

Kingsley charts new territory in F-15C flying history

Story by

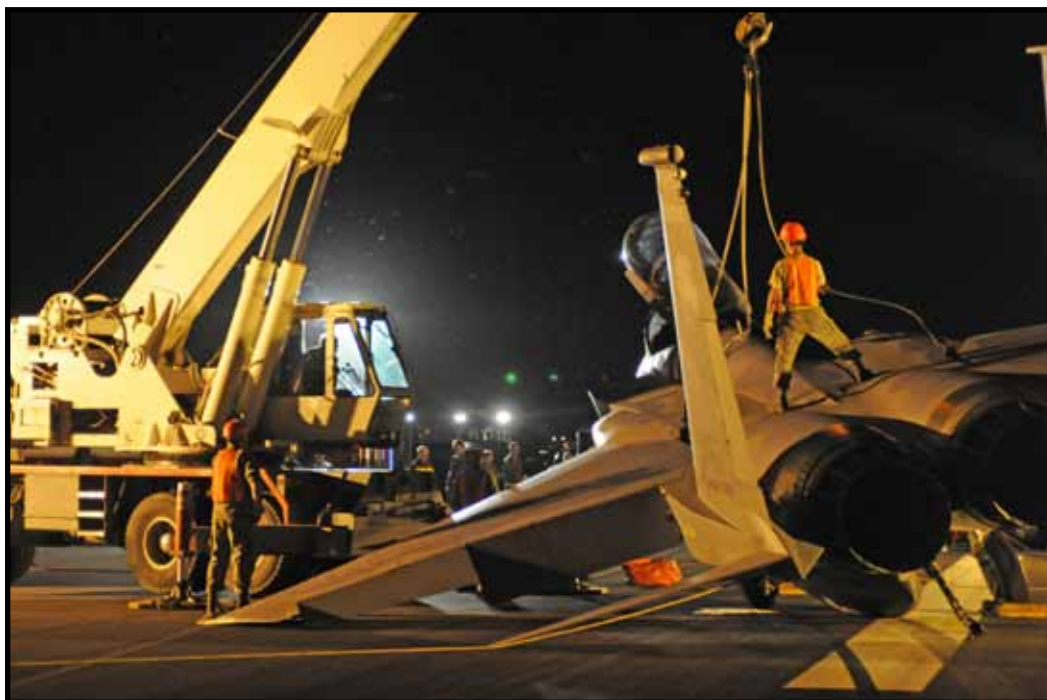
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. -- On a clear, wintry day Lt. Col. Jeff "Sled" Smith rode in the backseat of a Kingsley F-15 aircraft behind an experienced test pilot attending the T-course, designed for experienced pilots who are requalifying or qualifying in the airframe.

On approach, they lowered the gear and noted a warning light requiring the jet to "take the cable"—not a typical event, but not a cause for panic either, particularly for two experienced pilots.

That moment provided little indication of what was to unfold, and

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A disabled 173rd Fighter Wing F-15C aircraft sits on the runway following an emergency landing Oct. 9, 2012 at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore. A part called a jury-link failed causing the gear to collapse upon touchdown and necessitated pilot Lt. Col. Wayne "Wang" Adkisson to use the arrestor cable to ensure a safe, albeit bumpy landing. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)



Fresno F-15s arrive for 6-month stint

The first F-15C fighter aircraft from the 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, Calif., taxis to a prepared spot upon arrival at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 4, 2013, for a six-month stint. Four aircraft arrived two of which feature the distinctive tail flash of the California unit. The 173rd Fighter Wing is teaming up with the 144th to increase the number of students trained in order to meet increased demand for F-15 pilots at the California unit following their conversion from the F-16. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar)

Commander's Corner

A look back at 2013 and ahead

By Col. Jeremy O. Baenen, Commander 173rd Fighter Wing

173rd Fighter Wing personnel, Happy New Year! This is an excellent time to take a moment and reflect back on our accomplishments and look ahead to the next year.

