

AFTERBURNER

The 144th Fighter Wing Newsletter



October 2020



Commander's Message - From Col. Jeremiah Cruz, 144th Fighter Wing Commander

Airmen, we have some exciting times coming up over the next few months. Our Griffin eagle drivers and maintainers will be participating in Checkered Flag at Tyndall Air Force Base in November where they will complete a Weapons System Evaluation. As you have likely heard, two Generals are visiting us this UTA: Brig. Gen. Russell Ponder, NGB Director of Logistics & Installations, and Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Magram, California Assistant Adjutant General, Air. They are here reviewing our site survey plans, which is part of the early assessment for our next airframe, the 15-EX or the F-35. As always, remember your customs and courtesies. Our Care team has been busy recently and have been building our unit key volunteer and victim advocate programs. Our annual suicide prevention training is due by the end of year. I want to again foot stomp how important this training is. Be thoughtful and take it seriously. Take care of yourselves and have a great drill.

Command Highlights

44 Seconds with the 144th - Featuring Col. Christopher Austin, 144th Fighter Wing Vice Commander

Col. Christopher Austin discusses the future of the Fresno Air National Guard Base and its associated aircraft, including an upcoming feasibility survey. Watch the video at: <https://www.facebook.com/144thFighterWing/posts/3239122996156626>

144th FW Supports Creek Fire Response - By Capt. Jason Sanchez, Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Cesar Gonzalez, 144th Fighter Wing Inspections officer, recently returned from the Creek Fire Incident Command Post in Fresno County after serving as the Joint Forces Headquarters liaison officer and a key resource to partner agencies. As a California National Guard liaison... Story is continued at: <https://www.144fw.ang.af.mil/News/>

144th FW Announces Newly Appointed Victim Advocates- Mr. Dan Sowers, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator
The 144th Fighter Wing would like to announce our newest Volunteer Victim Advocates. Victim Advocates are available 24/7 on a rotational schedule. Advocates have been trained to provide crisis intervention, referral and ongoing nonclinical support They can also provide information on available options... Story is continued at: <https://www.144fw.ang.af.mil/News/>

2020 Annual Suicide Prevention Training - By Dr. Stephanie Grant, Director of Psychological Health

The 2020 Annual Suicide Prevention training looks a little different this year. With the very unusual year we've all experienced, I think you will find the current format to be a good fit. Some of you may have already completed the training, but for those of you who have not yet... Commentary is continued at: <https://www.144fw.ang.af.mil/News/Commentaries/>

National Guard News

The Hatch Act and Political Activity Restrictions by DOD Personnel

With the 2020 election season in full swing, Department of Defense officials are reminding military members and civilian employees of limits to what kinds of political activity they can participate in. Those limits are outlined in the Hatch Act and in DoD Directive 1344.10, said Army Maj. Johnny Davis, with the Pennsylvania National Guard's staff judge advocate... See more at: <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/2107564/rules-restrict-political-activity-by->

