time to suit up and Lt. Col. Whitney “Crab” Sieben helped Brice step into the genuine article flight suit outfitted with his name and squadron patches.

The flight suit was genuine in every respect including being sized for a grown man. Brice presented an endearing picture in his oversized flight suit, walking with Gaudinski and asking questions about the jets and the weapons.

In the ops classroom he and his cousins occupied the front row when Gaudinski described the different weapons the F-15 employs, including the requisite reference to that large center-line “bomb” suspended beneath the aircraft. He let them in on the joke and explained that it’s actually a fuel tank, but for the uninitiated it does look like a very large bomb.

Then it was time to watch the aircraft launch toward the ranges, from the active taxi-way where the roar of the jets is felt as much as heard through double ear protection. Brice instinctively ducked his head, covered his ears—and grinned.

From there the party stepped into the main hangar and into a surprise highlight of the day. Every available member of the maintenance group was gathered and applauded the entrance of the young cancer survivor.

An F-15C aircraft sat with Brice Reese’s name emblazoned beneath the cockpit and he climbed in for a description of the myriad gauges, switches, and levers.

The day ended just before lunch and Gaudinski presented Brice with a number of high quality decals including a fresh nameplate sticker like the one on “his” F-15 fuselage.

Handshakes and well wishes and a 6-year-old had another memory to add to all the ones he very nearly never lived to see.

# KCC delivers courses to Kingsley Field

*(Continued from front page)*

community” environment.

While teaching the classes separately, she allows students to do assignments that count for both classes. The idea is to create more depth and understanding vs. multiple assignments. For instance, if you have a paper that requires research you may chose the same topic for your speech and in this way the research is used for both classes, instead of researching two different subjects.

Beginning October 2015, a CCAF degree is required for promotion to grades E-8 and E-9.

We’ll work closely with KCC over the next year to develop course syllabi for the remaining three general education courses needed. Our goal is to offer each fall, winter and spring terms two classes and alternate courses depending on the needs of the students. This partnership is a win-win for the base and the school because it supports the educational needs of our Airman and provides more students for KCC.

The “Community College of the Air Force” evolved in the early 1970s as a means of gaining recognition for Air Force training.

Led by Gen. George B. Simler, the then Air Training Command Commander, Air Force leaders recognized the need to enhance the skills of noncommissioned officers as technicians, leaders and citizens.

Representatives of Air Training



Senior Master Sgt. George Mulleneix, center, the 173rd Fighter Wing Engine Shop Superintendent, attends Speech 121, a Klamath Community College course taught on Kingsley Field and designed to specifically meet the requirements of the Community College of the Air Force, Oct. 22, 2013. Course designers at KCC modified several things about the course including upping the credit hours from a normal three to five; something that requires more classroom hours. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

Command, Air University and the Air Force Academy held a series of conferences in 1971 to discuss the need for increased development of noncommissioned officers as managers of Air Force resources.

The conferees recommended the founding of an Air Force community college, Nov. 9, 1971, and Gen. John D. Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff, approved the establishment of the Community College of the Air Force.

The Secretary of the Air Force approved the activation plan, Jan. 25, 1972, and the college was established, April 1, 1972 at Randolph AFB, Texas.

Since issuing its first degree in 1977, the college has awarded more than 362,000 associates in applied science degrees, enabling all Airman to earn an associate’s degree in their profession of arms.

While our on base classes were designed with additional classroom time so they provide all the credits needed to meet CCAF requirements they are open to all Kingsley Field members and their families.

To register for courses, or to find out additional information, contact Mr. Tracy Heap, VA Representative at KCC, phone (541) 880-2214, e-mail [heap@klamathcc.edu](mailto:heap@klamathcc.edu) or your local unit training manger.





## P4 trophy presented by NGB

Members of the Public-Public Public-Private Partnership team at Kingsley Field, including Mayor Tom Kellstrom, center, who holds the trophy, Sept. 26, 2013, gather for a trophy presentation by Retired Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Asher, a representative from the National Guard Bureau, to his left, Sept. 26, 2013. The team is made up of community members including 173rd Fighter Wing, Klamath Community College leadership, chamber of commerce members and local city government officials. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

## Former 173rd FW Commander makes flag rank

**Story courtesy  
Oregon Military Dept.  
Public Affairs Office**

**SALEM, Ore.** -- Oregon Air National Guard Col. Jeffrey M. Silver was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony held at the Anderson Readiness Center, Oct. 5.

Silver, who formerly served as the commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing, has been assigned as the Assistant Adjutant General (Air), at Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon National Guard. He is responsible for establishing policy and maintaining oversight of more than 2,300 Air National Guard personnel within the state.