The following is by no means an exhaustive list but highlights some of the major accomplishments of our Airmen:

- Deployed more than 13 personnel in support of high visibility AEF mission including Afghanistan
- 60,000 Class-A accident free flying hours
- First in the Air National Guard for fire/Emergency Medical Technician support to our community
- More than 3,700 flying training sorties
- More than 6,800,000 gallons of Jet-A fuel delivered
- First in the entire ANG in Individual Medical Readiness statistics
- Won Chief of Staff Air Force Team Excellence Award for our Public-Public, Public-Private Partnership program
- Executed more than \$8.5 million in construction projects
- Re-opened the only ANG "Top Knife" program for flight doctors
- Ranked in the top 10-percent of all ANG units for recruiting and retention
- Closed out the fiscal year almost to the single dollar
- Exceeded Presidential man-

dates on energy reduction by 6 percent

- Provided exceptional support to State Partnership Program missions in both Vietnam and Bangladesh
- Completed Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System upgrade on more than 50 percent of our aircraft fleet
- Maintained the highest aircraft Mission Capable Rate in the ANG
- Generated over \$2.8 million in AFREP thereby sustaining critical wing operations
- Trained more than 23 intelligence students in our newly formed F-15 Intelligence Fighter Training Unit mission

And this was just the tip of the iceberg . . . we met or exceeded every 2013 wing goal we set! It is also important to remember we did this while working through the most severe budget crisis the Air Force has faced in decades.

I am often asked by our state and national leaders how we continue to set such a high standard of excellence. The answer is easy – it's because of our Airmen and culture. Every Airman contributes to Team Kingsley's success. Support, Operations, Medical, Maintenance, 270th, Drill Status Guardsmen, Full Timer – I believe every Airman feels ownership and plays a critical role in successfully accomplishing our mission.

It is also because of our culture:



Airmen and their families are priority number one. We treat each other with respect and we do not compromise our standards of excellence...NO SLACK!!!

Next year's road ahead will be challenging particularly in light of the ongoing budget concerns. However, I continue to believe that the 173rd FW's best days are yet to come.

Our mission and future at Kingsley Field is strong. We have been entrusted with a very critical "no fail" mission. America and the United States Air Force are depending on us to accomplish that mission. We will do so by focusing on teamwork and safety as well as efficient use of our resources. I thank you all for your efforts and challenge every Airman in the wing to tackle our challenges head-on and let the history books show Kingsley Field was the place "where America's air superiority began."

Kingsley Airmen overcome jury-link failures



The damaged jury-link is evident in the foreground. Each occurrence of this failure produced an identical break in the part. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Penny Hamilton)

(Continued from front page)

really, is still unfolding to this day.

Master Sgt. Ryan Rainville, and many others gathered around the jet anxious to determine what was causing the alert. After peering into the left side gear bay he immediately noticed a part called a jury link, which holds the gear in place during landing had failed—spectacularly in fact.

“Get back from the jet, get away from the jet,” said Rainville so jacks could be placed under the aircraft.

“We just landed that jet, what could possibly be that wrong with it,” Smith asked himself. The answer to that question has led a team of 173rd Fighter Wing maintainers and a group of engineers to chart new territory in the history of flying F-15C aircraft.

Oct. 9, 2012, Lt. Col. Wayne “Wang” Adkisson lowered his landing gear and touched down setting off warning lights in his cockpit and jarring him with the realization that the left wing of his aircraft was sinking within scant feet of the runway speed-

ing beneath.

With long experience to his credit, he leveled the wings, applied power, and climbed back into the sky to collect his thoughts and radio a dire situation to those on the ground.

Cool heads put together a game plan and Adkisson took the cable, using his flight control surfaces to hold the jet level until the last second when the left-side landing gear collapsed and the wing crashed to the runway surface, leaving a tell-tale skid mark. When maintenance crews jacked the aircraft up and removed the gear, there lay the jury link, torn apart and looking like a mirror copy of the earlier failure—only this time the gear collapsed entirely.

No one panicked, but the level of concern was reaching critical mass and Col. Matthew Andrews, 173rd Maintenance Group Commander, and other base officials grounded the jets for the next two days.

“We knew then that we had a bigger issue,” said Rainville—an issue that galvanized troops across the

maintenance group.

Eventually every jury link would be replaced, but in the immediate aftermath Kingsley officials ran into a road block. The unfortunate reality was that these parts were designed as “fly-to-fail” meaning their original designers foresaw them lasting the entire operational life of the aircraft. To make matters worse, measures like non-destructive inspection or visual inspection proved useless. For the 173rd this meant replacing all 50 jury-links on their 25 assigned aircraft. Some were on-hand, but the process to procure and replace every single one took time. During that period another two left-side jury-links failed, one at Kingsley Field and one at Barnes Air National Guard Base.

“I have pictures of all three failures,” said Maj. Micah Lambert, then commander of the aircraft maintenance squadron. “They are identical, you can’t tell them apart.”

173rd maintainers questioned whether ‘the hydraulic actuator was putting too much stress on the jury link during retraction?’ Quality assurance troop Senior Master Sgt. Brian Stroup found an ingenious way to get a first-hand look at the problem by installing a very small video camera in the gear bay and watching it retract. Indeed; even the uninitiated can see the jury link flexing under pressure from the actuator.

Master Sgt. Brett Lundberg was also hard at work designing tools to measure the amount of flex and quantify the problem for a highly specialized team of engineers. Those engineers, who specialize in F-15C landing gear design, were dispatched

(Continued on next page)

Maintenance Group sees three command billets change hands



From left: Col. Matthew Andrews, 173rd Maintenance Group Commander, Lt. Col. Jeff Smith, new maintenance group deputy commander, Lt. Col. Jeremy Wieder, incoming aircraft maintenance squadron commander, Maj. Micah Lambert, incoming aircraft maintenance squadron commander stand at the conclusion of a change of command ceremony in which three offices changed hands, Nov. 3, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

**Story by Airman First Class Penny Hamilton,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- A fall ceremony marked the transition of three 173rd Maintenance Group command billets at Kingsley Field, Nov. 3, 2013.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Smith relinquished command of the maintenance squadron and assumed the 173rd Maintenance Group Deputy Command.

Maj. Micah Lambert accepted command of the maintenance squadron after relinquishing command of the aircraft maintenance squadron to Lt. Col. Jeremy Wieder.

Col. Matthew Andrews remains the 173rd Maintenance Group commander; he presided over the ceremony and welcomed each of the members to their new responsibilities, challenges, and rewards.

"We've got three gentlemen who are tasked with leading four-hundred-plus of the best men and women in the military," Andrews said. "They are all humble, credible and approachable. I thank each of you and all the maintainers for being here."

173rd FW addresses jury-link failure

(Continued from page 3)

to Kingsley from Hill Air Force Base. They arrived in Klamath Falls and rigged specialized equipment to measure the forces acting upon the jury-link during gear deployment.

The findings showed that indeed there were spikes in force applied to this part during retraction. Additionally, there was a surprising finding that when deployed in-flight the left gear had significantly higher spikes in forces than the right, possibly caused by the way the air flows around the gear under the aircraft.

Rainville stresses that the root cause of the problem has yet to be determined but that those experts are digging into the data to find just that. In the meantime 173rd jets are safe, new jury links and tracking measures ensure that. As of now each jury-link is marked when installed and maintenance personnel log how many cycles are accumulated on it, and long before metal fatigue sets in it will be replaced by another new part.

Smith says he can sleep well at night now knowing that those who fly do so safely; but he goes on to say that Kingsley has catalyzed a process relevant to the entire fleet of F-15 aircraft. The Air Force is now studying this part in various tests and studies.

"We believe we are about two years ahead of the fleet with stuff like this because of how much we fly and how many cycles we put on the aircraft as a training unit," he said. "So you will start seeing the Air Force react aggressively and push these changes to all the units flying the airframe."

As to the changes themselves Smith details a number of options ranging from a total redesign of the actuator to tracking the part like Kingsley has initiated, whatever they decide he takes satisfaction that 173rd Fighter Wing maintenance troops started the ball rolling, and were critical to making every F-15 a safer and more reliable airframe for the foreseeable future.