Silver graduated from Oregon State University in 1984 with a bachelor degree in business administration. He received his commission the same year, through the Air National

Guard Academy of Military Science, and was named a distinguished graduate. He was initially assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., as a Weapon Systems Officer in the F-4C and was selected to represent the wing in the 1988 William Tell Air-to-Air Competition.

He previously served in various command positions in the 142nd Fighter Wing, including commander of Operations Support Flight, Maintenance Squadron, Maintenance Group, Operations Group Commander, and Vice Commander.

In September 2011, he became wing commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore., serving in this position until January 2013.



Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon (left) administers the oath of office to Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Silver, during his promotion ceremony held Oct. 5 at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore. (Photo by Maj. Stephen Bomar, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office)

Silver is an Outstanding Graduate of Undergraduate Pilot Training and a Distinguished Graduate of the F-15 Replacement Training Unit. He has more than 3,600 total military flying hours and has flown combat sorties in support of Operation Southern Watch and Operation Northern Watch.



# Announcements



## *New Members! Welcome to Kingsley Field!*

MSgt Clifford Otto III	A1C Justyn Headley
SSgt Gregory Clark	A1C Adeena Klein
SSgt Zackariah Stone	A1C Keith C. Rabe
A1C Johosafat Cardona	A1C Tyler W. Wagner
A1C Levi A. Conner	AB Jesse R. Harris
A1C Danielle Fuhriman	AB Dana L. Swink

## *Remember: Set your clocks back 1 hour! Daylight Saving Time ends Saturday night*

Beginning at 12 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 3, you get an extra hour! Remember to "Fall Back"

## *Protestant and Catholic Services Sunday, July 14*

**Protestant Service:** 7:30 a.m. Family Readiness Area

**Catholic Service:** 7:30 a.m. LRS conference room

## *Retiree Corner*

Retirees and their families who need information or assistance with a "Retiree Issue" please contact the Oregon

National Guard Retiree Service Office. (Air & Army)

Located at: Room 231, Anderson Readiness Center

3225 State Street, Salem OR 97309

Office Hours: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Every Thursday

Phone: (503) 584-2891

E-mail: [NGORJ1.RSO@ng.army.mil](mailto:NGORJ1.RSO@ng.army.mil)

Web site: [www.orng-smfs.org](http://www.orng-smfs.org)

## *Recent Promotions!*

TSgt Dustin R. Woodworth

SSgt David J. Butler

SSgt Daniel Bowman

SSgt Amy C. Wyatt

SrA Lindsey J. Butler

SrA Kanee Chocktoot

SrA David K. Hunter

SrA Nicholas Macha

SrA Loretta Meserve

SrA Joshua Thurman

**173d Fighter Wing SARC,  
Lt Col Martin Balakas  
Call: (541) 885-6198 or  
(541) 205-2305**

**You  
are  
not  
alone**



# Base Christmas Party

*When: December 14, 2013*

*Where: East Bay, Hangar 219*

*Time: Cocktails 6:00pm*

*Dinner 6:30pm*

*Dinner compliments of "Yummy's Cowboy Cuisine"*



**Ticket Prices:**

- E-1 to E-4..... \$5.00
- E-5 to E-6/ Enlisted Retirees..... \$10.00
- E-7 to E-9 / O-1 to O-3..... \$15.00
- O-4 and above / Officer Retirees..... \$20.00

***Ticket Prices Double after Dec. 10!!!***

*Kingsley Casual - DJ, Dinner, and Dancing - Designated Drivers Available*

## **Kingsley Cuts Barber Shop**

Haircuts for Men, Women and Children  
Basic Haircut \$10.95 - Style Cut \$13

**Open Mon. through Fri. 9-3  
Open Drill Weekends  
Open on Down Mondays**

*Located in the Barber  
Shop next to the BX*

**Call 885-6370 for more info.**

## **Free Friday Night Movies!!!**

Join us every Friday,  
7:00pm at the Kingsley  
theater for free movies

*Volunteers are needed to keep this  
program going. Please contact the  
Public Affairs office at x5-6677 if you  
would like to volunteer or learn more  
about the Friday Night Movies.*

Movies subject to change or cancellation without notice.







173rd Fighter Wing Firefighters donate funds raised in support of breast cancer awareness raised during October through the sales of pink firefighter t-shirts, Oct. 30, 2013. The effort garnered a \$1,300 check which they presented to Peggy Hill, a mammogram technician at Sky Lakes Medical Center in Klamath Falls, Ore., for ongoing research. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

*The views expressed, stated or implied in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Air Force or the Oregon Air National Guard. Circulation: 1,000. All photographs are U.S. Air Force or Air National Guard photographs unless otherwise indicated. Story submissions, letters to the editor or other comments are encouraged and may be directed to:*



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