Chief's Council visits retirement home

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Chief Master Sgt. Todd Berndt, Kingsley Field Chiefs Advisory Council President, arranged for members of the Kingsley Field Chiefs Council to visit Quayle Park at Crystal Terrace and meet veterans and others in honor of the approaching Veteran's Day, Nov. 7, 2013.

Berndt made this the first stop in a plan to visit retirement homes in the area.

Upon leaving the event Chief Master Sgt. Victor Ford noted that many of the residents really enjoyed seeing the uniform.

The 173rd Fighter Wing's newest Chief Master Sgt. Jimmy Crook said one resident couldn't stop looking at his rank and so he removed it from his uniform and gave it to her.

"Her husband was a chief and she remembered when it used to be two-up and six-down rather than three-up-five-down like it is now. I would really like to do this again and more often," said Crook.

Many of the veterans were eager to share their stories, such as Ralph Kesling a former POW during WWII.

Ford shook the man's hand and asked him about his service. Little more than a year after being drafted Kelsing related being shot down over the Ruhu Valley, Germany during a bombing raid. He spent



Chief Master Sgt. Victor Ford visits with WWII prisoner of war Ralph Kesling who described a nearly two-year stint as a captive at the hands of Hitler's Nazi's, Nov. 7, 2013. Among his ordeals he describes a forced march lasting 19 days in which he never took his shoes off, saying his feet still show some of the after effects of the frostbite at 94 years of age.

nearly two years as a captive of the Nazi regime and suffered a number of trials as he fought to keep hope alive.

He removed his slipper at one point and showed Ford his foot recounting a forced 19-day march when he and the other POWs were moved from one camp to another.

"I didn't take my shoes off the whole time," he said. "After 19-days my feet were black from the frostbite," he added pointing at his bare foot.

However, at 94-years-of-age the most remarkable thing about his bare foot was that it looked fairly healthy, and although he said they

have bothered him ever since, he still declined to take the elevator to his room and opted to climb the stairs instead.

As the supper hour drew to a close, the chiefs said good night to the residents and as they filed out the front of the building they recounted the interesting people they met. Crook wondered aloud who really benefitted the most, "was it me or them? I think we should do this more often," he added.

If you would like to participate in future visits contact Chief Master Sgt. Todd Berndt at (541) 885-6478 or todd.berndt@ang.af.mil

Top Kingsley Airmen announced, will compete at State

**By Col. Jeremy Baenen,
173rd FW Commander**

I am pleased to announce the 173d Fighter Wing award recipients for 2013. These individuals have set high standards, are role models and have encompassed our "No Slack" values. Each will compete at the state level for overall Airman of the Year in their respective category.



**Airman of the Year,
Category III – Mas-
ter Sgt. Michael
Shirar, 173rd Mainte-
nance Group (below)**



**First Sergeant of
the Year – Master
Sgt. Andrew S.
Hoyle, 173rd Security
Forces Squadron
(Right)**



**Airman of the Year,
Category II – Tech.
Sgt. Melissa Aldinger,
173rd Operations
Group (Left)**



**Airman of the Year,
Category I –
Senior Airman Thom-
as Howard, 173rd
Operations Group
(Above)**



173rd Fighter Wing unit level award winners

I am equally pleased to announce the Airmen of the Year award winners for the following units:

173rd Command/Operations Group: Senior Airman Thomas Howard, Tech. Sgt. Melissa Aldinger, Master Sgt. Terry Murrell

173rd Medical Group: Senior Airman Alexis Farley, Tech. Sgt. Shelby Orsborn, Master Sgt. MSgt Neil Neisner

173rd Maintenance Group: Senior Airman Christopher O'Conner, Tech. Sgt. Darren Bennett, Master Sgt. Michael Shirar

173rd Mission Support Group: Senior Airman Paden Wickersham, Tech. Sgt. Clinton Wells, Master Sgt. Joshua Hilton

173rd Maintenance Squadron: Senior Airman Christopher O'Conner, Tech. Sgt. Darren

Bennett, Master Sgt. Patrick Burkhart

173rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron: Senior Airman Aaron Spahn, Staff Sgt. Joseph Tschetter, Master Sgt. Michael Vasko

173rd Maintenance Operations Flight: Senior Airman Brittany Corr, Tech. Sgt. Brandon Dye, Master Sgt. Michael Shirar

173rd Logistics Readiness Squadron: Airman 1st Class Alex Huntsman Staff Sgt. Jennifer Hall Master Sgt. Isaac Nunn

173rd Security Forces Squadron: Senior Airman Paden Wickersham, Tech. Sgt. Clinton J. Wells, Master Sgt. Joshua Hilton

Volunteers brighten Thanksgiving at local retirement home

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



Top: Master Sgt. Summer Jordre looks over a list of veterans living at Plum Ridge rehabilitation center with the help of resident Charles Brookshire, Nov. 22, 2013.



Left: Tech. Sgt. Sandra Fugate, a cake decorator in her off-time, plies her skills during a visit to a local rehabilitation center in Klamath Falls, Ore., in celebration of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, Nov. 22, 2013.

Bottom: Capt. Vic Knill serves Thanksgiving dinner to retired Lt. Col. Jack Millard and his wife Susan at Plum Ridge rehabilitation center, Nov. 22, 2013.



KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Kingsley Field members served up Thanksgiving turkey and all the trimmings to residents of Plum Ridge rehabilitation center Nov. 22, 2013.

A number of Airmen arrived at Plum Ridge and immediately pitched in, arranging tables and chairs and setting places for the residents and their families.

Senior Master Sgt. Pete Weigman arranged this year's visit and got a list of veteran's currently living in the facility. He went from room to room and if the door was open he would greet the veteran and visit with them for a few minutes.

"It was gratifying knowing that the residents and staff really appreciated our visit that day. We didn't know who we would encounter beyond each doorway," Weigman said. "I remember one man in a wheelchair who broke down crying when he looked up and saw our smiling men and women in uniform approach. He apologized and said it was because of some difficulty in dealing with his time during WWII."

Though painful a reminder as it might be at times the solidarity among the uniformed service members may serve as a comfort. Weigman recounts meeting Goldie a former Marine—naturally placing her close to his heart as he is also a former Marine—and Lockheed Martin retiree who he visited with for almost an hour about her exciting life.

"She was a very sharp and spry 89-year-old lady with a deteriorating body. Sadly, she passed away just days after our visit," he said.

Many of our residents have some connection to the military as veterans, spouses, or have children and grandchildren who serve in the armed forces.

For the Kingsley members who volunteered during Thanksgiving week it represented a small sacrifice of about three hours and according to Weigman it was gratifying to have so many volunteers visit the predominantly elderly population at the center.

"Our goal was to visit every resident," said Weigman. "I hope they had just as much fun during our visit as we did. Our bus ride home was filled with exciting stories of our encounters that day. We agreed that many of those folks are part of what we call the greatest generation, and I feel we need to continue honoring and caring for them."

TSA provides military expedited check in

Story courtesy Transportation Security Administration

WASHINGTON -- As part of the ongoing effort to move away from a one size fits all security approach and provide more of the traveling public the ability to participate in expedited screening, today the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) announced a partnership to expand TSA Pre expedited screening benefits to all U.S. Armed Forces service members, including those serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, Reserves and National Guard. As a result of the agreement, these individuals will be able to enjoy the benefits of the program at the 100 participating airports across the country, beginning Dec. 20.

Currently, members of the U.S. Armed Forces can utilize TSA Pre lanes at 10 domestic airports by presenting their Common Access Card (CAC). The partnership expands the program to the military at all 100 airports offering TSA Pre, allowing service members to keep their footwear on as well as light outerwear, laptop in its case and their 3-1-1 compliant liquids/gels bag in a carry on in select screening lanes.

“Expanding TSA Pre screening benefits is great news for our service members and is a tangible sign of this nation’s gratitude for the men and women who serve this nation bravely each and every day,” said Mary Snively-Dixon, director, Defense Manpower Data Center. “We will continue to work with the Transportation Security Administration to help expand this program further.”

“TSA joins with the American people in showing its appreciation for



(Photo courtesy Transportation Security Administration)

the service and sacrifices of our men and women in the Armed Forces,” said TSA Deputy Administrator John W. Halinski, a 25-year Marine Corps veteran. “Providing expedited screening while on travel is the least we can do for these courageous men and women.”

The new process being established under this agreement allows all active duty, U.S. Coast Guard, Reserve and National Guard service members to use their DoD identification number when making reservations. That ID number will be used as their Known Traveler Number. When arriving at the airport, service members will then be permitted access to TSA Pre lanes for official or leisure travel on participating airlines.

More than 18 million passengers have experienced TSA Pre since it launched in October 2011. TSA has recently expanded this expedited screening program to 60 new airports in addition to the existing 40, bringing the total number of airports with TSA Pre to 100.

TSA has long recognized our men and women in uniform as nearly a quarter of TSA’s workforce is a veteran or currently serves as an ac-

tive duty service member in the U.S. Armed Forces.

In addition to expanding TSA Pre to service members, TSA wants to remind the American public about the Wounded Warrior Screening program. This program makes the overall experience for wounded service members as simple as possible. This includes personalized service and expedited screening to move through security checkpoints without having to remove footwear, light outerwear, jackets or head wear. Wounded warriors or their care coordinators can contact TSA Cares toll free at 1-855-787-2227 with details of the itinerary once flight arrangements are made with the airline.

TSA will always incorporate random and unpredictable security measures throughout the airport. No individual will be guaranteed expedited screening. Travelers can check the TSA Pre Participating Airports page for information on locations and hours of active TSA Pre lanes.

Further information on TSA Pre for military members can be found at www.tsa.gov and www.defensetravel.dod.mil

Broad training requirements keep Kingsley Firefighters versatile

*Commentary by
Deputy Fire Chief Howard Owens*

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. --

Training is a vital mission requirement that is especially important at Kingsley Field. The Kingsley firefighters are no different when it comes to fulfilling a training requirement.

We are in a unique position with training that most other departments never get to experience. This training is mandated by many regulations as well as the desire to be the best firefighters for our customers at Kingsley Field, the community, and the State.

The firefighters complete training for annual requirements as well as for multiple certifications. The certifications are layered similar to the Air Force skill levels. The minimum requirements are Firefighter 1 and 2, Airport Firefighter, Hazmat Awareness and Operations, Driver/Operator Pumper, Driver/Operator Mobile Water Supply, Driver/Operator Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Vehicle and Emergency Medical Technician.

These courses account for approximately 500 hours of training. Promotions require additional courses in instruction, fire inspections and leadership.

Annually each firefighter completes 120-150 hours of training to meet the requirements set by the DOD, FAA, and Oregon for firefighters and emergency medical

technicians. This is accomplished through classroom and hands-on training. Most of the classroom training is conducted at the fire station with some training conducted at the various shops on base.

Hands-on training is everything from a small evolution at the



fire station to a full-scale exercise involving the entire wing. Many of you have also witnessed or been a part of much of our training.

All of this training is preparation for actual emergency responses that occur nearly every day and at all times of the day. The emergencies range from major aircraft incidents to structure fires to providing emergency medical care. The varied scenarios can demand that we train and learn as much as possible about the aircraft, our buildings and our people.

Many of our responses are to

the community of Klamath Falls and support our local fire districts. We have also responded during the summers to assist other counties during major wildfires. Kingsley Fire often participates with the surrounding departments to build the relationships needed when major emergencies occur on or off the base.

A unique aspect of Kingsley Fire is the availability of a full-time Assistant Chief of Training. Most other Air National Guard fire departments do not fill this position full-time and the duties must be coordinated among the shifts.

This position allows us to participate in the Klamath-Lake Counties Fire Training Association which provides training to 30 fire departments in the two counties. Additional opportunities have included a position on the state Airport Firefighter certification taskforce and the Oregon Fire Instructors Association.

Involvement with the latter organization resulted in their annual conference held in Klamath Falls and included the Kingsley Field Honor Guard in the opening ceremonies.

Training is critical to ensuring that we are ready to respond. When you see us training, day or night, know that we are working to make the base and community a safer place. And yes, we sometimes even have a little bit of fun while doing it.

Commentary: "SLAP?! your Airmen Daily"

**Commentary by
Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Arnold,
65th Group Mission Support Group
Superintendent**

LAJES FIELD, Azores -- Have you ever wanted to SLAP your Airmen? Have you ever wanted to SLAP them in hopes of teaching them a lesson? Have you ever wanted to SLAP them, but feared going to jail? If you answered yes to one or all of these questions, here is a way to accomplish it—legally.

A good hard SLAP to your Airman's face will go a long way for a supervisor and the member and will ensure the Air Force is in good hands. Understanding the concept of a strong SLAP will cement an understanding of expectations and create an environment of good order and discipline. If you SLAP your Airmen often, they will gain a level of knowledge and confidence that will ensure they in turn SLAP their Airmen allowing this behavior to be passed down from generation to generation. Of course, I am not talking about physically slapping individuals; rather, a proverbial SLAP of standards, leadership, accountability, and professionalism.

The first step in a forceful SLAP is to hit your Airmen with standards. This sets the tone for how members carry out the Air Force's mission and vision. Establishing standards provides a clear boundary of acceptable and unacceptable actions and should

leave no question in your Airman's mind of what is expected. Setting standards is the inaugural action of effective leadership and if not accomplished immediately, can cause a break down in discipline. In our line of work, this cannot happen.

No doubt standards are needed to maintain a structured environment, but Airmen also need to be slapped with a dose of positive guidance to ensure those standards are met. In order for your Airmen to feel the sting of the SLAP, you need to hit them hard with leadership. Leading by example is unequivocally the most important aspect of strong leadership.

The best leaders will lead with their actions as well as their words.

Actions themselves can set a silent standard about what is right and what is wrong; understanding that followers learn from observation is key to effective leadership. For example, a leader can knowingly or unknowingly set the expectation for a uniform standard by consistently wearing ribbons when it's not required. Airmen will watch, learn and imitate what leaders do. It's vitally important that we are continu-

ously aware of our own actions on and off duty.

It has been said that great leaders SLAP their Airmen daily, but this cannot be done properly unless accountability is in place. Why waste time slapping your Airmen with standards if you are aren't going to follow it up with accountability. Holding members accountable for their actions secures an Airman's understanding of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors and allows them to make necessary changes if needed. However, it is important to understand that in order to hold someone accountable leaders may need to reflect on their own accountability as well. This means if the duty day starts at 7:30 a.m., supervisors also need to be on time to ensure the standard is being met. If you can't observe the behavior yourself, how can you hold someone accountable?

Hitting individuals with standards, leadership and accountability will instill the final step to an effective SLAP: professionalism. The way in which one acts and presents themselves can create lasting impressions impacting those we lead. Airmen of all ranks need to understand that we are all servants responsible for the defense of our nation. When Airmen have high standards of professionalism, it creates a perception of credibility and reliability and this, in itself, is what continues to makes us the No. 1 Air Force in the world.





Miss Oregon Visits 173rd Fighter Wing

Miss Oregon 2013 Allison Cook tours the Kingsley Field, Ore., flightline with the help of Lt. Col. Robert "Scoff" Mitchell, Nov. 3, 2013. Cook was a student at Oregon Institute of Technology before being crowned Miss Oregon. At 6'1" and 19 years-of-age pageant judges noted that she is the youngest and tallest Miss Oregon to date. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

New SECAF confirmed by Senate vote, Dec. 13

**Story courtesy
Air Force News Service**

WASHINGTON -- Deborah Lee James will be the next secretary of the Air Force, according to a Senate confirmation vote Dec 13.

James provided testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee Sept. 19, before the full Senate voted on her confirmation. Now the president must appoint her before she can assume her new position.

"I view this opportunity as the privilege and an honor of a lifetime. I will work very hard to insure that I live up to what is an enormous amount of trust that may be placed in me," said James during her confirmation hearing. "My goal would be to leave our Air Force some years from now on a path toward greater capabil-

ity and better affordability for our taxpayers, and with the people who underpin everything who are second to none."

Undersecretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning assumed the role of acting when then-Secretary of the Air Force Michael

B. Donley stepped down in June.

President Obama nominated James Aug. 1, 2013. At that time, she was serving as president of the technology and engineering sector at



Deborah Lee James answers a question posed to her during a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee Sept. 19, 2013, in Washington, D.C. James will be the next secretary of the Air Force, according to a Senate confirmation vote Dec 13. (U.S. Air Force photo/Jim Varhegyi)

Science Applications International Corporation.

Pending the president's appointment, James will be sworn into the position this month.

Christmas donations brighten holidays

*Commentary by Beth Narramore,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. --

Christmas morning may shine a little brighter for three base families thanks to a generous donation from the Klamath Falls Fred Meyer. The local store partnered with the Assistance League's Christmas Jubilee and donated over \$2,500 in gifts to needy military families at Kingsley Field. The Christmas Jubilee is an annual auction and was held Dec. 6 at the Running Y Ranch.

Each year since 2005, Fred Meyer has donated various items to be auctioned at the Jubilee and proceeds from the sale of those items go toward buying clothing for children in need as part of Operation School Bell. This year, Bill Patterson, the Fred Meyer manager, decided he wanted to do even more. In addition to the auction items, his store also donated a 7-foot, fully decorated tree for the Kingsley Field Christmas Party and various gifts to be given to Kingsley families.

"We brainstormed a way to do even more for our community," said Patterson. "The associates were very enthusiastic about picking out the gifts."

Fred Meyer neatly wrapped each package with sparkling ribbons and bows—ready to be opened by their new owners. Some of the gifts included brand-new, shiny bikes, fishing poles, warm cozy bedding, and stylish clothing.



From left, Tami Narramore the 173rd Fighter Wing's Airman and Family Readiness Coordinator accepts gifts from Fred Meyer's assistance foundation's Lois Stillwell on behalf of three Kingsley families, Dec. 9, 2013 at the Running Y Ranch near Klamath Falls, Ore. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Beth Narramore)

"When I read the thank-you card aloud, our associates were clapping and high-fiving," Patterson said. "It made us feel great."

Tami Narramore, the 173rd Fighter Wing Family Readiness Program Manager, said she was beyond thrilled when she heard of the donation. "I knew it would be difficult to find folks that would come forward for assistance, but I was able to locate three willing families," she said. "When I sat down with the recipients to discuss their needs, I told them I had no idea what to expect, so when the families arrived to pick up the gifts they were shocked by the tremendous generosity of the Fred Meyer team."

"It was an exciting opportunity and we were all so appreciative and inspired by their thoughtfulness," Narramore added. "What a wonderful way to kick-off the holiday season."

The members of Kingsley Field are so grateful to live in such a generous and supportive community!

According to their website, the Assistance League of Klamath Falls is operated solely by volunteers. Their signature program is Operation School Bell, which provides clothing to needy children. All of their fundraising and donations stay right here in the local community. Fred Meyer is a major contributor to the Assistance League's annual Jubilee.

Announcements

Recent Promotions!

Maj Ryan T. Bartholomew
1st Lt Lacey N. Hadley
MSgt Melissa R. Aldinger
MSgt Alden W. Countryman
MSgt Danielle M. George
TSgt Steven W. Bitzer
TSgt Danielle N. Carpenter
TSgt Charles M. Stelley
TSgt Brian T. Vaughan
SSgt Daniel C. Atchley
SSgt Jenny M. Green
SSgt Kirsten M. Tubbe
SrA Jeremy D. Riblett
AMN Kodie E. Carroll
AMN Jonathan C. Raye

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

Maj Michael N. Kuehni
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SSgt Luis Rodriguez
A1C Joshua A. Clements
A1C Jare R. Fleming
A1C Idaly Garcia Romero
A1C Eugene B. Morris

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

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

Web site: www.orng-smfs.org

**You
are
not
alone**





2013 Year in Review



Children's Christmas Carnival 2013





A 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 ensures Santa arrives to the 2013 Children's Christmas Party in a timely fashion. Every year the base sponsors a party for children of Kingsley personnel featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus, games, face painting, cookie decorating, and many other activities. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar)

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Col. Gregor J. Leist

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Capt. Nikki Jackson

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